



THE B.C. MOUNTAINEER



NEWSLETTER

OF THE B.C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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EDITOR

JULY - AUGUST 1979

VOL. 56 NO. 3

SCHEDULED TRIPS::

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>July 7/8
Mt. Slesse</p> <p>For details see May-June Newsletter.</p> | <p>B3-5/7970'
Standard route B3:
N.W. Face B5:</p> | <p>Leader:
Manfred Putz 941 - 3252
Philip Kubik 922 - 3407</p> |
| <p>July 8
Mt. Strachan</p> | <p>A1/4200'</p> | <p>Leader:
Hoi-Yin Der 688 - 9301</p> |
| <p>July 8
Mt. Foley
Lucky Four Grp. Approach from Jones Lk.</p> | <p>B3/7400'</p> | <p>Leader:
Esther Kafer 733 - 0462</p> |
| <p>July 14/15
Amicus and Icecap Mtns.
A glacier's ridge in the Squamish area.</p> | <p>B3/8300'</p> | <p>Leader:
Ian Arnot 987 - 9718</p> |
| <p>July 14/15
Three Brothers Mtn.
Located in Manning Park. Perfect time for admiring the flowering meadows.</p> | <p>B2/7100'</p> | <p>Leader:
Bernard de Macedo 876 - 4769</p> |

July 14/15 Cloudcap A long day on Sunday. Ice-axe and Crampons required.	C4/7429'	Leader: Jack Bryceland	112 - 792 - 8169
July 14/15 Van Horlick Creek Beautiful area east of Joffre Pk. Hikers and climbers.	B3/8300'	Leader: Rick Sheppard	869 - 4051
July 28/29	Reserved for trailclearing with Paul Binkert.	Please phone.	263 - 4360
July 28/29 Mt. Ratney - N. side. Probable route involves climbing up to mid-5th. class on very good granite. There is no trail into the area so be prepared for bushwhacking. Near Chehalis Lk., W of Harrison Lk.	C5/6300'	Leader: Paul Starr	733 - 9486
August 4/6 Fire Spires New logging roads have made this rarely visited area in eastern Garibaldi Park a weekend trip. Approach from Lilloet R. to Fire Lk. Phone early!	C3-4/7400'	Leader: Mark Force	435 - 1044
August 4/6	Colchuk Pk. cancelled.		
August 5 Skypilot Please phone for details.	B3/6645'	Leader: Gunter Hoernig	688 - 9301
August 5/6 Dragontail Pk. Changed to a two day trip. Cashmere Crags in central Washington.	B2-3/8840'	Leader: Brian Vezina	669 - 2004
August 11 Mt. Larebee A summit in the Chilliwack area.	A2/7860'	Leader: Lee Bruch	327 - 6277
August 11/12 Alpha Mtn. E. ridge. Tantalus Range. The climb is mainly class 3 but does include a brief section of class 5.	B5/7562'	Leader: Gernot Walter	941 - 3310
August 11/12 Cheakamus Mtn.	B3/8490'	Leader: Bill Maurer	888 - 2336
August 18/19 Mt. Joffre Located a little way NE of Mt. Matier	B3/8950'	Leader: Norm Abrahams	980 - 0256
August 18/19 Mt. Baker - N Ridge. One of the few summer ice climbs in the Vancouver area. Ice-axe and crampons required. Bring a helmet and ice screws if you have them.	B5/10,700'	Leader: Len Soet	926 - 8412
August 19 Marion and Phyllis Lakes An easy and pleasant hike off the Squamish road.	A1/1700'	Leader: Joyce Gudaitis	438 - 4201

August 25	B2/6900'	Leader:	
Mt. Cheam		Donna Goy	738 - 5239
The towering peak overlooking the eastern Fraser Valley.			
August 25/26	B2/6300'	Leader:	
Mt. Ratney		Daniella Cmiralova	941 - 5106
A fairly easy trip in the Chehalis area west of Harrison Lk. A little bushwhacking.			
August 25/26	C4-5/7942'	Leader:	
Bear Mtn.		John Gudaitis	438 - 4201
Just across the border south of Chilliwack Lk. Approach via Chilliwack R. trail and Bear Cr. Climb is mainly class 4 rock with a brief class 5 section at the end.			
September 1/3	C4/8540'	Leader:	
Mt. Tantalus		John Bates	941 - 5106
Approach from the north side of Zenith Lk. Fairly strenuous, party limited.			
September 8/9	B3/9127'	Leader:	
Mt. Shuksan		Jim Craig	733 - 4568
Near Mt. Baker. Route will probably be from the N side of Shuksan Arm up the Hourglass and Fisher Chimneys. Ice-axe and crampons required.			

