

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NOVEMBER 2002

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 80 NO. 9



EVENING SOCIALS

Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Cookies, tea, and coffee are provided

Tuesday, November 12 - Annual General Meeting

Entertainment will be provided by your executive and a slide show by Kathryn Bridge on Phyllis Munday, whose biography she has just written and will have for sale at the meeting. Phyllis and her husband Don were very active BC MC members during the 1920's - 30's period, who became and remain very well known over their quest to climb Mt. Waddington.

Tuesday, 10 December - Entertainment will be a slide show by Marcus Dell on a recent mountaineering trip to Denali, North America's highest mountain.

Autumn snow on the Lucky Four Group.



Phyl and Don Munday, and their daughter, Edith, in 1925. Photo - BC MC Archives.



HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

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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. 604-270-4050).

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, or for consistency with club policies.

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. If you are given a ride, please remember to pay the driver your portion of the car costs. If you decide not to go on a trip for which you have previously registered, please be courteous and inform the trip organizer.

ORGANIZER

November 2: Mt. McGuire Hiking and scrambling in the Chilliwack valley area.	B2-3/2018 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
November 3: Sky Pilot Mtn. Mountain climbing above Howe Sound.	C3/2025 m	Irek Jasiak	604-930-8541
November 9-11: Vantage or Leavenworth or Smith Rocks (rock) Rock climbing to the sunny south.	A5	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
November 23: Cloudburst Mtn. Hiking or skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.	C3/1870 m	Tammi Sibbald	604-877-0344
November 30: Needle Pk. Hiking or skiing plus scrambling in the Coquihalla area.	B2-3/2075 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
December 1-6: Mexico. Hiking and/or climbing far to the sunny south. Contact the organizer for more details.	?	Marsha Ablowitz	604-261-8953
December 15: Diamond Head (ski) Early winter skiing in Garibaldi park.	A2	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees for 2002/2003 are now due.

Membership fees for 2002/2003 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, indicate if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, read and sign the waiver on the reverse side, then send the form with the appropriate dues to the club. Membership dues were increased at the October monthly meeting, and are now -

Single	\$45	Junior	\$20
Couples	\$68	Life	\$800

New Active Members

The following Associate members have joined the

club for the third consecutive year and have consequently been raised to Active membership - Kent Alekson, Liz Ball, Todd Belcher, Douglas Brown, Gillian Bubb, Steve Callingham, Dan Carey, Dawn Chisholm, Matt Church, Shawn Dirksen, Julian Douglass, Gordon Esplin, Merran Fahlman, Fred Friesen, Martin Godwyn, Kirsten Hall, Kevin Harper, Mary Hearden, Scott Holland, Katie Idle, Mike Jackson, William Jans, Michael Key, Chris Kubinski, Mark Labrecque, Dustin Lam, Tim Langille, Anne Lavergne, John LeBlanc, Christian Maas, Phyllis Mallet, Kim Martin, Ernie McEachern, Kevin McLane, Lance Montgomery, Jeff Oh, Peter Oostlander, Elena Ouliankina, Todd Ponzini, Emanuele Porra, Tim Reeve, George Richey, Audrey Roburn, Catherine Rockandel, Andrea Schiebel, Tania Vaughn, Martine Wakefield, Andrea Weiss, Glen Wiggins, and Janusz Zuchowski

BCMC CENTENNIAL FUND OUTDOOR RECREATION GEAR AND LITERATURE SWAP, AT MONTHLY MEETING - 14 JANUARY 2003

This will be your chance to DONATE (yes, give not sell) your old outdoor recreation gear, books and magazines, to the Club, which will then try to sell them to those at the meeting to raise funds for the Club's Centennial celebrations in 2007. This benevo-

lent act will enable you to practise the noble art of recycling, while simultaneously providing more room at home to store all those new goodies you received for Christmas.

The "outdoor recreation" limitation applies to the

literature too. Because many of you do other outdoor activities, "outdoor recreation" should include cycling, kayaking etc., and not just mountaineering stuff.

Please bring your gear/literature donations to that meeting, marked with a price that you feel is fair, and your name if you wish the item to be returned to you if it does not sell. Otherwise, stuff that does not sell will be donated to a worthwhile cause. I feel that it is

probably better to sell something for a little less than you think it is worth, because the Club Centennial Fund is not in good shape yet, and we have only 4 more years.

