



ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA – OTTAWA SECTION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OTTAWA SECTION OF THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA ON JANUARY 13, 2014

A Meeting of the Executive of the Ottawa ACC Section was held on January 13, 2014. Present at the meeting were the following members of the Executive:

Present	Executive Position	Incumbent
Y	Chair & National Rep	Steven Dods
Y	Past Chair (ex-officio)	Elfrieda Bock
Y	Treasurer	Ivan Petrov
Y	Secretary	Janet Campbell
Y	Hiking/Skiing Coordinator	Grant Blanchard
N	Climbing Coordinator	Terry Lipovski
Y	Mountaineering Coordinator	Helen Tsai
Y	Training Coordinator	Adam Phillips
Y	Safety Coordinator	Steven Montgomery
Y	Membership Coordinator	Rob Truswell
Y	Social Coordinator	Connie Dimond
Y	E-Letter Editor	Elfrieda Bock
N	Newsletter Editor	OPEN
N	Web Editor	OPEN
Y	Access Liaison	Stuart Elson
Y	Family and Youth Coordinator	Katharina Goetze
Y	Quartermaster	Al Dimond

Also in attendance included the following members of the Ottawa ACC: Diane van Bergen, Grant Blanchard, Steven Dods, Janet Campbell, Elfrieda Bock, Adam Phillips, Janet Sainsbury, Mark Kuisma, Colin Carson, Calvin Klatt, Helen Tsai, Steven Montgomery, Ivan Petrov, Mike Reece, Greg Cormier, Deanna Corier, Lynne Cyr, Mike Bowler, Suzanne Boileau, Katharina Goetze, Karen Choy, Bill Barrett, and Hai Pham.

1) Annual General Meeting – General Business

Steve Dods initiated the meeting with a proposed Agenda for the evening. The following Agenda was unanimously approved:

Welcome / Call to Order
Introduction of Ottawa Section Executive
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes for the 2012 ACC Ottawa AGM.
Ottawa Section 2013 Annual Report
 Chair's Report - Steve D
 Hiking & Cross-Country Skiing - Grant
 Climbing & Ice-Climbing - Terry
 Mountaineering - Helen
 Training - Adam
 Family & Youth - Katharina
 Quartermaster - Alan
 Safety & Emergency Preparedness - Stephen M
 Access Liaison - Stuart
 Social - Connie
 Membership - Rob
 E-letter Editor - Elfrieda
 Web Editor - Open Position
 2013 Financial Report - Ivan
2014 ACC Ottawa Executive Changes - Open Positions
 Climbing Coordinator
 Safety Coordinator
 Web Editor
 Treasurer
Election of New Executive (Open Positions) (If required)
Installation of New Officers & Program Coordinators
2014 Section Budget & Approval of the 2014 Section Budget
New/Other Business
Adjournment

Steve Dods introduced the Minutes from last year's AGM. The minutes from last year's AGM were passed unanimously.

2) Reports from the Executive for 2013

Steve Dods provided an overview of 2013 for the Ottawa ACC Executive from the Chair's perspective. Steve's report was as follows:

"2013 had an auspicious beginning. Most of the current executive was newly elected or newly appointed. We also started with a highly unusual situation: outdoor climbing had been suspended by the previous executive because of safety concerns. They also left behind a long list of recommendations designed to fix the problem (there were 10 in total...). It was up to us to consider them all carefully and implement them all. Our first executive meeting went very late!

We had a good winter. Conditions were good for skiing and lots of ski trips went out. Lots of ice climbing too. The winter finished with something new: a mountaineering clinic! This is a great idea, our section has been running mountaineering trips for many years, but never offered training in mountaineering before. It was as though we expected our members to have been born with the knowledge of how to do an ice axe arrest, how to pull someone out of a crevasse, and how to set up an abalakov anchor! Running a mountaineering clinic is a great idea to make technical mountaineering more accessible.

