

# THE PACKRAT

ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN



RAMBLERS  
ASSOC.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, 1997

Hiking, Backpacking, Skiing, Cycling, Mountain Biking,  
(occasionally Climbing, Canoeing, and Snow Shoeing),  
Educational and Awareness Programs, Social Functions.

**MEETINGS:**

Weekly, Wednesday Evenings at 7:30 p.m.  
Rosemont Community Hall, 2807 - 10 Street N.W.

**MAIL:**

Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association  
c/o Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC)  
1111 Memorial Drive N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2N 3E4

**TRIP INFO:**

282-6308 RMRA Hotline and at meetings

## RMRA EXECUTIVE 1996 - 1997

President	Bob St. John
Vice President	Ron Mason
Past President	Reg Fryling
Trip Co-Ordinator	Ron Hunter
Treasurer	Chris Saunders
Secretary	Linda Eastwood
Social Director	Shirley Tajcna
Program Director	Dorothy-Ann Reimer
Newsletter Editor	Carol Perkins

## EDITOR'S NOTE

It's fitting that my final edition be one of the most delightful that I have had the privilege of compiling. Members have outdone themselves by providing a terrific selection of personal experiences and reflections, newsworthy articles and administrative reports. Thank you all for taking the extra time to share a little "something" with your fellow members.

Actually, I'd like to thank everyone who, over the past year, took the extra time out of their busy schedules to prepare a personal article, news item, announcement or whatever, to be printed in the PackRat. The success of the PackRat rests solely on the combined effort of club members. Everyone's time is important, and I think we all agree that everyone's effort should be acknowledged. Therefore I endeavored to print all information submitted for a particular issue of the PackRat, in that issue. (which was somewhat of a challenge!)

Don't forget to attend the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 15 and the Annual Awards Dinner and Dance Friday, October 24. Both very important events coming up.

Thanks again, it's been a great year!

Carol Perkins

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Stampede Breakfast July 5

Belated acknowledgments to the lots of people who helped or contributed to the success of the morning: Tony and Anne Moran, Eric Stopford, Janice Haakonson, Mary and Doug Campbell, Barb and Peter Fischer, Barb Mitchell, Monika Pallat, Jay Reed, Wally Drew, Ron Hunter, Sid Horowitz, Carol Perkins, Marietta Portugal and Brian Westcott.

It was good to see that this year three trips originated from or terminated at the breakfast: Anita's weekend backpack to Three Isle Lake, an afternoon bike ride and Dave Mulligan's one man 20 plus km run from town to the breakfast!

### Car Camp at Waiparous Creek Group Camp Sep 13 - 14

A big thank you to Del Lavallee for organizing this event and co-ordinating the hike to Mockingbird Lookout on Saturday. The proposed trip to Blackrock Mountain on Sunday was cancelled due to the weather but five of the group, as an alternate, made an exploration of Cochrane's extensive pathway system.

The campsite is beside the very scenic Waiparous Creek and just over an hour's drive from Calgary. The weather didn't dampen our spirits mainly due to the cheerful fire that glowed all evening thanks to the pile of dry 'building project scrap lumber' supplied by Phil Spaulding. A warm thank you Phil. Fifteen of us enjoyed a typically sumptuous RMR Potluck followed by a campfire singsong. Thanks Wilf for your guitar accompaniment and thanks to Roger for treating us to a few of his own special flavour solos.

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## UPCOMING.....



### Annual Dinner & Dance

Time to get out your glad rags for our Annual Dinner & Dance October 24 at the Calgary Winter Club. Tickets are \$30.00 and will be available at club meetings from Sept. 24 until Oct. 22. If you prefer, tickets may be reserved and picked up at the door by sending a cheque payable to RMRA to Bob St. John at #2102, 400 Eau Claire Ave. S. W., Calgary, T2P 4X2. Thanks to Linda for once again printing up the D & D tickets for us.

Cocktail Hour 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Dinner 7:00 - 8:30 "Panorama Dinner Buffet"  
Dancing 8:30 - midnight

\*\*\*Line Dance Refresher Session with the Flanagans after the club meeting on Oct. 22. Thanks Marianne and Tom.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Social Committee, Tony and Ann Moran, Eric Stopford and Janice Haakonson for their support throughout the year. It was much appreciated. Thanks also to Kaye Kittle, Pauline Rusnak, and Darlene Weger who volunteered their time to help out.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the last issue of the Packrat for this year. Carol Perkins has done a great job with our newsletter, especially with this being the first year it has been mailed out to all members. She has printed everything I submitted, a truly fine editor! I hope everyone appreciates as much as I do the work she has put into it.

With this issue there is included a separate form to be filled out to renew your membership. By the way, the Packrat is only mailed out to current paid up members, so it pays to renew early. On the backside of the membership renewal form is a member survey. It will help the club if you spend a little of your time responding to it. Bring the form with your dues (to be decided at the AGM, but almost certainly to be \$20.00) to any meeting or mail it to our address at CAOC (please do not mail cash). The Annual General Meeting on October 15th would be an excellent time to renew as we will need a large turnout to meet our quorum requirements (see the AGM notice in this issue). While you're at it why not attach a separate cheque to reserve your Annual Dinner and Dance ticket(s), only \$30.00 each (see the notice in this issue).

### CASC (Calgary Area Ski Clubs) news.

1. Four Ramblers are currently taking the CASC sponsored Wilderness First Aid Course. This course will be repeated in November, with two more Ramblers signed up already. Act now if you want to get in on this for a very reasonable \$140.00. ( 5 evenings, 1 weekend )
2. A CASC sponsored discount bulk purchase of Avalanche equipment will happen in November. There is a sign-up sheet at our Wednesday meetings, or call me.
3. A preliminary set of weatherproof wallet-sized CASC emergency and information cards will be presented to the upcoming Coordinators meeting on September 30th. There could be significant benefits from all members having a set with them on trips.
4. On Saturday, October 4th, there is a CASC sponsored Backcountry Challenge Day to be held in the Little Elbow Recreation Area. This is not a competition, but an interesting way of checking our abilities in emergency situations. It is meant for everyone, regardless of your knowledge or skills, and regardless of whether you ski or not. Several stations will be set up on a short course, each with a problem to solve. Mixed teams will be made up from members of four clubs like ours. A BBQ and refreshments are to follow. Keep posted to our phone information line, or call me.

I would like to thank ALL who served on the Executive this year. Dorothy-Ann Reimer added flair to Programs with some interesting and unique evenings. I thought the caving program was really neat. She tells me she is stepping down, but I want everyone to bug her into staying for one more year, OK? Shirley Tajcmar was once again gracious as Social Director, hosting several successful events. To avoid being persuaded into another repeat year, Shirley has retreated to India until after the AGM! Linda Eastwood has preserved all our great words of wisdom for future historians to marvel at. Her pet peeve is reading the minutes at the AGM, so please listen politely and intently! Chris Saunders has kept the treasury in fine shape, perhaps even recording a modest surplus; though not nearly enough to pay for my Hawaiian condo. Ron Mason recently filled in the vacant VP position and did not have a chance to really get started. I hope he decides to continue on the new Executive. Reg Fryling must be sick of being Past

President. Can you be past anything for four years? Soon he can look forward to becoming Past-Past President. The position of Coordinators' Chair is probably the most demanding for continuous time commitment. Ron Hunter has done a fine job in fulfilling these requirements, especially as this was a transition year to the new trip ratings. All Ramblers can be thankful he is willing to return for another term. And contrary to what DA says, I think Ron has a simply lovely phone voice.