MEMBERSHIP::

The club welcomes the following new members:

Eileen Bohn	301 - 2185 W 8th. Ave. Vancouver	
Michael Holt	15c - 7355 Blake St. Vancouver	V5S 3V6 437 - 6538
Theo Mosterman	16020 River Rd. Richmond	270 - 3407

Changes of Address:

Donna Goy	109 - 1860 W 2nd. Ave. Vancouver	738 - 5239
Bert & Sue Port	1107 - 10th. Ave. South Castlegar	V1N 3A5
Sally Tatlow	204 - 1225 W 13th. Ave. Vancouver	
Pauline Woodward	5163 Belcarra Bay Rd. RR1 Port Moody	V3H 3C8 939 - 1668

TRAILS REPORT

The problems with regard to Mt. Seymour Park were thoroughly aired at the committee meeting with representatives of the Parks Branch present, including the Regional Manager, (A. Lehman).

Kirk Mallette, (SFOC), showed slides that indicated the good visibility of markers and lettered directional signs up to Brockton Point. Beyond that, markers and signs were almost non-existent, and there were absolutely no signs beyond First Pump. He also asked groups of hikers whom he met on the trail for their comments. He felt that there should be a notice in the parking lot for the novice hiker, listing what to wear and items to carry.

In discussion, Roger Freeman (Rec & Con Chairman-FMCBC) recalled that for the past several years the federation has been pressuring the Parks Branch for improvements in the safety of the trail, and while there has been general agreement, the money for carrying these out has not been forthcoming. Any work that has been done has been on the lower portion of the main trail, whereas it was felt to be more important to improve the higher-up portions on this trail, where the Elsay Lake trail was mentioned as one concern.

Paul Binkert (BCMC) urged that there should be more trail signs because of the easy accessibility of Seymour. People drive to the end of the road at 3200' and are eager to take to the trails.

Another concern was at Brockton Point in whiteout conditions, where people can easily stray off the trail. Paul Binkert said there are no trees close by the trail at this point on

which to place markers, and the only solution is to position tall poles which would stick out of the snow. Mel Turner (Parks Branch) noted that there is not a trail in B'C' that could not be improved, and he requested assistance from one of the member clubs in placing some of these snow poles. Paul Binkert suggested that the BCMC would help to do this in October, and he would contact the Parks Branch regarding materials in late September. Mr. Lehman stated that the Parks Branch was going to install information shelters at the trailhead. Discussion ensued regarding the rather general safety precautions recommended in the Parks Branch brochure. It was suggested that the precautions be more specific to each season and the conditions peculiar to each of them.

Simon Priest (Safety & Education Chairman-FMCBC) noted that Search & Rescue say more people are venturing out unprepared, and the mountain is being used far more in the Summer. He also noted that the S & E Committee's aim was to educate people to the dangers of recreating in the outdoors. He suggested a big orange metal sign be placed in the parking lot at the trailhead advising what to do, what to take, what to wear, etc., and he circulated a printed notice to this effect. Mr. Lehman foresaw no problem in having such a sign, but not right at the trailhead as that is where the chairlift machinery is located. He noted that since 1957, Mt. Seymour has been visited by 15 million people and there have only been 3 deaths. Priorities have to be given in their budget, and the Parks Branch has made an effort to improve the trails, with much work being undertaken last summer.

