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VOCene #32 📧 December 15th, 2010

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I. Special announcements:

- 1) Message from your Journal Editor (once more)

Wow, time is flying by! And yet, another fun and adventurous year is coming to its end. I had an awesome summer and a great beginning of the winter and I hope you had so too! Many adventures, not only outdoors, but also to get to know many of you. Adventures we have in common, adventures we share, and we may want to share in our annual journal.

The journal will be published at the end of February. Everyone interested in writing an article should do so in the next few weeks. If you could submit something before Christmas, that would be awesome. If you would like to add illustrations to your article or you are good at illustrating, let me know.

Please check the wiki (<http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/VOCJ53>) for guidelines, ideas, and "deadlines". If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me at [journal@ubc-voc.com](mailto:journal@ubc-voc.com). I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Good luck with the

exams, Happy Holidays and a great new year!

Cheers,  
Kathrin

## 2) VOC T-Shirts on sale!

The VOC t-shirts have arrived and are now on sale! The t-shirts are 100% cotton and were printed by American Apparel, so they are high quality. This is a great Christmas present for your friends and family, or a way of showing your pride in being a member of the coolest club at UBC. The price is \$17 for a shirt (exact change only) or \$20 for a shirt + Voile strap (see above). The t-shirts are on sale by exec members - lunch time is a good time to drop by.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=51097&t=51097>

## 3) VOC Voile straps on sale!

Yes, Voile has made us a special, limited edition, of their popular "Voile Straps", with the VOC logo printed on them! These straps are invaluable in many situations. Just this weekend our beloved Public Relations guy, Ignacio, broke a binding while out backcountry skiing. The fix? Two long Voile straps to lash his boot to the ski, and he managed to ski out. They have been used in the past for to tie skis together, tie skis to roof racks, hold broken skis together, make a sled, and much more! They are one hell of a useful item. We have three sizes, and prices are lower than MEC! The VOC straps will be on sale during normal gear hours, get them while they last!

## 4) Call for instructors: Tele School

We are looking for instructors for Tele School 2011 on Saturday January 15. Instructors get a free lift ticket and will teach a group of about 3-5 students the ways of the free heel. Please sign up on the wiki with what levels you would be comfortable teaching. The more instructors we get, the more keen students we can have.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16749&t=16749>

[http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Tele\\_School\\_2011](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Tele_School_2011)

## II. Upcoming Events and Trips

### 1) Ski movie: Claim or Push, Dec 15 (Wed, Today!)

An evening of ski porn! There's no slideshow tonight, so instead, Phil is going to be showing a ski movie, probably either Claim or Push. The movie will start rolling at the usual 7pm slideshow start time. There's a strong possibility that we'll end up at The Gallery afterward, as usual...

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=51016&t=51016>

### 2) Beginner Friendly Black Tusk Meadows, Dec 18-19

Black Tusk is a really cool looking mountain with some great meadows around it to ski. I like to ski. Let's go skiing! This is a beginner friendly trip, though it will be 'strenuous', particularly if you want to get some actual skiing done. The game plan is to drive to the Rubble Creek parking lot, then head up to either the

Taylor Meadows, or the Black Tusk Meadows (preferable) depending on how we're feeling. Days are short so we'll probably just get up and make camp Saturday and then do a couple of laps Sunday morning before heading down.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16667&t=16667>

[http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Dec\\_2010\\_Black\\_Tusk\\_Meadows](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Dec_2010_Black_Tusk_Meadows)

### 3) Russet Lake Ski (or Snowshoe?) Trip, Dec 18-20

This is a somewhat mellow three day ski trip up to Russett Lake in Whistler. Plan is to ski the 15km up to the hut via the Singing Pass trail, spend a day skiing some easy stuff around Whirlwind Peak, and then head home via the Musical Bumps, or back down the Singing Pass trail if things get tricky. Hopefully there will be room in the hut, but be prepared to tent.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16601&t=16601>

[http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Russett\\_Lake\\_Ski\\_Trip](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Russett_Lake_Ski_Trip)

### 4) Random ski/trip partners (various)

With the holidays upon us, this is a great time of year to do some skiing or in general spend some time in the mountains. If you have a destination and date in mind, you can post on the Trips Board and try and attract some partners, or you could hook up with one of the people who have posted lately:

Nick C. is going to Red Heather on Sat the 18th and Callaghan (for XC skiing) on the 19th and has two spots:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16804&t=16804>

Stephen L. is looking for partners between the 17/12 and the 3/1 for some snowshoeing and snowboarding:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16799&t=16799>

Lucy S. wants to do some skiing 14-16/12:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16748&t=16748>

Alexis G. is looking for ski partners near Whistler, 20-25/12:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16696&t=16696>

Claire H. is looking for midweek partners for various mountain sports:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16560&t=16560>

Colin F. is heading to the Splitboard Festival in Rogers Pass, 22-23/1:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16785&t=16785>

If you are looking for a ride or can give a ride to Whistler, please post here:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16740&t=16740>

### 5) Annual Brian Waddington New Year Trip, Dec 27-Jan 3

In what has now become an annual tradition, many VOCers head to the Brian Waddington Hut (aka Phelix Creek) to celebrate the New Year and shred the local gnar. It is one of the most beautiful VOC huts, and can hold the most amount of people, making for a pretty awesome New Years party. The hut can comfortably fit 24, and more if needed. You can stay for as little or as long as you want, everyone is welcome to come and go as they please. Please note that this is not a

guided/instructional trip, but more of a gathering of like minded powder hounds. However, if you've never been to the hut before, you'll most likely find someone willing to show you the way.