Another new initiative was to work with MEC for presentations on gear: we had a mountaineering gear 101 clinic. As the travel becomes more technical, having the right gear becomes more important. At the same time that the travel becomes more technical, the associated gear becomes more specialized, and therefore more confusing to the novice! A separate clinic on gear is a good compliment to the mountaineering course. You need to have both the right technique and the right gear to get this right!

In the spring Adam started a really aggressive series of climbing training courses. In this series was one of the legacies from our first executive meeting: the Top Rope Refresher Course. This is a course for climbing trip leaders. It is designed to try to ensure we all practice climbing according to accepted standards. And once again we put on Advanced Wilderness First Aid, always a wise training initiative. People sometimes get hurt out there, and when that happens we have to know what to do.

And speaking of mountaineering, anyone who felt sufficiently prepared by the spring mountaineering courses could join our section on a summer trip to the Andes: the Cordillera Blanca of Peru.

In the fall I had the pleasure of participating in a innovative approach to trip leader development. Terry ran the clinic. The event consisted of an evening lecture in which Terry introduced our new climbing guidelines, and gave advice to the prospective climbing trip leaders. The other experienced climbing leaders in attendance also shared their wisdom in the form of stories of things gone wrong in earlier trips. When it came to the day of the climb, the roles were reversed: the students were now the leaders, and the experienced leaders did their best to act like newbies! An interesting and informative experience indeed!

This year we experienced a slight drop in membership. Our membership decline is not very big, but it is a concern for the following reason: at the Sections meeting in May, we were treated to the results of some market research at the Rocky Mountain Section. They concluded that what attracted people to the ACC was not so much the trip schedule or training courses. What people are looking for is a sense of community and the opportunity to find climbing/hiking/skiing partners. They identified that the most important service the ACC provides is actually a social one. We are a way for people of like mind to meet and get to know each other. Our club has

lots of ways of meeting our members' social needs, but to do this one must have (before anything else) lots of members. Therefore membership decline is a concern and we have been looking at ways to make the early member experience more rewarding, help new members find what they are looking for in this club as soon as possible, and therefore encourage new members to stay instead of dropping out within the first year.

So that's my overview of the highlights of 2013. Now I'd like to call on my executive in turn to give you their recap of 2013. They might even give you a hint of what to expect in 2014!"

Grant Blanchard provided an overview of 2013 from the perspective of the Hiking/Skiing Coordinator. The related presentation material is attached as Exhibit A. Grant thanked in particular all the volunteers that made the Hiking and Skiing program possible. Grant also provided an overview of planned activities/objectives for 2014.

Steve Dods provided an overview 2013 from the perspective of the Climbing Coordinator position in the words of Terry Lipovski. Terry's report was as follows:

"The focus this year has been on Group Top Rope Events with two goals:

- A) Encourage participation from New Rock Climbers
- B) Organize group events to foster a network of partners
- C) Enlist Co-Leaders to help trip leaders to increase their skill
- D) Allow more experienced climbers to help co-Leaders and participants learn from each other.

Results:

We started the 2013 climbing season with a ban on climbing trips (started in 2012 due to liability concerns) and we have come a long way. Bill Scott and Hai Pham's work on developing Top Rope Leader's Guidelines provided a framework for how we wanted climbing trips to be run, based on industry best practices. It was true to the mandate of the national ACC and opened the door to resume climbing trips.

There is a great deal of interest from new ice and rock climbers, which is not new to the ACC. What is different is that we are providing them with more forums to meet similarly minded people, establish networks between each other and have future opportunities to climb again and again. It is clear that we are meeting the demand for these activities, based on the positive turnout. Hiring the ACMG Guide Charles Laliberté helped the ice climbing beginners and it provided rental axes, crampons and harnesses for those who did not have their own.

Larger group sizes require more Leaders, and this in turn allowed more experienced climbers to co-Lead trips. This made some of them more comfortable leading and resulted in New Leaders taking out their own trips (Bryson McLellan, Rob Galdins, Shaughn McArthur).

It has been an excellent and successful year for climbing so far and we look forward to this trend continuing."

