

ISS

PACRAT



RMRA Newsletter

HIKING - SKIING
BACKPACKING
CLIMBING - CYCLING
SCRAMBLING - CANOEING
SNOWSHOEING



JUNE 1992

**T H E R O C K Y M O U N T A I N R A M B L E R S
A S S O C I A T I O N**

ACTIVITIES: Hiking, Backpacking, Climbing, Skiing, Cycling, Mountain-Biking, Snowshoeing, Canoeing, Educational and Awareness Programs and Social Functions.

MEETINGS: WEEKLY - Wednesday evening at 8:00 PM
PLACE - Rosemount Community Hall
2807 - 10 Street N.W.

MAIL: P.O. Box 3098 Station 'B'

FEES: Annual Membership :Single \$ 25.00
(Oct. to Oct.) :Family \$ 35.00

TRIP INFO.: 282 - 6308 RMRA Hotline
and at Meetings.

R M R A EXECUTIVE 1991/92

PRESIDENT	Reg Fryling
VICE PRESIDENT	A. Van der Voet
TRIP COORDINATOR	Dave Reid
TREASURER	Brian Westcott
SECRETARY	Irene Willett
PROGRAM DIRECTOR	Philip Spaulding
SOCIAL DIRECTOR	Deirdre O'Brien
EQUIP.COORDINATOR	Ken Frank
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	John Schleinich

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY/92

by Reg Fryling

A coordinator's committee has, I would say, quite thoroughly investigated the question of liability insurance for the club and as a result some recommendations have come forth from the coordinator's spring meeting. Club liability insurance is not recommended at this time because it is extremely costly and many others seem to be functioning without it. Individuals could obtain private medical insurance if there is a concern. The waiver form system we are using, should be fine tuned. The individual membership age could be changed from 16 to 18 years because a waiver signed by someone under 18 is apparently not recognized legally (this would require a change in our constitution at an A.G.M.).

In general the coordinators seem to act very responsibly and other members seem willing to accept responsibility for their own wellbeing. We must, however, continually monitor ourselves in these areas so that we may enjoy both, challenging and safe outings. I am pleased to see the number and variety of trips offered lately and the response to them.

Happy rambling
Your President

RED MOUNTAIN CLAIM

by Art Davis

Referring to the article in the June 1990 Packrat regarding the talc mines in the Egypt Lake area reference is made to the mine tunnel at the Red Mountain Claim at Talc Lake (formerly Natalco Lake).

John Watters of Banff reported in 1927 that a mine tunnel of 30', 6 x 8 ft. was driven into the Red Mountain Claim.

On my visit to the site on Sept. 15/89 I intended to check out this tunnel. When I did it appeared to have another branch at the end of the tunnel running off to the right. Unfortunately, I had left my headlamp back at Egypt Lake cabin, and since the roof support timber had collapsed and it was quite dark inside, I was reluctant to go further into the tunnel.

Last October I went back, this time with my headlamp. The tunnel floor is littered with collapsed support timber but hardly any rockfall from the roof. I discovered that the tunnel widened out at the end giving the appearance from near the entrance that it branches off to the right.

So, finally I can confirm that the dimensions outlined by John Watters in 1927 are correct. The tunnel appears to be safe even after 64 years, however since park policy is to seal these off, I'm surprised it is still open, possibly it has merely been overlooked as just a few sticks of dynamite would take care of it.

The Egypt cabin is a nice destination for a two night stay in the fall as it is not crowded, I've seldom been there when there were more than two or three others. In the summer it is hopeless to find an empty spot in the cabin, better to stay in a tent, however, no fires allowed.

NUTRI-METICS CONSULTANT

Organic products in skin care, sun screens, home care (e.g. bio degradable soap), hair care, etc. Telephone JUNE SOBON for personal or group consultation . Complementary samples available.

