

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2002

VOL. 80 NO. 4



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.

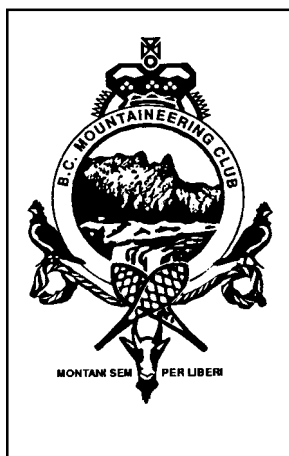
Tuesday, 9 April - Entertainment will be a slide show by Martin Kafer on early club ski camps in the Lord River, Stikine, and Whitemantle areas.

Tuesday, 14 May - Entertainment will be a slide show by John Sapac and Jenny Faulkner on Baffin Island scrambles.

Spring skiing beneath Mt. Tait on the Lord Glacier



Skiing to camp in the Stikine icecap area.



HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484	CABIN / TRAILS -	IAN HOPPER	604-929-3720
PAST-PRESIDENT -	ANDERS OUROM	604-228-1798	CONSERVATION -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
VICE-PRESIDENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462		MONICA BITTEL	604-983-3097
SECRETARY -	MIRELLA LIOCE	604-736-5079	SUMMER CAMP -	DAVID SCANLON	604-464-3730
TREASURER -	MARCIA COLLIER	604-987-5245	WEBMASTER -	MICHAEL McCRAE	604-326-0156
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -	MIKE PEEL	604-268-9502	EDITOR -	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
	TAMMIE SIBBALD	604-877-0344			
SOCIALS -	DARRYL MALBY	604-709-0051	EQUIPMENT -	PAUL KUBIK	604-876-0764
	DONNA BAILIE	604-572-5051	SAFETY EQUIPMENT -		
CLIMBING -	MARGARET HANSON	604-736-6397		KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462	LIBRARY -	GEORGE HAMILTON	604-988-1888
	DAVE MORRISS	604-732-9896			

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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. The club has avalanche transceivers and snow shovels available for hire. These may be obtained by contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 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.

If you are given a ride, please remember to pay the driver your portion of the car costs.

		ORGANIZER	
April 6-7: Mamquam Mtn. Extended skiing east of Squamish.	C3/2595 m	Marcus Dell	604-274-9511
April 6-7: Ipsoot Mtn. Extended skiing west of Pemberton.	C3/2590m	Darren Quist	604-351-2295
April 6-7: Vantage/Frenchman Coulee (rock) Rock climbing not in Alberta.	A5	Monica Durigon	604-222-3713
April 6-7: The Sphinx Extended skiing above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi park.	C3/2410 m	Evelyn Feller	604-270-4050
April 7: Needle Pk Skiing bowls in the Coquihalla area.	B2-3(4)/2075 m	Donald Cann	604-742-2345
April 13-14: Mt. Shuksan Skiing in northern Washington, approaching from the south via the Sulfide Glacier.	B3(4)/2783 m	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8267
April 13-14: Mt. Sedgwick Extended skiing above Howe Sound.	C2-3/2077 m	Rich Pawlowicz	604-222-3343
April 13-14: Mt. Callaghan Skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.	B3/2410 m	Phil Kubik	604-266-5873
April 20-21: Cloudraker Mtn. Skiing in the Lizzie Lake area.	C3/2375 m	David Scanlon	604-464-3730
April 20-26: Mystery trip Destination to be chosen by organizer and participants	?	James Clark	604-983-9225
April 27-28: Duffey Lake road area. Skiing east of Pemberton.	B2-3	Pat Crean	604-986-5622
April 27-28: Mt. Garibaldi Classic ski trip east of Squamish in Garibaldi Park.	B3(4)/2678 m	Tom Kuczmierowski	604-585-0588
May 4-5: Three Bears Mtn. Extended skiing to the Snowcap Lake area, deep in Garibaldi Park.	C-D3/2345 m	Todd Ponzini	604-983-2612
May 5: Stawamus Chief/Smoke Bluffs Hiking the Chief and rock climbing near Squamish.	A2-5	Mirella Lioce	604-736-5079
May 11: Brunswick Mtn. Skiing above Howe Sound.	C3/1785 m	Aki Nagai	604-986-2756
May 11-12: Cerise Ck. Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B3	Murray Lashmar	604-732-8184

SPRING SKI CAMP

A fly in, fly out ski camp is planned for 20-28 April. Proposed location is in the Dickson Range. Cost for flight only is usually about \$450 - \$500 per person,

with a few dollars extra for rental of club equipment. For additional information, phone Pat Crean at 604-986-5622.