Ellen Tsai provided an overview of 2013 from the perspective of the Mountaineering Coordinator. The related presentation material is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Adam Phillips provided an overview of 2013 from the perspective of the Training Coordinator. Adam indicated that the position is responsible for running the Ottawa section training courses. Adam indicated that he had introduced a new separation between Courses and Clinics or Seminars. Courses will only be taught by certified professionals. Clinics and Seminars are only taught by volunteers. This branding helps participants to more easily identify what they are getting with their money and to adjust their expectations accordingly. Adam indicated that the mandate was that all courses are to be run on a self-funding basis with the exception of the AWFA and TR Refresher course. Adam indicated that he had upheld that mandate.

Adam took a moment to thank all past volunteers, who he hoped would continue to volunteer with the club. Adam provided the following summary:

Month	Course Name	# of Participants	Price	Cost	Total	Course Organizer
Dec (last)	Nordic Backcountry Skiing Clinic	16	320	270	50	Bill Scott
Jan	Winter Backpacking Clinic	20	0	0	0	Adam Phillips
Jan	Beginner Ice Course	12	260	375	-115	Adam Phillips and Terry Lipovski
Feb	Rope Rescue	5	0	0	0	Adam Phillips
Feb	Ice Clinic	?	0	0	0	Yannick Lockhead
April	Navigation Clinic		155	113	42	Darrel Newman
May	TR Refresher Course	5	75	650	-575	Adam Phillips
May	TR Anchors and Rappelling Course	6	734	650	84	Adam Phillips
June	Sport Leading Course	3	587	650	-63	Adam Phillips
June	Trad Leading Course	4	979	900	79	Adam Phillips
June	Partner and Self Rescue Course	4	1176	1200	-24	Hai Pham
June	AWFA Course	12	2900	4548	-1648	Steve Montgomery
July	Bon Echo 101 Clinic	20	0	0	0	Janet Sainsbury
Oct	Climbing Leadership Clinic	?	0	0	0	Hai Pham
?	Hiking Leadership	?	0	0	0	Grant
Oct	Storm Chaser			25	-25	Dianne Wadden
Nov	Rope Rescue Course	12	0	0	0	Adam Phillips
		Total	6866	9111	-2245	

Adam added that the Ottawa ACC Section receives nothing from ACC National and that all courses were created and taught here in Ottawa with no input or direction from National. That said, Adam added that ACC National is working on creating a National Training program. Adam indicated that in the spring ACC National asked the Section reps what types of trips they run. In the fall they paid to fly Adam and others out to work together on creating a map of what abilities each type of leader should have and the 1st revision should be ready by the end of this January. Adam indicated that he expected this process to finish in 3-5 years.

Adam indicated that his future plans included the following:

- Run the same courses and clinics as last year
- Add another Beginner Ice Day – thanks to Hai Pham for volunteering
- Add 2 x Intro to Mountaineering Courses (one has already run with great success)
- Add an Ice Leading Course
- Change Sport Leading to more of an Intro to Leading on Rock
- Change TR Refresher to Leading ACC Cragging Trips
- Add Survival Courses? Winter / Summer?
- Continue to add Guidelines and assist new leaders on leading ACC trips
- Continue to work on adapting course to teach skills identified in Guidelines.
- Work on updating website with description of courses and timelines for future Trainings
- Work on adding description of gear for courses and trips to make it easier for trip leaders to lead trips.

Adam concluded by indicating that he needed help to assist him in running and organizing future courses and encouraged those interested to come forward.

Katharina Goetze provided an overview of 2013 from the perspective of the Family and Youth Coordinator. In so doing, Katharina highlighted that the name had changed from Youth Coordinator to Family and Youth Coordinator to indicate a desire to address both youth as well as the greater family with smaller children. Katharina indicated that last term she had organized an indoor climbing day which was well attended. Katharina added a few potluck hikes were run with a focus on families. While a family oriented thanksgiving weekend at Keene Farm was organized, no Members signed up for the event. Katharina indicated a desire to organize some easy hikes oriented towards families with younger and older children in the spring and fall. Katharina also indicates a desire to work with the climbing coordinator to organize beginner climbing day oriented towards families. Katharina concluded by

expressing a hope that the Club would see more interest from families to participate in Club events in the future.

