

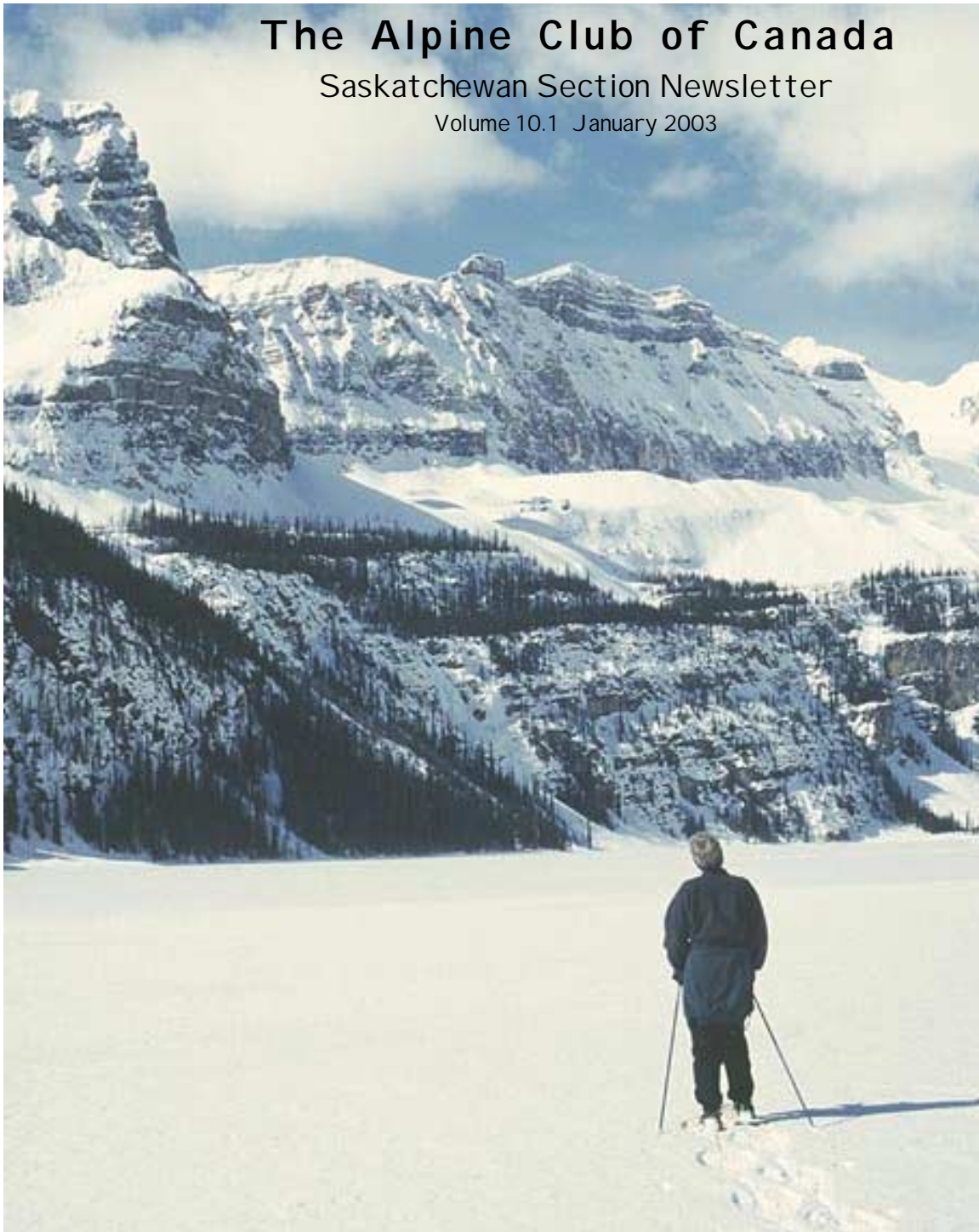


The Prairie Pitch

The Alpine Club of Canada

Saskatchewan Section Newsletter

Volume 10.1 January 2003



Upcoming Events and Activities

January 14th, 2003 - Banff Mountain Film Festival - our 10th Annual showing of the World Tour of the famous Film Festival held in Banff each November. Don't miss it!! Tickets are now available. Details can be found elsewhere in this issue and on the Section's new website !!

