



Alpine Club of Canada - Whistler Section

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



New Business from AGM - November 30, 2020

The annual general meeting was held Nov. 30th with a very large Zoom turnout of 69 people.

Thank you all for joining the meeting. An important vote was discussed and held on the Whistler Section removing themselves from the two director positions on the Spearhead hut society. The vote was 63 people **voting in favour of keeping our involvement with the Spearhead Hut Society**. This means two volunteers are needed to come forward to represent our club. An outline of the position and how to apply is listed below. There are also opportunities to volunteer for hut reservations, bookkeeping, fundraising etc.

The board of directors for the coming year are

Bryce Leigh – President –and Access and Environment Director

Michael Blaxland – Alpine Access Sub-committee

Todd Bush

Kevin Titus – Trails

Mitch Sulkers

Roy Gutteridge

Dawn Minet –Treasurer

Bill Moore – Trips

Tim Ross

Rob Whithey

Taylor MacDougall – Events

Polly French – communications and newsletter

Your club needs you! Please consider volunteering by contacting the board accWhistler@gmail.com Due to covid some things are on hold but events, communications and access advocacy are active. Putting your name down for trail maintenance, trips, hut maintenance etc. would be helpful for when things get going.

Thank You Janice Janice Tedstone has been a very dedicated volunteer for 3 years as reservations coordinator. She has also recently been working with authorities to have our hut covid protocols approved. She has taken on many other extra jobs to keep the club in operation. Though the hut is presently closed a new reservation coordinator volunteer is needed. Details are below.

We as the board of Directors have initiated this quarterly newsletter to improve communication of what is going on in the club and to encourage more engagement and volunteerism within the membership. Any suggestions for articles or the newsletter in general please contact Polly at Pfrenchdesign@gmail.com

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Monday, November 30. 7:30 PM - LOCATION: Via Zoom

AGENDA

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM
2. Bryce Leigh chaired the meeting
3. A quorum was determined to be present

4. The agenda was approved

5. Dawn Minett gave a **financial report**.

As of October 31, 2020 there was \$24,932.99 balance.

The dedicated Trails maintenance and construction fund was \$16,760.16

The available cash on hand was \$ 8,172.83

6. Directors' and project reports

-President's report-Bryce Leigh

President's Report

First a thank you for all the directors and volunteers for the time and effort they put in. Without them the Whistler section wouldn't exist.

The past year was on track to be another successful one for us until COVID19 took over.

In March the hut was closed by Rec sites and trails. Despite the government ordered closure, it was quickly apparent that people were still using the hut.

This created 2 problems for us. The firewood supply was being used and we weren't receiving any revenue to replace it with or to do hut maintenance with.

As use of the hut continued despite the closure order and notices posted at the trailhead and on our website we were forced to lock and secure the hut.

Unfortunately due to the lack of revenue, our depleted wood supply could not be replenished as we do not have enough funds to buy and fly the wood in.

The hut remains closed although we are trying to get approval to reopen it under COVID guidelines which would limit occupancy to 6 people per night.

7.Spearhead Huts Society; proposed bylaw change-**Bryce**

SHS proposed changes

The Alpine Club of Canada-Whistler Section has been part of the Spearhead Huts Project since its inception. Many of our members were an integral part of the original group behind the concept for the Spearhead huts and fully supported the project. With the building of the huts our members saw an opportunity to promote the values and philosophy of the ACC Whistler Section including low impact non-motorized human powered recreation.

As plans for the first hut developed there was concern that the design was too elaborate and as a result it would not be possible to stay within the proposed budget. As the planning and design continued it became increasingly evident that the cost of the proposed hut would be much higher than originally projected. Despite the ACCW directors frequently expressing their concerns to the SHS, the design was not changed and the budget continued to increase dramatically. It is now more than 2.5 times the original estimate and the hut is unfinished.

On January 28, 2020 ACCW sent a letter to the SHS detailing our concerns with the project. These included the budget issues and environmental concerns regarding flying bottled water into the hut; using helicopter access for the VIP weekend which violates the park management direction; and flying photographers into the hut so that it could be promoted for a design and construction award.

On June 8th the ACCW directors met. After a lengthy discussion about the SH project, it was concluded that our concerns regarding the project had not been resolved and that we did not see any way to resolve them. Therefore, the directors voted to withdraw from the SHS. For the past 5 to 6 months the SHS has been trying to find a way to reallocate the 2 ACCW director positions that is agreeable to the SHS directors.