BCMC SUMMER CAMPS, 2002

1. 5th Annual Lake Lovely Water Summer Camp: 13-21 July.

Seven days of mountaineering in the glorious Tantalus Range (map ref. 92G/14) with routes to charm the beginner to the advanced. Accommodation is in the luxurious A.C.C. cabin with swimming and boating at the doorstep. This is a self-guided cam for club members. \$275 covers helicopter in and out and hut rental. For information and registration call Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

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

Following last year's highly successful camp in the Bendor Range, Dave is offering a repeat - This is a minimal cost, hike in and out camp offering a variety of hiking and climbing possibilities, with lots for everyone. Participants must be club members at the time of application and must be physically fit. For information and registration, contact David Scanlon at 464-3730.

SUMMER MOUNTAINEERING AND CLIMBING PROGRAM

This summer the club will offer several experience-based instructional programs, particularly for members who want to upgrade their skills. The programs are economical, and are taught by club volunteers (they are not professional guides). The emphasis of the programs is skills, self-reliance, and individual responsibility and initiative.

Prerequisites:

- ◆ Current membership in the BCMC (i.e. 2001-2002).
 - ◆ Robust physical and mental health.
 - ◆ Payment of program fees, which cover only BCMC and instructor's expenses (surpluses are used to buy club equipment). You must provide most equipment, transport (car pooling encouraged), food.
 - ◆ Read and sign a comprehensive waiver, and complete a health information form. The focus of the programs is on safety and skills. However, mountaineering and climbing by nature involve significant risks, and you must be prepared to assume them.
 - ◆ Commitment - all sessions are mandatory.
 - ◆ Participants will be carefully screened for ability, fitness, equipment. The longer you have been a member of the BCMC, and the earlier your application is received, the higher priority you will have.
1. Programs are open to members in good standing of the Varsity Outdoors Club.
 2. Programs tend to be fully subscribed, so we

cannot guarantee that there will be space. Each program has its own limit. Your application must include the application, supplementary waiver, and medical forms, and fees. Applications which are not complete in all respects (membership, fees enclosed, forms fully filled out) will be recycled.

3. Dates may be altered due to bad weather or conflicts.
4. Do not phone organizers or instructors after 10 PM unless asked to do so.
5. The information/application package will not be available until the April social; soon after, it will be posted to the BCMC website. Call the organizer(s) of each program you are interested in for information on returning an application.
6. Complete a separate form for each program you are interested in.

Basic Outdoor Toproping

\$40 (full-time students \$30). Limit 12 participants. This program is aimed at those who have done some indoor gym climbing, and want to try it outside. It, or equivalent, is a prerequisite for Essential Rockclimbing. The program will cover safety, environmental issues, basic equipment, basic climbing skills and techniques, and the elements of top-roping. Tying in, belaying, lowering, etc. It will be a one-day program (plus one evening), and will be offered twice. The program will not cover setting up top-rope anchors, rappelling, or belaying

from above. To participate, you must have a sit harness, rock shoes, a belay device (no figure 8s!), two locking carabiners (one large), and a helmet. Instructors or the BCMC provide other needed equipment.

