

Nelson Marlborough Section



NZ ALPINE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

August 2009

Next Section Evening

AGM followed by Pete Cammell. Now is the time to think about joining the committee. It's not an onerous job, discussion at meetings is lively and interesting, and you can help shape the future of NZAC. The AGM will be brief, then Pete Cammell will be introduced. Pete is the incoming National President, taking over from Phil Doole, and will give a quick summary of his visions for the Club and plans to keep it in the forefront of NZ climbing. Pete has climbed extensively in NZ and overseas, and will talk about some of his trips. Expect to see some great photos and get ideas for your own mountain adventures.

Wednesday 19 August 7.30pm, Richmond Memorial Hall in Cambridge St. Gold coin donation.

The Committee

Chris Short, Chairman, 540 3394 chrisshort@xtra.co.nz

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Jerome Waldron, Marlborough, 03 572 9214

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Ben Winnubst, 548 7357 ben.winnubst@nmhs.govt.nz

Trip List

Weekly Tuesday Meets at Vertical Limits and then at the Sprig and Fern in Milton St. Tell Porkies over a pint; a good way to spend a Tuesday evening.

15-16 Aug - Mt Cupola. Snowcraft course follow-up. (others welcome also). Chris Short 540 3394

22 Aug - Mt Technical. Chris Short 540 3394

5-6 Sept - Mt McKay (Rainbow River). Ben Winnubst 548 7357

19-20 Sept - Mt Dora (Wairau River). Ben Winnubst 548 7357

24-26 Oct - Mt Una (Spenser Mts). Jerome Waldron 03 572 9214

November - Ball Pass. Dates tba. Seb Head, 539 1415

20-29 November - Centennial Hut - Minarets - De la Beche.

Skis or snowshoes. Chris Short 540 3394

December - Mt Sefton. Dates tba. Andrew Smith 543 2600

Other club trips will be arranged upon demand, eg Fox Glacier ice climbing, Mt Aspiring.

Notices

WANTED: Skis

Approx 168/170cm; size 11 boots. Contact Mike Mahoney 021 0333746 miguelmahoneyap@gmail.com

WANTED: Garden Equipment

Can anyone help with a few, good condition, general garden tools for use at Arthur's Pass Lodge.

We have an onsite warden at present, keen to do a bit of tidying up. Contact Ollie@alpineclub.org.nz

Ski Mountaineering NZ Events

- are running two events as follows:

Scarpa Craigieburner (5 September) – A one day individual race, in and near Craigieburn Valley Ski Area. Suitable for all levels of experience.

The Tour (19&20 September) – A two day teams race, near Mt Cheeseman Ski Area. This event is suitable for more experienced ski tourers.

Further information at www.craigieburner09.blogspot.com

FREE Rock Climbing PDF Downloads

are now available on the NZAC website here: <http://alpineclub.org.nz/product?filter0=59> Access via the online shopping site under 'Downloads'. While downloads are free, we are asking people to consider making a donation to assist in covering any associated costs. Currently available: Mangaraho, Tokatoka and Ti Point – Northland; Sawyers Crag – Mt Cook and Mt Maunganui – Tauranga. The old Northern Rock guidebook is being revised and uploaded in sections first and will be followed by Auckland (Mt Eden) Quarry.

Mountaineering Books Collection

CMC has been given a large collection to sell by tender. See:

http://cmc.net.nz/library_items

To bid on these please send an email to

greg.ewing@ist.co.nz with the number of the book from the left column, (Title as a double check), and your price.

Banff Film Festival Success

Once again, we had a great response, filling the 700 seat venue, and a very good selection of films. This makes a good profit for the Club, half of which will go to HQ, towards the very substantial cost of re-roofing and rebuilding Unwin Hut. This is the Club's most iconic hut, and all our members can benefit from refurbishments there.

Trip Reports

Ice Climbing Trip Scotts Creek 11/12 July

By Jerome Waldron

The previous Sunday to this weekend, having spent the past month suffering frosty mornings (coldest Marlborough June for 60 odd years they say) in the vineyard I thought there has to be potential for some nice waterfall Ice formed in Scotts Creek (under Scotts Knob).

Sure enough I was rewarded for my efforts and discovered the areas that traditionally formed were in fantastic condition, and hard. A no brainer I suggested to Ben that's where he should have his ice climbing trip next weekend.

Unfortunately Ben had forgotten, when he picked the date, a wedding he had to attend on that same weekend, so it was left to me to lead the trip in his absence.

For the trip I had 2 keen participants, Kate and Kevin. It's a pleasant 2 hr walk up to the basin where we set up camp, sorted our climbing gear and had lunch, near a half frozen waterfall.

A half hour climb up to the base of first objective, a well formed frozen waterfall. Racking up and sorting myself out I volunteered to lead. The ice proved to be very hard so it took a while to settle the nerves and gain some confidence but eventually I started moving well enough and the ice was taking bomber screws, eventually reaching a very well placed pine tree belay. Kevin seconded up very competently and Kate, who is less experienced, gave it a great effort but ran out of arm power. It was getting late so we rapped off with just

enough length in the rope with a bit of stretch to reach the bottom.

Sunday dawned fine but windy with a fair amount of spindrift coming off the top terrace. We decided conditions weren't bad enough to put us off; we all had good gear. After all, ice climbers in Scotland would consider a day like this to be one out of the box.

To the right of the line we climbed yesterday was a steep snow filled gully leading to more ice, I led through this gully and found a nice line of fat well protected ice leading directly to the top of a terrace. Kate seconded behind me and with greater confidence made the terrace in good style albeit copping a severe face blasting from the spin drift on arrival at my belay. A quick tidy up of gear once Kevin topped out and we walked off via the standard ascent rib back to camp.

There is plenty more scope for a few more weeks of great ice climbing up there I would recommend people take advantage of it. Give me a call for more information or a climbing partner.

PS:

A week later, Ben and Jerome returned. Jerome again did a great lead on the first very steep water ice flow, then Ben led up easier ice steps. Jerome had a taste for more, and we climbed a more laid back but very hard ice step. Numerous snow gullies should turn into lovely plastic ice soon...

Snowcraft Course Follow-up : Rainbow Peak

Some concerns about avalanche risk led us to keep to a ridge route, and hence a change of plan. Being able to drive to a campsite at the start of the Rainbow River allowed our large team of 12 to take a few luxuries – larger tents, fresh milk, matured cheese and crackers, firewood for a trad bonfire. The spur to Pk 2142m on the ridge between Connors Ck and the Rainbow River starts between two streams, about an hour's walk from the carpark. Easy travel, and eventually, from a high point, we could see the actual top, with a tortuous and somewhat more difficult section leading to it. Most of the group felt this point was good enough, but four of them took up the challenge. A most rewarding summit. We didn't see much evidence of avalanches or danger, so Ben suggested descending snow gullies into the easternmost stream, and this proved to be a good choice. (Don't take the western stream, it has a gorge at the end).

We think that it's such a nice climb that the peak deserves a name. Any volunteers to make a submission to LINZ?