



THE B.C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER



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NOVEMBER 1983

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SCHEDULED TRIPS:

LEADER

November 6
Goat Mtn A2/1400 m Esther Kafer 733-0462
Distance - 10 km, estimated time - 8 hrs., guide - Culbert p. 38, 103 Hikes p. 18, map - Vancouver 92 G/6 (1:50,000).
Approach from the bottom of the old Grouse Mountain chairlift through the ski area then via the trail.

November 11
Squamish Chief A1/650 m Audrey Winch 874-1672
Distance - 11 km, elevation gain - 600 m, estimated time - 6 hrs., guide - Culbert p. 330, 103 Hikes p. 50, map - Squamish 92 G/11 (1:50,000).
Easy day trip. If weather is poor, a portion of the Hudson Bay Brigade trail may be attempted.

November 11-13
Lizelle Lake area B1 Paul Hannig 435-6042
Distance - 9-16 km, elevation gain - 700 - 1200 m, estimated time - 4+9+6 hrs., guide - Exploring the Stein River Valley, p. 111-113, Culbert, p.170, map - Stein Lake 92J/1 (1:50,000).
Approach via Lizelle Creek road and trail. Several possible objectives. May become a ski trip if snow permits.

November 26-27

Diamond Head (ski) AI/1830m Harold Rydell 254-7052
Distance - 25 km, elevation gain - 800 m, estimated time - 6+8 hrs., guide - 103 Hikes, p. 88, map - Cheakamus River 92G/14 and Mamquam Mountain 92G/15 (1:50,000).
The annual pre-Christmas pilgrimage. A chance to check out technique and equipment before the skiing season starts in earnest.

November 27

Ole's Bump AI-2/1220m Frank Ward 929-3059
Elevation gain - 1100 m, estimated time - 5 hrs., map - 92G/1,8 and 92H/4,5 (1:50,000).
Easy day trip in the Fraser Valley near Deroche and Hatzic Prairie. The first BCMC trip to Ole's Bump had 60 participants.

SOCIALS/SLIDE NIGHTS

Tuesday, 8th November at 8 p.m. In the Vancouver Energy Centre, 2150 Maple (near 6th Ave.)
~~This is the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.~~ Entertainment as well.

Tuesday, 13th December at 8 p.m. In the Vancouver Energy Centre, 2150 Maple (near 6th Avenue). This has been declared a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING to determine whether or not the club should commit funds to build a cabin, and to consider a proposed membership fee increase (see below).

At the October meeting of the executive, the following motion was passed:

"The BCMC should spend up to \$9,000.00 from the Literary Fund to construct a club cabin, as designed by Ed Zenger and Fips Broda, at the optimum site in North Creek, to be completed within two years of club approval."

The purpose of the December Special General Meeting is to consider and debate this motion.

On the question of socials, the executive is uncertain about where to hold the traditional fall and spring socials. Cecil Green at UBC has been the venue in recent years, but UBC has changed their method of operating Cecil Green such that UBC, and not us, would provide food and drinks, and we would pay more. The question is - would you be prepared to pay up to \$8.00 - \$10.00 for an evening (entrance fee and food) for an evening at Cecil Green? Please let Eileen Hinze (874-8923) or another member of the executive know how you feel about this.

MEMBERSHIP:

New Members

Keith Cover, 3566 W. 8th Avenue, Vancouver, V6R 1Y7 734-2446
Larry Emrick, 4612 W. 12th Avenue, Vancouver, V6R 2R6
Scott Hagarty, 10600 Westside Avenue, Delta, V4C 1R4 596-1654

Change of Phone Number

Peter Parrotta 438-9416

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE FOR 1983/84

Annual dues are: \$15.00 - single members
\$21.00 - couples
\$ 9.00 - out-of-town single members and junior members
\$10.00 - out-of-town couples

Membership fees will have to increase or the club will have to reduce its expenditures. The executive recently devoted the best part of a Saturday in October to a discussion of club finances and ways of making income equal expenditure. Results of this discussion will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in November when guidance will be sought from club members - i.e. YOU.

