



THE B.C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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SCHEDULED TRIPS:

LEADER

February 5-6
Mt. Outram (ski) B3/2440m Evelyn Feller 277-1444
Distance - 13 km, elevation gain - 1800 m, estimated time - 4+9 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 146, 103 hikes, p. 188, map - Hope.
Outram trail will be followed to camp in forest, long open slopes to summit. The ski out is long and demanding through forest. Ice axes may be necessary if conditions are icy. Suitable for alpine and very strong x-country skiers.

February 5-6
Little Diamond Head (ski) B2/2620m Murray Lashmar 688-9206
Skiing over a wide variety of terrain. Suitable for alpine or strong x-country skiers.

February 5-6
Three Brothers-Blackwell (ski) A2/2270m Peter Stange 437-8962
Distance - 43 km, elevation gain 1000 m, estimated time - 6 + 7 hrs., guide - Culbert p.150, 103 hikes p. 200, map - Manning Park.
Via the road to Blackwall parking lot then via Heather trail to the summit. Suitable for X-country or alpine skiers.

February 12-13
Brandywine Mtn. (ski) B2/2230m Brian Wood 263-9407
Pleasant skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide. Suitable for alpine or strong x-country skiers.

February 12-13
Columnar Pk. (ski) A2/1803m Harold Rydell 254-7052
Distance - 22 km, elevation gain - 900 m, estimated time - 4+4 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 255, map - Western Garibaldi Park.
Via Paul Ridge to Diamond Head shelter, thence to the peak. Fine ski touring country. Suitable for x-country or alpine skiers.

February 13
Diamond Head (ski) A1/1460m Mark Force 931-2553
Rescheduled from December. Easy skiing in Garibaldi Park. Suitable for x-country or alpine skiers.

February 19-20
Mt. Weart (ski) B3/2865m Peter Parrotta 255-0161
Distance - 21 km, elevation gain - 2260 m, estimated time - 4+6 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 278, map - Alta Lake 92J/2 (1:50,000).
Ski up the trail to Wedgemount cabin then via the armchair glacier and SW ridge to the summit. Steep terrain. Suitable for alpine or strong x-country skiers. Ice axe required.

February 19-20
Red Mountain (ski) B3/2020m Len Soet (112) 858-9991
(Chilliwack)
Distance - 13 km, elevation gain - 650 m, estimated time - 4+4 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 150, map - Manning Park 92M/2 (1:50,000).
From Gibson Pass road via spur road past Shadow Falls to the Skyline Crest Trail. Snowcamp and/or Lone Goat Mountains may be climbed before descending to camp at the head of Mowich Ck. On Sunday, Red Mt. will be climbed before descending back to Gibson Pass.

February 20
Chilliwack Valley (ski) A1 Bill Hobeck 596-7264
Joint ACC/BCMC trip whose ultimate objective will depend on snow conditions. Call leader for details. Suitable for x-country or alpine skiers.

February 26-27
Rainbow Mtn. (ski) B3/2330m Pat Crean 738-1303
Distance - 18 km, elevation gain - 1650 m, estimated time - 5+7 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 222, map - Brandywine Falls 92J/3 (1:50,000).

Access will be via a logging road up 19 Mile Ck. to camp near the treeline. The summit will be attempted via the East Ridge. If avalanche hazard is high, then the standard approach via 21 Mile Ck. and the S ridge, will be taken. Suitable for alpine and strong x-country skiers.

March 5-6
Cheakamus Mtn. (ski) C3/2590m Bill Maurer 298-5189
Distance - 35 km, elevation gain - 1910 m, estimated time - 8+8 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 271, map - Alta Lake 92J/2 (1:50,000).
Access will be via the Singing Pass trail to Russet Lake then to a camp on the Overlord Glacier. From here a descent onto the Diavolo Glacier will be followed by a climb up the N side of Cheakamus. Suitable for strong alpine and very strong x-country skiers only. Due to the great distance to be covered, a rapid descent will be required.

March 5-6

Mt. Tomyhoi (ski) B3/2270m Ed Zenger 434-3095
Distance - 27 km, elevation gain - 1660 m, estimated time - 4+7 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 106, map - Green Trails Mt. Shuksan (no. 14).
Access will be from the Mt. Baker road via the Keep Kool trail to a camp near 1500 m. The divide will be followed NW to the summit. Suitable for alpine and x-country skiers but ice axes and crampons will be required.

March 6

Mt. Alpen (ski) A1/1705m Hugo Stead 734-3664
Distance - 12 km, elevation gain - 1300 m, estimated time - 7 hrs., guide - Culbert, map 92G/10+11 (1:50,000).
An easy day trip in the Mamquam area. Suitable for x-country or alpine skiers.

