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VOCene #19 - Dec 20, 2006

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I. Letter From the Editor

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Enjoy the huge amounts of wonderful snow, but make sure to be avalanche aware and at the very least, check ([www.avalanche.ca/default.aspx?DN=5,4,558,3,Documents](http://www.avalanche.ca/default.aspx?DN=5,4,558,3,Documents)) for avi forecasts.

II. News

-The public parking lot at Braesyde has been closed permanently, effective November 1st 2006. This effectively makes Skaha closed unless one trespasses or parks illegally. It has been agreed that the Land Conservancy of British Columbia will be leading representation on this issue, with backing from the climbing community. There is more information at [www.skaha.org](http://www.skaha.org) if you wish to look into this further. Whatever happens, planning and implementing any solution will require substantial resources. It seems likely that property will be purchased, or at least a right-of-way. Things that you can do are become a member of the TLC ([www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca)) or Access society (<http://access-society.ca/>), help the TLC fund-raise, ask Santa for access to Skaha for Christmas, or help in other ways such as letter writing (the city of Penticton is a stake holder in this discussion).

-The executive will start doing some work again next year. The new year is going to be busy, so expect January and February to be full of events; at least one trip a weekend. If you want information on what is happening in the New Year, too bad. Organization will be done, but maybe just a little later than usual. Most trips and dates are on the Wiki, the pages will be filled in when there is something to fill them in with.

III. Upcoming Trips

1) Phelix Hut

When: Dec Dec 29-Jan 1

Where: Phelix Creek

Wiki: [http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Phelix\\_Hut\\_New\\_Years](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Phelix_Hut_New_Years)

An intermediate trip to a great back country ski area with great terrain.

Avalanche awareness is required.

## 2) Snowdomia

When: Dec 28-Jan 1

Where: Joffre Lakes

Wiki: <http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=20381&t=20381>

An annual snow camping New Years Party. We blaze a trail into a snow covered back country area and proceed to build a snow village. We use shovels and snow saws to build a large communal snow party room and whatever else we may need. In past years we have built sun decks, igloos, kitchens, walls and statues. We camp in tents and spend the days and nights hiking, building and having fun.

## 3) Avalanche Course

When: Jan 27-28

Where: Usually two nights in a class room, one day on the North Shore and one day at Whistler

Wiki: [http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Avalanche\\_course](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Avalanche_course)

The sign-up deadline is January 12th, so hurry in to sign up. This is a great deal on an commercial course and should be considered a prerequisite for back-country travel in winter conditions.

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Quote of the Week: "I'd just reiterate our needing to be open-minded, not caught up in rules. Ski on whatever kind of gear you want, make whatever kind of turn you want. That's the freedom in free-heel skiing."

Paul Parker

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CONTRIBUTIONS to the VOCene are welcome. Please send all inquires or additions to: [vocene@ubc-voc.com](mailto:vocene@ubc-voc.com).

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

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**Varsity Outdoor Club**