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VOCene #8 - September 22, 2004

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Back-To-School Mania is winding down and now the Term 1 (a.k.a. The Paper/Midterm/Assignment/Project) Grind begins! But fear not, the VOC offers some escape....

We have a new VOC President, Matt Brown. Matt has a wealth of outdoor experience climbing, hiking, skiing and cycling. All hail El Nuevo Presidente and his glorious new regime!

Now down to business.

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UPCOMING TRIPS:  
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LONGHIKE 2004

The annual Longhike (aka Rock Climbing School) takes place this weekend, September 25-26. Climbing will be during the day in and around Squamish, followed by the obligatory apres-climb party in the evening at the Coast Mountain Outdoor centre near Pemberton. There will be 3 levels of instruction:

Rock 1 - Beginner

- an intro to climbing if you're a novice and never climbed before

Rock 2 - Intermediate

- you know the basics, and want to learn anchor building and more advanced climbing skills

Rock 3 - Advanced

- you're a solid climber, with extensive seconding experience, and want to learn lead climbing

NOTE: If you can instruct at Longhike, please email [matthew@brown.com](mailto:matthew@brown.com) ASAP saying what level you can teach. (Word has it that there are perks to being an instructor!)

Tickets for this event are \$30 and are on sale until Wednesday (selling fast!). A MANDATORY Dryschool meeting will be held on Wednesday Sept 22 at 6:30 PM in Woodward Lecture Hall 1 (near Woodward Library).

The meeting will address the following and more:

- more info on the different Rock levels above
- organizing you into each Rock level
- arrange carpool sign-ups for the car-less
- distributing club gear (harnesses, shoes, etc)
- where to meet Saturday morning (8AM at Murrin Park parking lot, which is the small park by the lake on the left side of Highway 99, just before Squamish)
- how to get to the apres-climb party at Pemberton
- any other questions you have

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CLUB NEWS  
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GEAR RETURNS

Ok by now you're tired of hearing it and we're tired of saying it. We are still missing two climbing ropes from Glacier School a couple weeks ago. BRING THEM BACK. We need these for Longhike this weekend. So do the right thing and get your rental deposit back.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Your 2003-04 membership expires at the end of September. This means no more VOCene, no more access to the message board, no more gear rentals - you will basically be excommunicated from the outdoors scene. To avoid this untenable situation, swing by the VOC booth during Clubs Days this week or drop down to our fairly spiffy new Clubroom in the SUB's basement during lunchtime to renew your membership. You'll be glad you did.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SLIDESHOWS

Gone on a killer trip and want to play show and tell? Please contact Sarah , if you'd like to give a slideshow. Slideshows happen on Wednesday nights at 7pm on the \*new\* screen in the VOC clubroom, followed by alcoholic libations at The Gallery.

On a related note, a slideshow about climbing Shjingu Charpa's North Ridge in Pakistan is showing later this month - see the attached jpeg for details.

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TRIP REPORTS  
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Garibaldi Lake overnight trip - Sept 18-19  
By Roland Burton

So we got two carloads for Garibaldi. There was the Trooper with Roland, Carla, and the Rugrats, and there was Mike and the Young Ladies. Saturday was moist, with a little rain and the occasional wet

snowflake, as we hauled our overnight packs up to Garibaldi Lake. Saturday night it froze and Sunday we had blue sky and fresh snow on the peaks. We set off to climb Price, the volcano just south of the lake, but what with an excess of photography, ice on the rocks, and six inches of snow near the top, we only had time to get up one of the three summits (not the highest). But the pictures turned out well. Note to the Young Ladies from Ontario, one sleeping bag for two is a little skimpy, and you should try and get some sleeping mats, and some fleece clothes (second hand is ok), and next trip you should bring some food instead of canned soup, raw potatoes and vegetarian wieners. We did have a good time, apparently.

Wedgemount Lake - Sept 18-20  
By Janez Ales

Natasha, Marion, Matthieu, and I ended up in the magic snowy country on Saturday afternoon. M&M were asleep all day, since they were playing cards all night...

The hut was full with four dudes who were nice enough that they dissapeared and set up their tents, while we took over the cabin (note: we did not bother with tents, because one can always squeeze 4 more into the hut...)

