

# THE PACKRAT

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February – March 1999

**ACTIVITIES:** Hiking, Backpacking, Skiing, Cycling, Climbing, Scrambling, Mountaineering, Educational and Awareness Programs, Social Functions.

**MEETINGS:** Every Wednesday evening 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 Hotline and at meetings.

## RMRA EXECUTIVE 1998-1999

President	Anita O'Reilly	281-9378
Vice President	Garry Denman	686-6596
Past President	Bob St. John	237-0041
Trips Director	Ron Hunter	229-3394
Treasurer	Chris Saunders	289-0189
Secretary	Ron Mason	217-4671
Social Director	Bernie Fritz	606-7732
Program Director	Maria Nemethy	281-4907
Newsletter Editor	Louise Richard	287-3978

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The Dec./Jan. issue of the Packrat covers so much year end business that I have tried to keep this issue light and entertaining, while still focusing on winter safety and courses. I have also added two new features: Recipe Corner and Items for Sale and will continue these features if members are interested and contribute to future issues. I would appreciate your feedback.

The goal of the Newsletter is to provide information related to outdoor activities and safety, and to share your stories on trips within Canada and other countries. Please submit articles on 3 1/2" computer disk, preferably in Word or WP. Also, please note the following:

"The Editor reserves the right to edit for clarity, brevity and content, and is the sole judge of suitability for publication of all articles or advertisements. Opinions expressed in the PACKRAT are those of the author or contributor and not necessarily shared by the Editor or Executives of the Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association."

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**NOTE: Deadline for the next Packrat will be March 24, 1999**

## SOCIAL REPORT

*By Bernie Fritz*

The **Pot Luck for Valentine's Day** will be held February 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30 p.m. We will get access to the Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited, including friends and family. We ask for help to set up and clean up. Admission of \$1.00 is required to cover some of our costs and a food item or cash donation to the Food Bank is always appreciated. The Club will provide punch and coffee. Please bring your own plates and cutlery and food for six people.



The Christmas Pot Luck was again very successful and a lot of fun. Special thanks to Keith Walker who provided us with some delightful music and to Theresa Dobler who knitted and donated a beautiful afghan for the main door prize. The Ramblers collected \$14.00 plus 27 bags of food for the Food Bank, who are sending their thanks to all for their generosity.

Thank you to the Social Committee and all others who helped out.

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## MANY THANKS

George Knowles and his companions would like to extend a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to Tom and Marianne Flanagan for opening up their home on December 25<sup>th</sup>. The Flanagans provided a full meal for about 12 people who enjoyed an excellent evening with good conversation and wonderful food.

Thanks also to Dawn Jones for organizing the brunch and ski afternoon on New Year's day

(see related article).



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Anita O'Reilly

Being a firm believer in "if you don't have anything to say....." I would just like to wish each of you a very HAPPY NEW YEAR and a safe and snow-packed ski/snowshoeing season.

Hope to see many of you at the next social on February 10, 1999.

## WINTER CAMPING TRIP

By Danielle Tardif

Have you always wanted to try winter camping in a snow shelter but were always afraid to try? If you were to spend the night out unexpectedly because someone in your party is injured, would you know how to build an emergency snow shelter?

If you answer yes to one of these questions, then join me on an emergency snow shelter practice on Feb 27 & 28. On Saturday we'll practice building a quinzhee and other less elaborate snow shelters. Then if you want, you can try your quinzhee for the night and lose forever your fear of dying frozen in your sleep. Then on Sunday, we'll go for a ski tour and have fun.

If you're interested, phone Danielle Tardif in the evening at 210-2501. (No phone calls after 9:30 p.m. please). Location to be confirmed.

*Rummel Lake*

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## FISHING

During his trip to Hawaii, Bill Gates was horrified to find a fisherman lying beside his boat, smoking his pipe. "Why aren't you fishing?" asked Bill Gates.

Fisherman: "Because I have caught enough fish for the day".

Bill Gates: "Why don't you catch some more?"

Fisherman: "What could I do with them?"

Bill Gates: "Earn more money. Then you could add a motor for your boat, go into deeper water and catch more fish. That would bring you more money. Soon you would have enough to buy nylon nets, so more fish, more money. Soon you would have enough to buy two boats even a fleet of boats. Then you would go rich like me".

Fisherman: "What would I do then?"

Bill Gates: "Then you could sit back and enjoy life".

Fisherman: "What do you think I am doing now?"



