

Alpine Club of Canada - Whistler Section

Summer Newsletter



Fundraiser

Our fundraiser was a success. Thank you to our sponsors Creekbread Pizza Restaurant, Evo Backcountry, BamboSkiPoles.com, Escape Route, Arc'teryx and Tim Ross Guiding. We give a big thank you to everyone who bought a pizza, an auction item or made a donation. The club made \$2,290.12 which will be used toward supplies needed to get the Wendy Thompson Hut open.

Wendy Thompson Hut Update - Opening July 1, 2021

Please keep checking the calendar on our website for up-to-date information. As of now the plan is to open the hut July 1. Reservations will open at 7am, June 15, 2021. Please go to our accwhistler.com website and book with our on-line reservations system. Bookings can be made one month prior to check in. The present covid plan and protocols for renting the hut are listed in the reservation's instructions.

Trips YAHOO!!!

The Board of Directors of ACC Whistler feels we can safely start offering day hiking trips and comply with the Provincial Health Officer's Regulations.

Below is an excerpt from the BC Centre for Disease Control website section on outdoor sport. Day hiking trips fall under this category.

G. GROUP SPORT

1. A person may permit a place, other than a private residence or vacation accommodation, to be used for, or may provide, or may participate in group sport, if the following conditions are met:

b. if the group sport is outdoors, only ten persons participate;

c. the participants maintain a distance of three metres from one another while engaged in the group sport, unless the participants reside in the same private residence;

Car pooling will not be permitted unless the participants reside in the same residence.

Trip Leaders needed

This is a call out for trip leader volunteers. We are now planning for trips this summer. If you are signed up in the volunteer section of the website or contact him through an email to accwhistler@gmail.com Bill will be contacting you regarding trip planning dates. Bill is away camping until mid June so expect to hear from him after that. If you are not signed up please consider leading a hiking trip or a day course on route finding, GPS, or any other topic that you have knowledge of. It's fairly simple to be a trip leader for hiking. You just need to know a trail well and have a desire to share your knowledge with others. So please sign up!

To find out about planned trips keep checking the calendar, especially as B.C. covid health rules change. For now there will be a limit of 6 participants and trip leaders will inform you of the correct PPE needed and any other covid protocols.

Spearhead Hut Update- from our reps. Colin and Robin

+ We are in dire straights for cash flow right now because of the hut being closed to comply with COVID restrictions. We still have monthly operating expenses, including insurance. We are applying and trying to access grants.

+ Colin has taken on the role of Treasurer.

+ Big shout out to the larger donations for capital projects from Altus Mountain Guides and Alpine Initiatives and one volunteer, Nigel Aspinall, has donated \$5000 to operational costs.

+ We have a donor for the second hut, the MacBeth hut, so we are starting to move forward with those plans and discussions.

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

The ACC Whistler section is an active member of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. Our club pays a portion of our membership dues to the federation. The Federation works on behalf of all non-mechanized outdoor recreationists of B.C. and has a membership of over 5,000 people. You can keep up with the federation's works and initiatives by going to the FMCBC's website. They also have a newsletter which you can sign up for -Cloudburst. Their large, broad and varied membership gives them much more clout with the government etc., than each individual, more localized club. One of their

initiatives is to lobby for some sort of “right to roam” legislation. This was brought to the forefront with the court ruling in the Douglas Lake Ranch area. The public has been denied access to crown lakes as the rich American owner has closed off travel through his property.

Trails Trails Trails

ACC has built and maintains 3 gazetted trails under B.C. Forestry- section 57

- 1) The trail to Wendy Thompson Hut
- 2) The Skywalk Trail system
- 3) 19 Mile- Mountainview Dr. to Iceberg Lake (on the skywalk trail)

The main players in trails: where they go, who maintains them, who funds them are

BC Forestry- Rec Sites and Trails, B.C. Parks, Whistler municipality,, Whistler Blackcomb, Worca and ACC Whistler

ACC Whistler in recent years has built or substantially upgraded (sometimes in conjunction with other groups):

- The Sky Walk Trail system
- Ancient Cedars Trail
- Jane Lakes Trails
- Wendy Thompson Hut- Marriot Basin Trail
- Singing Pass Trail- below park boundary

The goal of the Alpine Club is to create a trail that is scenic, has a lot of interesting natural features and is a good hike. Unless it is designated a multi-use trail for funding, it will be built to be used solely for hiking (not bike friendly). Another goal is to have a variety of difficulty and distance in our trails.