If you have any queries, suggestions, or would like to help, please contact Brian Wood at 604-222-1541, or email: bjwood@axion.net



THREATS TO MOUNTAINS AND WILDERNESS 2002 - TOURISM

The next article in the series discussing some of the threats to our mountains and wilderness was written by Ralf Buckley, the director of the International Centre for Ecotourism Research, Griffith University, Queensland, Australia. It was published

in 2000 in the "Wilderness Science in a Time of Change Conference" proceedings, Volume 2, U.S. Forest Service Proc. RMRS-P-15-VOL-2, P. 186-189, and is reprinted with the permission of the author.

Tourism and Wilderness: Dancing With the Messy Monster

Abstract - Currently, tourism offers one of the best prospects for conserving remaining areas of unprotected wilderness in most parts of the world. Tourism produces environmental impacts, and in heavily-visited protected areas these impacts may be a significant threat to conservation values and a major management issue; along with other anthropogenic impacts such as weeds, pests, pathogens, and pollution. The impacts of tourism are generally far less than those of other industry sectors such as forestry, farming, mining or commercial fisheries, however, so if tourism can displace these land uses, there is a net gain for wilderness despite the impacts of tourism itself. Tourism is not an ideal tool for conservation, but in most of the world, and at least in the short term, it is perhaps the only one with sufficient political and economic clout to be effective.

The human economy behaves like a rather messy monster which creates impacts on the global environment not only by consuming raw materials and excreting waste products, but by accidental damage

caused through messy habits, clumsiness and inattention. The monster's size is increasing much faster than its manners, and its tentacles are probing further into every corner of its habitat. Using tourism and recreation as a tool for wilderness conservation is like dancing with the messy monster in a crowded cage: risky, but unavoidable.

The aim of this contribution is to argue that tourism is important for the conservation of wilderness. In wilderness areas which are already protected, commercial tourism is growing in scale, and in some cases has become a significant source of anthropogenic impact, and a major logistic and financial issue for land managers. For wilderness outside protected areas, tourism offers an economically valuable land use whose environmental impacts, though by no means negligible, are far less than those of alternative land uses such as logging, farming and fisheries. Tourism is hence a very important tool for wilderness conservation, albeit one whose use is fraught with danger.

The Human Economy as a Messy Monster

The traditional model of neoclassical economic theory is to view the human economy as a closed loop which cycles money between producers and consumers. Environmental economists have drawn attention to the deficiencies of this model, preferring Herman Daly's analogy of the human economy as a gut which consumes raw materials and converts them to waste products, the so-called externalities of the neoclassical model. Even the gut analogy, however misses one important aspect of the human economy; many of its most serious impacts are accidental. More species, surely, have become extinct as an incidental consequence of habitat destruction, than through deliberate consumption of that particular species. If the human economy is a gut, it is one which feeds messily, excretes heedlessly, and blunders around both carelessly and clumsily: a messy monster. This model includes the resource economist's view of the natural environment as a commodity warehouse for human societies, as well as the environmental economist's view of the natural environment as the unwilling trashcan for human waste products. It also recognizes that damage to the natural environment can occur as an inadvertent consequence of human economic activity, as well as a deliberate one.

Wilderness as the Kitchen Cupboard

As the messy monster grows it has less and less space to play in. Already it is often eating food contaminated by its own crap. From the monster's own perspective, the critical significance of wilderness is that it contains the ingredients for future meals—clean air and water for immediate consumption, and biological diversity at both species and genetic levels, which provide the raw ingredients for the many recipes of agricultural production. As wilderness shrinks, so too do the future options available to the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industries. The messy monster needs wilderness, places where it treads lightly on the tips of its' tentacles, simply so that the global ecosystem can continue to function and keep the monster fed. This is not to belittle the intrinsic value of wilderness, or its significance for the rights of other species, or its importance for human personal growth. Even for individuals, however, who ascribe little significance to these issues, wilderness is still the kitchen

cupboard for the human economy. "In wilderness is the salvation of the world" - not just figuratively or philosophically, but quite immediately and literally.

Is the Messy Monster Learning Manners?