As always, many others contribute to make this club more worthwhile. Wally's weather forecasts seemed to be more accurate this year. Is it true he is secretly surfing the net? Frank says this year has been hectic what with math courses at Mount Royal and moving to a new bachelor pad. This coming year he says he will have more time for the coffee shop. Ron Hunter and Marianne Wolters coordinated two successful bus trips, never an easy task. Marianne also organized a leadership workshop for coordinators and a winter route finding course; much appreciated. Numerous others worked behind the scenes on committees, program presentations, open houses, pot luck dinners and meeting setups. Every coordinator who took out trips, even one, contributes a lot to the club. We thank you all.

Two members have spent a great deal of their time and energy on matters which directly and indirectly affect all of us. Too often we only seem to worry about the small stuff of life. Shirley Tajcmar and Alistair desMoulins have seen fit to represent the Ramblers in the bigger stuff. Shirley with her work for the AWA and for the Kananaskis Coalition is trying to preserve the countryside where we spend most of our weekends. Alistair has volunteered all his spare time for at least six months representing the Ramblers at the Roundtable discussions of the Banff Bow Valley Study. *The times they are a'changing*, and most of us are asleep at the wheel. The process of involvement is very often dry, repetitive, frustrating, and not nearly appreciated enough. At the upcoming AGM presentations will be made to them for their work on behalf of the Ramblers.

This is my fourth and final term as President. I have put a lot of time into the Ramblers, but I am not tired of it. To the contrary it has been and still is fun being involved in RMRA affairs. Four years however is a long time for a club such as ours, and I believe it is important that someone else with fresh ideas takes a turn. I encourage all members to seriously consider a term on the Executive. Each and every one of you, yes I mean you, is capable of donating some of your time, just as past club volunteers have donated their time for your benefit. So if Wally or anyone else on the nominations committee approaches you, please do not say "I don't have the time", it only translates into "I won't give the time". I know most of you are not like that, are you?

Bob St. John



## RAMBLING IN THE ROCKIES WITH RON

By Art Davis

I often think of Ron Folkins and the great trips he took out, especially his early summer backpacks which were well attended and enjoyed by all participants.

In 1994 on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, I had just returned from a few days camping when Ron called me to see if I would be interested in going with him to Saskatchewan Crossing (at the junction of the Icefields Parkway and David Thompson Highway), to check out some hydro-electric potential for the motel, gas station, restaurant and gift shop. At the time he and some others were interested in the possibility of a generating plant to replace the existing diesel operated unit which at that time was costing \$15,000.00 a month to operate. If you pay a bit more there for coffee, meals, etc. you can readily see why.

The next morning we met at the Grizzly Bar at Deadman's Flats for breakfast and then on to Lake Louise and north on the Icefields Parkway to Saskatchewan Crossing. There were some rain showers on the way, but once there, had mostly clear sky.

As you approach the Crossing coming down the big hill there is a good view across the valley of Mt. Wilson and a creek that seems to come out of the mountainside. There is a good picture of this in the book Banff National Park (1977 revised edition) by D. M. Baird on page 79.

We parked adjacent to the restaurant and Ron went to the motel office to chat with someone there about his plans. We started out at 11:00 and headed off through the trees, easy bushwhacking, going gradually up the slopes of Mt. Wilson towards the creek. On reaching the creek we followed it upwards. There is a small creek shown on the map joining the main creek at 5150 ft. (1570 m), however, it was completely dry and is probably only active during spring runoff. After some time going up hopping across rocks when necessary, we were unable to stay in the creek bed as the canyon sides were so steep. We scrambled up the east side slopes and came out on a goat trail and at 1:00 p.m. were almost opposite the source of the creek. Until we got to this point it looked like the creek came out of a side gully, but as we got closer we could see that it lived up to its name of Wilson Springs, as it came directly out of the rocky mountain side. We had a nice lunch stop with mostly clear sky, light wind and a pleasant 13 degrees. Ron went on a bit further to a point directly opposite the springs along some very steep rock slopes to get pictures of the water source which is at 6700 ft. (2042 m) and is located at coordinates 178-607 on map Mistaya Lake 82 N/15. At one point on the way up along the creek we built a cairn beside the creek and Ron marked it with survey tape. He also made notes of presumably water flow or whatever was necessary for later calculations.

We were able to spend an hour up here enjoying the views. To return we followed the goat trail until it ended at a steep gully, so we descended along the side of the gully which was easy going and picked up another game trail which lead up to the top of a cliff above the creek. We backtracked a bit and descended the slopes to the creek, hanging on to anything growing out of the ground that looked like we wouldn't pull it out by the roots. We picked up another game trail near the creek then crossed to the west side of the creek and headed back through the trees. We took a break on the way and arrived back to the parking lot

at 3:40 p.m. We figured we had gained 1950 ft. (594 m) elevation and covered about 8 km return.

I have been driving this highway for many years and have always been fascinated by this creek and wondered if it really did just come out of the mountainside. Now I know for sure, thanks to Ron.

We drove east on the David Thompson Highway to just outside the Banff Park boundary and camped at Thompson Creek campground, at that time operated by the Alberta Forest Service. At 5:00 p.m. it was 16 degrees with light wind and a clear sky. I had my meal with me, but Ron went to the Crossing for his. The evening was pleasant with a nice campfire. When Ron returned he, being a mechanical tinkerer, took some gismo off his car engine, fiddled around with it and re-installed it. I don't think it was giving him any problem, he probably figured out a way to make it work better, whatever it was. At bedtime at 10:00 p.m. a nice clear sky, calm and 11 degrees.

Wednesday morning we were up at 7:00 to a cool 4 degrees, but again clear and calm. After a quick eye-opener coffee, we went to the Crossing for breakfast then went up the highway to just opposite the Warden's Station and the trailhead to Warden Lake. The objective this day was Murchison Creek. We had a chat with the local Mountie. I noticed he was looking at my bare legs as I was wearing shorts and he was probably thinking "What kind of an idiot would go through that bush in shorts", but he was too polite to say it out loud. Ron as usual was wearing blue jeans.

Leaving at 9:00 we followed the trail to Warden Lake to the east. The trail ran along the north side of the lake to the east end and stopped, then the real bushwhacking started, deadfall, you name it, it was there. Fortunately it was only for about 1 km and we came out at the creek at elev. 4700 ft. (1433 m) at a point where it divides into two streams. For a while it was easy walking on mostly Dryas flats and then lots of rock. We saw one set of boot prints, I also saw one bear footprint. At 11:30 we were stopped by canyon walls that went straight up on each side and no easy way around; the creek too deep and fast to get directly through. We walked back downstream for a while and not seeing a way across decided to have lunch. As the east side looking like the easiest way to get further up the creek we decided to build a "bridge". Naturally every dead log that was suitable to reach across the creek was uphill on loose gravelly slopes. We finally had enough logs and poles across the creek by 12:30 and were able to cross the creek and get further upstream and finally stopped at about 5900 ft. elevation at 1:00 p.m. where we could look further up the creek where it appeared to level off a bit. It was decided to turn back and we stayed up on the ridge adjacent to the creek till we came to a gully leading down to our bridge" which was about 400 ft. lower than the highpoint we had reached.

