

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST- SEPT 2001

VOL. 79 NO. 7



Mt. Sir Sandford

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, 21 August - Barbeque at Kit Griffin's house - 2912 W. 8th Ave, Vancouver. BYO everything to this summer party.

Tuesday, 11 September - Entertainment will be a slide show.





HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - DAVE HUGHES	980-6484	CABIN & TRAILS - GREG HAMILTON	739-7555
PAST-PRESIDENT - ANDERS OUROM	228-1798	CONSERVATION -	
VICE-PRESIDENT - KIT GRIFFIN	736-8462	BRIAN WOOD	222-1541
SECRETARY - MIRELLA LIOCE	736-5079	MONICA BITTEL	983-3097
TREASURER - MARCIA COLLIER	987-5245	SUMMER CAMP - DAVID SCANLON	464-3730
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -	268-9502	WEBMASTER - MICHAEL McCRAE	326-0156
NANCY HENDERSON		EDITOR - MICHAEL FELLER	270-4050
MIKE PEEL			
TAMMIE SIBBALD		EQUIPMENT - PAUL KUBIK	876-0764
SOCIALS - DARRYL MALBY	709-0051	SAFETY EQUIPMENT -	
DONNA BAILIE	572-5051	GREG HAMILTON	739-7555
CLIMBING - MARGARET HANSON	736-6397	LIBRARY - GEORGE HAMILTON	988-1888
KIT GRIFFIN	736-8462		

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674, Vancouver, B.C., V8R 3W8

INTERNET SITE: www.bcmc.ca

The **BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER** is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published 10 times per year (every month except July and September).

Submissions - of any written, drawn, or photographic material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club are welcome. If possible, submissions should be sent to the editor by email or on a diskette. Deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month preceding the publication month.

Send submissions to Michael Feller (email - feller@interchg.ubc.ca, ph. 270-4050).

Editorial policy - All submitted material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity.

Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the B.C. Mountaineering Club.

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. 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.

		ORGANIZER	
August 3-6: Washington Pass/Liberty Bell	A5/2353m	Dave and Wendy Morriss	732-9896
Rock climbing in northern Washington.			
August 5-7: Rainy Pass	B-C2	Len Soet	298-5683
Hiking and scrambling in Manning Park.			
August 11: Upper Seymour Conservation Area (bike/hike)	B-C2	Peter Gumplinger	733-8264

