

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Summit of Mt. Matier in spring.

EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

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, 8 April - Entertainment will be a slide show on the Haute Route in the European Alps, on foot by Peter Wing, and on ski by Peter Gumplinger and Michael Feller.

Tuesday, 13 May - Entertainment will be a slide show by Tom Kuczmierowski on travelling through the Himalayas.



Haute route - On the Gorner Gl., heading to Monte Rosa to left.



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 written 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. 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 equipment is 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. If you decide not to go on a trip for which you have previously registered, please be courteous and inform the trip organizer.

All scheduled trips are ski trips unless otherwise indicated.

ORGANIZER

April 5-6: Oasis Mtn. Extended skiing in the Wedgemount area of Garibaldi park.	C3/2560 m	Jordan Peters	604-987-0635
April 12-13: Phalanx Mtn. Yet more extended skiing in Garibaldi park, this time in the Spearhead Range.	C3/2441 m	Karl Ricker	604-938-1107
April 12-13: Mt. Garibaldi You guessed it - skiing in Garibaldi park again.	C3-4/2678 m	Rhys Gibb	604-294-3792
April 12-13: Cloudraker Mtn. Extended skiing in the Lizzie Lake area, east of Lillooet Lake.	C3/2375 m	Greg Hamilton	604-984-6800
April 12-13: Pelion Mtn. Extended skiing in the Ashlu valley area.	C3/2290 m	Todd Ponzini	604-215-2665
April 18-21: Mt. Currie Extended skiing to the northernmost edge of Garibaldi park.	C3/2596 m	Greg Stoltmann	604-926-6496
April 18-21: Spearhead traverse Yet more skiing in Garibaldi park, this time the classic Spearhead traverse beyond Blackcomb.	C3	David Hughes	604-980-6484
April 18-21: Rock climbing. Sunny (?) rock climbing somewhere. Contact the organizer for further information.	A5	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
April 18-21: Mt. Spickard Extended skiing in the Chilliwack valley area.	C3/2706 m	Jos van der Burg	604-463-7582
April 19: Needle Pk. Skiing in the Coquihalla area.	B2(3)/2101 m	Marsha Ablowitz	604-261-8953
April 19-21: Snowspider Mtn. Extended skiing east of Lillooet Lake.	C3/2530 m	Peter Norris	604-240-6087
April 26-27: Mt. Rahm Steep skiing in the Chilliwack valley area.	C3-4/2584 m	Tom Kuczmierowski	604-468-9092
April 26-27: Mt. Callaghan Extended skiing in the Cheakamus valley area.	C3/2410 m	Philip Kubik	604-266-5873
April 26-27: Mt. Shuksan Extended skiing in the Mt. Baker area of northern Washington.	C3(4)/2783 m	Peter Gumpfinger	604-733-8264
April 27: Alpen Mtn. Skiing near Squamish in the Mamquam valley area.	C2/1703 m	Mike Peel	604-444-4068
May 3-4: Mt. Baker Skiing in northern Washington.	B-C3/3285 m	Erich Hinze	604-224-5646
May 3-4: Athelney Pass Extended skiing in the upper Lillooet valley area.	C3	Paul Kubik	604-876-0764
May 10-11: Hurley River road area Skiing north of Pemberton.	B3	Jordan Peters	604-987-0635

BCMC SUMMER CAMPS

1. 6th Annual Lake Lovely Water Summer Camp, 12-20 July, 2003

Camp is full.

2. Upper Stein Valley, 16-24 August

Mixed snow and rock, scrambling, climbing, and hiking in the vicinity of flowery meadows. Participants must be proficient in glacier travel and crevasse rescue. Limit - 14. Cost is approx. \$75 per person.

For bookings and further information, phone David Scanlon at 604-464-3730.

3. Rutledge Glacier area, Stein Valley, 2 - 10 August

This is a hike in - hike out camp in the vicinity of the Rutledge Glacier, which is one of the headwaters of the Stein River. Participants must be BCMC members and have experience in glacier travel and class 3 climbing. Peaks in the area rise to 2700 m and offer both snow & ice climbing and rock climbing from Class 3 to 5. Limit of 15 participants. Cost is minimal (vehicle costs will be shared).

