

Dear V.O.C. Grads,

Another year bites the dust.

Unfazed by the growing size of the club over the last few years, the executive pushed hard to promote the club along various university media outlets and AMS events during the fall semester. Our annual membership has increase dramatically by 50% to an all-time record, currently standing at 675 members, drastically higher than even the most optimistic early predictions.

With this large new influx of new members, every beginner friendly weekend trip has been solidly booked, sometime weeks ahead of the trip's tentative date and only an hour after opening the trip's wiki page signup. Only limited member car ownership and availability of gear (both the club's own gear, and rentals available in Vancouver) prevents even larger trip sizes.

Similarly, the VOC's annual trips have reached record attendance numbers, forcing us to introduce a capacity limit on each and split trips up to reduce the club's ecological footprint.

#### Huts:

After completing the Phelix Creek trail to the Brian Waddington Memorial hut last year, the hut underwent its first major renovation last summer since its construction in 1998. The main points of contention were to control the dampness and moldiness, make it warmer, nicer and easier to keep clean, reduce hut deterioration and minimize environmental impact. A detailed renovation list can be viewed here: [http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/2009\\_Brian\\_Waddington\\_hut\\_renovations](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/2009_Brian_Waddington_hut_renovations)

Even though Brew Hut III is our newest hut, the extreme winter weather conditions experienced is starting to cause some havoc on the building's southern windward exposed side. The chimney is prone to collecting rime and blocking, whereas the southern and eastern windows are leaky due to the weatherproofing being rime-blasted away. For more details: [http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Hut\\_maintenance#Regular\\_Maintenance](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Hut_maintenance#Regular_Maintenance)

The club will apply for a MEC grant in March to renovation Brew over the upcoming summer to deal with these little pesky problems.

#### Gear:

Noticing the pitiable state of the club's beacon rental fleet and the unrelentless members' rental requests, the club procured 15 new BCA tracker avalanche beacons through a pro-deal with BCA. Barely had they arrived to our gear room, they were all rented out. The remaining beacon rental fleet were shipped to their respective manufactures for refurbishing and extend their lifespan with the club.

Last year's MEC \$15,000 rental fleet renewal grant endeavour fell short of our expectations - although we were encouraged to apply it seems that MEC's grant categories did not support applications of that type. MEC has since re-defined their grant categories, and we have been encouraged to re-apply. We are hopeful that under the new criteria we will have better success.

Even with the club's failure to acquire the grant, MEC Vancouver store has remained determined in assisting the VOC in any way or fashion with our multi-year rental fleet renewal project. The club is currently in discussion with the store for a resolution that would satisfy both parties.

### Other News:

AMS Plant Ops has finally fixed our leaky basement roof! Now if they could just increase the room's ambient temperature a bit... For the future, it seems that we are assured a larger (~50% larger) clubroom and gear room in the new Student Union Building planned to begin construction soon.

Due to our large club archive collection and fragility of some items within it, it was decided that the most valuable and fragile items would be transferred to UBC Archives for proper storage and safe keeping. In return, UBC Archives will deliver some digital copies of the documents and scrapbooks to the club. Depending on the outcome of the agreement, additional items may be transferred.

As for the VOCJ digitizing project, it is still going but at a slower pace. The first 25 editions ('57-'81) have been successfully scanned and DVDs will be available for sale at the Banquet or by mail afterward. Price to be determined at a later date.

### Banquet:

We would like to mention that the '09-'10 VOC Banquet will be held on Wednesday, April 7th at the Saint James Community Center (3214 10th Ave. W.) in Kitsilano from 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm. All alumni are welcomed to attend for free. For additional information, please visit our dedicated wiki page at: [http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Banquet\\_2010](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Banquet_2010). Any changes between now and April 7th will be posted there, please read it if you're planning to attend. The VOCJ52 and previous VOCJ will be available for purchase.

### VOC Journal:

The VOC Journal is again available for purchase. In addition to the latest edition (52nd), previous editions from '00 are still for sale. The prices are as follows:

Pre-50th editions (~'00 – '06): \$15 + shipping  
50th edition ('07 - '08): \$25 + shipping  
51st edition ('08 - '09): \$20 + shipping  
52nd edition ('09 - '10): \$20 + shipping

For shipping cost, please forward us an email indicating your preferred shipping address. We can then calculate and forward you the total cost. Supplies are limited and will contact you if an edition is sold out. All purchases can be by cheque or cash to:

Varsity Outdoor Club  
Box 98, Student Union Building  
6138 Student Union Mall  
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 2B9

Don't forget to mention your mailing address! An involuntary donation is nice but I doubt that is what you want.

This is the conclusion of another successful year in the VOC. We wish all of you the best of times during your outdoor pursuits and play safe out there!

Christian Champagne  
V.U.P (Very Useful Person)  
'09-'10