March 12-13

Mt. Church B3/1685m John Bates (112) 856-5818
(Langley)
Distance - 25 km, elevation gain - 1485 m, estimated time - 6+6 hrs., guide - Beckey (red), p. 44, map - Green Trails Mt. Baker WA (no. 13).
Access from Mt. Baker Hwy. via logging road (no. 4015) to Church Mtn. trail which will be followed to camp near treeline. Ascent will be from the S side. Suitable for alpine and x-country skiers.

March 12-13

Cloudburst Mtn. B2/1870m Frank Baumann (112) 898-5751
(Squamish)
Distance - 13 km, elevation gain - 1810 m, estimated time - 4+6 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 216, map - Cheakamus River 92G/14 (1:50,000).
Access will be via logging road which leaves main Squamish Valley road just before the power station. Camp will be near microwave tower at 900 m at end of road. SW ridge, will be taken to summit. People wishing to traverse over summit to ski down NW side into Falls Ck. will need to carry all their equipment over the summit.

March 13

Metal Dome B1/2010m Mark Force 931-2553
Distance - 20 km, elevation gain - 1460 m, estimated time - 9 hrs., guide - Culbert, map - 92J/3 (1:50,000).
Access will be via Brandywine Ck. logging roads. A fairly long trip. Suitable for alpine and x-country skiers.

SPRING SKI CAMPS:

This year the BCMC will be running 3 ski camps as follows:

1. March 12-19 Fairy Meadows Leader - John Gray 980-5227

This area is in the Northern Selkirks and offers mostly glacier skiing suitable for alpine and strong x-country skiers. Accommodation will be at the ACC Fairy Meadows cabin. The cost to helicopter in and out will be approximately \$200 per person. Food will be arranged by the participants. If you wish to attend please contact John by 11th February.

2. April 9-17 Mt. Columbia Leader - Brian Vezina (phone no. - contact B.C. Tel)

A ski trip to the Columbia Icefields area of the Rocky Mountains with ascents of Columbia and other nearby peaks planned. Travel into and out of the area will be via skis. Suitable for both alpine and strong x-country skiers. Accommodation will be tents and snow caves. Participants must be in good condition and equipped for harsh weather. If you wish to attend please contact Brian by 1st March.

3. April 23 - May 7 Stanley Smith Glacier Leader - Pat Crean 738-1303

Ski mountaineering in the Lilloet icecap area north of Pemberton. The trip itinerary will be developed by the participants but it is likely that the party will helicopter into and out of the area. If you wish to attend please contact Pat by 1st March.

SOCIALS/SLIDE NIGHTS

- Tuesday, 8th February in the Vancouver Energy Centre, 2150 Maple (near 6th Avenue), meeting room, commencing at 8 p.m.

EQUIPMENT SWAP MEET

Bring any outdoor equipment, clothes, etc., you wish to sell or swap. Bargains abound! Last year 3 skis were sold for \$1!!!

- Tuesday, 8th March in the Vancouver Energy Centre, 2150 Maple (near 6th Avenue), meeting room, commencing at 8 p.m.
Two important events will occur at this meeting -
 1. Doug Herchmer will give an illustrated talk on avalanche awareness and safety.
 2. Different people will give small illustrated presentations describing possible locations in which a new club cabin could be built. If you have an area in mind please prepare a presentation - see below for further details.

MEMBERSHIP:

New Member

Laura G. Jasch, 360 E. 37th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V5W 1E7, 321-4296

Change of Address

Sev Heiberg, 605 - 2121 Alma Road, Vancouver, B.C., V6R 3R1, 224-6202

Change of Phone No.

John Stinson, 465-6314

LOCATIONS FOR A NEW BCMC CABIN:

To provide some direction to the cabin committee and to ascertain your opinions, the executive decided to invite all interested club members to present at the March monthly meeting (8th March) their ideas as to where a new club cabin should be built. Consequently, you are invited to attend this meeting and briefly describe the area in which you feel a new cabin should be built.

You should bring along a few slides illustrating the area and have with you the following information:

1. map location,
2. hikes, climbs, and skiing available from the proposed cabin,
3. the state of summer and winter access to the area, and
4. reasons why the location is a good one.

If you have no specific location in mind but are interested in a new cabin, you should attend the meeting in order to assess the merits of the different proposals put forward. A vote will be taken to determine which location is most desirable. If you want to have a say in determining the location - this is your chance.

BCMC MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE:

The proposed increases in membership fees, as given in the November and December 1982 newsletters were almost unanimously approved at the December general meeting. Since most people had paid their membership fees prior to the December meeting the club will gain little extra revenue this year. The feeling at the meeting was that the increases were not enough and that further increases should be considered for next year.

