

# Alpine Club of Canada - Whistler Section

## Fall Newsletter 2022





Above are pictures from the Lake O'Hara trip from Michael Blaxland

## **Wendy Thompson Hut News**

**Work party Sept 16, 17 and 18** contact Bryce at [powderhounds@telus.net](mailto:powderhounds@telus.net) Volunteers are very much needed. Why not put a group of your friends together? If you can just go in for one day your help working on the trail or stacking firewood etc. would be appreciated.

## Notes from our board of directors

From Bryce: The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. (FMCBC) has been working on a new summer access route to the Singing Pass trail. The proposal is to have an access from Lot 8 on the Blackcomb Mountain side that would lead to the Power project intake under the Peak to Peak Gondola. Just downstream of the intake a new foot bridge would be installed. From there the new access would connect to the existing Singing Pass trail on the Whistler Mountain side of Fitzsimmons Creek.

Here is an update on what has happened so far.

### Singing Pass Trail – Alternate Access Route

We are getting close to an agreement on the proposed route from Lot 8 on the Blackcomb side of Fitzsimmons Creek and hope we can build the bridge and trail next year in 2023. Whistler-Blackcomb (Vail Resorts) have a tentative agreement for the trail to be built. We are just waiting for a final email about that.

This year we have made some progress:

- met with Whistler-Blackcomb to describe the route to a new staff member who is working in the planning department.
- started on a construction plan as requested by Whistler-Blackcomb
- surveyed the bridge and marked with rebar posts
- marked the trail location between the top of the sliding centre and the first switchback above on the Blackcomb Mountain Access Road

Next steps: Final agreement signed between Province and Vail Resorts

- We need Vail Resorts to sign a sharing agreement with the FMCBC for use of lot 8
- Finish raising money for bridge construction (over 50% pledged so far)
- Ordering bridge and start construction in August 2023?

## Trails

There are no work parties for trails this fall. At this point all our trails seem to be in pretty good shape. Mitch was talking about doing some brushing out of the Wendy Thompson road.

We are also working on a continuation of the Sea to Sky Trail to Pemberton but are waiting on Parks and the SLRD to give approval, so more on that probably next year when some decisions are made. We are also waiting on approval from Parks to start the Spearhead summer route from Kees and Claire to the next hut.

## News from ACC Whistler - Spearhead Representatives

ACC Whistler representatives on the board of directors, of the Spearhead Hut Society are Colin Knudsen and Robin O'Neill and they both wish to remain on the SHS board this year

From Colin: Parks has not approved the drilling for the well yet so we have been waiting on that. Once that is a go ahead we will hopefully get it done before the winter season.

There is no planned start date for the next hut. We will most likely be starting next year but nothing has been official as we are still in the beginning phases.

We recently welcomed Pierre Vacheresse as our new booking agent who handles all bookings and customer inquiries. Michael Kennedy from the Vancouver ACC stepped down earlier this summer and Ben Parsons is now part of the Board representing ACC Vancouver. This summer we had an **AED generously donated for the hut from the Whistler Health Care Foundation**

Hopefully we will receive some big news on a large grant I applied for last year in the next couple of weeks.

## Trips

From Michael :Happy to report a most successful 4 day ACCW hike to Lake Ohara. Perfect weather and great group dynamics. We hope to book some more trips this winter and next summer

Some of the trip leaders have mentioned that there hasn't been a lot of participation in summer hikes. I think we lost a bit of our mojo because of covid. How can we build

