



The
**Auckland
Climber**

February '07

this month

**What I did in my
Summer Holidays**

next month

РУССКОЕ ШИМБЕРЯ
Gena Sibaev

Welcome to 2007's first edition of the NZAC Auckland Section's newsletter. We hope you all had a great holiday. The section runs a variety of alpine, climbing and other trips and courses throughout the year and new members are always welcome. The club meets on the first Monday of every month at St Luke's Community Centre, 130 Remuera Rd, Newmarket – but look out for a few Public Holiday exceptions (February being a good example!).!

Climber Content

Deadline for each issue is the 20th of the month preceding. Send any content for the climber to the editor, Suzanne, at suzstick@hotmail.com

Change of Address

For any change of address, or to request to receive your newsletter by email (better for us and the environment!) contact: subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz
NZAC Auckland Section, PO Box 3036, Auckland

This month's meeting:

Monday 7th February 7.15pm (change to regular date due to Public Holiday)

“What I did in my Summer Holidays”

It goes without saying that in a section as big as Auckland's (over 400 members) some folks would have strapped on their crampons over the festive period! Come along and find out who got up to what and where – from Mt Cook to Puerto Rico! Various groups will be presenting their pictures – mainly mountaineering/climbing and tramping but no doubt with a few added surprises. Drop Matt Robertson a line on matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com if you'd like to show off your pictures, too.

Next month's meeting:

Monday 5th March 7.15pm

РУССИДН СИТЪЕЯ **Gena Sibaeв**

Freshly baked new member of the Auckland section of NZAC, Gena Sibaeв, presents a talk on his pretty impressive mountaineering achievements and his passion for ski touring. Gena is a well-known mountaineer back in Russia and he has a number of very interesting climbs under his belt including Fitz Roy, the North Face of Eiger, Grand Joras, Matterhorn, Mont Blanc etc as well as numerous climbs in Russia.

Eight years ago, after “retiring from serious mountain climbing”, he fell in love with ski-touring and competed in and helped organize many ski-touring races and tours in Russia and around Europe. He participated in the last World Ski Touring Championships in Italy as a member of the Russian team in May 2006 (didn't win though, so obviously room for improvement).

Gena wants to continue his ski-touring activity in NZ and is looking for people who would like to share his passion.

Auckland News

Master Climbing Competition

Finally, a rock-climbing competition for "MASTERS" arrives in Auckland! This is a social event for the whole family, so bring a picnic.

Open to: Everyone who has a climbing harness and has or can borrow a pair of rock shoes (shoes are optional for those feeling brave!)

Programme:

- Individual race: 20m climb with top belay. Results will be calculated based on the height reached and/or time.
- Lead climbing in pairs: Climb includes changing the leader in the middle and abseiling to the bottom. This climb will simulate real mountain climbing which means no top rope. Result will be based on technique demonstrated by participants. There will be a generous time limit to finish the climb.
- Speed race: Climb on two parallel lines and then swap climbs. The winner will be the fastest to finish.

Format: There will be four age groups and each of them will have a subgroup for men and women and winners will be determined for each of subgroups.

- Juniors (Babies): 0-39 years old
- Seniors (Over the Hill): 40-49 years old
- Masters (Grey Heads): 50-59 years old
- Veterans (Old Bastards): 60+ years old

Entry fee: \$5 per participant

Entries: Please email Alexander Scherbakov at bask@orcon.net.nz or phone 441 3094.

Venue: Short Side, Mt Eden Quarry

Date: Saturday 10th March, 11 am

PS. Organisers have the right to change or add to any of the rules described above without notice. To determine the number of participants we would be grateful for your preliminary request for entry.

Mountain Biking Events

Well, it's not strictly Alpine season so we thought some readers might be interested in these up coming mountain biking events:

Event: King Country Challenge – 50km MTB ride on forest and single track through the spectacular King Country. Includes courses for kids and families. Camp the night before for the great entertainment and hangi.

Date: Sat 3rd March

Location: Piopio, Waikato.

