



Alpine Club of Canada - Whistler Section December 2021 Newsletter



Photo of custodians by Marie Amante

ACC Whistler Club Goals

The club's goal is to unite outdoor enthusiasts who share a common interest in non-mechanized mountain activities in the Whistler Area. Since Whistler is a community with significant population dynamics, the club helps to connect people, regardless of how long they have been in Whistler.

The AGM was Nov 25, 2021-There were 22 people on the zoom meeting
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1. After a technological glitch the meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM
2. The agenda was approved
3. Dawn Minett gave the financial report. We currently have \$10,401 in un allocated funds. We have reservation deposits for the winter season of \$26,000.
4. Bryce Leigh gave the **Report from the Chair**

Last year was a challenging one for the club. The hut was not open in the winter which resulted in a significant drop in revenue. Reservation fees are the main source of funds for the club.

The hut did reopen for the summer. We saw steady use of the hut through the fall. It was apparent that many people were staying at the hut without reservations or were using the hut to cook in or warm up in. This was so frequent that it was impacting the enjoyment of those people with reservations. As a result, we instituted a policy that only people with paid reservations are allowed to use the hut. The only exception to this is emergencies. We have a custodian program in place for the winter which should help to familiarize people with this change.

We have a new group of custodians and trip leaders who are keen to participate this winter. It is great to have them involved.

Due to COVID the number of trips was limited this summer. With more people being fully vaccinated we should be able to have more trips this winter.

Tourism Pemberton successfully applied for funding and installed 2 diverting toilets part way up the access road to the hut. They also got funding to improve the access road and work was done on it this fall.

5. Bryce Leigh gave his report for

Access and Environment

One of the ongoing issues in the Sea to Sky area is deteriorating access to many trailheads. For example, the bridge over Roe Creek which was the main summer and winter access to the Brew Lake area was removed last year.

Driving access to Madeley Lake was closed last year and for a movie shoot all this summer. WOP stated the amount of garbage and damage to the area surrounding Madeley Lake had increase significantly over the past few years, so they closed the road to reduce the problem. Unfortunately, this is an increasing problem in many areas.

It appears that there is a new group of people in the backcountry who do not have any concept of respecting the environment. They also act as if they are entitled to go anywhere they want and do anything they wish. Hopefully, clubs like ours can help to educate people and set a better example.

There has been an initiative by the snowmobilers to change some of the non-motorized areas under the LRMP to motorized. Initially this presented as an opportunity for some motorized areas to be changed to non-motorized. The priority area they want changed to motorized is the Miller Bench area accessed by the Ryan FSR. Last year there were 829 snowmobiles in this non-motorized area.

During our initial meeting with the sledders it quickly became apparent that they were not prepared to support any motorized areas being changed to non-motorized. We are currently stalled at this impasse.

6. Bill Moore gave the **Trips Report**.

There are 5 new trip coordinators who have volunteered to run trips for the Section. There will be a field session to evaluate each trip coordinator's experience. For the coming winter there are 7 snowshoe trips and 5 ski trips scheduled so far. There are also 4 multi day trips scheduled. Two to the Spearhead Hut for 3 days and 4 to the Wendy Thompson Hut for 3 days. There has been good interest in these trips.

7. **Spearhead Huts Society update**- Colin Knudsen & Robin O'Neill are Directors of the Spearhead Huts Society representing the Alpine Club of Canada-Whistler Section. Colin gave the update. The two major items remaining to be completed at the Knees and Claire hut are the solar system and water system. The estimated cost to complete these 2 items is \$250,000. Fundraising is currently underway.

The Macbeth hut will be the second hut to be built. The SHS has a donor who has committed to fund design and construction of the Macbeth hut. The Kees and Claire hut is open for winter bookings for this winter season.

8. There was a general discussion regarding maintenance and projects for the Wendy Thompson Hut.

9. There was a discussion about trail work. The section has \$18,250 in a dedicated fund for trail work.

10. The following were elected directors - Matt Spendiff(new); Marie Amante (new);
Birken Metza (new); Bryce Leigh; Kevin Titus; Roy Gutteridge;

Mitch Sulkers; Taylor MacDougall; Dawn Minett; Kurt Mueller;
Michael Blaxland; Tim Ross

9. Other business

10. Adjournment

Three Board of directors have resigned- Bill Moore, Rob Whithey and Polly French. The club wishes to thank them for their dedication and many volunteered hours.

Wendy Thompson Hut News- Regular Custodian presence

Thanks to our new head custodian, Marie Amante, we now have an enthusiastic and dedicated group of custodians who have filled the winter calendar for weekends. They have all had an orientation (most of them at the hut) of duties and hut policies.

The hut will be a much more pleasant accommodation experience now. Everyone using the hut must have a reservation and **proof of confirmed booking with them**. People without reservations or people camping in the meadow can not use the hut for storing food, drying clothes, and hanging out.

Thank you to these new custodian volunteers: Marie Amante, Rowan Springfield, Jared Limu, Ashley Costigan, Jessica Singh, Alex Grabowski, Cora Moffat, Kate Covello, Tyler Eardley, Colin Knudsen, Andrea Schneider, Birken Metza, Valerie Vermette, Jacqueline Howard, Henry Phan, Dave Price, Mat Spendiff, Sarah Goodman, Mike Last, Zach Lelek and Adria Flor

There are several more custodians who will be doing some training in Dec. and Marie is still looking for custodians available mid week.

There is a Covid Plan in place for the hut. **Guests must have proof of vaccination with them** and there is a strict 10 am check out policy. This ensures there is not a mingling of the outgoing and incoming guests. Also supplies are there for disinfecting all surfaces and good cleaning practices are expected from all guests.

Also please remember **dogs are not allowed in the hut**. Dogs are not appreciated even in the meadow as that is our above ground drinking water supply.

More Spearhead News

Our ACC Whistler representatives on the board of directors of the Spearhead Hut Society are Colin Knudsen and Robin O'Neill

We have opened up bookings until April 30, 2022 for ACC members and the public. Weekends are going fast but there are still bookings available during the week. We have implemented a covid policy for the hut to ensure guests are vaccinated.

We would like to say a big thank you to the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation for their generous grant to help complete the Kees and Claire hut Solar power and water projects. We are still fundraising for the final amounts but are hopeful we will get the required funds to have these projects completed next summer.

We will be laying out the first steps for the Macbeth Hut and will hopefully get started in the summer.

More trips news- Squamish and Whistler are sharing trips!

The [ACC Whistler Events calendar](#) can be found on their website. To sign up, just email the trip coordinator and let them know that you are from ACC Squamish and that the two sections are doing some shared trips.

- [ACC Squamish trips and events](#) can be found on Groups Place, their calendar app. This can be accessed through their website. Need help accessing the app?

Email gp@accsquamish.ca

Events

An events committee has been formed so plans are being made to start having events again. Please check the calendar in January.

More on backcountry access

Club director and chair of the Alpine Access sub committee set up the second meeting of this year in November with Jordan Sturdy, our MLA. to see how he can help with access issues.

Presently the Duffey is closed to non essential travel. Apparently highways doesn't understand the importance of a day ski touring! Please check the Drive BC app for the most updated info.

There is a lack of parking pull-outs plowed on the Duffey Lake Road for winter activities. The directors were approached by the plowing contractor and have agreed to fund \$500 towards more parking areas plowed this winter.

Volunteering Please sign up on our **volunteering sheet on the ACC Whistler website**. Another option for volunteering is **checking the calendar** for special volunteering events.

Please pass along any ideas for articles, pictures, or news for this newsletter to me at Pfrenchdesign@gmail.com



Photo Jayden Inniss

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