

# THE PACKRAT

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OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2000

**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 Dr. N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2N 3E4

**TRIP INFO:** 282-6308 Hotline and at meetings.

## RMRA EXECUTIVE 1999-2000

President	Garry Denman
Vice President	Danielle Tardif
Past President	Anita O'Reilly
Trips Director	Ron Hunter
Treasurer	Jennifer Oss
Secretary	Linda Eastwood
Social Director	Loris Neff
Programs Director	Carl Potter
Newsletter Editor	Suzanne Costaschuk
Membership (appointed)	Jean Amatt

## Annual General Meeting Announcement

The Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association will hold it's Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday October 18, 2000 at 7:30pm  
Rosemont Community Hall, 2807-10 Street NW. Calgary, Alberta.

The Executive Committee will make the following motions at this meeting.

- **That the Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association adopts the new "Membership Application" and "Membership Application Instructions".**
    - The new waiver is part of the Membership Application.
    - A copy of this document is posted on the bulletin board at the hall.
    - Copies are also available to members by E-mail or hard copy by contacting Carl Potter at 281-8040 or carl.potter@bluehorizontours.com
  - **That the "Revised RMRA Bylaws" be adopted by the RMRA.**
    - See Ron Hunter's article and the Revised Bylaws elsewhere in this publication.
  - **That the RMRA membership fees be set at \$25 per annum.**
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### President's Report

*by Garry Denman*

The waiver review committee held it's final meeting on August 12 / 00. The new Membership Application (which includes the waiver) is now complete. After considerable research, several drafts, and a few revisions, the committee, along with Adrienne Waller *lawyer*, have produced a very comprehensive waiver document all wrapped up in the Membership Application.

I commend the committee members Carl Potter as chairman, Bob St. John, Christine Grotefeld, John Schleinich, and Alistair Desmoulins for a job well done. Thank you.

Executive Meeting August 21, 2000

- To avoid confusion as to which membership application to use, we decided that **no membership applications will be accepted from Oct. 1 until after the AGM on Oct. 18.** The following is an excerpt from the RMRA bylaws.
  - "All members are eligible for membership privileges in the Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association for a period of thirty days after the end of the previous Rocky Mountain Ramblers financial year".*
- A motion was passed to create a new "Membership Director" position on the Executive Committee.

As a member, please consider letting your name stand for election to one of the positions on the Executive Committee. Elections for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Social Director, Programs Director, Newsletter Editor, and Membership Director will take place at the AGM in Oct. A summary of the responsibilities of each position can be found in the Members Manual. Wally Drew, Bob St. John, and myself are accepting nominations for this year's election. Don't be afraid to nominate yourself.

Enough business for one day, I'm going hiking!

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Most of us can read the Handwriting on the wall; we just assume it is addressed to someone else.

## **Draft Revision: Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association Bylaws**

As part of our process to re-register under the Societies Act, we found out that our previously registered Bylaws did not meet the updated requirements as to form and content. The following proposed Bylaws remedy this situation and also simplify their scope to include only information required under the statute. This should minimize the need for future amendments and reduce the effort and expense required to amend and file revised Bylaws with the Registrar. Other items in the previous Bylaws can be covered by Rules of the Association, which are not required to be filed.

Ron Hunter

### **OBJECTS**

To foster the safe undertaking of outdoor activities by Association members.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- 1.1 Membership in the Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association ("the Association") is available to any individual over eighteen (18) years of age upon payment of the appropriate fees and signing the membership application & waiver.  
All members are eligible for membership privileges in the Association for a period of thirty days after the end of the previous Association financial year.  
Individuals under the 18<sup>th</sup> years of age may attend club activities, but must be accompanied by a member who takes full responsibility, risk, and liability for that individual during the club activities, including signing of any special waivers that may be required on the behalf of minors.
- 1.2 A member may withdraw by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.
- 1.3 The Executive Committee may by resolution of two-thirds of the Executive Committee expel any member of the Association. The Executive Committee shall give to the member being considered for expulsion 14 days notice of the meeting considering such a motion and invite that member to the meeting to be heard by the Executive Committee.
- 1.4 All members of the Association are entitled to participate in all activities of the Association, subject to their physical ability, the requirements of Association Policies and any limitations of participant number on the activity.
- 1.5 All Association trips require a trip waiver form and that the waiver form shall be signed by all participants.
- 1.6 *Membership fees are to be set annually by the Executive Committee at the time of the Annual General Meeting and are to be approved by majority vote of the members present and voting at the General Meeting.*