The Spearhead Huts Society (SHS) bylaws state that any changes to the SHS bylaws must be approved by the voting membership of both the ACC-Vancouver (ACC-V) and ACC-Whistler (ACC-W) sections. A change to the SHS bylaws was approved by the SHS members at a SHS meeting on November 20, 2020. That change was approved by ACC-V members at the ACC-V Annual General Meeting on November 24, 2020.

The SHS bylaws are being revised to change the structure of the SHS Board of Directors, and to remove all references to the ACC-W in the bylaws. This is being done at the request of ACC-W, which no longer wants to formally participate in the Society.

The current seven-person SHS Board is comprised of:

1. Two directors appointed by the ACC-V who must be ACC-V members.
2. Two directors appointed by the ACC-W who must be ACC-W members.
3. Three directors appointed by the other four.

The new seven-person SHS Board will be comprised of:

1. Two directors appointed by the ACC-V who must be ACC-V members.
2. Two directors appointed by the ACC-V who must be members of other ACC sections.
3. One director appointed by the BC Mountaineering Club (BCMC).
4. Two directors appointed by the other five.

Last week after receiving a letter from her, I spoke to Susan Dixon, who is Claire's mother. It quickly became apparent that the families also had concerns regarding the first hut as it did not fit the vision of the project that they originally supported. The families are also very concerned that the proposed changes to the SHS bylaws concentrate too much control with one entity, the ACCV.

After discussing the project with Susan Dixon I believe the proposed bylaw changes do not respect the families wishes and will not facilitate the spirit of the project that they envisioned. Therefore, I recommend voting against the proposed changes and working towards a solution that includes a broader representation of values on the SHS.

After a lengthy and passionate discussion regarding the Spearhead huts project, a motion was made to change the SHS bylaws to end the ACCW's involvement in the project. The result of the vote was 63 people in favour of remaining in the SHS and zero people against staying in the SHS. The motion failed.

8. Elect or appoint directors

The following people agreed to directors of the ACCW for the next year:

-Bryce Leigh, Mitch Sulkers, Kevin Titus, Todd Bush, Michael Blaxland, Tim Ross, Rob Withey, Taylor MacDougall, Bill Moore, Roy Gutteridge, Dawn Minnet, and Polly French

9. Other business

10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM

Reports from the annual general meeting on November 30th, 2020

Access and environment - Bryce Leigh gave a report on The Whistler ACC section combined with our club's membership in the BC Federation of Mountain Clubs is constantly advocating to improve access to the backcountry. This means road grading and repair, improving impeded or blocked access, and advocating for designated non-motorized areas.

Three key backcountry areas have been made inaccessible due to access issues.

The bridge over Roe Creek at approximately 900 metres was removed by the logging company in October. This makes it extremely difficult to get to the Brew lake and Cypress Peak areas in winter and summer. Attempts to schedule a meeting with Rec Sites and Trails to discuss this issue have so far been unsuccessful.

The road access to the Rubble Creek parking lot where the Garibaldi Lake trailhead is located was not plowed last winter and will not be plowed this winter. "No Parking/ Tow Away" signs were installed along the road and vehicles have already been towed away from there this season.

Following the AGM on December 3rd B.C. Parks announced that they had reapplied for funding to plow the road for the 2020/2021 winter season and funding was approved. The road will now be plowed this winter.

The road to Madeley Lake through the Whistler Olympic Park was blocked this summer to vehicles. Although access by foot and bike was still possible this added approximately 4 KM each way making for an unappealing outing. WOP's reasons for blocking access were the increased amount of garbage being left in the area; numerous, frequent, and large campfires, and human waste. Unfortunately these issues are becoming increasingly prevalent in many areas of the backcountry. Getting people to understand proper etiquette in the backcountry is an ongoing challenge.

After nine years of frequent violations of the Rainbow Lake non-motorized area, the past winter compliance was much better with few snowmobiles entering the non-motorized area.

Trails report from Kevin Ttitus

We have spent many days working on the trail up to the Wendy Thompson hut. This includes brushing out the road to the start of the trail, constructing bridges over many of the wet spots in the first kilometer or so of the trail, and creating a few re-routes of the trail in sections where the trail was very steep.

We are constantly working on the Skywalk Trail system to build bridges over the wet areas, improve drainage, clear deadfall, and keep the trail brushed out. We have brushed out the part of the Singing Pass trail that is below the park boundary to keep it in shape for skiing out in the winter. We have also cleared deadfall and done general maintenance on the Ancient Cedars trail.

ACC AGM Notes from Taylor Macdougall, Director of Events

We typically run a social event every 2-3 months in the fall and winter, with the occasional spring and summer event. This past year, however, due to COVID-19 we only ran two events.

