

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2001

VOL. 79 NO. 8



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, 9 October - Entertainment will be a slide show by David Scanlon on this year's BCMC summer camp in the Bendor Range.

Tuesday, 13 November - The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**. Entertainment will be provided by your executive as well as by Dave Hughes, who will give a slide show on this year's summer expedition camp to the Ape Lake area.

Crossing a crevasse below the N ridge of Wedge



Above camp in the Bendor R.



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		

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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, 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

October 6: Lady Pk.	B3/2189 m	Werner Grzimek	737-1091
Hiking and scrambling in the Chilliwack valley area.			
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	250-494-0527
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: Black Tusk	C2(3)	Mirella Lioce	736-5079
Hiking and scrambling in Garibaldi park.			
October 14: Nak and Yak Pks.	B2-3/2040 m	Peter Gumplinger	733-8264
Hiking and scrambling and trail clearing in the Coquihalla area.			
October 20: West Lion	C5/1646 m	Brian Cashin	270-0607
Hiking and rock climbing, ascending via the NE Buttress.			
October 20-21: North Ck.	B2	Michael Feller	270-4050
Trail clearing and cabin maintenance. Do your bit to help maintain the club's facilities.			
October 27: Deeks Pk. - Mt. Windsor	C2/1680 m	Todd Ponzini	983-2612
Hiking and scrambling above Howe Sound.			
October 27-28: Tetrahedron Plateau	B2	Alfred Menninga	886-0775
Hiking to the Mt. Steele hut area on the Sechelt peninsula.			
November 3: Sigurd/Pokosha area	B2	Paul Kubik	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.			

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members:
 Junior - Lisa Apfelbaum, Fayza Bundalli, Jonathan Lubin, David Ross.

Associate - Julia Borchardt, Ruben Carranza, Julie Desy, Meg Fellowes, Anthony Harnett, Renato Infanti, David Khang, Erika Kosarko, Vincent Lalonde, David Lundberg, Dan Markel, Joshua Milligan, Brad Murray, Nancy Napier, Craig Nichol, Adam Rotaru, Jason Stauffer, Chris Underwood, Julia Wright.

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 should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying this 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

What club members are doing

The mountaineering community in coastal B.C. has had the equivalent of a nuclear bomb dropped on them when an extraordinary and era-changing event occurred in mid September. **John Clarke** and **Annette Lehnacker** were married. History books will now have to be rewritten. The club congratulates John, one of our honorary members, and Annette, and wishes them all the best for the future.

New Honorary Member

At a recent executive meeting, the executive voted to make **Glenn Woodsworth** an honorary member of the club.
 Dick Culbert writes -

"The recent election of Glenn Woodsworth to honorary membership in the BCMC is an overdue recognition to both the length and breadth of Glenn's contribution to the Club and to mountaineering in western Canada. Glenn first joined the club in 1959, and although many members will be familiar with his work on the club executive, there will be fewer who realize the key role he has played in the exploration, documentation and understanding of the Coast Mountains.

In the annals of Squamish rock climbing, Glenn was a member of the foursome who put up University Wall in 1966, the second full-face route, and the next year he produced the first guidebook to rock climbing at Squamish. As a result of his work on Canada's committee on geographic names, Glenn has been instrumental in fixing many of the results of mountaineering exploration permanently on the maps. To the general outdoor public, he is best known for his widely popular guidebooks to the hot springs of western Canada (1978,1997). This leads towards Glenn's professional role as a geologist with the Geological

Survey of Canada, in which he has made major contributions to our knowledge of the history and structure of the Coast Mountains.

And that is all in addition to Glenn's achievements as an exploratory mountaineer. In the summers of 1962 and 1964, he was part of a group who used meager funding from a government prospectors assistance program to explore many ranges. Notable were the northern Waddington Range (including first ascent of Serra V), initial exploration and naming of the Pantheon Range, and successful forays into such areas as the Monarch Icecap, Taseko, and the Howson Range. Since then he has climbed widely throughout the coastal ranges, either as a mountaineer, a geologist, or some combination thereof. And, amazingly, he is still at it. Glenn was fundamental in the exploration and investigations which led to the first two Coast Mountain guidebooks, and he is presently collecting information for a guide to the Northern Coast Mountains, a work which is sorely needed after a gap of over 30 years. Good luck Glenn!"

ERRORS IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Flint and Feather Trail – and not Fin and Feathers Trail, was the one at the top which Silke and Peter were married.

