



THE B.C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2001

VOL. 79 NO. 4



Ski touring on North Star Mtn., Purcells.

EVENING SOCIALS

Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Please bring your own cups to socials if you wish to drink the free tea or coffee provided.

Tuesday, 10 April – Entertainment will be a slide show by Russell March on climbing on Baffin Island.

Tuesday, 8 May – Entertainment will be a slide show by Richard Prohaska on climbing on the other side of the world in Antarctica.

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674 Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8

INTERNET SITE: <http://www.bcmc.ca>

HONORARY PRESIDENTS – Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT – DAVE HUGHES	980-6484
PAST-PRESIDENT – ANDERS OUROM	228-1798
VICE-PRESIDENT – KIT GRIFFIN	736-8462
SECRETARY – MIRELLA LIOCE	736-5079
TREASURER – MARCIA COLLIER	987-5245
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -	268-9502

NANCY HENDERSON

MIKE PEEL

TAMMIE SIBBALD

SOCIALS - DARRYL MALBY	709-0051
DONNA BAILIE	572-5051

CLIMBING – COLIN WOOLDRIDGE	512-6390
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CABIN & TRAILS - GREG HAMILTON	739-7555
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CONSERVATION - BRIAN WOOD	222-1541
MONICA BITTEL	983-3097

SUMMER CAMP – DAVID SCANLON	464-3730
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WEBMASTER – MICHAEL McCRAE	326-0156
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EDITOR - MICHAEL FELLER	270-4050
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(newsletter submissions email – feller@interchg.ubc.ca)

EQUIPMENT - PAUL KUBIK	876-0764
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LIBRARY CUSTODIAN -	
GEORGE HAMILTON	988-1888

SCHEDULED TRIPS

Participation on club trips is open to any person with adequate skills and experience, subject to the approval of the trip organizer. All non-member participants must sign a disclosure and waiver form relieving the club and all other participants on the trip from any liability. A trip organizer is not a certified guide. The function of the organizer is to organize the trip, ensure that it gets underway, know the access to the area, and know a route or routes on the climb.

It is expected that each person on a club trip has the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment. The organizer may specify certain equipment mandatory for participation in a trip. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment, may be requested to withdraw from the trip. The club has avalanche transceivers and snow shovels available for hire. These may be obtained by contacting Greg Hamilton at 739-7555 prior to the Thursday before the weekend the transceivers are wanted. Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking the equipment used. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer by Thursday evening for weekend trips, and by Friday for Sunday trips.

All trips are ski trips unless indicated otherwise.

		ORGANIZER	
April 7-8: Rhododendron Mtn. Skiing west of Pemberton.	C3/2530 m	Murray Lashmar	732-8184
April 7-8: Mamquam Mtn. Skiing east of Squamish.	C3/2595 m	Mike Peel	444-4068
April 8: Mt. Seymour Easy skiing above North Vancouver.	A2	Pat Crean	986-5622
April 8: Deeks Pk. (snowshoe) Snowshoeing above Howe Sound, snow permitting.	B-C	Jean Lederer	733-1322
April 13-15: Garibaldi N�v� traverse Classic ski traverse around Mt. Garibaldi in Garibaldi park.	C3	Lesli Cowan	321-9955
April 13-16: Mt. Samson traverse Skiing from Railroad Pass to North Ck. in the upper Lillooet valley.	C3/2800 m	David Hughes	980-6484
April 13-16: North Ck. Skiing in the upper Lillooet valley. Access may be by helicopter. Trip will go only if snow conditions permit.	B3	Michael Feller	270-4050
April 13-16: Skaha (rock) Rock climbing in the sunny Okanagan.	A5	Mirella Lioce and Donna Bailie	736-5079 572-5051
April 21-22: Rhododendron Mtn. Skiing just west of Pemberton.	C3/2530 m	Darren Quist	904-7570
April 22: Duffey Lake Rd. Exploratory ski trip. Contact the organizer for more details.	B2-3	Pat Crean	986-5622
April 22: Ptarmigan Ridge Easy skiing out of the Mt. Baker ski area in northern Washington.	B2	Grant Oughton	972-1176
April 28-29: Cloudraker Mtn. Skiing in the Lizzie Ck. area east of Lillooet Lake.	B3/2350 m	David Scanlon	464-3730
April 28-29: Mt. Matier (snowshoe) Snowshoeing south of the Duffey Lake road.	C/2770 m	Emanuele Porra	533-7723
April 28-29: Mt. "Alex Philips" Skiing in the Spearheads in Garibaldi Park.	B3/2480 m	Karl Ricker	926-5933
April 28-29: Spearhead Traverse Classic ski traverse in Garibaldi Park.	C-D3	Robin Whitworth	731-2041
April 28-29: Rock climbing	A5	Anders Ourom	228-1798

Rock climbing somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.