Al Dimond provided an overview of 2013 from the perspective the Quartermaster. He indicated that he had completed the construction of a box outside of his house to allow for gear pick up and drop off. Steven Montgomery provided an overview of 2013 from the perspective of the Safety Coordinator, highlighting a Wilderness First Aid training course that was conducted.

Stuart Elson provided the following overview of 2013 from the perspective of the Access Liaison:

“In 2013 I was involved in three initiatives:

- 1- Organized a day of log hauling from the end of Hotel-de-Ville to the base of the cliff at Eastern Bloc. Thank-you to everybody who contributed.
- 2- There were a few questions regarding the emergency caches, who was responsible for them and that a few needed some repairs. I will follow-up on this shortly.
- 3- A meeting with the NCC regarding the renewal of the climbing agreement between the ACC and NCC for Gatineau Park. The current agreement expired on Dec. 31st 2013. I should state this agreement is between ACC National and the NCC since it deals with liability insurance.

The meeting between the ACC and NCC took place on November 27th. Myself and the ACC National VP of Services attend with two NCC representatives. The meeting went through a discussion of the rehabilitation efforts in the climbing areas, concerns of the NCC regarding, and the renewal of the agreement.

Highlights of the meeting-

- 1- Expressed gratitude for all our assistance
- 2- Top cliff access to Main Cliff at Home Cliff and the North Wall in the Western Cwm is reinstated. There will be some signage and geo-fencing installed next year on the top of these cliffs. Rehabilitation efforts are deemed complete in the Western Cwm and Home Cliff. Eastern Bloc still has work to be done.
- 3- The NCC is working with a local boulderer regarding The Shrine and other potential bouldering sites in the park. I have been in touch with this local boulderer
- 4- An unofficial agreement to visit Farm Rock to look at access next year was made.
- 5- -the NCC expressed they are under a lot of pressure from various users/stakeholders in the park including biologists/researchers and, there are very unique ecosystems and species present in the park that they are trying to preserve
- 6- -unofficial trails along the escarpment are a significant concern for the NCC due to the sensitive ecosystem
- 7- -the NCC is working on developing a communication strategy to inform the users of Gatineau Park the conservation efforts in the park and it's unique ecosystems which will provide context for its management decisions
- 8- The NCC was quite concerned about 2 new bolted routes on the eastern part of Home Cliff. The lichen and vegetation was entirely cleaned off. Also concerned about new routes being put up at Mont King and the trash and access to the Shrine boulders.

The new draft agreement is mostly the same as the previous agreement. This was then disseminated to ACC Ottawa and ACC Outaouais for their feedback. The ACC Ottawa Section voted not to sign the agreement but stated they support ACC National signing the agreement provided they eliminate responsibility for the maintenance of the emergency caches and any obligation regarding monitoring and enforcement of non-conformance regarding restricted climbing areas. ACC Outaouais basically has the same position. Not willing to sign but support National signing with these revisions.

A revised agreement removing the emergency cache responsibility and obligations relating to monitoring and enforcement regarding non-conformance of climbing access was submitted to the NCC this morning. They are in the process of reviewing this agreement.

That is it for me. If anyone wants to discuss things further please feel free to bring it up at the end."

Connie Dimond provided an overview of 2013 from the perspective of the Social Coordinator. Connie highlighted the monthly pub nights, potluck slide shows, and Clip and Climb evening. In addition, Connie highlighted the upcoming annual dinner on January 24, 2014 and encouraged people to register.

Rob Truswell provided an overview of 2013 from the perspective of the Membership Coordinator. Rob highlighted a slight decline in Membership. Rob indicated a focus on stemming that tide by both recruiting and retaining Members. To that end Rob has approached National to see if he could be notified when people join the club so that he can reach out, find out their interests and connect people as necessary. From the perspective of attracting new Members, Rob highlighted the benefit of updating the current website. The material related to Rob's presentation is provided below:

"ACC total membership as of Jan 12 2014:

413, of which:

326 individual

86 family

1 "may be deceased" says the spreadsheet

New memberships in last calendar year:

130, of which:

110 individual

20 family

Lapsed memberships:

200, of which:

175 individual

25 family

So there has been shrinkage of c.14% in a year - a cause for concern.

