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0. Deadline Feb 5th for Journal Submissions

The deadline for submissions for VOCJ 54 is fast approaching, Sunday February 5th! I noticed that you haven't submitted anything yet. Yes, I'm talking to YOU! Now go ahead and do it!

From our lovely Journal Editor, Kelly P:

"Send files (or ideally a zip file) to [journal@ubc-voc.com](mailto:journal@ubc-voc.com). Include:

- the article, with a title and your name. Text (.txt or .rtf) or word (.doc or .docx) file formats are good. No pdfs, please.
- pictures, if you have any. Name them as name-of-article\_pic1.jpg, name-of-

article\_pic2.jpg, etc, where name-of-article is - you guessed it - the name of your article. Include a text file with picture info: where, photographer, subjects."

For more information, see the message board: <http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?1,79263>

## I. Upcoming Events and Trips

1) Slideshow: Tentatively Titled The Top Ten Enervating Things To Try at in a Kayak ☺ Wednesday, January 25th

The VOC's own Murray Down will be showering us (clothed, mostly) with stories about his awesome travels in a kayak. Slideshow is at 7:00 in the clubroom. <http://www.ubc-voc.com/tripagenda/details.php?tripid=217>

2) Brew Hut for GNAR points ☺ Sat. Jan. 28th - Sun. Jan. 29th

Are you wondering why everyone is always going to the Brew Hut, even when there are plenty of other places to go? Come find out for yourself (warning, spoiler ahead. hint: it's awesome and cozy warm).

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/tripagenda/details.php?tripid=216>

3) Intuition Buy Night ☺ Thursday, February 2nd

So there's this awesome company based in Vancouver that makes ski boot liners. They're called Intuition, and if your intuition has any merit then it will lead you to come to our second special VOC only buy-night at Intuition, where they sell all their perfectly good dead-stock to us dirtbags at ridiculous prices. You can also buy their closed cell foam to use as backcountry yoga mat, or to make the whole floor of your apartment really soft, or maybe even something useful. <http://www.ubc-voc.com/tripagenda/details.php?tripid=220>

4) Sphinx Hut Beginner Friendly Ski Mission (if the lake is frozen) to celebrate Waitangi Day ☺ Sat. Feb. 4th - Sun. Feb. 5th

From the trip description: "Sphinx is an awesome hut, and has some sweet skiing either down the glaciers or in the trees near the garbage pile, unfortunately while the other VOC huts (Brew and Phelix) get a lot of ski trips to them in the early season, we have to wait for Garibaldi Lake to freeze before this hut becomes easily accessible. Usually the Lake freezes around the end of January or start of February. So hopefully the lakes frozen, otherwise we will find somewhere else to ski."

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/tripagenda/details.php?tripid=210>

5) Intermediate Friendly Powder Fest at Phelix ☺ Sat. Feb. 4th - Sun. Feb. 5th

Experience the Brian Waddington (Phelix) hut - the largest hut of the VOC. This will not be an instructional trip, but rather a powder-slaying adventure. Come help warm the hut!

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?3,81750>

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/tripagenda/details.php?tripid=223>

6) Full Moon snowshoe/ski trip to hollyburn or seymour (beginner friendly)) ☺ Tuesday, February 7th

From the trip description: "It's full moon. and according to an ancient lunar calender, this is the beginning of spring. so let's take a break from study for a

few hours and snowshoe/skin up our back yard."

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/tripagenda/details.php?tripid=208>

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?3,81242>

#### 7) Reading week: Sphinx Ski Camp ☺ Sat. Feb. 18th - Sun. Feb. 26th

As usual, we'll be having an informal ski camp at the Sphinx hut during Reading Week. From the trip description: "Back in the day, the VOC used to swarm up to Sphinx Bay for their annual Spring Ski Camp - this generally happened during exams, but it was a large event, often involving food drops by aeroplane to extend the party". We probably won't be having any food drops, but there will be plenty of skiing and merriment as the good times roll.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/tripagenda/details.php?tripid=219>

#### 8) Reading week: Red Rocks reading-week climbing road trip ☺ Sat. Feb. 18th - Sun. Feb. 26th

From the trip description: "Some people like to ski during reading week, but some of us want to climb rock. This is a loosely organized road trip to Red Rocks near Las Vegas to get our climbing fix. The climbing there is world class with everything from short sport climbs to long multi-pitch traditional routes, all on some very cool and funky sandstone."