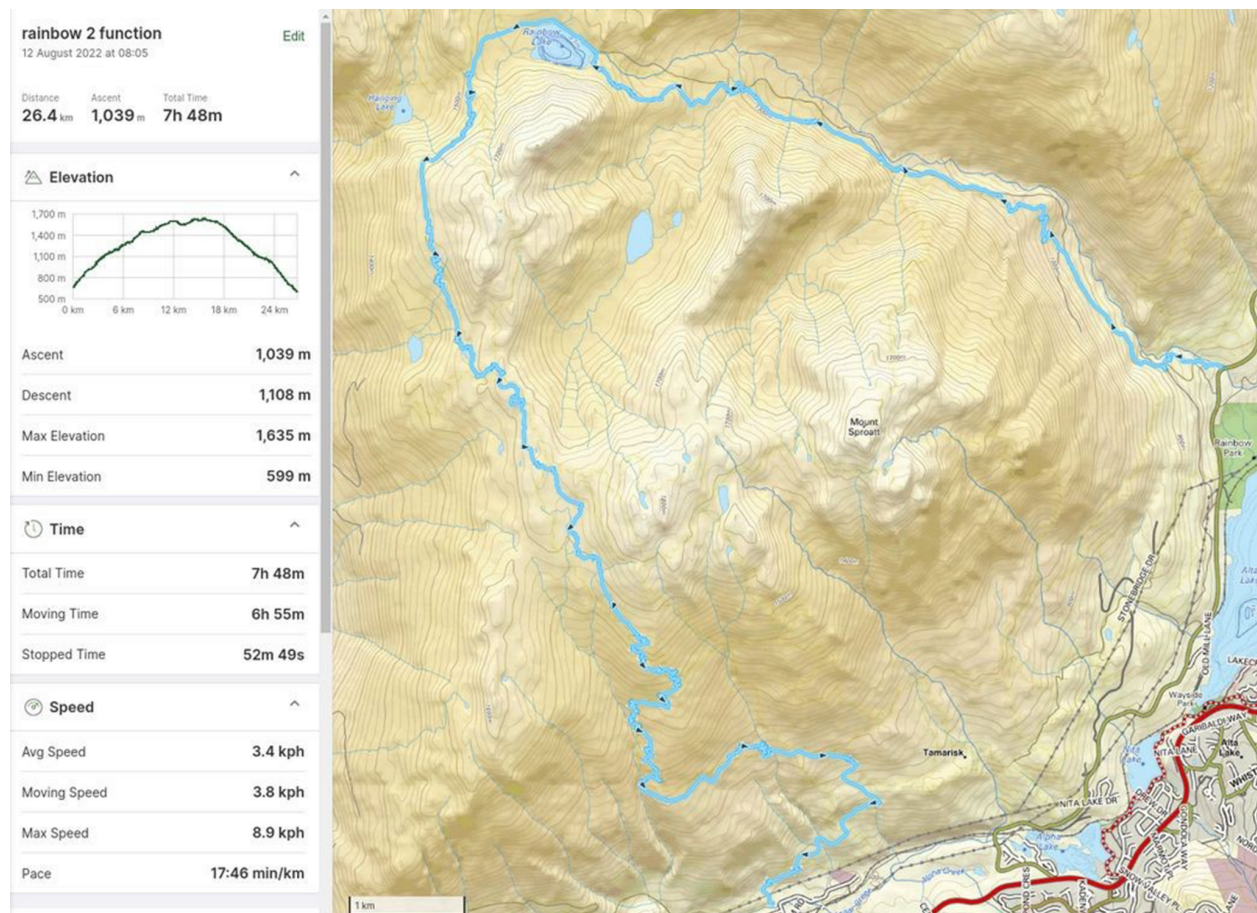


more interest? Any suggestions? I find that when I receive email alerts from the Squamish ACC it spurs me to action. Should we start a system like that?

It's time to start thinking about our winter trips but it's not too late to add some fall hikes to the calendar. Please consider volunteering.. Most of you could lead an avalanche transceiver practice, hiking, snowshoe or cross-country ski to one of your favorite locations. There have been courses on crevasse rescue, navigation, emergency shelter building, Avi 1 and 2 and many more. Maybe you have some special knowledge? climbing? Bouldering? Route finding? Using new GPS apps and technology? Contacts for trips are [birken.metza@gmail.com](mailto:birken.metza@gmail.com) and [michaelblaxland@gmail.com](mailto:michaelblaxland@gmail.com)

## From Graham : **Rainbow Lake to Function Junction**

Weather at the start was great – about 16° C with few clouds. But it got rather hot as the day went on – hitting close to 30° C. We left a car at the Function Junction parking lot, then met the other two at the Rainbow Lake parking lot at 8 am. The planned route was an aggressive trip, and longer than I thought – just over 26 km.



But the views from the ridge above Rainbow Lake until the tree line dropping to Function were amazing, as were the flowers! On the other hand the last 8 km from the tree line to Function was way too long - everyone just wanted the day to end!



**ACC Whistler Annual General Meeting will be at the end of Nov** (exact date to be determined) That meeting will be your chance to vote in a new board of directors and to bring forward any suggestions or ideas. If you wish to put your name forward to become a board member in advance, contact Bryce at [powderhounds@telus.net](mailto:powderhounds@telus.net)

Please pass along any ideas for articles, news on interesting developments, or pictures for this newsletter to [Pfrenchdesign@gmail.com](mailto:Pfrenchdesign@gmail.com).



Below is a picture of Cheakamus Lake - High Note Trail - from trip leader Jean Allan



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Whistler, BC



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