

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2003

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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, 11 February - Entertainment will be a slide show by Jeff Rabinovitch on mountaineering and jungle trekking in Bolivia.

Tuesday, 11 March - Entertainment will be a slide show by Linda Bily on a recent ski mountaineering traverse of the Saint Elias Range.

Skiing in the upper Spray valley, Alberta Rockies.



On a Bolivian summit. Photo - J. Rabinovitch



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 trip unless otherwise indicated.

		ORGANIZER	
February 1-2: Lillooet (ice) More ice climbing in the cool interior.	A5	Nick Ranicar	604-899-8818
February 1-2: Rainbow Mtn. Skiing in the Cheakamus valley opposite Whistler.	B2-3/2328 m	Monika Bittel	604-983-3097
February 2: Diamond Head area Easy skiing in Garibaldi Park.	B2	Kathy Nemis	604-254-1170
February 8: Mt. Mulligan Skiing east of Squamish.	B2/1650 m	Rhys Gibb	604-294-3792
February 8-9: Mt. Fee Skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide. The N peak will be climbed if conditions permit.	C3(4)/2290 m	David Hughes	604-980-6484
February 8-9: Tetrahedron area Skiing above Sechelt.	B3	Michael Feller	604-270-4050
February 15: Mt. Sproatt Skiing in the Cheakamus valley, opposite Whistler.	B3/1844 m	Tricia Daum	604-261-6480
February 15-16: Golden Ears (snowshoe) Snowshoeing in the lower Fraser valley.	C3/1715 m	Miles Quesnel	604-460-1466
February 15-16: Cayoosh Mtn. Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B3/2590 m	Peter Norris	604-240-6087
February 15-16: Pk 7600 More skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B2/2300 m	David Scanlon	604-464-3730
February 19: Cypress Bowl telemark clinic Further telemark practising above West Vancouver.	A1	Isabel Budke	604-224-5737
February 22: Cloudburst Mtn. Skiing in the Cheakamus valley area.	B2-3/1870 m	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
February 22-23: Joffre Lakes traverse A ski traverse over the Tszil - Slalok Pass off the Duffey Lake road.	C3	Robin Tivy	604-734-3644
February 22-23: Lillooet (ice) Ice climbing in the cool interior.	A5	Nick Ranicar	604-899-8818
February 22-23: Duffey Lake road area Skiing somewhere off the Duffey Lake road.	B2-3	Liz Ball	604-879-4648
February 22-23: Saxifrage Mtn. Skiing east of Pemberton.	B3/2500 m	Jeff Rabinovitch	604-732-8984
February 23: Local mountain Easy skiing in the mountains close to Vancouver.	A2	Pat Crean	604-986-5622
March 1-2: Panorama Ridge Skiing above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi Park.	B3/2100 m	Evelyn Feller	604-270-4050
March 1-2: Mamquam Mtn. Skiing east of Squamish.	C3/2595 m	Murray Lashmar	604-221-4183
March 2: Tszil Mtn. Skiing in the Joffre Lakes park off the Duffey Lake road.	B2-3/2380 m	Monika Bittel	604-983-3097
March 7-9: Canmore ice festival Ice climbing near Banff in the Rockies.	A-B5	Kevin Dring	604-724-8748
March 8: Vantage Pk. Skiing in the Cerise Ck. area off the Duffey Lake Road.	B2-3/2230 m	Dan Carey	604-419-3220
March 8: Zoa Pk. Easy skiing in the Coquihalla area.	B2/1250 m	Alice Obermajer	604-520-0580

March 8-9: Ski Pilot Mtn. Skiing and climbing above Howe Sound. Joint trip with the ACC.	C3(4)/2025 m	Richard Pawlowicz	604-222-3343
March 8-9: Marriott Basin Extended skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	C3	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
March 9: Singing Pass Easy skiing in Garibaldi park near Whistler. Joint trip with the ACC.	B2	Irene Goldstone	604-689-8737

BCMC WINTER BACKCOUNTRY SKI TRAVEL COURSE

The club is again offering a program covering the basics of winter ski travel. The program is taught by experienced volunteers (they are not professional guides). It will be on 3 weekday evenings and four weekends in February and March. The prerequisites are:

- Current membership in the BCMC (by seniority if applicants outnumber participant places)
- Ability to ski competently and safely with an overnight pack (15 kg) on Black Diamond lift-serviced runs
- Previous backpacking experience essential
- Good physical and mental health
- Necessary skiing and camping equipment
- Provide your own transport (carpooling usually happens), tents, maps, and food.
- Read and sign a comprehensive waiver
- Complete a health information form
- ALL sessions are mandatory to complete the course

The objective of the program is to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to safely participate in overnight winter ski trips with the club.