BCMC LIBRARY:

Yes, the BCMC has an impressive library and some of you have books out that are long overdue. If so please return them to Theo Mosterman (phone 224-3933), who is conducting an inventory of the library with the intention of revitalizing it. In future Theo will be bringing a selection of books from the library to each club monthly social.

BCMC EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

2x3x4m aluminum frame composed of different lengths of 1/2x3 cm strips. Once used as a cook tent frame. Weighs about 40 kg. Many other strips less than 1m long as well (about 60+ kg). Suitable for use as a greenhouse, etc. Any offers? Contact John Metcalfe (phone 462-7818) for further details and offers.

THE NEXT MOUNTAINEER:

We hope to produce our next Mountaineer towards the end of this year. We need more articles on longer or more unusual trips (e.g. McKinley, Wind River Range, summer camps, etc.) and, especially, good black and white photos. Some colour slides will give you very good black and white photos. Please send your contributions to the editor, Michael Feller (277-1444).

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND GENERAL INFORMATION BROCHURE:

Good quality black and white prints are required for the front page of the Newsletter and also for the new General Information Brochure. All photos should be approximately the same size as the photo on the front page of this Newsletter. They should be sent to the Editor.

BCMC EQUIPMENT:

The club owns the items of equipment listed below. Does the club really need them? Should some items be sold? Should other items be purchased? Of particular concern is the summer camp equipment which seems to cost a bit to maintain, but for which there has been relatively little demand in recent years. The Camp Chairman, Wayne Saunders, will be conducting a survey to find out whether there is sufficient interest in the club to continue running the traditional summer camps - with food and cook supplied at a base camp. Do we need the summer camp equipment? Please give your ideas to the executive.

Climbing Equipment

- | | | | |
|-------------|---|--|--------------------|
| Ropes | - | 8x9 mm (at least 2 in poor condition) | |
| | | 9x11 mm (at least 2 in poor condition) | |
| Tents | - | 2 Sierra Designs | 4 person |
| | | 1 McKinley | 4 person |
| | | 1 Equinox | 3-4 person |
| | | 1 small | 1 person |
| | | 1 Marco Polo | 2 person (missing) |
| Pieps | - | 6 | |
| Jumar | - | 1 | |
| Snow Flukes | - | 3 | |
| Snow Sled | - | 1 (used with skis) | |

Summer Camp Equipment

- | | | | |
|-------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tents | - | 1 4.3m x 4.9m x 1.8m x 1.2m | heavy canvas wall tent |
| | | 1 4.3m x 4.9m | light canvas wall tent |
| | | 1 2.7m x 2.7m | blue umbrella tent with poles |
| | | 1 2.7m x 3.7m | tent |
| | | 1 bag of aluminum tent poles | |

- Canvas Tarps - 1 6x6m
1 3.7 x 3.7m
2 2.7 x 3.7m
1 2.7 x 2.7m
3 1.2 x 0.3m (probably latrine screens)
1 3.7m x 3.7m heavy gauge plastic
- Tent Anchors - 1 garbage bag full of plywood guy anchors
2 1.5m aluminum tent stakes
52 tent pegs
- Stoves - 1 4-6 burner propane stove
1 16 kg propane tank
1 23 kg propane tank
1 2 burner Coleman stove
1 3 burner burner Coleman stove
2 Shepard tent stoves
2-3m of stove pipe
1 large iron fire grate
- Ropes - 1 7mm x 15m gold line
1 11mm x 15m polypropylene
1 15m role of twine
- Lamp - 2-3 Coleman lamps
- Tools - 1 splitting axe
2 shovels
1 pick
2 hand saws
1 hammer
2 fire extinguishers (1 requires a recharge)
- First Aid Kit - 1
- Pots and Pans - 3 nested pots (16, 20, 30 l)
1 coffee pot (20 l)
3 coffee pots (50 l)
1 large pot (30 l)
1 pressure cooker (30 l)
1 fire pot (30 l)
1 fire pot (20 l)
1 fire bucket
1 25x50cm baking pan
1 30x45cm baking pan
1 20x30cm baking pan
2 Coleman griddles (40x60cm)
2 40x40cm griddles
1 30cm cast iron frying pan
1 4 l pot
1 water pail
3 35x50cm plastic wash basins
2 plastic pails
1 small wash basin
2 10 l water jugs
1 barrel of assorted pots, pans, and utensils

+ 1 portable 2-way radio

MEETINGS OF INTEREST:

Monday, 21st February

Sierra Club public lecture on the Northern Yukon at the cross-roads. Focus on northern developments and their impacts. At 8 p.m. in Robson Square Lecture Theatre, downtown Vancouver.

