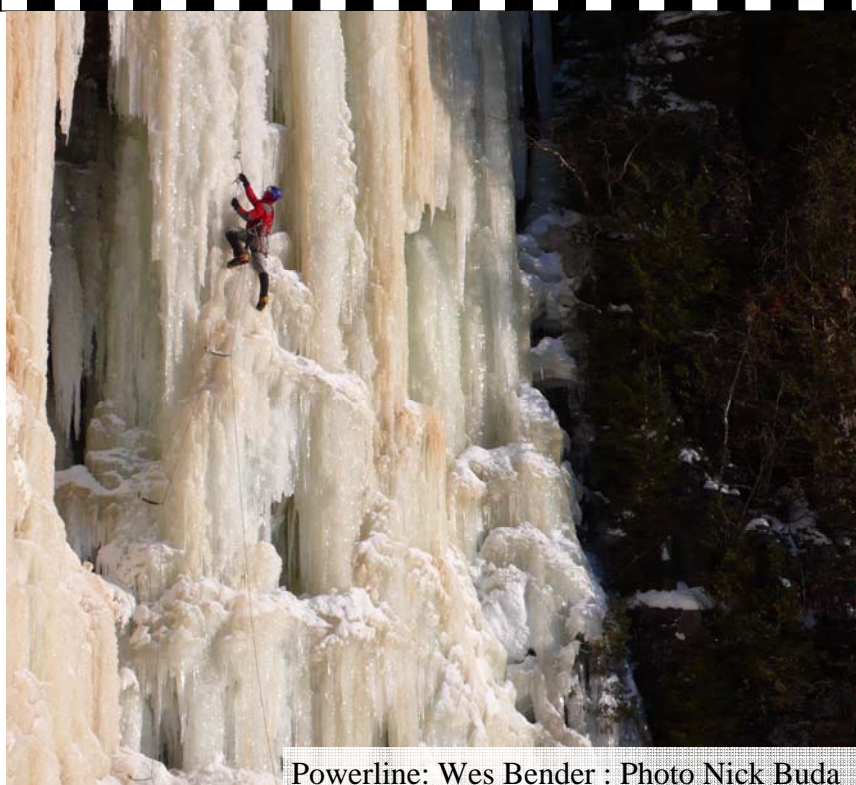




OUTCROPS

The Alpine Club of Canada ~ Thunder Bay Section

WINTER 2007



Powerline: Wes Bender : Photo Nick Buda

The Nipigon Icefest – Another Great Year!

Thanks to the efforts of Minnesotans Matt Giambrone, Scott Backes, Carolyn Hansen and numerous generous sponsors and supporters, the Nipigon Icefest was another huge success, and a personal highlight for many this winter. A major snowstorm on the day before festivities were to begin meant

a smaller crowd than usual and many late arrivals, particularly from the Midwest U.S. Technical issues also conspired to keep presenters from delivering their shows, but the wonderful social atmosphere meant nobody really noticed. In addition, this season's somewhat fickle ice conditions were cooperative for the weekend and visiting climbers enjoyed some unusual outings on classic routes, as well as the excellent

clinics and opportunities to learn from talented climbers. Friends old and new had a chance to down a few beers and some excellent grub at the Nipigon Café and other local establishments, and many have already made plans for next year which as usual promises to be even better.

- Nick Buda

Summer Section Events

Summers tend to be our slowest season because many people are on “summer time” or tripping. If you are going to be around and would like to be informed of what Section activity may be planned at the last minute, come out to the Wednesday night climbs where these plans often are generated, visit our web site for updates or call one of the regular Wednesday night volunteer leaders. The busy fall season will be here before we know it and we’ll be ready with a fall newsletter and events schedule in early September. Ideas for the fall schedule are welcome. Check our web site for event updates: www.acctbay.ca

Experience Through Knowledge and Opportunity

A Note From the Section Chair...

