

FEBRUARY, 2014



Bulkley Backcountry Ski Society Off Season Newsletter

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Valhalla Pure Everest Challenge – *by Ben Heemskerk*

The Extreme Everest Challenge is coming up March 7-9th. Hosted by Valhalla Pure Smithers in partnership with the Hudson Bay Mountain. 24hrs / 8,848m.

This year the BBSS will be once again helping out with the food and beverages. The proceeds will go to the Live It! Love It! Foundation and local BBSS projects.



Photo cred: Aaron Trowbridge

Please contact
BBSSevents@gmail.com if you can help keep people fed and hydrated for a few hours during this great event.

You can register to take part in the Challenge at Valhalla Pure Smithers or online here
www.extremeverestchallenge.com

Have you Renewed Your Membership Lately? – *by Laura Bakermans*

If you don't have a BBSS membership yet, or yours has recently expired, consider these benefits:

- You will be supporting backcountry recreation in our area.
- A strong membership gives us credibility and voice in the community.
- BBSS funds go towards maintenance of existing infrastructure and development of new infrastructure projects (like a cabin).
- Members receive the following local discounts:
 - 5% on ski gear & clothing (excluding avalanche gear) at Valhalla Pure Outfitters
 - 5% on all regularly priced goods at Dawn 2 Dusk
 - 5% on all regularly priced goods at Rayz Boardshop
 - 5% on Avalanche Awareness courses taught by local ski guide Sean Fraser at Hyland Backcountry Safety
 - 5% on Avalanche Awareness courses taught by Roger McColm at Northern Sun Tours

At the last AGM, the annual BBSS membership fee was raised to \$30 per person – this allowed the club to obtain insurance coverage through the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC). The BBSS will cover the annual insurance premiums for previously purchased 3-year memberships, but we're hoping folks will consider early renewal to help us cover these costs.

You can stop in at Valhalla Pure Outfitters, Dawn 2 Dusk and Rayz Board Shop to fill out a membership form and drop off your membership fee (cash or cheque). You can also purchase your BBSS membership online through Paranormal Skis (www.paranormalskis.ca). A huge thanks to Valhalla, D2D, Rayz and Paranormal for helping us out with memberships!



Photo cred: Will Mackenzie

Ask The Gearu – *by The Gearu*

Today we are going to discuss the repair of BC ski gear using some commonly available products under the name's seam grip/aqua seal/freesole/shoogoo. They are all liquid urethane. The difference is consistency/thickness of the product and I think I have them ranked in order thinnest to thickest ... I usually use aqua seal (AQS).

When I buy outer layers I will only consider an outer shells with no inner lining (3 layer gortex or neo shell) because they are lighter, breathe better, have better design, and I can get at the inside of the piece easily when (not if) I put hole in them. I also choose black which doesn't show repairs or dirt, is a slimming color and formal enough to go right to caskette in the event you screwed up on the route finding eh?

A common thing to happen is ski edge cuts on your gortex pants or holes in your shell from tagging trees or spark holes from a campfire fire, they are all easy to PERMANENTLY fix without stitching and you do it from the INSIDE of the garment.

1st step- tape the edges of the rip/hole together on the OUTSIDE with masking tape, the closer/better/ more even you can tape the edges together the more likely your finished repair will look good.

2nd step- you need to make a backing patch to overlap the cut by 1 cm on each side, materials I have found to work well are very thin ripstop nylon cloth or a dryer anti static sheet that has done a few dryer cycles which I often refer to as ... polish fibre glass

3rd step- Put the tube of AQS in a boiling cup of water for 15 min to make the product run more easily, apply the aqua seal to the INSIDE of the garment but don't use too much (if you get runs ... you used too much) then put your patch on top of the AQS.

4th step- AQS is extremely MESSY stuff to deal with requiring acetone to clean SO here is the crux move: take a piece of saran wrap and place it over that whole mess, now you are protected from all that nasty Shmoo, roll/squeeze the repair nice and thin/flat with a beer bottle OR if you are upscale enough to afford an amusing merlot suck it back and use the empty bottle ... other than to offer condolences I don't know what to suggest for the non drinker?

5th step- let your repair dry for 24 hrs, try to peel all the saran off but usually some of it will stay stuck to the dried AQS which I don't worry about, peel the tape off the outside of the garment. If you did a great initial taping on the outside especaily on a dark garment you may not even notice your repair but you CAN cover the scar with a crest or canadian flag or something like that and how you get your crest/patch to stick is by gluing it on with AQS the all purpose glue, if you have loose velcro patches glue them on with AQS, protect your tele boot bellows from edge cuts with some AQS it WILL stick to pebex boot plastic and protect, if you have loose anything glue it on with AQS, need to hem those pants ... a little AQS

**lets talk about the often abused glove, ski gloves, bike gloves, work gloves ANY kind of glove can have its life DOUBLED with a little AQS, what you want to do is recognize you have or undoubtedly will have some major wear spots happening and AQS them BEFORE they become a big hole otherwise you will be patching the hole as well which is harder to do on the intricate shape of a glove, but if you catch it in time just dab a little AQS on the wear spot, cover with saran wrap and let dry ""

Finally if you store your unused AQS in a SEALED glass jar in the freezer the product will probably last a year to fix your next FUBAR ... and your food won't taste like tolulene

Good Luck and Good Gear!

GearU



Photo cred: GearU

Call for new BBSS Executive

We will be having some director positions open at our AGM in March. Some of the BBSS priorities are Hankin, Ashman and promoting a vibrant and safe ski community. We would love to add some new executive blood to the team! Keep your eyes open for the AGM date in March (TBA soon) and come out and volunteer!

Video Contest Reminder

A reminder to all of you backcountry shredders out there – the 3rd annual BBSS Ski Social Backcountry Film Contest will be held at the Ski Social next fall. Keep those cameras rolling!

1% for the Planet - *by Scott Jackson*

The Bulkley Backcountry Ski Society is pleased to announce that we have been accepted as a non-profit partner in the 1% For The Planet organization. Their mission is to: build, support and activate an alliance of businesses financially committed to creating a healthy planet. The inclusion of the BBSS as a non-profit partner means that we will be able to access funding from the businesses that have signed on to donate 1% of their sales to sustainability oriented non-profits. One of the requirements for membership is that roughly half of the BBSS activities have to be educational in nature, so stay tuned for more information as we work on our community outreach and get more people out in the snow!



Photo cred: Jeff Kyba

We are also working with a local business - Net Zero Structures - to assist with the testing and development of a composting toilet that will function in cold climates (like the Hankin Lookout, or an exploration camp). Net Zero Structures is a member company with 1% For The Planet, and more information is available here: <http://net-zerostructures.com/home.html>

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