



THE B.C. MOUNTAINEER



NEWSLETTER

OF THE B.C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

P.O. BOX 2674 VANCOUVER, B.C. V6B 3W8

- GLENN WOODSWORTH 731-1066
PRESIDENT
- RICK SHEPPARD 669-4051
VICE PRESIDENT
- JOHN HALLIDAY 734-3952
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
- PHIL KUBIK 922-3407
CLIMBING CHAIRMAN
- GUENTER HOERNIG 688-9301
HIKING CHAIRMAN
- J.A.C. DERHAM - REID 926-4931
EDITOR

MARCH 1979 NUMBER

SCHEDULED TRIPS

March 3/4 Blackcomb Pk	(ski)	B3	8000'
March 3/4 Blackcomb Pk.	(ski)	B3	8000' John Gudaitis 438-4201
March 3/4 Mt. Alpen	(ski)	B1	5588' Frank Ward 872-2277
March 10/11 Castle Towers	(ski)	C3	8778' Phil Kubik 922-3407
March 10/11 Chilliwack Area (Depending on snow conditions, leader has several destinations in mind)	(ski)		Bill Hobeck 596-7264
March 17/18 Mt. Cayley	(ski)	C4	7800' Geoff Mumford
March 18 Mt. Alouette (Located between Pitt and Alouette Lakes)		A1	5500' Sally Tatlow 733-9048
March 24/25 Ipsoot Mtn.	(ski)	C3	8500' Tim Ryan 987-8432

March 25 Mt. Hanover (A rock and scrub summit located 1.5 km. South-east of Deeks Lake)		B2 Rene Torn 291-0397	5600'
March 31/April 1 Amicus Mtn.	(ski)	C2 Len Soet 926-8412	8300'
April 1 Mt. Windsor (Approach will be via Deeks Lake)		B1 Joyce Davies 988-8079	5500'
April 7/8 Goat Mtn. (USA)	(ski)	B2 Pat Crean 733-1303	6891'
April 8 Rainbow Mtn.	(ski)	C3 Karl Ricker 926-5933	7500'
April 13/15 Mountain Lake Cabin (Ski Weekend) (Please contact leader for further details)	(ski)	John Beltz 922-5948	
April 13/15 Meager Group	(ski)	C3 Dave Hughes 980-6484	8500'
April 15 Mt. Harvey		B1 Robin Burns 922-8463	5590'
April 21/22 Mt. Spickard	(ski)	C3 John Bates 941-5106	8979'
April 22 Mt. Brunswick to Deeks Lake -- Traverse		Guenter Hoernig 688-9301	
April 22 Rock School		A5 Frank Baumann 926-2070	
April 28/29 Mt. Athelstan	(ski)	C3 Fred Douglas 522-4390	9100'
April 28/29 Mt. Matier via Cerise Creek (Exact route will depend on snow conditions prevailing at that time)		B3 Peter Parotta 255-0161	9000'

SOCIALS::

- March: An N.F.B. colour film entitled "Sheer Sport" will be shown, followed by slides of the Manatee Range -- location of our Summer Camp for 1979.
- April: "A Look Into The Past" Films will be shown featuring the adventures of BCMC members in the 1950's and (hopefully) as far back as the 1920's.
- NOTE: We need two projectors ... a 16 mm. for the March, and an 8 mm. for the April meeting.

Annual Turkey Dinner and Ski Races, Sunday February 18th., 1979.

A small but enthusiastic group of fans and relatives turned up at 9.30 at Black Mtn. to watch the keen ones rush about on a fiendish uphill course laid out by fiendish Paul Binkert. The results of this torture, as timed by Ed Zenger, as follows:

Men:		Ladies:	
1. Andres Schneider	13 min/ 45 secs.	1. Sally Tatlow	15 min/ 30 secs.
2. Paul Kubik	15 min/ 15 secs.	2. Donna Goy	22 min/ 40 secs.
3. Bill Hobeck	16 min/ 50 secs.	3. Clao Styron	48 mins.
4. Paul Binkert	19 min/ 40 secs.		