For bookings and more information, phone Todd Ponzini at 604-215-2665.

BCMC NEWS

Executive position open

Tammie Sibbald has gone globetrotting and has vacated her membership position on the club executive. If you are interested in helping out, and serving on your dynamic executive, please contact Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462

Waiver forms to be collected by the club

Trip organizers should pass on to any executive member all waiver forms that they have obtained for their trips. The executive will store these forms in case they are required in the future.

CALLING FOR A RESCUE

There was an accident at the Little Smoke Bluffs on 8th February. A climber fell off Neat & Cool, pulled some protection, and hit the ground. (He reportedly did not have life-threatening injuries.) Climbers called 911, and asked for help "at the Smoke Bluffs, at Neat & Cool". This caused some brief confusion while the dispatcher tried to work out where to send the ambulance. As dispatchers are not necessarily familiar with every crag, trail, or cafe, make sure you provide as much detail (including a nearby address, street or intersection) as possible. A climber/paramedic notes that when you call 911, the call is usually routed through a centralized dispatch centre, then emergency services in the area are notified. Even local emergency service personnel may not know locations by name only, and may need a nearby address or street name to find you. Also, ambulances and their personnel generally only go as far as they can drive or walk easily. Anything "off-road" may require search and rescue or special equipment, so let them know exactly where the climber is and what is needed.

Emergency services is installing a new database which should greatly help their street-oriented geography to mesh with the real world. They need climbers, skiers, and hikers to send in commonly referred-to names and locations to add to their database. Useful information includes trailheads, parking areas, Forest Service roads, climbing area names and access points. Names of specific climbs ("Flying Circus") may not be helpful, while names of sub-areas ("Neat & Cool") or areas ("Grand Wall boulders") should be. Please send in the name, any intersection, distance or direction, or even lat/long/GPS waypoints. Jpegs or graphics such as small trail maps are also welcomed. Example: "Mythical Crag, 12 km. east of Hwy. 99 on Shannon Forest Road, look for huge stump by side of road, lat - 121.xxx, long 49.xxx" or "Valentine peak, 50 m off end of Lover's Lane, north of intersection with 1233 Heart Rd."

Send info to narcolep@infinet.net, and it will be entered in the database.

NEWS

B.C. government causes the demise of much trail maintenance

The FMCBC Adopt-a-trail program is now inactive as clubs are no longer adopting trails and some clubs want to remove adopt-a-trail signs, all a result of legal liability concerns. Initially the government stated it would no longer cover liability as they had done in the past. The government's inability to find any organiza-

tions/companies willing to take on trail or campsite maintenance as well as assume full liability, has caused them to backpeddle somewhat. Recently, the government has stated that they will pay the premiums for liability insurance, but whoever maintains trails or campsites must cover the deductible expense of any claims. Deductibles amounting to thousands of dollars are still a major deterrent to any club wishing to maintain a trail. The most recent rumour is that deductible expenses will also be paid. We will see.

TRIP REPORTS

Dickson Pk - N. Ridge and S. Face, 31 Aug - 2 Sep, 2002

Dickson Pk. is located near the eastern end of the Dickson Range above Downton Lake in the Goldbridge-Bralorne area. The peak is almost due north of Mount Sloan and, like Sloan, is spectacular from several sides. Dickson is an impressive citadel for the lower section of the Gun Creek Valley and is particularly eye-catching from Spruce Lake.

Dickson's N ridge is described by Bruce Fairley as a pleasant climb with short difficulties of low Class 5. This description led several of us to make two previous Labour Day attempts. Despite being on the dry side of the Coast Range, we were snowed out both times. Not ones for quitting, back we went again this Labour Day weekend. The shortest route to Goldbridge is over the Railroad Pass-Hurley River Road. From Goldbridge, the route makes its way up the Slim Creek Forest Road to the beginning of Gun Creek hiking trail at Jewel Creek.