Rock 1A 27th April (lecture 23rd April, evening)
Rock 1B 28th April (lecture 23rd April, evening)

contacts:

Kit Griffin (604-736-8462 or kitgriffin@telus.net)
Paul Miller (604-657-7285 or pmiller@argus.ca)
Jack Pals (604-463-7552 or palsj@telus.net)
Dave Morriss (604-732-9896 or welsh@dowco.com)

Essential Rockclimbing

\$70 (full-time students \$50). Limit 12 participants. Prerequisite Basic Outdoor Toproping or equivalent. This consists of an evening lecture/practice, and a weekend at Squamish. If demand warrants, it may be offered twice. At the end, you should be able to set up and use a simple top-rope, including rappelling, basic anchors, and belaying from above. You must provide rock shoes, a sit harness, a helmet, two locking carabiners (one large), a belay device (no figure 8s!), and two slings of 7mm perlon (1.5 and 5 m). Instructors and the BCMC provide other needed equipment, and a copy of a rock climbing textbook for each participant to keep.

Rock 2 11/12 May (lecture 8 May, evening)

This program (or equivalent) is a prerequisite for the mountaineering program. Fees and schedule do not include Basic Outdoor Toproping.

Contacts:

Kit Griffin (604-736-8462 or kitgriffin@telus.net)
Paul Miller (604-657-7285 or pmiller@argus.ca)
Jack Pals (604-463-7552 or palsj@telus.net)
Dave Morriss (604-732-9896 or welsh@dowco.com)

Mountaineering

\$225 (full-time students \$170). Limit 12 participants. This includes three evening lectures/practices and three weekends. (Essential Rockclimbing or equivalent is a prerequisite.) Covers mountain

travel and navigation, safety and environmental issues, snow travel, glacier travel, crevasse rescue, self arrest, and ascent of a moderate peak. You must be an experienced backpacker, and by the end of the program you should be able safely to undertake most club trips up to the B4 level. Participants must provide all backpacking and camping equipment, sit harness, ice axe, helmet, crampons. The BCMC provides needed technical equipment (ropes etc), and each participant with a copy of Mountaineering - Freedom of the Hills (6th edition) and two prussiks.

Mountaineering: 25&26 May, 1&2 and 8&9 June (foul weather fallback 15/16 June). Evenings: Thursday evenings of 16, 23, and 30 May.

Fees and schedule do not include Essential Rockclimbing.

Contacts:

Miles Quesnel (604-460-1466 or mquesnel@uniserve.com)
"Mirella Lioce" (604-736-5079 mirella@telus.net)

Lead Climbing

\$100 (full-time students \$80). Limit 6 participants. This will be offered once, for those who have solid outdoor top roping skills plus a season's experience. (Participants will be required to set up and use a basic top rope on the first day.) You must also have experience in overnight mountain travel. Participants will be screened for fitness, skills, equipment and aptitude. The program will include three weekends and several evenings, with an additional optional alpine rock climb weekend. Participants must help with Essential Rockclimbing, and are expected to climb regularly together on evenings and free weekends. By the end of the program, participants should be comfortable leading 5.7 rock climbs, and moderately technical mountain routes. Covers placing and using anchors, equipment selection and use, safety and environmental issues, leading, training, and related issues. Participants must have all basic climbing equipment, and must be prepared to invest in all equipment needed for leading, likely several hundred dollars. The BCMC

provides participants with two books about climbing, and instructors' equipment is used.

Rock II: 4/5 May, 11/12 May (help with Essential Rockclimbing), 25/26 May, 15/16 June, TBA (alpine weekend). Evenings: the Wednesday or Thursday evening before each weekend, at participant's homes.

Contact: Anders Ourom (604-228-1798 or

aiourom@telus.net).

You must fill out completely a separate application for each program you are interested in.

Mail applications to:
Monica Durigon
B.C. Mountaineering Club
#206 – 5450 University Boulevard
Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1K4

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members:

Active: Carol Kucel, Lesli Probasco

Associate: Kevin Annala, Ron Boucher, Chris

Drotar, Lani Gibson, Nina Gill, Miriam Grob, Kevin

Hanson, Mary Henderson, Beth Hillhouse, Brian Hillhouse, Carolina Johansson, Lorrie Lech, Allan Christopher Palomares, , Jeremy Valeriotte.

BCMC NEWS

Club T-shirts - These excellent T-shirts are still available and can be purchased at club socials. The executive, at their March meeting, decided to give

one of these T-shirts to special guest speakers at socials, i.e. generally not to club members.

