



# Cliff Notes

Alpine Club of Canada  
Manitoba Section Newsletter  
Autumn 2007

"I don't think a wilderness experience is complete until it's been written about." *Ray Bane*

## Visit our website

www.alpine-club.mb.ca

## Upcoming Events

**November 14, 2007, 7:00 pm**  
Manitoba Section AGM and  
Peter Aitchison Celebration  
*more info on page 3*

**November 16 & 17, 2007**  
Prairie Pump XIV  
*more info on page 5*

**November 16, 2007**  
Best of Fest Vancouver  
International Films  
(St. Boniface Section)  
*more info on page 5*

**January 19, 2008, 7:00 pm**  
Banff Mountain Film Festival  
*more info on page 6*

**February 3, 2008**  
"Sorta" Annual Thunder Bay  
Invitational Ice Climbing  
Weekend (Thunder Bay Section)  
*more info on page 5*

## Inside this issue

Simon Says	2
Editors Note	2
Issues	2
Roadside Revisited	4
News from the NLC	6
Volunteer Opportunities	6

## 2007 Experience the Mountains Trip Yoho National Park, B.C.

*By David Cormie*

This summer's trip, based out of the Stanley Mitchell Hut in the Little Yoho Valley, was a great success. Not only did we have awesome mountain adventures including the ascent of The President but we also made new friends, enjoyed great food and drink, played many card and other games and spent hours in endless laughter, joke telling and great camaraderie.

The eleven of us from the ACC Manitoba Section included Peter Aitchison, Gregor Brandt, Len Chackowsky, David Cormie, Julie Cormie, Pat Dillistone, Josee Lavoie, Janice Liwanag, Grant McLaren, Stig Hansen, and Heather Slivinski.

As has been the recent tradition, the trip began the first Saturday evening of August with everyone meeting at the Hostel International in Lake Louise. Some of us would say that that night was the most memorable of the week, but that would be because this was their first (surprising) encounter with several of the old timers.

Sunday's hike from the Takakkaw Falls parking lot up the Yoho River Valley to the hut was probably the most strenuous of the trip as we strained under the huge weight of food filled packs and climbing gear. It was clear that this wasn't going to be a week

of starvation but of gourmet meals, wine and much Jaegermeister.

Monday's adventure was an acclimatizing jaunt up the valley to Kiwetinok Lake and then a scramble to the top of Mount Kerr. The weather was sunny and cool but that didn't stop Len from diving into, screaming and then quickly exiting from Lake Kiwetinok. Peter, Heather and Pat made their descent via the higher unnamed summit just south of Mt Kerr while the rest of us headed straight back down. In preparation for Tuesday's glacier traverse and ascent of The President, Len and David held a short snow and ice school on the way down for Julie and Stig, introducing them to self arrest, crampon use and crevasse rescue.



Crossing the President Glacier

Photo by David Cormie

Tuesday began with an early wake-up so that we could be on our way up to The President at six thirty. After an hour and a half of hiking knife edged gravel side moraines, we reached the glacier and began its traverse, reaching the President Pass without event by mid morning. From there we scrambled up the last few hundred meters to the 3,138 meter (10,300 ft) summit of The President where there were lots of hugs, picture taking, and everyone signed the ACC register. Although overcast, the view in all directions

*Continued on page 3 ...*



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## Simon Says (Message from the President)

I hope that everyone's summer was as great as mine. As I get used to "retirement" I wonder how I ever had time to work. Soon enough I will have to get back to the real world. For those of you that don't know, this spring I decided to take some time off from work and spend a few months traveling. I wanted to kick off my travels by going somewhere completely foreign, so off to Iceland I went. After a couple of weeks in a land of midnight sun I returned to the east coast of Canada for a visit to Nova Scotia and then west to the mountains for several weeks of climbing.

