



The Pack Rat

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association

December 2004

President's Annual General Meeting Report: October 20, 2004

This year was a special time for the Ramblers with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary. It started in March with a cake at the weekly meeting closest to the founding date of the club.

In May we had a repeat of the first club hike up to Yamnuska, where the weather was unfortunately not very cooperative. Then in July the weather was very cooperative for the pancake breakfast here at the hall and the pot luck dinner in Kananaskis. It was great to see a good turnout of former members who were able to come by and reminisce about the good old days.

Thanks to Anita O. and her 50th Anniversary committee for arranging all the great events and to our Social Director, Shirley T., for rounding up the volunteers for the pancake breakfast.

The club is in fine shape for a fifty-year old. The membership count is again above 350 and I

have noticed that a lot of the new members are quite enthusiastic.

Our finances are in good shape and we were able to fund the fiftieth anniversary events and also to provide the resources to purchase the digital projector which I believe will enhance the quality of the meetings.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive for their efforts during the year. They all contributed to the success of the club and hopefully their example will encourage others to take a turn to help out with the various activities that make the club an enjoyable experience.

This year we had success with a few of the positions assembling a team of assistants which helped to spread the workload and provided coverage when the Executive member was away on holiday or unavailable. Please consider helping out in this regard in the coming year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to especially thank Keith W. for all his work on the web site which has become an

important part of the Ramblers. Keith and Wendy will be moving to the coast in April and we will miss seeing them out on the hiking trails.

In addition, I want to acknowledge all the work done by Bob St. John over the years. Bob has moved on to other things but much of what the club is today is his legacy. Best of luck to him in his future endeavours.

Lastly, thanks to all the Coordinators and members for putting up with me as President for the last three years, it has been fun.

Ron H.



**Assiniboine Ski Trip
February 23 - 27, 2005**

Space is still available.
Call Ken Park for details.
244-6809

**RMRA
Executive Committee**

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The Packrat is published six times a year by the Rocky Mountain Ramblers Association. We welcome comments, articles, and ideas from our members and, if content is deemed suitable, will be used as space permits.

Email submissions to the newsletter editor at packrat@ramblers.ab.ca or forward contributions to RMRA, c/o Calgary Area Outdoor Council, 1111 Memorial Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2N 3E4.

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Trips Director Annual Report 2003/'04

Once again the club has set new records for trips and participation. The club offered a huge variety of hikes and cross-country ski trips, all varying in degrees of difficulty. For the cost of \$25.00, the 350 plus members have received great value for their monetary investment.

In terms of activity, there were 359 trips that went out, involving 2,926 person days. This represents a 31% increase in summer trips and a 66% increase in winter trips. Requests came in last year for more trail hikes and more scrambles to be called. Scrambling increased by 50% and trail hikes increased by an amazing 60%. The coordinators are listening.

We have some new full coordinators, and they are Herb and Ivan. Our current probationary coordinators are Greg D., Aldis H., and Norman A. Our most recent probationary coordinators are Yolande deV. and John D., just volunteering this fall.

Volunteers make it happen and there were 39 coordinators who deserve special credit for organizing trips this past year. It is they who do the research, preparation and coordinate our trips. Of special note, there were 15 coordinators that called 10 or more trip days. The five coordinators who called 20 or more trip days were D. Mulligan, Dorothy-A. Reimer, I. Pull, J. Powers and myself. C. Potter, a very active coordinator, called over 30 trip days. These exceptional coordinators will be receiving their recognition awards at the Christmas potluck. Also of note,

Dorothy-Ann and myself will be receiving the Bronze Pin for taking out more than 50 trips since October 1, 2000. Carl will be receiving the Silver Pin for taking out more than 100 trips since October 1, 2000.

This year was our 50th year as a club, and we managed to hike, scramble, climb or ski over 100 summits. I have produced a list of these achievements. Please take one if you wish (only produced 30 copies).