May 5-6: Mamquam Mtn.

C3/2595 m

Greg Stoltmann

926-6496

Skiing east of Squamish.

May 12-13: Snowking Mtn.

B3/2266 m

Peter Gumplinger

733-8264

Skiing in Washington's North Cascades.

RESTRICTIONS ON BACKCOUNTRY ACCESS IN MT. SEYMOUR PARK?

Is Mt. Seymour going to turn into another Cypress Bowl? Will we lose access rights there during the ski season? Pat Crean will be organizing backcountry day ski trips to Mt. Seymour each month this ski season, beginning on 28 January. On one of these trips, probably in April or May, he would like to get the FMCBC and representatives from other clubs involved, possibly setting up an information display to inform the public of the valuable contribution by Vancouver's mountain clubs to the recreational use of the North Shore Mountains. This trip would be for all backcountry skiers, snowshoers, snowboarders, and hikers. Do you have any ideas about this, or would you like to assist? If so, contact Pat at 986-5622.

SPRING SKI CAMP, 2001

This year's spring ski camp will be on 28 April to 6 May and will be located near the northeast edge of the Bridge Glacier (Grid Ref. 615385 on map 92J/13, 1:50,000 - Stanley Smith Glacier) at about 1800 m elevation. Access will be in and out by helicopter from Pemberton, costing approx. \$500 per person. For more information, contact Pat Crean at 986-5622.

SUMMER CLIMBING CAMPS, 2001

Two summer climbing camps for club members have been organized. These are -

1. 4th Annual Lake Lovely Water Summer Camp, 14-21 July

Seven days of mountaineering in the glorious Tantalus Range (map 92G14) with routes to charm the beginner to the advanced. Accommodation is in the luxurious Alpine Club cabin with swimming and boating at the doorstep. \$275 covers helicopter in and out and hut rental. Participants must be club members at time of application, physically fit and have ice axe and basic rope skills. This is a self-guided camp. For information and registration contact Peter Woodsworth at 254-7076.

2. Bendor Range-Mt. Truax area, 11-19 August

This is a minimal cost hike in and out camp offering a variety of hiking and climbing possibilities, with lots for everyone. Participants must be club members at the time of application and must be physically fit. For information and registration, contact David Scanlon at 464-3730.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

The club welcomes the following new associate members:

Rowe Barnett, Dale Braun, Marilyn Cox, Dan Friedman, Mike Hall, Curt Hegel, John Huigsloot, Nancy-Anne Rose, Isaac Saban, Claire Sandham, Brian Steeves, Claude Tam, Keith Tolhurs, and Jeff Werner.

What club members are doing

Club members **Silke Strassburger** and **Peter Gumplinger** recently competed in what is the oldest, the longest, and the greatest cross-country ski race in the world. The famed Vasaloppet covers 90 km in the Dalarna region of central Sweden between the towns Salen and Mora. Held for the 77th time this year, the

race commemorates Gustav Eriksson Vasa's revolt against the Danish tyrant King Kristian almost 500 years ago and is meant to be an endurance test similar to the journey made on skis by Gustav Vasa to avoid capture by the Danes. The Vasaloppet (classic technique) is probably the most famous and popular sporting event in Sweden and attracts an estimated 50,000 spectators along the course and at the finish. The live broadcast is five and a half hours and is one of Swedish television's most popular programs.