After a break here we headed downstream and went a bit further downstream before going west toward Warden Lake. This involved some even worse bushwhacking but luckily not for too long. We came out at a dry lakebed just at the north

*Continued on next page... ..*

east end of Warden Lake. This dried up lake or pond, judging by the snail shells and driftwood around what was once the shoreline, was probably only a couple of metres deep when it had water in it which must have been a long time ago, as the lake bed had lots of vegetation growing in it. We had a short distance to go through trees and hit the trail running along the North Saskatchewan River and were back to our cars before 4:00 p.m.

Ron figured a pipeline for water could be built from Murchison Creek to the Crossing but would be an expensive proposition compared to one from Wilson Springs Creek almost directly above the motel, etc. During the trip up Murchison Creek our elevation gain was 1300 ft. (396 m) and about 16 km return.

I don't know what ever happened to the proposed plans for the hydro-electric plant for the motel, etc., it may be that the others Ron was involved with may still be pursuing it.

I stayed for the night at the campground and Ron headed back to Calgary. It was a nice evening, clear and warm 19 degrees at 5:00 p.m. and the odd light wind, by bedtime at 10:00 p.m. calm and 12 degrees. The next morning was a cool 2 degrees, but clear and calm and when I left at 9:00 was only up to 4 degrees.

In mid July I was heading up the Icefields Parkway to the Columbia Icefields area and on driving down the hill with the view of Mt. Wilson ahead, it brought back memories of that trip with Ron. I am sure that may of you are reminded of him when you re-visit places where he has taken trips with you.

\*\*\*\*\*

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### TWENTY-FOUR YEARS EXPERIENCE

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## HOW MANY MEN DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE INSTANT CHEESE-CAKE?

By David Mulligan

On Thursday evening, July 24, 1997, I met Alan, a skinny British friend of Alistair's at the DesMoulins home in Calgary. Alan was to be my tent mate for the upcoming 10 day backpack near Jasper. He didn't look strong enough to lift a sleeping bag, let alone a 45 lb pack. But looks were deceiving, and Alan was a strong hiker and keen photographer using 12 rolls of film in his Leika camera during the hike. We spent that evening organizing food on the dining table and living room floor. I left with 2 heavy food bags, none the wiser where we would be hiking, but trusting to Alistair's judgment and comments from Will (Jull) that it was his favourite area. Previous year's trips to the Beartooth Wilderness in Montana and St. Mary's Park near Kimberly had been most successful. This year was no exception.

On the Saturday afternoon in Jasper we arranged our trip with the cheerful warden and struggling with heavy packs in the heat and battling mosquitoes, we were off. For the next 10 days, we enjoyed some great hiking, good company, warm weather and spectacular scenery. The mosquitoes were another story. For the first 2 days and the last day, they were appalling, but once above treeline, barely a problem. Despite the heat, Gail countered by covering every inch of skin with clothes, whereas the rest of us used abundant doses of deet. But following Gail's example, I eventually resorted to borrowing Alistair's spare mosquito net hat, only to find the visibility tricky. However, it did work and back in Calgary I bought it.

We found some great campsites, the best being at an alpine lake with a stunning view of Monarch Mountain. For lack of suitable trees, we hung our food off the nearby snow cornice. By far the worst site, was the only designated one that we used. Situated in Elysium Pass, it was festooned with horse droppings and did not even have a outhouse. For the privilege of using this and the other more pristine sites, we paid our \$6.00/person/night. But at this camp we met a fellow backpacker, a rare occurrence on Alistair's trips.

We ascended 5 peaks above 9000 ft., the most spectacular being Monarch Mountain, the most difficult Mount Snaring (ascended by Alistair alone) and the most memorable being Mount Pattison. This latter was named after an earlier Pattison gave his life in the First World War. Jim Cunningham's ashes were distributed there in 1991, by Brian Wescott, Marianne Flannigan and others. We were the third entry in the summit log book since 1989 when it was placed there by the Pattison family.

Good and plentiful food is an important aspect of a successful backpack and this one was no exception. Soup and even porridge were well within the capabilities of each of the 4 males present. Instant custard and even instant mashed potato tested the culinary skills of 3 males together, but with co-operation, were successfully "cooked". So how may men does it take to make instant cheese cake? Ask Gail DesMoulins. We were only 4 men and heaved a collective sigh of relief when Gail performed the task without fuss or assistance. It was excellent as was the backpack. Thank you Gail and Alistair. Happy Rambling!

## LOOKING BACK - A YEAR OF PROGRAMS

It is almost a year since I became program director and it has been such fun organizing these events. Some were social events, some were mainly for co-ordinators and still others were glimpses of foreign lands. So - for a jaunt down memory lane - here's a recap.

### 1996

- Nov 6 The Flanagans tried again to teach us how to line dance in preparation for the Annual Dinner and Dance.
- Nov 13 S. Utah Canyons - Arches and Sweat. Dave Mulligan showed a host of sunny vistas in the South Utah canyon country - perfect for an early winter evening.
- Dec 11 Winter Open House
- Dec 18 Stacks of delicious food at the Annual Christmas Pot Luck Supper followed by carol singing.

### 1997

- Jan 22 Marianne Wolters organized the first of programs geared towards winter survival skills. This one was excellent information and slides on Shelter Building with Alistair DesMoulins and Dave Reid.
- Jan 27 Alistair DesMoulins followed up with an evening on Map and Compass Reading.
- Feb 5 A week later Reg Fryling led us through Ski Repairs Out on the Ski Trail where we learned at least 101 uses for duct tape.
- Feb 19 Malcolm Cullen, a friend of Jim Bell, vividly brought the game parks of Africa to our doors with slides and anecdotes from this trip of the previous year.
- Mar 19 Nearing the end of ski season came Dee Patriquinn, a colleague of Dave Reid, with "Animal Tracks I Have Known". (This was one of my favourites).
- Apr 9 Bob St. John, Anita O'Reilly and Linda Eastwood were "Getting High in Nepal" with slides and great commentary from their holiday in Nepal.

May 7 One of the most fascinating programs was Jon Rollins - "Caving in Alberta" - where he revealed views of his subterranean trips - trips most of us would never dare to take, but which were spellbinding, nevertheless.

May 28 Time for the "official" start to the hiking season with the Spring Open House.

Jun 11 Lightning Strikes was Wally Drew's invaluable talk just as we entered the season of sudden thunderstorms.

Jun 25 Kayaking in B.C. and B.C.S. (British Columbia and Baja Calif South) with Marianne Wolters, various whales and other assorted sea creatures. We really do love hearing about these "adventure trips".