ACCESS:

Upper Lilloet logging road

Due to budget cutbacks, B.C. Hydro will not be plowing the Upper Lilloet Road to Meager Ck. this winter, and also probably next winter. If you were planning trips to this area this winter - take note.

Lizzie Creek logging road closure

The Ministry of Forests, in the person of R.L. Johnson from the Squamish Forest District, sent the following comments to mountaineering clubs in Vancouver concerning the temporary closure of the Lizzie Creek road last October:

"The road was closed late Friday, October 8, and re-opened on Tuesday morning October 12. This was the only time the road to Lizzie Lake has been deliberately closed all year, despite active logging and high fire hazards. Unfortunately, Blundell Logging did not notify the Forest Service prior to this closure but later discussions with them have resolved this problem. Generally, the Blundells have blocked only the roads into active logging areas in side drainages but have left the main road to the lake open for the benefit of recreationists, despite the active logging near the lake. However, in the three weekends prior to Thanksgiving the firm suffered losses of over \$6,000.00 in stolen or smashed tools and equipment parked near the lake. This does not include the thousands more in lost wages when the crews had to be sent home three times due to inoperative equipment. Blundell's justifiable anger and concern over the impending long weekend led them to take the action of blocking the road.

I take exception to the final sentence of the article that refers to the typical "deplorable" situation in our forests today of foresters not being aware of their roads and loggers closing roads at their whim. I can assure you that this is not the case in our District. It is also an unfair jab at Blundell Logging who, as many will testify, are normally considerate, conscientious loggers and who have often helped out recreationists or improved conditions in the Lizzie area.

A situation that is more typical and deplorable in our forests today and which should be addressed is the one of malicious vandalism and theft to industrial equipment over the weekends. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in smashed equipment, stolen gear and lost production and wages are probably suffered each year by logging firms in the Squamish and Chilliwack Forest Districts alone. This is why there are gates blocking vehicle access to so many of our fine hiking areas such as Brandywine, Airplane Cr., and those in the Skagit and Chilliwack drainages. Vandalism is usually the work of a small minority of the people who use backroads during weekends but, unfortunately, all must suffer the penalty of restricted access. Logging companies must protect their property and expensive investments. I'm sure you can appreciate this.

The Recreation section in the Squamish District (and others) is currently working with certain logging firms to eliminate gates blocking access into the main valleys (and recreation areas) and replace them with gates or barriers to only the active logging areas in side drainages. Perhaps the Alpine Club and other clubs can play a role, too, by making their members aware of the current vandalism problem and to note and report licence numbers of suspicious vehicles observed near logging equipment and buildings. With increased surveillance perhaps this problem can be reduced to a level such that logging firms will be more willing to open up access into high-value recreation areas. The important factor is mutual understanding between recreationists and logging firms and to be aware of each others problems. With this can come cooperation and shared use of the forest. We have to work towards that end.

Please call myself or Nanci Larman at 898-9671 any time you require current information on access in the Squamish-Pemberton area or if you would like any information on the Engineering/Recreation program in the Squamish Forest District. We'd be pleased to help you."

Unfortunately, the author of this letter appears to have missed the point of our concern. We are all well aware that vandalism is a serious problem in some areas and that gates are necessary on some logging roads. The issue of concern is that a road may be blocked without either the Ministry of Forests or the logging company foresters being aware of it. That is a deplorable situation. In the case of Lizzie Creek, the Ministry of Forests and Blundell Logging were unaware of the closure six days after it had occurred or, if they were aware, claimed that there was no closure.

NEWS:

World Record Rappel Made on Baffin Island

The longest rappel ever made was accomplished this past summer on the unclimbed West Face of Mount Thor on Baffin Island by a team of cavers. The rappel was in excess of 980 m, breaking the 808 m mark set two years ago on El Capitan in Yosemite.

The rappellers used a single rope technique for which they had PMI custom-manufacture a 1610 m rope with no splices and an additional strand added to its normal 11 mm diameter. Special 66 cm long rappel racks were made by Buddy Lane. They were constructed from 11 mm diameter 304 stainless steel that held 8 standard 19 mm diameter brake bars and varying sizes of spacers. The spacers were made from 16 mm diameter copper tubing for good heat dissipation. From base camp, it took 5 men to carry the 130 kg main rope to the foot of Mt. Thor. Some supplies for the project were taken in by snowmobile in March, the rest of the gear was ferried by freighter canoe in July and for the last 27 km the gear was carried by backpack.