The most serious threats to wilderness and other undisturbed natural environments are from large-scale habitat destruction, and air and water pollution, from the major primary and secondary industry sectors. All of these sectors are taking steps towards better environmental management, which might be seen as improving the messy monster's manners. To date, however, this improvement has occurred only for some companies, in some countries. It has been rather marginal and cosmetic in most cases (Beder 1997), and has certainly not compensated for growth in the overall size of the human economy. Whilst some industry sectors have adopted voluntary environmental initiatives, these have generally been rather weak and seem to be aimed principally at influencing public opinion and staving off government regulation (Beder 1997). Significant reductions in impacts seem to occur only when governments enact and enforce relatively stringent environmental standards and laws, with penalties that apply to individuals as well as corporations, and when the courts are prepared to enforce them. The ability of individual governments to introduce more powerful environmental legislation, however, is greatly restricted by international trade agreements, particularly the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The structures of international trade agreements reflect the interests of large transnational corporations, and are therefore unlikely to encourage more effective environmental legislation.

Messy Monster Martial Arts

Even if the fabric of international trade agreements were more representative of social opinion overall, it seems that this rarely achieves consensus, and in any event, changes very slowly. If we rely on public environmental concern to change first the GATT, then national environmental laws, and finally the actions of individual corporations, wilderness will all be long gone.

Instead, we must search for an existing social institution which can move fast. Markets are the obvious candidate.

When new information reaches stock markets, they react in seconds, not decades. Because wilderness conservation needs rapid action, we need to enlist markets to lead the way.

Most emphatically, this does not mean that we should privatize wilderness, or let markets decide outcomes. It simply means that we should use markets to move society, to influence human behavior. Entrepreneurs do not wait for social consensus. They ignore it, or change it. To conserve our few remaining areas of wilderness will be a battle. And if it's a battle, we should steal the enemy's weapons.

Giving Wilderness a Recognized Value

To use markets, we must first give wilderness a value which is recognized in existing social systems, without destroying it in the process. The issue of recognition is critical. Wilderness already has value in human societies. If they can't get it for free, people are prepared to trade other things for it. But they are used to play without pay. It's like the difference between unpaid housework and a paid job. They have equal value to society, but one has far greater recognition. Note also that in the democratic western nations whose economic and social values dominate most of the world, there are two recognized classes of value - money and votes. The exchange rate between these varies; and of course in most electoral systems, not all votes have the same value. Sometimes votes can be obtained directly. Stankey (this conference) referred to this as "Voice" - enlisting the assistance of people experienced in operating political systems. I have referred to this previously as "grey power" (Buckley 1988), a much less compelling term.

Value Through Tourism: Dancing With the Monster

By far the most promising opportunity to provide recognized values for wilderness, comparable to those ascribed to other land uses, is through tourism, recreation, and possibly real estate. These approaches all involve risks and costs. The question is how to stitch up deals with tourism interests which will protect as much wilderness as possible at the lowest price.

There is a crucial issue of timing. Globally, tourism is expanding in geographic scope and in economic scale and significance. Wilderness is declining in both area and quality, and tourism and recreation in wilderness areas is increasing even faster than tourism as a whole. The value of wilderness to the tourism industry is therefore increasing - an argument to delay any deals as long as possible. On the other hand, wilderness is being lost to other land uses at an ever-increasing rate, and its value for tourism is then vastly diminished. This provides an argument to make deals as quickly as possible.

Of course, no one scenario applies universally. For wilderness areas in imminent danger of destruction through logging, land clearance, overfishing, or large-scale mining and mineral processing, the best option will generally be to encourage the rapid growth of a large and politically powerful tourism industry. In areas where threats are more distant, or which are already protected, there is more opportunity to restrict tourism development to low-impact, high-value activities, closely integrated with conservation planning. Hence, tourism is a conservation tool principally for wilderness outside protected areas, where it has less impact than logging or livestock, whether in developed or developing nations.

Tourism in Protected Areas

Inside protected areas, tourism has more environmental impacts than conservation alone, and tourism and recreation need to be managed to maintain the primary conservation value of the area concerned. Note, however, that tourism is often not the most serious source of anthropogenic impacts in protected areas. Weeds, pathogens, feral animals and pollution from external sources are at least as significant in many areas (Worboys 1997). In addition, tourism and recreation are one justification for the declaration of protected areas. And finally, there is the ever-present hope that tourism in protected areas will motivate people to vote or pay to conserve wilderness and increase the protected area estate.