Registration is limited to the first 15,600 eager skiers who must sign up almost a year in advance to secure a spot. Although an average of 2,500 foreigners from some 30 countries participate, there were only four racers from Canada this year. As for women, they were only allowed to compete officially in 1981, and still only number a thousand. The average Vasaloppet competitor is 41 years old and has completed 4 races. About 150 Swedes make up the "Veteran's Club", men who have finished in 30 Vasaloppets or more - two of them competed 50 times! Starters are seeded according to their established race results. For Silke and Peter this meant Group 8 (of 11) and a chance to ski the whole distance together. Temperatures at the start were forecasted at minus 26 degrees Celsius, but the thermometer dropped only to minus 18 degrees Celsius. Peter jealously guarded his place behind Silke during the "traffic jam" immediately after the

mass start, but 35 kilometers into the race he had to insist that she better slow down for him. All passing maneuvers throughout the race had to be well coordinated in order to avoid separation, as each lane was stacked with skiers at all times.

Fueling up with 'blabarssoppa' (the famous warm blueberry soup) at the seven food stations along the course, and very pleased with their wax decisions, the pair finished in 8hrs.36min.37sec. Happy with their time, Silke ended up about half way into her field, while Peter finished two thirds back. Still, to put it into perspective, the race record is 3hrs. 38min. 57sec, the women's record is 4hrs. 17min. 02sec, and the King of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustav, finished the race in 8hrs.12min.41sec in 1977, and faster still in the 'Oppet Spar' (training event / no mass-start) as recently as 1999. Moreover, the winner of the first Vasaloppet in 1922, a race through new powder snow with no made tracks, arrived in good time: 7hrs. 32mins. 46sec. Peter at least managed to come in third among the four Canadians. On the other hand, a victory in the Vasaloppet is regarded by most of the world's best skiers as highly as a podium place in the Olympic Games or the World Championships.

(More information about the race and the detailed 2001 results, with split times for every competitor, can be found at:
<http://www.vasaloppet.se/English/index.html>)

SUMMER MOUNTAINEERING COURSES

This summer the club will offer several instructional programs, particularly for members who want to upgrade their skills. The programs are economical, and are taught by experienced volunteers (they are not professional guides). Prerequisites:

- ◆ Current membership in the BCMC (i.e. 2000-2001).
- ◆ Good physical and mental health.
- ◆ Payment of program fees, which cover only BCMC and instructor's expenses (surpluses are used to buy club equipment). You must provide

most equipment, transport (car pooling encouraged), and food.

- ◆ Read and sign a comprehensive waiver, and complete a health information form. The focus of the programs is on safety and skills. However, mountaineering and climbing by nature involve significant risks, and you must be prepared to assume them.
- ◆ Commitment - all sessions are mandatory.
- ◆ Participants will be screened for ability, fitness, equipment, and potential to contribute to the BCMC. The longer you have been a member of the BCMC, and the earlier your application is received, the higher priority you will have.

1. Courses are also open to members in good standing of the Varsity Outdoors Club.
2. Programs tend to be fully subscribed, so we cannot guarantee that there will be space. Maximum 12 participants/program. Your application must include the application, supplementary waiver, medical form, and fees.
3. Dates may be altered due to bad weather or conflicts.
4. Do not phone organizers or instructors after 4:00 pm unless asked to do so.
5. Applications which are not complete in all respects (membership, fees enclosed, forms fully filled out) will be ignored.
6. Where applicable, complete a separate form for each program you are interested in.

Introduction to Rockclimbing

\$65 (full-time students \$50). This consists of an evening lecture/practice, and a weekend at Squamish. At the end, you should be familiar with basic climbing skills and techniques, and able to set up and use a simple top-rope. You must provide rock shoes, a sit harness, a helmet, one locking karabiner, a belay device (no figure 8s!), and two slings of 7mm perlon (1.5 and 5 m). The BCMC provides other needed equipment, and a copy of a rock climbing textbook for each participant to keep. Dates:

- 1A 5/6 May (lecture 3 May, evening)
1B 2/3 June (lecture 31 May, evening)

This program (or equivalent) is a prerequisite for the mountaineering program. Participants in the latter are encouraged to attend session 1A.

Contact: Kit Griffin (736-8462 or kitgriffin@telus.net).