Poor Clao forgot her skins and in consequence was forced to thrash uphill without them ... a very creditable performance considering that any normal person would have simply gone home.

The venerable timbers of Hollyburn Lodge groaned and creaked as the heavy-footed stompers of the BCMC galloped about, whilst the rafters rang to the rollicking rhythms of Ole Svensen's accordion, backed up by Bill Hobeck on guitar, sometimes assisted by the mysterious piper and the equally mysterious whistler. Actually, the dancing started at about 6.30 or so, whilst errant members wandered in from the blizzard conditions prevailing outside. By 7.00 the only sounds to be heard in Fred Burfield's back parlor were the rattling and clicking of plastic knives and forks against teeth as the 50-odd members and guests put away a flock of turkeys, accompanied by several bushels of buns, peas, baked potatoes, salad and gravy. Apple Pie and coffee rounded-off this fine meal ... meal? Why not say 'feast' and give it its due. All credit to the Social Committee! and to 'Chef-person' in attendance, Donna Goy. After the eating, dancing resumed, and many strong and bracing drinks were poured out and quaffed. During a short lull, the prizes were awarded to the ski heroes, and a card was passed around in order that those present who were still able to write might send good wishes to Mary Harper, who is in hospital in Vancouver.

The festivities came to an end about 9.30, and weary, sore-footed (but well-fed and cheerful) the members wandered off into the snowy woods and, we sincerely hope, home to bed.

Thanks also to Sally Tatlow, (Sous-Chef in attendance) and the actual Turkey-cookers: Joyce Gudaitis and Sonja Ward.

CLUB NEWS::

Please note that all the constitutional amendments recently proposed and voted upon, were passed. All former Graduating Members (G) are now Active.

MEMBERSHIP::

The Club welcomes the following new members:

Tom Hamilton
Angus Fraser
Colin Day

Greg Taylor
Ray Perreault

Address Corrections:

Doug Herchmer
103-1827 West 3rd. Ave. 733-9219
Brian Vezina
305-1825 Haro St. 669-2004
Don J. Wilson
13 Toronto Drive
Chatham, N.B.

THE RUCKSACK::

This heading has not been seen in our publications for a good many years, and this seems as good a time as any in which to bring it back. Primarily a gossip column, 'gossip' that is, in its nicest sense ... little bits of news about members far and wide, those we may not have seen or heard from for a while, information which does not quite fit into any other category.

Mary Harper is in hospital in Vancouver and we take this opportunity to send her our best wishes.

We have received a little card from Christine and Hans-Peter Munger to announce the arrival of a daughter, Annette Regula ... sister to Andreas and Urs. She was born on January 19th., and those inclined to metric matters might like to know the vital statistics: 2650 grams, 44 cms. Perhaps we shall see her in the future on our trips.

We welcome home Arnold Smith and his family, who had a fairly harrowing departure from Iran just after the beginning of January; This involved Mr. Smith shepherding a group of ten families, including a good many very small children, several hundred miles across the country by bus, through small towns under curfew regulations, filled with military and civilian personnel in a state of general unrest...the whole situation about to 'blow', as have since seen. The Smith's eventually arrived in Vancouver via Ankara(snowing!) Paris and Toronto, with practically all their goods and effects left behind! (Arnold's father, Fred Smith is probably our oldest member, having been in the BCMC since 1922.)

The late Charles Ney, a Geologist by profession, and sometime member of the B.C.M.C., VNHS, and ACC, has been honoured with his own peak. Mt. Ney, 8103' is the highest summit in the Cibola Range, East of Kemano.

