



THE B.C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2001

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South side of Mt. Shuksan. Photo – B. Hansen

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HONORARY PRESIDENTS – Esther and Martin Kafer

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CABIN & TRAILS - GREG HAMILTON	739-7555
CONSERVATION - BRIAN WOOD	222-1541
MONICA BITTEL	983-3097
SUMMER CAMP – DAVID SCANLON	464-3730
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EQUIPMENT - PAUL KUBIK	876-0764
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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, 13 March – Entertainment will be a slide show by Robert Nugent on rock climbing at Yosemite, Squamish, and possibly Scotland. We will also feature **YOU** writing letters supporting the creation of non-motorized recreation zones within the Squamish Forest District.

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

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	
March 3-4: Sky Pilot Mtn. Skiing and rock climbing above Howe Sound.	B3(4)/2025 m	Monika Bittel	983-3097
March 3-4: Duffey Lake area Easy skiing off the Duffey Lake road. Joint trip with the ACC.	B2	Liz Ball	879-4648
March 3-4: Ipsoot Mtn. Fine extended skiing west of Pemberton.	C3/2590 m	Nana Zolbrod	737-9889
March 3-4: Cirque Pk. area Skiing north of the Duffey Lake road.	B3	Eric Hughes	980-6484
March 10: Cloudburst Mtn. Extended skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.	C3/1870 m	Bill Wright	985-1279
March 10: Mt. Rohr Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	C2-3/2440 m	Margaret and Brian Ellis	266-6591
March 10-11: Squamish-Whistler area Skiing somewhere. Contact the organizer for more details.	C3	Anders Ourom	228-1798
March 11: Knight Pk. Extended skiing in the Chilliwack valley area.	C3/2237 m	Phil Kubik	266-5873
March 11: Mt. Seymour Easy skiing above North Vancouver.	A2/1450 m	Pat Crean	986-5622
March 17-18: Wedge Mtn. Extended ski trip in Garibaldi park, approaching via Rethel Ck.	C3(4)/2904 m	Jordan Peters	987-0635
March 17-18: Mt. Rohr Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B2-3/2440 m	Margaret Hanson	736-6397
March 24: Mt. Seymour area (snowshoe) Snowshoeing above North Vancouver.	B	Michele Davidson	254-4212
March 24-25: Diamond Head area Easy skiing in Garibaldi park.	B2	Peter Parrota	552-1447
March 24-25: Mt. Marriott area Skiing off the Duffey Lake road, if the organizer is in the vicinity.	B3	Brian Wood	222-1541
March 24-25: Ossa Mtn. Skiing in the Ashlu valley.	B3/2260 m	Nancy Henderson	435-5613
March 25: Cloudburst Mtn.	C3/1870 m	Peter Gumplinger	733-8264

Skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide, approaching the Squamish R.			
March 25: Mt. Seymour	A2/1450 m	Pat Crean	986-5622
Easy skiing above North Vancouver.			
March 31: Stawamus Chief (hike)	A2/650 m	Mirella Lioce	736-5079
Hiking the 3 peaks above Squamish.			
March 31-April 1: Mt. Breakenridge	B3/2385 m	Jos van der Burg	463-7582
Skiing east of Harrison Lake.			
March 31-April 1: Caspar Ck. area	B3	Evelyn Feller	270-4050
Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.			
April 7-8: Rhododendron Mtn.	C3/2530 m	Murray Lashmar	732-8184
Skiing west of Pemberton.			
April 7-8: Mamquam Mtn.	C3/2595 m	Mike Peel	444-4068
Skiing east of Squamish.			
April 8: Mt. Seymour	A2	Pat Crean	986-5622
Easy skiing above North Vancouver.			
April 8: Deeks Pk. (snowshoe)	B-C	Jean Lederer	733-1322
Snowshoeing above Howe Sound, snow permitting.			
April 13-15: Garibaldi N�v� traverse	C3	Lesli Cowan	321-9955
Classic ski traverse around Mt. Garibaldi in Garibaldi park.			
April 13-16: Mt. Samson traverse	C3/2800 m	David Hughes	980-6484
Skiing from Railroad Pass to North Ck. in the upper Lillooet valley.			
April 13-16: North Ck.	B3	Michael Feller	270-4050
Skiing in the upper Lillooet valley. Access may be by helicopter.			

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 1:50,000 map 92J/13 - Stanley Smith Glacier) at about 1800m elevation. Access will be by helicopter to and 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 464-3930.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Stein valley and B.C. Parks

Rob Enns, an Area Supervisor from B.C. Parks in Kamloops writes -

"A copy of the BCMC January newsletter was forwarded to me by a club member, with a pointer to your response to Michele Davidson's letter. Although I am not familiar with anything going on in Mount Robson, I am involved in managing the Stein Valley, and would like to provide you with some better information on the situation there.

The Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is managed under the Park Act, and the Cooperative Management Agreement is very clear when it states "The Lytton First Nation acknowledges, for the purposes of this Agreement, that the Park will be managed and administered under the Park Act, R.S.B.C. 1979, c.309, and accompanying regulations". The Cooperative Management Agreement signed by the provincial government and the Lytton First Nation (LFN) in 1995 lays out the relationship between the two parties and gives the LFN an equal voice in management of the Stein Valley. The associated sub-agreements are appendices to the main agreement, and to a large extent have been superseded by the recently signed Park Management Plan. For example, the hut-to-hut hiking opportunity contemplated in the Tourism Sub-agreement is now a non-issue because the zoning now agreed to does not allow for any such activity west of Cottonwood Creek.

Local natives can carry on special, non-commercial activities such as cutting individual trees for ceremonial purposes, berry picking or harvesting medicinal plants in provincial parks. These are rights (not just perceived) that were confirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada so as a land management agency, BC Parks abides by that decision (as must we all as responsible, law abiding citizens).

Commercial activities within the park can only be carried on under the authority of a Park Use Permit (PUP), which sets out conditions which the company (regardless of who operates that company) must adhere to. These conditions can range from limits on numbers of clients, timing of trips, areas of the park that can be used, bans on open fires, packing out garbage, etc. At this point in time we have issued 3 recreational PUP's in the Stein, 2 for guided hiking and 1 for river rafting. No native group or company has yet applied for or received a PUP for a commercial recreational activity in the Stein.

BC Parks and the Lytton First Nation have a very cooperative and productive relationship. We've worked hard over the last 5 years to find funding to repair trails in the Stein for recreational users such as the BCMC, completing projects such as:

- * Cutting deadfalls and brushing back the lower Stein trails (30 km from trail head to Cottonwood Creek)
- * Installing a bear proof food cache and a pit toilet at 8 camping spots in the lower valley
- * Constructing creek crossings in the lower valley
- * Completely reconstructing the cable car platforms at the lower cable crossing, rebuilding the car and replacing the car pulleys and pull rope
- * Cutting all the deadfall off the trail in the mid-Stein (Cottonwood Creek to Stein Lake) and remarking the trail (completed in October/November, 2000)
- * Repairing the two cable crossings in the mid-Stein

- * Brushing out several old helicopter pads in the mid and lower Stein for use as emergency evacuation sites
- * Producing informational and interpretive signs for trail heads

If any BCMC club members would like further information on Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, I'd encourage you to call our Kamloops office at (250) 851-3000 or email me at Rob.Enns@gems4.gov.bc.ca."

Editor's Comment –

While it does appear that some non-native input on management of the Stein was listened to, the Stein park management plan, released last year, is still strongly biased towards First Nations interests. For example, 1) the 40 lines that describe the background to the park contain 23 lines devoted to First Nations issues. Not once is the FMCBC mentioned and the FMCBC's critical role in preventing logging of the valley is ignored with the statement "Historically, advocacy during the 1970's resulted in a two-year development moratorium to study management options for the Stein and the formation of the first of many environmental coalitions for preserving the watershed". This is simply a misrepresentation of history. It was the 9 year tenure of the Stein Public Liaison Committee, which prevented a mining access road with associated logging being cut through the middle of the Stein and which was the result of FMCBC lobbying, that allowed the Stein to be protected. Attempts by the LFN to assist logging of the valley are also ignored.

- 2) Of the 47 pages of text in the plan, approximately one third is devoted to First Nations issues.
 - 3) Hunting is allowed throughout the park, even in its "Wilderness Conservation" zone, which contradicts B.C. Parks policy on permissible activities in a Wilderness Conservation zone.
 - 4) Portions of the lower half of the Stein valley are "cultural heritage zones" to which access by non-natives may be denied at times.
 - 5) The management plan states "Aboriginal rights are inherent, not granted rights. In addition, they are constitutionally protected and take precedence over the privileges of non-aboriginals".
- If this last statement doesn't convince a non-aboriginal that he/she is a second class citizen in the Stein, nothing will.

MEETINGS/EVENTS OF INTEREST

Vancouver Telemark Festival -- Saturday, March 3, 2001

The West Coast's first Telemark festival brings to you the many aspects of telemark skiing all in one great venue at Mt. Seymour. Spend this day dedicated to the telemark faithful. It's an on-snow party celebrating free heel skiing.

SKIING – CANSI (Canadian Association of Nordic Ski Instructors) certified telemark instructors from Sigge's ski school. Exclusive telemark workshops for all levels of skiers including first timers! Work on your tele in bumps, short radius turns, steeps and carving techniques. **Special guest Janecke Grosse – Norwegian National Ski Team Coach.**

SAFETY – A hands on approach to learning more about avalanche safety with staff from Canada West Mountain School.