Jul 9 Dave Mulligan had the idea. Do a demo on how to "Prussik" out of a crevasse - that is get yourself up out of a crevasse using a rope tied to the climbing harness with a "Prussik" knot. Dave, Bob St. John and others slung ropes up over tree branches by the parking lot and we had a go at "pulling" ourselves upwards. It's a lot easier than it sounds.

Sep 17 We had planned a talk on Bears with Colleen Campbell from the Eastern Slopes Grizzly Bear Project but Colleen's work load forced her to cancel. She still wants to come so perhaps we can try again in the late winter when the bears are waking up.

If the programs gave you pleasure you can thank the idea people for their suggestions - Del Lavaliee for Caving, Jim Bell for Africa, Dave Reid for finding Dee Patriquinn, Dave Mulligan for Prussiking (plus a host of their suggestions) - as well as those who planned and presented travel shows and information sessions.

Also a big thanks for the membership who enthusiastically supported these programs. Hope you all had as much fun as I did.

Dorothy-Ann Reimer  
1997-09-16

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# Notice of the 1997 Annual General Meeting

**Place:** Rosemont Community Centre  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 15, 1997  
**Time:** 7:30 PM - trip planning meeting  
8:00 PM - Annual General Meeting

**Please support your club by attending this important meeting.  
We require a quorum of one fifth of the membership as of Sept. 30, 1997.  
You are eligible to vote if you were a member on Sept. 30, 1997, or have since become a member.  
Please bring a pen or pencil.  
Free refreshments.**

## **AGENDA**

1. Minutes from the 1996 Annual General Meeting
2. Business arising from the minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report and Financial Statements
5. Coordinators' Chair report
6. New Business
  - see motions below
  - presentations to Shirley Tajcna and Alistair DesMoulins
  - other new business
  - election of the 1997-1998 Executive Committee
7. Adjournment

1. The following is a proposed motion by Ron Hunter, representing the Coordinators' Council:  
**"That potential members be allowed one trip to consider the club instead of the present 3 trips"**
2. The following is a proposed motion by Chris Saunders, representing the Executive Council:  
**"That the membership dues for the upcoming 1997-1998 fiscal year remain at \$20.00"**

## **NOMINATIONS for the 1997-1998 Executive Committee:**

The Nominations Sub-Committee, chaired by Wally Drew, is accepting nominations for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Director, Program Director and Packrat Editor. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting with the consent of the nominee.

## CLIMBING SNOW PEAK MOUNTAIN

By John F. Schleinich

Apparently no one but me heard Francisco's "last minute" call to climb Snow Peak Mountain. That gave me a private coordinator in a party of two.

Snow Peak Mountain was named by hikers. It is not official. You won't find this name on maps, but it is the 9150 foot peak, north of "North Burstall Pass" and west of Mt. Birdwood. An eight kilometre walk on a good trail through forests and meadows, brought us to the foot of this mountain, on top of Burstall Pass. So far it was pure pleasure. Now fun and excitement began, not to mention hard work. We started to climb a very steep ridge, mostly on scree, but occasionally on steep grassy slopes. Approximately 1600 feet of vertical gain in one kilometer distance. Considering a few "level" sections along the way, and one gets an idea of just how steep this ridge is.

But there is more to this "no-trail" section of our climb. At the top we had to cross a snow field. It might be seasonal, but the name of the peak indicates its permanence. Pending on the snow condition it varies from easy to dangerous. The time we had to cross it, it was both. There is a steep bank on the NW side of this field, which we had to "side-hill". In case of a slip, with no ice axe, we would coast down this incline with increasing speed and launch over a tall cliff. Then we would fly like eagles, through pure mountain air, before landing on scree. Probably still in one piece, but not for long. On the opposite side of this glide is a cornice. It hangs over the SE edge of the mountain, a drop down to its base. Very high. With such a choice, how can one relax.

Once across the snow field, there was an easy scramble to the top. Breathless I stood on the top, not sure if it was the magnificent view or hard work that took my breath away. I tend to believe it was the view. How can such beauty be described? What can it be compared with? I sincerely believe, the panorama unfolding at the top, parallels anything beautiful I have ever seen before.

There is, however, another major factor which emphasizes this awareness of beauty. After hard work when you finally stand on top, you relax. It's accomplished. The "absolute" size of such an accomplishment matters little. We experience it relative to our climbing ability, strength and expectations. Messner, the himalayan climber and his peers would probably miss such an emotional high on any Snow Peak Mt. in Kananaskis. They would feel having accomplished nothing and miss out on the joy and elation I had. Trust me, it is true. As my energies taper off, I appreciate lesser achievements - more.

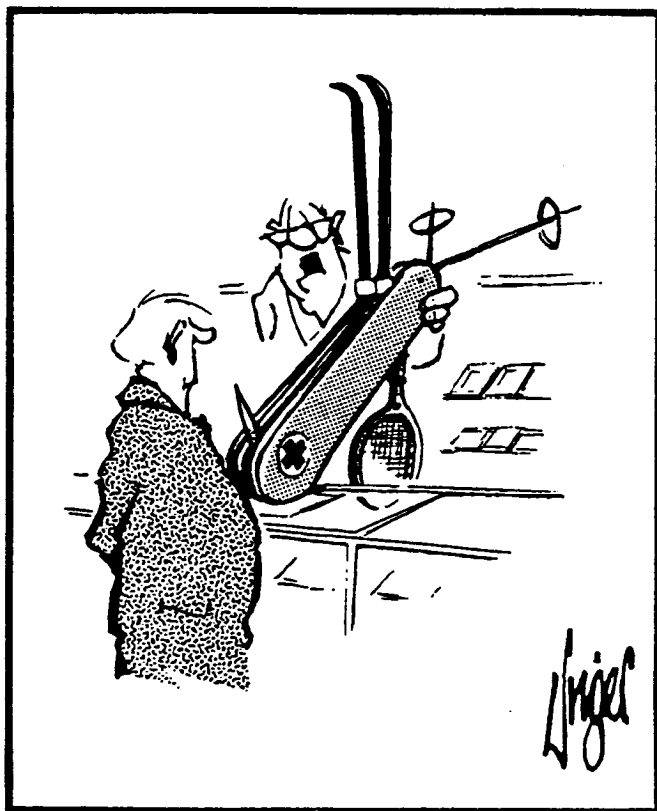
There are many reasons why Ramblers love outdoor activities. One is definitely achievement. It can be ascribed predominantly to the ambitious climbers. Low in years, high in energy. For others challenge is the main factor. It is preferred by the not so young, testing their remaining strength. Some ramblers, go for endurance. One more kilometre, a few more feet higher before collapsing, never giving up. It can be found mostly amongst the mature hikers, mature in years. There are some who love to explore. They comprise an important facet of our club, benefiting everybody. Finding new

trails, trails beyond the horizons. To explore, to trod where no one walked before, is their joy.

Of course there are many whose main reason being outdoors is the love for nature. To stop and smell the flowers or watch a bird. The joy of living and feeling alive. And last but by no means least are the Ramblers who like camaraderie. Not much can exceed good company. Coffee stops before, perhaps a meal after a hike and an opportunity to meet and talk to friends of common interest.

