

# BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2001

VOL. 79 NO. 9



### 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 November** - The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**. Entertainment will be provided by your executive as well as by Margaret Hanson, who will give the rescheduled slide show on trekking in Bhutan.

**Tuesday, 11 December** - Entertainment will be a slide show by Dave Hughes on this year's summer expedition camp to the Ape Lake area.

Crossing a crevasse below the N ridge of Wedge



Bhutan, yet again.



**HONORARY PRESIDENTS** - Esther and Martin Kafer

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> - DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484	<b>CABIN / TRAILS</b> - GREG HAMILTON	604-984-6800
<b>PAST-PRESIDENT</b> - ANDERS OUROM	604-228-1798	<b>CONSERVATION</b> -	
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> - KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
<b>SECRETARY</b> - MIRELLA LIOCE	604-736-5079	MONICA BITTEL	604-983-3097
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<b>MEMBERSHIP/MAILING</b> -	604-268-9502	<b>WEBMASTER</b> - MICHAEL McCRAE	604- 326-0156
NANCY HENDERSON		<b>EDITOR</b> - MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
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TAMMIE SIBBALD		<b>EQUIPMENT</b> - PAUL KUBIK	604-876-0764
<b>SOCIALS</b> - DARRYL MALBY	604-709-0051	<b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT</b> -	
DONNA BAILIE	604-572-5051	GREG HAMILTON	604-739-7555
<b>CLIMBING</b> - MARGARET HANSON	604-736-6397	<b>LIBRARY</b> - GEORGE HAMILTON	604- 988-1888
KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462		

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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](mailto: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. All phone number begin with 604 - unless indicated otherwise.

**ORGANIZER**

**November 3:** Sigurd/Pokosha area                      B2                      Paul Kubik                      604-876-0764  
 Trail clearing in the Ashlu valley area. Another chance to help maintain our trails. If you use trails you should help to maintain them.

<b>November 3:</b> Petgill Lake Hiking above Howe Sound. Joint trip with ACC.	B2	Pam Krannitz	604-946-9942
<b>November 17-18:</b> Vantage (rock) Rock climbing in NE Washington.	A5	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
<b>November 25:</b> Cliffhanger (rock/ice) Gym training for ice climbing.	A5	Kit Griffin	604-736-8462
<b>December 1-2:</b> Mystery trip (ski) Skiing somewhere, depending on snow conditions. Contact the organizer for further information.	B-C2	Todd Ponzini	604-983-2612
<b>December 2:</b> Lawson/MacDonald/Nelson Ck. area Hiking around West Vancouver with a newlywed.	B2	John Clark	604-742-2390

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members

#### The club welcomes the following new members:

Junior - Colleen McGhee

Associate - Silvan Beeler, John Blown, Tom Carter, Amanda Church, Jim Eaton, Katherine Hobbs, Philip Ibis, Ondrej Mecl, Kuhan Milroy, Michele Minarik, Denise Philippe, Nicole Ranger, Matthew Smart, Sonya Tomin

should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying the October newsletter, read and sign the waiver on the reverse side, then send the form with the appropriate dues to the club. Membership dues are

Single	\$40	Junior	\$20
Couples	\$60	Life	\$800

### Membership fees for 2001/2002 are now due.

Membership fees for 2000/2002 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, **THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE.** You

### What club members are doing - the Ruck-sack

The club congratulates Anna and Jeff Driedger on the recent birth of their son, Logan Joshua.

## BCMC CLUB NEWS

### Articles wanted for the 2002 BC Mountaineer

It's that time of year again, when you have time to sit down and write that article on a more interesting, different, exotic, or intrepid trip for next year's B.C. Mountaineer. Articles plus photos or figures are wanted by 31 January.

membership purposes if so endorsed by the instructional program organizer.

### Trip organizer/Active member policies

At their October meeting, your executive considered the issue of trip organizers and their membership status. The long standing policy that only active members can be trip organizers was reaffirmed.

To facilitate this -

- 1) A large number of associate members who have been club members for 2 years or more, were raised to active member status.
- 2) A new policy concerning instruction courses was approved. This policy states that club instructional programs can be considered as one club trip for active

### More trails adopted by the club

The executive recently decided that the club should adopt the Sigurd Ck. and Salal Ck. trails, both of which are threatened by logging. These trails join the Lions and North Ck. trails as ones for which the club has assumed maintenance responsibility.

