

THE B.C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER



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SCHEDULED TRIPS:

LEADER

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).
Approach from the N side via Chance Ck. starting near Garibaldi station. May be done as a day trip. Suitable for alpine and strong x-country skiers.
- March 12-13
Mt. Ipsoot (ski) B3/2590m Ross Wyborn 462-9204
(Joint ACC trip)
Distance - 21 km, elevation gain - 1830 m, estimated time - 6+8 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 223, map - Pemberton 92J/7 (1:50,000).
Approach via Miller Ck. camping near treeline. The summit will be ascended via the glacier on its N side. Suitable for alpine or strong x-country skiers.
- 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.
- March 19-20
Mt. Jimmy Jimmy (ski) B3/2205m Michael Feller 277-1444
Distance - 19 km, elevation gain - 2000 m, estimated time - 5+8 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 228, map - Cheakamus River 92G/14 (1:50,000).
Approach via logging roads in the Ashlu valley to camp near treeline. The glacier on the N side will be taken to reach the summit. Suitable for alpine or strong x-country skiers.
Note: this trip has been rescheduled from Jan. 29-30 and replaces the originally scheduled trip to Sphinx.
- March 19-20
Rainbow Mtn. (ski) B2/2365m Paul Krainer 738-7813
Distance - 24 km, elevation gain - 1500 m, estimated time - 6+8 hrs., guides - Culbert, p. 222, 103 Hikes, p. 114, map - Brandywine Falls 92J/3 and Alta Lake 92J/2 (1:50,000).
This trip will explore the slopes in the Rainbow and Gin and Tonic Lakes area across the valley from Whistler. Suitable for alpine or strong x-country skiers.
- March 20
Sproatt Mtn. (ski) B2/1845m Susan Leslie 228-8517
Distance - 10 km, elevation gain - 1240 m, estimated time - 5 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 221, map - Brandywine Falls 92J/3 (1:50,000).
Approach via Sproatt Ck. on its south side. Suitable for x-country or alpine skiers.

March 26-27

Matsaac Pk. (Custer) (ski) B3/2630m Mark Force 931-2553
Distance - 18 km, elevation gain - 1410 m, estimated time - 2+8 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 136, Beckey (red), p. 112, map - Skagit 92H/3 (1:50,000) and Green Trails Ross Lake WA #16. Access via Maselpalik Ck. logging road to 1200 m. However, road and snow conditions may require a longer first day. Camp near treeline, ascend peak from N via Masselpalik glacier and Custer Ridge. Ice axes required. Suitable for alpine and very strong x-country skiers.

March 27

Mt. Baker area (ski) A1 Bernard DeMacedo 876-4769
Estimated time - 8 hrs., guide - Beckey (red), p. 25-37, map - Green Trails Mt. Shuksan (WA - no. 14) and Mt. Baker (WA - no. 13)
A fairly easy day trip whose destination will depend on weather and snow conditions. Suitable for x-country and alpine skiers. Contact leader for further details.

April 1-4

Spearhead traverse (ski) C3/2700m Peter Parrotta 255-0161
Distance - 35 km, total elevation gain - 3000 m+, estimated time - 10+12+12+8 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 269-274, 103 Hikes, p. 120-122, map - Alta Lake 92J/2 (1:50,000) or Western Garibaldi Park.
Circumnavigation of the Fitzsimmons Creek watershed starting at Blackcomb and finishing via Singing Pass.

April 1-4

Mt. Sir Richard (ski) C3/2715m Michael Feller 277-1444
Distance - 60 km, elevation gain - 2100 m+, estimated time - 7+7+8+6 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 228, map - Mamquam Mtn. 92G/15 (1:50,000).
Approach via logging roads and trail to Cheakamus Lake. From camps in the upper Cheakamus, Mt. Sir Richard and peaks in the Forger Glacier area will be attempted, Sir Richard from the W. Return to cars on day 4. Ice axe will be required. An alternative approach or trip will be done if Cheakamus Lake is not frozen. Suitable for alpine or strong x-country skiers.

April 9-10

Owl Lakes area (ski) B2/1710m Theo Mosterman 224-3933
Distance - 27 km, elevation gain - 1000 m, estimated time - 5+6 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 189, 103 Hikes, p. 120, map - Pemberton 92J/7 (1:50,000).
Approach via trail from Birkenhead Lake road to camp at Owl Lake. On Sunday one of the nearby ridges will be ascended. Suitable for x-country or alpine skiers.