**PROGRAMS**

**February 24, 1999**

**YUKON**  
Mountaineering  
(Kaskawulsh Glacier  
Kluane National Park)

(Slide Show by)  
**Christine Grotefeld**

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**March 17, 1999**



**FIRE LOOKOUT**  
Hikes in the  
Canadian Rockies

(Talk by Author)  
**Mike Potter**

## A GIFT FROM A YOUNG PERSON

*By J F Schleinich*

Every Wednesday morning Wally and I read with grade school children at the Hillhurst Elementary as grandparent readers. Apparently it helps the children, but speaking for myself it is a lot of fun and I believe I receive much more than I give.

Each month we receive the official school letter, which I personally thought to be a waste of paper. A few months ago I was proven wrong. A fifth grader published a couple of poems, which through his permission I am including in this Packrat.

These poems are a piece of art, filled with beauty and are very philosophical. When I first read them I had a hard time believing that they were a product of an eleven year old boy. I wanted to meet him and offer him my congratulations. I did meet him and found him to be a very quiet and humble little boy.

I believe the Ramblers will especially enjoy the second poem called One Day,

*By Alexander Down, Grade 5*

### SOME PEOPLE

Some people talk and talk and talk  
And never say a thing.  
Some people take a step  
And birds begin to sing.  
Some people laugh and laugh and laugh  
And yet you want to cry,  
Some people start to smile,  
And music fills the sky

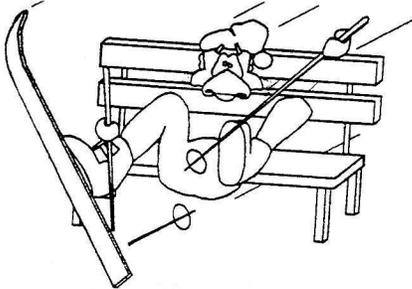
### ONE DAY

One day when we went walking,  
I found a fairy's dress,  
A fancy fairy's dress,  
"A Maple Leaf," said Bess.  
One day when we went walking,  
I found a Leprechaun's shoe,  
A little Leprechaun's shoe,  
"A blackberry thorn," said Sue.  
The next time we go walking,  
unless I find an elf,  
a funny friendly elf,  
I'm going by myself.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR – WITH A BANG!

By Sandra Newell

Like so many Calgarians, I too brought in 1999 with a “bang and a big head”. Unlike most though, my “bang” was to my head when I fell skiing, and the big head was the result of the concussion that fall earned me.



Dawn Jones called an in-town cross-country ski trip to Confederation Park for the afternoon of New Year's Day. There were about ten of us anxious for some fresh air and comradery, and we gathered at the gates shortly after 1p.m. One member of the group had forgotten her ski poles, and in the ensuing search for anyone who might come to her aid, a nearby resident (a non Rambler, and someone who was not part of our group), offered to go home and come back with some poles. Everyone agreed to await the return of this very kind stranger, however in an effort to stay warm, I skied out ahead, with every intention of returning to the group, and then going out again, while we waited for the poles.

The conditions were not the best; the wind had swept a firm surface on the snow, and in some areas had swept the hillsides almost bare, with just a minimum of snow showing on the frozen ground. I thought I would go up the first hill I saw, ski down, and then return to the group to see if they were ready to start.

The next thing I remember was not being able to remember where I lived or what the inside of my home looked like. A quiet, internalized panic set in. I demanded that my aching head find the memory of my home and the security that it offered. That was my first conscious thought. In retrospect, I recall starting to fall. I recall staggering to my feet and a stranger somewhere “out there” yelling to me to see if I was okay. I recall wanting to call Dawn away from the group. (I knew I needed help but didn't want to make a fuss in a crowd of people).

I still don't recall joining the group. I don't recall calling Dawn aside, or telling her that I had fallen and couldn't remember anything. I don't recall any of the plans that Dawn must have had to make to get me out of there – who was going to continue the trip, who

was going out with me. I also don't recall the first part of the ski-out. As I said, my first conscious thought was that I didn't know where I lived, where my car was, or even if I had driven to the park. It was very frightening.

John Wing, Beth Fulton, and Dawn surrounded me as we skied out. When we finally reached my car, I had started to remember certain things (my home for one). I also remembered that I had brought the fixings for a Caesar Salad, my contribution to Dawn's potluck supper scheduled to follow the ski trip. (Of course I remembered food – I'm a good little Rambler). I gave the salad to one of the group and then followed their instructions.