Participants will be screened for suitability and judged solely by and at the discretion of the program organizer.

Topics covered include clothing and equipment, trip planning, snow camping, snow shelters, routefinding and basic navigation, snowpack evaluation, avalanche awareness, use of transceivers, weather evaluation, group dynamics, safety, emergency preparedness, environmental stewardship, and winter mountain travel. The program will not cover glacier travel or first aid. There will be 4 evening lectures from 7:30 to 10:30 on the Tuesday before each field weekend.

Weekends:

February 1-2 North Shore and Garibaldi Park (2 day trips)

February 8-9 Coquihalla Pass (overnight, tent)

February 22-23: Duffey Lake Corridor (overnight, snowcave or igloo)

March 1-2: Participants Choice (overnight, participants choice)

Fees: \$225, payable in advance to the BCMC

For additional information: Greg Hamilton
(H:604.984.6800) hamilton_greg@hotmail.com
Ian Hopper (604.983.9044)

SUMMER CAMP 1. - 6TH ANNUAL LAKE LOVELY WATER SUMMER CAMP, 12-20 July, 2003

Eight days of mountaineering in the glorious Tantalus Range (Map ref. 92G/14). Accommodation is in the luxurious A.C.C. cabin with swimming and boating at the door. We will also be running a full mountaineering school for a few beginner-level participants. This is a

self-guided camp for club members only. \$320 covers chopper in and out and hut rental. For bookings and further information, phone Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

LEADERS WANTED - LAKE LOVELY WATER SUMMER CAMP

Assistant leaders are wanted to contribute one or more days of expertise to an introductory mountaineering course, to be given in the context of this year's Lake Lovely Water Summer Camp. Contributors are

guaranteed a pre-booked spot on this popular annual outing. (July 12 - 20, Costs - \$300). If interested, call Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

MEMBERSHIP

Jack Apps (1924-2002) in Memoriam

Jack Apps joined the BCMC in 1953, a few years after being married to Irene Rattenbury, who had been an active and avid club member since 1944.

I remember meeting Jack soon after we joined the BCMC: he was the lead character in one of the legendary "Theatre under the Stairs" plays, performed annually at the club's Grouse cabin on the evening of the traditional BCMC Thanksgiving dinner.

Jack and Irene remained our lifelong friends; we spent many wonderful hours, days, weeks together – they introduced us to Scottish dancing and encouraged us to join them in a paddling club, when our mountaineering succumbed to advancing age. Jack was an excellent organizer and handyman - he helped in the on-site construction of both the Singing Pass (Himmelsbach) and the North Creek club cabins.

On behalf of all club members I would like to express our deepest sympathy to Irene and her family; we will miss Jack.

Martin Kafer

FEE PAYMENT FOR RECREATIONAL USE OF CROWN LANDS

1. Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. Position

"You walk in park, you pay" so ran a headline in the "Province" newspaper 16th September reporting on the Recreation Stewardship Panel. But this headline did not go far enough. Their draft recommendations included the following: "Non-consumptive users of the province's fish, wildlife and park resources should contribute to the provision of those opportunities" and "The panel supports the implementation of a recreation pass for the non-consumptive personal use of Crown land for recreational purposes...If a Park Access Pass is implemented, it should be blended with this broader outdoor recreation pass." (Consumptive means fishing and hunting.) So that Province headline could have read "You walk on Crown Lands, you pay!"

The six-member panel, headed by ex-Socred minis-

ter of environment Bruce Strachan, was charged with the development of "a new management model for park and wildlife recreation that connects fees with services and opportunities and allows greater public involvement in decision making." The Panel held its "by invitation only" public consultations in Richmond over 4 days in July and August. Because of its member clubs in most of the regions in B.C., the Federation got an invitation and was the sole advocate of non-commercial recreation in our Parks and on Crown Lands.....the Fed replied clearly and articulately that our Parks are not for commercialization and that access to basic services such as trails should continue to be free. Shane Koscielniak

2. Comments from Paul Kubik

a) Regarding the recreation pass for the non-consumptive personal use of Crown land and Park land

for recreational purposes – the new management model for park and wildlife recreation that connects fees with services and opportunities and allows greater public involvement in decision making. I wrote to this list [FMCBC] server earlier this year that when the BC Forest Service previously had responsibility for recreation, it was my opinion it destroyed more recreation opportunities than any it may have created. Through neglect and lack of effort to protect and enhance hiking trails, I have a similar opinion of BC Parks. My opinion is we should not be giving any more money to them as a fee for recreational access. They have demonstrated that any amount of money they have received inevitably does not produce adequate work on the ground. I am not strictly opposed to some kind of a fee that is directed towards trail maintenance or access improvement to trail heads. However, the money should go to organizations such as the Federation of Mountain Clubs or to clubs involved in trail maintenance. These are clearly the organizations that produce the greatest benefit to trail users. My experience with government bureaucracies is that little of the money supposedly directed to recreational improvement actually produces work on the ground. I offer the following observations to back up my opinions:

1) I believe BC Parks has a district office at Mike Lake in Golden Ears Provincial Park. Yet, some of the most unpleasant trails exist in the park and have existed for the more than twenty years I have had experience with them. These trails are the Golden Ears trail above Alder Flats, the Gold Creek trail and the Alouette Mountain trail. Some long segments of these trails are old roads that have become water courses or simply trails that have eroded unchecked for so long the trail tread is completely gone. In twenty years, there has been little, none, or ineffective mitigation.