With regard to false trails existing on the mountain, Mr. Lehman noted that they do try and block off these old trails but people use them anyway. A suggestion that more trees be planted between Brockton Point and First Pump was noted but was obviously a long-range solution. As to the Elsay Lake trail, Mr. Lehman noted that the Young Canada Works program funded this trail. They do not provide funds for improvements to existing trails - only new projects. Simon Priest urged that signs be placed at the junction of the main trail and the Elsay Lake trail as novices easily go astray at that point. Mr. Lehman promised to provide these signs.

Roger Freeman wondered if there were some way of obtaining cooperation during the time the Parks Branch was working on trails so that the FMCBC could assist, and thus prevent later criticism. Mr. Lehman pointed out that the Parks Branch staff work during the week; also there were so many self-appointed experts that it would be a difficult thing to do. However, Roger Freeman suggested a jointly-agreed policy in relevant areas to avoid pressure on the Parks Branch from many individual opinions. Rick Sheppard felt that any input to the Parks Branch should be through the Trails Committee. Jim Craig (BCMC) suggested a small number of the committee meet periodically with the Parks Branch to discuss matters concerning trail construction in Mt. Seymour Park, and it was agreed to do this twice a year. Mr. Lehman said they do meet with cross-country skiers twice a year.

With the problems of Seymour Park fairly thoroughly aired, the committee moved onto other subjects. The problem of bikers on the Elk-Thurston Trail should be eased somewhat by the Forest Service, which intends to barricade a strategic part of the trail with logs. Furthermore, the Trails Chairman has requested the Ministry of Lands, Parks & Housing to designate a closure of this trail, as well as the Liumchen and Vedder Mountain Trails to all motorized uses. This will allow the police to act quickly if infractions occur.

With regard to the question of constructing a bypass trail on the south side of Helm Creek from the cable-car to a logging road, which was discussed at the last Rec & Con Comm meeting. Roger Freeman reported this was raised because of the possibility of disruption of the cable-car. If the Parks Branch were to do this, it would be in Phase III, but it was felt that some people might be interested in doing this work sooner. It would not be too difficult as there is an existing game trail. Following discussion, Roger Freeman volunteered to undertake this project.

The Trails Committee discussed the feasibility of a trail building seminar in the fall of this year. Mr. Lehman replied that it was not held last year due to lack of interest, but if 15 to 20 people were assured, then the Parks Branch would arrange this on a month's notice. (Any BCMC members interested in this seminar please contact the Trails Chairman -- it should prove to

be interesting and informative, and in the long run of great benefit to trails improvement.)

The BCMC received its grant from the Federal Youth Employment program for work on the Lions Trail. The club is now in the process of selecting the project manager and three workers to carry out improvements during the summer months. Many thanks to A. Williams of the Forest Service and of course, Paul Binkert, for all their efforts in making this project possible. The result of all this is that four students will get summer employment, and a lot of hikers will get a better trail -- not bad!

The Club is always looking for volunteers for trailwork (the Lions Trail isn't the only one needing work) so if you can, give up a day or two to assist -- after all, you are the prime beneficiaries of good trails. Phone myself or Paul Binkert if you want to help.

Rick Sheppard -- Trails Chairman.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES::

PARTY

Well, not ALL party -- but -- not ALL work, either.

They have grown out of hand in Joyce's garden the TREES, that is.

They need URGENT control! SO

If any handy and/or strong person(s) feel(s) like trying a little TOPIARY, West Coast Style he/she/they are assured of plenty to eat and drink in exchange for an evening of tree-topping, etc. POWER-SAW and HEAVY-AXE EXPERTS get extra rations. MID-AUGUST, after camps, etc., seems like a good time. SO

if you feel like getting rid of aggressions usefully, or just giving the practical side of your good nature an airing, please ring JOYCE DAVIES at 988 - 8079 to arrange details.

ASSISTANT CATERERS are welcome. (Attendance at this course is recognized at 10 points per hour with St. Peter.)

[We have always thought that 'Topiary' had something to do with Sun Helmets. . . guess we had better bring them along. Also, are 'Heavy-axe Experts' overweight tree specialists? If so, the last thing they need is extra rations.]

TRIP

AUGUST 4/6 (Long Weekend)

MT. TATLOW

B3/10.000'?

Approach via Williams Lk., objective is N of Taseko Lk. Leader (appropriately) is Sally Tatlow.