Dawn would return to the main group, John and Beth would drive my car and me to the nearest Medical Clinic. It wasn't open. I assured them that I was feeling much better and that they could go back to the park, and that I would go home. They assured me that they were under Dawn's instructions!!!! I was not going home until I had received medical attention.

It took about six hours in Foothills Emergency before I was told that I had proven to be “neurologically negative and concussed”. This sounded much like an insult to me, but it would not be the first time that someone had implied neurological shortcomings, however this was very official, the result of a number of tests, and a CT scan. They explained that neurologically negative was good, that while I had rearranged a few brain cells, I had not done any identifiable damage and that I could go home, only if my poor, visiting mum, would wake me every two hours to ensure that I was still among us, and not slipping out with 1998.

There are two reasons that I'm writing this article. There is safety in numbers. Even small, local trips can result in a serious injury and if there is no one aware of you, or what you may be doing, you could be in a world of trouble. The other, and equally important reason that I wrote this article, was to thank Dawn, John and Beth for taking such good care of me. I know it cost John and Beth a wonderful day in the company of friends and family, and I am grateful that I was their priority for a few hours on New Year's Day. This is, in part, why many of us belong to the Ramblers, and so to all the volunteers, the Board, and the Co-ordinators, thank you for making the Ramblers possible.

# SNOWSHOEING

By *Bernie Fritz*

**Brief History:** From Europe to North America to Asia, people began using snowshoes over 3000 years ago out of a basic need to find food and explore new territories in the wintertime. Some of the earliest snowshoes were over 7 feet long which, though unwieldy, were helpful in navigating through very deep powdery snow. Snowshoers looked to the naturally efficient design of animal paws and began modeling their snowshoes after animal prints they found in nature.

As cities grew and society shifted from a farming to an industrial culture, people who no longer had to trap, hunt or forage for food, took to the woods for pure enjoyment and exercise. The recreational sport of snowshoeing was born.

While the length and width of snowshoes varied over the years, they were typically large, made with ash timber frames and untanned cowhide webbing. In recent years manufacturers have innovated the snowshoe by introducing dual cleats to metal alloy frames and solid fabric decking which has revolutionized the sport. These efficient, lighter, compact snowshoes have become increasingly popular throughout the world because of their improved performance.

**Why Snowshoeing?** It's easy to learn and it's a great exercise, an excellent aerobic winter activity. It's adaptable to any level. Go for a short hike or for the most extreme terrain you can find. You don't need a lot of gear. You probably already own most of the gear you need, except perhaps for the snowshoes. (\*)

**Technique:** The sport is easy to learn. **CLIMBING** - to ascend a slope, kick the front of your snowshoe into the snow and press down to compact it into a step. Make sure that each new step is sufficiently above the last one to avoid collapse.

**DESCENDING** - Heel cleats are the key to an easy descent. Keep your knees slightly bent, lean back, and keep your weight on the cleats to maintain control.

**EDGING** - The best way to traverse a slope. Kick the side of the snowshoe into the slope, engaging the cleats. Swing your heel hard towards the uphill slope, then stomp down, securing the snowshoe edge in the slope. Poles are very helpful. **BREAKING TRAIL** -

When snowshoeing in a group, walk in a single line behind the leader who is breaking the trail. When it is your turn to lead, take consistent, even steps that are easy for everyone to follow. (\*)

**Clothing:** you will be warm - it's aerobic. On your body: think in layers, just as you do for hiking or skiing

in cold weather. **Socks:** the number one objective is to keep them dry and warm. Socks should be polypropylene first, then a pair of good wool socks. **Boots:** a pair of sturdy, comfortable, insulated and waterproof hiking boots is your best bet. Always wear gaiters.

**Supplies & Safety:** We recommend a compass and trail map. Bring plenty of water and some food or energy bar, just as you do for hiking. Your coordinator should check on weather and avalanche conditions. Green and Yellow rated avalanche conditions do not require avalanche equipment, but anything above this does. Awareness and caution are always recommended. For the balance of this year, as a coordinator, I will post Green and Yellow rated trips.

**Fitness Level:** This sport will give you a very good workout. If you do this once every weekend, plus your regular workouts at home or at the gym, you should get, and stay in great shape and be ready to enjoy a tremendous hiking and climbing season in the spring by snowshoeing all winter. This is an opportunity to enjoy the mountains all year, plus have lots of fun.

**Cost to Rent or Buy:** Snowshoes can be rented from the University, Mountain Equipment, Campers Village plus many outdoor shops. It is a good idea to call in advance to reserve a pair. Usually \$8.00 to \$10.00 per day or get a special weekend rate. There are many varieties, and prices can range from a \$100 to about \$350 for the very best. I recommend you shop around, but it pays to get good equipment.