The first was an ACC Whistler Winter Season Kick-off held at the Whistler Museum on November 28th. This event featured an overview of gear and technical skills required for safe backcountry travel on skis or split-board, there was two slideshows including photos from Mount Logan and the Whistler backcountry, as well as information on how to join the ACC Whistler, take part in trips and/or lead trips with the club. There were prizes at the end of the evening.

The second was on February 19th and was an Avalanche Awareness and Snowpack Update with Wayne Flann. The event featured Wayne discussing general avalanche awareness including an overview of the year's unique and challenging snowpack. This event again finished with prizes. Both events were sold out with over 60 people attending each.

Wendy Thompson Hut report

The Wendy Thompson Hut was closed to the public as a Covid19 precaution on March 19, 2020. Signs were placed on the and information provided on the ACC-Whistler Website and Facebook group page. As a result of regular public usage of the hut against the RSTBC orders, the hut was secured with a combo lock on the door and all windows and other entrance points were secured. The urine separating outhouses were left open to prevent contamination of the site, as many people have still been accessing the area.

Volunteer work crews did extensive work on improving the WTH access trail, brushing the two km of former forest service road, creating a few improvements to trail alignment, and winterizing and re-finishing the hut. Thanks in particular to Kevin Titus, Roy Gutteridge, Kurt Mueller, John Blachut, Rita Rice, Michael Blaxland, for their many hours of volunteering on these projects. (directors, did I miss anyone here?)

Regular pre-winter maintenance, including flying out barrels and flying in fire wood, were not completed due to uncertainty regarding the Covid19 closure and budgetary concerns. RSTBC currently has the hut remaining closed until re-evaluation on December 10th. ACC--Whistler Section has submitted a proposal for re-opening based on a successful application by ACC--Vancouver Island for their hut, which was successful

Mitchell Sulkers - Wendy Thompson Hut maintenance

Trips Report Winter 2019/2020

We had a very strong list of trips, courses and events planned for the Winter of 2019/2020 until everything came to a screeching halt mid-March. Since mid-March and COVID restrictions the section has not conducted any trips, courses or events. We were able to complete a total of 33 activities pre-COVID, summary below:

Courses - 5 (Including Crevasse Rescue, Transceiver Practice Sessions, Ice Climbing, Avalanche Safety Training)

Day Ski Tours - 10 (Most in WB backcountry)

Multi-Day Ski Tours – 6 (Wendy Thompson Hut 3 trips, Kokanee Glacier, Fairy Meadows, Eldorado basin, Spearhead Traverse)

Snowshoe Day Tours – 12

The ACC W was successful in the ACC National lottery for the Elizabeth Parker Hut at Lake O'Hara. The plan was for 24 members to go for four nights in late July. Unfortunately, COVID struck and changes to meet COVID restrictions prevented this trip from going.

A big thank you to all members who volunteered to lead and organize trips!!!

Trips 2020/2021

The decision has been made that ACC Whistler will not be conducting any trips, courses, or events under the current COVID restrictions. This will be reviewed when the restrictions are relaxed. Any section activities must satisfy the recommendations and orders of the Provincial Health Officer.

When COVID conditions permit, all members will be contacted seeking volunteers to lead trips. Activities will be posted under Events in the calendars on the ACCW website.

Spearhead Hut Director - ACC Whistler representative - two volunteers needed

One Year commitment

To apply please Email accwhistler@gmail.com with a resume and or a covering letter outlining why you're applying, your skills, experience and qualifications for taking on the directorship role **before Dec. 31** Interested parties whom have questions regarding the commitment needed for the coming year please send an email and I will forward the phone number of an acting director at large who would be happy to answer your questions.

Suggested personality traits: assertive, confident, decisive, an organized type of person that gets things done. Must be enthusiastic about the Spearhead Hut project as well as an outdoor enthusiast who believes in the ACC Whistler mission statement and values.

Skills needed – to possess or having experience in some of these areas would be helpful.

Finance, and fundraising and bookkeeping

Construction, operations, budgeting, engineering, and experience as a director or chairperson of a business or charitable organization.

Duties – attending monthly zoom meetings acting on behalf of the ACC Whistler. Instigating the taping of all director zoom meetings and ensuring this is sent to the full ACC Whistler board and archived. Draw up concise notes of the meetings and send to the board of ACCWhistler

A new reservation coordinator is needed

Managing the Booking of the Wendy Thompson Hut

Monitoring and Answering the ACC Whistler email site

Taking deposits and sending confirmations

The Hut is currently closed so this would be a good time for someone to ease into the position

Once the hut is open this is a paid position

Please contact Bryce at the club email accwhistler@gmail.com

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



Whistler, BC



ACC Whistler