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BCMC NEWSLETTER:

The first Tuesday of the month prior to the month of publication of the Newsletter. Thus, to get material published in the January Newsletter the editor must have the material by the first Tuesday in December.

CHRISTMAS 1983 SKI CAMP - PRELIMINARY NOTICE:

The BCMC intends to hold a ski camp in North Ck., north of Pemberton, this Christmas, partly to assess the value of the area for a cabin. Large club tents and stoves will be used. A helicopter will be used for access. Anyone interested in participating should contact Harold Rydell (254-7052) or Peter Parrotta (438-9416).

NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S BCMC EXECUTIVE ARE REQUIRED:

Anyone interested in serving on the executive should let the President, Mark Force, know (521-1375). We will definitely need a new Secretary and Social Chairman. If you are interested in these or any other positions, please let Mark know.

OUR COVER PHOTO:

The Lizzie Creek cabin with its first winter snow.

PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE:

At a special executive meeting held on 15th October to discuss the club's financial status, the following motion was passed: "Club membership fees be increased by an amount to be determined at the December monthly meeting".

Full details of the club's financial status will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in November. It appears that if we wish to produce a Mountaineer next year we need about \$800.00 - \$900.00 more than our total estimated income. Raising membership fees is one option which is favoured by the executive. However, all options will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting and it is hoped that the membership at that meeting will give the executive the guidance necessary to come up with precise figures for the fee increases. The increases will be voted on at the December monthly meeting which has been declared a Special General Meeting.

HIRING FEES FOR CLUB EQUIPMENT WILL BE REINTRODUCED:

At the 15th October executive meeting the following motion was passed: "The club charge reasonable amounts for club equipment used by members. Amounts for the next 12 months will be:

- \$1.00 per day for a rope
- \$1.00 per day for a Pleps
- \$5.00 per day for a tent"

The intention of this motion is to obtain some money to cover the costs of basic maintenance and purchase of batteries for Pleps and also to encourage club members to buy their own equipment if they intend to continue climbing.

PROGRESS ON A NEW CLUB CABIN:

At the 1981 Annual General Meeting, interest was expressed in constructing a new club cabin. John Beltz was appointed cabin chairman and a cabin committee was formed. After considerable debate and investigation, club members at the March 1983 monthly meeting voted

In favour of North Creek as a site for such a cabin. North Creek was favoured over all the other options (Tricouni area, Railroad Pass area, no new hut) by a 2 to 1 majority. Since then the executive has received one letter opposing North Creek and favouring the Railroad Pass area, but most members seem to be either apathetic or favour the North Creek area.

During the summer of 1983 Ed Zenger began work on designing, and determining the cost of constructing, a hut in North Creek. Together with Fips Broda, Ed produced plans for a hut approximately 5 m wide, 6 m long, and 6 m high, of conventional shape with a steeply sloping roof. The hut would have wooden sides and an aluminum or galvanized iron roof, would sleep 12 people upstairs, and would cost about \$8,400.00 with all options (such as insulation, interior fittings, etc.)

The executive commended Ed on his hard work and passed a motion to the effect that the club spend club funds on constructing the hut (see the motion detailed above). The money would have to come from the Literary Fund which currently has about \$26,000.00 in it. Removal of \$9,000.00 from this would result in a drop in annual revenue to the club of about \$600.00 - \$1,000.00 depending on the interest rate. It is now up to club members to decide whether or not the club should build the hut. This will be done at the Special General Meeting in December.

FOR SALE:

1 BCMC McKinley tent, about 10 years old. Suitable for car camping. Contact Ed Zenger (434-3095) for further information and offers.

WANTED TO BUY:

A good used pair of ski mountaineering boots, size 10-11. Contact Howard Mott (581-4154).