Mountaineering

\$200 (full-time students \$170). This includes three evening lectures/practices and three consecutive weekends. (Introduction to Rockclimbing or equivalent is a prerequisite.) Covers mountain travel and navigation, safety and environmental issues, snow travel, glacier travel, crevasse rescue, self arrest, and ascent of a moderate peak. You must be an experienced backpacker, and by the end of the program you should be able to safely undertake most trips up to the B4 level. Participants must provide all backpacking and camping equipment, sit harness, ice axe, helmet, crampons. The BCMC provides needed technical equipment (ropes etc), and each participant with a copy of Mountaineering - Freedom of the Hills (6th edition) and two prussiks/cordelettes.

Mountaineering: 12/13 & 26/27 May, 9/10 June.
Evenings: the Thursday evening before each weekend.

Fees and schedule do not include Introduction to Rockclimbing.

Contact: Colin Wooldridge (512-6390 or wooldrid@sfu.ca).

Intermediate Climbing

\$120 (full-time students \$100). This will be offered once, for those who have solid top roping skills, e.g. an introductory course plus a season's experience. You must also be an experienced backpacker. The course will include several evenings and four weekends. Participants will help with session 1B of Introduction to Rockclimbing, and climb regularly together on evenings and free weekends. This course is experience-oriented, and by the end participants should be comfortable leading 5.7 rock climbs, and moderately technical mountain routes. Covers placing and using anchors, equipment

selection and use, safety and environmental issues, leading, training, and related issues. The final weekend will be an alpine rock climb. Participants must provide all required equipment, and will likely need to invest several hundred dollars (or more). The BCMC provides participants with two books about climbing, and instructors' equipment is often used.

Rock II: 12/13 & 26/27 May, 16/17 June, and 7/8 July, plus 2 or 3 June. Evenings: the Thursday evening before each weekend.

Contact: Anders Ourom (228-1798 or aiourom@telus.net).

Rock Refresher Weekend

\$50 (full-time students \$40). This will be offered once, for members wishing to practise and refresh skills. If possible, we will break into several small groups based on skills, experience, equipment, and interest. If interest justifies, more advanced topics (basic rock rescue, anchors) will be covered by some.

Refresher: 9/10 June.

Contact: Kit Griffin (736-8462 or kitgriffin@telus.net).

Mountaineering Refresher Weekend

\$50 (full-time students \$40). Offered on one weekend and one evening for members to recall and improve mountaineering skills. The program will focus on snow and ice travel, crevasse rescue, self-rescue, mountain leadership, trip organization, and mountain safety skills.

Mountaineering Refresher: 2/3 June, plus 31 May (evening).

Contact: Colin Wooldridge (512-6390 or wooldrid@sfu.ca)

Completed applications and cheques for all programs to:

**B.C. Mountaineering Club
c/o Nicole Hoskin
202 - 2710 Lonsdale Avenue
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7N 3J1**

(Call the contact person for each program for information about it, or registration. Nicole does not make decisions about who is/is not registered, whether there's room, etc. so don't bug her about it.)

WILDERNESS FIRST AID COURSE

If you are interested in upgrading your backcountry first aid skills, the club is arranging for a wilderness first aid course to be presented to club members in

April. The cost will be approximately \$160. For further information contact Dave Hughes at 980-6484.

BCMC CLUB NEWS

1. At its March meeting, the executive voted to transfer \$2000 of the Ledingham bequest monies into the **Centennial fund** to assist celebration of the club's centennial which will occur in 2007. The club is now 94 years old.
2. **What should be the club policy on donations?** The executive has established a small committee to look into this issue. Brian Wood, a member of

the committee, has supplied the following background comments. If you have any comments on an appropriate policy, please pass them on to Anders Ourom (228-1798) or any member of the club executive.

In the past the Club has donated "surplus" funds on a piece-meal basis to a variety of organisations or causes that, at the time, were considered to have provided, or in the future could provide, a direct or indirect benefit to the Club. Continuing on this basis, there are at least three main types of donations the Club might want to include in a general policy. These are -

1. A one time donation to a specific, non-repeating cause. Examples of this include:
 - a) a search and rescue group that was directly involved in searching for and /or rescuing a Club member,
 - b) a conservation/recreation organisation working to protect an important recreation area of the club. Such a donation has usually been for a specific project of that organisation, eg to help fund a publication in support of that area. One example was helping Western Canada Wilderness Committee fund their flyer on the Lillooet Forest District.
 - c) a publisher or author publishing a guide book to a recreation area. Experience has shown that, in spite of predictions of break-even or a small profit, publishing is risky and some projects turn out to be donations' e.g. the Stein and Fairley Guides. This can still be worthwhile, however, as the club obtains publicity from the book.