**Diversity of Snowshoes:** There is a wide range of snowshoes from which to choose. In general, picking a type of snowshoe is a trade-off between floatation and maneuverability. The larger the snowshoe the more you stay on the surface, the smaller the snowshoe, the lighter and easier it is to use. The choice of shape, size, and weight of snowshoe depends upon the nature of intended activity and conditions of the terrain travelled. For example: 1. Recreational - great for casual walking and casual hiking; 2. Hiking - great for performance and more serious hiking; 3. Back-country - great for aggressive back-country and technical hiking; 4. Scrambling - great for aggressive back-country, snowboarding and mountaineering.

Since December, I have been out about a dozen times. I have been to Prairie Mountain, Powderface Ridge, Cox Hill, Chester Lake to name but a few. If you would like to talk about snowshoeing, and come on my trips, please call me: Bernie Fritz 276-1136 or page me through the office 278-2900.

(\*) source "ATLAS SNOW-SHOE HANDBOOK"



## A SKIER'S DICTIONARY

Condensed from "Skiing: A Skier's Dictionary"

H. Beard and R.

McKie

**Avalanche:** One of the few actual perils skiers face that needlessly frighten timid individuals away from the sport. See also: Blizzard, contusion, fracture, frostbite, hypothermia, etc.

**Back-Country Skiing:** Touring on skis along trails in scenic wilderness, gliding through snow-hushed woods far from the hubbub of ski slopes, hearing nothing but the whispery hiss of the skis slipping through snow and the muffled tinkle of car keys dropping into the puffy powder of a deep, wind-sculpted drift.

**Bindings:** Automatic mechanisms that protect skiers from potentially serious injury during a fall by releasing skis from boots, sending the skis skittering across the slope where they trip two other skiers.

**Bones:** Brittle things of which there are 206 in the human body. No need for dismay, however, there are two bones of the middle ear that have never been broken in a ski accident.

**Cross-Country Skiing:** Traditional Scandinavian all-terrain snow-travelling technique. It does not require the purchase of costly lift tickets. It has no crowds or lines. It involves lots of exercise and waxing and re-waxing and changing wax and use of animal skins.

**Gloves:** Hand coverings designed to be tight enough around the wrist to restrict circulation, but not so close-fitting as to allow any manual dexterity.

**Gravity:** One of four fundamental forces in nature affecting skiers. The other three are strong force: which makes bindings jam; weak force: which makes ankles give way on turns; and electromagnetism: which produces dead batteries in your transceiver as soon as you reach the parking lot.

**Skier:** One who pays an arm and a leg for the best of ski equipment for the opportunity to break them.

**Traverse:** To ski across a slope at an angle; one of two quick and simple methods of reducing speed.

**Tree:** The other method.

February - March 1999

### KEN'S QUOTABLE QUOTES

It is possible to own too much. A man with one watch knows what time it is; a man with two watches is never quite sure.

Lee Segall

Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.

Mark Twain

I may have faults but being wrong ain't one of them.

Jimmy Hoffa

I always wanted to be somebody, but I should have been more specific.

actress Lily Tomlin

Meetings are indispensable when you don't want to do anything.

John Kenneth Galbraith

There is nothing more demoralizing than a small but adequate income.

Edmund Wilson



**KEN PARK**  
MLS Realtor

sutton group - cityview realty

244-6809



"Taking Real Estate to New Heights"

## RECIPE CORNER

We encourage all Ramblers to share their favorite foods in this new and future column. The following is compliments of Ron Hunter, who was asked to share the delicious dish he brought to the Christmas Pot Luck.

### TexMex Dip

3 medium avocados	1 can refried beans
2 tbsp lemon juice	1 large bunch green onions, chopped
½ tsp salt	3 medium tomatoes, seeded & chopped
¼ tsp pepper	1 cup chopped, pitted ripe olives
1 cup dairy sour cream	2 cups grated cheddar cheese
½ cup mayonnaise	1 (35g.) pkg taco seasoning

Peel, pit & mash avocados in a bowl with lemon juice, salt & pepper. In separate bowl combine sour cream, mayonnaise & taco dressing. Spread refried beans on large shallow serving platter. Top with avocado mixture and layer with sour cream-taco mixture. Sprinkle with green onions, tomatoes and olives, cover with grated cheese.