Probably most of us go rambling for all those reasons, to a lesser or greater degree. I would be hard put, as most of us would, if asked to name preferences. In my many years of being in love with the mountains, my thrills in outdoors changed. Some, however, remained: good friends, beautiful surroundings and nice weather are the most important ingredients of what I call a perfect hike.

We went back the same way. This time, however, a bit closer to the cornice, reducing the danger of a slip. The snow was a bit softer now, and I had a safe feeling kicking steps. Enviously I watched my partner ski down the snow patch. Balance and power - for the young - wisdom for the old. Eh?



"And, of course, this model does have the folding bicycle."

.....Contributed by Ken Park





**ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION**  
**1997 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER AND DANCE**

*Friday, October 24, 1997*

*Calgary Winter Club, Sky Room*

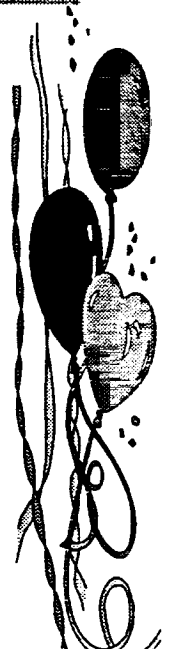
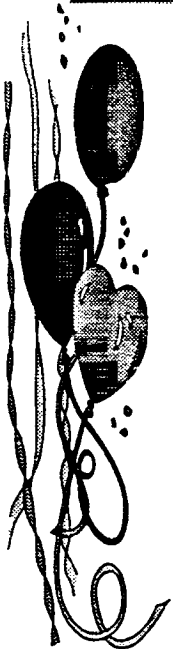
*4011 - 14 Street N.W.*

*Cash Bar: 6:00 p.m.*

*Dinner: 7:00 p.m.*

*Dance: 8:30 p.m.*

*Tickets \$30.00*



*Come out and see how nice some Ramblers look in high heels and dresses. Lady Ramblers will look nice too! Check out the latest dance crazes. Get even with your foes by stomping on their toes. Great food, prizes and more. Everybody welcome!*

**LAKE OF THE HANGING GLACIERS**

*By Reg Fryling*

*(Sequel to the "Mt. Stone - Not!" story on page 16)*

After the thwarted Mt. Stone expedition, a plan for a quick excursion to the Lake of the Hanging Glaciers hatched as Don and I drove towards Radium.

After filling the gas tank, we bought a loaf of bread and some blue cheese with our remaining money and drove up the logging road on Horse Thief Creek to the trailhead. By this time it was mid afternoon, so we took along 2 sleeping bags, a tent, and the remainder of our bread and cheese in one, shared pack. The trail and the weather were pretty good so we made time despite a delay while we tied up a sole that began to flap on one of Don's boots.

At one point the trail seemed to branch toward the creek, but we took one look at the deep, swift creek and followed along on the same side. Eventually we started climbing on a dimming trail and then on to snow and finally right up to a headwall - but no lake! We decided that perhaps it was time we checked our coarse-scaled map, and discovered that our lake was at the top of a side creek that joined the main creek about where we'd seen the fork in the trail - amazing!

We crossed on the snow and headed down the trailless south side of the valley, crossing through several patches of slide alder before finally reaching the trail fork at dusk. We made camp, ate the last of our meager food supply, and dropped off to sleep wondering if the glacial silted water we had drunk copious amounts of was really bad for one, like we had heard.

At dawn, with tightened belts, we were off, up the steep trail to the lake. The lake and the hanging glaciers were spectacular, off-shoots of the Camnader Glacier hanging at the far end of the lake, and Monica Glacier remnants (from which we looked down years later) above the side. We were not alone, however, a group of English Army Mountaineers who were camped there were just cooking breakfast and offered us a cup of coffee. Well, we sipped our coffee and watched all the delicious looking bacon and eggs cooking, but felt too embarrassed to tell them how hungry we were - what would they think of these crazy Canucks?

The trip out, although tiring, went without incident except for the deep and dangerous crossing of Horse Thief Creek, which we managed by each using the one pack to weigh us down, and a bit of rope. Home and food did look good that night.

*The following letter was reviewed by several Ramblers, and mailed in early September:*

Natural Resources Canada  
Mapping Services Branch  
615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E9

Attn: Mark Corey, Director General

RE: Contour Intervals of Metric 1:50,000 Topographic Maps

Dear Sir,

The Rocky Mountain Ramblers is a club in existence since 1954 and has a membership of 170. We are involved year round with activities in the Rocky Mountains including hiking, climbing, backpacking, and backcountry skiing. On many of our trips our members must make use of the topographic maps produced by your Mapping Services Branch, especially the 1:50,000 series.

We make use of the maps in two stages of a trip: pre-planning, and in the field. In trip pre-planning we assess possible routes to a destination. In the field we use the maps to confirm our pre-planned route, and in some cases use them to make route changes. Changes may be necessary due to bad weather or to complications involving participants (possibly an emergency). In both stages of the trip the map is used to visualize a three dimensional image of the terrain. With this image a route could be determined that avoids dangerous terrain. For example many of us would wish to avoid terrain prone to cliffs, or prone to avalanches. For some people this visualization is an easy task, but for most (including myself) it takes more effort. An important factor in this visualization is the terrain gradient implied by the contour spacing. In general closely spaced contours indicate more difficult terrain, while widely spaced contours indicate safer terrain. The visualization process makes use of the relative spacing of contours, not the actual spacing. It is therefore with some concern that we see some of your new metric maps with two contour intervals (20 meter intervals below 2000 meters elevation, and 40 meter intervals above 2000 meters elevation). This abrupt change at the 2000 meter elevation level makes the visualization process even more difficult for me and for others. I am concerned that a situation could arise whereby some club members, coping with a difficult situation in the backcountry, could misinterpret implied gradients on a map and be led onto dangerous terrain.

I have purchased three adjoining metric maps in Jasper National Park: Jasper 83 D/16, Athabasca Falls 83 C/12 and Southesk Lake 83 C/11. All three have similar mountainous terrain, yet each one utilizes a different contour interval system. D/16 has 20 meter contours throughout, C/12 uses 20 meter intervals below 2000 meters and 40 meter intervals above, and C/11 uses 50 meter contours throughout. I am sure your staff had good reasons for this diverse presentation of data, but they elude me. It would seem reasonable to me to pick one system for similar terrain, and to be consistent in its use, especially on adjoining maps. There are many users of your maps with diverse applications. I can only express to you how we would like to see map data presented.