2. A regular contribution, such as annually, to a cause which has a direct benefit to our club. Examples include the Canadian Avalanche Association to support the operation of their website, and memberships in outdoor recreation lobby groups such as the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. and the Climbers Access Society.

3. An application for funds from a group that claims it is working on a project that could benefit the club. One example of this is the Wilderness Education Program run by John Clarke (Hon. Member) through the FMCBC office. The Club has supported this program for several years as it relates to public education, working primarily through the schools. This could be considered to be "gentle lobbying" as John stresses the importance of protected areas. We do not normally receive applications of this type, but in the future we might expect more of them.

It is generally agreed the club would use only "surplus" funds for any of the above, so as not to threaten the club's future. If the club receives more bequests, and if funds from these become substantial it might be worthwhile prioritising donations on a more formal basis. For example, we could set up an endowment fund in a manner somewhat similar to the Alpine Club of Canada.

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS NEWS

by Mike Peel

As many of you are aware, the Federation of Mountain Clubs (FMCBC) has been busting their butts in the ongoing Motorized versus Non-Motorized debate, that is going on in the Whistler Squamish corridor - but don't get discouraged! We are making progress, the Government knows what we want and many BCMC members have stepped forward to dedicate valuable time, resources and lunch breaks to ensure that this area doesn't turn into one giant Brandywine Snowmobile circus. At the recent Callaghan Park planning meeting, held in North Van, there were 12 FMCBC members, who

were arguing to B.C. Parks about such items as the need to keep Parks free of Snowmobiles and float Planes. (This Plan is available at: www.elp.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/protect/mgmtplns/callaghan/callaghan.htm)

Other recent FMCBC events have included the Christmas letter writing party that featured free pizza, soy-eggnog and Christmas cookies. Members had a chance to write letters about the aforementioned zoning, the Nootka Island Trail and the ongoing Lillooet LRMP.

The FMCBC also continues to work on:

- a) Preserving Seymour Park backcountry access
- b) Asking the Provincial Government for sufficient funding for Provincial Parks
- c) Improving the grade of pizza served at letter writing campaigns
- d) The ongoing Tantalus Park Management Plan (thanks to Monika Bittel and Peter Woodsworth)
- e) Responding to interviews on the CBC and with local newspapers
- f) Maintaining the quality of the Canada West Mountain School courses which, incidentally, are available for 10% discounts to BCMC

Members. Please see

www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/CWMS/main.html

If you wish to be on the FMCBC list serve then please send a message to: hike@unixg.ubc.ca This list serve will keep you informed about upcoming film festivals, provincial hiking events and even the letter campaigns.

Also, thanks to Michelle Martineau for helping out in the FMCBC office.

Keep on skiing !!!!!

NEWS

1. Suicide Bluffs management concerns.

Anders Ourom writes –

"Suicide Bluffs are on the east side of the Green River, in Nairn Falls Provincial Park, 26 km north of Whistler. See Whistler Rockclimbs (2000) page 130. Access across the river is via a tyrolean, built without any approval from the Ministry of Parks. The tyrolean seems not to have come to Parks' attention until last year. There were meetings between climbers and Parks staff in the autumn, to discuss the various issues.

The climbers Access Society recently received a copy of a letter from Drew Carmichael, District Manager for Parks in the Garibaldi/ Sunshine Coast. The letter stated that Parks had completed its review of issues involving Suicide Bluffs, and identified three main issues which must be resolved if the Bluffs are to remain open for climbing. They are paraphrased as follows:

1. Environment

The combination of dry, sunny cliffs and scree slopes, a riverside riparian zone, and open forest creates a unique ecosystem, which could easily be disturbed by human activity. There is a blue-listed species (rubber boa) in the park, on the west side of the river, and it may be on the east side. Its habitat is rocky scree, and it is at the northern limit of its range. Protection of this and other flora and fauna

must be the first priority of the provincial park. If the Bluffs are to remain open species/habitat assessment must be made, and it must be shown that the ecological integrity of the area could be protected and coexist with climbing. (Comment: this may be the simplest issue. The Cheakamus Canyon - D'Arcy corridor seems rife with sites with similar attributes. A proper study, followed by education and modest limitations e.g. on trail building, scree 'improvements', and perhaps the cliffs on which climbing is permitted, may do the job.)