Register at:

<http://www.kccchallenge.piopionz.com/>

Events: Total Sport 'R & R Sport Summer Series 2007' (Also includes courses for women and kids).

Series #1 Sunday 04 February 2007 Riverhead

Series #2 Sunday 04 March 2007 Riverhead

Series #3 Sunday 01 April 2007 Hunua

Register at: www.totalsport.co.nz

Event: Kona Colville Connection.

72 km loop around the northernmost tip of the Coromandel. Gorgeous views. Includes shorter courses or 40km and 25km.

Location: Colville Town, Coromandel.

Date: 10th March 2007

Register at: www.bikenz.org.nz/tdu

Ski touring trips

Hi, is anybody interested in future ski touring trips and maybe even competitions?

Does anybody want to share some training with me? It could be for example – going to Ruapehu and make some kind of "speedy" walks to the top and back, same with Taranaki etc. I am happy to instruct and maybe teach some tricks and techniques if you like. Ski-touring gear is preferable but not necessary at this stage. Any physical condition is fine as long as you want to improve it and are able to get yourself up to the NZAC hut under your own steam.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact me by email: sibaev23@mail.ru

Calling all Builders, Plumbers and DIYers!

Big changes are afoot at the Alpine Club's Ruapehu Hut. The all-new Hut Maintenance Team has drawn up a list of priority jobs and are dead keen to get down there and get started. If you can spare a weekend to fill some holes, change some doors and things please contact Kathleen Lee on 845 4487 or kwt_lee@yahoo.co.nz

Gear for sale

Pre-loved gear donated to NZAC to sell on as a fund raiser. Selling as is, but if you have any questions re condition email margaret@alpineclub.org.nz

A few of the basics for someone just starting out climbing: 7 x Quickdraws, 2 x Hexcentrics, 3 x wired stoppers, 3 x screw gate carabiners, 1 x figure eight, 1 x Black Diamond ATC, \$50 the lot, p&p extra.

Also, 1 x pair Fire Cats (size 10) and 1 x pair Boreal Aces (size 8).

National News

New NZAC publication.

ON MY OWN TWO FEET – The Life of a Mountaineer

by (our very own) Norman Hardie is available to NZAC members for \$28 per copy, plus p&p of \$3.50 per copy (within NZ) (add \$2 per subsequent copy required due to size)

Visa or MasterCard are accepted – overseas postage, please ask for a quote.

“The story of Norman Hardie’s eventful life is here told with clarity and honesty, in a fast-moving, often amusing style. Some myths are debunked in the valuable record of a pioneering era in mountain history.”

With a forward by Sir Edmund Hillary and both colour and black & white photography this 323 page autobiography will be a must have on any mountaineer’s library shelf.

Trip Reports:

Rock Climbing

Weekend 1:

‘Intro & Leading on Bolts’

Organised and lead by Roger Mayhill

Participants: Collin, Andrea, Brian, Greg, Brett, Eleri, Dean, Alice, Johnmen, and Rebecca

Awaiting with anticipation for weeks in advance for the first weekend of this course, I had my bags packed and my car on the road before the infamous Auckland rush hour. Never having made the trip to Wharepapa South before, I had only a small conception of the distance and directions from Auckland. After a few U-turns to stay on course I knew I must have been getting close when the cliffs of Castle Rock appeared in the distance causing the hairs of my neck to rise in excitement. My first lesson of weekend was upon immediate arrival to Bryce’s Café and the startling yet pleasant realisation of how close it

was to Auckland. Here was a climber’s playground at what I would consider my ‘doorstep’. In fact, I had arrived so earlier that I decided to return back to the closest township to find food at the hotel bar and restaurant until local participants in Friday night Karaoke drove me back out in search of sanctuary.