BCMC EQUIPMENT

1) First Aid Kits

Two very expensive first aid kits prepared for the 1981 Niut Range Summer Camp are missing. Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of these kits please contact Joyce Davies, 988-8079.

2) Climbing Rope

One red 9 mm climbing rope has not been returned from this year's Ape Lake Summer Camp. If you brought the rope back please return it to Ed Zenger (434-3095).

BCMC CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

The BCMC Conservation Chairman, John Halliday, has been recently sending off submissions on behalf of the club to provincial Lands and Parks departments over the issue of commercial heli-skiing in the Whistler - Pemberton area. A letter to the Lower Mainland regional office of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division resulted in an invitation to come and discuss the issue with the Regional Director. Consequently, John organized a meeting of BCMC and FMCBC representatives with the Regional Director. Various aspects of heli-skiing in Garibaldi Park were discussed and we were told that the intention of Parks was to confine commercial heli-skiing to the north side of the Spearhead Range, with access up Wedge Creek. This would represent a significant improvement over the present situation and pleased all the club representatives present. The legal situation over control of air access into provincial parks is still not clear, however, and the BCMC Conservation Committee will be pursuing this issue.

If you are interested in getting involved with conservation issues - heli-skiing conflicts, Giardia spread, recreation management by the Ministry of Forests, etc., please contact John Halliday (530-2571).

AVALANCHE COURSES:

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. will be holding two avalanche courses this winter.

1) A Basic Avalanche Course

This course is a practical course aimed primarily at the winter recreationist who travels in avalanche prone terrain. The first day is theory oriented and is followed by a full day field excursion. Persons taking this course should be able to ski adequately.

Dates: 10-11 December, 1983 Vancouver/Squamish
21-22 January, 1984 Chilliwack/?
25-26 February, 1984 Vancouver/Squamish
TBA Vancouver Island

Cost: \$25.00 students, \$30.00 other
(excluding possible p/eps rental)

2) An Avalanche Course Instructor Workshop

This workshop is aimed at existing and prospective instructors of short avalanche awareness courses. The first day of the workshop will be theory oriented followed by a full day field session.

Dates: November 19-20, 1983 Vancouver/Squamish

Cost: \$20.00 (refunded to those subsequently teaching courses)
(Some transportation funding may be available pending government grant results)

For further information about either of these courses, contact:

Jim Rutter
Executive Director
Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.
Box 33768, Station D
Vancouver, B.C., V6J 4L6
Telephone: 687-3333

MEETINGS OF INTEREST:

Monday, 7th November at 8 p.m. in the Robson Square Media Centre, downtown Vancouver -
Illustrated talk by well known Canadian photographer, Freeman Patterson, entitled
"Namaqualand: Garden of the Gods".

CYPRESS BOWL AND POWDER MOUNTAIN - LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM MR. A.J. BRUMMET, MINISTER OF
LANDS, PARKS, HOUSING, AND ENVIRONMENT:

"A copy of your August/September edition has been forwarded to me and I would appreciate your publishing this letter in response to the comments made concerning Cypress Bowl and Powder Mountain. I also have your personal letter on the same subject.

First, concerning Cypress Bowl, I am concerned first and foremost to ensure that Cypress Bowl is available to the public of the Vancouver area as a well-rounded recreational area for their enjoyment. Only the area essential to the operation of the private operator will be removed from the Park, with the larger part of the area remaining under the jurisdiction of the Park Act. In addition, particular attention will be given to the status of public trails and access to the area to ensure that privatization of the ski facilities does not affect the right of the public to use established trails. Additional development of both the downhill and cross-country areas and immediate associated facilities will provide for

Increased recreational use. Development of these areas under the control of the provincial ski policy and the Municipality of West Vancouver's zoning and development approvals will ensure a well-planned and well-regulated development. No timber rights will be transferred to the private owner hence there will be no repeat of the unfortunate situation that has arisen at Grouse Mountain.