I'm not the best person to say why. I'm new to the position, numbers come in a pretty opaque way which makes it hard to make detailed year-on-year comparisons, and we get little direct feedback from people as they join (and typically none as they leave).

Of the 200 lapsed members, 103 joined the previous year. This is roughly typical, as far as I can see, but one way to address the problem would be to work on retention. For example, I'm hoping that it will become easier for info to be automatically passed to membership secretaries when someone joins, so I can reach out to new members, put them in touch with people running activities they're interested in, etc. The idea is that the quicker they find their place within the club, the more likely they are to stay with us. I've spoken to people in Canmore about this, but no promises yet. There were only roughly 20 individual queries to info@alpineclubottawa.ca from new / potential new members this year (mainly people interested in some sort of training or unsure about their level), so most new members are just figuring it out for themselves and may not be getting the most from us.

The other way would be to do more to attract new members. We've been steady as she goes in that respect - advertising in MEC, stand at snowfest, etc. I don't have any idea how successful these things are and whether we should do more/other things (I don't see marketing as specifically my remit). It probably doesn't help that the website is so far from up-to-date, for example - overhauling the online presence would be an obvious step here."

Elfrieda Bock provided an update of 2013 from the perspective the E-Letter Editor. Elfrieda highlighted that she sends out the E-Letter weekly on Monday which is the club's primary means of highlighting activity to the Membership.

Ivan Petrov provided an overview 2013 from the perspective of the Treasurer. The related material is attached as Exhibit C.

3) 2014 ACC Ottawa Executive Changes - Open Positions

Elfrieda Bock provided an overview of the positions open on the 2014 ACC Ottawa Executive asking each applicant of the following applicants to introduce themselves:

- Greg Cormier & Karen Choy - Climbing Co-coordinators

- Bill Barrett - Safety Coordinator
- Anne Burse - Web Editor
- Suzanne Boileau – Treasurer

Greg Cormier and Karen Choy proposed to jointly handle the Climbing Coordinator position. Karen and Greg provided the attendees with some background on their climbing experience with the Club. The dynamic duo proposed that Karen handle ice climbing while Greg would handle rock climbing. Bill Barrett has stepped up to volunteer to take on the Safety Coordinator position, highlighting his experience with the Club, and his experience in dealing with safety issues within the context of his position as Principal of a High School.

Anne Burse provided the attendees with information on her extensive background with web development/design, advertising, and media, and indicated that she was looking forward to getting more involved with the Ottawa ACC Club. Suzanne Boileau provided an overview of the experience that she was able to bring to the position of Treasurer and indicated that she looked forward to contributing her expertise to the Ottawa CC Executive.

Elfrieda Bock asked if there were any others that wished to apply for the open positions. Hearing none, Elfrieda proposed that the list of applicants be elected to the positions they seek. The foregoing applicants were installed into their respective positions. Members in attendance expressed thanks for the individuals volunteering to come forward.

4) 2014 Budget

Ivan Petrov provided an overview of the 2014 Budget. The related material is attached as Exhibit D. Dianne Wadden indicated a desire to have Spot Beacon/personal trackers or GMRS Radios devices as part of the equipment that the Club owns and makes available to Members. Mike Reece indicated that he owned a spot personally and highly recommended them. Following discussion, the budget was approved as proposed.

5) Other Matters

Steven Montgomery highlighted a desire to assist the Montreal Section with some projects such as those previously undertaken at Keene Farm. Steve Dods indicated that such matters could be handled on a case by case basis by proposing each initiative to the Chair of the Ottawa Executive. No further matters were raised.

There being no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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This being a true and accurate record of the proceedings of this Meeting of the Executive of the ACC Ottawa Section held on January 13, 2014, is attested to and signed by me below.

/s/ Janet Campbell
Secretary of Meeting