Exploratory trip in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.			
August 11: Needle Pk.	B2-3/2075 m	Emanuele Porra	533-7723
Hiking and scrambling in the Coquihalla area.			
August 11-12: Widgeon Pk.	C2/1431 m	Nick Vipond	684-4124
Hiking and scrambling west of Pitt Lake.			
August 11-12: Williams Pk.	C2(3)/2123 m	Rick Raynesford	922-1897
Hiking and scrambling in the Chilliwack valley.			
August 18: Mts. Ratnay and Bardean	C3/1960 m	Jos van der Burg	463-7587
Rock scrambling in the Chehalis area.			
August 18-19: Pinecone Lake	B2-3	Maurice Lamothe	984-8766
Hiking and scrambling east of Squamish.			
August 18-19: Mt. Currie	C3/2596 m	Doug Hess	604-894-5638
Ascending via the NW Face of this well known peak above Pemberton.			
August 25: Mt. Harvey	C5/1703 m	Brian Cashin	270-0607
Rock climbing above Howe Sound, ascending via the N face.			
August 25: Mt. Outram	C2/2440 m	Carolyn Goluza	731-2533
Extended hiking near the western edge of Manning Park.			
August 25-26: Sun God Mtn.	B3-4/2410 m	Paul Kubik	876-0764
Scrambling and climbing NE of Pemberton.			
September 1-3: Southern Chilcotin	B2/3	Rick Raynsford	922-1897
Hiking and scrambling west of Lillooet.			
September 1-3: Mt. Sloan	B3-4(5)/2723 m	David Hughes	980-6484
Rock climbing near Bralorne.			
September 1+: Colorado to Mexico (biking)		Brian Wood	222-1541
If you have oodles of free time like the trip organizer, try this one.			
September 2: Organizer's choice	A2	George Malburg	877-1784
An easy family/toddler hike. Contact the organizer for further details.			
September 8: Needle Pk.	B2-3/2075 m	Margaret Ellis	266-6591
Hiking and scrambling in the Coquihalla area. Joint trip with the ACC.			
September 8-9: Mt. Steele	B2/1650 m	Alice Obermajer	520-0580
Family hike in Tetrahedron park above Sechelt.			
September 8-9: Mt. Urquhart	B-C5/2100 m	Marcus Dell	274-9511
Approach by bike to this peak in the Fraser Canyon area, ascending via the NE Ridge.			
September 8-9: Downton Ck.	B2	Greg Stoltmann	926-6496
Scrambling and hiking north of the Duffey Lake road, leaving Friday evening.			
September 8-9: Mt. Weart	C4/2870 m	Anders Ourom	228-1798
Extended mountaineering in Garibaldi park, ascending via the N Face.			
September 8-9: Mt. Outram	B2/2440 m	Carol MacMillan	879-2947
Hiking again at the western edge of Manning park. Joint trip with the ACC.			
September 15: Brunswick Mtn.	B2/1785 m	Jack Pals	463-7552
Hiking above Howe Sound.			
September 15-16: North Twin Sister	C4/2024 m	Deryk Brower and Monica Durigon	274-2394
Climbing in northern Washington, ascending via the W. Ridge.			
September 15-16: Mt. Samson	C3-4/2800 m	Mike Peel	444-4068
Climbing in the upper Lillooet valley, leaving Friday evening.			
September 15-16: Washington Pass-Liberty Bell B-C5		Margaret Hanson	736-6397

Rock climbing in central northern Washington. Joint trip with the ACC.			
September 15-16: Mt. Marriott	C3/2750 m	Murray Lashmar	732-8184
Scrambling north of the Duffey Lake road.			
September 16: West Lion	B3/1646m	Peter Parotta	552-1423
Hiking and scrambling above Howe Sound.			
September 22: Crown Mtn. and the Camel	C5/1503 m	Brian Cashin	270-0607
Hiking and rock climbing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.			
September 22-23: Overlord Mtn.	C3/2625 m	Todd Ponzini	983-2612
Mountaineering in Garibaldi park.			
September 22-23: Snowspider Mtn.	C3/2530 m	Lesli Cowan	321-9955
Scrambling east of Lillooet Lake.			
September 22-23: Baby Munday Pk.	B3/2190 m	David Scanlon	464-3730
Scrambling in the Chilliwack valley area.			
September 23: Alpaca area	B2	Evelyn Feller	270-4050
Hiking and scrambling in the Coquihalla area.			
September 23: Capilano Mtn.	B-C3/1685 m	Phil Kubik	266-5873
Hiking and scrambling in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.			
September 29-30: Vantage	A5	Arnie Wilson and Monica Durigon	222-3713
Rock climbing.			
September 29-30: Poland Lake	A1	Michele Davidson	254-4212
Easy hiking in Manning park.			
September 29-30: Meslilloet Mtn.	B3/2001m	Jos van der Burg	463-7582
Scrambling to see the closest glacier to Vancouver in Pinecone-Burke park.			
October 6: Lady Pk.	B3/2189 m	Werner Grzimek	737-1091
Hiking and scrambling in the Chilliwack valley area.			
October 6-7: Mt. Uztlius	B2/1959 m	Karl Ricker	938-1107
The annual pilgrimage, this time to the Anderson River Range, hiking and scrambling.			
October 6-7 or 7-8: Fannin Lk. and Mt. Bishop	C2/1480 m	Blair Mitten	922-0470
Hiking above North Vancouver in Seymour park.			
October 6-8: Cathedral park	B-C2	Ellen Woodd	250-494-0529
Hiking east of Manning park.			
October 13: Organizer's choice	A2	Peter Waddington	266-4709
A senior's trip. Contact the organizer for further details.			
October 13-14: Organizer's choice	C2(3)	Mirella Lioce	736-5079
Hiking and scrambling somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.			
October 14: Nak and Yak Pks.	B2-3/2040 m	Peter Gumplinger	733-8264
Hiking and scrambling and trail clearing in the Coquihalla area.			

WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMBING

Looking for people to climb with? How about a regular schedule to keep you motivated and off the couch? Or are you looking for an excuse to leave work early? Then join Margaret Hanson and company on Wednesdays this summer (June to August) for evenings of informal, fun, outdoor rock climbing in Squamish. Meet at St. David's Church (Upper Levels Hwy. and Taylor Way) at 5 pm. You need to know how to tie-in and belay. Bring your personal climbing gear (harness, shoes, etc.) and a rope if you have one. Helmets are optional but recommended. There will be a few evenings when she can't make it, but she'll still serve as a contact for people who do want to go. If possible phone her the evening before to confirm that you are going that week or that the weather is good enough to go climbing outside. Phone her at 736-6397 or email her at margarethanson@sierrasystems.com.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

The club welcomes the following new associate members:

Darcy Booker, Colin Campbell, Don Collie, Marian Jans, Joe Koukac, Val Kovalishyn, Vanessa Lam

What club members are doing

The club wishes to congratulate **Silke Strassburger** and **Peter Gumplinger** who were married on 21 June in a small civil marriage ceremony at the top of 'Fin and Feathers Trail' on Grouse Mtn.

Silke approached Peter at the May 98' BCMC social after she had read his name on the BCMC web site while she was still in Germany. She figured that this likely Bavarian was probably her best bet to get to know the club and join club trips during her upcoming six months academic exchange at UBC. For some reason, she expected to meet a veteran climber: retired, white hair and all, your 'Luis Trencker' type, and quite safe for a twenty something year old. Only, he didn't turn out quite like this (except for the gray-hair, of course).

BCMC CLUB NEWS

Club executive passes new policy on membership and donations

Preamble

The BCMC has an operating budget of about \$20,000, and over \$110,000 in assets. Both are increasing, as the club grows, and as a result of bequests. This calls for heightened prudence. It would be easy to dissipate the club's capital on activities which some members support, and which may in part advance the club's goals, but which are tangential to the club's main interests.

The club has a long and varied history. Its interests, as set out in the constitution, include matters related to mountains, mountaineering, and climbing in B.C. One of the club's great strengths is that it stays focused on this. Club members often become involved in other groups that in part forward the BCMC's goals, and the club sometimes supports or becomes a member of these groups, but they are usually secondary to the club's main goals, and the club avoids becoming directly involved.

The club is primarily a service organization, and most of its resources will always be used for activities such as the trip schedule, training for trip leaders, a variety of courses, socials, the website, a newsletter, and the journal. The club and its members tend to be self-

reliant, as befits mountaineers and climbers, but also works with others as needed. The club has from time to time belonged to other organizations, or contributed to projects that further the club's purposes. This policy sets limits on those memberships, donations, and project support.

Memberships, donations and project support in the past have included:

- Membership in the Mountain Access Committee (-1971).
- Membership in the Mountain Rescue Group (1950s - 1980).
- Membership (1971 -) in the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., at a current cost of \$12/member/year, or \$4,300. Historically this has been about 90% of the club's donation budget. The Federation is associated with Canada West Mountain School, and thus can assist our members. The Federation's main task is to serve as a backcountry recreation advocacy organisation which coordinate many outdoor recreation groups to maintain access to the mountains for non-motorized backcountry recreation. This includes representing our interests in land planning processes, and coordinating trail

building and maintainance.

