

# Alpine Club of Canada – Whistler Section

## Summer Newsletter May 2022



## Trips

As always, the club is looking for folks that are wanting to coordinate summer trips for the club. People can email Mat Spendiff at [mcspendi@gmail.com](mailto:mcspendi@gmail.com) to get a trip posted to the events calendar. There are already some trips posted to the calendar, check these out at the link below. Thank you to those coordinating!

### [ACC WHISTLER EVENT CALENDAR](#)

Here's a summary of the upcoming trips:

Jun 3rd - Jane Lakes - Hiking - Trip Coordinator: Graeme Boyd ([why3118@gmail.com](mailto:why3118@gmail.com))

Jun 24th - Rainbow Lake - Hiking - Trip Coordinator: Graeme Boyd ([why3118@gmail.com](mailto:why3118@gmail.com))

Jul 15th - Black Tusk - Hiking - Trip Coordinator: Jean Allen ([dougjeanallen@telus.net](mailto:dougjeanallen@telus.net))

Jul 15th - Ascent Trail Up/Gondola Down - Hiking - Trip Coordinator: Graeme Boyd ([why3118@gmail.com](mailto:why3118@gmail.com))

Jul 29th - Wedgemount Lake - Hiking - Trip Coordinator: Graeme Boyd ([why3118@gmail.com](mailto:why3118@gmail.com))

Aug 19th - Rainbow Lake - Hiking - Trip Coordinator: Jean Allen ([dougjeanallen@telus.net](mailto:dougjeanallen@telus.net))

Sep 26th - Elfin Lakes - Hiking - Trip Coordinator: Jean Allen ([dougjeanallen@telus.net](mailto:dougjeanallen@telus.net))

The club is also looking to organize Kees & Claire hut hiking trips for August 19-20 and September 3-5. If people are interested in participating or helping coordinate these trips, please follow the below Google form link to be added to the list. We will reach out in a couple weeks if we were successful at collecting enough interest and confirm the trip.

### [ACC WHISTLER SUMMER TRIPS INTEREST - Google Form](#)

The hiking trip to Lake O'Hara is full but there is a waiting list. Please email Michael Blaxland at [Michaelblaxland@gmail.com](mailto:Michaelblaxland@gmail.com) to be added.

## Wendy Thompson Hut Update

The hut is booked for a **volunteer work party Sept 16,17 and 18**. Please put this in your calendar and people can email our events organizer Marie Amante: [mariechris.amante@gmail.com](mailto:mariechris.amante@gmail.com) if they want to sign up.

**Custodians - Thank you!!!** Our winter custodian program was a great success. Thank you to these custodians that were able to do shifts.

Alex Grabowski	Cora Moffat	Jared Liimu	Dasha Kornienko
Andrea Zemanek	Grant Gill	Ashley Costigan	Zach Lelek
Alexa Hare	Carlee Kukat	Andy Hill	Elise Galuska
Rowan Springfield	Jayson Craig	Colin Knudsen	Dave Price
Daniel Kaczmarek	Sarah Walter	Mike Last	Chris Mark
Emily Perrins	Sarah Goodman	Carolyn Chong	Adrià Flor
Andrea Schneider	Marie Amante	Birken Metza	

The unregistered and unpaid usage of the hut and its firewood has been reduced by their presence.

We're recruiting Spring, Summer and Fall custodians. People can reach out to Marie Amante at [mariechris.amante@gmail.com](mailto:mariechris.amante@gmail.com) if they're interested.

## Trails Report

We will have a trail work day to reroute a section of Upper 19 Mile Creek trail on Saturday, July 23. Sign up by contacting Kevin Titus by text 604 698 9255 or email at [ktitus30@gmail.com](mailto:ktitus30@gmail.com).

## Access Committee

On March 12, 2009 the Land Resources Management Plan (LRMP) for the Sea to Sky area was amended to include Non-commercial Winter Recreation Zones. The non-motorized zones have been provincial government policy for 13 years. There was minimal, if any, compliance with the zoning by the motorized users for several years after the non-motorized zoning came into effect. The first real step forward in obtaining compliance occurred when the RMOW became concerned about the constant violation

of the Rainbow Lake non-motorized zone which is part of the RMOW's watershed. For the past few years' violations of the Rainbow Lake non-motorized zone have been greatly reduced. Unfortunately, the area surrounding Hanging Lake is zoned motorized despite this being an extremely popular backcountry skiing destination. There were 2772 skier visits recorded via the Hanging Lake trail during the 2020-2021 ski season. Discussions with representatives for the snowmobilers and Canadian Wilderness Adventures, which has a commercial recreation tenure that includes Hanging Lake, regarding changing Hanging Lake to a non-motorized area have been futile to date. There aren't any encouraging indications that their opposition will change.