A PIECE OF CLUB HISTORY

This newsletter continues with one of the themes for the year discussed in previous newsletters. This month's social slide show is highly appropriate for a club that is 95 years old.

The Lord Glacier area and Preston Tait

This month's social will feature one of our honorary presidents - Martin Kafer - giving a slide show on several areas, one of them being the Lord Glacier area. This area has a special significance to the club as many of the mountains in the area are named after past distinguished club members. Thus, Mts. Fowler (Elizabeth Fowler joined the club in 1908 and was made an honorary member in 1920), Taylor (William Taylor joined the club in 1911 and was made an honorary member in 1947), Heaney (Charles Heaney joined the club in 1907 as a founding member, and was made an honorary

member in 1942), Perry (Fred Perry joined the club as a founding member in 1907, and was made an honorary member in 1942), Wheatley (Bill Wheatley joined the club in 1920 and served on the club executive for 6 years in the 1920's), and Binkert (Paul Binkert joined the club in 1951, was made an honorary member in 1970, and was our honorary president from 1980 to 1995) are all named after prominent club members. The peaks immediately surrounding the Lord Glacier are Mts. Dodds (Mickey Dodds joined the club in 1916, and was a club stalwart for over 30 years, and was made an honorary member in 1951), Henderson (Bill Henderson joined the club in 1927, becoming its 12th president in 1938), Mills (R.M. Mills joined the club as a founding member in 1907, and was made an honorary member in 1957), Porter (James Porter joined the club as a founding member in 1907, was

made an honorary member in 1910, and was its honorary president from 1914 - 1932), and Tait. This peak, shown on the first page of this newsletter, is named after Preston, or P.L., Tait, who joined the club in 1925 and was made an honorary member in 1960. P.L. Tait was born in Bowmansville, Ontario, and lived for some time in Toronto before heading west. In 1913 he found the Rockies and attended an Alpine Club camp there. Further west he discovered the Coast Mountains and the BCMC. But he had been training to be a chiropractor and graduated in Toronto in 1923. The same year he made the first ascent of Mt. Weart. He somehow fitted in his studies between mountaineering trips to the west. It is unclear whether he ever practised as a chiropractor because he pursued what appears to have been his greatest loves - photography and studying nature in the mountains of B.C. - shortly after his graduation. He became the club's first chair of the natural history section in 1932. Some of his photos won prizes in competitions and he was regularly a judge for the club's own photo competitions. He seemed to have a special attraction to the club cabin on Grouse Mountain and, in the 1930's, had his own cabin there. His numerous photographs of the club cabin were widely distributed to club members, as postcards or Christmas cards, at the time. These and many hundreds of his other photos from 1913 to the 1960's are stored in the club archives. They provide a rich photographic history of the club during this period.

His obituary, printed in the November, 1970, issue of the club newsletter, the B.C. Mountaineer, stated - "One of the peculiarities of the B.C.M.C. is that so many of its members retain their membership long after their climbing days are done. This continued loyalty is a source of strength and continuity of purpose that goes back 63 years.

A conspicuous example of such loyalty is Preston L. Tait, who died on August 15, 1970 at the age of 89 years. "P.L." was a member for over 40 years and maintained his membership to the last, and actively supported the club in every way.

He climbed extensively in the Rockies, Selkirks and the Coast Range, and had to his credit a number of first ascents, including Mt. Weart. This was in the days when "bushwhacking" was normal and a "good trail" was a skimpy line of blazes, faded with age. To some extent he was a "loner" and often climbed by himself or with one or two companions. Reaching the top was not his prime object. A keen naturalist and photographer, he loved simply to be in the wilderness, and he found, as most of us do, that the best places are in the high hills. He was a first-class woodsman and a tireless traveller.

In recent years, he was unable to get away from the city but he seldom missed a club meeting, especially if a showing of mountain pictures was on the program.

