



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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P. O. Box 1223
TELEPHONE SEV. 3189

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Official Publication:
THE B. C. MOUNTAINEER

Editor: W. A. D. MUNDAY
North Lonsdale P. O. Phone North Van. 200

Subscription: \$1.00 PER YEAR.
Published Monthly.

No. 4. Vol. 2 JUNE, 1924 Vancouver, B.C.

CLIMBING IN THE TANTALUS RANGE

By E. H. NUNN

Our party, consisting of Neal Carter, Ted Taylor, Arthur Cooper, Fred Smith, and myself, left on May 10 for Squamish to spend a week in the Tantalus Range. Leaving the boat we learned that Barber's Camp on the Squamish River was not operating, so had to abandon the idea of camping at 5,000 feet and proposed to make camp instead at Tantalus Lake or the "Lake of Lovely Waters," at 3,700 feet. We got to Chee Kye at 4.30 and a hike of about two miles brought us to the Squamish River where we made our first night's camp. The beauty of a perfect moonlight night was somewhat marred by armies of husky mosquitoes who attacked us on all sides, and we retired early to our sleeping bags,—two to a bag, the advantage being of less weight to pack and of added warmth, although the prominent features of one's anatomy are somewhat accentuated.

At 5.30 a.m. we beheld the sun rising over Garibaldi, and to the west our Tantalus peaks swimming in a sea of molten gold. Hurriedly eating our breakfast, we cached some grub and crossed the river by the cable near our camp. From here we plunged into virgin forest and pushed our way through underbrush and over fallen timber until, at 12.30, we emerged at the creek which drains the lake.

We were now only at 1,000 feet, but from this point on, the going became better. Ascending a rock-slide for 1,000 feet, we hit the snow line (3,100) at 4.30. Here the going became better still and we were soon on the ridge in view of the lake. Finding no bare ground, camp was made on the snow. We retired early in anticipation of a good day's climbing on the morrow.

Leaving camp at 8.30 Monday a.m. we hiked down the frozen lake to a favorable point and commenced the assault on Mt. Alpha. A few preliminary snow slopes brought us to the scree-covered ledges of the main peak. To the west lay the serrated crags and pinnacles of the Red Tusk Ridge, dominated by Mt. Serratus itself. From this ridge a series of glaciers flow eastward toward the lake, each terminating in an ice-fall, from which came almost a continuous roar as tons of rock and snow poured over the cliffs.

Alternating between interesting rock work and steep snow slopes, we passed the last vestige of vegetation at 11.30 (6,400). At this point we were surprised by an avalanche which swept down the slopes not twenty feet from us and went thundering down over the cliff. The rock ledges were covered with a lot of loose rocks, and the rear climbers were kept busy dodging the fusillade. Suffering no casualties, we arrived on the corniced summit at 1.50 and found in the cairn a record to the effect that A. B. Morkill and B. S. Darling had made the first ascent in 1914, and that Tom and John Fyles had climbed the peak in 1916. Ours was the third ascent and the earliest. Observations on two aneroids gave an elevation of about 7,700 feet. Lunch and the wonderful view were absorbed simultaneously and made a good

combination. To the east lay the Garibaldi group, with the cairn on the table visible with the naked eye. With the aid of our field glasses, though, some of the more obscure details were easily recognized. To the north we could see Wedge Mt. and Mt. Turner. Behind us, to the south, lay the local peaks with Mts. Crown, Bishop, Cathedral and Brunswick plainly visible,—the Sawteeth also showing up well. To the south west reared the imposing massif of Mt. Sir Roderick, and in the further distance rose the Jervis Inlet peaks. On every hand stretched an endless ocean of snowy pinnacles and billowy ridges,—material to reward the efforts of exploration for many years to come. In the valley, 7,500 feet below us, lay the thread-like Squamish River, and the tiny villages of Chee Kye and Brackendale.

Mts. Alpha and Omega (also known as the South Peak), are visible from the Squamish Valley and are well known by name. We suggested a number of new names from the Greek myth of Tantalus. Thus the N. and S. Twin Peaks we called Niobe and Pelops, while the two main peaks of the range we named Tantalus and Dione. Two prominent pinnacles in the Red Tusk Ridge we called Sisyphus and Pandareus.