[http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Annual\\_Brian\\_Waddington\\_new\\_year\\_trip](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Annual_Brian_Waddington_new_year_trip)

#### 6) Winter Longhike, Jan 8-9 (Sat-Sun)

Everything is different when you go into the backcountry in the winter; that's why there is Winter Longhike, an introductory trip for winter camping. This is usually a big trip with lots of keen people aboard who want to get out, learn some new skills, and sleep in their very own snow shelter while still managing to have fun too. It's an easy, beginner friendly trip, so if you've never even seen snow before you can still have a good time. Other fun activities that often happen at Winter Longhike are a cooking competition, sing alongs, costume competitions, and the occasional great ski run on Sunday.

[http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Winter\\_Longhike\\_2011](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Winter_Longhike_2011)

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=16143&t=16143>

### III. Miscellaneous

#### 1) Avalanche course signup

Don't want to get hit by an avalanche this winter? Well, the easiest thing would be to stay in the city... but if you want to keep going on out into the mountains then taking an avalanche course would be a good start. Soon there will be meters of snow covering our favorite playground, and these courses give you the basic knowledge you need to start becoming aware of the special hazards so much snow poses - that way you can actually make decisions. Information on specific dates/prices is posted on the wiki, so find a date which works for you and pay as soon as possible - payment is the only way to secure your spot, and these courses fill up quickly.

[http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/2010\\_2011\\_Avalanche\\_Courses](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/2010_2011_Avalanche_Courses)

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=3&i=15889&t=15889>

#### 2) Rewards and incentives for trip organizers

In an effort to reward our dedicated members who spend time teaching and leading our beginner members on some of the most fun trips to some of the most beautiful places in BC, we have developed a partnership with ProMotive.com to offer discounts on backcountry brands. These discounts are open to members who we call VOC Trip Organizers. You may be thinking to yourself, "I have led trips for the VOC! Am I a VOC Trip Organizer?" Or "how do I lead trips for the VOC to become a VOC Trip Organizer?" Well, in order to answer these questions, the exec has come up with a handy check list to determine if trips you have already led qualify you as a VOC Trip Organizer, or how help you lead your first trips to qualify you as a VOC Trip Organizer. See more info in the links below.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=49623&t=49623>

[http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Discounts\\_for\\_VOC\\_Trip\\_Organizers](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Discounts_for_VOC_Trip_Organizers)

#### 3) Looking for slideshow presenters

Every year we hold weekly slideshows at the clubroom (and sometimes in bigger

rooms if it gets crowded). We're looking for people to talk about cool trips and adventures they've been involved in, basically show us your cool pictures and tell us about all the cool/hardcore stuff involved. After the slideshows we usually go for a beer at the Gallery upstairs.

Email Ignacio at [rozada@math.ubc.ca](mailto:rozada@math.ubc.ca) if you want to give a slideshow. The format is very flexible and we've had a few instructional seminars too (how to build a harness, how to pack super light). We might even show some of the movies in our library, especially since we now have a new fancy projector, and a freshly painted wall (coming very soon).

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=49186&t=49186>

#### 4) Public consultation: Upper Lillooet run of river

Creek Power a combination of one of the few private companies working on run of river hydro in this province has started the Environmental Assessment Process with the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). Details on the project can be found here. There is an open house in Pemberton on November 30. Public comments can be submitted until Jan 9 and details can be found in the open house ad. This area is frequented by many members and as such folks may have comments. Note that this assessment is meant to address the environmental, recreational and other commercial impacts and not the bigger elephant in the room (selling public resources for private profit). See also Vancouver Sun story.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=50663&t=50663>

#### 5) Help needed with new songbook proofing

The VOC has a long history of singing, especially in our beloved huts. But alas, the current songbook needs a makeover. There is a new version which is almost complete but needs some final touches. You can download the current version here. We are sending a copy or two of the draft to the Brian Waddington Hut (Phelix) for the New Year's festivities. If you are planning to attend, please encourage everyone there to do as much singing as possible, and mark all corrections in the book, preferably with the provided red pens. If you are not one of the fortunate ones, you can still download the songbook and post corrections on the message board.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum2/read.php?f=1&i=46963&t=46963>

### III. Ms. Manners

Do you have a question for Ms. Manners? If so, email it to to your friendly neighbourhood VOCene editor and he'll forward it to Ms. Manners for review. Remember, there's no such thing as a stupid question, so ask away.

Dear Ms. Manners,

I've heard there was a VOC trip last weekend that used a cat ski to get to a trailhead. What the hell? Why not just go cat skiing and heli skiing instead? Where's the spirit of self propelled trips?! I feel betrayed.

Cheers,  
Self Propelled

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Dear SP,

Relax, there's no need to get excited. The VOC is indeed all about non-motorized trips. However, there is little to distinguish driving a car up a logging road to a trailhead from taking a cat up the same road when it is covered in snow (or for that matter, a snowmobile). Some people in the VOC have in the past driven up that same road when it was snow covered with their monster jeeps, so it becomes just a question of whether you have the means to motor up the road given the conditions. The problem begins when these vehicles go off road and especially into the alpine.

Yours,  
Ms. Manners

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

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**Varsity Outdoor Club**