

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2003

VOL. 81, NO. 10

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.

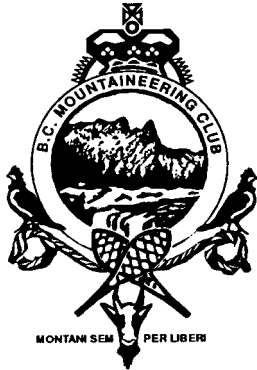
Tuesday, 9 December - Entertainment will be a slide show by Todd Ponzini and Dave Scanlon on this year's summer camps run by the club in the Wedgemount Lake and upper Stein areas.

Tuesday, 13 January - Entertainment will be a slide show by Shel Neufeld on a 32 day traverse in the Coast Mountains around the Exstew river near Terrace. The trip finished with a raft descent of the river. It was one of the last trips that John Clarke had planned.

Winter in the Meadow Dome area



Wedgemount Cabin and adjacent area, August 1971

	HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer		
	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS		
PRESIDENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462	CABIN / TRAILS - DAVID SCANLON 604-464-3730
PAST-PRESIDENT -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484	PETER WOODSWORTH 604-254-7076
VICE-PRESIDENT -	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097	CONSERVATION - MONIKA BITTEL 604-983-3097
SECRETARY -	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951	SUMMER CAMP - We need someone
	ANDERS OUROM	604-228-1798	WEBMASTER - KEVIN SWANSON 604-943-4364
TREASURER -	TODD PONZINI	604-215-2665	EDITOR - MICHAEL FELLER 604-270-4050
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -	JULIA BORCHARDT	604-204-0726	
	STEVE TATE	604-737-3608	
SOCIALS -	DERRICK JOHNSTONE	604-505-6250	FMCBC REP - MIKE PEEL 604-444-4068
	PAM KRANNITZ	604-946-9942	EQUIPMENT - PAUL KUBIK 604-876-0764
CLIMBING -	JOS VAN DER BURG	604-463-7582	SAFETY EQUIPMENT - KIT GRIFFIN 604-736-8462
			LIBRARY - JOAN FORD 604-876-4255
<p>ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8 EMAIL ADDRESS: info@bcmc.ca or bcmc@bivouac.com INTERNET SITE: www.bcmc.ca</p>			

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. The club has avalanche transceivers and snow shovels available for hire. These may be obtained by contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 at least 2 days prior to the day they are wanted. 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 a satellite phone available for hire. This may be obtained by also contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 at least 2 days prior to the day it 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.

ORGANIZER

All scheduled trips are ski trips unless otherwise indicated.

December 6: Zoa Pk. (ski) Easy skiing in the Coquihalla area.	A2/1250 m	Greg Hamilton	604-984-6800
December 6-7: "where the snow is best" Great skiing somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.	B2	Ian Voboril	604-684-4124
December 6-7: Lillooet Ice Ice Climbing near Lillooet.	A5	Russell March	604-433-8868
December 13: Evans Pk. (hike/snowshoe)	B2/1130 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
December 14: Brohm Ridge Early season skiing near Mt. Garibaldi in Garibaldi park.	B2	Brian Vezina	604-731-7699
December 20-21: Mountain Lake area Skiing above Howe Sound.	B3	Jos van der Burg	604-463-7582
December 20 - January 4: Rock Extended rock climbing somewhere to the south. Contact the organizer for further details.	A5	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
December 25-27: Mt. Rainier A somewhat more challenging ascent in Washington.	C3/4392 m	Ravil Chamgoulov	604-294-0761
January 4: Cloudburst Mtn. Skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.	C3/1871 m	Ian McGillivray	604-988-3618
January 10: Needle Pk. (snowshoe) Snowshoeing in the Coquihalla area.	B2/2101 m	Julien Henley	604-990-9224
January 10: Diamond Head area Easy skiing in Garibaldi park.	B2	Kathy Nemis	604-254-1170
January 10-11: Lillooet Ice More ice climbing near Lillooet.	A5	Russell March	604-433-8868
January 11: Needle Pk. Skiing in the Coquihalla area.	B2(4)/2101 m	Brian Gavin	604-929-0675
January 11: Hat Pass Skiing above Howe Sound.	B3-4	Paul Kubik	604-876-0764

TELEMARK SKI CLINICS

Club members are organizing telemark clinics jointly with the ACC at Cypress Bowl on some Wednesdays in January and February. For further

information, contact -
Isabel Budke 604-224-5737 (Jan 14, Feb 4+18)
Linda Bily 604-222-1577 (Jan 21, Feb 25)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees for 2003/2004 are now

due - Membership fees for 2003/2004 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, **THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE.** You should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying the October 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 are -

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

New Members - The club welcomes the following new Associate members: Wendy Barker, Martin Cook, Greg Jones, and Stacey Jones.

