



SQUAMISH ACCESS SOCIETY
SOCIETY NO. S-50588

2022 **ANNUAL** **REPORT**

Executive Summary

- **Membership rose from 1480 to 1671. It will be important with the new annual memberships to make sure we are signing people up with recurring memberships.**
- **2022 saw the reopening of the majority of the rockfall closure areas.**
- **The potential sale of the Smoke Bluffs Park lands owned by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC is still under review. SAS is engaged with the FMCBC Smoke Bluffs Committee working with the groups who originally purchased the land on how to move forward.**
- **Maps were installed on the Murrin Loop Trail network in collaboration with the Squamish Nation. Maps were provided by Marc Bourdon at Quickdraw Publications.**
- **Stewardship and trail building events were held at the Chief, Murrin Park and Shannon Falls**
- **The rotten log on the Malamute trail was replaced with a new staircase in collaboration with Arc'teryx during the annual Squamish Climbing Academy.**
- **The SAS rebolting program installed 43 bolts, 38 chains and 24 steel lower-offs.**
- **The society is in excellent financial shape**

Board of Directors

The Board would like to extend a massive thank you to Robin Richardson for his service to SAS over the past couple of years as Chairman. Robin did an excellent job of coordinating our work and keeping busy board members engaged with SAS. Robin has moved out to the Okanagan and recently became a father. We are looking forward to seeing him and his family on trips out to Skaha to escape the Squamish rain.

Caitlin MacDonell is also stepping down after serving on the SAS board for a number of years. Her legal background has been invaluable during her time as a

director, and we are grateful for all her work. We were excited to hear that Caitlin recently welcomed a son, and we wish her all the best in this exciting new time of her life.

Finally, Travis McClinchey will be leaving the SAS board, as he indicated at the start of 2022. Travis was the SAS treasurer and did a fantastic job of keeping the SAS finances in order during his tenure. We were very grateful that Travis was able to give us a lot of notice which allowed us to find a suitable replacement. We also owe a big thank you to Kaylan Worsnop, who came on board in 2022 as a social media co-ordinator. Kaylan was able to significantly improve the quality and consistency of our messaging and her work was very valuable to us. Unfortunately, Kaylan has had to take a step back from working with SAS but we hope she will be able to be involved again in the future.

2022 Director Roles:

Chair: Robin Richardson Vice-Chair: Brian Moorhead

Treasurer: Travis McClinchey Secretary: Caitlin MacDonell

Directors at Large: Emilisa Fridrich David Jones
 Alex Ryan Tucker Ben Webster
 Kieran Brownie

New Directors: Paul McSorley, Peter Winter, Jeff Yoo

Associate Directors: Jack Fieldhouse

Associates: Brian Owen, George Hanzal

Membership

- In 2022, SAS saw membership rise from 1480 to 1671. We have continued with the annual membership at \$10 a year. We are a few years into the new model, and it will be vital to keep up our numbers as the 5-year memberships begin to expire.
- We successfully increased our membership numbers through collaboration with community events (Rampage), in person sign up locations at film nights and the Arcteryx Academy, and facilitating sign up with QR codes on stickers and posters. Ground Up has also been signing up members at their front desk, and managed to sign up 100 members from September to the end of 2022.
- SAS has an ad page in the new Squamish Bouldering guidebook to encourage member sign ups.

Advocacy

Key Land Manager Relationships

Squamish Nation

- The new maps installed outside of the park boundaries on the Murrin Loop Trail were the result of collaboration with the Squamish Nation. They include language acknowledging the territory of the Nation, and were made possible by the continuing work to build a good relationship.
- Despite not finalising the recreation fund with the Nation and SORCA, work continues on this project, and we are looking forward to what's to come.

BC Parks

- Re-opening of areas affected by rockfall began in July, which was later than we anticipated. We were expecting them to be lifted in the spring and we advocated strongly for that to happen. It was challenging trying to communicate to the community that we were pushing for reopenings despite the lack of public progress.
- There are still limited closures affecting the Chief. We have been discussing with Parks how they are going to go about lifting these and how they will respond to future rockfalls.