What a great winter! The fun ACCers had this winter is made all the more remarkable considering the poor local, and mediocre eastern, ice conditions we had this season (well, except for April when everything decided to form up after rock season started!). That many of our events were as successful as they were is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our volunteer trip leaders and others. Highlights for me included all the tired, grateful, smiling faces at our beginner's ice clinics (especially the ones with full bellies thanks to Leo's outdoor cooking skills), excellent slide-shows by Sarah Hueniken and Bryce Brown, the excellent feedback we got from Sarah's day out with our ACC women on the ice,

a successful Banff Filmfest, the Nipigon Icefest, and of course some amazing days just out climbing with fellow section members.

Thanks and kudos: The list of people to thank this winter is far too long for me to get through without forgetting someone, but I'd like to try anyway, with a sincere advance apology to anyone I might have forgotten. First of all, thanks to Frank (and Judy) for putting the whole thing together and keeping us organized. Lets not forget everyone who was out early setting up for our beginner's clinics – particularly Randy Hyvarinen, Wes Bender, Brian Bottan, Jenn Chikoski, Deb McIlwrath and Andrea Bender; and the numerous others who helped out with belays, getting folks organized at the road and arranging carpooling – especially Leo Tardif and Frank of course. Thanks to Frank and Judy for pulling off another hugely successful Banff Mountain Filmfest showing – sold out attendance again and a great fundraiser for the club, and I think one of our best film lineups in recent years. Thanks to Deb and Jenn for organizing an excellent Women's Ice Weekend, and

to our guest guide Sarah Hueniken who endured exhausting travel delays, lost baggage (two weeks!), illness and epic inconveniences to deliver one of our best slide-shows to date (FAs in Tibet) and spend an excellent day with our female members on the ice. The feedback from that day alone made my winter – we'll definitely be making that a regular event! Thanks to Bryce Brown for a first class slideshow on his ascent of Mount Everest. Thanks to Wes Bender for an excellent job maintaining our new section website throughout the winter and his time spent editing content and keeping things current. And a big thanks to Randy for his Flexible Schedule coaching of intermediate up-and-comers.



Finally, thanks to all our trip leaders and members who ran or otherwise contributed to our events and get-togethers this season – everyone who offered a belay, some one-on-one coaching time at a clinic or gave a lift to some members without cars. I'm also exceptionally proud of our executive (Frank, Judy, Randy, Wes and Leo). Everyone must've done a great job, because I got more thank-yous and positive feedback this winter than I can ever remember.

Spring Events: It's hard to be-
(Continued on page 3)

Executive Directory

Chairperson:

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Vice-Chair:

Randy Hyvarinen 768-2407
rharv@tbaytel.net

Secretary:

Leo Tardif 786-8421

*Treasurer, Section Rep &
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Frank Pianka 577-7950
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Membership:

Judy Pianka 577-7950

Newsletter Editor:

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jcoulis@hydroone.com

Visit us at:

www.acctbay.ca

Address Change?

If you are wondering why you don't get the ACC mail outs when everyone else did, consider whether you have moved and not given a change of address either to Judy, our membership chair, or to the National office in Canmore by way of the website :

www.alpineclubofcanada.ca

OUTCROPS

Greetings,

There is great news from the National Office - ACC members can now renew their memberships on-line, and new members can apply for membership on-line from start to finish - no more printing forms and faxing!

The IT department has been working very hard to get this project up and running, and the system appears to be working well. Despite the fact that this email is the first announcement of the on-line renewals and applications, we already had 12 users of the system over the weekend (9 renewals and 3 new memberships)!

Not only will this system make it easier for members to renew and for new members to join (and add additional sections to their memberships), but it will save the environment and the National Office a lot in envelopes, paper, stamps and human resources to mail out the renewal notices. All members with email addresses in our database

will receive their first renewal notice by email, and their second notice (if required) by regular mail.

A bonus feature for Sections of the on-line membership process is that we now have check-boxes for members to indicate whether they want to receive e-bulletins from their Section and/or whether they want to receive their traditional newsletters in electronic format. Positive answers will be reflected in the membership database information, which all Sections now have direct access to. (Speaking of which - if you have not yet requested log-in information for up to two other members of your Section executive, you can send your request to Nancy Hansen)

We would very much appreciate your help in spreading the word to members about keeping their contact information up-to-date in the Club's database. Please consider posting the following notice (or something like it) in your newsletters, your e-bulletins and on your

website:

Address or Email Change?