Mt. Ratney – is spelled this way, and not 'Ratnay'. This peak was first climbed by Howard Rode and John Dudra in 1950, and was named using the first syllables of the surnames of Howard's then girlfriend, and later, wife – Mary Ney – and her good friend Irene Rattenbury, whose surname changed to Apps, when she married Jack.

Mt. Robie Reid is, of course, spelled this way, rather than Roby Reid, as spelled by Paul Binkert on his sketch, but your editor did not believe he should alter the sketch.

Looking eastward from Mt. Artaban, and not westward, one can see the Sea-to Sky corridor (P. 12).

Your editor is indebted to Irene Apps and Mary Rode for pointing out these errors.

The **new policy on membership and donations** printed in the last newsletter differs slightly in wording, but not in substance, from that actually passed by the executive. If anyone is interested in the precise wording, it can be obtained by contacting Anders Ourom.

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.

NEWS

Everest legend dies in crevasse fall

Babu Chiri Sherpa has passed away after unexpectedly falling into a crevasse at Camp II on Mount Everest. Babu Chiri Sherpa's name is synonymous with a number of feats on the mountain. Babu Chiri Sherpa climbed Everest 10 times. On one of those ascents he pitched a tent and stayed on the summit for a record breaking 21 hours. Babu also holds the speed record for the fastest ascent - climbing Everest in just under 17 hours. There is a Fund set up to realize a dream of Babu Chiri Sherpa, to build a school. More information is at www.everestnews.com

Don't rock climb at lower Malemute at Squamish

Several representatives of the climbing community met with B.C. Rail in early September to discuss climbers' access to the lower Malemute. We opened communications on an issue which is important to both parties. It appears that there may be possibilities for climbing on the lower Malemute in the future, although any solution will take some time to implement. We ask that in the meantime all climbers respect the voluntary closure on climbing on the lower Malemute, starting immediately. B.C. Rail is considering some suggestions we made which might address its concerns, and this may take a few weeks. Please don't climb at the lower Malemute until there is clear information that it is allowed again. This will show our good faith, and show that climbers can be self-policing when necessary. If you climb at the lower Malemute during this time, you may jeopardize any future for climbing there! We will publicize any developments by broadcast e-mail, as well as in the next Access News (late September) and in the Access Alerts section of the CASBC website (www.bivouac.com/casbc). In the meantime, B.C. Rail has no immediate concerns about climbing on the upper Malemute (i.e. anywhere more than one pitch off the tracks), and climbing can continue there.

Kris Wild (Squamish Rockclimbers' Association)
Kevin McLane (guidebook writer)
John Howe (Squamish Search & Rescue, S.R.A.)
Brent Mathieson (Association of Canadian Mountain Guides)
Anders Ourom (Climbers' Access Society of B.C.)

Climbing at the lower Malemute began in the 1960s, and there are many popular, excellent climbs there. Its popularity seems to have recently increased. The lower cliff is entirely on the B.C. Rail right of way, which may extend for 15 - 30 m from the tracks. The cliff was briefly closed in the late 1980s, which led to construction of the current access trail, and a sign being posted. Access and train safety information was also prominent in the 1992 and 1999 guidebooks.

In late August several climbers at the lower Malemute were asked to leave by B.C. Rail police. As a result, several climbers contacted B.C. Rail and arranged a meeting to discuss this. The climbers who met B.C. Rail believe that they are broadly representative of the climbing community, and of all climbers' groups with an interest in this issue. We believe climbers and B.C. Rail can resolve this matter themselves. There is no need to involve other groups, politicians, or the media, the general media especially. We met to plan, then met Constable Andy Thom of B.C. Rail Police.

Constable Thom was quite informative and helpful. We met with him for an hour, then went on a tour of the lower Malemute together. B.C. Rail is well aware of climbing at the lower Malemute, and has gradually become more concerned about this, as well as other activities on and near the tracks. The incidents last week were not the result of any one event - B.C. Rail has intended to address this issue for some time. Their concern, ultimately, is safety - both for trains and their personnel, and for people on or near the tracks. They are also concerned about legal issues, including the Railway Act, trespassing, and potential liability.