At 3.30, having taken some plane-table observations for a map of the district, we left the summit, and after an exhilarating descent arrived on the lake at sunset. In this vicinity we noticed several areas of red snow. The lake was a bit slushy, and every step was a knee-deep plunge. We arrived back in camp at 6.25, and a victorious attack was made on the macaroni and cheese.

Tuesday morning we left at 9.15 and crossed the lake towards the southern peaks. Ascending a snow gully, we emerged into a glacial amphitheatre filled with avalanched debris. From here an hour's grind up the north margin of the snow covered glacier brought us to the neve. In places the wind had blown the snow away, exposing the blue and green ice. In front of us rose the Twin peaks,—Pelops and Niobe; behind us towered Omega, and to the north loomed the imposing mass of

Alpha. On our left we noticed a small, but promising looking, rocky peak. By noon we had gained the summit and found that Smith and Warren had made the first ascent in 1910. Mt. Sir Roderick looked very impressive from this point and we could also see that the route in to the Tantalus district by Mill Creek would be impracticable as two ridges of about 5,500 feet altitude would have to be crossed and the deep intervening valley would make packing in difficult.

Dropping down again to the neve, we ascended Mt. Pelops by a series of snow slopes broken by jutting rock ridges. Finding no cairn on the summit we left evidence of the first recorded ascent, and observed the elevation to be about 6,800 feet, and that of Dione to be slightly lower. On the ridge between the two Twin peaks we found a fine example of a wind cirque which showed the depth of snow to be about 40 feet. By 2.40 we were on Mt. Dione and found a record stating that Smith and Warren had climbed the peak in 1910. Leaving at 3.15, we glissaded down to the neve and, traversing below the cliffs of Pelops, crossed the snowfield towards Mt. Omega. An interesting rock scramble brought us to the summit at 5.15. There was a cairn with no record, but we recently learned that it had been built by Tom Fyles in 1916.

The view from the peak was almost as fine as from Alpha. The sun was getting low and the peaks threw their shadows for miles across the snowfields and glaciers. The bases of the crags and their ridges lay in the soft purple shadows of twilight, but the summits still flamed with the fiery splendor of the sunset. The tremendous ice-fall of the Chee Kye glacier on the west face of Garibaldi looked especially fine where the level rays of the sun brought out the vivid blue and green in the ice, contrasting with the red volcanic rock.

We left Omega at 5.45, and after scrambling down the rocks, glissaded back into the amphitheatre. From here a short hike across, or more properly, through, the lake brought us back to camp.

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Wednesday dawned cold and cloudy, so we stayed in the vicinity of the camp all day. Thursday was another dull day so we broke camp quite early and left the Lake of Lovely Waters at about 10. Following our route in over the rock-slide we arrived at the creek at 1.45 and found the water much higher. We finally managed to cross, however, and followed the ridge down to the Squamish River. A hike of about two miles along the west bank landed us back at the cable and we were not delighted to find the car on the wrong side. The situation was saved, however, by Neal, who made a rope sling and hauled himself across. At 7.30 we hit the Cheakamus River and made camp.

Leaving Chee Kye at 9.30 a.m. Friday, we started the ten-mile hike to Squamish, but fortunately got a lift for six miles. An enjoyable trip down the Sound landed us in the city at 5.30.

SUMMER CAMP.

Please bear in mind that your deposit of \$10.00 ought to be in the hands of the Secretary or Treasurer by July 10, if you intend to attend camp.

It has never been the practice to limit attendance at camp to members only, as it has been found that most of the non-members ended up by joining the Club, and, subject to the approval of the Camp Committee, any person interested in the objects of the Club may attend.

The district in which camp will be held has been described quite fully several times. Any of the Coast mountains 8,000 feet in height are alpine in character, and call for no apologies.

As many persons attend each annual camp without previous experience of camp life a few suggestions on equipment may be useful.

Each person supplies his own bedding; the sleeping bag type is most popular and

need not exceed about six pounds in weight. Some people need more bedding than others.

Let the Camp Committee or Secretary know if you are bringing your own tent and if you can accommodate a friend. If you bring your own tent it will of course be entirely optional with you whether you share it with others.

Bring knife, fork, spoon, cup and plate. A light pair of boots is enjoyable to wear around camp; something to stand a little wet underfoot is best; running shoes do well.