February 2nd, 2003 - Telemark Ski Clinic - The Saskatchewan section will be holding its third telemark ski clinic. This clinic will be held at the local Blackstrap ski area on Sunday February 2, 2003. This is the perfect opportunity for people to try this style of skiing for the first time. Anyone who just needs a little practice will also enjoy the day. If you are already an accomplished telemark skier your participation is also welcomed. It is an excellent opportunity to meet others with similar interests. Please contact Glen Phillips (382-2302 or glen.phillips@sasktel.sk.ca) with your questions and to express interest.

The Prairie Pitch

The Alpine Club of Canada
Saskatchewan Section
Newsletter

The Prairie Pitch is the official regular publication of the Saskatchewan Section of the Alpine Club of Canada.

Submissions for publication are welcome at any time and will be published given sufficient space and interest. Generally, given the schedule of the editor, submission deadlines are the middle of

February
April
June
August
October
December

Publication dates are approximately the beginning of the month following.

While we make every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the material contained herein, neither the editor, the Sask Section nor the ACC can be held responsible for errors or omissions. Be aware that opinions or language contained in some articles may be viewed as offensive by some. Reader discretion is always advised !!

February 28 – March 2, 2003 – The Annual "Choppers Weekend". This is the Ice-climbing trip for beginners. Trip Leader will be Dave McCormick with other experienced assistants. For further information, contact Dave at 384-3676 or check the "Activities" page of the Sask. Section's website.

March 8, 2003 - Prairie Pitch Winter Adventure Race. Time: 10 a.m. start - 3-5 hour race. Location: To Be Announced - the location will be determined 3-4 weeks prior to the race. The location will be somewhere in Saskatchewan (reasonably central) where there is still snow! Disciplines: mountain biking, running/hiking, skis OR snowshoes (participant's choice), and special tasks such as winter survival skills. Check our website for details.

May 17 – 19, 2003 - Thrasher's Weekend - our traditional beginners rock-climbing weekend in the Kananaskis, west of Calgary. A great social event and a very fine time to either learn about rock climbing or get tuned up after a long prairie winter. This year there will be **Basic Thrashers** (rock climbing for beginners), **Advanced Thrashers** (intro to lead climbing), **Trad Thrashers** (multi-pitch rock climbing) and **Scrambled Thrashers** (an introduction to scrambling). This is setting up to be a great event.

April 18-26, 2003 – Skaha Rock Climbing. Pete Burgess is leading this week-long road trip to Skaha (that's near Penticton, BC) over the week of Easter break. Participants must be able to lead bolted routes to at least a 5.9 level to make this trip worthwhile. This is not a beginner's trip !! Contact Pete at 242-2922 for more details.

August 1-4, 2003 – Walk the Wapta with the SK Section. Last year's trip was a great success, so we're doing it one more time. Trip leader will be Dave McCormick. For more information, contact Dave at 384-3676 (davemcc@shaw.ca) or check out our new website for pictures and a trip description. Over 4 days, participants travel over glaciers and moraines from Peyto Lake to the Trans Canada Highway. *[This trip is already full but there is a backup list in case any current participants have to cancel.]*

September 13, 2003 - Third Annual Prairie Pitch Adventure Race. Watch for more information coming soon!! Remember, the most up-to-date information will be on our website.

What to watch for:

- The second annual "Just Desserts"
- Our "annual" slide show – date to be announced
- First Aid/CPR courses (organized based on interest)
 - Gear Swap – coming up, likely in April
- Leadership courses to be organized later in the spring or summer
- The First Annual SK Section Mountaineering Camp – (August?)

Contact Ivan Hitchings at 329-4484 or hitchings.ink@sasktel.net for more information.

Remember – for up-to-date information about Section events and activities, pictures from Section trips and other information, go to our newly designed website. We have our own domain name now, but our website can still be accessed from the following address:

<http://www.AlpineClubofCanada.ca/Saskatchewan>

Did You Know??

The Saskatchewan Section was first established in 1921 and was a very active section until during the war years of the early 1940's. The Saskatchewan Alpine Club was formed in April, 1994 and was officially re-established as a Section of the Alpine Club of Canada on October 30, 1994.

Our Section has an original copy of the Quarterly Gazette that was published in 1921. The "Saskatoon Section" is mentioned: *"This young and enthusiastic Section has held several tramps during the winter, and is doing all it can to attract new members to the Club. It's photo collection is a fine one."*



The Banff Mountain Film Festival

Visiting Saskatoon for the 10th year

On January 14th, 2003, the Saskatchewan Section of the ACC will be hosting the 10th showing of the Banff Mountain Film Festival at the Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon. Show time is 7 PM.

Here is the tentative program:

Front Range Freaks [Part 1]: Urban Ape

2002 Best Short Film

USA, 2002, 9 minutes

Renowned climber Timmy O'Neill turns his hometown of Boulder, Colorado, into an urban playground. He scales buildings, leaps across walls and hassles the local citizens, all in good fun. *Focus: Climbing*

The Second Step - Warren Macdonald's Epic Journey to Federation Peak

2002 Grand Prize Winner

Australia, 2001, 26 minutes

An inspirational documentary on double leg amputee Warren Macdonald. Against all the odds, Warren Macdonald spends 28 days hiking to and climbing Federation Peak in southwestern Tasmania. *Focus: Hiking/Scrambling*

Cracking the Canyon

USA, 2001, 30 minutes

Join adventure travel writer Stephen Backshall on a daring trek to scale a hidden canyon in one of the most inaccessible parts of the Sinai Desert - a place where one missed step can mean a world of trouble. *Focus: Hiking/Canyoning*

Shepherd Women of Shambala

USA, 2002, 9 minutes

This is a simple story, a story of one woman's intimate journey into a small group of Ismaili Muslim Shepherd women. Set in the rugged passes of the Karakoram mountains in northern Pakistan, a gentle revolution of sorts took place, eradicating the barriers of language, custom and stereotype. This film is a story about the spirit of women and the power of kindness.

Focus: Culture

Gordon Wiltsie: View from Above and Beyond

USA, 2001, 8 minutes

Acclaimed photographer Gordon Wiltsie takes viewers through highlights of his experiences during more than 25 years photographing expeditions to some of the wildest corners of the earth. *Focus: Culture*

The Essence of Adolescence

2002 Best Film on Mountain Sport - Canada, 2002, 7 minutes

This short film features the local boys of the Sunshine Coast in British Columbia. From the extreme performance, to the directing and editing, this film is made by teens.

Focus: Skiing, Snowboarding, skateboarding, BMX

Bergsjo Action

Norway, 2002, 4 minutes

Arnulf Refsnes is the best kite skier in the world. In this film he is kiting his heart out on Bergsjo Lake in the mountains of Norway. *Focus: Kite skiing*

Escape over the Himalayas - Tibet's Children on Their Journey into Exile

2002 Special Jury Award Germany, 2000, 29 minutes

Tibetan parents send their children on a dangerous, often deadly march across the Himalayas to Nepal and ultimately Dharamsala, India, to provide them the chance at an education and the privilege of religious freedom. Zazie Blumencron accompanied this trek and created a film that is moving, tragic and hopeful at the same time. *Focus: Culture*

Something about Anna

Poland, 2001, 24 minutes

Polish climber Anna Cserwinska is an extremely accomplished alpinist, having climbed the Seven Summits and six of the 8000-metre peaks. This film is about her ascent of Lhotse and reveals the character of this remarkable woman through her thoughts and ideas in the place she feels most comfortable - the Himalayas.

Focus: Climbing

SAT Republic

Spain, 2001, 5 minutes

A short but daring composition bringing together paragliding "acro" tricks, adrenaline and images never seen before. The Safety Acro Team, or SAT, was founded in 1999. This team of friends/pilots works together to discovery paragliding aerobatics. Flying sequences shot at Organa (Lleida, Spain) mix with funny and simple studio images. Up in the sky, above the mountain peaks, or with both feet on the ground - it always links to discovery and fun. *Focus: Paragliding*

Did You Know??