On April 3, 2020 under the B.C. Land Use Policy, Permission for all motorized recreation in LRMP RA1, and RA1-A zones was prohibited from December 1 to May 31 annually. Violators could be subject to a fine of up to \$1000. The aim of this was to increase voluntary compliance and reduce conflicts between motorized and non-motorized user groups. The immediate response to this was outrage from the snowmobiling sector who claimed to have never been consulted about any of the non-motorized zoned areas. This is blatantly untrue as many of us involved in the LRMP process were at discussion meetings where input from all user groups was solicited and given. I could name at least six representatives from the snowmobilers that were at the LRMP meetings.

The winter non-motorized zones have been uploaded to the Trailforks website. Now there isn't any reason for snowmobilers to claim they didn't know they were in a non-motorized zone or where they are. This is very basic technology that anyone can use.

Clearly continued violation of the non-motorized zones and the possibility of a \$1000 fine was not a concern for the snowmobilers. During the 2020-2021 winter season there were 829 snowmobiles in the Miller Bench non-motorized area alone. Over the course of the reporting period there was an average of 6 snowmobiles per day in the non-motorized zone. There were 34 days with 10 or more snowmobiles and 17 days with 14 or more snowmobiles. There were only 6 days in the 2020-2021 winter season where there weren't any snowmobiles in the Miller Bench non-motorized area. There were days where the number of snowmobiles was 25, 24, 28, 28, 29, and 26 in the non-motorized zone. These numbers clearly demonstrate two things. There was a complete lack of compliance by the snowmobilers and that the number of snowmobiles in the non-motorized zone made it very unappealing for ski touring.

In 2021 we became aware of an initiative by the snowmobilers to have the Miller Bench area zoning changed to motorized. A series of discussions with the snowmobilers and a representative from Forests Lands, and Natural Resource Operations took place during the fall of 2021 and January 2022. One of the most alarming points of the discussions was the snowmobilers' statement that this was just the first of many of the non-motorized areas that they wanted changed to motorized. It soon became clear that they were definitely in expansion mode and weren't very interested in making concessions by agreeing to have new non-motorized areas created. The issue was also discussed with a representative of the Lilwat First Nation. As a result of these discussions the non-motorized representatives decided that they were willing to support a one-year trial where the Miller Bench would be motorized from the start of the winter ski season until March 31<sup>st</sup> then it would be non-motorized until the end of the snow season. This was based on the fact that it is a 15 KM skin up the Miller Bench FSR to get to the start of the ski touring area making it a long approach during winter. The area would then be available for touring when the snowline had melted further up the road making access shorter. The Lilwat First Nation also supported this proposal. On March 22, 2022 we approached the snowmobilers and suggested that for the remainder of the 2022 spring season that the Miller Bench non-motorized area be respected by the snowmobilers as a short test in order to gain experience and feedback for the proposed one-year trial of the proposed zoning change. On March 25<sup>th</sup> we received a reply from the Pemberton Valley Snowmobile Club stating they didn't have enough time to communicate the change to their members. The question is, if 13 years with the LRMP non-motorized zone in place and 2 years with the further order enforcing the non-motorized zone is not sufficient time then how much time do snowmobilers actually need to understand that there are non-motorized zones and they are actually required to adhere to them?

This was extremely disappointing, but not surprising, especially since we were only asking for compliance to the existing zoning which has been in place for 13 years, although it has been completely ignored for 13 years. The blunt reality is that it doesn't set a good precedent for future cooperation between motorized and non-motorized users as this makes it difficult to believe there is any motivation from the snowmobiling group to comply with any regulations or restrictions. One of the problems is that FLNRO does not have enough staff to actually enforce the LRMP zoning. In the first week of February, the FLNRO person that was working on the issue went on maternity leave for one year and hasn't been replaced. As a result, there hasn't been any progress on the issue for months.

When we became aware that there was the potential to make some changes to the LRMP winter zoning, we proposed making the area surrounding Brew Lake non-motorized. The proposal was to make everything uphill or northeast of the Roe Creek logging road after the bridge over Roe Creek non-motorized with the non-motorized area extending down to Brandywine Creek to the north. We chose this boundary as it would be easy to understand by anyone with even minimal navigation skills. Once again there was opposition from the snowmobilers as they were opposed to losing any areas. There hasn't been any progress on this issue since then.