In response to the Powder Mountain Issue, I can advise you that preliminary approval has been given to Powder Mountain Resorts Ltd. to develop a master plan encompassing a four season destination resort. The approval would expire April 1, 1985. The Government expects the proponents to comply with all aspects of the Ski Area Policy and follow the various guidelines of all government agencies in order to meet the environmental, social, and economic objectives of the Province.

The proposal is still in the planning stage and a development application has not yet been submitted. During the review process the agencies listed in the attachments to your letter will provide comments upon which the government will make decisions. The Regional District represents the general public in this process.

I want to reassure your members that I am concerned to protect the recreational use of Crown Land from unplanned development and to ensure the continuity and strength of a provincial parks system that has a deserved international reputation for good planning and management."

Of particular importance in this letter is the sentence that "The Regional District represents the general public in this process". This suggests that there will be no direct public input into the decision making process which will determine land use in the Callaghan Valley area. At best all the public appear to be able to do is to try and make the Regional District sympathetic to our concerns. This is a seemingly hopeless task if one happens to oppose the proposed development and if one lives outside the local Regional District, which would be the case for the majority of the users of the Callaghan Valley.

WILDERNESS AND THE B.C. MINISTRY OF FORESTS:

Mr. T.M. Waterland, the Minister of Forests sent the following letter to Mr. Cam Murray, the Chairman of the Outdoor Recreation Council, on 14 September, 1983.

"Thank you for your letter of August 26, 1983 in which you convey to me the resolution of the Outdoor Recreation Council's 8th annual general meeting regarding identification and protection of wilderness values within land under my Ministry's jurisdiction.

In response to your concern I wish to state that both the Forest Act (Sections 3 and 5) and the Ministry of Forests Act (Section 4) charge my Ministry to identify, protect and manage forest resource values on lands under its jurisdiction, whether these lands are covered with commercial timber and/or forage or not. As you correctly state, these lands include tracts of variable sizes, sometimes large, where the resource values are predominantly oriented to wildland recreation or wilderness experiences. My Ministry recognizes its integrated-use mandate to identify, protect, and manage these values. They are an integral part of a complex of resources values and land use types which, collectively, make up the Province's Crown forest lands.

In discharging this mandate it is the Recreation Management Branch of my Ministry that is responsible for identifying the different recreation components of the complex and for recommending a management philosophy for them. This must then be supported by specific measures and management prescriptions that will adequately protect corresponding forest resource values, including wilderness values.

The recreation inventory, now in an advanced stage of implementation, and the framework of the recreation component of the 1984 Resource Analysis are both structured to achieve these goals.

I have also instructed my staff to develop a policy statement outlining my Ministry's philosophy and approach to protecting and managing recreational resources including, in specific terms, areas of wilderness values. In doing this my staff will be seeking, and will welcome, your input and assistance."

According to the last paragraph of this letter, the Minister has instructed the Ministry of Forests to produce a policy statement concerned with managing and protecting recreational and wilderness values. Our assistance is to be sought and welcomed.

This is quite a significant statement - the most significant that has yet come from the Minister and Ministry concerning wilderness management in B.C. We must take steps to follow it up.

NEWS:

Human Waste Problem in Mount Rainier:

Due to concern over aesthetics and public health, Mount Rainier National Park is developing a program to deal with human waste problems on the upper mountain. The impetus for beginning the project is concern about conditions at the two popular high climber's camps, Camp Muir and Camp Schurman, and areas adjacent to the Emmons Glacier.

The presence of human waste along these routes is not surprising considering the tremendous increase in the popularity of climbing Mount Rainier. In 1982, 8,358 climbers attempted to climb Mount Rainier. Of that number, 6,945 climbers, or 83%, utilized Camps Muir and Schurman as a prolonged rest stop or as a high camp. Adding to the impact of these climbers is the presence of an average 40-50 day hikers per day at Muir and about 10 per day at Schurman in the summer. It must be assumed that some or all of these hikers utilized toilet facilities due to the length of the trips involved. Over 4000 litres of waste a year, both solid and liquid is presently flown out by helicopters from the high camps.