### Versatile Swedish Butter Balls

Source: Robin Hood Baking Festival Recipe Book,  
modified by Silvia Gonzalez  
*"A Melt-in-your-mouth Delight"*

1 cup butter, softened	1 cup pecans, finely chopped - or -
½ cup icing sugar, sifted	1 cup almonds, finely ground - or -
	1 cup granola, finely ground - or -
1 tsp vanilla essence - or -	1 cup coconut, unsweetened
1 tsp almond essence	
2 ½ Cake & Pastry flour - or -	
2 ¼ All purpose flour	
* Extra icing sugar	

Cream butter, icing sugar and vanilla/almond together thoroughly.

Add flour. Mix well. Stir in nuts or granola or coconut. Shape dough into 1" balls. Place on ungreased baking sheet.

Bake @ 350° F for 10-13 minutes or until very light golden. Cool on racks.

Roll in sifted icing sugar. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

### Items for Sale

2 pairs Waxless Skis: 180cm and 200 cm  
Rossignol LTS, AR Plus (touring)  
3-pin bindings, width 58-54-57  
\$50.00 each

Ski Boots – low cut, 3-pin Nordic norm.  
Size 9½ (men's)  
\$10.00

Leather Climbing/Hiking boots by  
Le Trappeur (France)  
¾ shank, almost new, size 10 (men's)  
\$50.00

For all of these listed items contact Ron Mason  
or Micheline Barbeau at 217-4671

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

submitted by Danielle Tardif

John invited his mother over for dinner. During the meal, his mother couldn't help noticing how beautiful John's roommate was. She had long been suspicious of a relationship between John and his roommate and this only made her more curious.

Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between John and the roommate than met the eye. Reading his mom's thoughts, John volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Julie and I are just roommates".

About a week later, Julie came to John and said, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the beautiful silver gravy ladle. You don't suppose she took it, do you?" John said, "Well, I doubt it, but I'll write her a letter just to be sure." So he sat down and wrote:

"Dear Mother, I'm not saying you 'did' take a gravy ladle from my house, and I'm not saying you 'did not' take a gravy ladle. But the fact remains that one has been missing ever since you were here for dinner."

Several days later, John received a letter from his mother which read: "Dear Son, I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with Julie, and I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with Julie. But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her own bed, she would have found the gravy ladle by now. Love Mom"

Lesson of the day...  
Don't lie to your mother.....

### ASSINIBOINE SKI TRIP

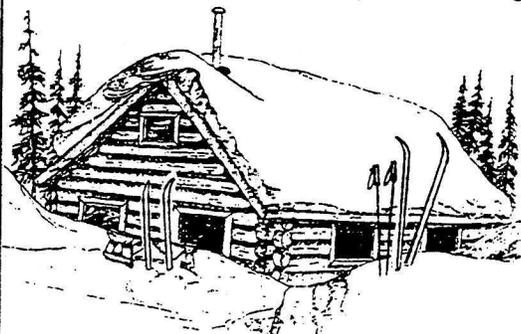
#### "FLY-IN - SKI OUT"

March 3 - 7, 1999

COST: approx \$175.00 4 nights, 5 days

This trip can be handled by intermediate to advanced skiers. We will be enjoying some of the most beautiful scenery in Canada! A destination that many people from around the world come to experience. The terrain ranges from flat to gentle hills to steep slopes, and telemark skiing abounds. This will be my 3<sup>rd</sup> winter trip to Assiniboine and I can hardly wait!! Hopefully you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to visit this fabulous area.

We'll be staying in the rustic, cozy, warm (if you keep the stove going!) Naiset Cabins: 6 people per cabin, max. 12 and min. of 6 can participate. He/she who deposits first gets on the reservation list. We take in all our own supplies including firewood to a maximum of 40-50 lb. per person. If we have clear skies, a moonlight ski will be in order as there is a full moon, March 1<sup>st</sup>.



Our gear will be flown out (approx. \$2.00/lb) so we can ski out with only a day pack, stopping at the Bryant Creek Hut for lunch. Avalanche transceivers required on this trip.