From the summit the rope fell for 100 m to a bulge, then the rock curved inward and the rope hung free for more than 600 m, until it crossed the lower of two hematite bands that run across Thor's face. Here huge slabs of granite leaned out as much as 1 m and formed a vertical minefield of cracked and loose rock which had to be crossed carefully. Then a final smooth swelling of the rock was followed by 200 m of freefall until barely 8 m from the top of the scree slope. Once on the bottom, the rappellers then prussiked back to the top. They reported that it was a slow beginning with 10 m of stretch before leaving the ground. As they neared the top, the weight of the rope below (more than 90 kg), plus their own weight, stretched the rope above into a taut string that would be sounded by the wind and hum with a deep, loud, low note. The top ascender would vibrate and jump crazily against the rope.

Taken from "Summit", November-December 1982

Notes from the UIAA Safety Commission Meeting Held last May in Switzerland

The excerpts below are taken from the ACC Gazette (No. 100, Nov. 1982).

Ropes - Concerning the use of doubled 9 mm ropes in climbing, there are two techniques of interest. The classic double rope technique involves alternating these ropes through carabiners in order to reduce drag. The so-called 'Zwillings' technique involves using two 9 mm ropes as a single rope. That is, both ropes are passed through each carabiner. Some recent test results were presented. In general, it appears that the Zwillings method will allow between 20 to 38 severe falls over a 5 mm edge before failing. Under the same conditions, a single 11 mm will sustain a maximum of 12 falls. As the edge radius decreases the number of falls that can be sustained also decreases, but the Zwillings method is better in every case. The lesson is clear: A double 9 mm rope technique (Zwillings) has major advantages, especially where there is a danger of the rope being cut over a rock edge.

Claude Bourdon presented some interesting information on the fall capacities of 20 and 30 year old 11 mm ropes. These failed on the first fall at a peak load of 600 KN. At a 5% lower load, the 20 year rope held one fall.

John Keighley presented some test results to show that rope thickness varies with use. Once a rope is used, it becomes permanently thicker, however the significance of this is unknown. Some comparisons have been done on the strength of wet and dry ropes. A 29% loss in strength on average was reported from a wet to dry rope over the temperature range from +5C to -5C. Ropes seem strongest at 0C but lose strength between 0C and -10C. Not only do wet and dry ropes have different measurable properties, but wet ropes that have been dried tend to be stronger than dry ropes. These observations are not understood. Wet ropes that have been dried are also generally stiffer but again, the mechanism is not understood.

Harnesses - Dr. Pleps from Innsbruck presented a paper entitled Roping-Up Past, Present, Future. He identified the medical problems of a fall as four trauma: i) impact on rock ii) strangulation iii) impact on the rope and iv) hanging on the rope.

A climber can avoid (i) by pushing away from the rock; using a helmet and using a harness with potential for a head-up recovery. All injuries in this category are then absorbed by the limbs or the trunk. In case (ii), pressure caused by the rope on the carotid artery produces quick unconsciousness and death. In order to prevent such trauma, one should climb on a taut rope, leave no loops in the rope, have a self-rescue cord, ensure smooth rope operation, and never have runners looped around the neck.

The impact due to the rope itself on a fall, can be greatly reduced by means of an effective dynamic belay and an appropriate chest-seat harness.

The free-hanging problem is a complicated one. Several major harness types have been examined: a) waist harness - maximum freedom but least protection, b) chest harness - most climbers can sustain 1 hour. Most climbers will die if left hanging for between 1/2 to 8 hours., c) sit harness - widely used, comfortable, less restrictive than the chest harness. The UIAA presently considers such harnesses dangerous as a head-up position is not guaranteed in a fall recovery. Dr. Pleps expressed concern over the widespread use of such harnesses. He ascribed this to the fact that continental climbers believe what comes from the USA is always good, that the climbing industry made the mistake of introducing too heavy and complicated body harnesses, and that thoughts of a serious accident are often repressed.

Pit Schubert followed this up with a summary of four accidents between 1976 and 1981 with falls greater than 10m, in which it appeared that the climber died as a result of an inadequate (sit) harness. This contention provoked much comment but basically the problem is unresolved as there is insufficient evidence. Such evidence is very difficult to come by.

The manufacturers are frustrated that sit-type harnesses are not UIAA normed, as more and more people are using them. It was suggested that the problem could be resolved by adopting two categories of harness: Class I: Body harness Class II: sport harness - limited use recommended. This would help to prevent misuse.