While in the mountains (of Canada) I had the great privilege to volunteer as a leader at the General Mountaineering Camp. This year's camp was at Mt. Alexandra. What a great set up! The usual incredible food and camp that has been the ACC standard for many years was to be had. There were awesome alpine objectives tackled with old and new friends. While I was at the GMC the annual Manitoba Experience the Mountains trip was taking place a few valleys over at the Stanley Mitchell hut. I have word that it was a great trip with many rewarding summits. If you come to the MB section AGM you can get the full trip report and share your own experiences with others. I look forward to hearing about everyone's summer adventures.

*Simon*

## Editor's Note

Well into that part of autumn and thanks to the great weather, some of us have snuck in a last few days on the rock. This late in October and early November, we are usually getting squirrely for some action; folks like you get anxious for the ice to form and my family adjusts to my annual daydream looks skyward for snow (multiple times per day!). As you will see in this issue, we are blessed with a whole mess of coming events to keep you sane in the great "in between time". These events don't just happen but are organized by volunteers so check out the new opportunities chart and jump in if you have not already. Its fun and volunteer experience is the first thing I look at in a resume because it, more than jobs for pay, shows initiative.

Cheers

*Peter Muir*

## Newsletter Information

The newsletter is published four times a year and is posted on our website. All submissions and ideas are welcome. If possible, please send digital copies of articles, ads, or photos. Otherwise, you can submit hard copies to the address below. With every photo submission, please indicate the name of photographer, the subject(s) of the photo, and where the photo was taken.

Our advertising options are:

- \$25 for quarter page or less
- \$50 for half page
- \$100 for full page
- one free advertisement per year (up to half-page) in exchange for a discount to Alpine Club of Canada members; this discount can be a limited or unlimited time offer

Personal classified ads are free for club members.

Send your submissions to the newsletter editor:

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656 Fairmont  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3R 1B1  
  
(204) 982-5900  
pmuir@ladcocompany.com

## Executive Meetings

The Manitoba Section holds executive meetings once a month.

Contact our secretary, Len Chackowsky, for details on where and when the next meeting will be held.

**You can also contact Len to see the Manitoba Section's meeting minutes or financial records.**

Email: lchackowsk@gov.mb.ca

## Issues

### THE CASE OF THE MISSING THRONE

It appears the green thrones are popular; they keep disappearing. The one missing from last year was located at the fisherman's boat launch not far from the Hilton just as the Hilton throne went a wandering to parts unknown. The Hilton throne has been replaced with the very kind support of MEC. It is relocated down the road, just west of the Hilton. Both thrones have been labelled to acknowledge that they have been installed by ACC Mb with the support of MEC. Enjoy!

**"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces up, and snow is exhilarating; there is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.**

*John Ruskin (1819 - 1900)*

Masthead photo by Ken Boyko. Summit of Mt. Proteus/Selkirk Mountains, BC.

# ACC Manitoba Section's Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, November 14, 2007



**This year dedicated to over 40 years of climbing and club support by the “old man”, Peter Aitchison.**

Come on out to this year's Alpine Club of Canada, Manitoba Section Annual General Meeting! It's a great opportunity to discuss club/section business, bring up burning issues, vote, schmooze, eat pizza (provided by the club), enjoy beverages (cash bar) and meet new/old climbing partners.

The post meeting socializing will feature a slide presentation and celebration of Peter's many contributions to climbing in Manitoba and the ACC. Come and meet, congratulate or share a drink with the man behind so many of those great NW Ontario Climbs. 75 first ascents in the 1986 guidebook!

**Date:** Wednesday November 14, 2007

**Agenda:** 7:00 pm - schmooze  
7:30 pm to 10:30-ish - meeting/pizza/  
Peter Aitchison Evening.

**Where:** Mona Lisa Ristorante Italiano  
1697 Corydon Ave  
Winnipeg, MB

**RSVP to:** Len Chackowsky  
len.chackowsky@shaw.ca

...continued from page 1

was great with Emerald Lake immediately below and to the south, and the Yoho valley, Wapta and Waputik glaciers to the east. While some took a long leisurely break in the sun, several of the more ambitious crossed to the east side of the pass and scrambled up to the summit of the Vice President.