The approach is up Roxey Creek on an old abandoned mining road that is in good hiking condition. The beginning of the road is somewhat overgrown and hidden. It starts a few hundred metres from the Jewel Creek parking area, which is the beginning of the hiking trail to Spruce Lake and to Warner Pass. The old mining road is very easy hiking, except for two shallow creek crossings that require wading. The trail is left at the site of an abandoned mining cabin, which is immediately after the second creek crossing at

about 1680 m. This cabin can be used as a camp spot especially if there is poor weather.

We chose to move another kilometer up the valley through mature forest, meadow and a short boulder slope to a flat bench just below 1800 m. A good campsite can be found here that is on meadow and with some trees. One hundred metres above and further up the valley there is a kilometer long flat section, but this area tends to be boggy.

We were a larger group this year so we decided to split into two groups with nine trying the more technical N Ridge and five trying the scrambling route - the S Face. Dark storm clouds and some rain, however, suggested an early rise might be for naught.

To our surprise, the sky was clear at 6 am, so up we got and after more organization and breakfast, we were off by 7:15 am. The N Ridge crew proceeded to hike up the steep west slope of the valley into a basin to the northeast of the ridge. Slabs were encountered below the beginning of the N Ridge proper, but the warm sun had dried the slabs sufficiently to allow us to reach the ridge without a rope.

The N Ridge proved to be very pleasant. The bottom section was not steep but quite exposed while the mid and upper sections were steeper but not difficult - mostly class 3 and 4 with the odd class 5 move. Erich and I arrived on top at 11:40 am, soon to be followed by the next N Ridge rope team and the first of the S Face scramblers. The rest of the S Face group

and N Ridge group were up within the hour.

After a leisurely lunch, we all descended the S Face by several routes. The face at this time of the year was quite ugly - a scree and boulder route. The route also requires some scrambling over slabs near the bottom next to Roxey Creek. The upper slopes of the S Face would be better ascended in the spring when there is still sufficient snow cover.

Our plans to investigate one of the peaks on the other side of Roxey Valley, including Mount Penrose, were cut short by the return of unsettled weather, including some rain on Monday morning. Dan and Marilyn chose to brave the weather for a while longer while the rest of us retreated to the Goldbridge Hotel.

Dickson by the N Ridge is definitely a pleasant climb and recommended.

Party: Erich Hinze, Rhys Gibb, Neil Beattie, Michael McCrae, Marilyn Cox, Daniel Friedmann, Monika Bittel, Mirella Lioce, Leslie Cowan, Murray Lashmar, Cayley and Karen Hughes, Carol MacMillan, James Newby, and David Hughes (Organizer and reporter).

Skihist Mtn., 12-14 October, 2002

Skihist Mountain seems to be another one of a growing list of mountains these days that are getting increasingly harder to approach. With increased road deactivation, bridge removal, washouts and the pulling out of culverts, the roads around this area are getting rougher by the year and in some cases no longer passable. Thanks to Emanuele, who drove up there twice this year, all the sorting out of the approach was taken care of. The route via Antimony Lake was out of the question because of road deactivation, and either of the intended routes - the southeast ridge or east glacier, would be best approached from Skihist Lake. That left the north Kwoiek Creek road, which is also deactivated, but Emanuele felt that it was still passable for a distance and it could get the group reasonably close to the lake.

With that in mind, seven of us left in two red Jeep

Cherokees. Making our first stop at the Tim Horton's in Chilliwack, we ran into several other climbing and hiking parties, one of which was off to the traditional climbing weekend at Skaha. One more stop in Boston Bar and then we crossed the bridge to North Bend and were on our way to travel the logging roads on the west side of the Fraser. After traveling approximately 32 km we came to a junction where we took the left fork and headed up Kwoiek Creek road. At approximately 4 km we reached a section of the road that two months earlier was impassable due to a massive slide that had come down in the spring. After traveling a total of 11.3km we arrived at the turn-off for the deactivated north Kwoiek Creek road. At 1.9 km we came to the point where the first bridge used to cross North Kwoiek Creek. This bridge had been recently removed as Emanuele and friends had crossed it around the same time the year previous. Emanuele made the first attempt to cross the creek, but after making it half way across and almost completely submerging one of his front tires, he retreated. After having the group throw in a lot of boulders to fill some of the deep holes, he gave it another try and made it through without any problem. With Andrzej's Jeep having a few inches less ground clearance, we opted to throw in additional boulders to help ensure that he would make it across. A few minutes later, he also made it through. Being able to cross the creek allowed us to drive another 5.5 km up the road. At 1:30pm we reached the end of the road and parked.