The program includes the installation of a prototype solar toilet at Camp Muir with attendant monitoring activities, investigation of the summit steam caves as a possible place to install a bin composter, privacy screens on both Ingraham and Emmons Flats to concentrate fecal matter and an education program for the climbing community. Also, the public will be asked to participate in a pilot "Pack It In - Pack It Out" program with climbers provided with "baggies".

-Taken from Summit, July-August, 1983

Reinhold Messner Still Accumulating Points:

In May of 1983 Reinhold Messner knocked off his 10th 8000 m peak - Cho Oyu. Together with Michel Dacher and Hans Kammerlander, he made a rapid ascent of the mountain having established base camp on 26 April, advance base camp on 2 May, and reached the summit on 5 May after 3 bivouacs.

Recreational Access in B.C. is Under Review:

Has access along your favourite trail been blocked? Can you no longer reach your prime climbing rock because of locked gates? Have logging roads obliterated your path? Do "Private Road" signs adorn those roads you once thought were public?

If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia would like to know. They are compiling information on issues relating to recreational access in this province and would like to hear from anyone who has experienced problems with blocked access or is aware of any routes which are threatened by closure, whether or not these problems have been resolved.

This information will be used as an input to the Council's current investigations on recreation access in B.C., and will enable the Council to possibly offer assistance to groups and individuals who are working to keep access routes open for public use.

For further information contact: Judith Cullington, the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., 1200 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2E2, (604) 687-1600 or 687-3333.

Climbing Accidents Increase In Europe:

Mountain accidents claimed 160 lives in the western Alps in the first nine months of 1983, an increase of 31 per cent from the same period last year, the Italian Rescue Centre announced.

Combining reports by similar French and Swiss organizations, the Italian centre said 68 people died on Mount Blanc and 58 on the Matterhorn.

In all of Canada and the U.S. there have only been 38 to 45 reported mountaineering fatalities per year this decade. More people are thus killed in mountaineering accidents on either Mount Blanc or the Matterhorn than in all of Canada and the U.S.

ACCESS:

Mount Gardner:

Rerouting of parts of this trail (#24, pp. 60-61 of 103 Hikes in S.W. British Columbia, Second Edition) necessitates changes in its description, beginning with the second paragraph. The first significant alteration comes after you have ascended the B.C. Tel road for some forty minutes when, at the upper end of an S-bend, you fork right on an old road (taped ATP). This trail takes you first north, then turns west to pick up the right fork of the microwave-tower road so that you have a sharp right turn at the next main fork.

Beyond the upper tower, turn left into the forest as before (marked trail); further rerouting, however, brings you to a col between the two summits instead of by the original approach from the north. Thus, you must fork left for the north peak with its various samples of High Tech - and industrial garbage! Thereafter, the trail continues in forest instead of heading along the ridge to the south peak, finally trending eastwards as it descends, with the original trail joining it from the left.

The next change takes you sharp right, eventually bringing you back to the approach road somewhat lower than did the original; in fact, just a little way above the point at which you turned off right on the outward journey. Yet one more taped route takes you off to the left, finally rejoining the road a little above the barrier. Thereafter, your return is the same as the out route.

The changes outlined here have increased this hike's round-trip distance by some 3 km. In the circumstances, with a return ferry to consider, you should probably think in terms of seven hours rather than six.

David Macaree

Stawamus Logging Road:

This is now (October 1983) suitable for 4 wheel drive vehicles only, unless repairs are made.

Art Dellow

Mamquam - Skookum Creek Logging Road:

The logging road branch from Mamquam River mainline which permits access to upper Skookum Creek is also now (October 1983) suitable for 4 wheel drive vehicles only.