GEAR – Thought about buying new gear? Test drive a selection of the latest telemark skis and boots from Sigge's Sport Villa and the Mountain Equipment Co-op. Local binding manufacturer G3 (Genuine Guide Gear) products are also featured.

Makers of the Intuition boot liner will be on hand to fit your existing tele boots. The liner is an after-market liner reducing weight and is so warm for lift skiing and back country tours that your feet won't believe it!

SKI FAST – Test your racing skills. Go head to head against another skier and the clock. Prizes for fastest overall times.

JUST FOR FUN – A ski demonstration features a mix of traditional and modern telemark ski techniques and costumes. The demo will highlight for spectators the versatility and grace characteristic of the telemark turn. Featuring provincial CANSI Telemark Instructors and friends.

Prizes for best costume – go retro or traditional!! Vikings welcome!! Prizes for creatively dressed skiers.

The Festival Programme

9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Registration
9:00 – 2:00	- Ski Improvement clinics with Sigge's Ski School and CANSI - Avalanche Clinic with Canada West Mountain School - Telemark gear demos courtesy Sigge's, Mountain Equipment Co-op, and G3
2:00 – 3:00	Telemark Race
3:00 – 3:30	Telemark Skiing Demonstration
4:00 pm	Social Awards and Door Prizes

Festival Pass is \$30 and includes:

All Mountain Lift pass; Learn to ski or ski improvement session; Avalanche clinic session; Citizens race; Access to telemark gear demos; and Telemark demonstration

- Instant entry for door prizes generously donated by our sponsors
- Fee for Mt. Seymour Season Pass Holders is \$10.

For further information – call the festival organizer at 604-879-1058 or visit the website – www.coastmag.com/telemark/index.html

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Coliseum, 1 October, 2000

At 7.30 am 5 people met in the parking lot at the Seymour demonstration forest for a 9 km bike ride up the parkway. The use of the bikes discouraged some people from joining the trip, but I believe it is the fastest way of attaining Coliseum.

At the km 9 marker we turned left onto a logging road which we followed for several hundred meters to just before where a dried up creek bed crosses the road. That is where we stashed the bikes and picked up the trail to the right of the creek bed. It is not marked in any way because the GVRD discourages its use any way they can. The trail is fairly easy to follow (as long as everybody keeps using the same path) by the trampled dirt. No markers were left in place up to the rocky knoll while 4 months ago there were still quite a few left from halfway on upwards. The trail is fairly steep to the 1000-m knoll. You drop off the west side of the knoll for 50 m or so and start going back up again towards Coliseum. From the knoll to Coliseum there was flagging we could follow, which was helpful. Just below the bluffs of the north side of Coliseum we crossed a boulder field along the eastern edge of the bluffs and in a 100 or so meters picked up the trail coming in from Norvan pass. We followed it to the summit and in less than a half an hour we were there. It took us approx. 4 hours from the cars to the summit. That left time to go over and do Burwell as well. 45 minutes later it was in the bag. We headed back to Coliseum to pick up our gear and Jane, who had had a snooze on the summit. On the way down we picked up two more people at the junction of the two trails. Ex-club member Russ and Karen did not want to go back down the Lynn Valley trail and joined us. How they were

going to get back to their cars was a bit of a mystery but I guess they were hoping to catch a ride with one of the few cars that come down that road.

The trip down was uneventful and at 5.45 pm we were back at the bikes. As we headed down the road pity struck us and we offered Russ and Karen a ride as there were no cars coming down the road. Don took Karen on his luggage carrier and Michelle switched bikes with Jane. Russ then took Jane on the luggage carrier of Michelle's bike and Marco and I took an extra daypack each to complete the fun. We managed to pull it off with some discomfort and 45 min. later we were back at the cars. It had been a good day enjoyed by all.

Participants: Don Cann, Jane Weller, Marco Iucolino, Michelle Martineau and Jos van der Burg. (Organizer and reporter)

Threading the Needle, 14 January, 2001

The advertised destination was the Coquihalla area. Jeff advised Needle Peak as the best alternative, given high avalanche hazard and grey, snowy weather. We parked in the Highways lot on the south side of the highway ("Do Not Enter"), and set out into the forest. Several other BCMCers appeared, as a self-contained unit. There were tracks - skis, snowshoes, foot, dog - everywhere.

Eventually we arrived at Needle Point, a nondescript bump on the ridge. We knit our brows, and Jeff had us in stitches. A group of 13 (!) ESL students, with one instructor, had camped on the ridge overnight, and were ahead of us on the way to the summit. Most came from warm countries, and it was their first experience of snow, winter camping, and mountaineering. Glad I wasn't the instructor. Sooner can a camel pass through the eye of a needle than an instructor safely look after 13 novices. We followed their tracks onward and upward. John very kindly took a long lunch break and waited.