Sunday was a great experience, especially for Natasha, for whom this was the first time on the frozen river. We went as far as we dared to and then I chickened out, due to a nice easy to moderate shear 25 cm down on a perfect slope, up to 2 feet of snow on the flat section of the ridge, a lot of surface hoar -> no wind, meaning that the ridge ahead had plenty of snow to take us down... Even so it was a good day and we will be back when the routes are frozen.

Dinner (I am biased, because I was the cook) and wine (Gato Negro!!!) were excellent...

We were enjoying our Wedgemount Chalet so much we actually stayed there on Sunday night also.

On the way down Natasha posted world's fastest time, next time she gets more group gear :)

The gourment eating continued on the way through Squamish, where we were feasting on chicken shnitzels deluxe... and we got Nanaimo bars on the house!

;~J

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POINTS OF INTEREST  
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STAWAMUS CHIEF GONDOLA PROPOSAL

Did you know that there are plans for building a gondola up the Chief in? Read the following snippet from the CLIMBERS' ACCESS SOCIETY OF B.C. and voice your opinion on this controversial issue!

## Stawamus Chief Gondola Proposal

A proposal has been made to build a tourist gondola and associated facilities on the Stawamus Chief. The gondola would start at the gravel pit between the Chief and Shannon Falls, and end in an enclosed area on the second summit. The gondola is contrary to the 1997 master plan for Stawamus Chief Provincial Park, although the plan can be over-ridden if there is sufficient public or political support.

This issue has been extensively covered in the media. National and international climbers' organizations have become involved. Squamish climbing legends Ed Cooper and Fred Beckey, and many others, have written to oppose it. A lot has happened, and the Access Society and others have been working hard, but it will take much time and effort before this is resolved. Contact [squamish\(at\)access-society.ca](mailto:squamish(at)access-society.ca) for copies of earlier broadcast e-mails about the gondola.

The Access Society's position is that a tourist gondola may be appropriate somewhere in the Squamish area, after proper planning and public debate. Stawamus Chief Provincial Park is not an appropriate location for any gondola. Our concerns include visual impacts, conflicts with the many existing users (climbers, hikers, viewers), symbolism, impact on Squamish's image in the international climbing community, and the precedent for development in other parks.

The Access Society encourages all with an interest in the proposed gondola to:

1. Learn more about it.
2. Write to the provincial government to express your views, as soon as possible.
3. Attend the meeting of Squamish Council on September 28th, where the proponents will present their plans.
4. Participate in other ways in the debate.

Please write to:

Bill Barisoff, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection  
P.O. Box 9047, St'n. Prov. Gov't.  
Victoria, B.C.  
Canada V8W 9E2  
(250) 387-1187, or [WLAP.Minister@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:WLAP.Minister@gems9.gov.bc.ca)

Gordon Campbell, Premier  
P.O. Box 9041, St'n. Prov. Gov't.  
Victoria, B.C.  
Canada V8W 9E1  
Phone (250) 387-1715, or [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Ian Sutherland, Mayor  
District of Squamish  
P.O. Box 310  
Squamish, B.C.  
Canada V0N 3G0  
Phone 1-877-892-5217, or [isutherland@squamish.ca](mailto:isutherland@squamish.ca)

Letters should be to Mr. Barisoff, with copies to the premier, the mayor of Squamish, and the Access Society ([squamish\(at\)access-society.ca](mailto:squamish(at)access-society.ca)). A written letter counts for much more

than an e-mail, and an e-mail for much more than a phone call. Be polite, constructive, and clear. You can also write letters to the editor:

Vancouver Sun [sunletters@png.canwest.com](mailto:sunletters@png.canwest.com)  
Squamish Chief [sqchief@uniserve.com](mailto:sqchief@uniserve.com)  
Vancouver Province [provletters@png.canwest.com](mailto:provletters@png.canwest.com)

The gondola proponents must first consult with "key stakeholders" - the District of Squamish, the Squamish First Nation, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Vancouver Olympics Organizing Committee. (The climbing/hiking community is not considered a key stakeholder, but the Olympic committee is, although the gondola seems to have little to do with the Olympics.) If these consultations indicate that an amendment to the park plan should be considered, broad consultation with the community will follow. Those consultations would have to be "open and transparent". The government says "If those consultations demonstrate broad community support for a continuation of the park's management plan to restrict mechanized access on the Chief, then we would reflect those wishes".