Commercial tourism in wilderness and protected areas, including commercial outdoor sport, is growing faster than individual recreation, including outdoor

education (Buckley 1998a, Watson this conference). This may probably be ascribed to three broad social trends. The main one is the increasing urbanization of the richer western societies, so that fewer and fewer people learn even basic backcountry skills during childhood. They see natural outdoor environments on television, so they know that these areas exist. They have less and less experience of these environments in their everyday life, so they want to visit them whilst on holiday. They don't know what to do when they get there, so they want an experienced guide. They have more money and less time, so they will pay to be taken directly to places which might take some time to find on their own. In addition, as more and more people begin to treat outdoor activities as holiday experiences rather than everyday recreation, there is a trend for them to try different types of activities and different holidays, rather than sticking to one. Since outdoor recreational equipment is becoming increasingly sophisticated and hence expensive, it makes sense for people to rent equipment as well as hire a guide. The overall effect is that outdoor recreation is perceived as a purchasable product, available to the unskilled and unequipped through commercial tour operators.

What difference does this make? What difference does it make to wilderness areas or land managers if visitors come as commercial tourists rather than private individuals? It makes a big difference. Whilst private individuals may form recreational clubs and associations, and may complain about restrictions imposed by land managers, they rarely have sufficient political power to oppose the authority of the land managers. In addition, they rarely ask for land managers to provide facilities. Their attitude is "let us in and leave us alone". Commercial tourism, in contrast, is part of a very large industry sector which, though politically disorganized in the past, is fast becoming a powerful and vocal lobby group. And they lobby not only for access, but for facilities provided at the public expense, such as carparks and formed tracks and toilets and litter bins. Particularly where they have paid permit fees, they expect these fees and more to be spent on providing them with facilities. They often expect the right to construct private accommodation, and they may argue for preferential or exclusive use rights. They may expect land managers to provide rescue

services and liability indemnities. Commercial tourism is not necessarily good or bad, but it is different from private recreation.

Environmental Impacts and Management Tools

Different recreational activities have different impacts in different ecosystems, and different impacts have a different ecological significance in different ecosystems. To use an oft-quoted example (Buckley 1998b, 2000, in press), trampling can cause significant and long-lasting damage to soils and vegetation in ecosystems such as alpine scree fields or arid areas with cryptogamic crusts, but has far less impact in tropical or subtropical rainforest with a dense understory filled with stinging trees and thorny vines. Weeds, pathogens and human voices, in contrast, are unlikely to have lasting impacts in extreme environments such as alpine mountain tops, but can have major impacts in temperate and tropical ecosystems.

In general, the environmental impacts produced by different types of recreational activities are known only at a qualitative level. Although a large number of quantitative and experimental studies have been conducted (Cole 1995), they have focused very heavily on one or two types of impact, particularly trampling; and though this is easy to measure, it is rarely of great ecological significance.

Historically, considerable effort has been devoted to quantifying the environmental impacts of trampling, probably because it is easy to measure experimentally. The most comprehensive review of visitor impacts currently available (Liddle 1997), for example, is devoted largely to the impacts of trampling. These include effects on the physical environment, such as changes in soil compaction, bulk density, penetrability, infiltration rate, moisture content and micro-flora. They also include effects on the biological environment, such as changes in plant biomass, cover, height, growth form, phenology, physiology and flowering, and behavioral and population changes in burrowing animals, animals moving above ground, and animals moving under snow.

The major conclusions from all this work seem to be: (a) we still don't have enough information to predict or model the types and intensities of impacts from different types of trampling in different types of eco-

system in any general sense; (b) the sensitivities of different ecosystems to trampling vary enormously; (c) if trampling is heavy enough in any ecosystem, plant cover will die and local soil erosion, sometimes to considerable depth, will occur; (d) if trampling ceases, soil and vegetation will generally recover at least to some degree, over various timescales which may be very long; (e) 4WD vehicles, trailbikes, mountain bikes and particularly horses cause vastly greater impacts than hikers; and (f) with few exceptions as noted below, the direct impacts of trampling itself do not extend far beyond the actual track, and if trampling ceases, they do not continue to expand.

The main exception to the last of these is that in some soils, steep downhill tracks may continue to erode even if the track is no longer used. Even taking this into account, however; the overall conclusion is that the total area of soil and vegetation affected by trampling on tracks is a minuscule proportion of the total area of wilderness.

Of far greater ecological concern, therefore, are a number of related but less obvious impacts. These may include impacts on populations of rare or endangered animal species, whether through noise, visual disturbance, barriers to movement, or the introduction of pathogens, which may occur over a far greater area than the tracks themselves. Another example is the introduction of weeds, soil pathogens and waterborne pathogens, which can also spread well beyond the extent of the tracks themselves, and which are generally impossible to eradicate once introduced (Buckley and Pannell 1990, Buckley 1998b, 2000, in press).

Quantitative studies of more critical impacts are still very sparse, and more are urgently needed. In particular, such studies need to investigate whether there is a threshold level of the activity concerned, beyond which impacts become effectively irreversible. In addition, they need to quantify the types and intensities of anthropogenic stresses, related to tourist activities, as well as the types and degrees of impact on different environmental indicator parameters in different ecosystems.

Such approaches require detailed scientific studies with adequate controls, replication, and sampling and measurement techniques, but this is expensive. Land management agencies rarely have adequate funding to support scientific research. The tourism industry has little interest in quantifying its own impacts, and government granting agencies for scientific research typically accord low priority to applied studies of this nature. The current shortage of quantitative data on the critical environmental impacts of tourism and recreation in protected areas is therefore likely to persist.

Even less quantitative information is available on the effectiveness of visitor management tools used by protected area agencies. Such tools include regulatory approaches such as quotas, zoning, permits, and restrictions of various types; economic instruments such as charges and fees to restrict numbers or particular activities; physical infrastructure to harden areas against human impacts; and education and interpretation programs to encourage minimal-impact behavior. In general the tourism industry tends to favor hardening, especially if carried out at the park's expense. It also favors education, but only if it is free and perceived as adding value to tours. It sometimes supports quotas, but only if they are grandfathered to existing operators and serve to reduce competition.

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Conclusions

I have argued above that those who value wilderness conservation need to join forces with the tourism industry to gain political and market power before it is too late. Such partnerships will not always be easy. If we are to dance with the messy monster, we must do so with decorum and at arm's length, because there will be no chaperone. The fundamental reason for conserving wilderness is to prevent the collapse of the planetary ecosystem, not to provide a tourist playground. For wilderness conservation, tourism is a means, not an end.

NEWS

Goran Kropp, legendary Swedish mountaineer, dies in Washington fall.

Swedish adventurer Goran Kropp, who in 1996 rode a bicycle more than 11,000 km from Stockholm to Nepal before climbing Mount Everest alone without oxygen, recently died in a rock-climbing accident in Central Washington. Kropp died when he fell at Frenchman Coulee's Sunshine Wall. Kropp, 35, was born and raised in Sweden but moved to Washington this year with his girlfriend, Renata Chlumska. He was considered Sweden's most famous adventurer. He began climbing high peaks in 1988 when he scaled Russia's Peak Lenin. He followed that climb in 1989 and 1990 with climbs in South America and Asia, including the Mustagh Tower. He climbed the 8000 m peaks Cho

Oyu in 1992 and K2 in 1993. On K2, he climbed alone from high camp to the summit and became the second person to reach the top without supplementary oxygen.

Kropp carried a satellite telephone during his 1996 climb on Everest, and his dispatches to Sweden were broadcast live on radio. His expedition inspired a generation of Swedish adventurers. He became a national hero in Sweden.

Kropp was a popular motivational speaker. National Geographic Adventure magazine named him "Most Entertaining Adventurer on Earth" in 2002, and a recent Outside Magazine issue lists him as "a role model for the next 25 years."

The documentary film "I Made It: Goran Kropp's Incredible Journey to the Top of the World" won the Best of Banff Award in 1998 at the Banff Mountain Film Festival.

Apparently fast-tracked approval of ski Smithers hill expansion application (Hudson's Bay Mountain), Smithers.

by John Knight

Ski Smithers has a current capacity of about 1830 skiers/day but only receives more than 1000 skiers on an exceptional day. The new owners are Canadian Rocky Holdings (perhaps incorporated in Canada, but one of the partners is from The Cliffs Communities of South Carolina; (<http://www.cliffscommunities.com/>)). They have made an application to BCAL's successor (LAWBC) to expand the capacity of the ski hill to about 4,940 skiers per day, an increase of 170 percent (about 2.6 times) over the existing situation. Ski trails will cover approximately 244 hectares of terrain, an increase of 108 percent (about 2x) above the existing levels. The development is to be completed over a 5-10 year period in 4 phases.

It is understood that this application for about a 2.6 times increase in capacity has been (or shortly will be) approved. This approval will be within three months of the application date, and without the normal extensive bureaucratic and meaningful

public review process. This is surprising as the application includes an expansion of the LRMP agreed upon downhill ski area (Commercial Recreation Area). Apparently this particular application is a test case for the new faster approval process (at least in the north).

The applicant, Canadian Rocky Holdings, is using Whistler-based consultant, Ecosign to develop the submitted plan. When completed, the overnight skier accommodation for the mountain will be about 1994 beds, (just below the 2000 bed trigger level for the Environmental Assessment process under the Environmental Assessment Act). Of the 1994 beds about 61 (1220) will be freehold/private, and the remainder public. Proposed real estate development will cover approximately 35 ha. Of this about 31.1ha will be accommodation. 75% (23.3 ha) of the 31.1 ha will be developed for accommodations consisting of private lodging/dwelling. Accommodation includes townhouses, detached cabins, strata cabins ("garden homes") and a private

lodge. The private day lodge will be 4000 to 5000 square metres in size. A new water supply and sewage disposal system will be constructed. Exactly where is still unclear.
Is this basically a condominium promotion?
(Canadian Rocky Holdings was formed specifically

for this project in Smithers. The Cliffs Communities partner is considering developing a ski facility in Chile for their members. The Cliffs Communities are a big golf and real estate developer for the wealthy, but apparently have not done ski areas before.)

EVENTS OF INTEREST

TREKKING IN TIBET

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2002 - Vancouver - Ridge Theatre (3131 Arbutus) - 7:15 doors, 8:00 show

Friday, Nov. 22, 2002 - Victoria - Alix Goolden Hall (907 Pandora) - 7:30 doors, 8:00 show.

Join Vancouver photographer William Jans for an adventure through Laos, Southern China and Mystical Tibet. Journeys on the 'roof of the world' include a trip around sacred Mount Kailash, and a 'jaunt' up to 6500 meters on Mount Everest. This multi-media presentation is a great balance of information, entertainment and absurdity.

TOP OF THE WORLD

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2002 - Vancouver - Ridge

Theatre (3131 Arbutus) - 7:15 doors, 8:00 show

Friday, Nov. 29, 2002 - Victoria - Alix Goolden Hall (907 Pandora) - 7:30 doors, 8:00 show.

A lively evening of stories, images, music and sounds from an exotic adventure through India and the Everest region of Nepal.

VANCOUVER Advance Tickets - \$13 (incl. tax) until 1 day before shows. \$15 AT THE DOOR

- Ridge Theatre Box Office - 3131 Arbutus

- Mountain Equipment Co-op - 130 W. Broadway

- Videomatica - 1885 W. 4th

- Online (plus handling charge):

<http://www.eventsonline.ca/events/wrjphoto/>

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens, 18-20 May, 2002

I was in for a reality check and a rude welcome to the Land of the Free when I started trip preparations in early May. Much had to be done to guard against utter failure and I was already late! You see, these days a large amount of red tape needs to be negotiated before you can climb volcanoes in Washington State. A Cascade Vulcano Pass is required to climb above 4800' on Mt. St. Helens. This costs \$15 per person and is non refundable and nontransferable and is valid for 24 hours starting at midnight of the date of your climb. Each person needs to have the stub attached to their backpack and visible at all times while above the 4800' mark.