What Club Members are Doing - A couple of club members were injured in separate incidents on club trips recently. **Andrzej Jarzabek** broke his ankle on a trip to Mt. Bishop and had to be flown out by helicopter. **Dan Carey** broke his leg on a trip to the Spearheads. He writes "We took the lifts up Blackcomb on their second to last day of glacier skiing and headed out from there. We had fine weather and climbed Blackcomb, Spearhead, Decker and Trorey on the first day. On the second we climbed Pattison, Tremor, Shudder, Quiver and the Ripsaw.

Then I fell while scrambling up Couloir Ridge and broke my leg. We had cell phone access, but since it

was already sunset we couldn't get a helicopter in until morning. So I spent an uncomfortable night in the tent. The others decided to abandon the trip and come out by helicopter too.

I spent 23 nights at VGH, had four surgeries and now have 18 screws in my tibia. Physio is coming along slowly and the doctor is now talking about arthroscopic knee surgery to help restore the flexibility. It looks like it will be a long recovery."

The club wishes both Andrzej and Dan speedy and complete recoveries and hopes that they will be back in the mountains in the not-too-distant future.

BCMC NEWS

Articles wanted for the 2004 B.C. Mountaineer - We will be producing the club's biennial journal next year. Articles about extended, more unusual, different, exotic, etc., trips are wanted, together with photos. Deadline for submissions is 31 January, 2004. Please submit your articles and photos (slides, prints, or high resolution digital images) to the editor.

Newsletter by email - This coming year we will begin electronic distribution of the newsletter for those

who want it. If you indicate on your membership renewal form that you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, you will be emailed a notification, when the newsletter is ready, that you can obtain an electronic version from a web address associated with the club website. This version will be in pdf format.

The electronic version will be available approximately a week earlier than you would receive it by normal mail, and will contain some colour photos.

REPORTS FROM THE 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2003 AGM was held on 18 November. More than 130 people were present, with a quorum of at least 40 voting members. A new executive (see front page) was appointed; members were again partly entertained by reports from member of the previous executive, but primarily by Marcus Dell who gave a slide show on an excellent ascent of Logan. Some reports presented at the AGM follow. Further reports will be in the January newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - by Kit Griffin
As 2004 approaches, I'm now reflecting on the hard work and initiatives of the Executive over the past year - and last ten years of my involvement with the BCMC come to think of it.

Our thanks to David Hughes for his continued support on the publishing projects still underway and his work with the Treasurer, Todd Ponzini who is guiding the club in fiscal responsibility in a truly professional

way.

The Conservation Chair, led by Monika Bittel and Brian Wood (who is still trying to step down) who works tirelessly attending meetings trying to resolve shared backcountry access with snowmobilers et al.

The Editor, Michael Feller, is to be applauded to putting in another year of publishing the newsletter and thanked for his work. He also attends governmental meetings trying to save the access to the wilderness in a contiguous form in his "spare time" - thank you again.

The Social committee Donna Bailie and Pam Krannitz have done a fine job arranging the refreshments some world-class slide shows. A shift we have noticed is several of the photographers have used digital cameras as opposed to film-based cameras. It is an interesting trend and one we will follow closely. My

thanks for Ed Tchoi from Commercial & Electronics, and Precision Media for lending us the projectors. Thanks to Marcus Dell, Jeff Rabinovitch and Peter Wing for bringing their own projectors.

The Climbing Chair, Peter Gumplinger was yet again masterful in organizing volunteers, callers and trip volunteers (the "Saints and Angels" as I like to call them). It is exacting work double checking grades, spelling, access and alternatives. Peter does a remarkable job in sorting the some 150 trips for the year into useable format.

Again, the BCMC has offered some wonderful camps: The Tantalus, Wedge Mountain, the Upper Stein Valley and Washington Pass (Liberty Bell). Our thanks to David Scanlon for being summer camp coordinator and thanks to all who organized the trips and for his work on the Mountain Lake Cabin!

The club mentor programs were successful again. Thanks to Greg Hamilton, Ian Hopper and Nick Vipond for the winter program. Thanks to Karin Pocock for her Avalanche program.

Thanks to Paul Miller for arranging the Lead program, and Miles Quesnel for Mountaineering. Thanks Anders Ourom for the Alpine Climbing program and his work with the Climbers Access Society.

These mentor programs are assisted by volunteers who give of their time every year. Thank you everyone. Now, in turn I hope those who attend the programs may give some time back to the club in someday.

Brian Steeves our cabins and trails chair had terrible luck this season - his pack with all his climbing equipment was stolen during the BCMC mountaineering program. His mountain bike and car were stolen soon after. I hope the thieves meet some dreadful fate. Thanks for your assistance on the Executive Brian and I hope you have better luck this coming year!

Membership, Julia Borhardt, Mirella Lioce and now Steve Tate have done an excellent job keeping the numbers and the membership forms catalogued.

The Webmaster, Kevin and his team have taken the

website to a new level of usability now the membership list is part of it.

There will be several people stepping down from the Executive and changing roles - thank you all for your contributions - we could not have done all the work without you.

As with all years, in among the thank-yous and tributes, we must make to some time to remember those who are not with us any more: John Clarke and Fred Brownsword. Most of us know or know of John Clarke Fred was 97 and had been a member since 1927, or 76 years all told; Jack Apps, a long time BCMC member and two young mountaineers Guy Edwards and John Millar disappeared on the northwest face of the Devil's Thumb. Our thoughts and best wishes are with their families.

Next year we have a number of projects we would like help with. Work around the Plummer Hut, a guidebook and upgrading the current huts or adding another depending on what the membership would like. If you have an interest in assisting the Executive - have we got some interesting projects for you! Please join and have a safe year in 2004.

TREASURER'S REPORT – by Todd Ponzini

In 2003, the club experienced a drop in membership numbers. This, combined with several new projects and continued poor interest rates resulted in a net loss for the year.

Although member dues increased by \$5 during the year, \$3 of the increase passed on to the FMCBC (and was not retained by the BCMC). As such, the FMCBC expense this year has increased significantly

The significant financial events in 2003 were:

- The drop in membership revenue, as mentioned above;
- A drop in revenue from our summer and winter courses;
- Low interest rates continued to prevail, resulting in our investments earning little interest; and
- Significant work was done on the website and the library indexing project during the year.

Revenue and Expenses from the General Fund for the year ending 30 September 2003, with comparative figures for previous years.

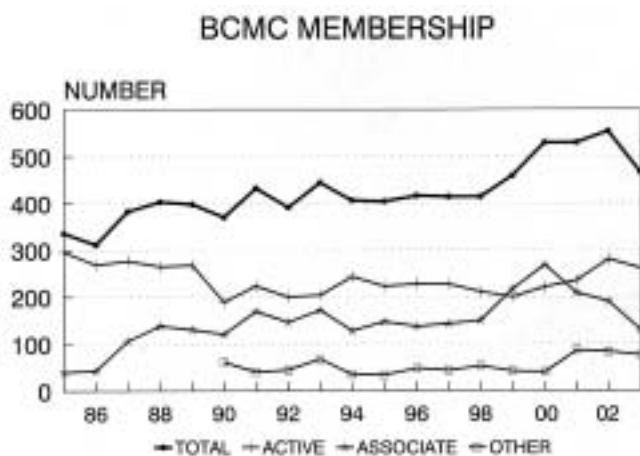
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
REVENUE								
Membership dues	15,945	15,917	6,919	16,168	13,252	11,390	12,390	11,720
Interest income	1,628	2,723	4,195	3,049	3,347	933	1,592	2,955
Equipment rental, cabin fees	385	375	285	583	705	460	322	1,315
Smoke Bluffs project/T-shirt sales	198	218	111	—	425	1,115	(94)	—
Instruction courses (net) - ski	385	1,385	1,112	1,814	843	1,576	1,710	1,248
- summer	3,474	4,410	2,313	2,809	3,284			
Ski mntg. course revenue used for Pieps purchase	---	—	---	---	---	400	---	803
Centennial fund contributions	---	80	---	75	670	80	144	70
Publication sales/advertising	680	17	994	---	474	36	260	42
Camps (net)	318	230	758	409	665	219	0	9
Other	1,666	---	86	300	---	45	80	---
Bequests	---	9000	---	---	1933	39,312	---	---
Total Revenue (after bequests)	24,679	25,275	26,773	25,207	23,665	16,254	16,404	18,162
EXPENSES								
Publications								
Mountaineer	4,406	4,004	4,574	3,016	3,175	5,344	0	4,876
Brochures, constitution, index, etc.	1,057	---	---	---	570	---	---	---
Newsletter	7,316	7,627	6,396	5,338	4,463	4,585	4,669	4,415
Total publications	12,779	11,631	10,970	8,354	8,208	9,929	4,669	9,291
Website	1,742	1,268	978	1,400	---	---	---	---
Social activities (net)	1,472	1,530	1,478	1,240	1,363	1,680	1,658	735
Postage and stationary	2,630	3,003	2,190	2,346	1,970	189	1,498	2,601
Amortization of assets	1,578	1,052	1,081	1,055	508	890	943	1,001
Insurance + tax (cabin)	---	19	584	516	516	515	515	500
FMCBC and other memberships	5,520	4,040	4,284	4,334	4,944	3,580	3,317	3,516
Radio licence	---	124	151	219	178	184	146	156
Cabin	348	43	27	50	50	121	65	64
Equipment repair/replacement	---	---	---	82	---	93	34	---
Conservation	---	500	---	---	---	---	550	194
Voice mail	251	252	59	291	198	193	192	179
Miscellaneous	198	295	253	61	25	40	337	531
Donations	252	719	1,946	2,250	464	200	---	---
Courses	---	48	---	---	485	---	---	---
Archives/Library	1,281	1005	2,023	7,123	---	---	---	---
Total expenses	28,051	24,524	25,988	29,322	18,909	17,614	13,924	18,769
Surplus (deficit) of Revenue over Expenses (after bequests and archives expenses)	(3,372)	751	785	3,009	4,756	(1,360)	2,480	(607)
MEMBER'S EQUITY FOR ALL CLUB FUNDS								
General Fund (excl. Cent.)	61,130	64,504	66,040	56,794	61,188	57,181	18,582	9,445
Literary and Reserve Fund	37,847	37,530	37,236	35,564	34,687	32,981	39,390	36,493
Life Membership Fund	8,700	8,650	8,650	8,750	8,750	8,650	7,850	7,850
Senior and Honorary								
Membership Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,571
Centennial Fund	8,041	7,122	6,737	4,365	3,994	3,162	2,914	2,626
Total	115,718	117,806	118,663	105,473	108,619	101,974	68,736	63,359