The upper ridge was icy class 3-4. Amazing that all the students made it up and down safely. I'm not embroidering this, or trying to pull wool over your eyes. It was a bit scary. At times, Jeff thought things were hanging by a thread. Eventually, we got to the tippy top, and it was sewn up. We also conclusively proved that mountaineers don't do it for the view. There wasn't any.

We had a pleasant descent, and were home by 7:30.

Participants: Jeff Rabinovitch, John Kirbyson, and Anders Ourom (Organizer and reporter).
Others nearby: Michael Coyle, Caroline Cheung, four others, and a dog.

Lillooet Ice Festival, 19-21 January, 2001

The first Lillooet ice festival saw about 180 climbers in the area for the weekend, mostly at various motels. Conditions were reasonable - just below freezing, with fairly soft ice, although a bit wet at times. There were socials both evenings, lots of noise, door prizes, slide shows, technique clinics both days, demonstration tools, and other events. Not bad for \$25, eh?

It wasn't an official BCMC trip, but the club was a co-sponsor. Over 20 BCMC members and associates were sighted in the area over the weekend, including Arnie Wilson, Monica Durigon, Kathy Banks, Paul Miller, John Grant, Elizabeth Grant, Tamara Grottker, Margaret Hanson, Jeff Rabinovitch, Marcus Dell, Colin Wooldridge, Jack Pals, Gilles Vandenbeuck, Carol Kucel, Leslee Probasco, Robert Nugent, Shirley Rempel, Dawn Mehain, Anders Ourom, and maybe a few others. Kit Griffin and Dave Morriss had a last minute car breakdown, but were present in spirit anyway!

Anders Ourom (reporter).

Snass Mountain, 20-21 January, 2001

What to expect – was the big question before the trip got started. With the unusually low snow pack (compared to the previous years) and the higher than average avalanche danger we were in for a few uncertainties. Even with a less than stellar forecast and the unknowns, 11 participants signed up. For a while it looked like it was going to be 3 of us, but a flurry of phone calls late Thursday and early Friday brought the numbers up quickly.

In the parking lot at Snass creek, there were about 30 to 50 cm of snow. Not a lot to cover up the trail but there had to be more higher up. We left the cars shortly before 10 am and travelled the first 3 km, on fairly level ground, quickly. Then we took the Whatcom Trail branch, crossed the creek, and started going up fairly steeply at first and levelling off somewhat once in the valley. The trail was icy and in a few spots there was bare dirt. Already some were concerned about coming down the next day. What was worse was that the snow depth was not increasing very much. About 2/3 of the way up there were several avalanche paths to be crossed with slide alder and small dense trees for the real coastal experience. Normally they would be fairly well covered, but not this time. After struggling through this we started to climb up to the pass above Punchbowl Lake. That was where we started to encounter the wind from the approaching storm. But we found a sheltered spot in amongst some trees and at 3 pm the tents were set up.

Time to do some skiing. We went through the pass and climbed part of the way up the west ridge of Snass where we found a challenging run through some small trees and bowls down to the lake. Snow conditions were surprisingly stable. No whoomping or fresh debris was observed. We skied down in better than expected snow. After climbing back up to camp it was time to settle down and start cooking as the daylight was fading fast. In the communal kitchen there was time for discussion over the roar of some stoves. It was also decided to give Snass a try on its north slopes, weather and snow conditions permitting.

After an early night it was up for most at 7.30 am. It was snowing lightly but visibility was good and the wind had died down. Up and away by 9 am, we traversed the north side of Snass to where the old moraine meets the bowl below Snazzy. There an obvious route up a couloir becomes visible. This takes you almost directly to the summit. At its steepest one encounters about a 40-degree incline near the top in the couloir. We carried our skis up the last 70 m and walked the rest of the way to the summit, where we arrived at about 11 am. The light snow and mist obscured the views but we could see down to the valleys below.

But it was the ski down that we were really interested in. The first few down the couloir cleared all the fresh snow and the little sloughs running down with every turn made it difficult to judge your speed. But not a bad ski and the run down to the lake was great. Definitely the highlight of the trip. That was enough for some and they headed back to camp for tea and soup, but others went for another run.

After packing up it was time to face the trail. The fresh snow helped in improving the glide somewhat, but it didn't help in the slide paths. We thrashed our way through those. With careful turns, side stepping and carrying skis in one place, everybody made it down the trail safe and sound. Even though 3 groups left at different times we all ended up at the cars at the same time. Good planning – and just before dark too.

Not a bad weekend to spend in the mountains with a great group of people. A stop at the Home restaurant in Hope concluded the weekend.

Participants: Greg Stoltmann, Todd Ponzini, Cynthia Neale, Darren Quist, Tammie Sibbald, Trevor Lumley, Mark Obsniuk, Rich Martin, Mike Peel, Chris Lambeck and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter).