



SQUAMISH ACCESS SOCIETY
SOCIETY NO. S-50588

2020 **ANNUAL** **REPORT**

Executive Summary

- Due to the pandemic, SAS ramped up virtual engagement in place of volunteer trail days and festival support. We built and launched a new website and engaged much more frequently on Facebook and Instagram.
- Following the Watts Point (including Murrin and the Petrifying Wall) land transfer, SAS, SORCA, and the Squamish Nation started the process to institute a management framework that will be mutually beneficial for all parties.
- Membership rose from 988 to 1129.
- Positive engagement and advocacy continue with BC Parks, FLNRO, BC Timber Sales, the Smoke Bluffs Advisory Committee, and District of Squamish.
- A proposal to expand the Chek Rec Area to include The Monastery and Electric Avenue was submitted to FLNRO. Target implementation summer/fall 2021.
- A Urine Diverting Toilet was installed at the Electric Avenue Parking area in partnership with the Squamish Lillooet Regional District who donated \$10,000.
- Trail work was completed by volunteer crews at Murrin and the Grand Wall Boulders.
- Several projects and joint ventures were completed in the Smoke Bluffs including a memorial bench for Chris McCrum and transfer of the Drenka lands to the park.
- The SAS rebolting program installed 56 Protection bolts, 35 Anchor bolts, 56 Chain Rings, and 34 Lower rings.
- The society is in excellent financial shape thanks to donations in 2019 and 2020.

Board of Directors

The Board would like to extend a big thank you to the outgoing Chair, Krissy MacKay. Her leadership navigated SAS through an unprecedented time in the world that presented new challenges to the community. She will remain on the Board in 2021.

Eric Dumerac, Chris Singer, and Jack Fieldhouse will be stepping back from the Board to focus on life, work, family, and health. They will remain connected to SAS as advisors as they are integral members of the climbing community.

2021 Director Roles: Chair: Robin Richardson Vice-Chair: Brian Moorhead
 Treasurer: Travis McClinchey Secretary: TBC

Returning Directors at Large: Emilisa Frirdich, David Jones, Krissy MacKay,
 Alex Ryan Tucker, Caitlin MacDonnell.

New Members to the Board in 2021 will be Ben Webster, Kieran Brownie, and Dave Ray. Fern Webb will join as an associate.

Membership

2020 saw membership rise from 988 to 1129.

Advocacy

Key Land Manager Relationships

Squamish Nation / Ministry of Indigenous Affairs

- Initial meetings with the Squamish Nation, BC Ministry of Indigenous Affairs, and SORCA to discuss a management committee and respectful continued climber access to Petrifying Wall area following land transfer.

BC Parks

- BC Parks instituted closures and a permit system in the Stawamus Chief Park. SAS clarified access for climbers and communicated this to the climbing community.
- Phase 2 of Grand Wall Boulder fencing was approved, planned, and material purchased for construction in 2021. SAS has partnered with Flashed bouldering equipment for this project.
- Assisted with successful identification of peregrine falcon nesting sites, aided in determining appropriate climbing route closures, and communicated the closures to the climbing community.

District of Squamish / Smoke Bluffs Park

- Regular communication with District staff and council regarding access issues within Squamish. Camping and Van Life were not an issue in 2020.
- Participation with DoS Smoke Bluff Park Advisory Committee - 2 SAS Committee Members at large (Brian and Krissy) and 1 SAS Representative (Luisa Giles and alternate Jason Brandenburg.)
- The Drenka lands (Zip cliff and adjacent) were transferred to the DoS and are now part of the Smoke Bluffs Park. This is the culmination of a long-term plan.
- Assisted DoS with bear awareness at crags.

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

- Engaged with FLNRO staff to move forward with expanding Cheakamus Recreation Site to include South Chek climbing areas.
- Constructed a Urine Diverting Toilet at Electric Avenue partially funded with a \$10,000 grant from the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.
- Signed a Partnership Agreement to formalize volunteer maintenance and activities in the Chek Rec Area. This also provides provincially funded insurance for volunteer activities in the area.

BC Timber Sales

- Active logging occurred in the Check Canyon area. SAS alerted climbers of logging traffic and road closures.
- 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

- Hardware was replaced at Murrin, the Chief, Smoke Bluffs, Rogues, and Chek. The total work completed was 56 Protection bolts, 35 Anchor bolts, 56 Chain Rings, and 34 Lower rings.
- A new reporting form and educational material were added to our website.
- A social media campaign was completed to educate the public on bolt and anchor issues plus SAS's remediation program.
- Thank you to Squamish Rock Guides & West Coast Mountain Guides for re-bolting work.

Crag Improvement

- In partnership with the Squamish Trails Society and Climber's Access Society of BC, significant improvements were made to the Parking Lot crag in the Smoke Bluffs including making the base wheelchair accessible.
- A high-quality picnic table was donated on behalf of SAS by our Board Member, Brian Moorhead.

Trail Building

- Small groups of volunteers worked on trails at Murrin and in the Smoke Bluffs.
- Thank you to our Associates, Brian Owen and George Hanzal, for their work on the trails at Murrin Park.

Cragkeepers

- Thank you to the Valhalla Pure Outfitters staff for clean-up and re-scrubbing One Toque Wall.

