



Robson & Assiniboine Worlds Collide?

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by Rick McCharles <[e-mail](#)>

I watched the 2003 world gymnastics championships (LIVE on the www). No LIVE video clips, unfortunately.

The Canadian men's team did a fantastic job, surprising the world with a 9th place finish, qualifying for the Athens Olympics with a full team. Our girls, also qualified in 11th place.

I am back coaching at Altadore Gym Club in Calgary, temporarily standing in for my buddy Kelly Manjak who is at Worlds coaching Canadian star Kyle Shewfelt. <[website](#)>

Kyle qualified 1st on Floor & 3rd on Vault into FINALS which will be held the week-end of Aug 23-24.





Anybody knows... You gotta keep your worlds apart!
- George Costanza

**Each year I look forward to two annual hiking trips.
For 2003:**

- 1. Mount Robson (with Saskatoon friends)**
- 2. Mount Assiniboine (with Calgary friends)**

**Wow! Two of the great mountains in the Rockies.
What a summer! The weather was fantastic.**

Compare & contrast the two hikes:

	
Mt. Robson with Saskatoon <i>group of seven</i>	Mt. Assiniboine with Calgary buddies
dehydrated food, bagel chips, vitamins	hydrated food, bagels, bacon, eggs, ReaLemon, 4 bags of grated cheese, smoked salmon. (20 pounds of leftovers)
2-person tents	" <i>Dachau Dome</i> " 4-man tent
hiking poles de rigueur	considered useful for the infirm & elderly
children, rookies, etc. welcome	exclusively a rugged MAN'S hike
<i>Platypus</i> hydration systems	Nalgene bottle good enuf for us
underarm deodorant required	get outta here!
antibiotic alcohol hand gel essential	alcohol gel? Can you drink it?
daily <i>naughty bit</i> washing with biodegradable CampSuds enforced. (Soap disposed too close to water table kills baby moose. A small price to pay for keeping sleeping bag odour free.)	splash naked in glacier water with full-strength shampoo. Screw the moose! (if you can catch one)
	early to bed means you won't get your fair share of booze. Wander

early to bed, early to rise	the campground late in enhanced state wondering what it would be like to lick kittens.
carefully planned, multi-option day hikes	scramble high off-trail until one or more of group is lost, presumed dead

My friend ET from Saskatoon has now twice hiked with the Calgary guys — that's right, she is an embedded Saskatoon spy AND is female.

Did worlds collide? Did *Assiniboine Rick* destroy *Robson Rick*? Not really.

The worlds are moving closer; both used GPS and water filter, for example.

On both mountains we set-up a base camp and day hiked as high up as we could get. Awesome vistas.

Both mountains too are big draws for mountain climbers. We spoke at length to men climbing Assiniboine and watched them atop the summit with a telescope.

While we were at Robson, a solo climber disappeared. Still no trace of him as I write.

We choppered into Assiniboine. Way cool & less expensive than you might think. (about C\$150)



Each night we imbibed our generous allotment of alcohol; each day we planned a different challenging day hike. We want to get high as quickly as possible; way above the treeline.

The vistas were fantastic & sometimes mystical this summer due to forest fire haze.



Check out my [annotated photos of the Assiniboine hike](#).

Emperor Falls en route to Robson blew us away, literally.



Mt. Robson — the highest of the Canadian Rockies — dominates the surroundings even more than does Assiniboine. Berg Lake at the base of the mountain is awesome with a glacier spilling directly into the water.

No major problems on this trip, aside from the nightly porcupine attack.

Another highlight on Robson was Snowbird pass, a magical alpine meadow far above the glacier. We encountered 3 white-blond Dutch children playing there, shirtless & shoeless. Somehow, they fit right in.



Annotated photos of the Robson hike.

Trust you are enjoying your summer,

- Rick

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