- Membership (1996 -) in the Climbers' Access Society of B.C., \$50/year. The Society supports rock climbers, particularly to maintain access to, and to provide facilities for, rock climbing areas
 - Donations to the Canadian Avalanche Association. The Association maintains an informative website and promotes avalanche awareness.
 - Financing publication of A Climbers' Guide to the Squamish Chief (1980), A Guide to Climbing and Hiking in Southwest B.C. (1986), the Stein Valley Guide (1991), and the forthcoming Alpine Select and Squamish Chief guides (2001). The club earned considerable money(approx \$30,000)from royalties from 103 Hikes in Southwest B.C., and some money from the 1980 Squamish guide. We recouped our investment in, but lost money compared to the interest we could have obtained on this investment, on the 1986 Climbing and Hiking guide, but lost money (approx \$4000) on the Stein Valley guide.
 - Some donations to mountain rescue or mountain safety groups, where our members have directly benefited from their work, or in memory of club members. Several of our members belong to these groups of valuable volunteers.
 - Construction of several mountain huts (Seymour, Grouse, Himmelsbach, Mountain Lake, Batzer, Wedgemount Lake, Plummer, North Creek). Huts require regular maintenance which incurs ongoing costs and entails volunteer workers.
 - Donations to the Wilderness Education Program, John Clarke's very successful conservation project which is directed mainly at children, some of whom might become active in outdoors activities.
 - Some donations to help finance publication of leaflets or brochures supporting various causes to protect wilderness recreation areas.
- It is difficult to assess the effectiveness or benefit to the club of some of the donations listed above, but it is added that many of the recipients are volunteers.

General Principles

The following are recognized as general principles relating to this policy:

1. All memberships, donations and project support provided by the BCMC should further the interests of the club and its members in mountain access, mountain safety, mountain conservation, and mountain exploration. Memberships, donations and project support for other purposes should not be considered.
2. Demands on the BCMC for various purposes will always far exceed the club's resources, and it will always be necessary to choose between various priorities, based on value to members and return to the club. The 1998 members' survey may help in that regard, and surveys of this type can be initiated from time to time to assess members' preferences.
3. The club can best serve its members by staying focused on mountains, mountaineering, and climbing. There are innumerable organizations, projects, and activities in which the club has some general interest, but which are not directly relevant to the BCMC's goals. We might encourage members to support these, or offer non-financial support, but no more. We can't solve all the world's problems.
4. We must be forward looking. Our future is likely to be issue-specific alliances with land managers, other low impact recreationists, and moderate conservation groups. Radical environmental groups, commercial recreation, and motorized recreation are likely to be increasing threats.
5. There is a need for an application and reporting process, to keep track of who wants money, for what, and how it is used.

Specific Limitations

1. All memberships, donations, and project support must be taken from the club's operating budget, and must be considered secondary to the club's main goals.
2. The primary criteria are whether the activity is directly related to mountain safety, mountain conservation, mountain exploration, or mountain access, whether it advances the goals of the club and its members, and whether it is the most effective way to accomplish the goal in question.
3. The club's capital, and interest on the

capital, must only be used for memberships, donations or project support in unusual circumstances, after a special resolution before the whole membership. [Even for small (eg \$50) amounts]

4. All memberships, donations and project support must be publicized to members in the newsletter.
5. Memberships in and donations to other organizations must be subject to active participation by club members in them.
6. Ongoing memberships costing \$500/ year or more must be approved by ordinary resolution, at the time the membership begins and every five years thereafter.
7. Donations or project support costing \$1000 or more must be approved by ordinary resolution.
8. When a club member is injured or dies in the mountains, the club should consider making a donation to any volunteer mountain rescue group that assists. The total amount is at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
9. Money must not be used for publications unless there is a written agreement, and unless there is a reasonable prospect of the capital (at least) being returned.
10. All donations and project support should appropriately acknowledge the BCMC as a donor.

Mt. Binkert

The B.C. Mountaineering Club is very pleased to announce that a mountain in the Lillooet Icefields region has been officially named Mt. Binkert, after Paul Binkert. The new Mt. Binkert is a 2984 m summit on the west side of the Frank Smith Glacier. The announcement was recently made by Geographic Data BC.