Art Dellow

New Trail to Tenquille Lake:

An old route to Tenquille Lake has been recently upgraded into a new trail. This trail leaves Spur Road no. 12 which leads off the Railroad Pass logging road. The trail leaves the road at an elevation of about 1250 m and requires about 2 1/2 hours of walking to reach the lake.

Art Dellow

Galene Lakes Trail - Skagit Valley:

Recent activity by the Skagit River has washed out portions of the trail. The trail can be followed thus:

At 2.4 km N of the U.S. boundary the supports for a bridge can be seen on either side of the Skagit River (the bridge has disappeared). The objective is to reach the road which starts at the bridge supports on the other (west) side of the river. The river can be safely forded (at low flows only) about 100 m upstream from the bridge site - a side road leaves the main Skagit road and goes right to the river near this point.

Once on the west bank of the Skagit the old road can be easily reached. Once on this road proceed westwards until a grassy area is reached and another road (faint) crosses the road you are on. Turn right (north) onto this crossroad and follow this new road for some distance until a sign saying "Galene Creek" points you to the right towards the river. The road ends near the river and a foot trail takes you onto the river gravel and sand bars. After about 30 m you are forced into the bush away from the river and it is necessary to bushwhack about 30 m, keeping close to the river, in order to pick up the trail again. The trail keeps close to the river for a while and is initially quite rough, but is relatively easy to follow. Once on a river terrace the going gets easier and the trail can be relatively easily followed, although the old road bed it follows is washed out in several spots before Galene Creek is reached. Once the creek is crossed the trail is well defined.

SQUAMISH RESCUE:

This extravaganza occurred on Monday, August 1. I was sitting in the Little Smoke Bluffs parking lot when a car pulled up. A climber jumped out and announced that one of a party near the top of Uncle Ben's had fallen and injured himself; they were calling for a rescue. The available experienced climbers assembled with their gear, and six set off up the backside trail. They planned to reach the injured climber by traversing Bellygood Ledge to the Dance Platform 30 m above him. After quickly confirming the situation, I went to summon the Squamish RCMP.

The backside team was long gone when I returned in a squad car. With the aid of an ineffectual bullhorn we were able to ascertain that the climber had a broken forearm; curiously, they were calling for a stretcher. More police, an ambulance, and a helicopter were summoned. An unsuccessful attempt was made to land a first aid attendant (who had some rescue training) on Dance Platform to meet the backside party. The latter was preparing to lower down to the injured climber, having crossed Bellygood. We had no communication with them, but surmised that the climber would be raised to Dance and then somehow conveyed across

Bellygood. Three climbers loaded with ropes and radios therefore flew to the top, scuttled down the trail and across to the south end of Bellygood. Ropes were fixed from there across to Dance.

In the meantime the backside party had reached the injured climber, whose arm had been splinted, and, under the direction of Gord Menzies, had hauled him up to Dance. After retrieving all equipment, the party recrossed Bellygood. The injured climber was belayed fore and aft and was also clipped into the fixed rope. A short Tyrolean was necessary at the south end of the ledge. The helicopter was summoned by radio and met the injured climber on the slabs above Tantalus Wall, from which he was transported to Squamish Hospital.

Conclusions

- 1) All components of a rescue party should have radios, first aid kits, food and water.
- 2) Neither the Squamish RCMP, its mountain rescue team, nor its ambulance personnel have much knowledge of technical rescues. They are all very helpful, however, especially in terms of providing infrastructure and equipment.
- 3) At one time four police cars were involved in traffic control; this became a serious problem, as might be expected.
- 4) We were notified of the accident at about 1 p.m.; the victim was in hospital at 6 p.m.
- 5) A helicopter cannot land or swing someone into Dance Platform. One can, however, touch down (but not land) on the slabs above and right of Tantalus Wall.
- 6) The rescue (from the Grand Wall) of a climber who was not ambulatory would involve ferrying many climbers and much equipment to the summit. A probable approach would be to raise the victim, first to Dance and then up the smooth wall above it.
- 7) We were fortunate that the first serious rescue at Squamish occurred in perfect conditions and with a climber with relatively minor injuries.
- 8) The climber's fall was caused by two separate handholds giving way simultaneously (in solid Squamish!).