### **MEETINGS**

- 2.1 Annual General Meeting. The annual general meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee for a date as soon as practical after the end of the financial year. Any member may vote at any general meeting, but only when present. The Association may hold other meetings of an informal nature, such as weekly meetings, to further the objects of the Association.
- The Executive Committee may call a special general meeting at any time and must do so on demand by twelve members.
- 2.2 A general meeting requires fourteen clear days notice that may be either hand delivered or mailed to all members at their last known address.
  - 2.3 A quorum shall consist of one-fifth (1/5) of the membership for a general or special general meeting.
  - 2.5 Bylaws may be made, altered, or rescinded, by special resolution as provided for in the Societies Act, at an annual or special general meeting.

## EXECUTIVE

- 3.1 There shall be an Executive Committee of not more than ten members, which shall include four officers; the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, as well as a maximum of six other members. These will include the Trips Director appointed by the Coordinators Council and the Past President.
- 3.2 The four officers and three of the other members shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting for a term of one year, and shall hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting. Concurrent terms may be served. The officers and three other members shall be elected individually by secret ballot.
- 3.3 A member of the Executive Committee may be removed upon a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the members present and voting at a special general meeting, with a notice of motion to remove the member of the Executive Committee having been given with the notice of the meeting. If a member of the Executive Committee vacates his position, by death, by removal, or by giving notice in writing to the Secretary, the Executive Committee may appoint a substitute to serve the duration of the term.
- 3.4 The Executive Committee shall, subject to the objects, the bylaws, and the directions given it by the majority vote at the general meetings, manage the business of the Association. The Executive Committee shall meet upon three clear days notice been given verbally or in writing by the officers. The Executive Committee shall meet at least every three months. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- 3.5 No member of the Executive Committee shall receive remuneration for their services unless directed by a majority vote at a general meeting of the Association.

## OFFICERS

- 4.1 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee.
- 4.2 When the President is unable or unwilling to preside at general or Executive Committee meetings, the Vice President shall preside.
- 4.3 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the monies and reporting of the financial position of the Association as required under the Societies Act.  
The Secretary shall prepare or have prepared, and have custody of the minutes of the meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee, and of the other books and records of the Association, except that the Treasurer shall prepare or have custody of the books of account of the Association. The Secretary has custody and use of the seal of the Association, which seal shall be authenticated with the signatures of the President and the Secretary.

## FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

- 5.1 The Association may be empowered to borrow money by an extraordinary resolution, as provided for in the Societies Act.
- 5.2 The financial year of the Association ends 30 September, following which the accounts shall be audited by an accountant or by two members of the Association. The auditor's report and balance sheet shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.3 The books and records of the Association may be inspected by any member or members at any time and place mutually agreed upon by the member or members and the custodian or custodians of the books and records.

## COMMITTEES

- 6.1 There shall be a Coordinators Council that shall be generally responsible for the outdoor activities of the Association and shall be responsible to the Executive Committee. The Coordinators Council shall consist of the officers and those members approved by the Executive Committee to coordinate the outdoor activities of the association.
- 6.2 The Executive Committee may from time to time appoint such other committees as it may deem advisable, but the function of any such other committees shall be advisory only.

## **Camping at Berg Lake**

(by Dennis Mauld)

Here is the "long and the short" of my recent backpack-outing to Berg Lake in the beautiful Mt. Robson area in BC. Incidentally, I was the "Short" one in this story and Gordon Jones, my partner, was the "Long" one.

We left Calgary August the 21<sup>st</sup> and arrived at Mt Robson trail-head the same day with high hopes and heavy packs. Hiking up to Kinney Lake was relatively easy and we made good time. However, from there on it became progressively more difficult and the stretch between Whitehorn campground and Emperor falls gave you a feeling as if this was going to be your last backpack.

After five and one half hours we reached the Marmot campground which we made our home for the next two nights. All the pain and effort to get here was forgotten when the clouds rolled away and Mt Robson showed it's majestic head. The view was even more glorious the next morning in crisp clear mountain air.