Alistair,s Winter 1991-92

by Alistair des Moulin

"What a rotten winter it's been for skiing" many people seem to be saying. There has certainly been much less snow than last winter but there has always been plenty in areas near the Divide like the Smith-Dorian area of Kananaskis Provincial Park, and the Lake Louise area and up the Jasper highway. The warm weather has meant that my 6000-foot rule has applied for most of the winter. This rule says that if the temperature in Calgary is 10 d C don't look for good skiing below the 6000-foot elevation.

My first skiing this winter was on November 16, 17 at Parker Ridge in the Columbia Icefields area. We had two days of good skiing - it snowed most of the time - and we stayed overnight in the Cirrus Mountain picnic shelter. The following weekend Gail and I went up to Molar Meadows and skied up North Molar Pass. The snow was mostly good.

In December we had trips to North Johnstone Creek and Burstall Pass (day trip) as well as a six day trip to the Mount Assiniboine area for Christmas.

For the first weekend in January we visited Redoubt Lake, the basin south of it and climbed Anthozoan Mountain. For the 17/19 we went to Maligne Pass in Jasper Park and made an ascent 9100-foot Replica Peak and had some excellent skiing. The following weekend we did the O'Hara - MacArthur Pass - Ottertail fireroad traverse and due to very heavy trail breaking did not get out until the Monday morning.

February 8-10 saw us hiking and scrambling near the Ya Ha Tinda ranch in the Red Deer River valley. The family day weekend trip I'll describe later. The

following weekend we skied up French Creek, across the Haig Glacier then out via Lawson Lake to the Upper Kananaskis Lake, camping at Turbine Canyon and visiting North Kananskis Pass as a side trip on the Sunday morning.

We went on Art's snow caving trip in early March and on the 21/22nd made an ascent of 10,760 foot White Pyramid near Waterfowl Lakes on the Jasper highway. We skied up to 8500 ft. then went on foot. Excellent all round views but the skiing below 6500 feet was on a melt-freeze crust, however, that meant no deep trail breaking. A three-day hiking trip up the South Ghost Valley completed the month.

For the family day long weekend 15/17 February, Gail and I decided to do the North and South Molar Pass circuit. We left the car in the Mosquito Creek campground at about 10:30 on the Saturday morning. It was a fine day with some cloud as we skied up the trail to the MO6 campground. After lunch we followed the broken trail to near the South Molar Pass turnoff. The broken trail went up to the meadows between the two summer trails, so we put skins on and broke a new trail approximating the summer trail route towards North Molar Pass. Trail breaking was easy on the generally firm base with skis sinking about 9". The weather clouded in so the light became flat as we neared North Molar Pass making it difficult to judge the slope angle we were on. At the pass we had an afternoon snack and then had similar problems with the slope and cornice on the other side. Once 100' down the other side, it was a very pleasant ski to the Fish Lakes.

'We dug out a picnic table and the biffy, had supper and then to the tent at about 20:30. Temp. - 8c.

The Sunday morning was clear. After breakfast we headed back up the trail towards North Molar Pass for a short way so we could see the views of Cataract Peak and enjoy another run down. We left camp at 10:15 and followed the creek flowing out of the larger Fish Lake past a new looking warden cabin, then continued down the creek course to its junction with the Pipestone River. This was a very good route in these conditions. The next 4 hours were spent skiing down the west side of Pipestone valley in bright sunshine. Trail breaking was still good. Lower down the valley we looked for the summer trail but did not keep to it. I also managed to immerse one foot and ski in the Pipestone River! At about 15:30 we came to a horse fence in an area opposite the Little Pipestone Warden cabin. We then followed the summer trail towards Molar Creek for about 5 min. before losing it. Then it was an easy bushwack to Molar Creek. There was a very faint ski track visible by the creek but it was of no help to us. We pitched Camp soon after the valley became flatter and broader with good view of Mt. Hector and Mt. St. Bride. The clear sky caused a warm day to quickly cool to a cold night. We got a good fire going, cooked supper by the light of a full silvery moon and then went to bed at 21:00 hr.