Wednesday was a rest day, fortunately chosen because it rained intermittently throughout. However the day was much brightened with many cribbage games, hundreds of Trivial Pursuit and Harper's Index questions and turns caring for a four year old whose parents couldn't believe their luck when Peter offered to supply day-long babysitting services.

Thursday was our last full day of mountaineering. With the morning sky a spectacular clear blue, we set out through the forest and meadows immediately north of the hut, with Isolated Peak our first destination. The traverse up and across the Glacier des Poilus was slow because of its steepness and many crevasses. But we ultimately reached the summit by noon. Unfortunately the weather was closing in and by the time we had eaten lunch we couldn't see our next destination, Mount McArthur because of the thickening clouds. By the time we reached it, we were in the clouds and it had turned quite cold.



Ascending Isolated Peak

Photo by Len Chackowsky

Our descent from Mount MacArthur was via Mount Pollinger and then quickly down to Kiwetinok Lake. This was made most interesting when Stig suddenly stopped near the summit of Pollinger saying that there was a buzzing noise in his climbing helmet. Upon investigation we realized that the noise was a coronal discharge originating from his ice axe which was strapped to his pack. Everyone immediately lowered their axes and we quickly scampered to lower ground.

So all in all, the 2007 "Experience The Mountains" trip was a great success. We had great weather, awesome climbing conditions, wonderful food and left having established new friendships. On behalf of everyone on the trip, many thanks to Peter for organizing and providing leadership.



# Roadside Revisited

By Mick Hawley

The weather forecast for our May 20 Roadside trip was not promising and the day dawned cold and grey. It had not been billed as a “guys only” trip; it just turned out that way. Len, Rod, Bruce, Curt and myself met up at Deacon’s and were eastbound by 7:30 AM. A couple of hours later we were parked on the Kenora by-pass and started to haul all the kit to the base of the crag.

My plan was to climb Raspberry Jam (5.8) ground up, then set up a top rope on that route, on Face Off (5.10a) and on Cooper’s Ecstasy (5.10a). At the foot of RJ, I enquired if anyone would like to lead it. There were no volunteers, aw shucks, so I thought “I’ll have to do it myself, what a shame, not!” RJ is a well protected route, the crux being a smooth sided crack 2” by 15’ at 3/4 height. It’s a bit wide to hand jam (if you have small hands) but fortunately takes a foot very nicely. I topped out and Bruce seconded with a rope on his back, successfully retrieving all the gear I’d placed on route and joining me on top of the crag. I then brought up Len, also carrying a rope, numerous steel karabiners and even his running shoes on his belt. Whereas Bruce and I had jammed the crux crack, Len laybacked it- much more elegant but also way more strenuous. He arrived at the top puffing and blowing, and gasped “Boy I’m out of shape”.



RJ’s got room for feet

Photo by Len Chackowsky

I handed the belay station over to Len. Bruce and I set up top ropes on the other two routes.

By now we had been joined by Peter, Steve and Adrien making us total group of 8.

I rapped down to join the group and next decided to try Face Off. I knew that it was a Ken Boyko route, so I fully expected it to be stinkin’ hard and I was not disappointed. Crimping desperately on 2mm finger “holds” and pushing up on micro-ledges, big toe slopers and smears, somehow I got up there. It felt quite desperate. Closer inspection of the guidebook and accompanying photos from Ken confirmed that Face Off was in fact to the left, around the arete, and that the route I’d actually set up was Slim Pickings (5.11a). Ahem, sorry chaps.

Adjourning for lunch, Steve explained that he’d backed off Cooper’s, as he was “not in good shape”, having done nothing all winter....

hadn’t I heard something similar earlier? Cooper’s provided much entertainment that day. The climb starts with a strenuous traverse right under an overhanging flake, so it is not possible to give the climber a tight rope as they start, the sideways pull would take them off the rock. A fall at the start therefore results in a drop and swing right, demonstrated spectacularly by Peter as he landed in a heap at my feet. Unhurt, he bravely got straight up and tried again, getting about three feet further right this time before coming off and swinging down to where I was belaying. Gamely he tried a third time, making it halfway along the traverse before his strength failed and he parted company from the rock. “I’m not in the right shape for that these days”, he commented. Hey you’re not the first today to say that Peter...



