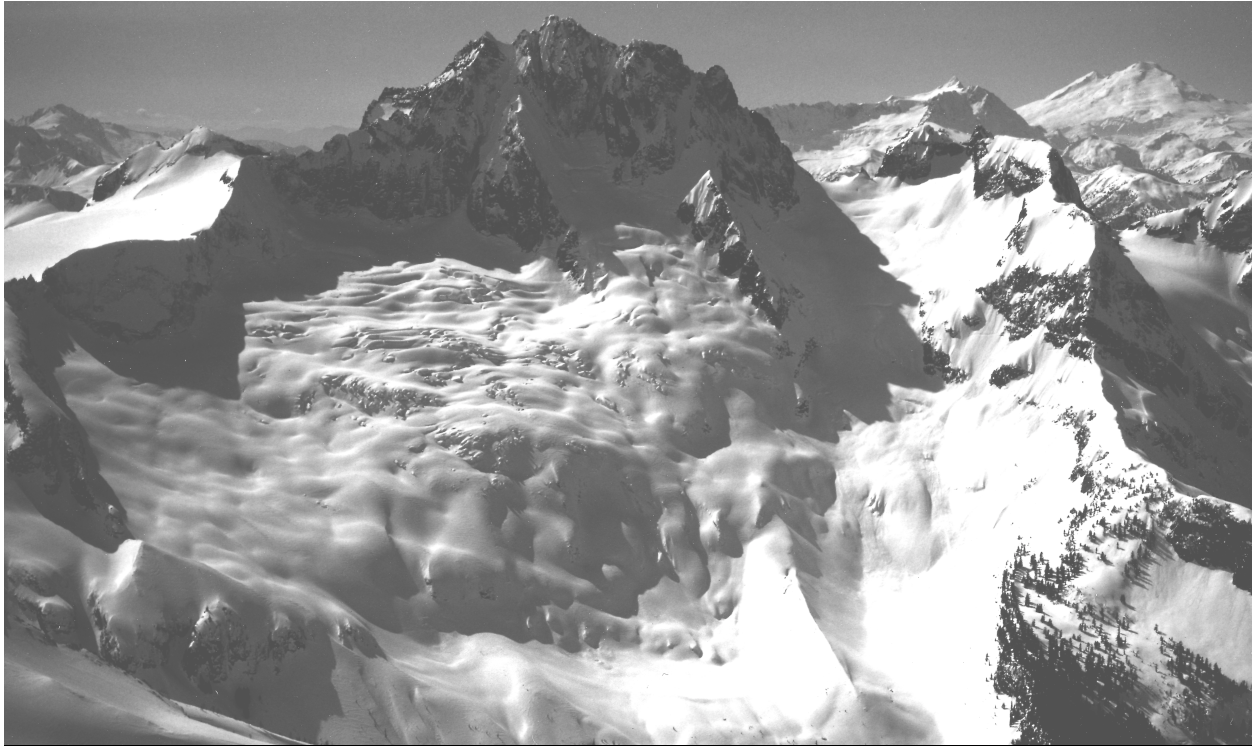


# BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

FEBRUARY 2002

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 80 NO. 2



### 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, 12 February** - Entertainment will be a slide show by Johan Stroman on rambling in South America.

**Tuesday, 12 March** - Entertainment will be a slide show on ski mountaineering in the Coast Mountains, including the North Ck. area.

Mt. Redoubt in winter.



Machu Picchu in Peru.



**HONORARY PRESIDENTS** - Esther and Martin Kafer

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484	<b>CABIN / TRAILS</b> -	IAN HOPPER	604-929-3720
<b>PAST-PRESIDENT</b> -	ANDERS OUROM	604-228-1798	<b>CONSERVATION</b> -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
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<b>SECRETARY</b> -	MIRELLA LIOCE	604-736-5079	<b>SUMMER CAMP</b> -	DAVID SCANLON	604-464-3730
<b>TREASURER</b> -	MARCIA COLLIER	604-987-5245	<b>WEBMASTER</b> -	MICHAEL McCRAE	604-326-0156
<b>MEMBERSHIP/MAILING</b> -	MIKE PEEL	604-268-9502	<b>EDITOR</b> -	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
	TAMMIE SIBBALD				
<b>SOCIALS</b> -	DARRYL MALBY	604-709-0051	<b>EQUIPMENT</b> -	PAUL KUBIK	604-876-0764
	DONNA BAILIE	604-572-5051	<b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT</b> -		
<b>CLIMBING</b> -	MARGARET HANSON	604-736-6397		KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462	<b>LIBRARY</b> -	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](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. The club has EPIRBs, 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**