From May 15 through October 31 there is also a daily quota of 100 climbing permits and a maximum party size of 12 climbers. Advanced reservations for up to 60 permits per day are available by mail and are ac-

cepted as early as February. Armed with this information, I clicked frantically on the Internet and found out, to my initial horror, that all weekends, Fridays and Mondays were already booked solid through the entire season, but for the lucky exception of May 20th. I downloaded the reservation request form immediately and sent it that same evening to the listed US address. From that day forward, I verified daily that our date had not filled up in the meantime. I was surprised to find a letter from the United States Government in my mailbox only a week later. Not yet expecting a response, I wondered was I an al Qaeda suspect? No, I had received a positive confirmation of my reservation. Several points to remember were listed: (1) No purchase of Permits was possible without providing the reservation number and all permits purchased for my group must be bought in a single transaction. (2) For my convenience, I may pick up the reserved climbing permits after hours by call-

ing Jack's Restaurant and Store and arranging payment and pick up.

Forest Service regulations on Mt. Adams are that groups larger than 12 climbers split into two and must camp one mile horizontally apart. This is not very realistic, so I started a waiting list weeks before when many more contacted me. I really didn't want to deal with an official and an unofficial segment, and with a larger group, it would have been necessary to arrive early at Mt. St. Helens Climbing Register on Sunday evening, the planned summit day for Mt. Adams. There are at least 40 unreserved permits available, starting at 6 pm, to climbers wishing to climb the following day. A lottery is held to distribute permits if demand exceeds availability, but climbers should arrive an extra 15 minutes early to enter the lottery. The rules are that each climber present may enter the lottery but each person drawn may purchase only up to four permits.

In the end, we were precisely 12 and I phoned Jack's to pay by credit card. The lady wanted first and last names of everybody! Not able to provide them the first time around, I had to call her back. It took about half an hour to spell the many unusual first and last names. Careful not to exhaust her, I started with the harder ones so it got progressively easier. When it was all done, I was given the combination for a deposit box located outside the restaurant, where I could expect to find an envelope with the permits and my credit card statement.

Rides were arranged so efficiently that only three vehicles transported our full contingent from BC, with my car being the only one to leave on Friday afternoon. The cars arrived within about half an hour of each other at the Mt. Adams Ranger District Station near the town of Trout Lake on Saturday between 1 - 2 pm, after a roughly eight hour drive in total. I signed us into the Climbing Register (free wilderness permit during Mt. Adams off season - until June 1) and off we went to a nearby store to purchase a 'Northwest Forest Pass' (\$5/car), required for vehicles parked at Wilderness Trailheads during the month of May, before the Cascades Vulcano Pass is required, but after Sno-Park permits are needed. Complicated, eh?

With all the paperwork in place, we finally drove the paved Forest Service Road 80, turning on to gravel

FR-8040. The information was that we would be stopped by snow at Wicky Shelter, approximately 11 km before the Cold Springs summer trailhead for the South Spur Route, and 5 km short of Morrison Creek Campsite, where we had been able to drive to in the past, and where we could only have hoped to drive to this time because of a locked gate that now closes off the final FR-8040500 for the winter season. We were stopped as predicted, except that Martin pushed his 4Runner with much fanfare an extra 1.5km. The troops were divided over what to do next. I had mentioned that we should consider climbing Mt. Hood on Sunday if the information proved correct. Some argued that the distance to camp was simply too far, while others wanted to stick with the original plan. The argument was won in the end by those who packed up and left during the long discussion. We eventually made it to Cold Springs where we found a welcome lean-to with a table.

This helped the decision to stay put for the remainder of daylight. It rained heavily at times during the night. We still made a spirited push for the summit by getting up at 4 am despite the low cloud cover, but we turned around just above tree line after only a couple of hours. Some said we gave up without a real fight. I felt that the summit was in reach, even from where we had camped and the 2000 meters altitude gain still required, if not for the weather. We packed up and were back at the cars by about 11 am which gave us plenty of time for an alternative exercise.