Paul Binkert was an honorary member and the honorary president of the BCMC until his death in 1995. He was a member of the team which made the second, and first Canadian, ascent of Mt. Fairweather in 1958. He also climbed Mt. Waddington with a BCMC expedition in 1962, an early ascent of the mountain and the second Canadian. Paul contributed to the BCMC in many ways from the 1950s to the 1990s, especially in volunteer instruction of novices, and construction and maintenance of mountain trails. Many of the trails we now enjoy were created or maintained by Paul, and he was an inspiration to others in that role. The Binkert Trail, which leads to the Lions from Lions Bay, was named in his honour. Paul was also a notable sculptor, conservationist, and a man of principle.

Thanks to all who wrote in support of the application! Thanks also to Glenn Woodsworth for guidance in the application process.

Anders Ourom

An example of Paul Binkert's legacy



FOR SALE

A new (never been used) pair of Rossignol Bandit X (single X) downhill skis, 195 cm in length.

Price \$375.00

A pair of MRR marker racing bindings (used 10 times) for \$175.00

Price of skis and bindings if purchased together. \$499.00

Eric Hughes, ph 980-6484 or cellular 788-5365

NEWS

Skaha to become a park

From Access News no. 25 of the Climber's Access Society of B.C.

"Skaha Bluffs should become a class A provincial park by September. This is a result of the Okanagan Land and Resource Management Plan, and so should not be affected by the provincial election. CASBC has been working with Parks staff on determining the park's boundaries. The east boundary will be the bottom of the Grand Canyon, with a jog to the east rim to include the Belfry. Private land on the south, west and north sides will largely determine boundaries there. All areas in the current (1998) guide are within the park.

The Ministry of Parks and Environment (two sides of the same ministry) will closely monitor the new park for protection of wildlife values. This means that there may be restrictions on climbing in certain areas at certain times e.g. to protect mountain sheep habitat and breeding. A negotiating team including CASBC representatives (Sean Dougherty and Sheilagh Seaton), representatives of the Ministries of Forests, and Parks and Environment, and the local guide outfitter has been formed to work on the park management plan, including these issues. CASBC is working on drafting a management statement for the park. The ministries are impressed with climbers' self-management to date, but the management plan, and management generally, will be an ongoing matter. Management tools might include requiring permits for climbing in certain areas, or limiting the number of climbers/cars in the area at certain times. (178 cars in the lot on Easter Saturday, the most ever!)

The free camping area at Carmi, off Beaverdell Road, has been closed by the Ministry of Forests. "No camping" signs were posted, then disappeared. The out-house was removed."

Access to Suicide Bluffs is a problem

Again from Access News no. 25 -

"In early March, CASBC received a letter from the Ministry of Parks, informing us that unless its concerns were met, it would close the Suicide Bluffs climbing area at Nairn Falls Provincial Park, about 30 km north of Whistler. (Whistler Rockclimbs p. 130). Access was via an informal but sturdy cable crossing at a narrow point in Green River, which was within the park. Parks advised that it would remove the cable in April. Its concerns are -

1. Environment - The part of the park on the east side of the river is a rare ecosystem which could easily be disturbed. A blue-listed snake (rubber boa) may be in the talus, at the northern end of its range. If the bluffs remained open, a species/habitat assessment must be made, to show that climbing could co-exist with the area's ecological integrity. New route activity would likely be limited to existing areas.

2. Public safety - Several people have died in accidents at or below the falls, just downstream from the cable. Parks does not want increased human activity on the east side of the river, which is equally dangerous to the public, and would affect views.

3. Cable - The cable may be unsafe, especially for non-climbers, but any improvement would simply lead to higher climber, and perhaps tourist, visitation to the east side of the river. Parks could not identify a crossing method which was both safe and which by design discouraged use by non-climbers."