Constable Thom was open in discussing possible solutions which would address B.C. Rail's concerns, although these would have to be approved by management. Some of the possibilities (we emphasize that they are possibilities only at this stage):

- regular, open dialogue between climbers and B.C. Rail
- education of climbers about train safety
- new, punchier signage at all access points
- zoning areas, depending on proximity to the tracks
- closure of Penguins in Bondage and climbs at Slopers (south of Murrin Park)
- establishing access routes from above, by rappel and perhaps a trail and ladders at the north end of the rockfall area, just south of Chasing Rainbows
- building foot paths along the base of the cliff, as far away from the tracks as possible, with a fence in between, about 2 metres from the side of the tracks (this may involve several hundred metres of chain link fence = \$\$\$)
- possibly filling in some of the depressed areas between the tracks and the base of the cliff, to provide more room away from the tracks for belaying and walking.

In the long term, the area in front of the Malemute will be used for expansion of the port of Squamish. A great deal of fill will be used to make a solid strip of land about 100 metres wide in front of the cliff. There would be increased industrial activity in the area (log sort, loading and unloading ships, construction...), but there is a slight possibility that the tracks may be relocated away from the cliff. Other consequences remain to be seen, and the port expansion may not happen for a few years.

It seems certain that any solution will take

- time
- good faith negotiations
- fundraising (signage, fences, ladders...)

Ultimately, if climbing is to resume and continue at the lower Malemute, climbers have to show that they can be good neighbours. This will take effort from every single climber - there may be zero tolerance for transgressions. Please stay away from the lower Malemute until further notice, and ask other climbers to do likewise!

Anyone contemplating climbing at the lower Malemute, despite the voluntary closure, should be reminded that the tracks and cliff are entirely on B.C. Rail right-of-way. B.C. Rail police have the legal right to arrest and remove anyone found there. Even if they're not physically there to kick you off, they may be watching. If you do climb there and get away with it, it doesn't prove you're clever, or that you can ignore reasonable rules. It just proves you're a selfish idiot.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR CO-OPERATING.

Anders Ourom

Everest trek this November?

One of our British based BCMC members is Michael Bromfield, who regularly spends his summers in Vancouver and in the last 10 years has hiked extensively in the Coast Range. Michael is the Chairman of one of Britain's largest Special Interest Tour Operators who are operating over 190 custom design Group Tours around the world this year.

Casterbridge Tours is establishing a new dedicated trekking division and, to celebrate 21 years of trading, is operating a unique Everest Trek this coming November - 'In the Footsteps of Hillary and Tensing'.

Casterbridge can offer a land only package starting from Kathmandu or inclusive of flights from Vancouver and will offer a 6% discount to all BCMC members.

You can contact Casterbridge by telephone, fax or email for a comprehensive colour brochure or alternatively download full details and the itinerary from their website - just go to www.casterbridgetours.com and click onto UK Sales, Theme Tours, then Trekking.

*Casterbridge Tours Tel: 011 44 1935 810810
Fax: 011 44 1935 815815
email:sales@casterbridge-tours.co.uk.*

Federation of Mountain Clubs is developing “Retail Business Associates”

The FMCBC has a new program in which companies will offer discounts to FMCBC members. Mountain Magic Limited outdoor store of South Surrey is the first Retail Business Associate. They will advertise the Fed clubs and activities at their front counter in exchange for a small ad in the FMCBC newsletter – Cloudburst. All Fed (all BCBC members) members will receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items (sorry, no sale items). Mountain Magic is located at 2393 King George Highway (at 24th Avenue). Their phone number is 535-5182.

Pitons can be expensive

Chessler Books (www.chesslerbooks.com) recently advertised for sale an original stove-leg piton from the original group made for Warren Harding on his first ascent of the Nose. The humble piton cost \$5000! They also had a wooden ice axe for \$3000. This ice axe had on its shaft, the signatures of Hillary, Bonington, Diemberger, Herzog, Messner, and Whittaker.

First trail guide for another planet

From the August, 2001, edition of Pack and Paddle,

Ken Hopping and Rick Stiles report -

“See www.thursdaysclassroom.com/24may01/trailmap.html. Here is a destination for hikers seeking new places to explore. This trail guide describes a route up a butte in the Cydonia region of Mars that gained wide recognition for its resemblance to a human face in images taken by the Viking Orbiter in 1976. Recent high resolution images by the Mars Global Surveyor have shown this to be a natural terrain feature.

This may be the first published trail guide for an actual location on another planet. Hiking on Mars has several advantages. Lower gravity offers relief for aging joints and muscles. There is no rain on Mars. Except for infrequent dust storms, the skies are cloud free.