After sorting gear we shouldered our heavy packs, thrashed through the slash for about 300-400 metres and picked up the road again. After travelling approximately 2km, we came to the creek crossing that Emanuele thought would present a few delays in getting across. But given the time of the year, the creek was running much lower and slower, so all that was required was careful boulder hopping to get across. Shortly after resuming our walk on the road, we came across some fairly recent tracks in the fresh dusting of snow from a good-sized grizzly. That made us pay more attention to our surroundings but no sign was seen of it for the rest of the weekend.

At the end of the road we had to travel another 4 km through relatively open forest, across boulder fields,

bushwhack through slide alder and finally up a bit of a headwall to the little lake east of the mountain at 1700 m. We reached Skihist Lake at 5:30pm, just before it started to get dark. Camp was quickly set up and after a hot nourishing supper, discussion quickly ensued about the wake-up time. An alpine start was not to be, and then it became a decision on how late we would sleep in. Emanuele reminded us that the next day would be a long one and we needed every hour of daylight. It was then finally decided that we would give ourselves an extra hour and a half of sleep and get up at 5:30am. All the while, we could not help but think about the Skaha people sitting in the bar, sipping their beers.

At 5:15am Emanuele gave us the wake up call. What happened to those precious 15 minutes? It was a beautiful clear morning with a little frost. It was 7 am when we finally left camp. Again thoughts went to the Skaha people still in their sleeping bags and that they would be later having a relaxing breakfast at some restaurant. We traveled straight up from the lake to the north east of Peak 2350 m and met up with the huge moraine left behind from the once massive east glacier. We followed the crest of it to where it meets Peak 2350 m and then started contouring around it. It wasn't long before we were forced to put on crampons. Underneath the fresh snow there was hard ice. We had to traverse a fairly steep snowfield. The group got split up and before we knew it we were missing two people. Mirella's crampon decided to come off at the steepest section. Jake had to set up an anchor to allow them to be able to safely fasten the crampon again. In the meantime we decided to climb Peak 2350 and wait for the missing people.

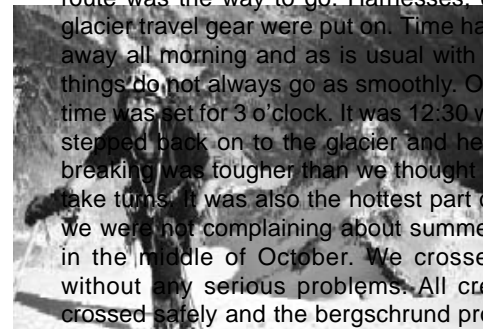
It gave us the chance to look at our options. We could climb up to the southeast ridge and follow it up to the

summit. But with the 20-30 cm of fresh snow on the ridge, it would add a fair bit of difficulty and delay to the route. The other option was to climb the east glacier, which would bypass most of the ridge system and connect with the false summit to the east of the peak. The fresh snow on the glacier would make for better travel on it. The only thing was that we were not sure if we could cross the bergschrund at the top.



But from where we were, it looked like it could possibly go. We decided to follow the ridge for a while and decide higher up which route we were going to do. After returning from Peak 2350 the other two met up with us and we started following the ridge along the south side of the glacier. We avoided more of the steep traversing on the glacier this way.

