



Alpine Club of Canada - Whistler Section

Spring Newsletter 2022

January 22 work party photo Marie Amante



ACC National Hut group bookings

They will open advanced summer bookings (ie section bookings) March 1st and then open summer bookings to the public March 10th. Now is the time to round up trip leaders and people in our section and figure out if we as a club would like to book any facilities so come March 1st we are ready to go. If you are interested email [EMAIL MICHAELBLAXLAND@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EMAIL.MICHAELBLAXLAND@GMAIL.COM) no later than Feb. 25th

We have been in contact with ACC National about renting ACC huts in the Rockies, so this summer we can plan some summer hikes to the Rockies. In the winter ACC huts are also available in the Rockies and Kootenays. The problem is the huts have world wide appeal and get booked quickly. ACC National will give ACCW advance notice of booking deadlines and we can reserve hut space in advance of the general public. This will involve ACCW paying the booking fee in anticipation of the members paying us back. To take that risk we need you to [EMAIL MICHEALBLAXLAND@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EMAIL.MICHEALBLAXLAND@GMAIL.COM) BEFORE MARCH 1 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HIKING IN THE NATIONAL PARKS THIS SUMMER IN JULY OR AUGUST, TO WHERE AND FOR HOW MANY DAYS. We are looking at 3 possible 3 day hikes the TWIN LAKES HUT/STANLEY MITCHELL HUT in YOHO NATIONAL PARK, THE ELIZABETH PARKER HUT in LAKE OHARA, YOHO NATIONAL PARK, and the BERG LAKE TRAIL at MT ROBSON. Also the ACCCanmore section has expressed an interest in exploring doing some joint hikes plus ACCNational would like us to help on a work party to one of their hikes. It looks exciting if there is the interest to hike outside our home mountains this summer.

More upcoming Events

Feb 28 zoom social event-look on the ACC facebook page near the end of Feb. for a zoom link

Mitch Sulkers will be presenting a 1 hour session on Backcountry Awareness. Mitch is an ACGM guide and has been the teacher, for many years, of the highschool outdoor course. He was also a founding member of our club and the president and is now on the board of directors.

ACC Whistler Club Goal 2022

This year we would like to build back our trip and events calendar with more membership participation. Trips, events and just getting together and sharing knowledge and fun are the core of our club.

Events Report

A successful zoom social was held Jan 24 with 29 Participants. Tim Ross (ACGM guide and board member) lead a very interesting presentation on Backcountry Awareness- some of his key points were about group cohesion -stick together, communicate and take care of each other

Wendy Thompson Hut News

January 22nd Work Party- Wow what a turn out -Thanks!

Following the incredible amount of snow the corridor received over December and January it was decided that the Wendy Thompson Hut was in dire need of a clean-up. Marie Amante, with the help of 3 other trip-coordinators organized a collection of **36 first time volunteers, custodians, and ACC members for a day of Shoveling and Maintenance**. It's true that many hands make for light work as the first group arrived at the hut at 10:30 and by 12:30 we had cleared the roofs of their meters of snow; scrubbed the chimney and replaced the cap; dug out the outhouse, wood shed, old outhouse, and water-hole. From there groups of four began their return trip to their vehicles or headed to the slope north of the hut for a lap. The day was gorgeous with temperatures rising to zero in the late afternoon.

Trips Report

We have identified that we can have much more fun as a club of hikers, skiers and snowshoe members if we make improvements.

We need more members to step up and be trip leaders. In summer and on snowshoe trips that require prior knowledge of the planned route. In winter more training and experience is required. ACCW will put money into training new trip leaders. Most trip leaders are old and most members are young so it is time to pass the torch to the younger generation. Please step up and become a trip leader.

In summer too many trips planned are going out with little or no members joining. The process is anyone who wants to lead a trip enters the trip on the ACC calendar. Then the member interested in going on the trip contacts the trip leader. All future communication then is done by the trip leader. This procedure will continue but to support the trip a Trip booking platform will be added. ACCSquamish and Vancouver use a platform. We have yet to decide which one is best for ACCWhistler. We will add a mass email sent out to the membership 1 week in advance of a trip to remind the

.....

member of an upcoming trip that is not full. Mat or Michael will figure out how to contact the trip leader and make it happen.

Please sign up for more trips that are on the ACCW calendar.

Spearhead News

Our two ACC Whistler group Spearhead Hut trips are full.

They are still fundraising to complete the water system and solar system at the Kees and Claire Hut. Project ideas and architecture are being worked on for the next hut.

Your Board of Directors continue to work on Backcountry Access - from Michael Blaxland

Over the last 12 years ACCW has been trying with minimal success to increase access to the alpine around Whistler. The history is limited to successes such as the rebuilding of the Joffre Lake trail and plagued by more recent failures.

In December 2011 ACCW Board member Kurt Mueller published a Detailed Trail Report identifying 66 existing, or overgrown trails, to the Alpine within 50 km of Whistler. Of those 66 trails, less than 30 are in use today. ACCW has made representation in the last 2 years in regard to 5 trail access issues. We have also contributed financially to the BC Mountaineering Club's efforts on trail access.

Issue 1 is the Garibaldi Provincial Park Singing Pass Blackcomb Glacier and beyond access. A winter uphill route has been approved by Vail up Blackcomb Mountain. Frankly it takes so much time that it is better to buy a lift ticket. Vail sells Backcountry passes to access both the Blackcomb Glacier and Flute to Singing Pass at a discount. An ongoing dispute exists as to summer hiking access to Singing Pass. Years ago Whistler Blackcomb cut off the summer parking lot at the end of Singing Pass in clear violation of various access to Garibaldi Park obligations. While ACCW understands the safety issues of the conflict between vehicles and downhill mountain bikers, we have been unable to conclude an agreement whereby the public could drive past the sliding Center and drive the winter snowmobile road and park at the power plant at Fitzsimmons Creek then accessing the Singing pass trail. Two years ago the ACCW repaired bridges on the Singing Pass trail. Ongoing funds are available for ongoing ACCW Singing pass trail maintenance .

