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VOCene #28 - November 21, 2007

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I. Trip Reports

1) First trip to the Harrison Hut in years!

Pete Hudson and crew made their way to the Harrison Hut two weekends ago. As far as I know this is the first self-propelled VOC trip to the hut since 2003 when the bridge over Meagher Creek washed out (is was just recently rebuilt).

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=903&t=903>

2) Red Heather skiing

A bunch of VOCers went skiing at Red Heather on the weekend. Seems like a lot of people got in some good early season skiing. Looks like the snow is deep enough now!

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=852&t=852>

3) Waddington Hut flagging

Christian Veenstra and his entourage set off to Phelix Creek to move the flags up higher in the trees on the new trail to the Brian Waddington Hut (so they wouldn't be buried by snow). Some pictures are available of their hard labour:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=895&t=895>

http://www.ubc-voc.com/gallery/v/scott_nelson/phelix_nov_2007/

Also, Jeff Mottershead headed up independently and helped rescue a random guy who was stuck in the snow on the logging road after it dumped while he was up at the hut. Thanks to Jeff for building the VOC's good reputation. Apparently he convinced the guy to join the club too.

II. Upcoming Events and Trips

1) Slide show, TONIGHT, Nov. 21

Come and check out Pete Hudson slideshow on ski touring and climbing in the St. Elias Range. The St. Elias Mountains are the highest peaks in Canada and are massively glaciated and contains the largest non-polar icecaps on earth. If you've ever dreamed of climbing Mount Logan, Mount Vancouver, or any of those other big peaks, this is worth checking out! I hear Pete is looking for a partner to go back to the St Elias range too.

Same place, same time, 7pm VOC Clubroom.

2) Brew Hut trip, Nov. 24-25

This trip is full. There is a trip meeting tonight (Nov. 21) at 5:30pm in the clubroom for participants. There will be lots more trips to the Brew Hut, so don't worry if you missed out this time...

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=543&t=543>

http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Brew_Hut_Nov_24_2007

3) Winter Social, Nov. 28

The VOC Winter Social next Wednesday in SUB 215 from 6-10pm. It will be a pot luck event. Email 1 or 2 of your best recent photos to Richard So (richieso@gmail.com) for the entertainment. Spectacular skiing bails encouraged.

4) 3rd Annual Jared Stanley Mountain Safety Lecture, Nov. 29

The 3rd annual mountain safety lecture is happening on Nov 29, 5:30-7:30pm, in Geography RM 100. Looks like its featuring Curtis Jones from North Shore rescue, with a short ski film.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=32800&t=32800>

<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/events/MountSafe.pdf>

5) Snowshoe Abomination, Dec. 14-16

Jeff Mottershead will be leading a group of snowshoeing VOC hooligans up to Golden Ears. This trip doesn't assume any experience, but does require that you're in somewhat decent shape. The path gains 1500m in potentially deep snow over 12 km. Avalanche gear (shovel, probe, transciever) is required. There will be a pre-trip meeting at 7:00pm in the club room on Tuesday, December 12.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=666&t=666>

http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Snowshoe_Abomination_2007-Golden_Ears

6) Avalanche Course, Jan. 19-20

The VOC is organizing a Avalanche Skills Training (Level 1) course through Canada West Mountain School in the new year. This is an excellent course to take in order to learn about avalanches and how to avoid them in the backcountry. More info:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=720&t=720>

http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Avalanche_course_2008

III. FMCBC Update

A monthly update from Natalie Stafl, your Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia representative:

I guess you'll be asking WTF is the Federation and why do I need representation? (I might phrase it differently but this is the VOC, not Natalie talking here)

For one thing, if you are reading this you are a probably member of the Varsity Outdoor Club, and presumably a backcountry user (a bit presumptuous in some cases I know but for now let it stand). As a user of trails/ bushwhacks on crown land you have certain interests on how the lands are managed. (eg. you would notice and possibly care if you were denied access due to clear-cutting activities or if there was a big conflict between individual backcountry users and commercial recreation operations). This is where I and the Fed come in. It is our job to relay and communicate your interests to government to see to it that they understand what we would like to see. Not everyone has time to write or draft a letter so, myself and the other members of the Recreation and Conservation committee (of the FMCBC) meet on a monthly basis to identify action issues and devise a strategy to effectively convey our position to the government.

We are currently working on avoiding user conflict by keeping Phelix creek a non-motorized zone. (see thread on message board...) Please come by the clubroom and add your name to the petition. It'll only take a minute and hopefully your signature will contribute to keeping our trips to the Brian Waddington Hut dominated by mulled wine and songbooks, and not arguments with motorized users

IV. ACC Memberships

The VOC has an agreement with the ACC (Alpine Club of Canada) that allows student members to get a free ACC membership for the year. You may have noticed a checkbox on the membership form where you could choose whether or not you wanted this. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, the choice you made on the form has not been incorporated into the database. The current default is for all student members to get the free membership, but this means that we have to send your name and address to the ACC. If you don't want this to happen, please go to the VOC website, click on "Edit Account," log in, click on "Update your contact information," and uncheck the ACC membership box.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the VOCene are welcome. Please send all inquiries or additions to: vocene@ubc-voc.com. To unsubscribe from the VOCene mailing list, sign in at <http://www.ubc-voc.com/member/update.php> and uncheck the 'want VOCene' box

UBC Varsity Outdoor Club
<http://www.ubc-voc.com>

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