That day we hiked the Wargreaves-Toboggan Falls-Mume Basin trail, all the time enjoying marvelous views of the Glacier. Next day, early Wednesday morning, we moved on, and set up camp the same evening on Robson Pass. In my opinion the best campsite I ever visited.

Next day, on Thursday we hiked, what I believe was the highlight of our trip: 'The Snowbird Pass. Sections of this hike were very steep, especially the last several hundred meters. We passed a lovely meadow on the way up, and on the top where offered one of the most beautiful views imaginable. The sight definitely took away any sweating and drudgery we had to endure on this trip. After crawling up a nearby ridge we were over 8000 feet above sea level looking down a beautiful ice field stretching for miles with seemingly no end.

On our return trip, going through a meadow I was accosted by a female Hoary Marmot, which proceeded to lick my arm, conveniently available. She tried to climb up my extended arm, and even allowed me to touch her and pick her up, while she was getting her fill of salt. I certainly enjoyed this brief interaction.

For the day hikes we had good weather, the nights, however, were rainy and wet. We met some interesting people, such as two hikers who tented on Robson during a thunderstorm with lightening flashing all around them. They had much to talk about.

For our final night we moved down to the Emperor Falls Campground, which left us another seven kilometers for the next day, Saturday.

About two kilometers before reaching our car, Gordon took a nasty fall, which rendered the last bit of hiking very uncomfortable for my partner. After a most welcome change of diet in a Jasper restaurant, we headed for home.

I sincerely hope that many, many Ramblers if not all have an opportunity to experience such a tremendous hike.

## **The Neil Colgan Experience - July 2000**

by Dave Mulligan

Coordinated by Richard Powley, Nine Ramblers enjoyed splendid 5 days around the Neil Colgan ACC hut in July 2000. From the hut at 2940 meters, we managed to ascend peaks 1-5 of the Valley of the Ten Peaks, but more importantly enjoyed a safe holiday in excellent company.

Starting from Marble Canyon on highway 93, the 5 hour walk to the ACC Fay Hut was hot and not exciting except for the last few meters when we appreciated the sturdy fixed ropes to ascend a steep gravel gully. We enjoyed relaxed lunch in front of the hut before splitting into 2 groups. I was in the group of 5 who elected to continue on to the Neil Colgan while the other group of 4 would stay the night at Fay continuing the next day.

Soon above the Fay hut we broke out above the tree-line and shortly after onto the glacier. Seven of us wore sturdy leather boots, but Richard and Bob (St. John) preferred plastic. Richard wore his plastic boots for the entire trip, while Bob chose to walk in lighter footwear. At the last available tree he hung up his lighter boots and to my surprise retrieved them successfully 3 days later. Roped up, the trek across the glacier was uneventful especially following someone else's footprints. But the front person had a trudge with every step sinking some centimeters.

Jim (Patterson) had rented most of his glacier gear from the U of C and this was not a success. First the harness was too small so he switched with me, second his ice-axe did not have a safety strap so he borrowed a length of prussic rope, and lastly his crampons would not fit his boots so he ended up borrowing Yolandi's. Morale:

check your equipment before leaving the rental place.

Never-the-less, we made the hut in time for a good supper, and tenured by (maximum) Bob ascended nearby Mt. Bowlen. From hut to summit took 20minutes and we enjoyed magnificent views of Moraine Lake etc before descending back to the hut in the growing dusk. That night it snowed (about 8 CMS) as a trailer park near Red Deer got destroyed by a tornado. So it wasn't until about 10.00am that we got going up Mt. Fay. An easy walk around Mt. Little and a 250 m trudge up a snow gully to gain the ridge of Mt. Fay. Then a short distance to the peak where we saw nothing being in dense cloud. Back to the hut around 4.00pm where the others were waiting.

The weather had cleared up for Mt. Little. The guide book said: go out of the hut, around the back, and head up. So we did, harnessed and roped. Two hours of mixed snow and scrambling later we're on top and back down about 7.30 pm to be handed a bowl of soup by the group of 4 who had elected to do the shorter Mt. Bowlen. We had originally decided to split into groups who would cook for all nine, but this gesture was typical of the great spirit of all involved. I was paired with Sim (Galloway) and nearly panicked when told the above details. But Sim saved my day with a tasty main course while I managed the soup and desert.