I made Eagle Creek Trail the objective on the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge. This trail is very popular with Portland residents. The scenery is spectacular and so is the work that has gone into building it. There are ten named waterfalls along the way, among them picturesque and famous Punch Bowl Falls. It is 10.5 km to the farthest and most spectacular Tunnel Falls. Most people dropped out at the half-way point, either saying that the trail lacked 'adrenaline rush', or arguing that time was not on our side, but four of us essentially jogged all the way to the far falls and found them very awe-inspiring indeed. The people who had decided to turn around were not thrilled waiting. After Mexican dinner on the way to Cougar, we arrived well after dark at the plowed Marble Mountain Sno Park. This is the trailhead for the recommended winter Worm Flows Climbing

Route on Mt. St. Helens. Most camped in the woods but some simply pitched their tent on the black top. The climb initially follows Swift Ski Trail #244B through forest. A mad rush ensued and the party spread out quickly, with the Polish contingent at the front ignoring hollered orders to wait. The weather steadily improved as we climbed and although the advance party disappeared into a whiteout, we soon had sporadic sunshine. Eventually most of us huddled near the rim on the upper portion of Swift Glacier; a permanent snow field and not a real glacier because it doesn't creep and consequently has no crevasses. Disappointed to see little of the crater inside, and getting cold from waiting for the stragglers, the first group set out again to find the true summit. When they returned within fifteen minutes, I gave them the disappointing news that they had not reached the real summit, an assertion they vigorously protested. This argument was only settled when it cleared enough to see the high point looming beyond a dip in the rim. When even the crater bottom cleared, people became ecstatic at the views and all was well - the leader had finally redeemed himself.

Participants: Brian Wood, Carol MacMillan, Evelyn Feller, Greg Stoltmann, Ian Voboril, Irek Jasiak, Martin Karcz, Mike Peel, Nancy Henderson, Silke Gumplinger, Thomas Kutter and Peter Gumplinger (Organizer and reporter)

Related URLs:

For Mt. Adams

http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/wilderness/mta_climb.htm

http://www.summitpost.com/mountains/mountain_link.pl/mountain_id/13

http://www.summitpost.com/mountains/route_link.pl/route_id/116/object_id/13

<http://www.SkiMountaineer.com/CascadeSki/Adams/Adams.html>

For Mt. St. Helens

http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/mshnvm/climbing/1998_Climbing_Brochure.html

http://www.summitpost.com/mountains/mountain_link.pl/mountain_id/190

http://www.summitpost.com/mountains/route_link.pl/route_id/115/object_id/190

<http://www.SkiMountaineer.com/CascadeSki/>

[StHelens/StHelens.html](#)

For Eagle Creek Trail:

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/sports/outdoors/tunnelfalls.html>

<http://www.trailsforever.com/article1010.html>

Mt. MacDonald, 17-18 August, 2002

We started up the Radium Lake trail under sunny skies around 10 am. This trail meanders through forest, following Radium Creek up the valley. Two rustic suspension bridges made for interesting crossings. The lower half of the trail was quite pleasant and after one hour we were already half way. Then it steepened considerably and we made it to the lake at 1 pm, making camp near the old, now roofless, Forest Service cabin. Olga, Nicole, Sue, and Catherine, wanting to make the most of the good weather and get away from the bugs, headed up to the col. Olga summited Mt. Webb and the other three ladies climbed Mt. MacDonald. The rest of us lounged at camp, providing nourishment for the blackflies and mosquitoes. Once the sun disappeared behind the ridge, we collected wood and made a smokey fire. John was able to cook his dinner the pioneer way. We used water from the lake but it needed to be treated or boiled. Higher up, the creek was pure and it was a pleasure to drink mountain water straight.

Next morning, John headed up early. When Olga, Anton and I reached the col, John had already been up Mt. Webb and was waiting for us. We continued up along the ridge to where the climbing began. There it was steep rock, but with good holds mostly class 3 with the occasional class 4 move. Olga and John went that route and Anton and I went across the snowfield and up a class 3, but loose gully. We ended up too high and had to downclimb to get back on route to get through a notch. Then it was obvious, up to the summit. We found the summit register and entered our names.

We headed back down at 1 pm, reached the cars at 6 pm, and into holiday traffic hell at 8 pm after a good meal at the Jolly Miller. Olga and John, the only grandparents on the trip, summited both peaks. I am impressed, as I nurse my sore muscles and blistered toes with extra strength pain medication.

Participants: Sue Baldwin, John Gudaitis, Anton Kaplan, Nicole Ranger, Olga Tuizok, Catherine Veitch, and Alice Obermajer (Organizer and reporter)