

CAMC Newsletter



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Season's End

Inside this issue:

- Mist Mountain* 2
- Wenchemna Pass* 3



Well, it's been yet another amazing season thus far for the Central Alberta Mountain Club.

Our club has logged some great trips and even better memories.

With a rich mix of new, intermediate and seasoned pros rounding out the ranks of our membership, it is certain that we can look forward to a long and successful future.

We continue to grow as a club and rely on the generosity of our executive members, that work hard to bring it all together with the gracious donation of their personal time and energies. We have them to thank for another great year of

hiking and camaraderie.

With two year terms for our executive, there is always opportunity for each of us to step up and have a hand in helping to shape the future and direction of the club.

Fresh ideas and enthusiasm are always welcomed. Join in helping us to reach new "heights".



Our next club meeting is on Wednesday, October 13th. 7:30 pm. at the Kerrywood Nature Centre.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Nigel Stuart from Red Deer College. He will be giving a presentation on "Mountain formations and structures".

We are fortunate to have Nigel provide us with what should prove to be fascinating insight into how our majestic Canadian Rockies came to be and what exactly it is that we are treading upon each time we explore this majestic landscape. Don't miss it!!

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Turkey Trek

"Turkey Trek" October 23rd and 24th. our annual season windup, overnight social/hike weekend at Shunda Creek Hostel near Nordegg.

The tradition of Turkey Trek has been very successful and well attended in the past. The format consists of a relaxing Friday evening social, a choice of two hikes (depending on the size of the group) on the Saturday, with

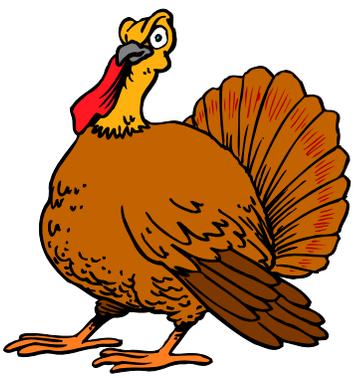
a shared turkey dinner that evening, overnight at the hostel and then a hike on Sunday. Turkey Trek is a great chance to spend time with other club members in a fun and social atmosphere, so if you have an opportunity to go, don't miss it!

Each attendee is responsible for booking their own accommodations at Shunda Hostel

and space is limited, so if you're interested, act now!

For more information and to signup for Turkey Trek, contact Doris Walker 403-346-8679.

Once you've signed up, call Hostelling International at 1-888-748-6321 or reserve online by clicking on the turkey on the right ; >>>>>>



Mist Mountain - September 4, 2010

By Mark Wislon

It started like any other hike – cool in the morning – a few clouds in the sky.

Perhaps the hundreds of ravens we saw on the trip down might have been an omen to the weather we would have.

We were all optimistic that a summit awaited us.

After introductions and a brief explanation about the hike by our Leader Doug – we were off.

At the start the path was overgrown – we all did a fair bit of ducking under big branches.

We climbed steady coming out of the tree line – Doug pointed out the first ridge that we would climb.

It did not take long for the group to reach the ridge – what a great view. I was glad to get a few pics at this point. The clouds were starting to gather – but they were still well above the peaks. At this point we could not see our summit. After a short break we climbed on.

We had reached a tough part of the climb – steep scree and slab – tough sledding for everyone. The weather was now the topic of conversation – the clouds seemed to be moving really fast and some were very black.

Doug called out to the everyone to stop climbing – we were about 15 minutes from the second ridge with a ridge walk after that. We could hear the thunder and the winds were really picking up. Doug made the decision to turn back – everyone turned back with some taking the scree and some taking the slab.



No need for much encouragement as the storm clouds continued to build.

We all met up at the first ridge, after a short brake we pressed on. As we crested the ridge we had to brace ourselves from the wind – it was so strong it could have blown us over.

(When I asked some of the group about this later – replies were “gale force winds” “wicked” “painful” – the best was “Mother Nature gave me a wedgy”). Shortly after this the rain started and there was sleet and hail with the wind – I was glad to have some safety glasses on – but it still stung the face. We all made a quick trip to the tree line and re-grouped.

The storm and wind subsided and we moved on. The rain made all the branches wet so we did not get a chance to dry off until we were almost down. We may not have made it to the summit – but what a hike to remember.

The views were fantastic and it was a challenge from the mountain and the elements.

We all expressed our thanks to Doug and praised his great insight to stop the hike when he did and discussed what it would have been like on the top of the second ridge when the storm slammed into us.

We were chased off the mountain two hours earlier than planned – Mist Mountain lived up to her reputation. We all said our goodbyes, thanked Doug for a great day and the 9 of us were home a little early.



Wenkchemna Pass - September 18, 2010

By Leona Mayhew

There is something special about starting your Saturday off at 5:15 am. I was looking forward to my third and final hike of the year with the club.

The forecast for the Lake Louise area was a mixed bag but I came prepared for everything. We drove out to Moraine Lake parking lot to meet up with the others who have the privilege of not needing to drive up in the morning! (NOTE TO SELF: get to know these people better!!) That's what gives Arlene her skip in her step! Two car loads headed out thru fog from Red Deer at 6:30 am and arrived 4 hours later to meet up with the others in the parking lot with blue skies surrounding us as we started the switch back climb up with a group of 11.

The views were incredible and we were all surprised that it was sunny and dry. The beautiful blue/green color of Moraine Lake is indescribable – unless you know Dan because apparently he has the same precious color of eyes! (his words!)

The snow continued to melt away as we continued on our hike upward. All of us counting our blessings for such a awesome day. I'm sure others were carrying in their pack various layers of clothing for all types of weather – other than Ping! Who throughout the day refused to put a “jacket on”!! Ping passed me! – the person that drove him to the mountains saying he wanted to be in the “FAST” group and flipped sides

so easily. They did wait at the bench for us, like our group leader Phil had instructed.

Out in the open the sights were wonderful with the larch trees turning a beautiful yellow orange. We found a awesome place to have lunch. As the sun warmed us, we shed our layers. When we removed our toques we discovered the beauty of Phil, Dan and Mark's perfect hairdos. We teased our way along the trail to make it a great day. The flat rock provided the “FAST” group a much relaxed surface for their Tai Chi lessons led by Ping – photos shot by Dan.

The snow led us up to the pass where there were fun individuals pictures taken and of course the group shot. Still Ping was being asked by many to “Put a jacket on “. I enjoyed the views and was once again reminded how lucky we are to

live so close to this beauty. Where have I been other Saturday mornings! The ascent took us 4 hours including lunch and the descend 2 ½ hours. But the views/ conversations and laughs will go a long way to warm this Alberta girl until I can do it all over again next year. Maybe I will run into some of you over the winter months hiking the flat trails in Red Deer.

WARNING: Not all the scare is found on the mountain cliffs – on our drive back home to Red Deer the vehicle directly in front of us narrowly missed a deer and hit the ditch. We stopped and checked to make sure all was well. The three of us were all alert and carefully made our way home.

Thanks to our leader Phil Irwin (first time leading!! – great job!)