Feeling left out? Didn't get the last "(Section Newsletter name)" or "(Section e-bulletin name)"? If you have moved or changed your email address, you can update your contact information on the ACC National website at https://admin.alpineclubofcanada.ca/my_profile/

If you have any questions about the on-line membership renewals and applications, or about the membership database, please feel free to contact Nancy Hansen (nhansen@alpineclubofcanada.ca) or Sandy Walker (swalker@alpineclubofcanada.ca) at the National office.

Nancy Hansen
Special Projects Coordinator
The Alpine Club of Canada

Celebrating 100 years of Mountain Adventure

nhansen@alpineclubofcanada.ca

(Continued from page 2)

lieve the rock season is upon us, and this edition of Outcrops includes our spring events calendar. Hope to see lots of folks out this spring on our weekend events, and all the usual suspects on our Wednesday evening climbs at the Scenic Bluffs. We scarcely have this calendar filled out and I'm already getting excited about the special opportunities we're hoping to arrange for the fall events calendar - this is going to be a great year for our section, and membership with the ACC will never have been a better deal.

As always, I encourage our membership to remember that you will get as much out being a club member as you're willing to put into it. By joining the club, you did not buy a service but instead an opportunity to develop your skills, make new friends and get out climbing in some great venues. Remember, we're a volunteer-driven organization, so if you really want to see something change or happen, get involved and most importantly, speak up! The more people we have stepping up to help out with organizing and trip or event, the

Membership Renewals

The easiest way to renew your membership is to do it online at www.alpineclubofcanada.ca

more participants we can accommodate.

Intermediate Skills: Section members making the transition from beginner to intermediate climbers should pay special attention to the events calendar and be sure to come out on Wednesdays and to some of our other intermediate events to develop their self-sufficiency

(Continued on page 4)

Orient Bay... A Safer Place.

I am sure I am not the only one that thinks, "Hmm I wonder if someone will put one more sling around that tree", when they get to the top of Tempest or other popular moderate routes. This year I took it upon myself to become the OB clean up crew and replace a lot of the old TAT at the tops of over a dozen climbs. If you see a bright orange cord anchor you can rest assured it was installed in 2006/2007; but, this doesn't mean you shouldn't check it before using it. Mice will chew on new anchors! This was an out of pocket expense I was glad to foot the bill for; after all, there are only a small handful of people that use OB/Kama Bay more than me.



My work is far from complete. There are still a ton of routes that will get new anchors, but this work will continue next season. This year my focus was to retrofit every climb that either had too much crap, or old or faded anchors; as well as remove unused anchors in poor locations. There were 7 unused anchors from Grandy Mardy alone. I

know I wasn't the only person installing new anchors so thank you to ALL who are contributing to a safer descent. I encourage others to bring anchor material when they go climbing as I won't be able to get every route. A proper anchor should cost you about \$7 which includes 3 metres of webbing or 7mm cord and 2 rap rings or quick links. If you would like instruction on building a proper and safer rappel station, that included a catch loop and that will last for more than one season, then please feel free to contact me or any other club executive and we will gladly help out. And don't forget to take the old TAT home for disposal.

Wes Bender

(Continued from page 3)

skills. There are several opportunities to help you learn skills like rappelling with a back-up, belaying a leader and how to manage yourself safely on longer climbs in more adventurous settings. Remember, you do have to call us, sign up and identify yourself as wanting to learn these skills – and most importantly, show up – if you want to take advantage of these opportunities.

Final Word: I'd like to end by reminding everyone to keep safety at the forefront of their activities on and off the rock this summer. The rules of gravity are strictly enforced. And don't forget to take advantage of the ACC Bucks Back helmet program before it ends in June if you're still lacking in this important piece of safety gear! And take plenty of photos to share at our end-of-season party. Climb high, have fun and be safe.



Gomar Falls: Frank, Mike & Leo: Photos Reid Carter

Thunder Bay Rock Climbing Guidebook

New 3rd Edition The definitive guide to the crags in and around Thunder Bay, Ontario, with our very own Derrik Patola on the cover! Twenty-three crags are covered, including Pass Lake, Taj MahWall, Squaw Bay, Silver Harbour, Climber's Cliffs. Over

500 rock routes, hundreds of photos. This guide has an exclusive 24-page color photography section with the best climbing shots in the area and crag maps for easy location of routes. Approx. 180 pages, perfect bound, 6 x 9". Call Frank to get your copy today. Special discount for section members.