Recreation access zoning for the Golden area

Yet again from Access News no. 25 -

"This has been ongoing for a year and a half, and is intended to zone the entire Golden Timber Supply Area for recreational access. The process, and resulting zoning, will be a precedent for the rest of B.C. All user groups are involved, from wilderness mountaineers to rod & gun club to snowmobilers, a necessity as enforcement will largely be voluntary. Existing commercial tenures will not be affected, but the process will determine which area will be closed to

snowmobiling, open for all motorized access, or closed to access by air. The area includes the Clemenceau Icefield, many peaks on the west slopes of the Rockies, Mount Sir Sandford, the Adamants, etc. Climbers are represented by the Alpine Club of Canada, and somewhat by the Golden Outdoor Recreation Association. Commercial operators are also involved when their tenure areas are being discussed.

The entire area has now been zoned for summer and winter access by the stakeholder table. With a few exceptions, reasonable consensus was achieved. So far, there is consensus that much of the more remote mountain areas should be zoned for "irregular and infrequent aircraft access only". This would allow, for example, helicopter use by the A.C.C. for its general mountaineering camps. In the Clemenceau area, three landing zones spread out over a large area, with the expectation that they would be used infrequently. One helicopter company could live with this, the other

is concerned that this might lead to a permit system.

The last step will be to zone aerial access; this was postponed while mountain goat information was gathered. Some biologists believe that goats are being heavily affected by helicopter traffic, but some commercial users are skeptical. Alberta requires aircraft to maintain a 2 km distance from known concentrations of mountain goats, and it seems likely that this will be introduced in B.C. also, at least for commercial operators. One question is whether this should apply to informal groups flying in once or twice in a summer to climb. Those who favour wilderness mountaineering experiences are likely to feel that the zoning will support that experience, but there will be some restrictions compared to the old fly anywhere anytime regime. Given that any restrictions will largely be to support wildlife conservation, the mountaineering community will hopefully support them."

TRIP REPORTS

Skaha Lake (Penticton) Easter Weekend (Rock Climbing), 13-16 April, 2001

Rock Climbing - the word "rock" just makes us excited! One day we got to chatting about just that and thought, "Why couldn't we organize a trip to Skaha this year?" We had both been there before and just loved it! Also, we wanted to give back to the Club for all it has given to us. So, after a bit of consideration, we submitted our names for a trip on the Easter Weekend. But, when we actually saw our names on the schedule, we got a little nervous to say the least! "Hmm", we thought, we don't even lead and we are relatively new to rock climbing. How on earth did we imagine we could actually be in charge of a Rock Climbing Trip!" We called each other and confirmed our mutual nervousness then said, "Oh well! We've committed now so there's no turning back!"

As the time was drawing nearer, our worst fear was that our trip would get rained out! We waited in anxious anticipation for a change in the weather forecast, which by the way, was forecasting RAIN! We went to sleep Thursday night praying for sunshine! Arising

Friday at the crack of dawn, we were so happy to see clear skies and a sunny forecast! The rest was "up-hill" from here!

We ended up with approximately thirty members and friends who thoroughly enjoyed climbing under sunny skies the whole weekend. After climbing, many met for dinner at a local pub followed by socializing around campfires at the campground on Skaha Lake.

Doing this trip was a really positive experience. We got to meet new people (as well as connect with some we hadn't seen for a while) and we learnt some more about climbing (we both actually did our first sport lead - thanks Dave and Wendy Morriss)! And last but not least, Anders, we applaud you for organizing these trips by yourself in the past! It takes a lot of time!

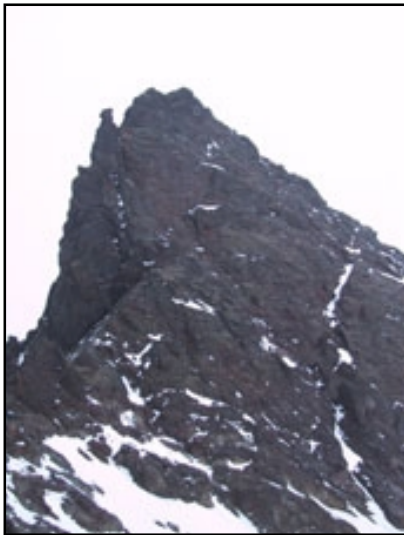
So, anyone thinking of organizing a trip to Skaha for Thanksgiving Weekend, do it! It's totally rewarding! We'll be there ~~ maybe even leading a couple of climbs!