As an outdoor club we would like to see maps with contours that: a) utilize only one contour interval, b) are consistent from map to map, c) retain significant information, and d) make it easy to manipulate elevation data.

a) Utilize Only One Contour Interval. It is important for us to have one interval over a map in order to more readily visualize the terrain. It is difficult to visualize relative gradients when one has to compensate for two gradient representations.

b) Be Consistent From Map to Map. As is often the case with backcountry trips, the route may cover two adjacent maps, or worse require four corners of adjoining maps. If the contour interval is not consistent the visualization process is that much more difficult.

c) Retain Significant Information. The Southesk Lake 83 C/11 map uses 50 meter contours. Has this smoothed out information that was once present with the old 100 foot contour (30 meter) maps? If the old 100 foot contours presented significant data, then any metric presentation should retain that information with contours of 30 meters or less. I would assume that an interval as small as 10 meters would not add any new information, but would simply be interpolation.

d) Make It Easy To Manipulate Data. One of the merits of the metric system is that it is based on powers of 10. This allows for easy arithmetic manipulation of data. One manipulation we use a lot is calculating the elevation difference between two interpolated elevation points. On a metric map the contour interval would ideally be a power of 10, or at least dividable evenly into 100. Using assumptions from c) then 20 or 25 meter contours would seem optimal.

A justification for 25 meter contours is that the resulting maps would closely resemble in appearance the old 100 foot (30 meter) maps. This would be useful if the transition process from feet to meters takes a long time.

Contour intervals of 20 meters may be the most appropriate. The Jasper 83 D/16 map has 20 meter contours throughout. The terrain is about as steep as anywhere in Canada, yet the map is not too busy. It is easy to visualize the terrain. A 20 meter contour policy would also be more appropriate over areas of Canada with less vertical relief. A 20 meter contour interval with accented 100 meter contours would allow for quick interpolation and manipulation of elevation data.

I believe this fairly represents the opinion of the majority of our members. Perhaps our opinion will contribute to the process of formulating future mapping policies.

Sincerely,

---

Bob St. John  
RMRA President

## BUS TRIPS 1997

There are many hikes in our mountains that are only possible as day outings if a car shuttle is arranged. These traverses are great hikes, but arranging transportation is often quite complicated. Ramblers, for many years, have solved this complication by renting a bus. Not only is it nice to leave the driving to someone else, but it's also a fun social time when everyone climbs back aboard and starts comparing notes on the day's events.

Two 'bus trips' were organized for 1997 - the first one over Buller Pass and out either by Ribbon Lake/ Ribbon Creek or over Guinn's Pass to Galatea Parking area. The second optional route was via Rummel Lake to Galatea. Weather was predictably unpredictable - some mist, some cloud, some wind, some rain and even some sunshine! A lot of people discovered why many in the Club carry umbrellas AND sunscreen.

The second trip had 2 options; the first from the Paint Pots in Kootenay Park, up Ochre and Tumbling Creeks, climbing amid the reverberating sound of avalanches up to Tumbling Pass where the rain suddenly descended just in time for lunch. Then a drip down the edge of a mist-shrouded valley, across streams swollen by glacier run-off, to the valley floor and a gentle downhill grade via the Numa Creek trail to a comfortable and roomy bus.

The second group began this trip following this same trail along lovely Numa Creek until it lead them up and over Numa Pass. They also sampled some of the rainfall with their sandwiches. Small icebergs or "floes" that break from the sheer wall opposite the tiny camping area make Floe Lake one of the most scenic spots in Kootenay Park. The final descent follows the Floe Lake trail through mixed forest and low shrubs (great bear habitat) to reach Hwy 93.

Most people had fun; a few found it exhilarating - though more than one person had a moment or two of near panic (crossing rushing water on slippery rocks or getting stabbed by wasps are not necessarily considered "fun" by everyone).

**THE COST** - Well, hiring a bus isn't cheap. On the other hand it isn't very expensive either. Here's a summary:

Trip 1 (Jul 13)	No. hikers = 46
	Bus charge + Tip = \$470.00
	Per person = \$11.00

Trip 2 (Aug 24)	No. hikers = 29
	Bus charge + Tip = \$498.76
	Park Entrance = \$60.00
	Per person = \$18.00

The "profit" from the first trip helped pay for the second. Note the Park fee which we must pay even if everyone on the bus has their own park pass!

A comparison to other ways of getting to a trailhead is worth looking at.

1. Take your own car - 175 km (1-way to the Paint Pots) at Ramblers summer rate is \$10.50 plus park fee of \$5.00 - perhaps \$16.00. Car pooling saves a little, but someone still has to do the driving.
2. Take the bus from Bourgeau parking lot for 6.5 km up to Sunshine Lodge to hike over to The Ramparts and down Healy Pass will cost \$15.00 (\$13.00 per person if there is a large enough group).
3. 10 - passenger bus from Montana's Many Glacier Lodge in Glacier Park to the Visitor Centre on Going-to-the-Sun-highway - a 60 km trip - to hike the Garden Wall trail costs about \$16.00 U.S. which translates to over \$22.00 Cdn.

All in all, hiring a bus a couple of times a year to take us to some of these fun treks seems like a pretty good investment.

Where to next?

## XC CLINIC AND OUTDOOR LESSON

*Taught by Dawn Jones*

For new skiers or those wanting a refresher.

Clinic: Friday, Nov. 28, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Outdoor lesson: Saturday, Dec. 6, 9:00 - 4:00 p.m., or as desired

Place for Clinic is 1402 Crescent Road N. W.

Meeting place for outing is Shouldice Arena leaving at 9:00 a.m.

Clinic: an evening of "everything you wanted to know about XC". Equipment, waxing, clothing, the pack, technique, where to go and what to do.

Outing: a day of variable length, held in the Kananaskis, with a warm hut available. Basic XC technique is patiently taught and practiced. Small hills and techniques to handle these are held in the afternoon session this day. Arrival home is approximately 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: is \$20.00 payable at the night of the clinic. Participants who wish to take the outdoor lesson must have taken the clinic.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### October 29

Going Batty - Much maligned, bats do not deserve their bad reputation. One of our Ramblers, Sandy Newell works with the Bat Conservation Society to help spread the word about these neat little creatures. She is arranging to have a Society member give us a talk - maybe we'll even get to see a live bat!

### Late Oct or Mid Nov

Denis Longuepee and Danielle Tardif have travelled extensively in countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, Nepal and India and have agreed to give a slide show.

### Oct 22

Line Dance Refresher - Tom and Marianne Flanagan prepare us for the Annual Dinner and Dance

Check the Programs box (#4) on the Hot Line 282-6308 for confirmed dates, last minute changes.

## ANYONE FOR CHRISTMAS 1997 AT THE ROGERS PASS?

I have made a booking for 6 people at the ACC Wheeler Hut in the Roger's Pass for the 4 nights December 24, 25, 26, 27, 1997. Although this booking can be held without penalty up to December 22, I intend to relinquish any spots not filled by Monday December 8, 1997. If you would like to join me for some excellent telemarking from the comfort of an easily accessed ACC hut (only 1 1/2 km of fireroad from the car), then I need money. \$14.00/person/night for those with full ACC hut membership, \$21.00/person/night for everyone else. First come, first served.

Enquiries to Dave Mulligan

Other Park regulations apply e.g. Back-country camping permit, "vehicle" pass.

## EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 1997

7:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Bob St. John, President  
Dorothy-Ann Reimer, Program Director  
Ron Hunter, Co-Ordinators Chair  
Carol Perkins, Newsletter Editor  
Chris Saunders, Treasurer  
Linda Eastwood, Secreatry

**ABSENT:** Barb McInnis, Vice President  
Reg Fryling, Past President  
Shirley Tajcnar, Social Director

### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

Highlights read and reviewed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **PRESIDENT:**

Vice President Vacancy - Barb has moved to Ontario.

