

Document type : **vocene**
Date : **2007-11-29**
Description : **VOCene #29**
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VOCene #29 - November 29, 2007

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...better late than never!

I. Trip Reports

1) Brew Hut

The Brew Epic was... not epic!

For the first time in recorded history it was not a white out at the Brew Hut! Everyone made it to the hut, went skiing, and even made it back down! There was apparently some sick pow too.

You can find photographic evidence in the message board thread:
<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=543&t=543>

2) Marriott Basin

Bram sends this report:

Thomas, Lara and I went up to the Wendy Thompson hut (Marriot Basin, off the Duffey Lake Road) last weekend. Great weather on both days, but especially on Sunday.

Easy skin up the snow covered FSR (~30cm of snow at the start), not much more snow in the forest. Some trailbreaking after the Rohr/Marriot Basin junction.

Snow cover is fairly marginal around the hut. We did some skiing off the small bump on the W of the hut (a bowl with some wind deposits), but still experienced the occasional scraping noise...

Sunday Thomas and I went up to the slope towards the SW (pass @ 7200ft), which had more than enough snow to ski (again wind deposited; all other aspects looked really marginal, if not impossible, to ski). Great views from a sea of clouds below us, and blue skies above. Lara decided to spent some quality time trying to finish a 50,000 word novel (during the national novel writing month), and got

5,000 words closer towards the month-end goal.

After some lunch at the hut we skied down, trying to avoid all the trees, bushes, logs and other (partly hidden) obstacles.

Could use some more snow ;-)

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=33224&t=33224>

3) Cloudburst

This from Alexander Rauscher:

My friend Hugh and I met at 7 am to ski Cloudburst Mountain north of Squamish. We drove the Chance Creek Forest Service Road which leads into the valley north of Cloudburst (taking the right branch at an intersection marked by an orange rock) up to ~ 550 m and parked the car where some old logging road branches to the left. After a few hundred m the road becomes a bit overgrown but still skiable. After 15 min to the right, over a clear cut and again keeping right into the forest. Somehow we made it through the forest without any problems (except that I lost my jacket and had to walk back 10 minutes). We chose to skin up to the ridge on the right instead of into the steep bowl straight ahead of us. On the ridge there were some windslab and small unstable zones on exposed slopes. The last ten minutes to the summit are straight forward. There are large cornices on the right, which should be kept in mind during bad visibility. It took us 4 hours to the summit. We had perfect weather, snow was good on the upper half of the hill, but another metre would have allowed for great skiing in the lower regions.

Some photos are here: <http://www.physics.ubc.ca/~rauscher/cloudburst20071122/>
<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=33143&t=33143>

II. Upcoming Events and Trips

1) 3rd Annual Jared Stanley Mountain Safety Lecture, TONIGHT Nov. 29

The 3rd annual mountain safety lecture is happening on Nov 29, 5:30-7:30pm, in Geography RM 100. Looks like it's 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>

2) Skiing this weekend, Dec. 1,2

Despite some plans changing around a lot, it appears that some people will be going skiing this weekend. There seems to be a group planning to go to Manning Park, and a different trip to Sproatt in the works. Keep your eye on the message board if you are interested:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=1168&t=1168>

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=1210&t=1210>

3) Waddington Hut Trip, Dec. 9-14ish

A bunch of people are going to be hanging out between exams at the hut. Check out the board and wiki page. Note that the ski into and out of the hut can be a little tricky. Combined with the lack of very easy terrain at the hut, this might not be the best trip for total beginners.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=1226&t=1226>

http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Waddington_Hut_Dec_9_2007

4) 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, transceiver) 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

5) 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

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