April 9-10

Mt. Lindeman (ski) B3/2310 m John Gray 980-5227
Distance - 20 km, elevation gain - 2000 m, estimated time - 4+6 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 119, Beckey (red), p. 122, map - Skagit River 92H/14 (1:50,000).
Approach via Centre Creek to camp near treeline. Ascent will be via west slopes and SW ridge. Suitable for alpine and strong x-country skiers.

April 9-10

Manning Park (ski) B3/2000 m Paul Kubik 876-0764
Estimated time - 8+10 hrs., guide - Culbert, p. 149-158, 103 Hikes, p. 196-207, map - Manning Park 92H/2 (1:50,000).
A trip for experienced backcountry skiers. Contact leader for final destination - Skyline Ridge is a possibility. Suitable for alpine or strong 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 quickly.

2. April 9-17 Mt. Columbia Leader - Brian Vezina 874-3355

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 soon.

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 soon.

SOCIALS/SLIDE NIGHTS:

- Tuesday, 8th March in the Vancouver Energy Centre, 2150 Maple (near 6th Avenue), meeting room, commencing at 8 p.m.
An important event will occur at this meeting - FOCUS ON HUTS
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.

- Tuesday, 12th April in the Vancouver Energy Centre, 2150 Maple (near 6th Avenue), meeting room, commencing at 8 p.m.
This meeting will feature slides of the Ape Lake - Monarch area, location of this year's BCMC summer camps, as well as slides of climbing in the Wind River Range, Wyoming.

MEMBERSHIP:

New Members - The Club welcomes the following:

Karl (Harry) Kettman, 3561 W. 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, V6N 3H5	266-8867
Peter Pare, 3025 W. 35th Avenue, Vancouver, V6N 2M7	261-3968
D. Rick Schneider, 201 - 2368 W. Broadway, Vancouver, V6K 2E5	734-8589

Change of Address -

Merilyn Brown, 3223 W. 8th Avenue, Vancouver, V6K 2C6	738-3735
Les Churchill, 202 - 1130 W. 13th Avenue, Vancouver, V6H 1N3	
Mavis McEwan, 208 - 2430 Pt. Grey Rd., Vancouver, V6K 1A2	738-9106
John and Joyce Gudaitis, 5726 Sussex Ave., Burnaby, V5H 3B5	435-7083
Grant McCormack, 4 - 875 W. 14th Avenue, Vancouver, V5Z 1R2	875-1813
Peter Rogers, 5870 Ontario Street, Vancouver, V5W 2L9	327-3853
Kreg Sky, 86 - 665 McBeth Place, Kamloops, B.C., V2C 5V9	372-7691
Wendy Taylor, 4623 W. 8th Avenue, Vancouver, V6R 2A6	224-2369
Brian Vezina, 209 - 680 E. 5th Avenue, Vancouver	874-3355

WHAT CLUB MEMBERS ARE DOING - THE RUCKSACK:

Last year was a year for marriages; this year appears to be one for babies. The club congratulates the following: Daniela and John Bates for the birth of Jack Daniel Bates, Sylvia and Paul Krainer - for the birth of Todd Krainer, Patricia and Luciano Semproni - for the birth of Michael Semproni. Luciano was also rumored to have had an extremely lively 40th birthday party.

LOCATIONS FOR A NEW BCNC 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.

One increasingly important factor to be kept in mind in the consideration of hut location is mechanized access. Areas close to Whistler are being subjected to access by helicopter, snow-cat, and snowmobile for private and commercial forms of winter recreation. The new VOC hut near Mt. Brew was only built last September but this winter a snow-cat operator informed the VOC he wished to take groups to the hut. The Pilatus Porter fixed wing aircraft based in Squamish is able to land in relatively small areas. Currently heli skiing operations exist on Powder, Brandywine, and Callaghan mountains on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide, as well as inside Garibaldi Park. Attempts are being made to establish commercial heli-hiking operations from Whistler.

In view of the conflicts these mechanized activities present to our own activities, it would seem desirable to construct a hut in an area which would not be subjected to harassment from machines. An area on the Squamish-Cheakamus Divide, for example, would not be suitable from this viewpoint. This would be particularly the case if a logging road were to provide relatively easy access to the area in question.