Motion (Chris): That we ask Ron Mason to become Vice President. Dorothy-Ann seconded. All in favour.

Rebate for Co-ordinators Taking Courses - Courses that are required will be reimbursed. Any money left over will be disbursed to any membership who have taken a course.

Free Trips for New Members (Three to One or None) - Will be presented to the membership at the AGM for discussion, etc.

Bob will check with other clubs how guests are handled re: waivers, etc.

AGM will be Wednesday, October 15, 1997.

#### **TREASURER:**

Almost 170 paid members. Cash in bank - \$1,100.00 (no interest). Will move \$500.00 into a mutual fund.

#### **PROGRAM DIRECTOR:**

Dave Mulligan will give a program on Crevasse Rescue.

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

There have been a few calls regarding advertising. Renewal applications and AGM information will be mailed with the September issue.

#### **CO-ORDINATOR'S CHAIR:**

Trip statistics are up on the bulletin board. There are a lot of calls regarding the club.

Bus Trip - July 13<sup>th</sup> - Buller/Galatea Traverse and Rummel Lake/Lost Lake/Galatea Traverse. There will be a non-refuncable \$10.00 deposit to hold a spot. The Foothills Nordic Club will be asked if they would like to attend. There are a good variety of trips but need more co-ordinators to take out trips.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

At Bob's place 7:30 p.m. on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 1997

7:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Bob St. John, President  
Dorothy-Ann Reimer, Program Director  
Ron Hunter, Co-Ordinators Chair  
Carol Perkins, Newsletter Editor  
Chris Saunders, Treasurer  
Shirley Tajcna, Social Director  
Linda Eastwood, Secretary

**ABSENT:** Ron Mason, Vice President  
Reg Fryling, Past President

### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

Highlights read and reviewed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **TREASURER:**

Financial statement read. 197 paid members. Discussion on whether we needed membership cards. Year end audit committee - ask Brian Westcott and Anita O'Reilly. Audit to be done by AGM, August 15, 1997.

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Next issue will be mailed September 24<sup>th</sup> with AGM agenda and information, and membership renewal form.

#### **SOCIAL DIRECTOR:**

There were eight events this year. Annual Dinner and Dance all set to go. Tickets will be on sale September 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **PROGRAM DIRECTOR:**

Bears program on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Possible program on bats in October. There were 49 people on the July bus trip (Buller/Galatea Traverse and Rummel Lake/Lost Lake/Galatea Traverse) and 29 people on the August bus trip (Rockwall).

#### **TRIPS DIRECTOR:**

There are lots of trips but not enough easy trips (especially needed for new members). Will send out a survey on kinds of trips members would like to go on, etc.

#### **PRESIDENT:**

Ask Wally Drew if he would like to be on the Nomination Committee.

Motion (Chris): Propose the membership fee stays the same. Carol seconded. All in favour.

Suggestions/Recommendations: Informal Social Committee to help Social Director. Program Director - be enthusiastic and speak clearly. Trips Co-Ordinator - have a phone ambassador to handle the phone calls for information about the club. Need to improve the variety of trips for new members. Read the statement from the members manual regarding executive roles. Take responsibility, interest and believe in your job.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Rosemont Community Association is discussing the possibility of renovating or rebuilding the Hall. This could result in steeper rents, charge for locker room and no availability until renovations or rebuilding has been completed.

Kananaskis petition and car camp lists will be circulated for the next few weeks.

Recommend that Trips Co-Ordinator/Co-Ordinators Chair/etc. be changed to Trip Director.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

## COLD WEATHER OUTINGS

Protect yourself with knowledge and preparation

Prepared by Dawn Jones

Many of you will have experienced some cold weather outings during the summer past. Cold weather outings will soon be the norm as Fall and Winter activities begin.

Hypothermia should always be a possibility when you prepare yourself for cold weather outings.

Preparation will begin with one having a body that is well conditioned for the outing. An easily fatigued body easily becomes hypothermic. A deconditioned body sweats readily. A wet body is easily chilled especially when one must rest or go slowly because of lack of fitness for the task at hand.

A body that is well nourished with carbohydrates on a daily basis is one that minimizes the chance of hypothermia.

The night before an outing the body should have experienced at least 8 hours sleep. The body should be free of alcohol.

The day of the outing the following precautions should be taken:

\* An ample but simple breakfast should be eaten. A large bowl of porridge, or several slices of toast, can form the basis of breakfast.

\* The body should be well hydrated with a non-caffeine beverage. Sweet, weak tea is a good beverage. Caffeine makes one cold. A day pack should contain a small snack to eat before the trip starts, but should also contain an ample lunch, some hot beverage (tea or hot juice). Some food and drink should be left over after the lunch for emergency purposes or to eat/drink in the car on the way home.

\* One will dress layered for the outing, but will start out somewhat cool, having room in the pack to either store clothes taken off, or to supply extra clothes should one become too cool. Experienced outdoor people know that one cardinal rule is to never dress, or stay dressed so amply, that one sweats. A wet body invites hypothermia. A second cardinal rule is use the head covering as the thermostat for keeping the body not too warm or too cold. The whole head and neck area must be covered for maximum warmth.

\* The day pack will also contain, at a minimum, wax, a ski tip, rope, strapping tape, first aid supplies. A plastic whistle should be around the neck and a swiss army knife tied onto the belt.

And in conclusion: all our preparations will be of little use unless we remember that hypothermia has an insidious onset. A first onset may be fatigue, and a feeling of coldness, followed by irritability and a mind orientation that leads one to mindlessly wander off even a well travelled trail. Here is where a group effort, group dynamics must come into play. All participants must be in sight of each other at all times, to minimize the chance of losing one member from the sometimes unrecognizable onset of hypothermia. Often, a symptom of hypothermia will be no more than irritability and a refusal of helpful suggestions. In the realm of group dynamics help may have to be "forced" on an unwilling recipient.

Happy, safe group activity is Fall and Winter.

## KEN'S QUOTABLE QUOTES

"If a man has common sense, he has all the sense there is."

— SAM RAYBURN

"If you had your life to live over again — you'd need more money."

— CONSTRUCTION DIGEST

"I have at last found what I want to be when I grow up: a little boy."

— JOSEPH HELLER

"Happiness is good health and a bad memory."

— INGRID BERGMAN

"There are times when silence has the loudest voice."

— LEROY BROWNLOW

"What I'm looking for is a blessing that's not in disguise."