A clear -22c Monday morning. At 9:15 we started out skiing toward South Molar Pass following the northeast side of the valley. The sun shone brightly and the temperature begun to climb. We

traversed up a bouldery slope to bypass waterfalls and so reach the next gentler section of the creek. We followed the creek which had avalanche slopes on its SW side to near the bottom of a canyon. We then put skins on and headed up into the trees on the NE side. Some steep climbing up through the trees and an awkward side creek to cross. I decided the easiest route was to keep climbing steeply until we reached the thinly treed bench above. The weather remained warm and sunny as we reached the top of South Molar Pass at about 15:30. Excellent views down Molar Creek and Molar Meadows ahead. We had no problems descending from the pass to the area just opposite Art's snow caves. After a food stop we skied back out to the car by 17:45. Supper in the Outpost at Lake Louise finished off the trip.

I didn't announce any of these trips at the meetings, as during November 1990 - May 1991 nobody came on any trips as a result of them being announced at meetings or being on the tape. I decided to "save my breath to cool my porridge" and I enjoy my porridge hot most mornings camping in the mountains. Last summer we only had 6 other club members participating in our backpacks irrespective of ratings, and knowing these people I realized there would be little point in announcing any overnight trips this winter. Hopefully this summer a few more members will come to enjoy 32-hour trips in the mountains instead of 8-or less-hour trips. Then next winter it may be worth announcing winter overnight trips again.

(Fantastic trips, Alistair. We envy you! Editor's note)

AN ASCENT OF DENALI

by Phil Spaulding (conclusion)

Once ensconced at the base of the mountain, the way up lay along the Muldrow Glacier to the foot of a 4000 foot ice falls. This represented an elevation gain of approx. 2500 feet, from 6000 to 8500 feet above sea level. The next few days were spent in moving supplies over this distance though I can't understand now why it took so long in view of the dearth of said supplies but in the process we gained experience in roping together and practising belaying operations while crossing imaginary crevasses.**

Personal reflections at this point in the narrative may be of interest. Mosquitos, long trek over the tundra and other experiences up to this point had not made much of an impact on me. I felt more or less undaunted by the undertaking but the vastness of the mountain scenery and particularly our meagre supplies of food began worry. There is perhaps only one other kind of physical experience that would have a comparable impact: being alone in a small boat in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. In either environment one cannot overestimate one's personal insignificance, adding to that a paltry supply of food and any sense of self-importance no longer exists. This was without doubt an approximation to a religious experience. Perhaps the only one I ever had.

But the best or worst was yet to come. The three old sourdoughs had not attempted to climb the ice falls, a daunting task at the least. They had, as legend has it, ascended the left hand ridge which along with that ridge to the right bypasses the ice falls. At the top of the ridge the path leads up to where the ridge mer-

ges with a massive rock formation at 15,500 feet. From that point one looks down at this part of the ascent which is easy enough to describe and to visualize. The ascent up the ridge was far from easy and represents the most memorable experience of the entire trip. At one point along the ridge I looked down to my left (the side of the ridge away from the ice falls) to what looked like a 90 degree drop of some 10,000 ft. I need not expound on the thoughts which raced through my mind when gazing down on this emptiness. Nevertheless the climb up Karstan's Ridge (so named after one of the sourdoughs) transpired without any major event. It did, however, require 29 hours of continuous and agonizing struggle to reach a point just under the massive rock referred to above. The residue of that experience that remains in my mind still sharply etches the absolute nature of my fatigue once having reached the rock. With some agony at making the effort tents were pitched and dried fruit nibbled and everyone of us dropped into dreamless sleep that lasted with one or two brief intermissions for 24 hours. During this elapsed time a violent storm dumped a couple feet of snow on the tents making the depth of one's sleeping bag a welcome refuge.