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- Improved maps on the Murrin Loop Trail should result in less lost hikers and SAR calls
 - Phase 3 of the bouldering fencing was installed this year in the Titanic area
 - As with previous years, SAS disseminated information on falcon nesting site identification to the climbing community. There were no closures this year.
 - Another production was filmed in the boulders along the Mamquam Forest Service Road. SAS worked closely with the production company to minimize the impact on boulderers and ensure that information on dates and closures were passed to the community. BC Parks mandates that film companies wishing to shoot in the Stawamus Chief Park consult with SAS. As part of this arrangement, the companies remunerate SAS. This year we received a total of \$2,000.
 - Trail projects included the new stairs on the Malamute, replacing old fixed lines on the Skywalker descent, and trail work at Murrin Park.
 - SAS applied for and received \$2,500 through the Parks Enhancement Fund to fund improvements to the Murrin loop trail at the Commonwealth/Reacharound area

District of Squamish / Smoke Bluffs Park

- SAS continues to participate in the Smoke Bluffs Park Staff Advisory Committee
- A new Urine Diverting Toilet is scheduled for installation at Octopus Garden
- The FMCBC has constituted a new committee to discuss the possibility of a sale of the Smoke Bluffs lands. This committee is dedicated to gathering more information and reviewing options, SAS is an active participant.
- DoS once again convened the Squamish Visitor Management Roundtable (SVMR). This is a bi-weekly multi-agency session to proactively identify and address issues resulting from the increased visitor numbers in the Squamish region. Attendees included the DoS, FLNRO, BC Parks, Conservation Officers, Squamish Nation, SAS, SORCA, and others. Issues addressed included bear awareness, bathrooms and camping. Kaylan created a series of informational posts to share these messages to the climbing community

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- We are expecting disruption this year around the Mamquam FSR and Powerhouse Springs FSR when Fortis begins construction of their pipeline. We've had a meeting with Fortis to inform them about climbing interests in the area and will continue to monitor the situation.

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development (FLNRO)

- We are still awaiting expansion of the Chek rec site.
- Toilets were vandalized and burnt over the winter but have now been replaced.

BC Timber Sales

- Logging happened once again above the Chek rec site. There were some issues where logging trucks were operating on the FSR without flaggers. This poses a significant hazard and we will be vigilant about future operations in the area.
- Corresponded with BC Timber Sales to review parcels slated to be logged in future years in order to alert them to climber use of areas or roads.

Infrastructure

Bolt & Anchor Replacement

- The SAS rebolting program installed 43 bolts, 38 chains and 24 steel lower-offs.
- Rebolting work was focused on
 - Browning Bluffs, reestablishing this area as a climbing destination
 - Nightmare Rock
 - Top Shelf
- Thank you as always to Squamish Rock Guides for the many hours of volunteer work in addition to the paid rebolting.

Crag Improvement and Trail Building

- Malamute stairs described above.
- Final phase of the fencing in the Grand Wall boulders was completed.

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- 10:3 program (ten volunteers giving three hours) - Volunteer groups worked on projects at Murrin Park. One of the trail days was done by volunteers from Patagonia in Vancouver.
 - Old fixed ropes around trees on the Shannon falls pools trail were replaced with new fixed lines bolted to rock.
 - Anchor replacement and rebolting at various crags throughout SBP.

Stewardship & Community

Festival Support

- The Arc'teryx Climbing Academy was once again a live event.
 - Volunteers assisted our skilled builder, Todd Nichols, in demolishing the rotting log on the Malamute trail and replacing it with a new cedar staircase. Arc'teryx generously paid for this project to support stewardship of outdoor and community resources.
 - Kieran Brownie presented on one of the evenings.
 - SAS had a booth at the evening events. We chatted to people, answered questions about access issues, and signed up around 40 new members
- For 2023, the Rampage bouldering festival was a month long competition through the Kaya app combined with an in-person event. Rampage raised around \$1600 for SAS and registered a number of new members.

Community

- Climb On continues to be a valued partner in the Squamish climbing community. They supported us this year by donating \$2 to SAS from every sale of their Climb On branded chalk. They have also donated prizes for the AGM and helped share important messages through their social media and posters in their store.
- Ground Up has supported us by selling memberships, and offering their space for the 2023 AGM

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- Tim Emmett invited us to sell memberships at film screenings for Reel Rock and Brit Rock
 - ACC Squamish spent time rescrubbing crags at Murrin Park on the Mamquam Forest Road
 - SAS Supported a free community rock rescue session in October, more to come next year

Our Valued Allies

- Climb-On
- Arc'teryx
- Valhalla Pure Squamish
- Ground Up Climbing center
- Flashed
- UBC Varsity Outdoors Club
- FMCBC
- BCMC
- SORCA
- The Hive and Cliffhanger gyms
- The Squamish Nation
- Climbers Access Society of BC
- Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
- ACC Squamish and Vancouver
- Tourism Squamish
- Escape Route Squamish
- ILSA
- Patagonia
- POW

Communications

Social Media

- Our social media reach grew this year from approximately 2500 to 3100 for Facebook and from 3000 to 3732 Instagram followers.
- Kaylan Worsnop came on board in spring 2022 as a volunteer social media coordinator. Kaylan did a fantastic job in the role and improved the quality and reach of our messaging with her social media skills.
- Continuing from 2021, our messaging focused on several key areas:
 - Announcements: Information about closures, access issues, and events with the aim of quickly notifying the climbing community.
 - Sharing our work: Updates on SAS projects like rebolting and trail work with the aim of increasing transparency of what our role is and awareness of our contributions.
 - Educational: Teaching people about issues they may encounter, including problems with hardware, with the aim of encouraging stewardship and helping climbers take responsibility for climbing areas.
 - History/Storytelling: Sharing interesting stories and details from Squamish climbing in years past.