The best formula for a successful trip is when all the participants play an active roll. We are all responsible out there, and when the group works together, all benefit. Take the time to be aware of the other members on the trip and use common sense, the goal is a safe and enjoyable trip.

I encourage everyone who plans to go into the backcountry this winter, to take the upcoming Avalanche Awareness Course. All members, who are on a ski, snowshoe or hiking trip should be able to identify avalanche risk situations. Please practice with your safety equipment, as this equipment is only as good as it's operator.

I would like to say a special "thanks" to Bob St. J. who did an excellent job as Trips Director. Bob documented the duties of Trips Director and put in place solid procedures to help ensure the success of the club.

I would also like to thank the trip announcers who shared the duties of the Trips Director. This made a large task become a more manageable and less time consuming. So, thanks to Chris, Barbara, Dorothy-Ann, Anita and Dave.

I enjoyed the year as Trips Director, and I am pleased to announce that the new Trips Director will be Jim Powers. His supporting trip announcers will be Philip C., Dave R., Dorothy-Ann R., Greg D. and Norman A.

Allan M.

Annual Awards Dinner & Dance

On Friday October 29, fifty-nine spiffy looking Ramblers enjoyed an evening of dining, dancing and fun at the Calgary Winter Club. In keeping with the season, we had a very glamorous witch and a forbidding looking warlock in attendance. We began the evening with a little legacy passed onto us by Keith W., his Ramblers' Grace. Thank you, Keith.

Following a delicious meal, our master of ceremonies, Jim P. had the winners of the door prizes providing us with lots of entertainment as they scampered around the room claiming and forfeiting the various very generous prizes donated by the following stores: Kodiak Country, Coast Mountain Sports (Forzani Group), Abbot Pass Trading Company (Hostel Shop), Camper' Village, Spirit West, Ribtor Sales, and Mountain Equipment Co-op. Personal door prize donations were also made by two Ramblers. Thank you, Wally and Annette.

Marianne and Tom F. added their own special brand of humour to the presentation of the awards. The winners were: Ghulam J. for best or most creative hiking outfit. Karen B., the most improved hiker.

Summary Statistics

Year	Official Trips			Trip Days			Person Days			Ave Trip Participation			Ave Trip Difficulty		
1995/1996	129	37	166	147	40	187	1344	213	1557	9.7	5.4	8.7	3.3	3.2	3.3
1996/1997	121	47	168	129	50	179	1226	287	1513	9.8	5.8	8.6	3.1	3.5	3.2
1997/1998	170	32	202	198	36	234	1841	208	2049	9.9	5.8	9.2	3.3	3.8	3.4
1998/1999	163	43	206	178	52	230	1847	386	2233	10.5	7.0	9.8	3.2	3.8	3.4
1999/2000	187	53	240	223	61	284	2046	366	2412	9.8	6.1	9.0	3.3	3.4	3.3
2000/2001	183	40	223	229	58	287	2077	338	2415	9.7	5.2	8.9	3.4	3.5	3.5
2001/2002	185	54	239	240	64	304	2049	372	2421	9.6	5.9	8.8	3.6	4.0	3.7
2002/2003	223	41	264	304	52	356	2445	297	2742	9.0	5.5	8.5	3.6	3.9	3.7
2003/2004	291	68	359	330	80	410	2476	450	2926	7.8	5.8	7.4	3.7	4.0	3.8
2004/2005	16		16	26		26	181		181	8.3		8.3	3.5		3.5
Average	167	46	208	200	55	250	1753	324	2045	9.4	5.8	8.7	3.4	3.7	3.5

Renata A. for the most interesting thing said on a trip, Jim P. for the most interesting item found in a pack. He is the 'Gadget Guy.' Ken W. for the best joke told on a Ramblers' trip. Anne M. for the best sense of humour and Dorothy T. for congeniality.