"P.L." will be missed by all the old-timers, who will remember him best as a courteous and unassuming gentleman."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Policy Wonks

The newsletter arrived the other day with a fresh round of political invective and environmental activism exhorting us on to save the mountains. You'll recall the diatribes in the newsletter over the last decade about the blood-sucking NDP, the racist aboriginal hidden agenda, open-our-parks-for-business Liberals and incompetent bureaucrats. Oh, and then there's always the yearly dose of snow pillow data to look forward to just before the summer hiatus. It's always nice to know the newsletter is a prestigious scientific organ, which furthers the authority of its political editorializing. After a frenetic ten months of letter writing to the

government its nice to have that imagery of soft, pillows of snow data to tide one over the bleak summer period devoid of a newsletter.

This is not to undermine anyone's commitment to environmental causes but the lack of any contrary opinions makes for bland fare, indeed. How refreshing it would be to read something different for a change. How about, "Confession of a ski mountaineer - I traversed Garibaldi Park - by snowmobile!" I realize, course, this could subvert people into taking up snowmobiling in parks, for instance. Perhaps we need to be protected from our base selves in the way and spirit of the communist revisionist historians. The content must be edited

for unacceptable material, personal bias and other freedom of expression. Trip reports are and will be edited to expunge material that doesn't meet the criteria of the policy wonks. And just what is acceptable material, exactly? Who makes up the policies? Are they just pulled out of thin air without the courage to bring them to the executive or membership for discussion? Or does one just go ahead and do what one will anyway subverting the will of the executive?

I'm confused and don't know whom to blame. Is it the Liberals and their hidden agenda or are they the bloodsuckers? I'm not really sure. I know the bureaucrats are incompetent and now there are fewer bureaucrats. With fewer incompetents, aren't things improving? Maybe I should have been reading my newsletter more closely for the last ten years.

In a mature publication, different opinions should be able to be freely expressed without editorializing or alteration. An author's right to express him or herself should be respected and not be subservient to the interests of the policy wonks. A publication that insults the integrity of its authors is not worth reading, in my opinion, whether or not one agrees with its overall message.

The worst example I've seen of this is about ten years ago in a related publication. An author, Graeme Pole submitted an article dealing with the use of helicopters in climbing mountains. The editor, name of Harris, of the erstwhile, respected publication took exception with Pole's argument and juxtaposed his article side-by-side in column format with a critique of his own that argued the contrary opinion. That two people share a different opinion on the topic is no surprise. What I found underhanded is the way the editor took to rebuke his response to his opponent. I would have no objection with Harris publishing an article in response to his opponent's, but only as another author to be judged on his own ability to present his argument. By couching his opinion in the manner in which he did, and signing that clearly he was the editor, it gives full weight and agreement of the organization he represents to what I felt he could only justify as his personal opinion. (Harris was editor at the time of a prestigious national

mountaineering publication.) I don't think we've quite descended to that level in the BCMC newsletter, but we're not far off.

I've largely stopped contributing articles to the newsletter or BC Mountaineer as a result of the repeated slaps to my integrity as an author. Lest anyone think this is idle talk you only need to go to the Canadian Mountain Encyclopedia web site at Bivouac.com. There are a number of articles on the web that I haven't and won't send to the club to be published even though they are entirely of mountaineering interest. So in the spirit of blaming the victim, you can blame me that we have so much educational filler material in the newsletter, almost entirely lacking in mountaineering interest. In anticipation of an "Editor's comment" that arises after any inconsistent opinion is expressed I hereby save the editor some trouble and provide editor's comments for free (use of italics is requested to preserve the desired effect):

Ed's comment: You're right, Paul. You really should have been reading your newsletter for the last decade. We are utterly consistent – that's policy #1. In fact, if the provincial Liberals had any brains at all they would be hiring members of the executive into senior levels of government. Policy #2 – no dogs on trips and no references to dogs on trips. This predates all policies and I've made it retroactive to 1975, which incidentally predates your club membership by about five years and your serving on the executive by about eight years. It's true, it doesn't appear in the club policy manual, which was prepared by Brian Gavin who was president of the club in the late 1980s, when you were vice-president and I was editor. But I have since "remembered" the policy was passed in the 1970s, even though I cannot locate it in the minutes. This was a subversive period in the club's history which by the centenary in 2008, will have been expunged from the history I am compiling of the club. Policy #3 – policy takes precedence over an author's freedom of expression. I am utterly consistent in this policy on policy. And I regret your having forced me to put my policies in print. But you see a policy wonk has a policy in place for every contingency.

