



Year End Newsletter 2011

The Last Message From the 2011 President

There is an old native saying; "To make the blanket longer, cut off one end and sew it onto the other," which pretty well sums up this year's hiking season, a cold wet late start and a long lovely fall finish.

This season, due to the extra efforts of the hike coordinating committee (and their tenacity) we had more hikes than ever before. Unfortunately we also had more cancellations but the great outdoors in this area is sooo unpredictable.

Calgary is noted for the quickly changing weather patterns and, like the weather, the winds of change are blowing for the club as well.

My mandate as president was to serve in the best interests of the membership, and along with the other members of your executive, ensure the club and its members are presented with the best resources and services we have available to us. In today's ever- changing technological environment, people (members) are asking for more, faster, more accurate and up to date information and we, as your executive representatives are committed to provide what the majority of the members are asking for.

Modern technology plays a huge role in our future and there has been a team of very dedicated executive members working for the past 2 years to help the club make this huge step into the technological age. The executive council has voted unanimously to continue in this direction. All paid up members present at the AGM on January 21st will be given the opportunity to find out more and vote on the new initiatives.

See more details below.

2012 will also herald the changes in some of the executive positions and as always, if you have a bit of extra time and want to be part of the engine that helps move the club along, "volunteer." We can always use the extra hands and heads.

2012 positions opening

Membership Coordinator

Midweek Hike Coordinator

Other positions that are may be available will be posted and discussed at the AGM. See you there!

Ken Meville - President

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, January 21, 2012 @6:30 PM

**Parkhill-Stanley Park Community Centre
4013 Stanley Road SW, Calgary**

Doing the Ha Ling Thing

With the hiking club you are to lead a hike from "boot memory" unless you list it as an exploratory. So I was doing some research and found it was a bit of an undertaking.

The inspiration for this hike has been many years in the making. Many people I hike with have mentioned the goal of hiking like Ha Ling did. So I went in to do my shopping at Sobeys and started off for the top of a mountain.

If you didn't guess I didn't complete my research correctly and have since found Gillean Daffern recounts the story of how Ha Ling was challenged to complete the hike in less than 10 hours. He started at 0730 to return in 6 hours for lunch. These details were not in my memory in Sobeys' parking lot plus, I had embellished my account to form a fiction on this story. I figured it was a bet born of drinking and that could start in the morning way back when men were men and working hard on the railway before 1898. So I started late, after the opening of the store and then I had forgotten the time frame part as well. So I went shopping for art and visiting some acquaintances along Main Street. It took me 3 hours to get to the start of the hiking trail at Whitemans' Gap.

Of course I stopped to try out my Malaysian on the Malaysian group I met and encouraged others to keep up until the Grassi lakes. After the lakes I had the mountain to myself and stumbled on thinking of the other trips I have taken on this mountain. The last one was the whiteout with two feet of snow that had my dog jump over the ridge crest to get out of the howling and bitter wind. I thought she had committed suicide but there is a slight hill down the other side just at the col. She, luckily, didn't make this snow avalanche over the sheer cliff!

Today's trip had me up the Ha Ling portion and the Miners Peak summit quickly enough. I sat at the top of Miners Peak and remembered the picture of the hikers walking over the rocks on top of where the Marmot was sitting in its cubby-hole-home under the summit ridge. The clouds moved in, in earnest, while I was here and snow pellets came down in a sudden flurry as I looked over the cliff at the sun shining in the valley. Soon enough it all turned white and then it came in the sheets of rain. It started to get soggy on the return but not too unpleasantly drenching.

It had taken me a full 10 hours and I slogged into the parking lot in the dark, under the streetlamps and thought it was a good enough hike for the likes of me. Perhaps I will have to think kindly upon old Ha Ling for Gillean said he went up with a group of doubters the next day to show them the way and for them to witness his little flag he left at the top.

For me I contemplated a return but stayed in town the next day and nursed my sore muscles at work after my 30 kilometer bike ride.

Steve Thor