FMCBC - Trails Committee Report (Nov. 22 and Feb. 1 Meetings)

The following is a list of trails and clubs that have agreed to improve and maintain them:

Monument 83 -- Cathedral Lakes ... no clubs interested
Dewdney ... no club interested
Hope Pass ... no club interested
Skagit River ... VNHS agreed to maintain
Centennial -- Sumas Mountain ... no club interested
Baden-Powell (Seymour & Cypress) ... Sierra Club pending acceptance by membership
Howe Sound Crest ... VOC pending acceptance by membership
Alouette Mtn. ... VOA pending acceptance by membership
Golden Ears ... VOA " " "
Helm Valley ... Sierra Club pending acceptance by membership
Singing Pass ... BCMC agreed to maintain
Mt. Brew ... VOC agreed to maintain
Brandywine ... SFOC agreed to maintain
Munroe Lake ... SFOC " "

It is hoped that these and other trail commitments made by clubs will result in their general upgrading for the enjoyment of those using them. However it is one thing to commit to maintain a trail and another to get people to actually go out and do the work. In this regard the VOC has submitted a list of twenty-three names, and the North Shore Hikers one of fourteen volunteers. Hopefully the BCMC can match this, something it has not been able to do in the past! In the ensuing months, these people would work through their clubs, as well as forming part of a master list of volunteers which the Trails Committee could draw on from time to time.

The Trails Slide Show is progressing very well. It will be divided into the history of trails, the advantages of trails, poorly maintained and deteriorated trails and what can be done to improve them (e.g. better planning and more work through Volunteer Effort) It should be ready for showing to clubs and other groups around the end of March.

Legal responsibility when maintaining trails received more attention by the committee. The following is a legal opinion by Jim Craig, a lawyer and BCMC member:

"There is no legal responsibility should a person become injured on a trail built or maintained by a club unless the club carelessly permits a hazard to exist on that trail. For example, if there was a hole on the trail and this had been covered with branches and loose material in such a fashion that a person walking could break through that loose material and fall into the hole, there would certainly be a risk. Secondly, should the trail be marked in such a fashion that a person might misdirect himself and suffer injury, there could be a claim, but the law is clear enough that in general, you are not responsible for an injury on property that is not yours, but if you create a hazard and do not adequately warn a person using the facility that there is a hazard, you may be liable."

However, the committee felt that it needed more assurance on this matter, so it will form the main content of the next meeting.

The joint meeting of the FMCBC REC & CON, and Trails Committees on the subject of the signing and re-establishment of trails obliterated by logging came up with the following recommendations:

- that a standard sign be established to direct people along a new logging road to the altered trailhead
- that a standard sign be used to direct people through slash when it interrupts a trail
- that logging companies clear the beginning of a trail where it is obscured and covered by slash
- that companies restore the trail after cessation of logging along the original or, if needs be, a new route
- the appropriate sign has not yet been determined, but it should be something that is instantly recognizable, easily installed and not to be confused with existing signage.

These basic points will be discussed and acted upon at FLULC (Forest Land Use Liaison Committee) a joint body of the forest industry and outdoor groups which will be meeting soon. This action also has the full support of the B'C' Forest Service and Parks Branch, so hopefully, wandering about in logging slash looking for lost trails will soon be a thing of the past.

A meeting was held between the Trails Chairman, representatives of the Trailbike clubs, and O.R.C. regarding casual use of some of the trails in the Fraser Valley by bikers, particularly Elk/Thurston, Vedder and Liumchen Trails. It was agreed to plot all trails, as well as major bike routes and recreation areas on a map. In the long run, education and specifically marked bike routes (mainly old logging roads) as well as a possible new bike recreation area in the Valley, should alleviate the conflicts. However in the short run, some people will probably continue to cut up Trails and meadows, so some sort of interim solution is necessary, short of the installation of land mines! One possibility is the erection of barriers across the trails at critical locations, such that Hikers can surmount them but Bikers cannot.

Finally, a metric map of Garibaldi Park is now available showing major recreational features. An additional one is now being developed for Manning Park and the committee suggested that additional information be included on the back of the maps, such as brief trail and route descriptions, conservation notes, hazardous areas and winter routes.

That's it for now but remember that we need volunteers for Trail work this Spring, Summer and Fall.

Rick Sheppard, Trails Chairman.

CONSERVATION NOTES

The Federation of Mountain Clubs has a Recreation and Conservation Committee which is extremely active in attempting to safeguard our natural environment. Because it represents outdoor clubs from all over the province, and hence has a sizeable constituency, it serves as a good channel for information between the government and the recreational community. Among its principal functions are: assisting the various government departments with advice and viewpoints from recreationists, serving as a watchdog on government actions and being ready to speak-out when an issue arises affecting the natural environment or recreation, lobbying the government on various issues important to recreation, and helping to inform its members of issues and concerns.