A change of outer garments, underclothes, and socks is needed.

Climbing boots must be properly nailed. Do not make the mistake of thinking calks or hobnails alone will take the place of Swiss edgenails, but the latter are not insisted upon.

An ice axe or alpenstock is essential; if the latter, it should not exceed five feet in length.

Snow glasses are indispensable. Mosquito netting may be worn on ice and snow to help protect from sunburn, but the surest protection is actor's grease paint; it is readily removed with cold cream. Don't have your holiday pleasures curtailed by getting badly sunburned.

Summer in the mountains always means some mosquitoes, so bring plenty of mosquito netting. A piece of celluloid sewn in for a window is easier on the eyes.

A broad-rimmed hat will protect from the sun and hold mosquito netting out from neck and face, an advantage to all except the mosquitoes.

Adhesive tape is needed in case feet chafe or blister.

Outer garments are largely a matter of choice, but a heavy sweater or mackinaw is necessary. Considerable extremes of temperature may be encountered.

A light waterproof may be made to serve as a ground sheet or the other way round.

The most important part of a mountaineer's outfit is his Boots;
they may mean Life or Death to him.

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Among the lesser articles of equipment are woollen mitts or gloves, towel, soap, toilet articles, a light (carbide lamp and extra carbide; candles and "bug"; or flashlight and extra batteries).

A packsack or other means of carrying equipment is necessary for the homeward tramp to the railway.

For carrying films a tin box may be used, sealed with a strip of adhesive tape to keep them dry in case of accidental wetting.

A dunnage bag of heavy canvas is a desirable method of shipping equipment by rail to Alta Lake.

Puttees worn with an eight-inch topped boot is the favorite thing; leather leggings are not recommended, though high topped boots meet with considerable favor in spite of sometimes constricting the leg muscles.

Members are advised against shipping cameras with their packs; articles transported on pack horses are subjected to a certain amount of unavoidable rough usage. For the same reason tooth paste and such things deserve the protection of a tin box or reasonably strong container.

Personal effects are limited to 25 pounds per person, which is a generous allowance, and ought not to be exceeded in any event as members are responsible for carrying their own outfits back to the railway. It may be possible to make arrangements by which for a reasonable extra charge packs will be brought out for those so wishing it, but this must not be counted upon.

Everyone attending camp will be considered as agreeing to comply loyally with any regulations which the committee in charge of camp consider necessary. These will be few, and in the best interests of all. No one will be required to climb, but the right is reserved of refusing to allow persons to make trips for which they are considered physically unfit. On trips any change in the proposed programme which the leader sees fit to make, must be accepted cheerfully by each member of the party.

Final instructions with reference to camp arrangements will be sent to each person applying to go to camp.

FORTHCOMING TRIPS.

June 28-29—Hollyburn Ridge. Leader, Mr. W. G. Wheatley. This attractive trip may be extended for those who wish it to a trip to Mt. Strachan. The usual camp site is the attractive open country around the last of the string of lakes along the trail.

July 5-6—Echo Peak, by Lynn Valley. Echo Peak cannot be called an outstanding mountain as regards height, but makes an extremely interesting trip. The upper part of Lynn Valley possesses much beauty that is worthy of being better known. The Director in charge.

July 19-20—Mt. Bishop, a launch trip up the North Arm of Burrard Inlet. Director Tom Fyles in charge. Some people prefer the mountain in its summer garb, but it is a good trip at any time of the year.

TRIP TO COQUITLAM LAKE MOUNTAINS.

Director Tom Fyles and a strong climbing party are away, as this is written, on a trip to the mountains at the head of Coquitlam Lake, a district as yet untouched by climbers. The mountains run up to nearly 7,000 feet apparently, and carry glaciers of moderate size. The elevation of the lake is about 500 above sea level. The weather is not being kind to them.

EARLY CAR IN WEST END SUNDAY MORNING.

Through representations made to the B. C. Electric Railway by Mr. W. E. Martin, an additional car is being run from the West End of the city to make it possible to connect with the 7.40 a.m. ferry, the first one on Sunday.

SUMMER CAMP PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY.

Photographs of the area in which the summer camp will be held, are on display at Mr. Toon's Bookstore, Granville Street, where the Club library is located.

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