— KITTY O'NEILL COLLINS



**KEN PARK**  
MLS Realtor

sutton group - cityview realty

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"Taking Real Estate to New Heights"

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS Trips: October 1, 1996 - Sept.9, 1997

Coordinator	cyc	Dh	hikes				snow shoe	XC ski				Total	Person -days	
			mtn	OT	scra	trail		mtn	OT	TS	TL			
Angus				1		1						2	20	Angus
Davis				1			11					12	120	Davis
Des Moulins				2	1	2			1			6	58	Des Moulins
Drew				2	1	4			2		1	10	92	Drew
Gali				2	1							3	12	Gali
Hunter				3			9					12	153	Hunter
Jones	1						1			7	1	10	67	Jones
Kittle							3					3	32	Kittle
Lowndes											4	4	9	Lowndes
Mason					2	2						4	29	Mason
McInnis							1		1	1		2	5	McInnis
Moran							1	1				2	10	Moran
Mulligan			4	1	4	3		2		1	3	18	73	Mulligan
Noer					5	1		1	4	1		12	55	Noer
O'Reilly						5				2		7	44	O'Reilly
Papasideris										2	1	3	20	Papasideris
Pattison							1					1	2	Pattison
Polt					2	1						3	24	Polt
Reid				5	1	7				4	6	23	226	Reid
Reimer				1								1	11	Reimer
Saunders	1				3				1		1	6	25	Saunders
Schleinich				3	1	5				4		13	118	Schleinich
Sinclair				2		19					1	22	221	Sinclair
St.John		2		6	6	1		2	4		3	24	238	St.John
Stopford							2					2	10	Stopford
Tardif					1	2						3	13	Tardif
Weger							5				1	6	32	Weger
Wolters	1			2	2	3			2	2	3	15	97	Wolters
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1816</b>	<b>Total</b>

1995/1996>>>

154  
144

69  
55

Average person-

days/trip	3.0	4.5	3.0	11.6	5.8	9.3	6.0	10.2	6.3	6.0	5.2
P-days	9	9	12	361	174	828	6	51	88	143	135

1363

417

1995/1996>>>

1427

276

Sum of trips difficulty	cyc	Ski Dh	hikes				snow shoe	XC ski				Total
			mtn	OT	scra	trail		mtn	OT	TS	TL	
1	1	0	0	2	0	19	0	0	0	4	2	28
2	0	0	0	1	0	22	1	0	1	10	3	38
3	1	0	0	10	2	32	0	0	1	7	9	62
4	1	2	0	13	4	12	0	0	4	0	9	45
5	0	0	0	4	14	2	0	0	6	1	2	29
6	0	0	1	1	6	2	0	0	2	0	0	12
7	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	3	0	2	1	11
8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>229</b>

During the 2nd week of July, 1965 five of us set out from the trailhead 20 miles or so up the dusty logging road in the once heavily treed, Bugaboo Creek Valley in the Purcells (in the vicinity of the present Cdn. Mtn. Holiday Lodge) to attempt a first ascent of remote and ice bound Mt. Stone. We picked our way along Bugaboo Creek and then up a ridge to the right on a then light trail to Boulder Camp - a little rocky meadow (near the present day Konrad Kain Hut) with awesome views of the huge granite spires. This area attracts many climbers from all over the world.

Next day it was up, past Marmolata Mtn. on the left and later around Pigeon Spire on the right, to enter the expansive Vowell Glacier. From there we cut across toward Bill's Pass above East Creek. The sun was blazing down on the brilliantly white snow as we toiled on the Vowell. Tom Crowley and Connie Harris, the trip instigators, were ahead checking the route. Neophyte (but not for long) Don Campbell was toiling along in the rear with a cheap, ill-fitting pack (Don later, together with Don Gowans, established the hostel shop). I became fatigued and thirsty, but water didn't seem to help. Don Gowans, the fifth member who was travelling near, handed me a salt pill and said to suck on it until it tasted salty. The first one and a half pills tasted sweet and then the second pill abruptly turned salty. The rest of the way to Bill's Pass seemed easy, and soon we were rewarded with a panoramic view of wild peaks and glaciers - Mt. Conrad (which Tom, Connie and I later climbed) to the north, and the elusive Mt. Stone secured above bastions of rock, ice and snow far to the west.

East Creek, our day's destination, lay in a deep valley below a steep, deep, rock and tree strewn hillside. We split up a little, scouting out routes as we progressed slowly downward. At one point, venturing out from some trees, into hip deep snow on a steep open slope. I felt insecure because if I lost my balance and started down, the snow was too soft to arrest with the ice axe. I carefully retraced my steps and worked down through some trees and boulders. When I came to a clearing I could see Don Gowans standing on a rock and when he saw me, beckoned sharply. When I approached, he said there's been an accident.

Apparently Connie had fallen while crossing a steep open slope with Tom and Don C. While she tumbled and cartwheeled downward, Tom attempted to save her and also plummeted downward. A very shaken Don C. also fell while attempting to retreat. Connie and Tom ended up on a flatter open area below Don C. part way down hanging on precariously to two ice axes. When I reached an opening above the scene, Don G. and Connie, who was unscathed, were bandaging a head gash on Tom, who was sitting on a rock. Don G. pointed out Don C. who was over and a little above my position. I worked my way up the steep incline through the trees and came out even with Don C. He said he had lost his glasses and couldn't see much without them. He said he was okay for the present and would appreciate my hunting for his glasses. Since disturbing more snow around him might hide them, I agreed and looked around carefully from my position at the edge of the trees a few feet away from him.

There was a little drain channel in the snow, running down beneath him with a little catch basin interspersed perhaps a hundred feet below. I climbed down through the trees to have a look and there were his glasses, intact, in the little basin. He was very happy to get his glasses, but when I went to remove his battered pack, he groaned - one of the shoulder strap snap

hooks had hooked right through the clothing and skin on his back. Finally he clenched his teeth while I carefully took it out and helped him to the trees. Except for a smarting spot on his back, and a toasted pack, he was fine.

Tom's head wound was superficial, but his shoulder was dislocated and apparently hurt like hell. A discussion followed, where he was begging us to try and relocate the joint, but we decided it was too risky. A possible bone fragment might cut the main artery or vein to his arm, we reasoned. Don C. donated his white shirt, and we improvised a sort of one-armed straight jacket to immobilize that arm against his body. We redistributed the contents of Don C's pack and slowly made our way to the East Creek Valley floor to camp, with Don wearing Tom's pack - leaving the ratched pack as a future generations artifact. By the time camp was set up it was time to retire, and Tom even with aid from our pooled pain killers, spent an uncomfortable night.

Very early next morning after jettisoning all but a day's food, we started back up hill on our long retreat. Tom, in dulled pain, held up admirably and was even able to negotiate a steep decline on the glacier, unassisted. There was still a little daylight when we reached Boulder Camp so at Tom's urging we pushed on, hoping we could follow the trail in the dark. But resolution dissolved with fatigue and darkness, and we camped on a steep hillside, anchored behind trees or on shallow ledges cut into the undergrowth with the ice axes. The welcoming sight of the parking lot and food, greeted us mid-morning next day. Connie set off for medical facilities in Golden with Tom while Don C. went to a climbing camp run by Hans Gmoser, and Don G. and I for the Radium area generally.

Tom eventually made a full recovery and I think because he followed doctor's advice closely has not had a dislocation recurrence.

Mt. Stone was bagged the next year or so, I believe by some Americans with choppers, before we got around to planning another trip there.

*NOTE: Read the sequel to this story, "Lake of the Hanging Glaciers", on page 9 ).*



**HAPPY RAMBLING!!**