Issue 2 is Grizzly bear closures of the new trail system hooking up the Rainbow trail to Hanging Lake, Skywalk and Sproatt trail systems. ACCW and RMOW have spent much \$ and thousands of sweat volunteer hours building and maintaining this excellent trail system. Yet every fall the system gets closed whenever a grizzly bear appears excited

.....

in berry eating season. The Province and RMOW is encouraging reintroduction of grizzly bears west of Highway 99 in preference to local hikers. Over sensitivity to the bear has resulted in too many trails being closed for too long. More accurate monitoring should occur to minimize denying access. I and other ACCW members wrote letters to the Pique News Magazine and the RMOW to have a more measured approach. Little success so far, as the bear is winning over hundreds of hikers.

Issue 3 is closure of logging roads and removal of bridges and culverts after active logging ends. Last year active logging ended in the Brew Lake area and the government required the logging company to remove the bridge on the Roe Creek FSR which resulted in 5 more hours to hike into the UBC cabin at Brew Lake. ACCW concluded the old bridge could be repaired and maintained but we could not organize a fund so as to adopt the bridge. I am told the Powder Mountain Cat skiing operator has constructed a temporary replacement bridge so they can cat ski on their catskiing lease. I do not know if ACCW ski tours can use it or if it will be drivable in the summer so as to access the Brew lake trailhead 3 km beyond the bridge. ACCW and Jordan Sturdy our local MLA have met. Our MLA understands the issue and has promised to pressure the province to maintain not decommission FSR's so as to preserve hiking and skiing access to parking closer to the alpine.

Issue 4 is Madely Lake. Last year a locked gate appeared; denying access by car to the 5 km drive to the Madely lake parking lot and access to the Hanging Lake trailhead. ACCW learned Whistler Olympic Park(WOP) had extended their use lease to include the road and had placed a lock to prevent rowdy campers causing a forest fire. The Hanging Lake trail was built by volunteers from the Whistler Rotary club. The Rotary members, ACCW members and the Regional District have not been pleased by the locking of the gate. WOP has had an application for summer camping delayed until WOP opens the gate. I have heard last fall the gate was shut but not locked. ACCW will check out the situation this summer.

Issue 5 is new access opportunities. A new hiking trail has been made from the Black Tusk FSR to Jayne Lakes. While the yellow gate at the end of the south Callaghan Lake FSR, at the start of the Black Tusk FSR is locked, the trail improves access especially if you have a mountain bike to go around the locked gate. In the past ACCW opposed the locking of the Black Tusk FSR gate but now many appreciate that if the gate was unlocked Jayne Lakes would get overrun like Joeffre Lakes. ACCW has also investigated replacing the culverts so the Jayne Lake trail could be accessed from the Jayne Lake FSR or a new trail built from the Bungee Jump past the Cal-Cheak Campground.

Last year we did an exploratory ATV uplift with the Canadian Wilderness Adventures (CWA) which saved a 3 hour walk up to the Pot of Gold/ Sproatt trail system. CAW does not have the employees to provide the service but it would increase the hiking time in the alpine and eliminate a tough boring hike up from the Northair Mine FSR.

A new trail has been cleared by Kevin Titus from the Adventure Group(TAG) Zip line top station to Singing Lake. It has great views and saves a 3 hour uphill walk. You park

.....

on the top of the TAG road which starts at the TAG base off Ancient Cedars road. Also you can e bike up the TAG road.

The trail up Cougar Mountain from the Welcome to Whistler sign north of Green Lake has been tagged and offers good spring hiking. The Newt Lake trails from Ancient Cedars to Cougar Mountain have been explored but are very buggy.

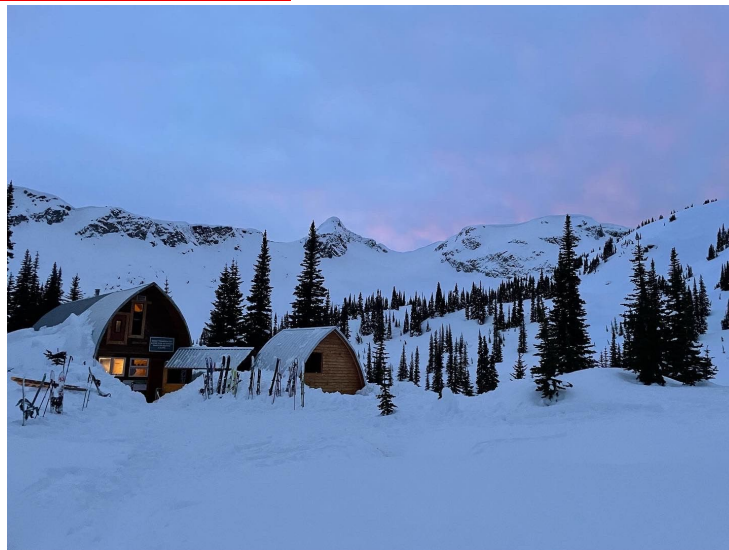
Any interested members are to contact Michaelblaxland@Gmail.com if they want to **Join the next ACCW access committee Zoom meeting March 8 at 5pm**

Volunteering

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 or our Facebook** for special volunteering events.

Please pass along any photos, ideas for articles or news on interesting developments for this newsletter to me at pfrenchdesign@gmail.com

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Whistler, BC [ACC Whistler](#)