The BCMC's Conservation Committee works closely with the Federation's committee. If you learn of any threat to the environment, or find a particular place worth preserving, let the Conservation Committee know about it. Better yet, if you are interested in helping protect our environment and our recreation opportunities, join the BCMC's ConCom. The Chairman can be reached at 327-6277 (Lee Bruch)

Over the last year the Federation has been busy. When the trail to Tenquille Lake was threatened by logging, the Federation was one of the many bodies which succeeded in stopping the action. Also, it has fought for some time (and is continuing to fight) to save the Stein Watershed. Ideally the area would be turned into a major Provincial Park. The Stein area possesses some of the most beautiful alpine areas near Vancouver. A major guidebook on it has been written by Roger Freeman, to be published in May. Watch for it, it will be most worthwhile.

Of major concern right now are the changes the B.C. government is going through. The changes in the ministries and subsequent shuffling of departments and their functions affects environmental and recreational sectors more than most others. The new lines of communication and new areas of responsibility are only beginning to become clarified. These shifts greatly affect our ability to lobby effectively.

The other current concern is the effect of the new Forest Act which was proclaimed last year. This new act serves as the basis for how the Forest Service will set its priorities and how it will look after the environment and recreational interests.

In future newsletters the Conservation Committee will attempt to keep you informed of the major issues confronting us, and the actions of the Federation's Rec & Con Committee.

Lee Bruch, Chairman.

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

This Spring the Federation of Mountain Clubs will again offer its introductory course in mountain craft, covering wilderness travel, rock climbing, snow climbing, and glacier travel. There will be five Thursday night lectures, beginning April 12, and five outings, beginning April 21/22.

Cost: \$45 for students and \$60 for non-students.

For further information and application forms contact (in early March) Don Serl, 1904 Waterloo Street, Vancouver, V6R 3G6, phone 733-0107

Applications with payment of fees will be accepted from members of member clubs (including the BCMC) after March 15, and from the general public after April 1. The course is limited in numbers, so hurry! Apply early!

BASIC BACKPACKING COURSE

This Spring the Federation of Mountain Clubs is introducing a Basic Backpacking Course to introduce inexperienced people to safe and enjoyable wilderness travel. It will cover equipment use, care and selection; map and compass; first aid; outdoor safety and survival; and back country hazards. The course will have four wednesday night lectures and three weekend outings. Time: May 30 to June 24. Cost: \$35 for students and \$50 for non-students. For further information and application forms contact Simon Priest at 6211 Gordon Avenue, Burnaby, V5E 3M3, phone 522-9596. Enrollment is limited, so apply early.

AVALANCHE DANGER ADVISORIES

Avalanche danger advisories and snow condition reports are now available from a number of sources

Diamond Head/Black Tusk	112-898-3024	
Washington State - Statewide	112-206-285-3710	(24 hour recorded message)
Baker Area		
Glacier Ranger Station	112-206-599-2714	
Monte Cristo Ranger Stn	112-206-691-7791	
Skykomish Ranger Stn	112-206-677-2414	
Mt. Ranier Nat'l Park	112-206-569-2343	
Olympic Nat'l Park	112-206-452-9235	
North Bend Ranger Stn	112-206-442-7669	

TRIP REPORT::

Blowdown Creek -- July 1/3, 1978.

The July longweekend portended well as the group met in the usual crossroads oasis for that area -- the Pemberton Hotel coffee shop. Saturday morning was a warm sunny one with clear blue skies - it would indeed be an unforgettable trip! As we were short three in our group, we had ample time to absorb some local colour -- the Pemberton Canada Day Parade. Every local business in the area had entered some sort of float in the great event and just about any kind of conveyance -- tractors, logging trucks, horses, large dogs and bicycles was employed to haul the rag-tag displays through the town. Beauty Queens abounded like beads of sweat on a beerglass as Miss Husky Oil vied with Miss Grizzly Logging for the honour of being crowned with the local laural of logging tape and slash alder. After the last float had coughed into oblivion around a corner, the other three "latecomers" suddenly materialized across the street -- they had been waiting for us as we for them! Oh well, the local saturnalia had been well worth the stay even though we didn't depart until 12.30