All those of you out there who have long cherished a desire to see your outdoor photos 'in print', as it were (with credit, of course) hearken to the following. David and Mary Macaree are planning a revised edition of '103 HIKES.' They would like some photographs. The first list is of NEW trips for which photos will probably be needed. The second list -- trips for which replacement photos are required. BLACK & WHITE PHOTOS PLEASE.

Howe Sound Crest Trail

Mt. Fromme

3 - Chop Trail to Brockton Point / Seymour

Elsay Lake

Dilly Dally/Eagle Ridge

Capilano Mtn.

Mountain Lake

Mt. Elphinstone (maybe)

Caren Ridge

Mt. Tuam (Saltspring)

Jack's Trail

Flower Ridge

Gold Lake

Adam River

} Vancouver Island

Mamquam Lake

High Falls Creek

Owl Lakes

Joffre Creek

Lizzie Creek (maybe)

Mt. Crickmer

Mt. St. Benedict

Borden Ridge

Flora Lake

Hanging Lk./Chilliwack Lk.

Snass Creek

Hope Pass

Gate Mtn.

2. Mt. Artaban	Dennet Lake
Mt. Albert Edward/Forbidden Plateau	Vedder Peak
International Ridge/Mt. Amadis	Hope Mtn.
Silverdaisy	Poland Lake

[must rush out and buy a dozen rolls of b&w film immediately!]

ACC TRIP SCHEDULE::

JUL	7/8	Mt. Matier	B3	Ian Kay	921 - 7169
	7/8	Marble Canyon	A5	John Collings	984 - 9897
	14/15	Mt. Slesse-NW Face	B5	Phil Kubik	922 - 3407
	14/15	Icy Peak	B3	Frank Foster	987 - 7684
	15	Cinder Cone via Helm Ck.	A1	Dave Molson	263 - 9257
	21/22	Mt. Vesper	B5	John Manuel	879 - 7891
	21/22	Mt. Arrowsmith	B3	Bill Godolphin	879 - 8751
	28/29	Mt. Ipsoot	B3	Norm Pursell	922 - 7992
	28/29	Mt. Garibaldi	B3	John Gray	980 - 5227
	28/29	Mt. Shuksan-NW Face	B4	John Kubyka	228 - 1245
	29	Pinecone Ridge	B1	Lisa Baile	732 - 1628
AUG	4/6	Chamois Peak	B5	Len Soet	926 - 8412
	11	Mt. Price	B2	Gary Hoyenga	986 - 3678
	11/12	Mt. Mamquam	C3	Howard Norfolk	980 - 3265
	18/19	Mt. Cope	B3	Bob Coupe	298 - 6552
	18/19	Mt. Joffre	B3	John Randall	738 - 2038
	25/26	Railroad Pass	B3	Howard Rode	987 - 1450
	25/26	Kwoiek Needle	B5	John Howe	987 - 9805
SEP	1/3	Mt. Ossa	C4	Ross Wyborn	462 - 9204
	8/9	Mt. Ashlu	B4	Don Serl	733 - 0107
	8/9	Squamish Rock Weekend	A5	Tami Knight	922 - 7358
	8/9	Cutthroat Peak	B4	Tony Clayton	988 - 3787

TRIP REPORTS

Cloudburst Mtn. -- May 13.

There was a good turn turnout for this trip despite the fact that some people overslept and never made it to the rendezvous point -- no names, no pack drill.

By 8 am. we were at the trailhead. (This was entirely due to having done a recce on the previous day with Paul Binkert. It took us an hour to find the trail head!) We followed the directions in 103 Hikes, travelling the Squamish River Rd. to the turnoff which is about 8 miles (not 10) from the junction. You turn right half a mile after crossing the single-lane bridge with the Stop sign. There is a "No Trespassing" sign but only "Survivors will be Prosecuted." After crossing a new bridge, keep to the right at the top of the hill and after about a quarter of a mile the less rugged vehicles can be parked in a cleared area to the right of the road. 4-WD types can drive up to around 3000 ft. with only one major obstacle to negotiate -- a boulder covering most of the road, located about half a mile up from the parking spot.