The maximum surface temperature can reach a balmy 27°C, but be prepared for lows down to -125°C. Crampons should work well in the polar “snow”. It is solidified carbon dioxide, the stuff we call “dry ice” here on Earth.

Peak baggers have unlimited opportunities for first ascents in the unspoiled Martian deserts. You never have to worry about fighting brush or crossing streams. The biggest obstacle is getting to the trailhead.

Our list of 10 essentials has to be modified to include extra oxygen. Matches are useless. You can also discard that compass since Mars has an extremely weak magnetic field.”

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Bardean and Ratney, 19 August, 2001

Originally planned for Saturday I had to move it to Sunday because of other commitments. Luckily that didn't cause anybody to be left out, as everybody was able to make it.

The plan was to meet at my place at 7 am. Everybody was on time except for Tanya and Trish who showed up just before we were about to leave. I learned later that they had driven as far east as Mission,

bypassing my place by over 30 km, before they realized they had gone too far. I must say that I was impressed that they were only 20 minutes late.

But at last we were on our way and shortly after 9 am we drove onto the Skwellepil Creek road for the last 5 km. Almost at the end, after some serious 4 wheel driving in which Mike ripped off his trailer hook, we ran into Emanuele. He had missed the Albion ferry and driven via the Mission Bridge to join us for a couple of hours of our company before he had to turn back for a cull the sack party. I guess that was one casualty of me changing the date.

Anyway, after having parked right at the start of the route at the bottom of a huge avalanche fan coming off Bardean, we were on our way at 9:45. Travel was easy at first but it wasn't long before we hit the first brushy section. It would be the worst section of the route. After we got through it after a major battle, many were skeptical about my insistence that it would get much better after that. Brett had stayed in the waterfall gully and had bypassed the brush but I didn't want everybody on the slippery slabs.

We continued up the slabs to the right of the creek, encountering some more short sections of brush but none as bad as the first. It was steep but very direct and we were gaining elevation fast. The slabs made for very pleasant hiking. Near the summit we encountered our first snow field and the ice axes that everybody brought did come in handy. Then the final scramble to the summit and we were on top at 1 pm. We had climbed 1300 m in just over 3 hours. Time for some lunch and to enjoy the limited view of Statlu Lake, Mt. Clarke, and Viennese Peak. Most other peaks were obscured but it was pleasant on the summit with some sunrays getting through. But we had another peak to climb.

After dropping down a hundred metres or so we started to climb Ratney. Mark had run ahead with his video camera to get some more footage of this spectacular climb. This is the first time I have had somebody take a video camera along on a climb. At 2.45pm

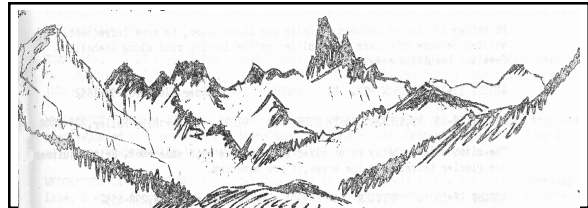
we reached the summit of Ratney. Some more time for a rest and for Mark to shoot some more footage including Mirella blowing her nose.

After 15 minutes it was time to go down and meet up with Marco who had stopped for a snooze in the col. We worked our way around Bardean, down the snowfield and we started to work our way down the slabs. Part way down we ran into Sue, Tanya and Trish who had slowly worked their way down from Bardean. They came across a mama bear with cub. We were all together again and started down on the last 600 m. Then David gave us a scare by sliding 10 m down the slabs and scraping his side and his wrist. Nothing serious luckily. The bush didn't seem that bad on the way down and by 6:30 pm we were safely down. Now we faced the long drive out and finding a place for some food. We stopped at the Mission Spring pub and had some great food. Especially the large pizzas which were going for 5 bucks. We tried to convince Mark to play his video on the big screen TV at the pub but he didn't go for it.

A great day was had by all and with a great group of strong people everything went like a breeze.

Thanks everyone.

Party: Marco Iucolino, Brett McConochie, Mike Genovese, Mark Burgoyne, Katie Idle, Mirella Lioce, David Jakubcak, Michael Fuhrmann, Matt Smart, Bill Andrews, Tania Zulkeskey, Trish Patterson, Sue Baldwin, Emanuele Porra and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter)





Foley Pk. Photo - Rhys Gibb.

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).