Paul Kubik

Editor's comment:

Paul's letter has been printed in its unedited entirety. Most articles submitted to the editor are

printed with only very minor editing (English, typos, etc.). I realize that one can never please everyone all of the time but it appears that Paul finds little of mountaineering interest in what he calls “educational filler material”. This is his opinion but it is not shared by all. Now, to specifics

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1. Exhortations and diatribes – For our last fiscal year, 73% of the total content of the newsletter was devoted entirely to club trip reports, trip ads, and activities. During the current year in 7 issues of the newsletter, members have been exhorted to do things 4 times – once to not rock climb at Malemute, and 4 times, including one in this newsletter, to respond to various land use issues, one of which was to respond to a proposed Tantalus provincial park management plan. Club editors over the years have exhorted club members to do many things since the first club newsletter in 1923. The first environmental exhortation appeared in the February, 1925, newsletter when club members were exhorted to join the National Parks Association to help protect parks and Garibaldi Park in particular. In 1926, the club executive was please to note that they had convinced 83 club members and summer camp participants to sign a petition to the provincial government, to set aside and protect Garibaldi park. Environmental exhortations have been a common thread throughout the club’s history, beginning in 1913 with John Davidson, the provincial botanist and a club member, who lectured other club members about the need to protect our flora. It was exhortations from club members, printed in our newsletters, that helped get Garibaldi Park, Stein valley park, Tantalus park, Smoke Bluffs, Pinecone-Burke park, etc., etc., established as parks for our form of recreation.
2. I have never attempted to make the newsletter a “prestigious scientific organ”.

As a scientist, I have always tried to ensure that scientific rigour has been applied to any scientific content and have encouraged relevant scientific content, as I believe that this should be of great interest to club members. During the 1930’s, 40’s and 50’s when the club had a very active natural history section, the newsletter devoted a very substantial portion of its space to scientific content. William Taylor was made an honorary member of the club, mainly as a result of his enormous contribution of scientific articles to the newsletter. Today we publish a fraction of the scientific content that we have in the past.

3. Re “alternative” content – I have published everything I have been sent except for controversial letters that the executive, not me alone, decided should not be published. The lack of “alternative” content reflects the lack of such articles being submitted to the editor.
4. Editing of articles – Apart from minor editing for style, English, etc, I also try to remove or tone down material which could be hurtful to individual club members or which describes club members doing things which are not legal. Such things have included building trails without permits, traveling in areas closed to the public, or taking dogs off-leash in areas where they are supposed to be on-leash. I have also edited material describing members doing thing which are against club policy, in an effort to not encourage others to do the same. In consultation with authors I have also edited material which I thought could reflect adversely on the club. That sums up my editing.
5. Expression of opinions – I have never edited out anyone’s personal opinions on any issue. If the opinions involve criticism of other people then, in a democratic society and a democratic institution, those being criticized, an editor included, have the right to reply.

6. Club policies and dogs on club trips (the apparent catalyst for Paul's letter). The 1978 B.C. Mountaineer stated, for the first time in a club publication, "Pets of any type are not allowed on BCMC trips and the trip leader has the right to turn away any person who brings one along".

Every club general information brochure produced since that date, the most recent being in 1997, including one produced while Paul was president, contained that same statement about pets not being allowed on club trips. There are those who argue that it is not a club policy because we have no record of the executive passing it. Unfortunately we have no record of minutes of executive meetings for the 1976-1983 period which is when that policy would have been passed. I have always believed it to be a club policy because I do not believe it would have been printed the way it was had it not been a

club policy. In recent years people have submitted articles describing club trips with dogs present. I have had the option of

- a) not printing the article – against my policy
- b) printing the article unedited, which could then encourage others to take dogs on club trips, in defiance of club policy
- c) printing the article, inserting an editor's comment to the effect that dogs are not allowed on club trips – causing considerable antagonism and hard feeling, or
- d) printing the article after removing references to dogs. I chose this option, as I believed it would cause the least problems. People could continue taking their dogs on club trips and no issue would be made of it. If club members wish to change the policy, which I believe exists, of dogs not being allowed on club trips, then the matter should be raised with the executive.