### Special social meeting - advance notice

***The January social of the club, to be held at an appropriate venue, will feature Vance Culbert giving a slide show on the recently completed first traverse of the entire length of the Coast Mountains in B.C., from Pitt River to Alaska. Not to be missed.***

### **To Climb Mt. Kenya**

*Anna and Jeff Driedger climbed Mt. Kenya during the summer of 2000. They had some absolutely fabulous guides and porters, and Anna would like to help them get more business from other Canadian climbers. She would be happy to help anyone who is interested in climbing (non roped) Mt. Kenya and getting them in contact with our guides via e-mail. She has a map as well. Anna can be contacted at 604-879-2830 or by email at [annacmoose@aol.com](mailto:annacmoose@aol.com)*

## **REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

"Prior to the elections, the various officers of the club presented their annual reports. John Booth reviewed the year's activities and stressed the added publicity for which the Membership Committee has been largely responsible. He recommended that this effort be continued. He also suggested that the climbing committee could extend its work beyond planning a schedule of climbs. He recommended the compilation of information and maps, the exploration of new areas and more lectures on mountains and mountaineering. He thought the club could associate itself more closely with the provincial and national geographic boards.

The Treasurer, Fred Smith, reported an excess of income over expenses of \$252.07 for the year, but as this included two life memberships at \$50.00 each, the actual surplus is about the same as last year. He also reported that 24 members had not paid their dues for 1951. This was a slight increase over 1949-50.

The Editor, R.A. Pilkington, spoke briefly and pointed out that the absence of articles from the Natural History section and the cancellation of a number of trips had brought about a change in the content of "The Mountaineer".

Ian Kay, Chairman of the Climbing Committee, gave a statistical recapitulation of the year's trips. Out of 28 trips planned for the year seven were cancelled because of the forest closure and other reasons and three have not yet

taken place. Of the eighteen so far completed, sixteen reached their objective and in two cases the parties were forced to turn back before reaching the summit. Most persistent climbers were Doris Rose and Mary Willis with thirteen trips each. Two instructional classes in snow and ice climbing were well attended, but not in every case by those who could profit most by them. Average attendance on the trips was ten per cent higher than last year.

Dick Chambers, reporting on the work of the Cabin Committee, said that a great deal of work had been done in and about the two cabins, but no major task had been undertaken. An album of square-dance records had been placed in the Seymour Cabin and an electric fence had been set up to exclude the local bear. The stove problem at the Grouse Cabin has not been solved.

The stove situation aroused the only lively discussion of the evening when the anti-stovers, led by Les Ford, set forth a long list of the iron monster's shortcomings. The monster had its defender's, who claimed that, once one had acquired the knack of manipulating the thing, there was no further difficulty. The discussion subsided when President Booth announced that he would see that something was done to get a new stove.

Mary Willis, Chairman of the Membership Committee, produced some vital statistics. In 1951 fourteen new members joined, including four Juniors. There were four resignations and one death, leaving a total of 189. She outlined the efforts of the committee to get new members, including publicity for the club by notice boards and lectures. She asked active members to attend some of the minor trips where they could meet prospective members and make them feel welcome.

For the Social Committee, Agnes Patterson reported that seven social events were held, as well as dinners at the Work Bees, and a net profit of \$21.51 had been realized, although the committee's aim was to do no more than break even financially. Attendance at the various affairs had been good."

Taken from the B.C. Mountaineer, November, 1951  
- 50 YEARS AGO.

## INSECTS

"Insects are an act of God.  
They can't be gee'ed and they can't be hawed.  
No, you can't haw'em and you can't gee'em.  
And that, my friend, rhymes with noseum.

This short verse, full of the argot of the dog-drivers, brings the tang of the wide open spaces, and is a welcome means of filling the wide open spaces in this publication. However, while we have nothing but praise for the literary merit of our unknown contributor, we feel that we must question the accuracy of the factual statement so poetically set forth.

We referred the matter to the celebrated alpinist and explorer, Dan Weatherby, and his comments are as follows:

"While it may be true that noseums have never been so employed, nevertheless, I, for one, have hitched giant Alaskan mosquitos to my sled where they substituted very effectively for malamutes. They both gee'ed and hawed quite readily, but I found them utterly indifferent to the command "mush" This was probably because, due to their carnivorous nature, oatmeal did not appeal to them. By substituting the work "blood" or "Bovril", I was able to make them throw themselves into the traces with the greatest enthusiasm".