Day 1: After a brief refresher on the basics and some top roping at Castle Rock to warm up, we were ready to go. Fuelled on by abundant sunshine and the supportive cheers of our belayer (as well as the farmer’s cows and turkeys), everyone had built enough confidence to make top rope ascents slinging quickdraws and clipping in on the way for practice. With satisfaction, we called it a successful day with a few of us carpooling to town to purchase beverages and food before meeting the rest back at Bryce’s for dinner. Shortly before arriving back we realised that Greg, who came along to chip-in for food, had the room key leaving the rest of the group waiting the hour or more for our return before they could shower and change. Still, everyone seemed in high enough spirits to wait and reflect the day over drinks (or were they simply

amused to learn that I was asked for ID by the cashier half my age!).

Day 2: After a short stroll through the thistle ridden paddock of Sheridan Hills, it was time to do what we came for, a lead climb without the reliance of a top rope belay. Our first stop was Flying Cow Buttress and eager to see what I could do, I volunteered to climb 'Pani Para Chha' (17?). In reflection, it took

me a long time to complete the 15m, but it was the first time I climbed with purpose, with some thought of hold placements instead of randomness, and most important, without being plagued with FEAR. Equal success stories were shared among the group with climbs of Meteora and Chunderrosa Buttress to conclude another sun drenched day and an adventure filled weekend.

By Dean Conniff

Mount Taranaki

LABOUR WEEKEND 2006

by Ian Wallace

Participants: Brandon Danille, Caroline Lonsdale, Zora Janson, Brad White, Ian Wallace, Grant Sutton, Magnus Hammarsal, Amanda Holmes, Justin Kim, Mathew Robertson and Kelly.

The tension was palpable as the climber inched his way, bat like, underneath the huge roof. "Rope!" The belayer fed rapidly and the watchers relaxed slightly as the rope clicked cleanly into the hanging quickdraw. A few more moves and then "Take!" The climber dropped off the I-beam and lowered swiftly to the floor of the hut. Welcome to Tahurangi Lodge, Labour Day weekend, day 2, rainfall 150mm plus and counting!

The weather was no surprise really. We knew that Saturday was our only real chance of doing anything with Sunday and Monday predicted to be rather grim. Walking up to the hut at about 2am on Saturday morning there was some debate as to whether we should take advantage of the perfect conditions and continue up to the summit with head

torches. Unfortunately after a full day's work, the five-hour drive and the slog up the "Puffer" the lure of the hut and a warm bed was too strong. Some hardy souls set an alarm for 6am but soon returned to their bags after a brief check on the weather. The front appeared to have arrived earlier than anticipated and it was already raining, misty and windy.

Thanks to Gore-Tex and blind optimism, 10am saw the group heading up into the mist, GPS set to "bread crumb trail" mode. Initially the conditions were not too bad but they worsened steadily the higher we climbed. About two hours later the saner members of the group decided to head downwards while the rest persevered on up. Not long afterwards though, in scenes reminiscent of Scott in the Antarctic, the decision was taken to turn around. Conditions had taken a marked turn for the worse and the issue was no longer really debatable. This is supposed to be fun after all! Glissading in whiteout conditions is probably not recommended in the best textbooks but Grant seemed to know where he was going so we all zoomed down after him.

The rest of the afternoon was spent playing Monopoly (the mountaineering

version of course), Scrabble, cards, Twister, Chess, "Pigs?", reading and drinking countless brews. The next morning part of the group decided to head for dryer pastures. Those remaining in the hut started to eye out the ringbolts in the I-beam roof girder and were soon providing some free entertainment for the non-climbers in the hut. I-beam traverses were interspersed with the standard party trick, table traverses. Some of us took advantage of the enforced confinement to catch up on back issues of various climbing magazines in the hut library.

The 120mm of rain on Sunday was followed by a further 150mm on Monday and it was a rather bedraggled bunch that reached the day shelter at the car park on Monday afternoon. Grant's "hot tip" of backing the car underneath the veranda of the day shelter was well received and greatly facilitated the process of changing into dry clothes and packing the car while the rain continued! For many of us in the group it was our first trip to "the Naki" and it was probably appropriate that we experienced some of what the mountain is famous for!!