BCNC CONSERVATION COMMITTEE GUIDELINES FOR HUT LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION

Prompted by renewed interest in hut building, the BCNC Conservation Committee in 1982 prepared some guidelines based on those prepared by the Conservation Committee in the early 1970's. These guidelines are relevant to the issue of hut location and are reproduced below.

Scope - These guidelines are concerned only with hut construction in remote or 'wilderness' locations. They do not apply to areas that are already built up or frequented regularly by man. Further, these guidelines are not concerned with the question of whether or not huts should be built nor with the activities that occur within the huts. These guidelines describe the desired interface between the structures and habits of man and the natural earth environment.

Introduction - Where there are huts and trails one can see signs of environmental degradation: trampling of vegetation, long-lasting human garbage, ever-widening boggy trails, and disappearance of native animals. These problems result from a continually expanding population venturing into a continually decreasing area of wilderness, where the huts and trails are commonly situated. The increase in the number of people in wilderness areas inevitably threatens some of the traditional values of these areas. Increasing numbers of people lessen the capacity of wilderness to fulfill a wide range of human needs and desires, which in varying combinations probably explain the motivation of most wilderness users. These include the needs for a healthful environment, aesthetic enjoyment, freedom of choice, self-reliance, solitude, and meaningful companionship.

Wilderness subjected to heavy use by people is progressively less able to satisfy these needs. For example, the healthful environment suffers from waters polluted by garbage or disease organisms, aesthetic enjoyment from initials carved on trees or painted on rocks, freedom of choice from regulations to obey and registers to sign, and self-reliance from facilities such as huts and toilets. The satisfaction of the need for companionship probably increases up to an optimum group size, but declines when groups become so crowded that they interfere with each other. We have all seen how large groups tend to break down into smaller units.

Ideally, we should attempt to maximize the enjoyment of the greatest number of people who venture into the wilderness. The only question is: how can this be done? There is no simple solution.

It is quite clear that huts and trails attract people, many of whom would never go into an area if no hut or trail existed there. They include not only hikers and climbers, but also hunters, whose philosophy often clashes with that of the former groups. Unlimited proliferation of huts and trails may lead to an "urbanization of the wilderness" which we do not think desirable.

Perhaps this is enough to convince us not to build any more huts or trails. However, we should remember that many special-interest groups are demanding land for their own purposes. So it could be argued that if we do not use wilderness for recreation it may be given over to logging, mining, or commercial tourism, for example, and then we would have nothing. Furthermore, huts and trails concentrate large numbers of people into small areas. This may (or may not) be more desirable than having small numbers of people going everywhere.

After considering all these factors, the Conservation Committee proposes the following guidelines aimed at minimizing environmental degradation.

1. ACCESS: As long as a walk in as possible. It should not be so far that the hut cannot be reached within a day in winter, but it should be far enough to discourage heavy use in summer. Ideally, the hut would be guarded by 'natural' obstacles such as a lake, a creek or dense bush in summer. The sphinx hut at the end of Garibaldi Lake would be a perfect example of this, were aerial access to Garibaldi Lake prohibited.

2. LOCATION: Chosen by the use of topographical maps and air photos. Followed by examination of the area on foot. The site must be visited in winter in at least two consecutive years to check that snow accumulation is not too heavy and that the avalanche danger is zero. A hut should also be built in an area that can withstand large numbers of people. Thus, huts should be built on rocky ground or in forests, if possible. In this way, people are diverted from fragile areas such as alpine meadows.

To minimize the number of people attracted to the hut, it should be located more than one full day's travel from any currently heavily used hut.

If a wood stove is to be put into a hut, that hut should be located near an abundant long-term supply of dead wood.

3. OUTHOUSE: Should be carefully located and constructed. It should not be too close to water bodies, (lakes, streams). In general, the sandier and coarser the soil and the greater the slope, the further away it should be from a water body. Also, the higher the clay content and the finer the particles in the soil, the larger should be the pit.

4. DRINKING WATER SUPPLY: Hut should be located near a reliable year-round water supply, easy to locate in winter. This is to avoid a situation such as that which exists at the hut near Golden Ears. This hut is located on a ridge crest with no summer water supply. People have taken to digging holes in depressions in the meadows in search of water.