If Paul is unhappy with any of these policies or newsletter content, then he should propose changes.

NEWS

Canada Avalanche Centre to continue

Following cuts to the Avalanche Centre's budget, things looked bleak for its survival. However, a generous donation by Mountain Equipment Coop will assist in keeping it operating, as will a smaller donation from the BCMC, after the executive approved a donation of \$250 at their March meeting.

Changes to B.C. Parks

Tom Burgess, a retired Provincial Wildlife Biologist, now working with the HELP MELP Campaign, has determined that the following changes are in store for B.C. Parks, as a result of recent B.C. government policies:

"On January 17th, government announced plans to downsize most of its Ministries, including Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) and Sustainable Resource Management (SRMM). These two Ministries contain all the elements of the Wildlife, Fisheries, Habitat Protection and Parks Programs

which had been included in the former Ministry of Environment, Land and Parks (MELP). The Four Programs have been the focus of the HELP MELP Campaign. We are aware, however, that there will be cuts to other elements of the former Ministry, specifically to Pollution Prevention and Water Management, a loss of at least 100 positions, and to the Conservation Officer Service, a loss of at least 25 positions. On January 17th, government figures were indicating a planned reduction from both SRM and WLAP of 983 positions, a 35% reduction.

Utilizing government information sources, it has been possible to determine the precise number and likely effect of the planned cuts in Victoria and in all nine Regional offices.

PREVIOUS CUTS:

Before considering this information, however, it must be understood that the announced cuts are not being taken from fully staffed Programs. Under the previous government administration, Wildlife, Fisheries and Habitat Protection had ALREADY

been reduced to only 50% of their former strength over a seven year period. The Parks Program had been downsized earlier and had been spread progressively thinner as additional areas and park numbers were increased. By last July, Parks staff were responsible for over 800 Parks. The number of field staff then available provided a ratio of 5 Parks per field staff.

PARKS PROGRAM:

Cuts to the Parks Program are the heaviest of the Four Programs, at 34% overall. There will be a loss of 63 positions, 33 now, 30 more later, leaving 120 people to carry on with, in many cases, half their former numbers, but with additional duties. The Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland Regions are very heavily impacted. Both are reduced from 2 Districts each, to one. Vancouver Island loses 51% of its staff, the Lower Mainland, 45%. The Victoria unit which supports Districts with its Planning, Acquisition, Extension and Statistical functions, is cut by 35%. Both the Thompson and Okanagan Districts are cut by 33%.

One of the most serious losses to the Parks Program is the loss of all 13 of the District Extension Officers. These are the people who provided the public outreach and who nurtured the community relationships so necessary to the Parks Program. They are the staff who provided the field efforts which lead to public understanding of park values, to appreciation, and thence to public support for protection of those values.

All Parks field staff undertake a certain level of extension duties, but the Extension Officers are the ones with the primary responsibility and the special training and experience to do the job. They handled many of the thousands of public inquiries that come in weekly during the high-use seasons, many of which cannot be satisfactorily handled by a webpage. They put together the parks and districts communication plans, deciding what messages to get out, what tools to use and with what design and cost. They were the staff who worked with contractors and volunteers to provide the very popular and informative Interpretive Programs - the campfire and daytime sessions which tell us of nature lore and present us with information on conservation

issues and outdoors safety tips. They arrange for the various spring school programs dealing with nature appreciation, back country education and safety practices.

