



Alpine Club of Canada - Whistler

# Fall 2021 Newsletter

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## TRIPS

Start planning your winter trips today! The dates for the **WTH trips are Jan 25-27, March 5-7 and Feb. 7 – 9**

The idea is to ski in, the day of the first night, stay overnight, tour the next day and stay overnight again then come out on the last date. So the trips are 3 days/2 nights.

These trips are dependent on us getting enough volunteer leaders to lead the trips. Keeping checking the calendar on the website and when these trips are posted with a trip leader to contact that's how to sign up.

**We are looking for leaders for these trips and other winter trips.** If we don't have leaders the trips won't go. The contact for new trip leaders is Bill [wr.moore@live.com](mailto:wr.moore@live.com)

We had very poor interest in hikes this summer. We had 5 trip leaders who offered to lead a total of 9 hikes. We had only 1 or 2 people sign up for a couple of hikes and 0 for some other hikes. We agreed at a recent Board of Directors meeting that we would not offer any hikes this fall. I checked the Vancouver and Squamish Section websites and they are offering very limited trips also. Either folks aren't comfortable doing activities in groups or over the COVID thing they have just gotten used to doing activities in their own bubbles!

We will try offering snowshoe and backcountry ski trips this winter. Please start checking the calendar early Nov. So any potential trip leaders please contact Bill. We will see how the interest is. We can not commit at this time to conducting any training sessions such as Avalanche Safety Training (AST) for members or Trip Leaders. We have a cash flow issue due to issuing so many refunds 2 winters ago due to COVID.

## Wendy Thompson Hut news

The Wendy Thompson Hut in the times of COVID-19

The last 18 months have been a challenging time for most of us and many have sought solace by heading into the outdoors, some for the first time. As a result, we've seen a lot of backpackers trekking up to the Wendy Thompson Hut this summer. Though the hut is available through a reservation-based system, there's been much unsanctioned use of the cabin by either those who may have been unaware of the reservation system or those who chose to ignore it.

The board of directors of the ACC, Whistler section, have received many complaints and, other than locking up the hut once again (which we hope not to do), there is little that can be done to manage this unfortunate situation. So, we're asking for the membership to assist us in getting out the message on how to use the Wendy Thompson Hut:

- If you are planning a trip up there, please make a reservation through our website at [accwhistler.ca](http://accwhistler.ca).
- If you're speaking to others about the hut, please direct them to the website for all the information they need in planning their trip and to make a reservation.
- For people choosing to camp near the hut, the hut is not to be used for meal preparation, dining, socializing, or food storage. Guests who have paid for a reservation should be able to enjoy the space without being crowded out by others.
- Reservation fees for the Wendy Thompson Hut are needed to cover the upkeep of the facility. Every year, it costs at least \$15,000 to supply firewood and empty out the human waste barrels by helicopter. The closure because of COVID-19 in March 2020 resulted in a significant loss of revenue which we were barely able to recover this summer to ensure this year's maintenance.

A work party flew in firewood and stacked it and exchanged poop barrels last week. Caring for the hut has been done over the years by a dedicated group of volunteers, the number of which is dwindling as these members get older. We need the help of our younger members, otherwise, the hut will begin to fall into disrepair. Please consider signing up as a volunteer on our website. Very little time is required to continue to make the Wendy Thompson Hut a wonderful place to stay.

## **Wendy Thompson Work Party September 26-28, 2021**

**Principal Contact:** [msulkers@shaw.ca](mailto:msulkers@shaw.ca)

Subject line for email contact: WTH WP 210926-28

Vollies should suggest which activities they feel most able to participate in and if they have specific tools they might bring along (climbing harness, chainsaw, etc)