5. GARBAGE: It must be recognized that huts are magnets for garbage as well as for people, so conservation hints such as "You carried it up - you carry it down." posters should be placed prominently in the hut.

6. STRUCTURE: Should blend in with the environment.

BCMC LIBRARY:

We have just discovered that the club library is missing copies of the Club Newsletter from 1979 to October 1982. If you have any of these issues you wish to donate to the library, please contact Theo Mosterman (224-3933).

BCMC FINANCES:

Last year the club spent about \$190 on Cecil Green meetings and \$280 on the summer camp, in addition to considerably more than expected on its publications - the Mountaineer and the Newsletter. This year we already have increased postage and members who are unaware that annual membership fees have increased by \$3 since last December. Please - if you are renewing your membership, rates are now \$3 more than indicated on the membership renewal forms sent out last year.

In order to help balance the books this year the executive recently reaffirmed a decision by last year's executive that no chairman purchase equipment for the club unless expenditure for that equipment has been approved by the executive. Most of the direct monetary savings, however, were applied to publications. To reduce the cost of publications, this year we will

- a) produce no Mountaineer (delayed until next year)
- b) reduce the cost of a Newsletter to about \$100 per issue (this will be achieved by 1. reducing the size of the Newsletter to an average of about 12 pages, compared to last year's average of 14 pages) and 2. by reducing the number of Newsletters printed per issue, by an average of 50-100).

NEW BCMC TRIP REPORT FORMS:

The executive recently decided to produce some new trip report forms to be used by trip leaders. These forms have been developed by Bill Maurer, John Beltz, and Murray Lashmar.

Each trip leader will be required to complete a form for his/her trip and return the form to the executive. The form will require a leader to provide simple information such as the names of participants, details about weather, access routes, times, camp location, and a general report. The form will also carry a liability disclaimer which should be signed by all trip participants. The disclaimer will state "Important warning to all BCMC trip participants. Skiing, hiking, and climbing in the mountains can be hazardous and involves some risk of injury. The undersigned trip participants acknowledge this warning and expressly agree not to hold the club, or any of its trip leaders, officers, or fellow participants responsible for personal injury, or damage to, or loss of equipment that may occur on any trip, and waive and discharge for ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators any and all claims and demands against the aforesaid for such injury, damage, or loss which may arise on the trip".

If you have any comments on these forms, please give them to the executive.

OUR COVER PHOTO:

Skating towards the head of Maselpalik Ck. with International Pk. on the left skyline and Mt. Custer (Matsaac) on the skyline ridge running off to the right of International Pk. B.C. logging in the foreground.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST:

Thursday, 17th March - B.C.M.C. Conservation Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m., 4027 W. 35th Avenue, Vancouver. Discussion of various issues of concern. All welcome.

Sunday, 20th March - First annual Mountain Equipment Coop gear swap and spring sale.

The sale will be in the store at 428 W. 8th Avenue, from 12 noon to 5 p.m.; the gear swap will be in the warehouse around the back of 428 W. 8th. You can sell gear in 2 ways - 1) bring it in and sell it yourself, paying the Coop \$1 for the use of a table and chair, or 2) let the Coop sell it for you. The Coop will charge 50¢ per item and take 10% of the selling price. Sales tax will be added. Goods to be sold will be accepted for sale - Friday, 18 March from 12 noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, 19 March from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 20 March from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Goods not sold must be picked up by 6 p.m. on 22 March.

FMCBC MOUNTAINFEST

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. will be holding a "Mountainfest" on May 27-29, at the Robson Square Media Centre in Vancouver.

The purpose of the Mountain Fest is to promote interest and participation in non-mechanized, mountain oriented, outdoor activities. The Fest will be advertising publicly, and attendance from members of hiking and cross-country skiing, and similar clubs is being sought.

There will be an educational program, including key speakers, discussion seminars, films and slide shows. Manufacturers and retailers of outdoor equipment are being invited to arrange displays. On Sunday, May 28, several hikes, and cross-country ski trips in the local mountains are planned. An advertising brochure will be printed soon for general distribution.

The executive feels that the BCBC should participate in Mountainfest by at least organizing a display. However, we need volunteers to assist with this organizing. If you wish to help to promote the BCBC and our forms of activity, please let the executive know soon. If we cannot get some organizers we will not be able to participate.