(B.C. Mountaineer, November 1951)

## TRIP REPORTS

### Trip Report – Gentian Peak, Castle Towers and Corrie Peak, 30 June – 2 July, 2001

Despite receiving more than 30 telephone calls about this trip, only 8 hardy souls started off from the Rubble Creek parking lot at 9:20 on Saturday morning. We had a keen and fit group, with 3 new members out on their very first



Castle Towers Mtn. Photo - Rhys Gibb

club trip. What a great choice for their first trip! The weather looked perfect for the entire weekend.

The grunt from the parking lot to the top of Gentian Ridge made for a long first day. We got into the snow from



Rhys and party on Castle Towers. Photo - Rhys Gibb collection.

Taylor meadows onwards. A couple of other small parties were in the area, but after leaving Panorama Ridge, we had the great outdoors to ourselves. At the top of Gentian Ridge we were glad to drop our packs and quickly scramble up easy Gentian Peak. One out of three peaks in the bag! After retrieving our packs, we set up camp in Gentian Pass 150 m below the ridge. Gentian Pass is a great campsite with lots of running water and great views of Castle Towers, Garibaldi, the Table, as well as the Spearhead Range. Starting out the next morning, we were surprised to be joined by a couple of skiers who had camped on the ridge the previ

ous night. The snow was a little crusty and sparse for them, but what can you expect in July?

We found a nice, easy route up the west ridge to the top of the first tower. The gap between this west tower and the central tower is impressive and daunting. Maybe that's why the summit register is there instead of on the central tower which is about 45 m higher. A couple of people in our party and the skiers decided that the first tower was a sufficient destination and decided to just enjoy the views while the remaining 6 of us pressed on.

Getting down to the bottom of the gap from the first tower was a little challenging as we had to kick out the snow to find the slippery steps in the rocks. Once on the main tower, the way proved easier until just below the summit. A 5 m rock wall can normally be turned on the climber's left but this way was covered in very steep snow. We decided to head up a large crack in the wall on the right instead. It proved to be not too difficult although we did set up a belay to get the party up. The new members proved to be very strong and capable climbers. Two out of three in the bag! The rappel down the wall with Phyllis' Engine in the background made for some spectacular pictures that you don't show your mum!

The second night we again stayed at the wonderful Gentian Pass camp although this necessitates starting your next morning with a 500 foot grunt back up the steep slope to the top of Gentian Ridge. At the top of the ridge, we again dropped our packs for a quick scramble up Corrie peak. Kevin was going to meet his girlfriend on the trail on the way down so he wished us luck and headed down.

Corrie Peak provided the best views yet of Castle Towers and it was difficult to tear ourselves away. However, we still had lots of distance to cover so back we headed. Much of the snow at Taylor Meadows had melted since Saturday and it was very slushy and muddy. Nonetheless, we were soaking our heads in Rubble Creek with three fine summits in the bag by 3:45. Overall, a highly recommended trip with a great group. The only downside to the trip was returning to find that Kevin's truck had been broken into and a great deal of outdoor gear, clothing and food had been stolen. Not a nice welcome to climbing in the area for our Alberta friend.

Participants: Lesli Cowan, John Sapac, Jon Lubin, Dave Ross, Kevin Albert, Curt Hegel (guest from Alberta), Andrzej Jarzebek, and Rhys Gibb (Organizer and reporter)

## **Black Tusk, 28 July, 2001**

We met at the parking lot of St. David's Church located on the intersection of Taylor Way and Upper Level Hwy at 7 am and left there at 7:15am. We left Black Tusk parking lot at 9 am. There was a bit of rain, but not too much noticeable in the forest. We set a fast pace to reach the trail intersection of Garibaldi Lake and Black Tusk Meadows.

Then it started raining while having a break. As we went up higher it was raining harder and we couldn't see much of the surrounding mountains. However, we got a glimpse of Garibaldi Lake, through an opening in the cloud or fog. The colour of the water was turquoise, and it looked fantastic. We met a party of five who had just come down from the chimney leading to the peak, and one of them said it was pretty bad up there with high wind, snow and rain. But we wanted to go up higher and see if we could go up or not. Eventually we made it to the ridge at 2:15pm, and the weather was pretty bad - we had a hard time standing straight due to a gale force wind. So we decided to turn back at that point. It was cold, and not very comfortable with all that rain/snow and wind. But it subsided as we went down to the meadow, which was covered with colourful flowers, such as Indian paint brushes, glacier lilies, butter cups, heathers etc. We saw a guy with a bouquet of wild flowers, so we told him that the park warden wouldn't like the sight of picked flowers.