**February: every Wednesday:** Cypress ski area  
More practising and enjoying your skiing.

A1

Dave Morriss

604-732-9896

<b>February 2-3:</b> Tetrahedron area Skiing on the Sechelt Peninsula.	B3	Michael Feller	604-270-4050
<b>February 2-3:</b> Ice climbing at Lillooet Cold and vertical in the sunny interior.	A5	Russ March	604-961-2904
<b>February 3:</b> Mt. Alpen Skiing east of Squamish in the Mamquam valley area.	B2/1703 m	Mike Peel	604-444-4068
<b>February 9:</b> Mt. Rohr Extended skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	C2-3	Cynthia Neale	604-264-7466
<b>February 9-10:</b> Vantage Pk. Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B3/2230 m	Tom Kuczmierowski	604-588-6835
<b>February 9-10:</b> Overlord Mtn. Extended skiing beyond Singing Pass in Garibaldi Park.	C3/2634 m	Rhys Gibb	604-294-3792
<b>February 9-10:</b> Cayoosh Mtn. area More skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B3	Jason Komaromi	604-734-0256
<b>February 9-10:</b> Ice climbing at Lillooet More cold and vertical at the most visited destination this winter.	B5	Miles Quesnel	604-460-1466
<b>February 10:</b> Mt. Crickmer Skiing in the Lower Fraser valley area.	B-C2/1340 m	Reinhard Fabische	604-462-9638
<b>February 16-17:</b> Tetrahedron area Skiing to and around the McNair cabin area on the Sechelt Peninsula.	B2-3	Alfred Menninga	604-886-0775
<b>February 16-17:</b> Prospector Pks. Skiing in the Cadwallader Range, approaching from Phelix Ck.	B3(4)/2500 m	Paul Kubik	604-876-0764
<b>February 16-17:</b> Snowspider Extended skiing east of Lillooet Lake	C3	Randy Enomoto	604-224-6184
<b>February 16-17:</b> Ice climbing at Lillooet Yet again.	B5	Deryk Brower	604-274-2394
<b>February 16-19 or 20:</b> Mt. Luxor area Skiing beyond Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi Park.	B2/3	David Scanlon	604-464-3730
<b>February 23:</b> Mt. Seymour Skiing above North Vancouver.	A2	Steve Callingham and Andrea Scheibel	604-421-5516
<b>February 23-24:</b> Coquihalla Mtn. Extended skiing in the Coquihalla area.	C2/2160 m	Ian Voboril	604-837-8955
<b>February 23-24:</b> Snowspider Another chance for this peak.	C3	Peter Norris	604-240-6087
<b>February 23-25:</b> Rhododendron and Ipsoot Mtns. Traversing 2 fine mountains around Miller Ck., near Pemberton.	C3/2590 m	David Hughes	604-980-6484
<b>February 23 – March 2:</b> Glacier Circle Extended skiing in the Selkirks.	C3/4	Karin Pocock and Brad Hansen	604-786-3237
<b>March: every Wednesday:</b> Cypress ski area More practising and enjoying your skiing.	A1	Dave Morriss	604-732-9896
<b>March 2-3:</b> Duffey Lake road area Skiing east of Pemberton.	B2-3	Liz Ball	604-879-4648
<b>March 2-3:</b> Sky Pilot Mtn. Skiing and climbing above Howe Sound.	C3(4)/2025 m	Todd Ponzini	604-983-2612
<b>March 3:</b> Tricouni Meadows Skiing in the Squamish valley.	B2-3	Murray Lashmar	604-732-8184

<b>March 9-10:</b> Mt. Matier Fine skiing south of the Duffey Lake road.	B3(4)/2770 m	Tom Kuczmierowski	604-585-6835
<b>March 9-10:</b> Diamond Head area Easy skiing in Garibaldi Park. Transceiver practice as well.	B2	James Clark	604-983-9225
<b>March 9-10:</b> Cloudraker Mtn. Extended skiing east of Lillooet Lake.	C3/2375 m	Ian Hopper	604-929-3720
<b>March 10:</b> Cambie Ck. area Easy skiing in Manning Park.	B1	Theo Mosterman	604-823-4713

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members

The club welcomes the following new members:

Junior: Ryan Bougie

Associate: Lori Barjaktarovic, Neil Beattie, Linda Bily, Miriam Grob, Ryan Johnson, Derrick Johnstone, Peter Knight, Theresa Tham, Niki Vankuk.

### What club members are doing

Anders Ourom reports that he recently met **John Holmes** who, at 90, is doing well and is the second oldest living club member. **Fred Brownsword** is our oldest, at 94.