Twenty four hours later the sun emerged on a glistening winter landscape and a discovery of a cache of tinned food dumped at this location two years previously by military helicopters in support of an alpine troop exercise. The obvious significance of this find was that we could now extend our climb further up the mountain. Our own procurements by now, had run dangerously low.

The trek up the slope to the 18,000 foot level was long and arduous but quite uneventful. It led down from the rock into a broad basin and thence gently upward always we waddled through partly crystallized snow up to the top of our legs. The snowshoes which we had packed into the mountain and which might well have been used to good advantage in the climb above the ice falls had been abandoned at the base of the falls in order to lighten our packs. Reaching the 18,000 foot level which represents a pass between the north and the south peaks we found more military - deposited food. But here it had been dumped in great quantity and variety: canned ham and bacon and a variety of frozen vegetables not to mention other goodies of which I have but faint recollection. Here we camped and here we ate and here we experienced the kind of indigestion which comes from eating excessively fatty foods in an oxygen deficient environment.

The final assault up the south peak of the mountain was staged three days after arriving at the pass. As I recall our plan called for good weather in which case the summit of the south peak could have been reached in three to four hours. While the distance was not that great and at sea level such distance could have been covered in one hour, the lack of oxygen at this level required a relatively long hesitation between each step. Half way up the summit I ran out of gas so to speak, because I and one other of the group seemed more vulnerable to oxygen depletion than the rest. The two of us returned to the camp at the pass shortly to be followed by the remaining three who had encountered a severe storm shortly after our departure.

The next day dawned bright and clear with the south peak in full view. Once again the five of us set out and once again the two of us who had retreated the day before found it necessary to return to the pass. But ultimate success was achieved by the other three. Within a period of three hours they reached the summit of the south peak and after appropriate ceremony returned to the camp of the pass.

Obviously, this is the proper end of the narrative for the remainder of the expedition was and is anticlimactic. But there remains a short discussion extraneous to the narrative; namely, the problem any climber has when through his own physical and /or psychic frailty he fails to reach the summit of his mountain. The feelings of failure which I experienced (and still sense) were very pronounced. I think I suffered, as a result an extended but seemingly minor depression. I can now, as I look back, talk about it but it has taken over forty years to discuss the matter openly. Thanks for listening.

** While no crevasses were visible this early in the summer season upon our return some thirty days later I was amazed at the structure of crevasses that had underlain the snow covering, which we have regarded as infinite in depth.

The E N D

SENIORS, HOME-BOUND people -good news- Hairstyling Services available at your own home. Everything regarding your HAIR from ordinary cuts to shampoos and permanents, in your living room or kitchen as you sip your morning coffee. Phone June Sobon at .

More NEWS
from
HIGH SPIRIT TOURS

High Spirit had a very gratifying year. Three tours were more outstanding than the rest. These were: CHINA, HAWAII and the all time favourite THE GRAND CANYON. High Spirit have prepared its tour schedule for the coming year and will repeat these very popular trips. The 92/93 brochure is available and will be mailed out upon request. Phone Rosmarie or Newt at 259-4935 if you would like to receive a copy.

If you recall, Newt Henderson joined the company in 91. Newt found a great new experience in Arizona by hiking the Phoenix -Tucson area in spring. He saw the desert in bloom. High Spirit added this trip to it's 93 schedule (April 3 to 11/93) and we named it our "TUCSON DESERT IN BLOOM' TOUR." This tour will also visit "Biosphere 2" at Oracle, Az..

This coming year High Spirit Tours offers, once again, the gratifying experience of hiking the "GRAND CANYON" (Nov.14 to 21/92 and again in Feb. 21 to 28/93), "DISCOVER NEW MEXICO" (Oct.9 to 18/92) with it's distinctive Spanish flavour, "NEW YEAR IN PALM SPRINGS" (Dec.27/92 to Jan.3/93) out of the cold and also hiking and yachting in historical "TURKEY" (May 15 to June 4/93).