ROCK CLIMBING AT TI POINT

2ND DEC 2006

By **Johnmen Zhang**

Participants: Kathleen Lee, John Salisbury, Bryce, Rafael Alonso, James Scarfe and his friend, Johnmen Zhang

I didn't have too much hope for the weather since Thursday and Friday's weather forecasts were telling us that we were going to have showers. However, Saturday was sunny and breezy the whole day, a perfect welcome from nature.

Kathleen and Rafael chose Twin Cracks which is an excellent route for practicing bridging. It is 20m high and graded at 16. Both parallel cracks run from the ground all the way up to the top. Cracks have roughly the same width throughout, it is time to jam whatever you have into them! Since it is also a kind of corner all the way up, you can also use bridging to easily push your body up.

James and his friend turned up right after Kathleen finished struggling with the first cam. And not long after, Dean and Alice also arrived, great minds think alike!

John Salisbury and Bryce took on 'The Fang' (graded 18) and it did not take John too long to get to the top. John then belayed me. The climb was awesome, plenty of friction from the rock, a light sea breeze, crystal clear water and views of Whangaparapara Island across the sea.

We then moved onto 'Whiskey Delta', 'Suicide Wall' and 'The Appendix'.

In summary, Ti Point has many good routes which give you both natural pro and bolted options. Meanwhile grades vary from 10 to 24, with most under 18. It's also the closest natural rock climbing location outside the Auckland (it's 90kms away) and Goat Island is only 15 mins away. Whether you are interested in rock or water, it is indeed a great place to go.

Trips

Do you have a new trip idea? Perhaps you missed one before and want a repeat? We can only run as many trips as there are organisers. Volunteer to lead just one trip this year and get to do it where, when and with whom you want! You don't need to be the most proficient person on the trip, you are not a guide, its about car-pooling etc. Make your dream trip happen this winter, contact Grant (Trips Officer) grants22@clear.net.nz or Tel: 638-3346

Alpine climbing is dangerous! You need to have the appropriate skill for any trip that you wish to attend. Grading Level Beginner means someone who is at least a current snowcraft student, and is competent with the skills covered on the course to that date. Intermediate would be proficient in all the basic alpine skills taught on the course. Advanced would have already gained further alpine experience.

You may need to assure the organiser that you have the appropriate skill level before they let you attend. The best way to do this is to attend the monthly Monday night meeting, introduce yourself to the organiser and tell them what skills and experience you have. This is not just for your safety but for the safety of others on the trip.

February

Coromandel MTB & Sea Kayak

February 24-25

Based on a farm, with its own beach, at Port Charles at the far NE end of the Coromandel, can accommodate 6-8 people indoors, and numerous in tents, 3.5 hours drive from Auckland.

Ron is an active kayaker and mountain biker, join him for a weekend at his bach in paradise. He even has a few spare kayaks on the property. Aside from the great cycling and kayaking opportunities there is Wobble style; tramping up the Okahutahi Stream – to the summit of Mt Moehau – highest in Coromandel. Afterwards cool off with a swim on the beach. If you're keen please email.

 Ron Vautier  ronvautier@hotmail.com  527-8554 (leave a message) or 0274 695968

March

West Coast Wobble

March 18

Very low tide 4PM. Destruction Gully to Little Huia. Leave from 31 Sandringham Rd, at 12 noon. Bring food, a change of clothes – expect to get wet!

 Bruce Calvert  calvert@math.auckland.ac.nz  378 4840

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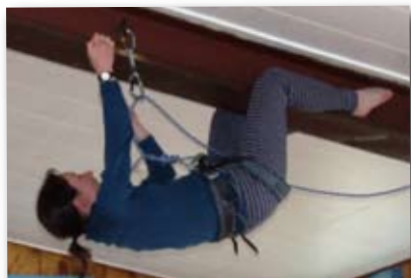
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Snapped



Antics at Taranaki



Ti Point

Rock
Climbing
Instruction
Weekend 1



The Auckland Climber
NZ Alpine Club Auckland Section Newsletter
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New Zealand Permit No. 2044 NZ Reg. magazine	
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