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/tripagenda/details.php?tripid=211>

[http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Red\\_Rocks\\_Trip\\_2012](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Red_Rocks_Trip_2012)

#### 9) VOC Spring Gearswap ☺ Wednesday, March 7th

We'll be having another VOC gear swap; the last few have been a huge success! All outdoor-related gear is appropriate, and it's open to non-members.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/tripagenda/details.php?tripid=215>

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?1,81464>

### II. Trip Ideas and Partners Sought

-Diego R is looking to practice some crevasse rescue skills this weekend, perhaps up at Seymour: <http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?3,81762>

-A bunch of folks are talking about an intermediate ski day trip this coming weekend. Get in on the action here: <http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?3,81636>

-Thanks to Paulo S. for this tip: "January 12th to March 15th Thursday night is student night (\$19 4-10pm). And Monday night is ladies' night."

### III. This week in the VOC

#### 1) Past trips and events

-This past weekend saw a two pronged effort for the annual Intro to Backcountry Skiing trip. Skler led one trip to Iago, while Phil T. and a bunch of other experienced folk accompanied one lucky tele-learner to Zoa. Check out some photos here: <http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?3,79631>

-A group skied allegedly bottomless powder up at Red Heather, TR on the way: <http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?3,81524>

-Another group also skied the bottomless powder at Red Heather: <http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?3,81490>

-Probably other groups skied the bottomless powder at Red Heather (please imagine their TR).

-Kayak polo in the pool is happening as we speak

#### IV. Miscellaneous

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

Woohoo, prodeals for VOC Trip organizers! In return for leading trips, you now get not only immense satisfaction, but cheap gear too!!

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

##### 2) Call for Slideshow Presenters

Have you been on some crazy adventure lately, or do you have some advice to share? Consider attaining instant fame by giving a VOC slideshow this semester:

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?1,80896>

##### 3) 21 Mile Creek User Survey

From Scott N: "The 21 Mile Creek drainage is a non-motorized zone and snowmobiling is prohibited. The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC is conducting a user survey to measure the frequency of illegal snowmobile use in 21 Mile Creek. The results from the survey will guide compliance and enforcement actions by government conservation officers." Please take a brief moment to complete the survey, if you've been on a trip to 21 Mile Creek.

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/phorum5/read.php?1,80729,80729#msg-80729>

#### V. Ms. Manners

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Dear Ms. Manners,

I was looking at an "Intermediate Friendly" trip on the Trip Agenda. How do I decide whether or not I'm intermediate enough to go?

Thanks,  
Dazed and Confused

Hey D&C,

Good question. Luckily, it's not one that you have to answer all by yourself: whether or not a trip is right for you depends not only upon your own ability and experience, but also upon the trip organizer's particular goals and who else is going on the trip. So, dialog with others is the key to cracking this puzzle.

The first thing you might try if you're not sure is to make sure you read over the trip description on the Trip Agenda, and see if the trip organizer has indicated what they mean by Intermediate Friendly. If you're still not sure, you might try posting on the message board, in the thread for that trip (you can always start one if it's not there yet). Someone will try to help you figure out whether the trip is right for you there, but if you don't get enough of an answer there you can always email the trip organizer. The last place to figure out whether a particular trip is a good match for you is at the pre-trip meeting, which is usually held on the evening of the Wednesday before the trip. There's no harm in showing up to a pre-trip meeting when you're not sure, but it's always best to

indicate your interest beforehand. And remember, the decision about whether you can go on a trip ultimately resides with the trip organizer. Unfortunately, the nature of back-country activities is such that there are rarely any guarantees. But this has a plus-side too: sometimes the right mix of experience shows up on a trip and makes it more accessible last-minute (often the hardcore folks are the last to commit to a trip). Always be honest about your experience and be comfortable expressing your doubts. There will always be an easier trip on the horizon if things don't work out!

The VOC Glossary defines Intermediate Friendly as "A challenging trip intended to make you feel like you are a beginner again." That's a bit tongue-in-cheek, but also very true. The mountains give us all a healthy dose of humility to bring back into the rest of our lives.

Sincerely,  
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. Or, send an email to [majordomo@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:majordomo@interchange.ubc.ca) with the following command in the body of the email message: "unsubscribe voc-members"

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<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**