Follow the road past the lake keeping to the left, and at the next intersection, go right following the trail markers. The logging road continues at a modest incline to about 3000 ft., where a large turning platform for trucks can be seen on the right. Look for trail markers on the left, leaving the road and heading straight up. (The NSH - the following weekend - chose to continue following the logging road to climb Cloudburst from the South. This route is less steep and the snow slopes can be avoided.) We did not go up the bowl with the lake, as is suggested in '103' but kept more to the right, going up the right gulley and up the side of the ridge. We reached snow at about 4000 ft., but it was easy going.

By 2pm., we were having lunch at the top and we were down at the cars at 7. A very pleasant hike on a warm sunny day.

Sally Tatlow (L)

Mt. Athelstan or 'A Return to Peak 8525' April 28/29

Less than half an hour after arriving at the airport, after four years overseas, I enquired about BCMC trips for the coming weekend only to be told that I was leading on up Mt. Athelstan! I was leading for the simplest of reasons . . . the leader was away, and since I was staying at his house, and would be taking the bookings for the trip . . . I must be the leader. (Logical) As I had no car, no tent, no maps, didn't know where Mt. Athelstan was, and knew nothing about road conditions anywhere, I immediately panicked. Suddenly I remembered the statement in the BCMC General Information Brochure which announces, "The BCMC takes great care in choosing suitable leaders in the interest of safety." Thus reassured, I took the bookings, found out where Mt. Athelstan was hiding, bought a map, and organized a rendezvous in Pemberton.

An hour or so out of Pemberton, after much fruitless searching for a logging road in the right place, we found ourselves at the foot of Mt. Athelstan at which point some of the ageing mountaineers present (?) were not impressed with the 500 m. odd of bushwhacking necessary to reach the snow where skis could be put on. Not feeling in any position to assert myself, I fell back on the democratic process. Not surprisingly, the trip degenerated into a long debate over where to go. The result was that Jim and Brian set off for Mt. Athelstan, which they reached after a straightforward and enjoyable ski the next day. The remainder decided to ascent a peak opposite the Joffre-Matier group, along the Duffey Lk. Road. Here, we were assured, we could step out of our cars and onto our skis. This we did and soon reached the end of a logging road, where another debate ensued -- this time over the route. A few hundred metres further, at the edge of a cleared avalanche slope, yet another debate started but the 'leader', sensing the mood of the majority, yelled "Up!" Up we went, to reach a perfect campsite, complete with water, at the edge of a hanging valley. There, of course, another debate commenced over just where to pitch tents in order to receive the most morning sun.

Sunday lived up to its name with each of us setting forth in our own time and at our own pace, up through the remaining trees, thence open slopes, a moraine wall, a glacier, up through a col and up a steep slope to the summit ridge. We left our skis about 50 m. below the summit and all, at various times, enjoyed a leisurely lunch in the sun on the summit of Peak 8525.. The ski down the glacier was excellent, but below it the deep and soggy Spring snow was not to everyone's liking. After basking in the sun for another hour or so at our campsite, we skied down and were soon back at our cars.

After several years away it is apparent that not too much has changed. One can still experience wilderness on a weekend trip from Vancouver, select a mountain and find no-one else on it. However, logging operations continue to further and further into the wilderness, causing it to retreat gradually but inexorably. Are we living in a fool's paradise?

The Great Debaters: On Mt. Athelstan - Jim Sedor, Brian Vezina. On Peak 8525 - Karl Balik, John Bates, Sev Heiberg, Margriet and Ross Wyborn, Ed Zenger, and Michael Feller, (Organizer and Reporter.)

Mt. Cayley -- March 17/18.

Geoff Mumford's sojourn in China left this trip leaderless, so since I had wanted to go anyway, I decided to lead it myself.

In marked contrast to the Castle Towers trip I had led the previous weekend, the weather on Saturday morning was decidedly uninspiring. Since it wasn't actually raining I decided to leave yet within two minutes of departing my house, rain drops appeared on the windshield of Len's truck; they persisted only briefly though, and we pressed on. The five of us in the truck arrived at Fergie's Cafe in Cheekye half an hour late (the chauffeur overslept) and the other four joined us for the 25 mile drive along the road up the Squamish River valley.