ACCESS:

Squamish Valley area - Although this lousy warm winter has caused a severe lack of snow at low elevations, this is not without some good features. One of these is that logging is occurring further than usual up the valleys of the Squamish and its tributaries, thus allowing good ski access to some excellent areas.

The main Squamish road is plowed to mile 45 (km 72) just beneath Ring Mtn. The Spur Road leading towards Ring and Callaghan is washed out about the third of the way up.

The main Ashlu road is plowed to mile 32 (km 51), but is still barred by a locked gate to which a key may be obtained (see BCBC Newsletter January 1982).

The main Elaho road is not being plowed.

Brandywine Creek Valley

There have been several major new developments in this area recently.

1. Mount Brew cabin winter access - The VOC recently built a cabin near the southeastern corner of the small lake lying about 500 m southeast of Mt. Brew. The easiest access to the cabin involves following the main Brandywine Ck. logging road to the flatter section of the valley around 800 m elevation. Near this point there is a major junction. Take the left hand road which drops down and crosses Brandywine Ck. via a bridge. Follow this road as it switchbacks up the slope. Take the right hand fork at the second switchback. This road climbs up turning south heading straight towards Mt. Brew. A very high avalanche hazard exists along portions of this road. From the end of the road in the highest clearcut, climb straight up to the top of the clearcut, thence upward through open forest and meadows in a southeasterly to easterly direction to reach the crest of the ridge northeast of Mt. Brew. Follow the ridge (elevation around 1700 m) southwest until on the last bump before the steep drop to the pass east of Mt. Brew. Descend to the lake (about 200 m vertical), the easiest slopes being found by travelling almost parallel to the lake in a southerly direction. The cabin is in a heavy snow accumulation area and is likely to be buried in winter, 4 1/2 - 6 hours skiing from the main highway under good snow conditions. Access is likely to be difficult in cloudy conditions.

A snow-cat operator takes groups of people up the logging road to the meadows beyond the highest clearcut. This vehicle and its ruts in the snow may be encountered.

2. Brandywine trail - This trail will soon exist in memory only. A new logging road with its associated clearcuts has penetrated the upper valley containing the trail. One large clearcut extends almost to the meadows in this valley around 1300 m elevation. From the end of this road Brandywine becomes a short day trip, and Metal Dome becomes a short half day trip. The existing portion of the trail from around 1300 m elevation down to the clearcut in Brandywine Creek valley is also threatened with logging because of the high quality yellow cedar forest it travels through. A new logging road has been built traversing the steep and unstable slope immediately west of the slope the trail is on. After logging we can expect significant landslides in this area. It is very unfortunate that the Ministry of Forests has not protected the recreational values of this once-beautiful trail and its surroundings.

NEWS:

New ski mountaineering guide - John Baldwin plans to produce a new ski mountaineering and ski touring guide for the southern Coast Mountains (as far N as Bella Coola). The guide will complement Dick Culbert's guides and the planned revisions to them. Any information, comments, suggestions, ideas, etc., are welcome, particularly concerning the less frequently visited areas. All material should be sent to John by this summer. He can be contacted at 303 - 2385 W. 2nd Avenue, Vancouver, V6K 1J4, or at 731-9950 (phone).

FOR SALE:

1 pair Kastinger single x-country ski boots, excellent condition, size - ladies 5 1/2, \$80.
1 pair Karhu 'Racing 630' fibreglass x-country skis, 200 cm, used for 1 season. \$40.
- Contact Margot McTaggart at 738-4023.

TRIP CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM - BUSH

In our January Newsletter we published some proposed classification systems for trips. Some people have commented that bush can drastically affect the difficulty of a trip. The editor recently came across one classification system derived for our bush. It was prepared by Roland Burton during an attempt on Mt. Judge Howie, and published in the 1970 VOC Journal.