Getting in shape on Roadside

Photo by Len Chackowsky

I did the climb belayed by Adrien and on the way down I asked if he would like to trade places- “don’t think I’m in good enough shape for this one”, he replied. H’m, that sounds kinda familiar. So next up for the swing was Curt, who actually knocked me off my feet as he slipped off and swung across the base of the climb. A dumb place to belay, for sure, but no damage done. Curt got the route second attempt.

Next we moved back closer to the Highway, where Peter led Greek Salad (5.6), upon which we set up a top rope alongside Aar-Be-Dar (5.7) to complete the days climbing. The consensus is that the latter route is NOT 5.7- it may have easy sections and good rests but it also has a couple of hard moves that rate higher in our opinion. The start is tricky and leaving the ledge at 2/3 height caused us all manner of problems (except Bruce). “I just don’t have the leg power, I’m not in that kinda shape,” explained Rod. Now where had I heard that before.....?

All in all it was a very pleasant day, and an enjoyable experience for my first time out as trip leader. Undoubtedly I was fortunate to have such an experienced group and the weather was very kind to us too. Thanks are due to those who helped ferrying heavy loads to and from the cliff, and more particularly to Bruce for his assistance setting anchors for top ropes- you made it work guys.

## An Invitation to Manitoba Section Members:

Believe it or not, our section's actually on the ball getting our winter events calendar together and we've set a tentative date for our 6th Occasional Invitational Ice Climbing Weekend. We're thinking of February 1st, 2nd and 3rd for 2008.

Obviously, we'll plan all the details in the next few weeks, but tentatively it's looking like we'll be having our usual local ice slideshow/booze-up/planning session on the Friday afternoon, probably at our local gear shop along with a members-only sale that night to boot (folks could also rent boots et al. if needed then too). Folks will be welcome to arrive on the Thursday, and the Friday arrivals would meet everyone else after they're done climbing at the store on the Friday.

Saturday will feature different climbing venues depending on interest and conditions, with the possibility of having some of our talented female ice leaders running a women-only venue, and then our usual big feed and party on the Sat night.

Sunday would again be more climbing at venues appropriate for the crowd abilities and interests, and then we'll take care of making sure everyone catches their planes.

As usual, all folks will have to do is get themselves here, we'll take care of places to sleep (billets with tbay section members) and transportation and getting everyone to the best routes. The water levels here are the highest I can ever remember, and we're keeping our fingers crossed for what could be a stellar season.

Best,  
Nick Buda  
Chair, ACC Thunder Bay  
[www.tangledrope.com](http://www.tangledrope.com)

Section members interested in coming along should RSVP for the time being to Peter Muir ([pmuir@ladco.com](mailto:pmuir@ladco.com)) or Simon Statkevich ([s.statkevich@gmail.com](mailto:s.statkevich@gmail.com)). This will change for the winter edition but we will pass your name along to the fearless trip leader- whoever that is and it could be YOU- they don't get much easier to lead than this! ACC TB does all the work.



### Vertical Adventures and the ACC Present Prairie Pump XIV

Come out to Vertical Adventures on November 16 and 17 for **Prairie Pump XIV**.

Whether you compete, volunteer, or are a spectator, you are bound to have a great time!

The focus is on fun and skill development with just enough competitive spirit tossed in for the serious climbers. To get involved call VA at 632-5001

#### Categories

12 yrs + under, youth (13-15), and adults (men and women)

#### Schedule

##### Friday Nov 16

Youth 6:00 - 9:00 pm  
Adults 6:30 - 10:30 pm

##### Saturday Nov. 17

12+under 9:00 am-noon  
Youth 12:30 - 3:30 pm  
Adults 12:30 - 8:00 pm

#### Cost:

12+under \$25  
Youth \$30 includes t-shirt for all competitors  
Adult \$35

*Late registration add \$5 after Nov 10 and you are not guaranteed a t-shirt*

## ***THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA – ST. BONIFACE SECTION presents***

**The Best of the Fest of the  
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL  
Friday, November 16, 2007 at 7 pm  
Martial Caron Hall at the St Boniface University College  
200 Cathedral Avenue**