Trends in Backcountry Use in Canada's Rocky Mountain National Parks

The following statistics come from a Masters thesis completed in the Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary, by D.C. Harvey, and entitled "Backcountry management in Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho National Parks, Canada. The statistics were published in the latest issue of the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada journal - Park News (Vol. 18, No. 3, 1982).

| | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of Permits | | | | |
| Banff | 4,510 | 5,180 | 5,470 | 5,100 |
| Jasper | 2,580 | 2,970 | 2,930 | 3,550 |
| Kootenay | 380 | 560 | 550 | 530 |
| Yoho | na | na | 560 | na |
| Number of Persons | | | | |
| Banff | 12,530 | 14,640 | 15,330 | 14,380 |
| Jasper | 9,200 | 10,260 | 9,210 | 9,530 |
| Kootenay | na | na | na | 1,400 |
| Yoho | na | na | 1,440 | na |
| Number of Visitor-Nights | | | | |
| Banff | 27,920 | 31,490 | 34,820 | 31,640 |
| Jasper | 26,320 | 25,350 | 25,610 | 25,860 |
| Kootenay | na | na | na | 2,670 |
| Yoho | 2,610 | 2,560 | 2,740 | 2,420 |

| | |
|-----------|---|
| na: | not available |
| Banff: | 1978 - 15 May through 15 October 1979-1981 - 16 October through 15 October |
| Jasper: | 1978-1981 - 1 January through 31 December |
| Kootenay: | 1978-1979 - 24 June through 4 September 1980 - 1 June through 4 September 1981 - 6 June through 7 September |
| Yoho: | 1978-1979 - 4 June through 20 September 1980 - 4 June through 2 September 1981 - 10 June through 26 September |

Number of Overnight Hikers by Year, Jasper National Park, 1966-1981. (Source: Visitor Services, Parks Canada).

| Year | Number | Year | Number | Year | Number |
|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
| 1966 | 910 | 1971 | 4650 | 1976 | 8850 |
| 1967 | 1250 | 1972 | 6260 | 1977 | 9270 |
| 1968 | 2210 | 1973 | 7700 | 1978 | 7430 |
| 1969 | 2100 | 1974 | 6380 | 1979 | 8000 |
| 1970 | 4000 | 1975 | 9920 | 1980 | 8050 |
| | | | | 1981 | 7880 |

Total Number of Visitors by Park by Year, Rocky Mountain National Parks, 1976-1980.
 (Source: Socio-Economic Division, Parks Canada, Ottawa.)

| | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 5-year average |
|----------|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | ----- number of visitors in thousands ----- | | | | | |
| Banff | 3164 (11.3) | 3004 (-5.1) | 3130 (4.2) | 3506 (12.0) | 3649 (4.1) | 5.3 |
| Jasper | 1622 (1.7) | 1686 (3.9) | 1798 (6.6) | 1818 (1.1) | 1929 (6.1) | 3.9 |
| Kootenay | 2085 (10.1) | 2163 (3.7) | 2251 (4.1) | 2303 (2.3) | 2477 (7.5) | 5.5 |
| Yoho | 971 (-7.6) | 1027 (5.8) | 1119 (8.9) | 1205 (7.8) | 1196 (-0.8) | 2.8 |
| Totals | 7842 (6.2) | 7880 (0.5) | 8298 (5.3) | 8832 (6.4) | 9251 (4.7) | 4.6 |

(): per cent change from previous year.

How Accurate Are Our Vancouver Area Weather Forecasts?

Like many other maintainers, your editor plans most of his weekends using weather forecast information. Like many others he has often been frustrated by inaccurate forecasts. Consequently, he set out to assess the accuracy of the weather forecasts for the Vancouver area.

This was done by comparing a day's weather to that forecast the previous day. The forecast was obtained from the final edition of the Vancouver Sun or by telephoning the Vancouver weather office the evening before the day in question. Only the general weather pattern was looked at. Details such as temperatures and freezing levels were not considered, unless they affected the form of precipitation on Vancouver (i.e. snow instead of rain). The general weather pattern meant cloudy vs. sunny vs. rainy. Much leeway was given to the forecast. For example, a forecast of "cloudy with showers" was considered correct if the day was cloudy and had one short shower, or if it was cloudy and had rain for half the day. It was considered incorrect if the day had no showers but some amount of sunshine. The results of the assessment are given in the following table:

| <u>Month</u> | <u>No. of Days Assessed</u> | <u>% correct forecast</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| January | 21 | 38 |
| February | 21 | 57 |
| March | 26 | 58 |
| April | 21 | 62 |
| May | 24 | 50 |
| June | 27 | 74 |
| July | 27 | 37 |
| August | 27 | 59 |
| September | 24 | 50 |
| October | 28 | 57 |
| November | 25 | 56 |
| December | 24 | 50 |
| Year (1982) | 295 | 54 |

The accuracy of the forecasts varied from 74% in June to 37% in July, and for the whole year averaged 54%. An educated person with a barometer (altimeter) and some knowledge of clouds could produce, and has produced, (in the case of your editor), as accurate forecasts as those produced by the Weather Office. What the assessment suggests is that the weather forecast is likely to be wrong almost one weekend in two, on the average. You may be better off doing your own forecasting!