OUTCROPS

Top Pocket

As the spring rock season is approaching quickly (or will be upon us by the time you read this), I thought some discussion of gear might be in order. There are plenty of beginner climbers out there that are getting new racks and packs for the summer, and over the years I've found a few small but essential items can make a day out cragging more enjoyable and safer. Most of these items are relatively inexpensive, and I always have them in the top pocket of my pack:

Small First Aid Kit – I carry a small, lightweight kit in a waterproof pouch. The most useful items I find are band-aids, blister pads, ibuprofen and benadryl (check with your doc before taking or administering any drugs!), a couple of antiseptic napkins, a roll of tape, tweezers, a tensor and a pair of medical gloves.

Small garbage bag – to clean up after others or to pick up garbage found at the crag or hiking trails on the way out. A climber would never litter right?

A tiny LED headlamp – There are several models on the market now, some less than an ounce, and most bright enough for the

Project Peregrine

If you are really keen on helping out or just learning more about PP, our twelfth year in the project, let me know by mid June. I will draw up a list of available crew and try to call you as we work out the banding schedule and site requirements. These out-

evening bouldering session.

Ziploc bag or waterproof pouch – to protect the cell phone and digicam when it starts raining unexpectedly.

Small pocketknife or multi-tool – for repairs or cutting cord/webbing.

Toilet kit – half roll toilet paper, hand sanitizer gel (to avoid contaminating the gorp bag for everyone), tiny plastic trowel (to bury your business away from the crag), all in a small Ziploc bag.

Spare lip balm and small tube sunblock – I burn easily and always forget them.

Emergency calories – I keep a couple energy gels there for that last little boost on the redpoint, or for days when I leave in a mad rush and forget my lunch.

Sunglasses – I've had many a day ruined from headaches on sunny sandstone.

A small compass – just in case you get lost on the bushwack out in the dark.

A loud whistle – a great way to get someone's attention if you need help.

Keychain thermometer – I love knowing how nasty the heat or cold really is (isn't)!

A thick roll of athletic tape – multiple uses, including taping

ings are not climbing trips, but more like working on construction projects -slow, with team safety first, and lots of sweat. Call or email me if you have any questions about how you can get involved.

Frank Pianka, 577-7950.
fpianka@hotmail.com

Canmore: Deb, Barry and Gloria



your hands if your crack technique is as bad as mine!

A small amount of cash and some change to pay for gas on the ride home or to buy a treat afterwards...or make an emergency phone call.

Helmet – I clip mine to the top pocket of my pack so it's easy to get at and I can put it on as soon as I walk into the base of the cliff.

All said, the above list still leaves room to spare in the pocket for a camera or lunch, and only weighs a pound or two.

- Nick Buda



Top 5 Ways to Get the Most Out of Your ACC Membership

Keep your address up to date and your membership paid up and current. This is all easy to do online at www.alpineclubofcanada.ca, and then you won't miss out on events and opportunities, or newsletter mailings.

Check the section website www.acctbay.ca regularly for changes to the events calendar, special events notices (we've had several this winter), and important news that we can't get out in our 3 outcrops issues a year.

Contribute to the days events – put others before yourself, keep safety at the forefront of your mind, offer a belay, help with a harness, help setup/tear down, carry group gear, take a couple nice photos of a fellow ACCer, smile lots, offer to drive or help pay for gas and thank your trip leaders.

Call as early as possible to sign up for an event with limited spots, and definitely NO later than the Wednesday before a scheduled weekend event. Phone the Events Coordinator or listed trip leader and double check that you are indeed signed

up for sure in the "black book". A brief mention of interest in passing will be forgotten. If an event is full, respect the trip leader and those who called in quick enough and don't give them an earful on the phone. If you don't think we have enough room for participants, learn how to get involved as a trip leader so we can accommodate larger groups!

Keep safety at the top of your concerns on club outings, for yourself and your fellow members.

- Nick Buda



Cascade: Jenn Chikoski: Photo Nick Buda