2. Access

The area below Nairn Falls is popular but dangerous. BC Parks does not want increased human traffic on the east side by the falls, as this would affect views, and increase safety concerns. If climbing remains open, there must be a way to limit the movement of people, including non-climbers, to the east side of the falls. Creation of new routes would likely be limited to the existing bluffs

3. Tyrolean

Parks believe the existing cable may be unsafe, especially for non-climbers. It is also opposed to construction of an improved crossing, especially as this would result in much increased visitation to the east side of the river, higher safety risks, and environmental degradation. Any crossing method must be safe, and by design discourage use by non-

climbers. B.C. Parks has been unable to identify such a solution.

Unless the three issues listed are resolved satisfactorily, B.C. Parks will remove the existing cable crossing".

2. Skaha is to be made a class A provincial park

The recent Okanagan LRMP recommended that the Skaha rock climbing area be made a Class A provincial park. Anders Ourom reports that the Climbers Access Society of B.C. will be working with B.C. Parks on the development of a management plan for the area. If you have any comments on this, contact Anders at 228-1798.

3. Canadian climbers are welcome in Mongolia

The Mongolian Alpine Club "Otgontenger-Ochirvaani" is organizing a Mongolian and Canadian Mountain Climber's collaborative camp in the Mongolian Mountains, July 9th to 23rd, 2001. All Canadian climbers are invited! The Mongolian Mountains are dramatic high mountains (4000-5000m), rugged and glaciated. Experience excellent climbing, plus Mongolia's biggest national holiday, "Naadam". This holiday is a celebration of the Mongolian people, their one thousand year history, beautiful countryside and culture. Visit the historical places of Mongolia. To find out more about Mongolia and about the Mongolian Alpine Club, please check www.mongolia-culture.com or www.mongolia-liquidcrystal.com. For specific enquiries, please email Dava at chiral@intergate.ca or dava@popmail.com.

EQUIPMENT/GEAR NOTES

Another reason to be cautious about buying a digital avalanche transceiver – they can be affected by mobile phones.

A manufacturer's investigation has revealed that the search mode of ARVA 9000 and Ortovox M1 avalanche transceivers can be affected by GSM mobile phones.

A skier died at Pra-Loup on the 25th of December. He was caught and buried in an avalanche while securing the ski area. His colleague tried to find him using an ARVA 9000 avalanche transceiver. The ARVA indicated a direction and distance that were completely incorrect – 50 metres away from where the skier was buried. He was later found with a

classic analogue ARVA but too late. Inquiries revealed that the searcher's portable phone was turned on.

The search mode of the ARVA 9000 and also the Ortovox M1 can be affected by mobile phones that are not turned off. After testing, this problem has been confirmed by the manufacturers and by contributors to the fr.montagne Internet newsgroup. It would also seem that there is some affect on analogue transceivers. It is recommended that all mobile phones and other electronic devices are switched off when a search is occurring.

(source: CAF Toulouse/Bureaux des Guides Bourg St. Maurice/fr.montagne)

THINKING OF TREKKING IN NORTHERN PAKISTAN

by Martin & Esther Kafer

If the answer is yes you might consider using the following travel agency: Siachen Travel and Tours Pakistan.

This has a liaison office in Islamabad (address: PO Box # 1213, GPO Islamabad 44000, Pakistan, Phone no. 092-051-4426340). Head office: PO Box # 622, Skardu, Baltistan, Pakistan. Phone no. 092-057-52844. and khadim14@isb.paknet.com.pk, siachenttpak@yahoo.com

We recently received a letter from the trekking guide, Anwar Ali whom we hired in Hushe - Skardu (Baltistan) on our 1993 trip to Hunza, Baltistan & Chitral(Hindu Kush). Anwar Ali was the best, most obliging and experienced, also friendliest, mature

about six days with him on a trek to about 5000 m trekking guide we have ever encountered (we spent toward Gondogoro Pass near Mt. Masherbrum) and we could highly recommend him to any and all trekkers who wish to visit North Pakistan. In his letter he announced that he is now a partner in the trekking agency described above.