On the bright side, the club did receive an unexpected \$1,500 refund from Telus. We also sold copies of the Mountaineer to MEC, received some user fees from our cabins, and had a very successful gear swap to raise money for our centennial. It should also be noted that in the absence of the \$9,000 donation received last year, 2002 would have been a break-even year.

In conclusion, although the Club recorded a loss in 2003, we are still financially strong and hold sufficient cash to meet our operational needs.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - by Julia Borchardt

Membership declined this year, mainly due to a decrease in Associate Members, although numbers in other membership categories declined as well (see Table below, prepared from statistics for 2002 and 2003 produced by Peter Gumplinger). Total membership of 466, however, is still higher than it has been in all previous decades.



CLIMBING REPORT - by Peter Gumplinger

The club produced two strong trip schedules for both the winter/spring and summer/fall season. The 2002/2003 winter/spring schedule featured 8 trips in December, 16 in January, 16 in February, 20 in March, 14 in April and 13 in May. There is no information avail-

able about these trips except where a trip report was published in the Newsletter.

Summer/fall trip statistics follow. The numbers given are the total number of participants and (/) how many of those were not members of the club.

June - 20 trips with 191 participants: Sigurd Peak (summit - 7/3), Blanshard Needle (summit - 12/3), Mt. Weart (no summit via the NE-Face/poor condition 5/1), Eaton Peak (summit via N. Ridge up, NW Ridge down - 12/0), Edge Peak (summit via White Dyke Route - 10/1), Flora Peak (summit - 8/2), North Twin Sister (summit - 6/1), Goat Mtn. and Crown Mtn. (summits - 3/2), Dog Mtn. (summit - 17/9 - 8 children with 6 under the age of 5), Panther Peak (summit - 16/6), Stein Valley (7/0), Cypress Creek (6/3 with 3 children), Mt. Matier (no summit/poor weather - 10/0), Williams Peak (summit - 14/4), Sky Pilot (no summit/poor weather - 7/0 - over 30 calls), Birkenhead Peak (summit - 19/4), Galiano Island (3/2), North Nesakwath Spires (summit via N-Ridge 13/0), Black Tusk (summit - 7/3), Shuksan (no summit, poor condition - 9/3).

July - 12 trips with 107 participants: Ossa Mtn. and Pelion Mtn. (summits - 4/0), Mt. MacFarlane (summit - 8/4), Wedge Mtn. (summit via North Arete - 9/3), Ashlu Mtn. (summit via East Ridge 14/5), Mt. Rexford (summit - 10/1), Cloudburst Mtn. (summit - 10/5), Baby Munday and The Still (summits - 4/1), Mt. Matier (no summit/poor weather - 8/2), The Black Tusk (summit - 9/0), Cloudraker Mtn. (summit - 8/2), South Chilcotin Mtns. (Lorna Lake to Tyaughton Lake, 9 days - 10/2), Kwoiek Needle (summit - 13/2).