- B 1: No bush, similar to Granville Street at 3 a.m. on a Sunday, or see the American Forest Service trail network.
- B 2: The occasional fallen log must be stepped over, occasional branches may stick across the trail. Some difficulty to motorcycles.
- B 3: Here the brush first becomes noticeable; inexperienced mountaineers are heard to mutter under their breath. May have to cross small streams, the occasional patch of huckleberry bush, or some slide alder. The trail becomes difficult to follow.
- B 4: All members of the party are at least intermittently swearing; blueberry and slide alder abound, ground slopes up in direction of travel; there may be the odd devil's club or other prickly plants, maybe a hornets' nest or two.
- B 5: All members are now swearing continuously, except when gasping for breath, while climbing over fallen logs about 150 cm off the ground, surrounded by devil's club, slide alder, vine maple. Visibility is less than 2 m. Ground, when it can be seen, slopes about thirty degrees at right angles to the direction of travel.
- B 6: A genuine B6 requires at least two kinds of poisonous plants: for instance, stinging nettles and devil's club. In addition, there should be slide alder 7 to 10 m high, growing among 5 m blocks of granite. There are bears in the spaces between the granite blocks. Visibility about 1 m. Not sufficient room to swing a machete.
- B 7: The use of napalm, defoliants, and the like are frowned upon by the Conservation Committee.

TRIP REPORTS:

Cancelled trips -

Black Tusk, 9 January
 Manning Park, 15-16 January
 Cheekye Ridge, 23 January
 Mt. Jimmy Jimmy, 29-30 January. Rescheduled for 19-20 March.

Mt. Ann, 9 January

Since Sunday was forecast as the best day of the weekend we decided to go Sunday. The conditions were so terrible that we couldn't ski in the downhill area, let alone any higher. We drove back down to a side road (probably the one which goes to the White Salmon River) and skied along the road for about 3 km. It was slow breaking trail in the heavy snow even though it was downhill. After a short stop for lunch we turned around and skied back to the cars, arriving soaking wet and having to shovel ourselves out because of the amount of snow that fell in the two hours we were gone. Not a memorable trip.

Party - Paul Kubik, Rosanne Konrad, Sheldon Klein, Elaine Kennedy, Jan St. Amand (Leader and Reporter).

Mt. Brew, 15-16 January

I had wanted to go to Mt. Brew for a few years since logging roads now go up to about 1300 m on the north side. The recently erected VOC cabin at the small lake (elevation 1600 m) SE of the summit was all the more incentive. The Brandywine road had not been plowed so we started up at 9 a.m. There is some apparently abandoned mine equipment and a fork in the road two or three km up. We took the right fork and climbed a couple of switchbacks. After these, the road was quite flat until just after it crossed to the N. side of Brandywine Cr. After crossing the creek we took the right fork. At about 11:00 Rosanne,

Paul, Tim and I were joined by Peter and Charles, who had started up a little later. The road was quite icy so we could travel fairly fast, reaching its terminus at about 12:00. Heading up through the slash and then the forest, we reached a bowl leading up to the N-S ridge which starts E of Mt. Brew. With stable snow conditions one could ascend the bowl directly to the ridge, but we opted to traverse left to the N end of the ridge because this is much safer. It also offers a pleasant lunch spot with a good view of Mt. Brandywine and Fee. After lunch we traversed the ridge to its S end and followed a gully to the left. This led directly to the cabin at the outlet of the small lake.

After digging through 2-3 m of snow to clear the cabin door, we fortified ourselves and headed towards Mt. Brew about 20 min. away. Peter went to the summit while the rest of us headed along the ridge leading to Mt. Cypress. We hoped to find some good skiing in the bowls beside the ridge but were only rewarded with breakable crust, the product of rain the previous week. On returning to the cabin, we met the rest of the group Mike, Evelyn and Ehleen. They had discovered when they reached Lions Bay that morning that they were short one pair of ski boots and were unable to make the rendezvous. The cabin would sleep fifteen comfortably so there was plenty of room. It is equipped with a Coleman stove and lantern and a kerosene heater.

On Sunday no one was very inspired by the ubiquitous breakable crust and flat light so some ascended Mt. Brew (good Australians have to get their points) and the others headed towards Cypress Mtn., going somewhat farther than the day before.

Everyone had returned to the cabin by 1:00, whereupon we had lunch and packed up. We had to plane the door a little so that we could close it; the frame had suffered from the ravages of snow creep.

On the way out, we met a couple of parties of ski tourers and a couple of people who had come up the road on a snowmobile. They were thinking of setting up an operation to take skiers up the road in a large snow cat. We all skied pretty conservatively because of the revolting crust. Mike even confessed that he might as well have been on toothpicks since even the alpine skiers were reduced to kick turns. The road was pretty fast, though, so we reached the cars in 2 1/2 hours.

It was a pleasant trip, but skiing above the cabin is fairly limited. Cypress Mtn. is the most obvious day trip from the cabin. The area is becoming quite popular: there are several cars at the highway turn-off most weekends.