## WINTER COURSES

### Winter Mountaineering course

Objectives: To develop skills, knowledge, and confidence to safely participate in overnight ski trips.

For Whom: Strong downhill or proficient back-country skiers.

Prerequisites: Open to all BCMC members in good physical health and fitness who are able to ski with an overnight (15 kg) pack.

Course topics: Clothing and equipment, trip planning, snow camping and snow shelters; route and snowpack evaluation; avalanche awareness, transceiver use and self-rescue; winter mountain travel and weather. This course does not cover glacier travel or first aid.

Dates (4 weekends):

Week 1: Feb. 2/3, Week 2: Feb. 9/10, Week 3: Feb. 23/24, Week 4: Mar 2/3

Registration: The course is limited to 10 participants, and the cost is \$200.

To register contact Greg Hamilton at - hamilton\_greg@hotmail.com or Tel: 604-984-6800.

### Winter Leadership Skills Course (February)

A professional ski guide will be teaching a winter leadership skills course for BCMC members. The course will be limited to 8 active BCMC members, with priority given to members who are willing to organize club trips. The course will cost approximately \$150 and will include one Thursday evening of instruction and two day trips in the field.

Course instruction will be split between (1) soft skills and (2) hard skills. The soft skills portion of the course will include topics such as leadership techniques involving group management, risk management, communication, decision making and other such skills. The hard skills component will focus on avalanche safety techniques involving terrain evaluation, snowpack structure, weather, safe routefinding and rescue techniques, and recognizing and avoiding avalanche hazards.

For registration and more information contact Kit Griffin. E-mail: kitgriffin@telus.net or Tel: 604-736-8462.

## A BCMC EXECUTIVE MEETING

This year the club is 95 years old - our centennial is only 5 years away. The club has been blessed with many gifted writers, poets, comedians, naturalists, etc., in addition to its many gifted mountaineers. As we draw closer to our centennial year, your editor hopes to increase your appreciation of the club's history and will occasionally be reprinting articles, poems, extracts, etc., from previous club publications.

The following article was published in the January, 1947, issue of the B.C. Mountaineer. Those of you who have served in the club executive will realize that little has changed in the last 50+ years. The author, Mary Willis, among many other contributions to the club, was also one of your editor's predecessors.

### **"AN EXECUTIVE MEETING (Through the eyes of an acting Club Secretary)**

The Acting-Secretary (also Hostess) glanced at the clock. It was 8:25 and already three members had arrived for the 8 o'clock meeting. Extraordinary! By 8:45 all but three had arrived so the President called for order. Ten minutes later he was still calling, but the first spasm of greetings was over and the members could hear him.

"We shall now have the Minutes of the last meeting," said he, turning expectantly to the Acting-Secretary. She fumbled among a jumble of papers, wondering whether she should read very fast to get finished before everyone was asleep, or read them slowly to arouse some interest and keep them awake.

"No, I guess I'd better read them fast," she decided. "Those notes were pretty cold when I typed them. Maybe someday the chairman of the Cabin Committee will remember that he didn't really second all those motions."

This matter being over and formally buried by adoption, the President called on the meeting for reports. The 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, and Past Presidents let thoughtful expressions flit briefly over their faces and announced "No report."

The Treasurer nonchalantly read off a list of figures, then made the startling announcement that someone had paid up his back fees without prodding. The Librarian threw a bigger bombshell. It seemed that someone had gone to the library and borrowed a book. Also, the 11th issue of Vol. 2 of the Poughkeepsie Picnicers' Publication had been found. The Executive looked disappointingly unmoved.

The President turned to the Editor with an inquiring glint in his eye. The latter, looking a bit wild, said, "Well - I'm working on it. Let's see - this is September. Should have August's issue out by the end of next month. Unless, of course, the printer is into his Christmas rush--"

The Executive nodded their heads wisely and went on to the Social Committee. Social events, successful and otherwise, of the past 40 years were discussed in an effort to learn whether the Club really enjoyed its Annual Dinner.

It was now the turn of the Chairman of the Climbing Committee to appear like a raven at the feast and report the failure of members to attend trips. With proper solemnity, he reported that average attendance had fallen off .0041369% over three years. The Executive shook their heads at this state of affairs and started to explain - in unison - how the garden, sailboat, mother-in-law, or Junior had kept them from that last Camel trip. "Yes, the attendance does have a tendency to fall off in spite of good intentions," said the President confusedly, and turned hastily to the Junior Section Director. The Junior Section Director did nothing to lighten the gloom. It seemed that the Junior Section preferred the cool sea breezes to dusty scree slopes in summer, and - worst heresy of all - seemed to prefer the ease of skiing to punching holes in powder snow in winter. The Acting-Sec., nervously chewing her pencil, thought guiltily that perhaps the younger generation were getting too much sense to become the rabid mountaineers of a decade or two ago. How well she could remember dragging herself wearily out of Crown Pass in deep

snow to meet amused stares from skiers who were enjoying perfect snow conditions (for skiing) or from those who were simply lazing in the sun on evergreen boughs.

Under New Business the first item was the purchase of a new coffee pot. Various types were discussed vigorously and motions and withdrawals of motion involving four-, six-, and eight-cup sizes followed discussion. At the first word of coffee, the mind of the Acting-Sec. - also Hostess - had moved to the kitchen and begun calculating how much to make for the hungry crowd. If she made it in the big pot everyone was sure to want tea.

Her mind came back with a jerk on hearing "all in

favour?" and it took the President some time to explain what had gone before, and to guess the name of the proposer. "I guess the Chairman of the Cabin Committee won't mind credit for seconding this one too," the Acting-Sec. was just thinking, when that worthy (who had been deep in conversation with the - Lady - Chairman of the Membership Committee) suddenly announced that he had already bought a ten cup Dripalator a week ago. Since there was no further business the meeting adjourned, the Acting-Sec. threw her books to the floor and made for the kitchen. Of course anything important was settled over the tea cups."

## THE COST OF USING CARS ON CLUB TRIPS

For the benefit of car drivers and their passengers, we reprint, with permission, the following article written by Robin Tivy and taken from Robin's website - bivouac.com

"The Bivouac.com "Dog Car" has been sold for \$700 and a replacement Subaru acquired for \$5500. As many know, the car was a Toyota Corolla wagon which was getting rusty in spite of being hand painted with Tremclad rust paint every year. It was purchased brand new in 1982 as an alternative to the expensive gas guzzling Econoline vans currently in use. An extensive calculation was done to determine the true cost per km so passengers could be charged fairly. The cost was determined to be 14 cents per km. This cost then be would be split among the typical 5 passengers of a long trip, for about 3 cents per km per passenger. These outrageous charges were met with a storm of protest that lasted for most of the 1980's.

So now its time to do a similar calculation for the Subaru. First, we have to revisit the principles, and then do the actual calculation.

The first question is: what charges should be included? Conventional wisdom holds that the only legitimate cost to be shared by passengers is gas itself. Everybody can see the gas going into the car, and its obvious how its used up. The occasional

"100 dollar mile" when something breaks is of course the owner's responsibility. But over the years, the concept of some sort of wear and tear cost has crept in. So what are the principles?

The basic assumption is that you are going to have the car anyway, so insurance, cost of capital, and other time related ownership costs must be excluded. What you want to isolate are all the mileage-related costs. This boils down to gas, repairs and maintenance, and wearing out the car.

The gas cost is simple and nobody disputes it. 100 km requires 10 litres which is about \$6.00 (.60/litre) Therefore 1 km costs 6 cents.

Repair costs are simple to calculate. Just write down all the repair bills and divide by the number of kilometers. To get agreement, you should only count essential repairs, and not cosmetic repairs. The \$5 cost of a can of Tremclad Rust paint is acceptable, but don't try and count any sort of professional repainting job.

The third cost item is how much you "use up" or "wear out" the car by taking it, as opposed to leaving it in the parking lot. The fancy term is "mileage related depreciation" but don't use that term or people's eyes will glaze over. What you want is some measure of how much you "use up" the car by driving it. The fact you are "using up" the car

is especially true for those winter trips to the Rockies, or trips with a long 4 wheel drive component or on logging roads. So here's how I do the calculation:

The 1991 Subaru Loyale right now has 162,000 km, and we optimistically hope we'll get 100,000 more km out of it before it has to be retired for next to nothing (say \$500.00). So if 100,000 km costs \$5000, 1 km costs 5 cents. Those people who paid for the Corolla in the 80's will be glad to know that in the final reckoning, it cost about 6 cents/km over its 19 year life. It had 166,000 km on it when sold, and cost about \$10000 new. The famous rust and Tremclad paint jobs were of course due to the effects of salt on those Christmas trips to the Rockies. So on the Toyota Corolla 166,000 km cost \$10,000, therefore 1 km costs  $10,000/166,000 = 6$  cents Below is a table summarizing the three cost components discussed above:

Cost item	Cost per km
Gas	6 cents say 10 litres per 100 km
Oil and Repair	10 cents say \$1000 per 10,000 km

#### **New hut on Golden Ears**

Golden Ears Peak may get a new emergency shelter this summer. The present shelter has suffered from snow creep over the last few winters, causing it to move off its foundation. It has been in "stinking" bad shape for years. GETPARC has reached the halfway mark (\$ 7,500) in fundraising for the new shelter to be anchored to a rock surface minutes away from the old shelter on Panorama Ridge. It will be able to withstand a snowload of 2500 kg per sq m. The existing shelter will not be torn down until its replacement is complete.

#### **North Cascade glaciers continue to retreat**

The following was extracted from an article by Mauri Pelto and Paula Hartzell published in the December 2001 issue of Pack and Paddle: "A combination of energy crisis and dry weather pushed the d-word - drought - into an inordinate number of headlines this spring. The lack of hot weather through July may have allayed some fears,

Using up the car 5 cents Use up \$5000 over 100,000 km

-----  
21 cents per km

For charge per passenger calculations, round it down to 20 cents per km, and the whole cost can be split among 4 passengers by charging 5 cents per passenger per km. Using 5 cents makes it easy to calculate, because if you read the trip meter at the half way point, you can just multiply by 10 cents. For example if at half way you've gone 140 km, the round trip cost is \$14.00.

Of course, getting a good deal on 10 year old car is going to give you about the lowest costs possible, and doing the same calculation for any sort of new car will yield higher costs. The cost per person is also higher if you don't have 4 people in the car. So 5 cents per km is pretty well a rock bottom charge, one that I'd be happy to pay to anyone, and forgo the pleasure and feeling of power that I get by being the driver of the new Subaru."

Thus, at a cost of 20 c/km, a trip from Vancouver to Zoa (Coquihalla - 400 km) costs \$80, a trip to Duffey Lake (350 km) costs \$70, etc.

## **NEWS**

but then came August.

The thin 2001 snowpack on the glaciers was consumed by the heat of mid-August. The remaining 2000 snowpack was exposed higher on the glaciers, and lower, the 1999 snowpack was exposed. By mid-September these two snow layers had also been largely removed.

For the first time in three years the terminus of Columbia Glacier was exposed. It thinned by 3 m during the latter part of the summer. Yet snowpack here was better than in 1992-94 or 1998. The exception was the avalanche fans where accumulation was clearly less than normal.

#### **Mount Baker**

On the Easton Glacier the snowline rose from 1800 m at the start of August to 2200 m by mid-September. The crevasses were everywhere, opened to view by the minimal snowpack, in general opening a month earlier than usual, and several months earlier than the previous two summers.

Ptarmigan Ridge, largely deserted for 2 years due to the limited opening of the summit road and extensive snowpack on the trail even in September., was back in form. The snowfields were tough; the snow by early August was mostly from 1999 and was closer to ice than snow. Rainbow Glacier terminus had retreated 269 m since 1984 and 30 meters since 1998.

#### **Cascade Pass**

The Cache Col Glacier featured its typical, relatively uniform snowpack within the main cirque. The depth averaged only 1.5 meters instead of the usual 2.75 m and 4 to 4.5 m in 1999. Gunsight Notch had limited cornice development indicating a lack of avalanching in this area as well. Large avalanches off the Upper Johannesburg Glacier showered the reconstituted glacier below the trailhead at Cascade Pass. Yes, that avalanche pile is a glacier, crevasses and all.

#### **Colonial and Snowfield**

The lake at the end of the Colonial Glacier is growing and the glacier now features an extensive 2 - 6 m high ice cliff. This glacier is dying a slow death. The velocity is down to 1 to 2 meters a year. The Neve Glacier turns east for 2.5 km ending at 1600 m. The terminus is in a bowl that is covered by avalanches. Thus, the terminus is retreating very slowly and is mainly just thinning.

The Ladder Creek Glacier turns west at the divide and descends for 1.2 km ending at 1600 m. This much steeper terminus ended its advance in the mid-1980s. The retreat has been slow, with just 35 m of retreat since 1996.

The compelling feature of this area is having all three of the glacier behavior types of glacier response:

1. continuous retreat from the Little Ice Age advanced positions, from 1890 to approximately 1950, followed by a period of advance from 1950 - 1976, and then retreat since 1976, like the Ladder Creek Glacier;
2. rapid retreat from 1890 to approximately 1950, slow retreat or equilibrium from 1950 - 1976, and moderate to rapid retreat since 1976, as is the case

with the Neve Glacier;  
3. continuous retreat from 1890 LIA to the present, note the Colonial Glacier.

#### **Mount Daniel**

The Ice Worm Glacier had no 2001 snow left by mid-August. The Lynch and Daniel Glaciers also had a poor snowpack, demonstrating that the 2001 season snowpack's greatest reductions from normal were east of the divide and at higher elevations.

#### **Keeping Watch**

The *North Cascades Challenger* newspaper stated that "with a 2 degree C warming, 90% of the North Cascade glaciers would likely disappear in the next 40 years."

From the above we can see that this is not true. First of all, it has warmed up 2 degrees since the Little Ice Age and nowhere near 90% of the glaciers disappeared. Of the 107 glaciers we watch, four have melted away in the last 20 years. This is an indication of the significance of the warmth, but a far cry from a trend toward 90%.

Secondly, even if 90% melted away, it would happen slowly. Glaciers like the Whitechuck, Colonial and South Cascade are still adjusting to the post-Little Ice Age warm conditions, and after a century of retreat, are still a long way from fully melting away. Our glaciers are shrinking, but they do not shrink as fast as the *Challenger* feared - or as slowly as many of us wish.

#### **MEETINGS/EVENTS OF INTEREST**

##### **2002 Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival**

Come celebrate Vancouver's mountain culture! The 5th annual VIMFF will run from 16th to the 24th February 2002, with the main shows held Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup>, and Sunday, 24th February, at the Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver. Special guests will include major climbing, skiing and mtn-biking stars, such as Chris Sharma, Guy Edwards, and either Lynn Hill or Conrad Anker from the North Face. Enjoy a spectacular range of films from around the world. Watch for posters and press releases, plus check [www.vimff.org](http://www.vimff.org) for more info.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Mt. Sloan, 2-4 September 2000

Mt. Sloan is a spectacular triangular shaped peak above the western end of Downton Lake and an obvious landmark from Goldbridge and Gun Lake on the interior side of the Coast Range. This wonderful peak offers at least three worthwhile climbing objectives — the Southeast Buttress, Northeast Ridge and a North Face route as described in Bruce Fairley's *Climbing & Hiking Guide*. Kevin McLane's *Alpine Select Guide* also includes the Northeast Ridge and good pictures of the mountain.

The first ascent of the Southeast Buttress and the Northeast Ridge were made by BCMC parties in 1974 and 1976 respectively. (Fairley's guide credits the first ascent on the Southeast Buttress to a later party in 1984 which is incorrect.) I was on the first ascent of the Southeast Buttress on the Thanksgiving weekend in 1974 with a party led by Martin and Esther Kafer, our Honorary Presidents. After completing the climb in 1974, Martin described it as one of the best climbs within reach of Vancouver on a long weekend. Access then and now is via Pemberton, Railroad Pass and the Hurley River Road. In 1974 the Hurley River Road did not connect with Railroad Pass and the trip involved 8 km of tough narrow one lane cat track driving.

Today the Hurley River Road makes for a fairly easy access. The distance to the Green Mountain Forest Lookout Road is 72 km from the Petro Canada gas station in Pemberton. Approaches to the mountain are via either Ault Creek, with some bushwacking, or over Green Mountain.

I finally had an opportunity to return to Mt. Sloan on the September 2000 long weekend. A large party joined me as we made camp at the Forestry Lookout just below the top of Green Mountain. The approach to Green Mountain is on a pleasant forestry lookout/old mining road with no bush, unless you try to drive it. Dave Scanlon managed to get his small 4x4 half way up.

Arriving early enough on Saturday, most of the

party set out to travel along the ridge of Green Mountain and a higher peak (2200 m) to the southwest. On returning to camp, we were greeted by lowering clouds, soon to be followed by snow. The Lookout, home for several BCMCers, became the gathering place for all during the evening.

Despite the marginal weather, we set out for an attempt on the Southeast Buttress and the "regular" route via a south gully. After traversing over Green Mountain and dropping down to Ault Creek and Lakes, we arrived at the base of the southeast side of Mt. Sloan. The southern side of the mountain is comprised of a series of buttress/ridges and gullies. With new snow on the rock, the majority of the party led by Karl Ricker, set off to find the so-called standard route up near the head of the cirque on the south side of the mountain. Trevor Norman and I started up slabs hoping to find the Southeast Buttress in the fog. After 2 hours of complex route-finding, we realized we were too far to the east of the Southeast Buttress and our route was becoming far too complex to continue in the fog. We retreated to find the rest of the group.

Karl and the others found to their dismay, that the so-called standard South Gully "which is unmistakable" according to Fairley's Guide is not unmistakable. Rather, on proceeding around the Southeast Buttress, the climbing party was confronted with 5 gullies. The Southeast Buttress is immediately west of the large "Dragon Couloir" — gully which is fairly recognizable when there is good visibility.

The party decided to try the final or 5th gully — the furthest into the cirque. What starts off as a loose but relatively straight forward gulley becomes increasingly messy as one approaches the skyline ridge. From here only a small remnant of the group continued along the western ridge top to the peak. Congratulations to Dave Scanlon, Monica Bittel, Nancy Henderson and Cynthia Neale for sticking it out.

On meeting the balance of the party who were now in retreat, Trevor & I continued up the first gully — the west side of the Southeast Buttress in order to find Alfred Menninga who had ventured up this gully trying to find the so-called standard South Gully. On finding Alfred, we all retreated as the hour was now past 5 pm. We all arrived back at the Lookout on the Green Mountain Ridge between 7 and 8 pm, where we debated which gully was the standard class 3 route. Monday brought a retreat to the cars and the trip back to Vancouver.

Stay tuned for a report of a repeat visit in September, 2001 and an answer to questions where is the Southeast Buttress and the “standard” South Gully route.

Participants:

Dave Scanlon, Monica Bittel, Nancy Henderson, Cynthia Neale - the conquerors via the wrong gully - Carol McMillan, Karl Ricker, Alfred Menninga, Margaret Hanson, Trevor Norman, Mirella Lioce, Tania Zulkoskey, Marilyn Cox, and Dan Friedmann, and David Hughes, (somewhere in the fog organizer).

#### **Sun God Mtn, 25-26 August, 2001**

We approached Sun God Mtn from Tenquille Creek, which is reached from the Birkenhead River FSR. [Take the D’arcy road at Mount Currie townsite. At +16.8km go left on the Birkenhead River FSR. This road is largely 2WD in summertime. Drive ~14.6km up the FSR where the creek that drains Cerulean Lake is crossed (prominent waterfall below lake outlet). 200m beyond the creek, immediately before a small roadside pond, a logging spur road branches left (4WD), which is followed to gain about 200m of elevation above the FSR.]

We drove to the top of a spur road, where a fire break is picked up at the top of the slash. A route has been developed through the forest and bush which provides a straightforward ascent to near 1800 m. Shortly after the route breaks out into open heather meadows, and the ridgeline steepens abruptly. A faint tread can be picked out, traversing the bowl to the SE. We traversed into the bowl, crossing rocky sections and

meadows, at times steep. At the far end we picked up the tread again and followed it up through an inclined ramp (20m) in the wall of rock above. Now following orange flagging tape, we gained the top of a subalpine spur, 120 m above Cerulean Lake.



**The west ridge of Sun God. The Birkenhead River FSR and the Tenquille Creek road are down to the left. The ascent route followed the forested spur in front of Sun God Mtn’s north-facing bowl. The rocky ridge adjacent this spur, with the prominent scree slope on its west side is referred to in the article. Our descent route came down its west side in a valley below the scree. Cerulean Lake lies between the north-facing bowl and the rocky ridge. Mount Marriott is in the distance. Photo – P. Kubik**

Our goal was to camp out of the bugs, which would mean finding a steady wind or camping higher at the Sun God-Seven O’Clock col (el. 1950 m). We dropped down to Cerulean Lake and traversed around its west end. The tape vanished as soon as we descended from the ridge and so had the route. It was a bit bushy getting around the lake but once beyond it, open coun-

try led to higher ground. We climbed through a rock-strewn open bowl to the bottom of a series of unconnected snowfields. The snow was too icy for boots so we climbed up steep scree to the col and set up camp. There was plenty of sun and wind at the col and the views were fantastic.

We spent a pleasant evening lounging around and there was still plenty of time that allowed some of us to bag Seven O'Clock Mtn. to the west. Snow patches at the col, or rain puddles provided water.

In the morning we followed the west ridge to the summit of Sun God. It took about 2 straightforward hours from camp to reach the summit. From the col, the flattish ridge was followed over heather and sub-alpine tree islands for about 1.5 km. A small amount of elevation loss was incurred just after leaving the col, where the ridgeline dips around the head of a small lake draining into Tenas Creek. Where it became impractical to stay on the ridge crest, we traversed into the broad rocky bowl on the south side of the W ridge and started to scramble upwards to the summit.

After breaking camp in the afternoon, we descended towards Cerulean Lake but stayed higher to avoid the bush we had encountered on Saturday. While doing this we found some intriguing flagging tape about 0.5km west of where we had lost the tape the previous day. In following this route, we bypassed all the bush but ended up traversing over an 1850 m col onto the wrong side of ridge from the hiker's route we had ascended. Amazingly, we ran right away into the person flagging this second route, whom I knew from some years ago. Although I had enjoyed the ascent route immensely, he was now touting this second route as preferable. So at his behest we followed it down. In my opinion, this second route was far too muddy and unaesthetic. In the end we arrived back on the Tenquille Creek road and about 5km up the valley from our vehicles. But the drivers were able to hop a ride back down the Tenquille road in the back of a pickup truck to the spur road where our 4WDs were parked.

Participants: Marilyn Cox, Dan Friedman, Christina Williams, McKenzie Kitchen, Paul Ng, Tom Marvan, Jerry Marvan, Jeff Gagnon, Tom Kuczmierowski, John Sapac, Cynthia Neale, and Paul Kubik (organizer &

reporter)

### **Cathedral Park, 6-8 October, 2001**

A keen group of people met at the Cathedral Lake Resort parking lot to catch the 10 am vehicle to take them up the steep road. Our intrepid group put our gear into a truck and then clambered aboard a Swiss Army tank-like bus that ground it's way slowly and noisily up the road. Everybody passed us and we were beginning to worry whether there would be enough daylight left when we got there and if there would be any places to camp.

We did, however, find excellent campsites at Quiniscoe Lake and then had the opportunity to climb up onto the rim. Weather was cold and windy. Black clouds blanketed the west and sleety squalls occasionally swept through our area. While Monika and Irene caught up on sleep, the group climbed up to the rim and summited Quiniscoe Pk. Anne and Theresa went east to climb Pyramid and the rest carried on to climb Red Mtn and complete the entire rim to the west. We met back at camp for dinner and to light a warming fire.

On Sunday the party set off for Haystack Mtn. This was a long trip and required an earlier start, especially when a few members of our party were suffering from various plagues and diseases. Anne and Theresa decided to make a concerted effort and sprinted off. They returned just at dusk after a successful summit and a long day. The rest of us headed up Box Car and then Beth, Karen and Monika climbed Lakeview before returning to camp.

Turkey dinner at the lodge was too much for some people to abstain from joining, and so it was only a small group that hovered over their MSR stoves and enjoyed their one-pot Thanksgiving dinners. We woke to snow on Monday morning. Some folk caught the 9 am vehicle back to civilization and the others caught the 1 pm van back. A much colder and wetter weekend than last year. No shorts and t-shirts! However, a good weekend with a great group of people!

Participants: Irene Goldstone, Theresa Duynstee,

Anne Lavergne, Beth Hamilton, Karen ?, Maurice Lamothe, Marissa, Monika Bittel, Manrico and Liz Scremin and 3 nieces and Ellen Woodd (organizer and reporter),

#### **Yak Pk., 14 October, 2001**

Heavy rain Saturday evening. People phone and ask me to look out the window! Too late to call the trip off as it is a joint trip with the Nordic Racers X-Country Ski Club. Rain stops as predicted during the night. A good crowd shows up for an early start. Blue sky appears. Breakfast stop for pies at the Home Restaurant in Hope. Chainsaw put to use. Bridge added across swampy creek. Rest of trail up Yak in excellent shape. Lots of new snow. Deep trail breaking. Good gaiters, priceless. Yak, then Nak, climbed. Decision to complete round trip via back (north) bowl and Nak-Thar col. Ice axes handy. In the shade now, no time left to climb Thar. Descent into some unavoidable light bush. Flagging has disappeared from route down to pipeline road. Dinner at the Homer in Chilliwack. - An excellent day hiking through the first snow of the winter.

Participants: Jos van der Burg, Don Chandler, Amanda Church, Anne-Marie Conte, Theresa Duynstee, Silke Gumplinger, Nancy Henderson, Marco Iucolino, Doug Pulleyblank, Stefan Reinker, Ian Voboril, Philippa Wall and Peter Gumplinger (Organizer and reporter).

#### **The Great Mystery Trip, 13 January, 2002**

No one interested in this trip seemed to be able to bear the idea that the destination was a mystery. They all wanted to know where we were going, asap or sooner. Next time, I may embargo knowledge of the destination until we're on our way. Not that it would be a tractor pull at BC Place, as another suggested...

In the end, we went to Diamond Head. It seemed to match participant's skills and fitness. We had an easy drive to the parking lot, then an icy climb. Soon there was fluffy stuff on the ice, itself a legacy of the warm weather in early January. By Red Heather there were 10+ cm. So we had a pleasant time skiing up, down and around in cool cloudy weather. With a hard base, and lots of new snow, everyone looked good.

Afterwards, we rendezvoused at the Troller in Horse-shoe Bay. Our hopes of seeing a troll were not met, but it was otherwise nice.

Participants: Pam Krannitz, Stefan Reinker, Dennis Vacha, Susan ?, Cathy Proenza, and Anders Ourom (Organizer and reporter).