Eventually we came down to the parking lot at 5 pm. We didn't make it to the peak this time due to the poor weather. However, I'd like to make another trip some time in October.

Party - Shuhji Isano, Kuniko Swope, Jeffrey Overall, Anne Lavigne and Akinori Ngai (Organizer and reporter).

## **BCMC Intermediate Climbing Program 2001**

The intermediate climbing program was again a modest success, thanks largely to an interesting and diverse group of participants, and a host of helpers. It was spread out over four weekends, which seems to be sufficient to get participants started, but not so much as to unreasonably burden the helpers. It was perhaps a bit less organized than in previous years, so we'll have to think a bit about curriculum and planning over the winter. Topics included safety, environmental impacts (natural and human), an-

chors, leading, belays, moderate alpine rock, group management, and others. There's always so much more we could cover, and with experience being the main way of learning, four weekends is never enough.

Some had their last (alpine rock) weekend early in July, and went to the Nesakwatch Spires. A number climbed the north ridge of the south spire, and three did the north ridge of the north spire. Good objectives for a group of this kind, though some found the approach (and descent!) a bit arduous. Also, one car was broken into.

The rest went to Blackcomb Mountain (!) in early September. Luckily (?) the lifts were closed. There were shenanigans as to where we should park, and even whether we should be there, but eventually we plodded off up the lifts. You might think route-finding on ski runs would be a simple exercise, but one person managed to explore a variation approach, causing the rest some needless worry. We regrouped at Blackcomb Lake, and had a peaceful evening.

We were up early, then split into two groups, one to Blackcomb Buttress and one to "Dead on Arrival" Buttress. Both routes were just right - 4 or 5 pitches of modest 5<sup>th</sup> class, good anchors, decent rock, and DoA had a harder pitch near the top. We regrouped, ate and drank, then scrambled down the gully on the south side, to the lake. Some insisted on following a subsidiary gully, but eventually were channeled back into the main gully. Those who had had a good look at the descent from camp knew better!

Participants: Julian Douglass, Paul Drescher, Dustin Lam, Vanessa Lam, Mirella Lioce, Cameron Long, Lance Mitamura, Lance Montgomery, Cynthia Neale, Cynthia Siemens and Howard Siemens. (Two Lances and two Cynthias - a bit confusing!)

Helpers: Kit Griffin, Arnie Wilson, Cathy Proenza, Jack Pals, Jeff Rabinovitch, Brian Kuchinka, Carol Kucel, Nana Zolbrod, Dave Morriss, and Anders Ourom. (Organizer and reporter).



## Meslilloet Mtn., 29-30, September, 2001

Fourteen people signed on to be treated to a classic coastal bush crash. Maybe I had not been perfectly honest and told people that the bush wouldn't be that bad except for around Joseph Lake. Or was it that memory blocks out any bad experiences one encounters over time. Anyway, I was surprised about the amount of interest in this obscure peak north of Vancouver.

I had wanted to make sure that the weather was going to be good this weekend because there is nothing worse than travelling through wet brush. With that in mind I told everybody I would phone them back Friday night after I had heard the latest forecast. And it looked good. Partly sunny on Saturday and mostly sunny on Sunday. No need to stay home.

We met at 8 am at the church. No need to meet really early as it is not far from Vancouver. It was cloudy with clearing to the south. Everybody was on time and off we went.

Up Highway 99, right onto the Mamquam River road, right onto the Stawamus/Indian river main and left onto the Hixon Creek forest road to Norton Lake. We parked and walked the remainder of the road past the lake and "camp-sites" to the fork that goes to the left and up from the lake. We followed it to where a switchback should be but is completely overgrown. It forces you up and into your first taste of what is to come. In the meantime the weather looked decisively uncertain. It had even started to rain off and on a little bit. We headed up to a saddle in the forested ridge above us. That is where the old growth forest starts. One can also find lots of surveyor's tape, which the loggers left behind. The area had been scheduled for logging but I believe that with the creation of the Pinecone/Burke Mountain Provincial Park this area fell inside the boundary of the new park. With tape left behind by other parties it became confusing in the beginning.