Thanks to Cameron Long, Paul Drescher, Mark Visscher, Xander Botha, Cynthia and Howard Siemens, Alison Cerney, Anders Ourom, Cathy Proenza, Brian Kuchinka, Brenda Lomax and friends, Wendy and Dave Morriss, Marcia Collier, Ric Bedry, David Scanlon, Brian Cashin and family, Russell March, Brian Pegg, Andrew Dunlop and friend Steven, and Jeff Rabinovitch for making it such a great weekend.

Donna Bailie and Mirella Lioce (organizers and reporters)

Foley Peak, 16 June, 2001

A strong looking group of 10 of us set off from the trailhead up the clearcut below Williamson Lake at 9:30 in the morning. The logging road now takes you to within an hour and a half of the lake in a high-clearance vehicle. Sure enough, by 11 am we reached the lake to find Mark waiting to join us. He had set off early, despite having to hike up most of the logging road. On the drive up the road, we had passed two guys out for a day hike. Otherwise, we had the area to ourselves. The weather was looking mixed with the sun coming out occasionally.



South Face of Foley Pk. Photo - Rhys Gibb.

From the still-frozen lake, we pushed up the snow to the col between Welch and Foley where the clouds had socked in again. They cleared just enough for us to have a look at the daunting summit of Foley. When the peak was pointed out to the group, the general reaction was "We're going to climb *that*???". The peak looks like a very daunting spire from the col. I had hoped that this view would scare a few people off, making for a more manageable number. No such luck – these people were all keen to go.

We continued our way up and over the southwest ridge to a spot where we should have had a clear view of our route up the south face. However, the clouds had rolled in again, blocking our view. We decided to wait a bit until we could see the face and pick out a route. Sure enough, within 10 minutes the clouds parted and we were able to pick out a nice line up a diagonal gully and ledge system up the south face to the southeast ridge. Seeing our route, we quickly and excitedly donned our harnesses and helmets and headed off. John decided that exploring the sub-peaks of the southwest ridge would be sufficient for him so he wished us luck and went his own way.

The chosen route proved to be a fairly common selection as evidenced by a few slings on the way. We used a rope once on the way up where a couple of people felt uncomfortable. The bigger danger was the rock-fall. Loose rocks abound on Foley. Knocking them loose was almost inevitable. We minimized the danger by staying close together, not giving the rocks a chance to gain their whirring momentum before they struck their next victim. Nonetheless, a few of us thanked our helmets by the time we got to the top. Ten people on a loose rubble pile is about 8 too many. But by 2:30, all 10 of us had reached the summit. We noted from the summit register that only 3 other parties had signed in since Greg Hamilton's successful BCMC trip in July of 1998. Not a very popular summit – must be the loose rock!

At 3 pm we headed down. The way down proved to be a little more challenging so we broke out the ropes.

We managed with 2 rappels, one short and one long. The second rappel was a spectacular 2-rope rappel down a 45 m section of 70 degree slab to regain the snow at the base of the south face. One and a half metres of rope to spare at the bottom. During this rappel, it began to snow heavily. By 6 pm, however, we were all safely back on the snow below the south face.

After meeting up with John back at the col, we headed for the trucks at warp speed, the highlight of the descent being the spectacular 500 m glissade from the col to the lake. An hour and a half to get up this section, 10 minutes down! We reached the trucks at 7:30, tired but contented. Off to the pub!

Participants: Marian Jans, Jody Andrews, Darryl Malby, Peter Gaskill, John Sapac, Tony Taccone, Jesse Mason, Rob West, Julien Henley, Mark Burgoine and Rhys Gibb (Organizer and reporter).

Lynn Peak, 9 June, 2001

It was with some concern that I proceeded with the trip to Lynn Peak. My first concern was from a thunder and lightning storm that hit the Lower Mainland hard the previous evening. The North Shore was hit the hardest. By morning the sky cleared up a bit so the trip was a go.

My other concern arose from a previous trip up Lynn Peak this year. That trip was early in the morning on a bright Saturday shortly after the public announcement of the closing of the Grouse Grind. Upon reaching the open bluff, which falsely represents the Lynn Peak summit, we were greeted by over 30 lurching hikers and tourists.

Our group met at the Lynn Headwaters Overflow Lot #2 and we were on the trail by 9:15am. We re-evaluated the weather at this point. It was cold and windy, but dry and I was sure that this would at least keep the fairweather hikers off the trail. Everyone in our group had rain gear anyway.

Along the trail there was evidence of the previous nights' storm. The topsoil was eroded from much of

the trail and a few new windfalls added some interest to this normally clear trail. The Enchanted Forest looked beautiful as the sun weaved its way through it (my favourite part of the trail). We had a short break at Blimp Lookout and took in the views of Mount Seymour and Mount Elsay.

We reached the peak by 11am and thankfully we were not greeted by a large group of tourists. The blustery weather did provide us with some superb views of the Seymour Valley and unlimited visibility toward the Lower Mainland and beyond.

A quick snack at the top and we were back on the trail in order to get the group warmed up again. Mickey said it rained a bit on the way down, but I never noticed it. We arrived back at the parking lot shortly after 1pm. The rain stayed away and the cool weather worked in our favour.

Participants: Marta Fechete, Mickey Holloway, Alan Isemonger, Marie Jones and Nikki Ducharme (Organizer and reporter)

Comment: Lynn Peak used to be a good training peak and a great alternative to the Grouse Grind crowds and fanfare. The first time I went up Lynn peak I didn't see another human being for the whole hike. Those days are gone. With the closure of the Grind, Lynn Peak is now attracting crowds of hikers and it no longer is the hidden jewel it used to be. It's time the GVRD lifted its closure of the Grouse Grind so Lynn Peak can go back to being parkland and not become the outdoor treadmill that the Grouse Grind so typically represents.

Mt. Artaban, Gambier Island, 10 June, 2001

Despite the steady downpour on Sunday morning, 14 weatherproof enthusiasts congregated at the Government dock in Horseshoe Bay for a civilized 10:30 a.m. departure to Gambier Island. Mercury Marine whisked us away in timely fashion to Halkett Bay Marine Park, promising to return at 5 p.m. Were we all being optimists, or was the sky really brighter over there, above the persistent precipitation?



The party on the summit of Mt. Artaban. Photo - Michelle Martineau collection.

At this point, we ascertained that it was indeed an exploratory expedition, as none of us had ever hiked the trail before. However, with the legendary author Jack among us, as well as the legendary mountaineer Dick, we were in the best of hands. We plodded off in various directions, eventually fixing on the most well-marked trail, which turned out to be the right one. Jack kindly rushed ahead to make sure the summit was intact and shoo the clouds away, so that when the rest of us arrived, we could enjoy dry sandwiches. This also meant that we didn't have to try and shelter under the forest service fire look-out hut, which was just as well, since it had collapsed and burnt some time previously.

Not only did the rain stop on top, but we even got a bit of a view westwards to the lower stretches of the Sea-to Sky and had enough light for a summit shot.

It was then politely brought to my attention that we

would hardly need four hours to descend, as it had only taken two to ascend. So with the help of Dick's cell phone, we managed to re-schedule the boat for 3:30 pm. This resulted in some stragglers almost being left on the island, but a 5-minute reprieve by the ferryman combined with anxious hallooing into the woods had them running to the dock in the nick of time. The bonus of this arrangement, of course, was that we could enjoy unrushed drinks in Trolls and still get home for dinner!

Participants: Karen Backmann, Liz Ball, Jack Bryceland, Ruth Caldwell, Dick Culbert, Jenny Faulkner, Helen Habgood, Susan Karovitch, Pam Krannitz, Stefan Langford, David Parna, John Sapac, Serena Sawyer and Michelle Martineau (Organizer and reporter).