TRIP REPORTS:

Blowdown Creek, area, 3-5 September:

The scheduled trip to Meslilloet was changed at the last moment due to poor weather near Squamish. The group did some scrambles adjacent to Blowdown Pass and visited the mine in Cottonwood Creek, making an ascent of the minor summit south of the mine.

Party - Mary Prothro, Jenny Smith, Sev Helberg, Bill Hobeck, Ken Hunt, Karl Ricker, Hugo Stead, Brian Waddington, and Art Dellow (Leader and Reporter).

Skihst Mountain, 3-5 September

Unsettled weather resulted in yet another, and the for the leader, probably the last "alternative to Olympus" trip. This time the objective was Skihst Mountain, at 2970 m the highest peak in Dick Culbert's guide. Skihst is located on the divide between the Stein and Kwolek basins in a dry climate area.

We elected to approach the peak using the most direct access - bushwhacking from the Kwolek Creek logging road up a small ridge then traversing into a small basin below Vesuvianite Lake about 500 m above the road. Then up a steep gully through a headwall to be greeted by one of the most beautiful campsites around - on some heather and grass flats beside some trees just above the lake, with lush flowering alpine meadows all around.

Next day we set off through flowering meadows up to the pass to Nesbitt Creek and the Stein watershed. From the pass we dropped down into the head of Nesbitt Creek and approached Skihist over vast scree and boulder fields, scrambling up it from the south. The snow showers ceased and the sun came out allowing us a brief warm rest on the summit. Brian, Peter, and Einar had to get a few more points so they traversed over Antimony Mountain on the way back to camp. The rest of us retraced our ascent route ambling through the meadows taking many photos.

On Monday, Murray and Einar decided to rest in camp while the rest of us made a delightful ascent of Doss Peak by scrambling up its SE ridge, giving Brian a chance to lead through "the buttress". The small lake between Doss Peak and Vesuvianite Lake had not then completely thawed out from the previous winter, so it probably never did. As we climbed up, the early morning clouds evaporated giving us fine views of Skihist, and the heavily glaciated Kwolek Peak area to the south.

After having lunch back at our campsite we packed up and reluctantly left this magnificent area - left its glorious flowers to the abundant marmots and pikas and the silent, but ever-present bears.

Party - Einar Hansen, Murray Lashmar, Peter Ravensbergen, Harold Rydell, Brian Vezina, Evelyn and Michael Feller (Leader and Reporter).

Blanshard Needle, 18 September:

The Mount Ratney trip was rescheduled as a one-day trip to Blanshard Needle. Allouette Mountain was approached from Gold Creek to the east. There is a trail flagged up through the forest just past the Gold Creek bridge. The trail winds up through the forest and comes out on some heather meadows at tree line. From there it joins the regular trail up over Allouette to the base of Blanshard needle. Some members of the party roped up to climb the needle. It took one rappell back down and everyone was back at the cars by 6 p.m., 10 hours after leaving.

Party - Theo Mosterman, Paul Kubik, Rosanne Konrad, Robin Tivy, Chris Kubinsky, Gary Johansson, John Halliday (Leader and Reporter).

Crown Mountain, 18 September:

The road going up Grouse Mountain from the top of Mountain Highway was driven to a gate at the bottom of the blue chair. It is in excellent shape and driveable by all makes of cars. The day was clear and sunny when the cars were left at 11 a.m. It took 45 minutes to get to the top of Grouse. We went up over Goat and then down a ledge and chimney to gain the notch between Crown and Goat. The south ridge was taken up to the top of Camel. From there we dropped down to the base of the Camel. There was 10 m of low 5th on the SE side to reach the top. We arrived 3 hours after leaving the cars. Another 2 1/2 hours and we were back at the cars.