We knew we had to continue at a fairly level line to get to Joseph Lake from where we were in the saddle.

By taking the route of least resistance we were forced up a bit and ended up 30 m above the lake. It had started to rain and drizzle more frequently. We headed down to the lake through the increasingly dense and wetter brush. At the lake we had 2 choices, left or right. Left brought us sooner to a possible campsite of which there are not many around the lake. Travel was up, over and around boulders, through brush or, as some people ended up doing, walking in the lake. Once we reached our possible campsite we realized

that it was all swampy and wet. But we were able to find enough reasonably dry spots to house 9 tents! and fourteen people.

The rain and drizzle intensified as we were putting up tents, demoralizing the troops even more. It was only 3.30 pm and what was one to do in this weather? Sleep was one option, and standing around in the rain telling stories was another. People ended up doing both. Some talk surfaced about going back to town. My plan to avoid a wet weekend fell, well, into the water.

All that was left was to hope for better weather the next day. But my hope was fading as by nightfall it didn't show any sign of improvement and even if it did the mountains would not clear out that quickly. I woke up at 2 am and saw shadows on the tent. There was only one way you get shadows at night. The moon had to be out. I looked out and saw nothing but clear skies. Yahoo!

6:15 was our wake up call. I wanted to get going in case it clouded over again. We managed to get away by 7.30 am. It didn't take long to get wet travelling around the lake. Once we picked up the south ridge and headed up into the forest, travel was much easier. Except now it got steep. As you go up, the ridge narrows and steepens but it never gets scary. There is always enough brush around to hide the exposure. Finally we reached the "bump" along the ridge. This was a good point to catch our breath and enjoy the view. Getting down from the bump gave us the only exposed part of the trip. A short class 3 traverse along a little ledge or a route directly down the rocks needed to be negotiated. After that was the final easy ridge walk to the summit

By 11:30 am everybody had reached the summit. Trudy had decided to stay behind on the bump and relax there. It was time for us to relax on Meslilloet. The skies were perfectly clear, the temperatures warm, no wind and the view outstanding. People ate, drank, slept and found other ways to enjoy themselves. But after one and half-hours it was time to go down. The way down was uneventful. Once back at the lake it was time for a swim by some. With no wind, warm temperatures, and a gorgeous setting it was too tempting, although the water was surprisingly cool. After another one and a half-hours of relaxation it was time to get back to the cars. But first we had to fight our way back up from the lake through the blueberry bushes which were not as wet as the day before. Also the bushes were loaded with berries, more than we have seen for years.

Eating lots of berries eased the travel. Eventually we picked up our tapes from the day before. We had put them up because I did not want to make the same mistake from the year before and miss the road. It worked, and we reached the road and then the cars without incident by 6.45 pm.

A trip that started out less than perfect turned out pretty decent after all despite the downplaying of the bush by the leader. At least I didn't hear too many complaints. Supper at the Klahanie, which supplied us with excellent food, completed the trip.

Participants: Trudy Rey, Brett McConochie, Peter Gumplinger, Evelyn Feller, Christina Williams, Marco Lucolino, Greg Stoltmann, Stephan Reinker, Paul Kubik, David Hughes, Gerry Kollmuss, Irek Jasiak, Emanuele Porra and Jos van der Burg. ( Organizer and reporter)

### **Black Tusk, 14 October, 2001**

Given the rainy days preceding the hike, the questionable forecast and the calls the previous evening from apprehensive participants wondering if the trip was still on, I wondered how many people would show up at the meeting spot. However, the six of us who decided to chance it were rewarded with a surprisingly beautiful clear sunny day, lots of fresh snow and no crowds in a normally very popular area. The fresh snow added a little more work than anticipated and consequently some concern over what the turnaround time should be. We decided to at least continue on to the base of the Tusk and took turns breaking trail with the only other group in the area.

After a little debate as to whether it was safe to attempt the final scramble and the other group opting not to climb it, some of us decided to try it. The snow provided some challenge on the otherwise easy scramble to the summit and a little care, with Ondrej's assistance, had to be taken in a couple of areas. The summit views (and Norbert's chocolate), however, made it worthwhile. We had a great day and managed to get back to the car just past sunset.

Participants: Norbert Kaysser, McKenzie Kitchen, Ondrej Mecl, Marian Jans, George Malburg, and Mirella Lioce (Organizer and reporter)