August - 15 trips with 113 participants: Spearhead Traverse (many summits - 5/2), Manning Park (3/2), Cardtable Mtn. (summit - 6/2), Tundra Peak (summit - 10/3), Sky Pilot and Mt. Sheer (summits - 5/1), Liberty Bell Area Climbing (14/4), Cayoosh Mtn. (summit - 9/0), Tetrahedron Peak and Rainy Peak (summits - 3/0), Mountain Lake Area (15/5), The Lions (no summit/turned away at the trailhead, late start from Cypress Bowl - 8/6), Ruth Mtn. and Icy Peak (summits - 11/0), Mt. Joffre (summit via West Ridge - 9/0), Five Finger Group (no summits/terrible bush - 4/0), Sechelt Inlet Canoe Trip (10/4), Panorama Ridge (1/0)

September - 10 trips with at least 67 participants: Relay Creek to Taseko Mtn. (4/1), Mt. Rohr (summit -

9/2), Buckhorn Camp (9/0), Black Peak (summit via NE-Ridge and South Side - 12/2), Needle Peak (summit via NE-Ridge - 10/0), Mountain Lake Hut Area (?/?), Pinecone Lake (7/0), Mt. Webb and MacDonald Peak (summits - ??), Downton Creek Area (9/5), Jack-ass Mtn. (summit - 7/3)

October - 4 trips with 43 participants: Mt. Isolillock (summit - 16/2), Cathedral Ridge (9/2), Pinecone Lake Area (12/5), Stryen Creek Area (6/1)

A fire closure/backcountry advisory late in the summer spoiled the following trips: Shulaps Range, Mt. Judge Howay, Burke Mtn, Mt. Moriarty, Nivalis Mtn, MacGillivray Pass Area, Mt. Bobb, Sun God Mtn and Coliseum Mtn.

EDITOR'S REPORT - by Michael Feller

During the last year we produced our usual 10 newsletters containing 108 pages - close to our recent average. (See table below). The space devoted to club material increased over last year due to an increase in trip reports to our second highest level in recent years. The space devoted to other news was substantially less than in recent years, however. It is

intended to commence electronic distribution of the newsletter, for those who want it, in the coming year.

All contributors to the newsletter deserve thanks, particularly Marsha Ablowitz, Dave Hughes, Paul Kubik, and Dave Scanlon.

Thanks are also due to Susan Ratson for typing, Evelyn Feller and members of the BCMC executive for assistance in stuffing newsletters into envelopes, and particularly to Mike Peel and Kit Griffin for producing vast quantities of envelopes for stuffing.

During the year your editor produced, and the club published, the first index to the publications of the BCMC. This covered the time period 1907 to 1969. Work also began on the second volume of this index. Stefanie Pollock must be thanked for assistance with the index.

Work also began on a computerized searchable index of the contents of the club library.

Carrie Stevenson must again be thanked for continued work on the club archives, and on the index of the contents of the club library.

Newsletter Total Number of pages (%)

	<u>2002/03</u>	<u>2001/02</u>	<u>2000/01</u>	<u>1999/00</u>	<u>1998/99</u>	<u>1997/98</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>1995/96</u>	<u>1994/95</u>
Trip ads	10.5 (10)	10.5 (9)	11.5 (10)	15 (14)	11.5 (10)	12.5 (15)	12.5 (10)	16.5 (15)	11.5 (10)
Trip reports	30 (28)	22 (19)	30.5 (27)	28.5 (28)	24 (10)	17.5 (20)	16.5 (13)	17 (16)	15.5 (14)
Club news	43 (40)	43.5 (38)	40 (36)	26 (25)	41 (34)	33 (38)	36 (28)	39.5 (37)	41 (37)
Other news	12 (11)	24.5 (21)	24 (22)	28.5 (28)	39 (33)	19 (22)	35.5 (28)	19.5 (18)	25.5 (23)
Features	11.5 (11)	11 (9)	0 (0)	3.5 (3)	0 (0)	2.5 (3)	15.5 (12)	10.5 (10)	0 (0)
Equipment/ Technique	0 (0)	0 (0)	.5 (0)	2 (2)	4 (3)	0 (0)	4 (3)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Letters/ Reports	0 (0)	3.5 (3)	5.5 (5)	0 (0)	0.5 (0)	0.5 (1)	7.5 (6)	3.5 (3)	14 (13)
Book reviews	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Ads	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2.5 (2)
Total Pages	108	116	112	103.5	120	86	127.5	107.5	111

WEBMASTER REPORT - by Kevin Swanson

This year has marked a great deal of change in the club website. Michael McCrae, with a great deal of input from (in particular) Peter Gumplinger, coordinated many improvements to the online membership system, implemented by Robin Tivy of Bluesoft Internet Services.

Early in 2003, I took the reins as BCMC Webmaster. After overseeing a huge leap in the capabilities of our online systems, Michael needed a rest! It has been a great experience, so far, working on the executive, and I want to thank everyone for making me welcome, and helping to get me up to speed.

In the past 9 months, since I moved into the position, I have made a few changes to the look of the website. There have been features added for the executive's use, and a new look on the website's homepage. I've also created a streamlined system for entering timely, 'news' type information quickly and easily. (Of course, that sort of thing isn't really visible to website visitors!)

My goal over the next year is to:

1. increase the amount of topical, time-sensitive information available directly from the home page,
2. improve the webmaster's, and executive's, ability to administer things like trip schedules and the membership database,
3. work on streamlining the navigation of the website, so there is a shorter, less confusing list of options confronting the user on each page, and
4. encourage all members to visit, use, and contribute (information, photos, etc.) to the website.

Thanks to everyone for their support, and please - submit any and all information you think may be of interest to other members!

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS REPORT - by Mike Peel

The Federation of Mountain Clubs has been going through a few changes in the past year, but we continue to have enthusiastic volunteers who are supporting the rights of the self-propelled recreationalists.

This year has been very challenging since both Roger Freeman and Pat Harrison decided to step down. Roger was the first chair of the Rec and Con Committee and held that position for over 30 years! Pat Harrison has been involved with the FMCBC for the past 10 years, most recently as the Executive director. Pat continues to assist the FMCBC in a less time consuming role and we still have valuable input from long-serving members such as Mike Feller, Monika Bittel, Leslie Bohm, and Alex Wallace.

The present provincial government is very focused on revenue generation, and consequently some of their schemes can have long term consequences for B.C.'s backcountry. Nevertheless, good progress was made on many issues over the past year, and here is a sampling of the main ones:

Sea to Sky LRMP (Whistler to Squamish corridor) – Pat Harrison (backed up by Mike Feller) regularly attended monthly and sometimes weekly meetings in Squamish. The Government's mandate is to have this LRMP completed in 1 year (which may be optimistic).

Lillooet LRMP – Brian Wood and Jay McArthur continue to monitor the progress of this "completed" LRMP. The Liberal government is still "reviewing" the recommendations of the LRMP Table which were selected by the previous NDP government and is considering reducing the size of certain protected areas, and eliminating others.

Winter and Summer Backcountry forums (in the Sea to Sky corridor) – For over 2 years (winter forum), dedicated volunteers Monika Bittel, Leslie Bohm, Mike Feller, Pat Harrison, Sandra Nicol and Mary Henderson have regularly attended monthly meetings with the snowmobilers, commercial recreation operators and heli-skiers. The summer forum has just started, and it looks like it may not have the same challenges as the winter forum.

Pat Harrison, and the other participants, held information sessions on the Winter Backcountry Forum in Pemberton, Whistler and Vancouver. They highlighted the following points:

- The forum was formed to resolve motorized versus non-motorized backcountry recreation conflicts in the Sea to Sky corridor by proposing a

formal sharing agreement that includes zoning of usage.

- 20 to 30 people have been meeting twice a month to drive this process. A total of about 4000 hours of volunteer time has been contributed so far.
- The implementation of the proposed zoning will require enforcement.
- The Liberals want peace in the valley because of the 2010 Olympic bid.
- Minister Hagen was briefed on the process and he gave "2 thumbs up"
- Forum will cost about \$55,000. FMCBC and member clubs have put in k\$2 as have the snowmobilers. Government has contributed about k\$40.
- Forum expected to end in May 2003.

The forum continues, but LAW B.C. (the crown corporation mandated to issue licenses/tenures) uncovered its Trojan Horse: they will continue to approve motorized commercial recreation in areas that the snowmobile community had agreed be zoned as "non-motorized". During this year and previous years the FMCBC has been reviewing and commenting on numerous applications for commercial recreation tenures, most of which related to motorized recreation. Together with application specific comments, we always requested that any decisions relating to long term motorized recreation tenures be deferred until a comprehensive land use plan (now the LRMP) had been completed so as to avoid preempting later land use decisions. In essentially all applications, our requests have been ignored. Please see www.backcountryforum.org.