FOR SALE

1991 Isuzu Rodeo 3.2L V6 4x4, manual transmission, 190,000 km, good condition, reliable, no accidents. \$7000, but all offers considered as must sell. Available from beginning of May.

Please call Robin or Tara on 731-2041.

TRIP REPORTS

Hanes Creek Cross-Over, 12 August, 2000

Once the organizer decided not to do the hike July 15th when there were still 60 cm of snow at Crown Pass, then all was pleasure and everything flowed without a hitch.

Low water at Lynn Creek with dry rocks and tree roots, so an easy creek crossing. Perfect weather: some morning cloud (cool in the trees). Sun for the lunch break at a rocky viewpoint in the upper Hanes Valley. No wind. Side creeks still with water, so no

empty water bottles. All the upper trail free from snow (tho' not from mud) making this the 'B' hike it should be, much to the organizer's delight. Great bunch of people, with nine non-club members, and maybe some budding friendships. Absolutely nothing horrific to report. Only pleasure.

Participants: Gail and Dave Hill, Jan White, Ben Wiens, Corrine Dempsey, Mona Gillespie, Peter Talbot, Mary Jo Brown, Martin Hyde, Valerie Laub, and Russel Earnshaw (Organizer and reporter).

Plan B, Part II, 5-6 January, 2001

Last year Part I saw 4 of us cruise up *Plan B* and *Cherry Ice* with bloody noses, detached mufflers and bulemic tendencies (ah, nothing quite like the colorful world of climbing). This year we upped the ante and went for numbers in Part II. In fact, we put 12 of us on *Plan B!* and at the same time threw Russ and Brian C. on *Michelmoon*. The Lillooet Ice Climbing Festival had come phat and early. We did our own equipment demos with each person owning/borrowing totally different equipment, letting people flavor black prophets, cobras, najas, tringos, rages, luckys, pulsars, and stubais. Pretty neat.

Just to prove the Ice Report wrong, we put 3 lines up a decaying *Honeyman* (reported as: not in) and pushed a very thin *Cherry Ice*. Quite the contrast to the fat conditions we had in 2000. This year is dry and fading fast. Not all the cool cats had tools, so we mixed and matched and Kerry and Steph traded boots giving everyone a taste of ice - even if it was a small bite versus a satiating bellyful.

Sunday morning Don Serl and his small ACC group ate breakfast beside the BCMC hordes in the Reynolds. Unfortunately, their climbing day ended abruptly when Henry Czenczek took a long fall leading *Oregon Jack*. Although his screws held, he blew his knee and needed some stitches in his scalp and elbow, but thankfully will be back climbing with us soon. Henry's accident served to reinforce the severe consequences associated with ice climbing and got some people figuring out how to drill screws in fast and plenty. The weekend served as a great warm up for the Ice Fest and clearly some people caught ice fever large - they will be cranking hard soon.

Participants: Kerry Brundige, Brian Cashin, Marcus Dell, Simon Eteen, Stephanie Griffiths, Doug Hulme, Darryl Malby, Russell March, Paul Morton, Paddy O'Neile, Brian Pegg, Miles Quesnel, Nick Ranicar, and Colin Wooldridge (Organizer and reporter).

Prospector Peaks, 27-28 Jan, 2001.

We decided to see what the valley of Phelix Creek had to offer in addition to the VOC cabin at Long Lake. We parked at 14km off the Blackwater Road at the entrance to Birkenhead Provincial Park. The road was ploughed and in good shape. Even the 2WD Mazda pickup with all-season tires had no trouble.

From the parking area, we skied up the Phelix Creek Branch of the Blackwater Road. It was about 11 am when we set out. Fifty meters before the second bridge, we went right. The main ski tracks continued left across the bridge. The road we took was the closest road approach to Prospector Peaks. It switchbacks to el. 1450 m, 6 km due south of the summit of Mount Taillefer in a side valley of Phelix Creek.