As a point of interest HAWAII (Feb. 8 to 21/93) is explored away from the typical tourist traps. The tour will explore the islands of Kuai, Molokai and Hawaii, hiking remote trails, through uninhabited valleys, across volcanos and stay in deluxe accommodation. The tour to CHINA (March 19 to April 4 in 93) is an introduction to a very different culture and the cost is inclusive. The only additional cost is souvenirs, trip insurance and transportation to Vancouver.

If the above listed trips do not fit into your *Holiday Plans* call High Spirit Tours and we will design a perfect Holiday Trip for you.

FOR INFORMATION CALL ROSMARIE OR NEWT AT 259-4935 OR WRITE

HIGH SPIRIT TOURS Ltd.
#6, 11269-6St. S.W.Calgary, T2W 1Z5

Trip Coordinators Chairman Report: January to March 1992

The number of trips in this period is less than last year largely due to the poor snow conditions which have reduced the number of x-country ski trips. The most active coordinators are Aert Davis (9), Wally Drew (6), Reg Fryling (5) and John Schleinich (12).

Dave Reid.

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF RMRA COORDINATOR ACTIVITY
JANUARY TO MARCH 1992

Coordinator	St.	Trips days	Person Days	X-C Ski	D-Hill Ski	Winter o/night	Day Hike
Davis, A	F	7 (9)	76	-	-	1	6
Drew, W	F	6	62	5	-	-	1
Fisher, P	F	1 (2)	4	-	-	1	-
Folkins, R	F	1	17	-	-	-	1
Foltz, A	A	1	5	-	-	-	1
Fryling, R	F	5	25	5	-	-	-
Kittle, K	F	2	8	-	2	-	-
Michi, J	F	2	11	2	-	-	-
Pattison, H	F	2	12	-	2	-	-
Reid, D	F	3	20	3	-	-	1
Schleinich, J	F	12	63	3	-	-	9
Sinclair, A	F	4	50	1	1	-	2
Sobon, J	A	1	9	1	-	-	-
Taylor, M	F	2	9	1	-	-	1
Watson, K	F	1	4	-	1	-	-
TOTAL:	15	50-53	375	21	6	2	21

TABLE 2
COMPARISON OF RMRA ACTIVITY
JANUARY to MARCH 1992

	1992	1991
1. Total Trips	50	69
2. Total Person Days	375	368
3. Dominant Type of Trip (Persons)		
a. Total day hike	21/161	8/ 41
b. Total x - c ski	21/159	42/212
c. Total downhill ski	6/ 29	14/ 72
4. Average Trips/Coordinator	3.3	3.2
5. Average No. of Persons Days/Coordinator	25.0	17.5
6. No. of Coordinators With 5 or More Trips	4.0	3.0
7. Number of Active Coordinators	15.0	21.0