Newsletter

- We continued with our periodic newsletter. It's been a valuable way to reach people who don't have social media and is a good opportunity to reflect on new news and achievements over the year.

2023 Goals

Advocacy

- Squamish Nation
 - Support climbing opportunities and programs for Squamish Nation youth lead by ILSA and Arc'teryx. Through our community connections, SAS will bring in other businesses and organizations to contribute equipment, funds, or volunteer time.
 - Develop a mutually supportive long-term relationship with the Squamish Nation aiming towards a Memorandum of Understanding regarding climber activities on lands belonging to the Squamish Nation.
- FLNRO:
 - Improve the Electric Avenue crag with picnic tables and some shade
 - Trail improvement project to Echo Beach
 - Coordinate with BC Hydro in regard to grading the road to Electric Avenue and re-installing a gate at the bottom.
 - Continue to work with FLNRO to finalize the expansion of Chek Rec Area.
- DoS/SBP:
 - Continue to advocate for climbing on the Smoke Bluff Park Advisory Committee.
 - Continue to advocate for long term protection of SBP as a climbing park when/if the FMCBC restart discussions with the DoS regarding the potential transfer/sale of FMCBC lands in the SBP.
- BC Parks:
 - Work with BC Parks to re-open the last closed areas and advocate for a coherent strategy for future rockfall
 - Advocate for park infrastructure projects including bike racks, trail markers, new toilets, signage, and additional trail work.
 - Be actively involved in the development of the Shannon Basin Visitor Management Plan
 - Continuation of peregrine falcon closure data collection and notification.
 - Start a WAG bag pilot project to see whether this would be a viable solution to the issue of human waste at crags.

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- BC Timber Sales:
 - Continue to correspond with BCTS to review planned logging parcels.
 - Communicate logging activity and road limitations to climbers.

Infrastructure

- Reviewing the bolt/anchor replacement program
- Identify opportunities for trail work in 2023
- Picnic tables and shelter at Electric Avenue
- Advocate for bike racks at climbing areas
- Smoke Bluffs Park – UDT at Octopus Garden planned, continued work on Blind Channel trail area, and advocate for replacement of Tunnel Rock Stairs.

Community/Volunteer Activities

- Find a volunteer event co-ordinator to create more community events
- Find trail crew co-ordinators with experience and energy to lead volunteer work groups
- Crag Keepers Program: Continue to support groups like the ACC who can rescrub crags without direct SAS supervision. Explore using local guides to carry out rescrubbing under direct supervision
- Festivals: Support the Arc'teryx Academy and Rampage with SAS info, membership drives, and stewardship projects during the festivals.

Membership

- Continue to sign up new members, particularly with recurring memberships
- Offer more opportunities for members to get involved through socials and volunteer opportunities

Communication

- Recruit a new volunteer to manage social media posts and communications.
- Develop and institute a coherent communication plan for the year including social media posts, website updates, and membership emails.

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- Education: Social media posts in spring to increase awareness regarding bolt and permadraw issues, encourage community to replace missing hangers, and improve safety awareness.
 - Announcements: Proactively inform the public and disseminate new/unforeseen issues (ex. bears at a crag, rockfall hazards.)
 - Sharing our Work: Increase the number of messages about projects and accomplishments to raise the profile of SAS and inform our members.
 - History and Story Telling: Increase our social media engagement with a steady flow of stories of interest and partner with allies and community influencers.

Society Internal

- Integrate new board members and balance volunteer workload with life commitments (and climbing!)
- Grants and corporate donations:
 - Identify new opportunities to apply for grants

Financial Summary

**SQUAMISH ACCESS SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	As at December 31, 2022
Assets	
Cash	\$ 47,091
Net assets	\$ 47,091

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	For the year ended December 31, 2022
Revenue	
Individual donations and memberships	\$ 13,287
Trail-related grants and donations	9,988
Arc'teryx donation	6,000
Others	2,800
Total revenue	32,075
Expenses	
Trail work	16,653
Rebolting	6,165
Board insurance	940
Promotion, administrative supplies and others	1,946
Total expenses	25,704
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 6,371