TRIP REPORTS:

Coquihalla, 2-3 October, 1982

The annual Coquihalla blitz had another clash with the weather, "precipitated" by a chain reaction of events in early September. A rainy Sept. 11/12 caused cancellation of a Wedgemount Glacier Survey. However, we did it in fine style a week later, thus pushing the leader's available time for alpine activities back a week because of pressing demands at home. So, with remorse I asked that the scheduled Sept. 24/25 trip be deferred to Oct. 4/5, but it yielded a mixed reaction. Most participants agreed to the deferral, and those that objected could join Ed and Tricia who volunteered a trip to the Anderson River side of the area instead. Ironically the 24/25th was a washout anyhow, with snow falling down to timberline. The following days were clear and warm, so the October weekend appeared to be shaping up well despite the fact that the leader was out of town and had asked the participants to meet him at Coquihalla Pass late Saturday afternoon - he was driving in from the north. But in another fit of brashness the weather blew up another cold monsoon on the Friday afternoon (the weatherman said it would be unseasonably warm). Reaching friend Norm Hansen in Merritt on Saturday afternoon, he muttered: "You're 1 1/2 hours late, Ricker!" That spurred a dash to his 4 by 4 and a quick trip to the pass and the alleged waiting participants. Open cloudy skies gave way near Brookmere to dark fearsome skies farther south, and as the pass was approached - heavy rain.

"Norm". I said, "not only are we late, we'll be darn lucky to find any BCMC'ers". The new snow line was only a few hundred metres above road level and one hell of a long way below timberline. We dawdled at and near the pass until darkness fell and the increasing crescendo of the downpour convinced us that all potential trip joiners had "ducked out". It was a retreat northward to a dry campsite near Brookmere. While setting up camp, we pondered the plan of action for the morrow.

Awakening after a rainless night at this forlorn locale, the occasionally appearing ray of sun convinced us to take the joy ride from the bustling metropolis of Brookmere up to nearly 2000 metres (short by a couple) high Mt. Thynee - the last outpost of the Hozameen Range, just north of and east of the Coquihalla Pass. The road can be confused with mischievous logging spurs along the way, but if you are lost, look for yellow garden hose nailed to the trees. This seems to be the local BCFS (or is it CN Microwave) technique of keeping their vehicles on the way up to their respective roosts atop the mountain. Passing an isolated block house just below timberline, the road takes on a short steep climb to reach a rather long and broad alpine north ridge packed with potentially picturesque ponds. What alpine terrain damage not meted out by the road and its two or three route revisions, was otherwise accomplished by an aggressive mineral search with rude cuts here and there near a contact of volcanic against granitic stock rocks. New snow, however, masked the blemishes in the morning, and in light sleet fall we parked a mere 50 metres away from the summit. A horrific dark cloud to the southwest had shown that we had gone in the right direction. But the question was, what does one do after driving to a summit? Reflecting on a midsummer visit to the BCFS lookout ranger here a few summers ago, I recalled his discussion about two ancient trails that were used to reach the summit - one from the east out of Otter Valley (runs parallel to, but west of, the Merritt-Princeton Highway) and the other from the north out of Brookmere on ridge tops west of the currently used access road. Either we looked for these or else it was snow covered rock climbing in one of the summit's nearby cirques. The sky dictated the former.

Dropping south from the lookout, the trail to Otter Valley was immediately found, despite the attempt by alpine heather to fill it in. Actually the new snow helped to keep us on course, because it enhanced the subtle topographic break of a trail crossing the slope. Lower down it is marked by old blazes until the floor of the east cirque is reached, though it is momentarily vague where an attempt at building a cabin (?) fell much short of even reasonable walls. Just downslope of the "cabin" it crosses the creek, and from there on old but visible blazes soon lead out of the cirque to a saddle on in its south rim and into the forest below. The trail, thereafter, was not followed, but the 1958 Edition of the Provincial Tulameen map shows it to follow ridge crests adjacent to Thynne Creek Valley with two substantial up and down sections. As this valley has not been logged, it appears that we have the perfect though unusual trip of a descending trail to traverse. According to Bob Harris, the trail was built by the BCFS several decades ago.

The much older trail leading north from the summit was not so easily found. Either work at the nearby microwave tower had obliterated it, or the new snow was hiding the evidence. But, at the first substantial roadside alpine tarn below the summit (a very attractive campsite), we found it west of the road and west of another tarn also located west of the road a little farther to the north. It was vaguely imprinted on the alpine meadow, but with the new snow fall we could stay on the indentation until dropping into open timber where large but healed-over blazes lead onto the west-facing slopes of the massif's north ridge.