Party - Charles Alton, Peter Durnford, Evelyn and Michael Feller, Ehleen Hinze, Rosanne Konrad, Paul Kubik, Tim Ryan, Phil Kubik (Leader and Reporter).

Panorama Ridge, 22-23 January

The party met at the restaurant near Shannon Falls at nine on a cloudy Saturday morning. The place was packed with skiers and consequently the service was excruciatingly slow. Half an hour to produce two portions of disappointingly cold french toast! Fortunately, the company was pleasant and cheerful despite the imminent prospect of inclement weather for the weekend.

It was nearly ten by the time we set off again. Lorne and Tom managed to get their respective 4 wheel-drive vehicles to within 100 yards (metres, sorry editor!) of the upper parking lot. The amount of snow on the road was a hopeful sign that the trail would be in reasonable shape. However, this proved not to be the case. The lower portion of the trail was entirely bare and it seemed pointless to strap on our skis on the upper icy trail until we got to the lookout point. Brian and Jane had disappeared out in front, not to be seen again until the evening, and, only after returning from a ski run down a shoulder of Price Mountain where they encountered powder snow conditions.

We had reached Garibaldi Lake after 3 1/2 hours on the trail to be greeted with the only blue sky for the whole trip and a lovely vista of the peaks surrounding the lake. The 'Great Debate' ensued as to which shelter would be the most pleasant to spend the evening. After careful deliberation (!), a shelter was chosen with all the amenities: window with lakeside view, picnic tables and a fine working wood stove. The clouds rolled in that evening and the next day we set off, by 7:30 a.m., despite the dreary weather, across the lake taking a fairly direct route through the woods to gain the meadows beneath Panorama Ridge.

With Brian ahead breaking trail most of the way, an unfaltering pace was set. The clouds had now descended to obscure the Tusk from view. After about two hours from the cabin we had ascended into the clouds and were faced with no more landmarks for orientation, near whiteout conditions and an icy wind which had, by now, picked up some force. It was at this point, no more than half an hour from the top of the ridge, that we decided to ski down to the first clump of trees, out of the clouds, and have a bite to eat while we re-assembled the strung-out party. Skiing was mostly by feel rather than sight, an eerie prospect even for the best of our party. We returned to the cabin the same way we had ventured out with some tricky skiing through the trees. A leisurely lunch with a brew-up was had before setting off down the trail. The trail was in very poor shape for skiing (when is it ever in good shape?) and the times down varied from under two hours to nearly three hours. In general, for the whole trip the snow conditions encountered were powder in the open slopes and crust and ice under the trees. Everyone was back by their cars soon after 3 p.m.

Party - Lorne Murphy, Mary Prendergast, Brian Vezina, Jane Weller, Maria Burda, Tom Moskven, Kathy Baxendale, Tim Shannon and Albert Souza (Leader and Reporter).

Tricouni Pk., 29-30 January

This trip approached Tricouni from the Cheakamus side, using the Lucille Lake turnoff to ski into Chance Ck. valley then up to Tricouni Lake.

"This would be a nice one-day trip into the lake or across the valley to Cloudburst. However, as a wintertime trip above the lake to Mt. Tricouni, all the slopes in the area are extremely steep and treeless and avalanche hazard would be very high almost all of the time. Not recommended as a winter ski ascent from this side. The Squamish River Valley would be a safer approach but you have to start off at such low elevation that it would have meant carrying skis for at least 600-900 m."

Due to the steep slopes and bad weather on Sunday, the summit was not reached.

Party - Mary Prendergast, Brian Waddington, Chris Kubinski, Maria Burda, Tom Moskven, Bruce, Jane Weller, Wayne Saunders and Peter Ravensbergen (Leader).

Coleman Pinnacle, 30 January

In whiteout and falling snow the party reached Herman Saddle 2 1/2 hours after leaving the parking lot at the Baker ski area. After a brief rest we skied back down into the bowl. There was good skiing in drifts but otherwise hardpack. The cars were reached by noon.

Party - Bill Hobeck, Peter Waddington, Wolfgang Wehrfritz, Scott Haggerty, Gernot and Regula Walter, Ernst Schmalzriedt, Marcel and Francine Py, Lorne Johnson, Lore and Manfred Putz (Leader and Reporter).