The road through to Lilloett was as dusty as it was spectacular, with vistas of Joffre, Matier and Duke mountains looming above the surrounding hills as they in turn plunged precipitously into the deep waters of Duffy Lake. Just past its eastern end we turned south onto the Blowdown Creek road which was in top condition -- far better than the washboarded "main" road we had just left. After a few miles driving we parked, gathered our rather dusty gear together, and started backpacking. The route into the meadows is actually the remnants of the old mining road that at one time used to go over Blowdown Pass into the Cottonwood Creek valley. We attained our objective -- a beautiful alpine lake esconced below the sheer ramparts of an 8000' peak -- in a matter of 1 3/4 hours of fairly easy hiking. After setting up adjacent to the lake in an open alpine area, we all hiked up to Blowdown Pass for a quick look before sunset. From a high vantage point one could take in a magnificent vista encompassing the peaks, ridges and valleys of the Stein, Cottonwood and Scudamore valleys with the spine of peaks of the Kwoiek and Rutledge framing the far distance. Evening was spent very pleasantly around the fire reminiscing about previous trips.

The next day we awoke to brilliant sunshine, had a quick breakfast and departed for our objective -- "Provincial" Gott Peak (so named on provincial topographic maps as opposed the properly located one on the federal maps). We ascended a steep snow gully on the far side of the lake from which we observed a prominent rock ridge that we should have to eventually travers. We then went down into a narrow valley and back up another steep snow gully to the ridge, which we traversed

TRIP REPORT (cont.)

to its mid-point where it was decided to stop for lunch. In the meantime ominous dark clouds had replaced the blue sky and the odd shower had somewhat dampened our resolve to make "Provincial" Gott. Some of the party decided to return to camp with the remainder proceeding along the ridge to the objective. The spectacular peaks that came into view through the rumbling clouds added to our resolve to at least get Gott. After dropping down yet again (this had affectionately come to be known as the rollercoaster route) we worked our way up a steep snow face and onto the summit. The view which broke through the breaking clouds was indeed breathtaking; to the west were the towers of Matier, Duke and Joffre, while to the north the peaks of the Cadwallader Range provided a jagged backdrop. To the south and east, the seemingly infinite peaks of the Stein and all its tributaries completed the picture. After enjoying the view for some time, we "rollercoasted" back toward camp. By this time the clouds had closed ranks enough that occasional volleys of rain were issuing forth. The main party pressed on back to the campsite but two stalwarts (myself and John) decided to sack one more peak (hopefully) before the weather broke. Two moderate pitches of good Class 3 rock and some scrambling brought us to the summit with the lake and campsite anchored at the base of the plunging cliffs directly below us. The gentle back slopes of the peak provided easy glissading down to its base, and from there we rushed back to the tents just as the rain started pelting down. Fortunately, it was a local disturbance and about half an hour later the sun broke through, purging the clouds until clear skies were with us once again. Supper and a campfire after provided a mellow ending to a busy and complete day.

Day three found some of the group relaxing around the tents in brilliant sunshine while the rest strolled up the massive northern meadow slopes to the ridge above. The views down the Cottonwood Creek area revealed expansive meadow ridges meandering off into the distance. Large alpine bowls and gentle peaks all combined into a region with great potential for classic backpacking and ski-mountaineering during the winter months. After soaking in the incredible vistas we strolled down to the camp site where some of the more hardy ones took a bracing plunge in the icy waters of the lake (at a rate, at best, of about 50 micro-seconds per plunge). Reluctantly we packed up, turned our backs on the lakeside campsite, headed down the road to the cars and thence back to the city.

Rick Sheppard ... Stalwart Leader

The Stalwarts: ... Barb Durant, Theo Mosterman, Lee Larkin, Mona Heppner, Herman Starinck, Craig Skye, Hillary Martin, John Veerbeek and Eileen Bohn.