From this process two points are very clear. Snowmobilers do not understand the need for backcountry skiers to have non-motorized areas where they will be free from the negative impacts of snowmobiles. It is clearly evident that the snowmobilers' blatant disregard for the non-motorized areas will continue for the foreseeable future unless there are stronger meaningful penalties for violating the non-motorized zones.

## **Spearhead Hut Update- from our reps. Colin and Robin**

We are just making final plans on having water and solar up at the hut and hope everything will be complete by the end of the summer and ready for the ski season.

We are in the process of installing an AED at K&C supplied with funding from the Whistler Health Care Foundation which we are very grateful for.

## **A Message from our Chairman of the Board**

This winter's custodian program for the hut was a success and the directors would like to thank all the people that did custodian shifts.

We would also like to encourage people to be trip coordinators as we would like to see more trips being run by the Whistler Section. Trips can be anything from an easy day hike to Cheakamus Lake to more challenging backcountry trips involving scrambling or climbing.

We would also like to include some background about the Section. "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 purpose of the club is “ to unite outdoor enthusiasts in the Whistler Area that share a common interest for human powered mountain activities. To organize trips and programs to improve technical safety and leadership skills. We are also active with other associations on trail work and access and climbing areas’ maintenance and access. To be involved in the negotiations to keep access to existing recreational areas and to open up new areas.”

## **Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.**

As a member of the ACC Whistler Section, you are also a member of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.[BL1] . The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is the only province-wide umbrella organization dedicated to protecting and maintaining access to BC’s backcountry. Since 1972, the FMCBC has represented the interests of outdoor clubs from every corner of the province and have provided a united voice on issues related to non-motorized backcountry recreation. The FMCBC’s Vision is, “British Columbia’s backcountry is shared amongst all recreational users in a way that self-propelled users have reasonable access to an enjoyable experience.” The FMCBC mission is, “To advocate for safe, self-propelled activities (such as hiking, mountaineering, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running and other backcountry activities) and the protection of BC’s backcountry for current and future generations to experience.” The purpose of the FMCBC is, to represent clubs and the public interested in non-motorized backcountry recreation in BC, and to advise and take action on their behalf in matters which may impact their recreation experiences. To make recommendations to government and non-government organizations regarding the protection of and access to BC’s backcountry and trails. To encourage self-propelled backcountry recreation, and to promote low impact and safe practices. To promote the development and maintenance of a systems of trails in BC. To promote the sound management and preservation of BC’s backcountry recreation resources.

As a member of the FMCBC you benefit from the impact of an organization with 40 member clubs and their collective advocacy.

**Call out to all BCMC Members** [please, also share this with other people you know who might be interested]! We are looking for **2-4 Camp Hosts for summer season 2022 to be based up at Watersprite Lake Provincial Recreational Site** - is that you? Apply now [here](#). The application closing date has been extended

**Examples of duties [for full role description, [click here](#)];**

- Ensure campground facilities are maintained to RSTBC and BCMC standards. Ensuring a safe, clean, and sanitary environment.
- Verify reservations and guest tent setup location.
- Assist campground guests and visitors with basic questions and requests. Monitor what's going on in the campground and respond appropriately.
- Ensure campground compliance and security by ensuring campground areas are patrolled and guests are abiding by the campground usage guidelines, including quiet hours.

This is a great chance to further support the larger outdoor community. Note; Camp Hosts will be paid \$200 per day (less statutory deductions).

**Include the following in your application:**

Cover letter outlining your background and motivation

- Resume
- Copy of First Aid Certification

**Send application to [use subject title: Camp Host Job Application]: [marketing@bcmc.ca](mailto:marketing@bcmc.ca)**

**Backstory:**

- In 2015 the BCMC obtained a tenure license to construct a cabin and associated trail system at Watersprite Lake (North East of Squamish, BC). Construction was completed in 2017. In 2019 the BC Government (RSTBC) advised that the area surrounding Watersprite Lake was slated to become a Provincial Recreation Site. This was realized in late 2020 and the BCMC was subsequently contracted to operate the site. As part of operating the site, we are now hiring 2-4 Camp Hosts to work on-site during the summer season (July to October).
- The 2-4 Camp Host roles are part-time seasonal roles with the actual number of shifts dependent upon campsite reservations - but with the bulk of the work being over weekends.

**I am always interested in any article suggestions, your pictures or any help with this newsletter. Contact me at [pfrenchdesign@gmail.com](mailto:pfrenchdesign@gmail.com)**



Brew Lake Hike -My favorite local hike. I hope we'll figure how to get easier access again someday



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