Sunday dawned crisp and bright, so the 5 of us set out across the glacier to attempt Mt Allen (peak 6) 3301 m, while the other 4 followed our earlier steps up and down Mt Fay (3234 m). Reaching the col between Perren and Allen we encountered some ice and shortly after abandoned Allen on a steep icy slope overlaying gravelly slabs. Bob and Richard each took a short involuntary slide before we halted them from a potentially disastrous descent. However we got some splendid views from Mt Perren (3351 m) instead. Mt Little, where renowned mountain guide Karl Nagy recently met his death from a soccer ball sized rock on the route close if not identical to our's, shaped a striking profile. Also Delta form - peak 8 (3424 m) the hardest and most striking of the 10 peaks. Supper was a success especially as water was running off a gully on Little and all the 3 hut groups stocked up. Sometime that day Bob persuaded us that the outhouse barrel needed changing , so several of us undertook this unpleasant but necessary task. We survived.

Monday saw a slight re-arrangement of our groups as 4 of us enjoyed Mt Perren and the rest Mt. Little. This was our first use of crampons as we ascended most of Perren via a long chute full of hard packed snow. The final peak involved a narrow ridge traverse, but Sim paved the way for me to follow securely belayed by Richard, who kept Kaare company on the false summit. And back to the hut for a lunch smorgasbord of left over rice mixed in with various vegetables. Although the weather remained perfect, we had now done all the peaks judged to be comfortably within our ability, so we descended to the Fay hut that afternoon. Here we had a couple of hours to kill so the liquor came out as most of us played "hearts" to the accompaniment of Sim's tuneful singing from the nearby river. Sim had not realized that we could hear her, so was somewhat embarrassed to discover that we could. Some more of Denis' card tricks before a final great meal and bed. We returned to civilization for a late lunch in Banff on Tuesday 18 July 2000. A great trip and many thanks to Richard Powley for his coordination and the other participants: Bob, Denis, Danielle, Kaare, Yolande, Jim, Sim and myself. I look forward to the next one.

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**Attention: Dawn Jones has a ski-rack for sale. It is one season old and will fit an older model car, up to year 1986. She will accept \$50.00 for it. Give Dawn a call if you are interested.**

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Remember the days when a question: Is it a boy or a girl, refereed only to new born babies?

..... Clothes had the label on the inside only?

..... Marriage problems were solved, not dissolved?

..... And today's tip bought tomorrow's lunch?

***Them were the days!***

## **Mt. Lady Macdonald – Sept. 3, 2000**

In some ways it was a very sad trip and in others it was a great release. This excursion was to scatter Art Davis' ashes in a place he loved.

He made his 1<sup>st</sup> ascent of Mt. Lady Macdonald in 1969, before he began keeping his renowned notes, and on May 9, 1997 he made his 59<sup>th</sup> ascent of the peak. Excluding his first trip up, when he didn't record the actual date, his ascents show that he had no preference for the time of year for this trip. A break down by month shows that February was the only month of the year that he did not go up Mt. Lady Macdonald.

Another remarkable year was 1994 when he ascended the mountain once each in March, April, May, June, July, August and then twice in September.

He was also an active member of the Canmore Trailminders who have worked on not only the trail up Mt. Lady Macdonald, but also most others in the Canmore Corridor as volunteers. Their generous donation of time and effort has opened up new areas and, by establishing proper trails, is working to conserve the environment so that generations to come will have the opportunity to enjoy all the Bow Valley has to offer.

Since Dad's passing on Feb. 2, 2000 there wasn't any question of where to scatter his ashes, but the question of when loomed large with so many interested friends. Amongst family members we discussed back and forth on a date that most of us would be able to participate. As time marched on it was obvious that some that wanted to attend would not be able to. My brother, wife and I finally decided on Sunday, September 3. Due to other circumstances, unfortunately, this date wasn't confirmed with the RMRA friends and many made other long weekend commitments.

My brother Glenn and I drove out to Canmore on Sunday morning under a rainy sky. We started walking in a light drizzle and very low overcast. After 2 rest stops we arrived at the TeaHouse site just shortly before noon. For the last hour we had been in heavy mist and it did not look promising for continuing to the summit with poor visibility and several centimetres of snow. After half an hour it appeared as though the weather might hold for a short while so I gathered some remembrance items and set off for the summit with Glenn choosing to remain at the TeaHouse to meet any Ramblers who may show up.