We entered the forest where the road cut ended, at a band of small, dense trees. We contoured into the valley but it would be just as well to gain the gentle valley bottom as soon as practicable. We had hoped to climb Mt Taillefer on the way in but by the time we were in position, it was already after 2 pm. Veering away from Mt Taillefer, we headed up to the Phelix-McGillivray pass.

There was only time to set up camp and do a short ski up our intended route to Prospector Peaks. The weather was warm and the sun had damaged the snow in places. Still, it was an enjoyable run back down to camp through open glades and steep pitches in the trees.

The weather deteriorated overnight as forecast. The wind had picked up and it was snowing on and off. We were able to gain the NW ridge of Prospector Peaks but the conditions were bordering on severe. With every item of clothing on, I was able to keep warm only when moving constantly. The wind must have been blowing steadily to 60km/hr or more on the ridge. The best we were able to do was climb the second highest of the Prospectors Peaks, which is 100m lower than the main summit. The main summit was obscured and still 1km east of our position. We had stashed the skis lower down as the snow had been blown clear off the ridge. The ski down was pretty bad, blowing snow in your face and depth perception lacking.

Lower down, out of the wind, we were able to pick a line where there was powder snow and good visibility which made for a great ski. It was only 11 am and time for a bit of yo-yo skiing before heading out. Under better weather conditions, I don't think it would have been a problem to bag the higher peak as we had plenty of time. The ski out to the parked vehicles took just under 2 hours.

Participants: Ron Groom, John Duffy, Doug Hess, Jeff Rabinovitch, Cameron Long, Greg Stoltmann, and Paul Kubik (Organizer and reporter).

Jack Daniels, 3-4 February, 2001

Getting primed to climb this season has not been a problem, with the Ice Festival in Lillooet declared a 'Towering Success' (to quote the local paper). The festival cast ice climbers as an identifiable group to the whole region and our visit two weeks later confirmed that 'cause whenever we sat down in a restaurant to eat we would hear: "thar be them ice climbers" (said in a bewildered, but positive tone). The festival instilled a sense of community and ice culture among climbers (in southwest BC

nonetheless) and was so cool that it promises to be an annual treat.

A couple of weeks later with warm temperatures collapsing *Honeyman Falls*, 5 of us trotted off to Marble Canyon. Russell, Werner and Merran cranked up *Icy BC*, while I introduced Dale to ice climbing with him getting kicked off a steep, thin grade 5. Dale's go hard or go home introduction didn't faze him and he jumped on the 1st pitch of *Icy BC* - trying different moves and testing his tools on a great pitch of ice. Pitch 2 was a fun 3 and the last pitch was a varied 5. Talk about different styles. Werner hit, bashed and dug his way skyward while Merran gracefully executed stems, hooks, backsteps and chimneying maneuvers to land her first grade 5 on only her 5th time out.

With Merran coming from the Arm, we tracked out to Hat Creek in search of *Oregon Jack* on Sunday. I figure the snowplow guy had been drinking *Jack* as the road out of the Hat Creek drainage wasn't plowed leaving us 20 km down the valley having to circle back to Cache Creek and roll up the Hat Creek road from the Trans Canada Hwy. The gravel road was in good shape and a quick 15 minute walk

found us all drooling for a glass of *Jack*. The climb is juxtaposed between a dramatic limestone headwall, which pours *Jack*, and rolling treed hills below it. Sweet indeed. Leading up I danced through Henry Czenczek's blood stain from a month prior, roared Dracula, and brought all 5 of us up to the top of the first pitch. We really cooled down and Werner started crying for his mommy 'cause he was so cold. We ignored his squealing and flashed up the thinning upper pitch. A fantastic day capped with a near-full moon lighting our way back to the cars.

The Vancouver gang sacrificed a few kilometers and ate dinner back in Cache Creek at the Chinese-Western gig. Dale ordered the hot spicy beef dish and expressed surprise when all he got was hot spicy beef. What did he want? Rice too? He vacuumed the pound of beef off the plate and sat contented while the rest of us stabbed and prodded our food down. Awesome climbing with awesome kids.

Participants: Merran Fahlman, Werner Grzimek, Dale Maffei, Russell March, and Colin Wooldridge (Organizer and reporter).