Recreation Stewardship Panel – Shane Kocielniak, Leslie Bohm and Brian Wood attended several meetings convened by a government appointed panel looking into how to manage and extract money from all crown lands used for recreation, and in particular Parks. They stressed to the board that Parks are not for commercial activity and that the conservation of Parks should be the overriding concern – exactly what was stated in the 1992 Park Legacy Panel report. This was yet another frustrating process wherein the decisions "have already been made" and NGOs are invited to give a veneer of democracy. Of the panel's numerous recommendations, Minister Murray has

thus far only implemented those relating to revenue generation. For example, the govt. used the backlog of infrastructure maintenance (broken outhouses, bridges, etc) as an excuse for the Panel's mandate but has assigned zero dollars to solving this problem. One of our suggestions, that if park day-use fees must be imposed then they be less in the hinterland (to promote tourism) seems to have been adopted.

Shane also organized a meeting with the Vancouver Sun editorial board, along with the Valhalla Society, Sierra Club, WCWC, CPAWS, Fed BC Naturalists, and Council of Outdoor Tourism. At this meeting and in the subsequent article printed in the Vancouver Sun, Shane made the following points (i) No one has yet made the economic argument for Parks: Parks bring in Tourism dollars, and as a result they pay for themselves (ii) User fees are based on allowing a large number of people so as to generate revenue – the primary motive is maximizing profit at the expense of the Park's ecological integrity.

BC Forest Service Recreation Stakeholders Meetings – Several meetings between the BC Forest Service (BCFS) and outdoor recreation groups took place in Richmond during last summer where the BCFS presented plans to divest itself of managing its trails and recreation/camping sites, and instead have commercial operators, municipalities, volunteer groups take over management. Most groups strongly opposed these suggestions, and after numerous presentations by those opposed, the BCFS reversed itself on many issues, and many of these proposals have been laid to rest temporarily, but BCFS staff reductions will present future problems. Considerations such as liability insurance, lack of experience and existing infrastructure for many organizations, lack of implementation planning on the part of government and poor communication have slowed down the whole process. In June 2003 the Government issued the following statement:

"The provincial government has reversed itself, and 900 forestry campsites and trails in B.C. will remain open this year. The sites had been slated to close because of budget cuts to the Ministry of Forests. Now, additional money has been set aside to keep the sites open. However, maintenance and janitorial services

will be minimal, as the sites are being designated as "user-maintained." Hundreds of other campsites and trails will be run by community groups and local governments under partnership with the provincial government."

Strathcona Park Hydro Proposal – Boldin-Westmin Mine made contacts within the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management about developing a hydroelectric generation plant in a Wilderness Conservation zoned area of Strathcona Park. Brian Wood wrote a letter to minister Hagen opposing these moves arguing that they contravene the parks management plan. Mike Peel brought forward a motion at the Outdoor Recreation Council AGM in May that stated: "no hydro development should be permitted in Parks". This motion passed and will be forwarded to Minister Hagen by ORC. Consequently in July of 2003 the Government disallowed the hydroelectricity project.

Clendenning Park Management Plan - Mike Feller has been on the committee to review the management plan. BC Parks flew 2 snowmobilers and Mike Feller around Clendenning Park to check out snowmobiler/skier potential conflict areas. These were identified - snowmobilers apparently had not visited the park previously. Ironically the flight showed them the route into the park! BC Parks will be producing a draft management direction statement for the park this fall, which we will review prior to public input. Potential conflict areas are Raccoon pass and glaciated areas to the NE as far as Elaho Mtn.

Backcountry Avalanche Workshop

International snow gurus in Vancouver for one-day public info session

If you like skiing or boarding in the backcountry, then this one-day pre-season workshop is for you... On Saturday, December 6, the Canadian Avalanche Association (CAA) will bring some of the world's top avalanche gurus to Vancouver to present Backcountry Avalanche Workshop 2003: Knowledge for Managing Your Risks.

In one day, eight international avalanche experts will explore the nature of the risks faced in the backcountry and present the latest strategies and techniques for decision-making. The CAA is especially pleased to present Werner Munter, creator of the revolutionary "Reduction Method" of decision making, which is now widely used in Switzerland.

Working Forest Legislation - The intent of this legislation and the related SRMP is to promote commercial uses of crown lands and to make it much more difficult to create any further Parks. Naturally, this legislation identifies, by default, the highest and most valuable use of lands as forestry and logging. Shane wrote a letter to Minister Hagen stating opposition to measures, which reduce flexibility in land-use planning; and to the proposed transfer of much decision-making, away from statutory decision makers, and toward secret cabinet meetings (orders in council, etc). Unfortunately, on October 28 the provincial Government passed this legislation, but First Nations and conservation/recreationists continue to voice their displeasure. Please see www.workforest.org for updates.