DEPOSIT: \$50.00 A.S.A.P  
FINAL PAYMENT DATE: to be announced  
TRIP COORDINATOR: Ken Park 244-6809



## Avalanche Safety Policy Changes

*by Bob St.John,  
for the RMRA Executive*

The CASC Avalanche Safety Policy as implemented by the RMRA could until now be summarized by the following table:

**Old Avalanche Safety Policy Table**

Regional Avalanche Danger Level	Green Terrain Trips ( G )	Yellow Terrain Trips ( Y )	Orange Terrain Trips ( O )	Red Terrain Trips ( R )
Low	ok	ok	ok	E & T
Moderate	ok	ok	ok	E & T
Considerable	ok	ok	E & T	E & T
High	ok	E & T	NO	NO
Extreme	ok	NO	NO	NO

where:            'ok'        =        no special requirements  
                       'E & T' =        avalanche safety Equipment and Training requirements  
                       'NO'      =        trip not recommended or endorsed

The Executive passed a motion that the 'ok' designation for Yellow and Orange Terrain trips be replaced with the designation 'e & t' for avalanche safety equipment and training **recommended**. The new semantics are primarily designed to reduce the liability exposure of the Executive. This change is also consistent with recommendations of the Outdoor Community (see memo from James Vickers, University of Calgary – next page). The policy now in effect can be summarized by the following table:

**Avalanche Safety Policy Table (effective January 27, 1999)**

Regional Avalanche Danger Level	Green Terrain Trips ( G )	Yellow Terrain Trips ( Y )	Orange Terrain Trips ( O )	Red Terrain Trips ( R )
Low	ok	e & t	e & t	E & T req'd
Moderate	ok	e & t	e & t	E & T req'd
Considerable	ok	e & t	E & T req'd	E & T req'd
High	ok	E & T req'd	NO	NO
Extreme	ok	NO	NO	NO

where:            'ok'                =        no special requirements  
                       'e & t'            =        avalanche safety equipment and training **recommended**  
                       'E & T req'd' =        avalanche safety Equipment and Training **required**  
                       'NO'              =        trip not recommended or endorsed

The Members Manual, Q cards, and trip sheets will be amended to reflect this change.

### FORUM- Minimum Participants Per Trip Wednesday Meeting, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999

An open forum moderated by Ron Hunter will be held after the regular Wednesday Meeting to discuss the recently implemented RMRA policy requiring a minimum of 4 adults on club trips. All members are encouraged to participate in this important meeting. As the Coordinators Council is responsible for implementing Safety Policies, issues forthcoming from this forum will undoubtedly be discussed at their next meeting.

**Memo To:** Bob St. John, Rocky Mountain Ramblers  
**Memo From:** James Vickers, Outdoor Pursuits Program, University of Calgary  
**Date:** January 13, 1999  
**Re:** CASC Avalanche Safety Policy

Dear Bob,

You are the only person within your club that I have sent this memo to, if you could forward this information to others it would be greatly appreciated.

After close examination of the CASC Avalanche Safety Policy, and discussion of this policy with Bruce Hendricks and Murray Toft at the University of Calgary, there are a number of safety concerns I would like to bring forth to the CASC community concerning the CASC Avalanche Safety Policy.

As highlighted on the attached sheet, my main concern is with the Avalanche Safety Policy Table specific to the 'ok' rating (no avalanche safety equipment or training required) that is given to trips travelling in terrain that is designated 'Yellow' and 'Orange' when the avalanche danger level is 'Considerable' and/or 'Moderate', or lower.

There are a number of safety concerns that exist for groups and/or individuals that travel in avalanche terrain without the proper avalanche safety equipment (transceiver, probe and shovel) and training. These are:

1. If a party goes off-route or becomes lost by mistake, they may end up in undesired avalanche terrain.
2. The avalanche danger level can and does change throughout the day or over a number of days. For example, if a group leaving the Shark parking lot for Assiniboine ('Orange' terrain rating) decides not to bring any avalanche safety equipment and/or have any training because the avalanche danger level as of that morning is 'Moderate', conditions over the day and next day could raise the avalanche danger level to 'Considerable' or higher.
3. A third party may be in trouble and need assistance with an avalanche search, etc.

These inconsistencies within the CASC Avalanche Safety Policy should bring forth questions of liability for the directors of each of the clubs and should be addressed immediately. The use of avalanche safety equipment in any type of avalanche terrain is the standard of the entire ski industry, no matter what the avalanche danger level is.

It is recommended that all groups and individuals travelling within terrain that is designated 'Yellow', 'Orange', or 'Red' carry at **all times** the proper avalanche equipment (transceivers, probes and shovels) and are sufficiently trained. In this way, the proper use of avalanche safety equipment becomes an unquestionable habit when travelling in the backcountry.

If you have any questions or would like clarification of the above details please feel free to call me at (403) 284-2332.

Sincerely,

James Vickers  
Outdoor Pursuits Program  
University of Calgary