Stewardship & Community

Festival Support

- During the Arc'teryx (Virtual) Climbing Academy, SAS ran a series of videos focused on the common issues with bolts and anchors and how community members can deal with them. A small cleanup event along the base of the Chief was also part of the event.

Community

- A memorial bench to Chris McCrum was erected on the Smoke Bluffs Loop trail. Chris was a valued member of the Squamish Trail Society who passed away in an avalanche in 2019.
- Two Board Members attended the virtual US Access Fund global symposium and made valuable connections to other climbing access organizations.

Our Valued Allies

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

Communications

Social Media

- 2020 was the year of virtual communication. SAS launched an Instagram account and posted more frequently on our Facebook page. These two media channels have approximately 1500 and 2200 followers respectively.
- 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 about 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.

Website

- We built and launched a new website to update the look, feel, and functionality. It will be easily updatable and serves to deliver SAS information and news to those who are not on social media. www.squamishaccess.ca

2021 Goals

Advocacy

- Collaborate with the Squamish Nation, SORCA, and BC Ministry of Indigenous Affairs to institute a Management Plan and Joint Committee to share access to the climbing areas adjacent to Murrin Provincial Park and other lands belonging to the Squamish Nation. This will include a program to mentor the youth of the Squamish Nation in climbing and mountain related activities.
- Develop a mutually supportive long-term relationship with the Squamish Nation aiming towards a Memorandum of Understanding in regard to climber activities on lands belonging to the Squamish Nation.
- FLNRO:
 - Work towards the expansion of Chek Canyon Rec Site to include South Check climbing areas.
 - Spring cleanup and ongoing maintenance of Check Rec Area.
 - Improve the Electric Avenue parking area.
 - Coordinate with BC Hydro with regards to possible road improvement to Electric Avenue.
- DoS/SBP:
 - Continue to advocate for climbing on the Smoke Bluff Park Advisory Committee.
 - Engage with the FMCBC and DoS to provide local knowledge and climber advocacy during negotiations of potential transfer/sale of FMCBC lands in the SBP to the DoS for inclusion in the SBP.
- BC Parks:
 - Move forward infrastructure projects including Grand Wall Boulder fencing, bike racks, trail markers, signage, and trail work.
 - Advocate for climber access if a day pass/trail limitations are instituted again.
- BC Timber Sales: Continue correspondence to review planned logging parcels.
 - Communicate logging activity and road limitations to climbers.

Infrastructure

- Expanding the Bolt/Anchor Replacement Program by \$3-5K
 - Plan for a large-scale rebolting project of an aging sport crag in 2022.
- Complete Phase 1 of Grand Wall Boulder Area trail fencing to limit degradation.
- Trail work: Upper Malamute Trail and replace hazardous stairs at Petrifying Wall.
- Installing bike racks at the Apron parking lot and the entrance of the Superfly area.
- Trail Markers: Grand Wall bouldering area trails and main trail to the Grand Wall.
- Install crag kits at 2-3 popular crags including scrub brush, hangers and nuts, wrench, and user installable hazard signage (bolts, anchors, rock fall, etc.)

Community/Volunteer Activities

- The Golden Scrub Brush Awards are scheduled for Fall 2021. We will make a final decision on running the event during the summer based on the current and projected state of the pandemic and vaccinations.
- 10/3 Volunteer Program: Re-engage the groups who organized volunteer days in previous years.
- Crag Keepers Program: Promote climber self-reliance and stewardship by adding 2-3 Crag Keeper groups who can contribute on a yearly basis and an educational campaign on basic, safe scrubbing on top rope.
- Festivals: Support local climbing festivals within BC Health Guidelines.

Membership

- Target growth of 1500 members through community events, trail head QR links, and high traffic weekend signup booths at major parking areas.
- Partner with climbing gyms and local businesses to facilitate signup at their locations through QR signs, stickers, and education of staff.
- Volunteer opportunities will be solicited through our communications channels.

Communication

- Develop and institute a coherent communication plan for the year including social media posts, website updates, and membership emails.
 - 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.)
 - 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.
- Continuation of Peregrine falcon closure data collection and notification.
- Add SAS messaging to Squamish SAR signage that will be installed at popular crags/parking lots/trail heads.

Society Internal

- Integrate new board members and balance volunteer workload with life commitments (and climbing!)
- Financial review and three-year plan.
- Grants and corporate donations:
 - Review and plan for applications this year.
 - Seek new grants and corporate donations to cover increased rebolting infrastructure projects.

Financial Summary

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	As at December 31, 2020
Assets	
Cash	\$ 25,364
Accounts receivable	555
Total assets	\$ 25,919
Net assets	\$ 25,919

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	For the year ended December 31, 2020
Revenue	
District of Squamish (Toilet)	\$ 10,000
Notable private donation	5,000
Corporate and organization donations	4,010
Memberships	1,380
Other	1,521
Total revenue	21,911
Expenses	
Electric Avenue toilet	14,175
Trail building and route maintenance supplies/tools	5,314
Rebolting initiatives	4,437
Smoke Bluffs bench and picnic table	2,414
Directors insurance	1,200
Other	1,332
Total expenses	28,872
Excess of expenses over revenue	\$ (6,961)