The proponents will present their plans to Squamish Council on Tuesday September 28th. The meeting is usually at 7:00 PM at council chambers at the municipal hall at 37955 - 2nd Avenue, in downtown Squamish ([www.squamish.ca](http://www.squamish.ca), or (604) 892-5217), and is open to the public. The meeting may be moved to a larger location, TBA. There may be an opportunity for those attending the meeting to make presentations. The Access Society urges everyone interested to be there. (Please car pool, and be on time - it is a business meeting.) If you plan to attend, please let us and the District know. We hope to publicize the meeting location, and whether the public will be able to speak, beforehand. It is possible that Council will simply vote against the gondola proposal on the 28 th, but that wouldn't necessarily mean the end of it.

The Friends of the Chief website will soon be operational, at [www.friendsofthechief.ca](http://www.friendsofthechief.ca). It will include information about the proposal and its impacts, FAQs and myths about the proposal, responses to the claims on the proponent's website, and information about how to get involved.

The proponent's website is at [www.stawamuschiefgondola.com](http://www.stawamuschiefgondola.com). Many of the claims on it are debatable. The website includes an on-line feedback form. Its format seems less than neutral, but it may be worth filling it out anyway. Please print the form, complete it, and mail it to:

Stawamus Chief Management Plan Process  
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection  
Lower Mainland Region  
10470 - 152nd Street  
Surrey, B.C.  
Canada V3R 0Y3

This takes a bit more effort, but may be more secure, and ensures that the form is received by a neutral party. It also allows you to fill in

the feedback form as you wish - feel free to add comments, questions and criticisms. Keep a copy of your form, and send one to the Access Society. If you do send the feedback form electronically, we suggest that you save it, and send a copy to the Access Society by mail or to [squamish\(at\)access-society.ca](mailto:squamish(at)access-society.ca).

There may be other ways to participate in the gondola debate, including open houses and forums, later this autumn. We'll provide updates as and when we can, on the website and by e-mail. The Access Society's letter to the government about the gondola will be on the updated website.

#### Feedback Form Privacy Issue

The feedback form includes an inconspicuous but important sub-form, a link from "read our privacy statement". It isn't on the form itself, but says:

"All feedback submitted becomes the property of Stawamus Chief Gondola Ltd. and the Government of British Columbia (Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection). By submitting feedback, you are granting your permission to use your feedback from the website in any manner. By submitting your feedback, you are also granting Stawamus Chief Gondola Ltd. the right to use any information that you supply for demographic purposes. However, your contact information is kept strictly confidential and it won't be sold, rented or used by anyone other than Stawamus Chief Gondola Ltd. & the Government of British Columbia (Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection). By choosing to be informed about updates you are granting Stawamus Chief Gondola Ltd. permission to email you in this manner and/or to notify you of possible problems with your entry or other contact that Stawamus Chief Gondola Ltd. deems necessary at our discretion."

Your personal information can only be used in ways you consent to. If you submit the feedback form electronically, you are taken to have consented to the privacy statement. There's no way to modify it, or the feedback form. If you don't agree with any part of the privacy statement, or don't want to be bound by the design of the form, print them both out, complete the form, and mail them in together. Cross out and initial the parts of the privacy statement you don't consent to.

Interested in developing leadership qualities? The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) offers a weekend course on outdoor leadership and communication:

#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND

Oct. 23-24, 2004

If you are interested in developing your leadership skills, whether as a trip leader or participant, this will be a great workshop weekend for you.

Highlights include: a leadership assessment tool where you will learn more about your leadership style and identify areas that can be improved; role-playing to practice decision making and communication in tough situations while on a hike; and an opportunity to meet other club members, learn, and have fun--all at the same time!

Cost: for ACC members: \$25.00; for non-ACC members: \$30.00; for Varsity Outdoor Club members: \$20.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. To register, contact Zoran Vasic at 604-438-9066; email: zvasic@telus.net, before Monday, Oct. 18.

If you call, please leave your email address with Zoran, as we will be contacting you ahead of the weekend by email with materials for the workshop.

The workshop will be held at a learning facility in the North Shore mountains; you can find out more when you register. Space is limited, so sign up early!

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UBC Varsity Outdoor Club  
Room 29A, Student Union Building  
<http://www.ubc-voc.com>

[Click here to delete this document](#)

**(This is no joke, no wimpy confirmation screens will appear, so don't mess around)**

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**Varsity Outdoor Club**