January 14, 2003 will be the 10th year in a row that the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour has been in Saskatoon. Each showing in Saskatoon has been hosted by the Saskatchewan Section of the Alpine Club of Canada.

Outter Limits and Eb's Sail and Sports have been sponsors of the Festival Tour for every one of those 10 years.

White Trax

2002 Special Jury Award Canada, 2001, 2 minutes

Kris Holms rides moguls, steep hardpack, snowboard parks and backcountry terrain - all on his unicycle. Focus: Unicycling

Total Time: 2 hours 33 minutes

Our Local Sponsors



A special thanks to our local sponsors and their generosity, without whom this Film Festival would not be possible. Please support them.

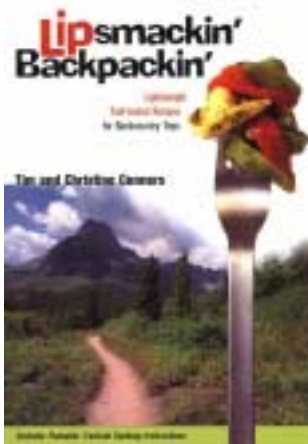
Our Media sponsors



Book Review

by Dave McCormick

Lipsmackin' Backpackin' by Tim & Christine Conners (\$22.50)



"Tired of gorp, cereal bars, and jerky? Would you instead like to dine on spaghetti, chicken salad, and cheesecake in the backcountry?" Into the continuing quest for more good food ideas comes this new book. It's almost as if the authors knew exactly how to tune in to Saskatchewan Section members, known far and wide for their love of good food and talent for producing it in unusual places.

The book and the recipes are American, but a quick scan through the various lists of ingredients doesn't seem to indicate any problem finding any special ingredients. All too often, there are unusual items that local grocery stores don't seem to have. No such problem here.

Lots of good new food ideas, along with "packable trailside cooking instructions", a section of trail descriptions and a comprehensive index. Well worth trying.

Check with the Section's librarian if you would like to borrow it for awhile.

Wired Beta

by davemcc@shaw.ca

It's always entertaining wandering around through the various postings of rec.climbing when I get the chance. I was quite intrigued recently to read of someone who claims to check the postings daily. I guess I must just be spending too much time washing my socks or something.

Two nuggets popped up this time. One is a website called TradGirl, the personal website of Dawn Alguard, located at <http://www.tradgirl.com/index.htm>. This site had actually quite a few interesting bits, a FAQ section, miscellaneous other links and some poetry (yep, poetry) gleaned from the postings of rec.climbing. In fact, the poetry was possibly the best part. Most were parodies of verses commonly known with other lyrics. I've copied a short, original one here for your entertainment:

heer i climed awl dae
in dee sun no wurk jus plae
an heer wil i sta
-climer hikoo

by Karl Lew

NOTICES & MISCELLANY

The next *Prairie Pitch* deadline is February 15th, 2003. Send articles, pictures and notices to the Editor – Dave McCormick, at davemcc@shaw.ca – WE NEED ARTICLES & PICTURES !!!

Introducing *The Prairie Pitch Winter Adventure Race*, March 8th, 2003. Several hours of challenging winter activities. More information is being added to our website on a regular basis, so check it often. Given the rather fickle nature of Prairie Weather, the location hasn't been chosen yet; we're looking for an area with lots of snow!! The race coordinator is Tony Nadon – shawna.tony@sk.sympatico.ca. For more information, contact Tony.

The Saskatchewan Section's website has a new look and a newly-registered domain name. Our "official" Internet address is www.accsask.ca which can be accessed directly or by using the www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/saskatchewan URL. For all the very latest information, visit our website.

The Last Word: "Remember not to have a fatal accident, because the community will think climbing is a dangerous thing, your friends will be bummed... and you'll be dead." - Kitty Calhoun during closing remarks at an American Alpine Club lecture.



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