A ways along the ridge it was decided that the glacier route was the way to go. Harnesses, crampons and glacier travel gear were put on. Time had been ticking away all morning and as is usual with larger groups, things do not always go as smoothly. Our turn around time was set for 3 o'clock. It was 12:30 when we finally stepped back on to the glacier and headed up. Trail breaking was tougher than we thought and we had to take turns. It was also the hottest part of the day. But we were not complaining about summer-like weather in the middle of October. We crossed the glacier without any serious problems. All crevasses were crossed safely and the bergschrund proved not to be a problem. The false summit was reached at 2:15 pm but now we had the rest of the east ridge to traverse to the true summit. It had two gendarmes on it. The peak looked so close but it was not going to be easy to reach it by 3 pm. Altitude also started to play a role as we were at 2900 m but we had to give it a go. Tony led the way over the top of the first gendarme. The



second gendarme was more of a challenge and we had to down climb to be able to bypass it. Then we were home free, or so we thought. The south side of Skihist is a big boulder field and with the fresh snow, it made for some tricky and dangerous travel. Falling into holes between the blocks hidden by the snow conjured up thoughts of leg injuries. Were we still going to be defeated? We didn't give up, but the group was getting split up again and Mirella decided she had had enough and waited below the last gendarme. At 3:15 pm Tony reached the top and by 3:30 the rest had arrived. The view was outstanding - a 360 degree unobstructed view of the southern Coast Range.

Pictures were taken, some food and drinks consumed, and Gerry added a summit register to the cairn on the peak. Up until now there had not been one. Then we had to go down. It was obvious by now that we were going to be travelling in the dark at some point. It was decided to go down the standard route on the south side. Travel was grueling going down the boulders. We picked up Mirella along the way. It was surprising, and lucky as well, that nobody got injured traveling through those never ending boulders. Once at the bottom, we traversed along the west side of the southeast ridge and soon arrived at the base of Claimpost Peak on its northwest side.

We were soon in for another little treat. In order to get back on the east side of Skihist, we had to climb up a loose class 3 gully for 150 m to get to a notch-like pass at the base of Claimpost Peak's north ridge. Snow in the gully helped contain and prevent the rock from being knocked loose. Looking back to the west, we could see the incredible sunset that was taking place. The orange glow was magnificent. From this point on, darkness would arrive quickly. At the top of the gully, we made our way across broken scree-covered rock. This section was a stiff and loose class 3 with the odd class 4 move, depending on which line one chose. One had to be careful not to grab onto broken rock and/or knock loose rock onto the others below. At the notch we had to drop down onto a pocket glacier. Some rappelled off. Others down climbed and jumped across the snow filled moat. By this time the sun had set.

We now had to drop 800 m down to the lake in the dark on a different route than we took in the morning. Emanuele had been down the route before. We were able to plunge step down the

glacier. At the bottom, it was high time for the headlamps. Our faith in Emanuele paid off when we reached the lake without incident. Just a few scary steep bits, made worse in the dark, was the only danger. Once down at the lake we were still at the wrong end of it. It was 10 pm and people were getting very tired. Frequent breaks were required to let everybody catch up. Finally, at close to 11 pm, camp was reached. We had been travelling for nearly 16 hours. Some went to bed without eating or drinking. Others stayed up and celebrated. It had been a good day after all. As a bonus we were going to sleep in till we felt like getting up.



It was 9 am when the first person was up. The rest soon followed. It was nearly 12 pm when we left camp to head home. The route back to the road went without incident. We removed the flagging tape, which we had put up on the way in. At 3:30 pm we reached the jeeps.

Now for the long drive home, but not without stopping for a bite to eat in Chilliwack, at a sports bar, the name of which escapes me. But the food sure tasted good and the beer went down smoothly. It had been a fantastic weekend and thanks to Emanuele for putting in all the time and effort to sorting out the approach, everything went off without a hitch. And having a great group of people made it even more enjoyable. One final thanks to the drivers, Andrzej and Emanuele, for putting their Jeeps through the abuse.

Participants: Jake Filusz, Andrzej Jarzabek, Gerry Kollmuss, Mirella Lioce, Tony Taccone, Jos Van der Burg (reporter) and Emanuele Porra (Organizer and co-reporter)