Whistler Blackcomb ski expansion plans - We met with Arthur De Jong from Whistler Blackcomb about their plans to encroach on the Singing Pass area. The parks boundary was moved in 1996 and that decision is final. At this time, the proposed ski-lift expansion is on hold due to financial uncertainty. Mr. DeJong also mentioned a long-term plan to take over other higher areas if "global warming" affects existing operations adversely.

Tantalus Park management Plan – air access issues – Monika Bittel attended the last few meetings, which clarified the Air Landing and overflight Policy.

A big thanks to all for working so hard with the FMCBC!

Speakers from Canada, Switzerland, France, Iceland, and the USA will explore lessons learned from last year, the challenges of uncertainty, terrain choices, and the human side of decision-making in the mountains. Considering that 29 people died in avalanches in Western Canada last winter, the CAA has decided to make this pre-season workshop as accessible as possible by offering tickets for only \$30.

The workshop will take place at the Justice Institute of BC (715 McBride Boulevard, New Westminster) between 9am-5pm on Saturday, December 6th. Tickets are available at the door - seating is limited, so come early. Doors open at 8:30 AM. For more information, check out the CAA's workshop overview (www.avalanche.ca/misc/BCSkierBAW.pdf), visit www.avalanche.ca, or call 250-837-2435.

TRIP REPORTS

Isolillock Mtn., 5 October, 2003

I originally planned to go to Mt. Urquhart, but a last minute discovery that a gate had been placed on the access road forced me to find a suitable alternative. Isolillock Mtn. came to mind as a trip that hadn't been done by the club for years. The old approach being badly overgrown had put that mountain out of most people's mind. But after having heard of a new route up the mountain I decided to check it out this summer and it turned out to be a good trip. At that time I had decided to put it on the club schedule for next year. Now I thought it could be the alternative I was looking for.

The original destination generated a lot of interest but when I had to change it nobody seemed to be too upset - mainly because nobody had climbed or heard of Isolillock before, except for Irek.

On Sunday morning 16 people in all met at the Crossroads out in Abbotsford. From there we carpooled up the freeway, turned south onto the Silver/Skagit and turned right at km 6 (Silver Lake Provincial Park). At about half a kilometer we turned right again on the Sowerby Forest Service road. At km 6, just before the bridge crossing, we parked directly below the south side of the peak. The route we were to follow went to the left (west side) of the peak and connected with the west ridge up to the false summit.

At 9:15 we found the dry creek bed that takes you fairly effortlessly through the thick second growth forest. We followed it until the creek became constricted and steep. We tucked left into the forest and started heading up steeply through it. It was steep and long but travel was relatively easy. As we went up we trended right. After frequent stops to let everybody catch up we reached the ridge at about 12:15. The weather was beautiful to our great surprise. In the morning we had driven up under thick gray skies with drizzle in places. Now we were looking down on it and we were downright hot in the blazing sun. But we were not complaining, just reveling in it. We were very pleased that

we were having this in October.

After some lunch Ehleen and Erich decided to enjoy the sunshine while the rest of us started up the final 300 meters. The west ridge is a pleasant class 2/3 scramble to the false summit. Once on the false summit, which is about 10 to 20 meters lower, Jenny decided that that was far enough for her. The rest went for the main summit. We had to drop down about 20 meters and then climb the final summit. John and Gordon skirted below the summit on a ledge to connect up with the north east ridge while the rest of us climbed the north face straight on. It was a fun scramble of no more than class 3 and in no time everyone was on the summit - by 1:40 pm. Time for a rest and to enjoy the view.

It was somewhat hazy but it was still a great view. The valley was stuck in low cloud and fog. The Cheam Range, Mt. Baker, Mt. Shuksan, Mt. Silvertip and Grant and Eaton Peak were some of the peaks that dominated the skyline to the west and south. To the north and east we were able to see Old Settler and Mt. Urquhart. At two o'clock it was time to head down even though it was so pleasant on top. We picked up the rest of the gang on the way down and hoped to repeat our way up but we got somewhat off track and some of us (including myself) ended up in the gully we had hoped to avoid. Most were smart and traversed more to the right and went down the proper way. The rest of us continued on down and got sucked into the gully and had a couple of interesting down climbs to contend with. But in the end we all made it down safely and at 5:30 pm we had all reached the cars. It had been a good early fall trip. A stop at the Wildcat in Bridal Falls completed the day.

Participants: Gordon Stead, Michael Fuhrmann, Sylvia Bakovic, Greg Iuzzolino, Marian Jans, Yugo Iwanaga, Ehleen Hinze, Erich Hinze, Irek Jasiak, Carol MacMillan, Peter Gumplinger, Silke Gumplinger, John Sapac, Jay MacAthur, Jenny Faulkner and Jos van der Burg (Organiser and reporter).