Extension staff had primary responsibility for delivering the volunteer programs. In 2001 they dealt with 2,070 volunteers, providing, free to the government, 130,000 hours of effort valued at \$1.3 million. This included the campground and back-country hosts, the ecological reserve wardens, and a wide range of special projects: trail and cross country ski trail development and maintenance; tracking and surveying wildlife and habitat; mapping caves and other natural features; providing viewing facilities and signs, and planting trees. In addition to all this, they raised funds from outside sources, local governments, companies and private donors. In 2001 this provided for 77 different projects, valued at over \$500,000, not including the value of volunteer hours. The extension group was bringing in more than twice the value of the wages and benefits paid to them.

In addition to loss of the extension efforts, the loss of so many front-line staff places immense burdens on those members remaining. These are the people who provide all the park management functions. Among a wide range of functions are the following: provide and monitor park use permits; identify and deal with developing conservation and maintenance issues; supervise back-country use; plan and maintain trails, cross-country ski networks; investigate and take action regarding illegal park uses; provide for public safety; answer public inquiries; and work with contractors, E-Teams, volunteer groups and individuals on a wide range of subjects. Front-line parks workers are now being expected to take on some new duties. These are associated with management and maintenance of Wildlife Management Areas (22 in the province) and a wide range of fish and wildlife reserves - over 300 in all - many (65) of which have licenses, leases and management agreements to administer. A daunting task formerly for Fish and Wildlife staff, this new duty for parks staff will be impossible for them to carry out without some kind of relief.

When front-line worker numbers are reduced to the extent planned by government, the services they

provide are diminished, former service levels are made impossible, and program changes must be contemplated.

AFTER THE CUTS - WHAT THEN?

The above information indicates what functions and services will be lost as a result of the announced cuts. But it is beyond reason to assume that staff remaining will be able to carry on as before. Clearly, government intends a wide range of changes. Staff and public will be learning of these changes over the next weeks and months.

For now, we know of some of the intended changes from government releases. Government "will focus on client service", "will do away with constraints on economic development", "will facilitate sustainable economic development", "will eliminate regulations to facilitate industry competitiveness", "will trim regulation to foster a more competitive investment climate" and "will approve projects in a more timely, cost-effective and certain fashion". Government intends to encourage industry, local government and private organizations to take on a

much greater environmental management and protection role, leaving government staff the role of monitoring and enforcement. How this is to be delivered after all the staff cuts remains unclear. How staff - already handling scores of partnerships in every region of the province - are to take on even more partnerships with less staff, is inexplicable. Our parks system is due for some major changes: no more extension or interpretive efforts, unless someone else pays the bills; less field staff to watch over the public interests; less staff to develop partnerships and work with the volunteers; campsites closing (40 to 50 this year); parks closing (100 or more possible); and parks assigned to the federal government, or to regional and municipal authorities or private interests. A new approach to parks management which meets public expectations may yet be developed, but it looks years away at this point.

There are many environmental concerns raised by both the staff cuts and the newly announced government intentions for the environment. The above are only the most obvious."

MEETINGS/EVENTS OF INTEREST

The Lillooet Rainshadow Wilderness—free information meeting Thursday 11 April 2002

About one year ago, following a 6-year long public planning process (the Lillooet LRMP), a Cabinet Order protected the magnificent South Chilcotin Mountains as a park, over 60 years after it was first proposed as a park. Other areas of environmental and recreation significance in the Lillooet Forest District, which includes portions of the Duffey Lake corridor, were also set aside. These protected areas are now in jeopardy because B.C.'s new government had no sooner taken office than it launched a review of this planning process (as well as many others). This review will likely result in a decision to reduce or fragment the South Chilcotin Mountains park and to delete most of the other sensitive lands protected in April 2001.

If you would like to learn more about the unique "Rainshadow Wilderness", come to a free public information meeting at Point Grey Secondary School (37th and Arbutus) on Thursday, April 11th at 7:30 p.m. (open house at 6:30 p.m.)

The government has recently produced a second draft of the LRMP recommendations - available on their website <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/sir/lrmp/lill/>. Comments from the public about these proposals are requested **immediately**. I hope to be able to post on the Club's website (bcmc.ca), under the FORUM section, the web address showing the proposals, and hopefully a way for you to respond "on line" with your comments. Keep posted by monitoring the Forum and check out the LRMP website for more details.

Brian Wood