At 1pm I was on the summit in a snow squall and had a private moment remembering Dad. I then beat a hasty retreat back down to the TeaHouse as I had heard a yodel that, even though I hadn't heard it in decades, could only belong to Helga.

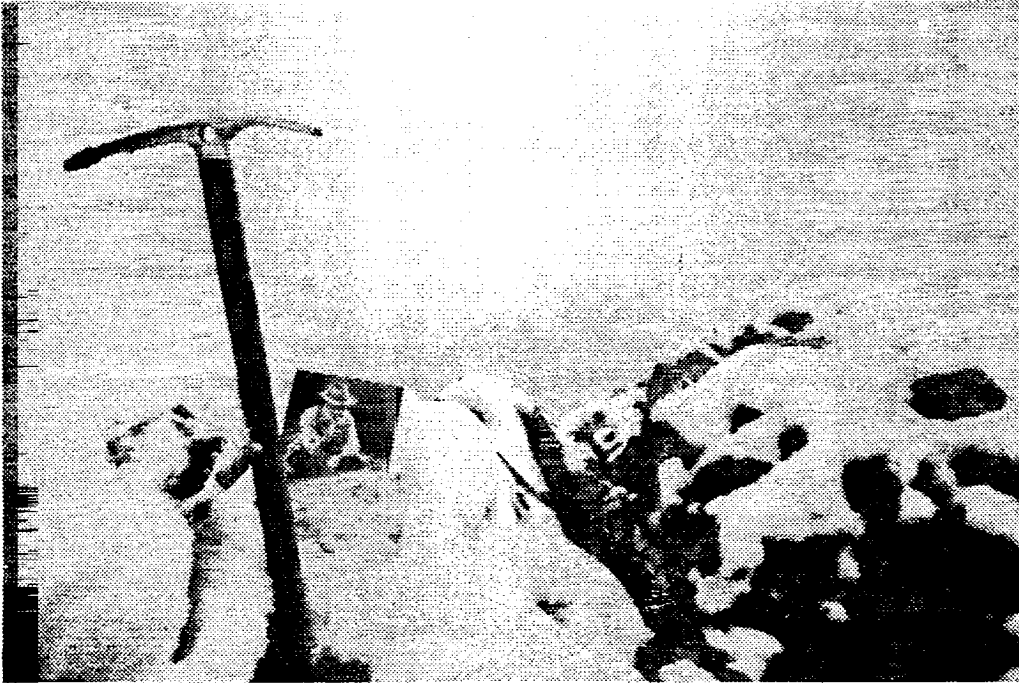
Back at the Tea House at 1:30pm I was greeted by Glenn and Helga Patisson who informed me that Bob Patisson, Doug and Mary Campbell and Dick and Marg Lowdnes were also on the way up. At 2:30pm with all, but Marg, present everyone participated in scattering of ashes and saying some kind words. Marg arrived shortly thereafter and, after a quick cup of tea, she scattered some ashes and said a few words of remembrance.

Everyone then packed up their waterproofs and in 2's headed down the mountain. I dashed ahead as I was to meet my wife and children at a meadow low down on the mountain at 4pm. We all gathered in the meadow for introductions and to share a few more stories. Then Doug, Mary, Bob, Helga, Dick and Marg discretely departed leaving just the family members and a third remembrance was observed by Glenn, my wife Alma, daughter Michelle, son Ryan and myself.

I'm sure that Dad (where ever he is) appreciated the choice of Mt. Lady Macdonald as his final resting place, the sites (summit, teahouse and meadow) for sites and attendance by family, Rocky Mountain Ramblers and Canmore Trailminder members. He would also be very pleased with the Rocky Mountain Ramblers purchase of 1 metre of the Trans Canada Trail in the Banff/Canmore area in his remembrance. As I left the photos of Dad at each of the 3 sites they became dotted with large raindrops. All I could think of when it happened each time was "tears from heaven" and his happiness at his final wishes being carried out.

The family will be getting a plaque made and placing it in the meadow site in the spring of 2001, The date for this will be announced well in advance so that the many friends and family who could not be present on Sept. 3, 2000 will be able to attend.

Once again, my thanks to all who have helped in so many ways to help us through this very troubling time.



**Summit of Mt Lady Macdonald**