Party - Roman Babicki, Ed Zenger (Leader and Reporter).

Devil's Tongue, 24-25 September:

In keeping with the prevailing economic climate, the trip began on a note of severe economic restraint. As we casually watched the gas pouring into Mike's car, Tim, Evelyn and Mike discovered they had left their wallets at home! Fortunately, Sev and Theo relieved the fiscal crisis.

Our problems were far from being over. On arriving at the alleged bridge across the Skagit we certainly agreed that cars, according to Beckey "might have some difficulty in getting across". The only vehicle to make a crossing of the river at that point would have been an army duck or helicopter. Loud squeals were heard as the troops undeterred waded the chilly waters of the Skagit.

Route finding became a challenge as the Galene Lake trail disappeared into the Skagit. There was nothing for it but to resort to Wyborn tactics and bash uphill hoping to find the elusive trail. This became a pleasant experience rather than an epic. The forest floor was a beautiful carpet of soft moss. High on the ridge the trail was rediscovered. The views of Ross Lake, Hozomeen and the Cascades were spectacular. Camp was struck at Galene Lakes.

The crux of the Devils Tongue climb is the approach march. Even after what seemed like hours of walking across rolling ridges, the pinnacle seemed no closer. Plaintive comments were made like 'Do you always lead such gruelling trips'. I began to almost believe Mike's dismal prediction that we would never make it!

At last we found ourselves making the final scramble up what was questionably third class rock to the summit. An historic discovery was made in the summit register - a record of an early ascent in 1957 by a seventeen year old Dick Culbert! Of the 8-9 recorded ascents most were by BCMC parties including one with Buck Wyborn - a now departed but infamous four legged climber!! A reward of the ascent was the dramatic views of beautiful Silver Lake and the jagged pinnacles of Mts. Spickard and Rahm.

The descent to the Skagit was made via the trail which in terms of grade is one of the most pleasant around. A small amount of work along the river would restore it to good condition. A torch-light crossing of the Skagit finished a strenuous but rewarding trip. The party agreed this would be a worthy challenge for Bill "I did it in a day" Maurer!

Party - Sev Helberg, Theo Mosterman, Tim Ryan, Michael and Evelyn Feller (Leader and Reporter).

Mount Tomyhol, 25 September:

Seven Tomyhol participants met at Silver Fir camp Saturday evening in spite of the 20% chance rain predicted by Environment Canada. Pat Crean had a campfire blazing by the time everybody arrived. At 6:30 the next morning, the moon was visible through a light layer of fog, and by 7:30 the fog burned off to reveal a perfectly clear day. By 8:00 we were walking up Keep Kool Trail armed with three 9 mm 45 mm ropes because of Becky's description of a 45 m scramble up "loose rock". (Becky also predicted a 10 hours return trip.) After two hours we arrived at Yellow Aster Butte Lakes. The views of Shuksan & Baker were great, when reflected in the lakes. By now we were at the base of the class 3 scramble on fairly good rock to a rather tiny summit. The view included Garibaldi, Mamquam, Golden Ears, Robie Road, Border Peaks, to Mt. Rainier in the south! After a leisurely lunch, we descended to the lakes, taking frequent and lengthy flop-stops on the grass. Two brave souls dipped in a lake (Mike & Tricia) while the other dainties just cooled off sweltering feet. We ended this excellent day trip with dinner at Kendall. September is a super time for Tomyhol, as blueberry bushes are turning red and yellow throughout all the valleys.

Party - Pat Crean, Peter Rogers, Ken Powers, Mike and Mark Spagnut, Ed Zenger, and Tricia Daum (Leader and Reporter).