**Tickets : \$15 (Available at MEC, Wilderness Supply and at the door)  
For more information please go to : [www.cesb.net](http://www.cesb.net)**



# News from the National Leadership Committee (NLC)

By *Cindy Klassen*

Each year the NLC offers two Leadership programs. These are sponsored by "The North Face" equipment company in an effort to keep the courses affordably priced. There is a summer and winter mountaineering leadership program which offers you a week-long instructional program led by ACMG guides. You will receive instruction in advanced mountaineering skills and "leadership" concerns. As well, you will spend a week in the most beautiful mountainous environment Canada has to offer and achieve several summits. Oh, and did I mention the food?... awesome!

The committee tries to get representation from across the country, so Manitoba section candidates stand a good chance of being accepted provided they meet the qualifications.

You are expected to be in very good physical condition, have at least the basic mountaineering skills with some experience in the mountains and evidence of leadership within your section. You also need the endorsement of the Section; naturally that is easier to obtain if you have lead some local trips. You will also be selected based upon your willingness to commit to lead further section trips.

The NLC is also proposing to add 2 new courses in 2008 and 2009 and are canvassing the sections for feedback. A rock climbing leadership course in spring 2008, and an ice climbing leadership course in winter 2009 are being considered. These programs are in the developmental stage and we need to know if there will be sufficient interest in order to proceed.

If you have any interest in any of the above programs please contact Cindy Klassen at 632-5001.

## Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour

This year the Winnipeg stop of the Banff Mountain Film Festival (BMFF) World Tour will be at the Walker Theatre (okay the Burton Cummings Theatre) on Saturday, January 19. The show will start at 7 pm. Tickets will be \$15, available from all the city's best adventure gear retailers. There will be a \$5 rebate given out at the theatre for ACC members.

The BMFF World Tour is produced by Mountain Culture at the Banff Centre, and features international award-winning films and audience favorites from approximately 300 films entered in the annual festival in Banff.

This year's tour will again feature some of the most awesome, inspiring, and thought-provoking mountain films you have ever seen. Traveling from remote landscapes and cultures to up close and personal with adrenaline-packed action sports, the 2007/2008 BMFF World Tour is an exhilarating exploration of the mountain world and beyond.

And don't forget the fabulous prizes from our fantastic local and national sponsors!

So - great films, great people, great theatre and a chance at free gear.

What more could a powder hound, gear head, rock hound, shredder or film buff ask for?

Thanks  
Curt Hull  
Chair, Film Festival Committee  
Alpine Club of Canada - MB

Home: (204) 233-0545 Cell: (204) 803-5436

## Volunteer Opportunities

The Section is always looking for Volunteers.  
The following opportunities are available:

PROJECT & TIME	TASKS	CONTACT
VA/ACC Prairie Pump XIV from now to November 16 & 17, 2007	Route setters, belayers, crowd marshalling, other tasks	Cindy Klassen 632-5001 vertadv@ilos.net
Banff Mountain Film Festival from now to January 19, 2008	Various tasks including advertising, prize collecting and night of event marshalling	Curt Hull Chair, Film Festival Committee Home: (204) 233-0545 Cell: (204) 803-5436 chull23@mts.net
Winter Activities	Trip leaders, trip assistant leaders for training, ideas	Grant & Marilyn McLaren grantmclaren@cwmb.ca mmclaren@mpi.mb.ca (204) 222-5242
Climbing Committee (for club climbs spring, summer, autumn 2008)	Trip leaders, trip assistant leaders for training, ideas	Mick Hawley (after Nov. 14, 2007) (204) 589-8982 lhawley@mts.net
St. Boniface Ice Tower from ice formation to March 2008	Managing Manitoba Section nights and other nights or weekend days for St. Boniface Section, ice set up and other tasks.	Simon Statkevich (204) 475-2603 s.statkevich@gmail.com or Andre Mahe (ACC St. B.) (204) 253-2162 amahe@mts.net