Our DJ kept us hopping with the Marriane and Tom led line dancing session, and the 'limbo' provided the less athletic amongst us with more entertainment and an undisputed winner in Allan M. Everyone seemed to be in the mood for dancing, with or without a partner. Just good relaxed fun.

Thank you to the following people who all contributed to the success of the evening. Barb and Peter F., Marianne and Tom F., Anne and Tony M., Jim P., Frank S., and Bill T.

Shirley T.



Editor's Comments...

The December newsletter is designed to end the year on a short note and to set up the New Year on the right course for publishing from January through to December every two months. The dates have been changed to coincide better with future club announcements and the annual general meeting. The next deadline for publication will be **December 28**.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to our regular Packrat contributors who are Dorothy-Ann R., Carl P., Ron M., and Wally D. They always seem to come through when I am in need of an article or two. They willingly share their travel experiences and photos.

It is my hope that the New Year will inspire some new writers to the newsletter. Whether the topic is on travel, health issues, family recipes, humor or just photos, your input will be of great interest to us all and appreciated. I especially want to

Activities

Hiking, Backpacking,
Skiing, Cycling,
Climbing,
Scrambling,
Mountaineering, Education
& Awareness
Programs, Social
Functions

Meetings

Every Wednesday
evening at 7:30 p.m.

Mail

Rocky Mountain Ramblers
Association
c/o Calgary Area Outdoor
Council (CAOC)
1111 Memorial Dr NW
Calgary, AB T2N 3E4

Trip Info

282-6308 Information Line
and at Meetings

Website

The Packrat is available on
the RMRA website at
www.ramblers.ab.ca. If we
have your email address,
you will be automatically
notified that an electronic
copy of the Packrat is on
the website.

thank Maria N. for her support
and assistance with the distribu-
tion and printing of the Packrat.

As always, your thoughts, ideas
and suggestions are always
welcomed; so feel free to drop me
a line or email. Please continue to
support the newsletter as a way
of communicating and sharing
your common interest in hiking-
related issues.

Irene W.

XC Fees Eliminated...BUT

D. Reimer

On November 15, 2004,
the Hon. Gene
Zwozdesky, Minister of
Community Development,
responsible for the operation of
K Country, announced that the
planned XC ski fees are elimi-
nated.

In a subsequent meeting with
K Country (including Director
Dave Nielsen), various outdoor
club representatives with
Kananaskis Trail Users Assoc.
were told that the elimination
was "in perpetuity". From this
we infer that fees are gone for
good.

But hold your cheers! K
Country has had a flat operating
budget for the last four years and
likely for four or more years
before (the government won't
give us the figures for 1996-2001
unless we make a formal Free-
dom of Information Request – a
FOIP). Where did the money
come from for paying for this
year's ski program? No one
seemed to know.

At first, we thought the
government had loosened the
purse strings and added \$ to K
Country's budget...not so. Based

on an interview with Mr.
Zwozdesky, the Rocky Mountain
Outlook (Nov 18, 2004) claims
that "he was able to obtain the
money through an unexpectedly
high garnering of revenue from
parks facilities". In other words,
other fees have been re-directed
to ensure that seniors and the
rest of us continue to ski free.

K Country have no guarantee
that there will be continued
funding for the program which
costs up to \$300,000 annually.
What happens next year? More
locked toilets. Visitor hours cut
back again. And if you thought
there might be an improvement
in any services, think again.

The only solution is increased
and sustainable funding for all of
K Country's needs and operation
– from recreation right through
to wilderness protection. Kanan-
askis Trail Users are still plan-
ning on making a presentation to
the Calgary Caucus on this issue
in late Jan.

If you care, write a letter to
your MLA with **thanks** for *no
more ski fees*, but also **asking** for
increased, sustainable funding for K
COUNTRY.



Doreen Beryl Hislop (nee
Ogbourna) passed away Novem-
ber 18, 2004 at Foothills Hospi-
tal. She was a Rambler member
in the seventies.