Since I had never done any trips to the Pemberton Icecap, it was with a great deal of relief that I learned that Ross was a veteran of three attempts on Cayley. I then announced that I was relinquishing all responsibility for route finding; it was henceforth transferred to Ross.

About 1 mile before the Squamish-Elaho junction, we reached the spur road starting up the ridge to the NW of Cayley that was to be our approach. Incidentally, Weldwood Logging issues a sketch map of its roads in the Squamish River valley for visitors.

We set off up the road on skis about 10:00 -- most of the ground up to about 1000' was bare but the road was largely covered with snow, although we did remove our skis for a few short sections. The highest branch of the road led into some logging slash which was also snow-covered. According to my watch, this took about an hour, but as my watch turned out to be running slow, it may have been somewhat longer -- it certainly seemed longer to me. Since I had hopes of climbing the north ridge of Cayley, a fourth class route, I was lugging up some climbing equipment, all of which resulted in the heaviest pack I had carried all year.

Around noon (my time), the imminent revolt of Ross's stomach resulted in a lunch stop, much to the dismay of the NSH contingent. (Ross was paying the price of living in Whonnock. Since he had been forced to arise at 5 am. breakfast must have seemed very distant.) As on the Castle Towers trip, Brian and Mike ate lunch standing up.

We reached treeline at 6000' at about 4.30 (real time) and set up camp. I wanted to camp high enough that we would have time to try the north ridge. However Len had his eye on a sheltered spot between some trees where he could lay out his bivouac sack, and Ross believes resolutely that one should never camp above tree line -- I decided not to risk mutiny.

Just after dark the sky cleared but at 6 am. Sunday morning the clouds were all about us. I retreated to the warmth of my sleeping bag for another half hour. Being an insomniac when I have a mattress less than 3 inches thick under me, I then got up and proceeded to coax my Optimus stove to life. The weather began to look more promising; I could see across the valley through a hole in the clouds. I woke everyone else up with the promise of 'sunshine by the time we reached the summit.' In almost no time Ross and Peter had cooked their breakfasts on their MSR stoves. I was still melting snow, even though I had pampered my Optimus to the extent of its very own snow cave with an ensolite door and floor. To add insult to injury, I knocked my pot over just after the water boiled so I had to start again. Peter lent me his stove . . . I was the last one ready, so they abandoned me!

I caught up and after a couple of hours of skiing up the undulating ridge, we reached the base of the north ridge. As we climbed, the cloud level had been rising, so we could now see the summit. The lower third of the ridge consisted of snow-plastered rock pinnacles, which were often by-passed by ascending a snow face on the east side.. We deemed this risky as several inches of new snow had fallen on an icy base a couple of days previous to this. We therefore descended a few hundred feet on the east side and headed over to the col between Cayley and Pyroclastic to the south. We left the skis just above the col, at which point the sun shone weakly through the clouds. I quickly announced that I had kept my promise of sunshine. We then ascended a gully which ended on a ridge just to the left of the summit. This gully steepened to about 60° for about a few feet below the top. Another hundred feet of climbing on the west side led to a col between two 20 ft. rock pinnacles. These appeared to be difficult to ascend although the higher one might have been more accessible if we had descended a hundred feet or so and traversed 45° snow to its opposite side. The col was good enough for most of us in view of the time (12:30) though Ross still felt he hadn't climbed Cayley.

Apart from the fact that Ross skied over a 15 foot ice cliff in flat light, the return to camp was uneventful and the skiing wasn't bad. We broke camp at 3:30 and headed back to the cars. The snow was rather difficult but Herb and Robert didn't take much longer than the rest of us, even though they skied down on X-C skis with skins on. They were able to ski straight down some sections where the rest of us had to resort to traverses and kick turns. We arrived at the cars between 6:15 and 8:00.

Participants: Herb Haberl, Robert Tomich, Peter Parrotta, Brian Vezina, Mike Pelletier, Ross Wyborn, Bill Maurer, Len Soet and Philip Kubik (L).