### **Tasks:**

1. Take down and buck danger trees from vicinity of cabin and/upper trail
2. Clean and sterilize water buckets inside hut; re-mark as clean buckets
3. Split and pile green wood from danger trees and tarp for over winter
4. Re-flag winter route from lake to cabin. (yellow surveyor's tape)
5. Remove fallen timber from trail and remove spring freshet debris from log bridge over Marriott Creek
6. Take in two more splitting mauls and wedges
7. Build scaffold for roofing on causeway roof
8. Complete causeway roof and remove scaffolding
9. Sikkens walkway and new outhouse structure
10. Replace Chimney Cap (climbing harness required)
11. Insert secure marker for winter water source
12. Replace broken firebrick in stove (fire bricks are in custodian room)
13. Pack down carabiners from barrel exchange
14. Paint hut floor interior
15. Improve weather proofing on south door
16. Dismantle old barrel storage platform and put the wood under the WTH
17. Consolidate any further waste materials at hut
18. Prepare for student work party October 4-7, 2021

**Custodians** We are now having custodians on a regular basis to manage the unpaid and unreserved usage of the hut and do a few simple chores. This position provides a free and separate sleeping area for you and one guest. If you are available to spend 2 days or more as a custodian please sign up on our website. [Accwhistler.ca](http://Accwhistler.ca) and our head custodian Marie Chris will contact you.

## Kees & Claire Hut Update

### Spearhead Hut Trips

Dates that are blocked off for ACC Whistler members for the **Kees & Clair Hut** are **Feb. 18 – 20 and March 9 - 11**. There is space for 38 people. We are being offered a discounted rate of \$32 per night . What a great opportunity to meet other club members and enjoy the mountains! This is a non guided trip. It's just a club get together which we're hoping will be well supported by all the members who expressed wishes that our club remains involved with the Spearhead Hut Society. You must book your spots by Nov. 1 by emailing [pfrenchdesign@gmail.com](mailto:pfrenchdesign@gmail.com) and please include an e transfer(\$64 plus GST PST) of \$71.68 (includes gst and pst) This is non refundable but can be transferred to another person if you can't come after all.

After a very tough year with the Covid mandated shutdown, the Kees and Claire Hut is open and we have guests at the hut most nights already!! We're very excited to be resuming mostly normal operations and will be taking winter bookings very soon. We're making plans for a few last improvements Solar and Water. We're officially launching our last fundraising campaign for this hut. The additions planned have operational, environmental and financial benefits for the hut and its users.

We are asking for donations in any size! Every little bit counts. As a Canadian registered charity we will issue tax receipts for all donations. We would have started fundraising earlier but felt it was best to wait until we had booking revenue to cover expenses so every penny from donations went to these capital projects. We still have at least 2 months of good construction weather so with your help we can get started today!More information at

<https://spearheadhuts.org/news/help-us-complete-the-kees-and-claire-hut>

Spearhead Huts Society is looking for keen and qualified volunteer Custodians for this upcoming winter season. It is the coolest volunteer position in the StS corridor! Qualified Custodians are required to be experienced backcountry travellers with minimum Level 1 Avalanche training. They must be fit and able to travel to the Kees and Claire hut as needed through mountain terrain in all weather. The responsibilities are the general functioning of the hut and its systems, guest engagement and support, facility maintenance, and general reporting to the Hut Operations Mgr as needed. Full training will be provided and free accommodations at the hut of course when on duty.

Interested parties please send a letter describing why you would like to do this job and why you think you are qualified to do so. Send to: c/o Hut Operations Mgr, [spearheadopsmanager@gmail.com](mailto:spearheadopsmanager@gmail.com)

Thanks, your ACCWhistler reps.on the Spearhead Society,Colin and Robin

## **Access**

Whistler Olympic Park has now opened the gate so that there is access to the Madley Lake trail. RMOW has temporarily closed many trails in that area for grizzly bear conservation so please check their website first.

Whistler Blackcomb has proposed an uptrack to access Garibaldi Park up Sunset Boulevard on Blackcomb Mountain. The alpine club has been in consultations trying to get a more reasonable access built starting from near the sliding center.

## **Other news**

Kurt Mueller has become a director so we now have 12 directors again.

We are grateful to our members who have renewed their membership fees over the past year when we've had limited club activities. Finally, we are

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[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