There are three trails that are waiting and waiting and waiting for B.C. Park’s approval so the club can start working on them.

- Moose Meadows - needs maintenance, especially clearing deadfall -This is the trail from the base of Harmony to Oboe and allows access to the park when the upper Mtn. is closed.
- Singing Pass Trail, especially one dangerous bridge
- The Spearhead summer hut to hut trail

How trails are built

Someone has a vision and desire to access a beautiful wilderness area

It's started by a general outline on a map of a trailhead and final destination

Approval needs to be gained from the appropriate government agency. This can be slow, frustrating and difficult!

Then by walking the area several times a broad idea of the trail location is flagged on trees and nowadays: recorded on GPS.

Once the crew arrives to start sawing, brushing, shoveling and building bridges; sections of the trail are micro planned. This is the fun part! If you volunteered to build the trail this is where you can have some input. In short sections we fan out looking for the best route, an interesting rock or tree or another natural feature. Decisions may have to be made about the best place to put a bridge. Water run-off, views, steepness, and general ease of building are considered. Less wood boardwalks and bridges mean less maintenance down the road. Using big boulders as much as possible makes for a long- lasting solid trail base. Dirt and gravel are then shoveled on the footbed. Care is taken with removing the cut bushes and the places where dirt is shoveled from, to keep a pristine surrounding.

Lastly signage and trail markers are added. Sometimes trail markers can only be added once the snow height is established.

Robin McNeil Photo of Blackcomb Backcountry



Building The Spearhead Hut to Hut route

This will be a world class high alpine route taking most groups four days. The route has been planned and recorded on GPS. I was fortunate to be on the planning hike a couple of years ago. The views were magnificent. The reason it will be classed as a route is: it is 20 km through remote and challenging terrain. This is no place for running shoes, lack of supplies and unprepared individuals.

This is the plan:

From the Lakeside Basin area of 7th Heaven up over disease ridge on the existing trail to the Mt. Decker tarns.

From here leave the trail and traverse south along a beautiful heather filled bench following cairns and finding your own track.

Then there is a steep unstable slope below Trory Peak that will need a lot of excavation work to create a safe trail bed.

Up through a notch and the Patterson Hut will be an inviting respite

Day 2 Heading south along the east side of the Fitzsimmons Valley there will be areas of trail when needed and areas of only cairn markers until the trail drops down into the alpine vegetation and a crossing over Curtain creek. When we were there, it was a harrowing crossing with no bridge!

There is a large moraine here which will be the route up to the McBeth Hut. You'll be happy to see the hut by then!

Day 3

Back down the moraine and across Fitzsimmons Creek. There will have to be a fairly large bridge installed here. Down in this lower area of dense trees there most likely will be a cut and built trail taking you up to a large boulder field. Cairns will guide you across the boulders to a spectacular setting right at the base of Overload glacier. Just over the moraine is a tranquil small lake nestled in the alpine wildflowers. What a lovely lunch spot it was for us!

Then it's up through meadows along Adit Creek to Russet Lake. Now just one last push up the existing trail to the scenic Spearhead Hut.

From here the views are outstanding to the west and north. If you're lucky it's a perfect spot to crack a beer and watch the sunset.

Day 4 This will be on the existing trail back over Oboe, Flute and through the Harmony basin. If your timing is good, you could then take the gondola down. The other option, good for bad weather would be down the Singing Pass trail, a long 12 km, always sloping down gently and taking you to the village.

Wow: A fantastic adventure!

Volunteering

Trail building can be very rewarding and fun. Please consider signing up in the volunteer section on the website. This year Kevin, our director in charge of trails has planned some trail work dates. August 7 will be a work day on the skywalk trail. They will be posted on the calendar. It would be fun to put a crew of your bubble together and take ownership of a trail section. If you're new to trail building there's lots to learn and it can be very rewarding.

Please email accwhistler@gmail.com or sign up on our **new 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 or news on interesting developments for this newsletter to our ACCWhistler@gmail.com account.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Whistler, BC



[ACC Whistler](#)