PLANNED TRIPS -SUMMER and FALL 1992-
by the RMRA coordinators

<p align="center"><u>Kay Kittle</u></p> 1.Pigeon Mt 2.Yamnuska Rdg 3.Old Baldy Mt 4.Healy Pass and 5.Ramparts	<p align="center"><u>Doug Campbell</u></p> 1.Lk.Louise Loop 2.Yamnuska East 3.Paradise Val. 4.Whaleback in Yoho	<p align="center"><u>John Michi</u></p> 1.Canoe trip fr Bow Isl to Medecine Hat 2.Mt Allan by moon light	<p align="center"><u>Tony Moran</u></p> 1.Sulpher Spr tr 2.Jewll Pass 3.Galatea Lk 4.Jumping Pnd Lp 5.Green Mt.
<p align="center"><u>Ken Watson</u></p> 1.Jumping Pnd Mt 2.Lipsett Mt 3.Door Jamb Mt 4.Frozen Lke	<p align="center"><u>Dave Reid</u></p> 1.Guinn Pass 2.Twin Lakes 3.St Piran Mt 4.Sentinal Pass	<p align="center"><u>June Sobon</u></p> 1.Mist Ridge 2.Fortress Rdge 3.Vulcano Ridge 4.Raspberry Lout	<p align="center"><u>Brita Angus</u></p> 1.Windy Peak 2.Pasque Mt 3.Burstall Pass 4.Mystery trip
<p align="center"><u>Mary Taylor</u></p> 1.Mist Mountain 2.Mist Ridge 3.Opal Ridge 4.Green Mt. 5.Wasootch Rdge 6.Fortress Mt.	<p align="center"><u>Art Davis</u></p> 1.Protection Mt 2.Copper Mt 3.Shadow Lake 4.Caldron Lake 5.Minewanka Lke 6.Mistaya Mt	<p align="center"><u>Alist.Sinclair</u></p> 1.Tryst Lake 2.Bluerock trl. 3.Jumping Pnd Mt 4.Misty Basin 5.Johnstone Cny. 6.Sunshine Area	<p align="center"><u>KenScott(summer)</u></p> 1.Dry Isl Bf Jmp 2.Indian Graves 3.Fir Creek 4.Death Valley 5.Stoney Creek 6.Prairie Mt.
<p align="center"><u>Wally Drew</u></p> 1.Bluerock Mt 2.James Walker M 3.Nestor Mt. 4.Cougar Creek 5.Helena Rdge 6.Panorama Rdge	<p align="center"><u>W Drew cntd.</u></p> 7.Cirque Peak 8.Ptarmigan Pk 9.five unnamed peaks and ridges in Up.Kananskis and Kootney Park	<p align="center"><u>John Schleinich</u></p> 1.Bourgeau Mt 2.Allan Mountain 3.John Mountain 4.Snow Mountain 5.Three Isles- Aster Lk trav.	<p align="center"><u>Ken Scott(fall)</u></p> 1.Cat Creek Hls 2.Tom Snow Trl 3.Chimney Rock 4.Froze/Taylor L 5.Eagle Hill 6.Bryant Lake
<p align="center"><u>Ken Frank</u></p> 1.Burns Mt. 2.Bell Mountain 3.Helmet Falls 4.Goodsir Area 5.Fisher Mt 6.Howard Mt 7.Head Mountain	<p align="center"><u>Reg Fryling</u></p> 1.Gibraltar Mt 2.Junction Mt. 3.Holy Cross Mt 4.Bluerock Mt. 5.Fisher Mt. 6.Compression R 7.McDougal South	<p align="center"><u>Gert Noer</u></p> 1.Rundle trv 2dy 2.Smuts Mountain 3.Inglismaldie M 4.Girourd Mt 5.Warspite Mt. 6.Black Prince M 7.Aberdeen Mt. 8.Aylmer Mt. 9.Athabasca Mt.	<p align="center"><u>Steve Logos</u></p> 1.Blackrock Mt 2.Rock Bound Lk 3.Shadow Lake 4.Stanley Glcier 5.Blueberry Hill 6.Paget Mountani 7.Ribbon Creek 8.Indefatigable 9.Sulphur Mt.

Backpacks planned by Alistair DesMoulin:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.Evan Thomas Creek Headwaters | 2 or 3 days |
| 2.Palliser Pass via Burstall Pass | 3 days |
| 3.Piper Creek | 2 days |
| 4.Ghost River Tributaries | 2 or 3 days |
| 5.Setlers Road to Unvermere (Nat.trail) | 2 or 3 days |
| 6.Totem Creek - Noyes Creek | 2 or 3 days |
| 7.Noyes Creek - Silverhorn Creek | 2 days |
| 8.Nigel Creek - Beauty Creek | 2 or 3 days |
| 9.Cataract Peak (Sept, 4 - 7) | 4 days |
| 10.Mount Forbes (July 31 - Aug 3) | 4 days |

Backpack planned by Jim Dempsy
9 days

- 1.Assiniboine Area

The coordinators are under no obligation to lead any of the planned trips. However, if you are interested in any specific trip mention it to the coordinator, it might be enough to assure that the trip will go.