In one last subalpine meadow we lost it in mining exploration gouges at a point where a northwest ridge joins the main massif. Did the trail use this spur ridge, or was it hanging on the side of the main one? Wandering for an hour with nary a blaze to be found, we eventually gave up and returned upslope on the miners' cat route to the main ridgecrest and more snowfall. We'll let Bob Harris and the Macaree's solve the north trail mystery. The day ended with a historical tour of the Brookmere heritage structures: The general store with its old hand gas pump and the barely intact CPR water tower. The station was closed, but somehow it appeared to us that the few remaining inhabitants were not going to leave until they had one last look at a steam loci coming in to have one last fill.

For an autumn trip with serious rock climbing out of the question, the Mt. Thynne to Thynne Lake trail, on connecting ridges of Thynne Creek, deserves a traverse - allow the whole day for the project.

Karl Ricker (reporter) and
Norm Hansen (logistics office)

Prussik Pk., 9-11 October, 1982

Wayne's trip to climb Prussik Pk. did not proceed as planned. Fresh snow down to 1200m the preceding day discouraged us from heading off on the Saturday. Instead the day was spent rock-climbing at Castle Rock amid friends and E.B.'s and some of the most skilled rock-scalers of the Vancouver area. But one day was enough. The Peshastin Pinnacles were closed due to the apple harvest and the line-ups at Castle Rock were getting long so we set out without rock gear or ropes to explore the environs of Prussik Pk., namely the Enchantment Lakes area.

The Snow Creek Trail starts at a car park on Icicle Cr. Road and eventually finds its way to Snow Lakes. This trail is excellent and a lot of distance can be covered quickly. Already we knew the right choice had been made. Much snow was in evidence on the north sides of the peaks. The weather was flawlessly clear and sunny; shorts and T-shirts appeared.

The next portion of the trail up to Lake Viviane is steeper and less monotonous than Snow Lakes Trail. A 'blue cloud' developed above Erich's Head when we rounded a corner and discovered that where the trail traversed a 20 degree granite slab, a ledge-like foot-path had been blasted out of the rock! Further on more choice phrases were explored when steps constructed of re-bar and mortar were encountered.

Lake Viviane marks the beginning of the Enchantment Lakes. It is the lowest of a compact series of lakes all above 2000m. The area is exquisite, possibly the most beautiful alpine area in the Cascades. On two sides the peaks are festooned with jagged pinnacles. Prussik Pk. itself rises above the lake looking as hard to climb as described. Everyone along vowed to return next summer to climb something!

We proceeded past Pixie Pond and Leprechaun Lake to camp at Magic Meadows (it's the 'enchantment' theme). That night as we swapped lies and looked for shooting stars, Peter volunteered to go out the next day the way we had come in and to drive around to meet us at the head of the Colchuck Lk. Trail. This enabled the rest of us to make a traverse of the Enchantments. During the day two couples (man and woman) had passed us clad in jogging gear and bum-packs on their way down to the Snow Lakes Trail, having travelled from the Colchuck Lk. Trailhead to traverse the Enchantment Lakes in one day.

The next day was clear, sunny and warm. We followed the trail past Rune Lk. and Talisman Lk. before dropping our packs to climb little Annapurna. From the summit of this cl. 2 climb we could see the old volcanoes: Baker, Rainier and Adams lined up north to south. By noon we topped Aasgard Pass and started down to Colchuck Lk. (1700m). The trail down is definitely not forest service standard. It is steep and loose and this weekend the upper section was covered in snow and ice making for a slow careful descent. From Colchuck Lk. Brian and Jane sprinted out to the car and the rest of us ambled out in good time.

It turns out that the Enchantment Lakes is a small segment of a larger area called the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. This wilderness area comprises more than 120,000 ha of land in the Cascades between US-20/Stevens Pass Hwy and I-90/Snoqualmie Pass Hwy. In February 1982 the Alpine Lakes plan took effect as a wilderness area under the management of the U.S. Forest Service. This event culminated more than two decades of activity by conservation groups and the U.S. Government. In 1976 the Alpine Lakes Area Management Act was passed by Congress that enabled the Forest Service to buy and/or exchange land to complete the acquisition of all lands within the prescribed area.

The Enchantment Lakes and the Lost World Plateau areas are well-documented in Fred Beckey's first book: 'Cascade Climbing Guide - Columbia R. to Stevens Pass'. The area is well worth a visit. There are opportunities for enjoyment for all levels.

Tripmates: Wayne Saunders (leader), Erich Hinze, Peter Ravensbergen, Brian Vezina, Jane Weller and John Halliday (reporter).