2) Howe Sound Crest trail - Just before Unnecessary Mountain a sign proclaims the trail is “not maintained beyond this point”. Yet anyone hiking it would wonder if the trail was maintained before that point.

3) BC Parks helps put in a rescue shelter on Golden Ears because from my observation the trail is so bad, hikers are susceptible to injury and becoming lost. It is cheaper to undertake rescues than to actually improve the trail such that rescues are avoided.

4) Since the road along Chilliwack Lake was added to Chilliwack Lake Park, the road has not been maintained and because access is deteriorating the trails at the south end of the lake are not receiving maintenance.

To take a page from the Liberal government’s “results-based forestry” model, I believe recreational access, maintenance and funding should be largely transferred out of the hands of BC Parks and Crown Lands and into recreation sector organizations dedicated to recreation interests. The FMCBC had an active trail works program in the late 1980s. I believe this is the model we should consider for the future.

b) I was talking to Pat Harrison of the Trails Committee. Apparently there is a real disconnect between the numbers of trails in the Chilliwack area that are recognized by the bureaucrats and the number recorded by the trails committee on their secret database of trails. The bureaucrats peg the number of trails at 11, the Trails Committee database records five or six times that number according to Pat, i.e. 55 to 66.

I think it’s safe to say if the bureaucrats lift \$25/year out of your wallet, they’ll say it’s for the trails they recognize. As for the other trails that we recognize, we’re whistling into the wind if we expect anything to be done on them.

Rather than lying down and waiting for the levy to roll over us I’d like to suggest a countermeasure. As clubs, we issue recreation passes to all our members as part of the benefit of club membership. These passes will be completely free to our members. I.e. there will be no membership fee increase. The passes will be identical in form to any issued by the bureaucrats. In return, the clubs will undertake a certain amount of trail work each year to offset the amount of the benefit to its members. The trail work that is undertaken will be decided by the individual clubs but should be an amount that reasonably offsets the levy, if it is implemented.

This is not to suggest that every club member must commit to trail work each year. From my experience, there are a number of people who do it anyway and when they do it, they do lots of it. However, with suitable encouragement and organization I think it would be relatively easy for most clubs to meet the target set by their executives.

I know there are those who will say we can't act this way, unilaterally. However, I think if we just act and ignore the naysayers and bureaucrats we can pull it off quite easily. What's important is that the bureaucrats realize we are united and cannot be swayed

from our position. And quite frankly, should we adopt the countermeasure I've suggested and fulfill its obligations I believe we stand on morally high ground and cannot be assailed. Whatever crap the bureaucrats shovel our way, they'll end up being forced to eat it.

The 6th Annual Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, February 14 - 22, 2003

Join the outdoor community in celebrating two things: Vancouver's unique mountain culture and the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest. This year, don't miss VIMFF!

With 2 nights at the Ridge, 1 at Science World, 3 at the Planetarium and 5 at the Centennial Theatre, this year's program promises to be more diverse and rich than ever. Films and guest speakers will be pouring in from all over the world. In *'Everest Uncorked – The Legacy and The Arena'*, **Peter Hillary, Conrad Anker, Jim Whittaker, Peter Habeler, Sharon Wood, Ed Douglas, Leszek Cichy and Zelda Skylark (aka Tami Knight)** will present their experiences and views on the past and future of Everest.

Intrepid arctic explorer, **Jerry Kobalenko**, world-renowned alpinist, **Barry Blanchard**, and celebrated rock climber, **Timmy O'Neill**, will all regale us with their amazing exploits at home and abroad. VIMFF will also feature the tales of a number of young talented locals - **Jim Milina** (on Kilimanjaro), **Guy Edwards** (ascents in India) and **Jeremy Frimer** (a new route on Logan). Famed local veterans – **Paddy Sherman** and **Fips Broda** – will share their innumerable adventures and expertise. **Kathryn Bridge** will speak on the life of legendary mountaineer **Phyllis Munday**.

In addition, the **Norco Trials Team** will bring their mountain biking skills to the stage. The winners of the **VIMFF Mountain Photo Competition** presented by MEC will grace the Centennial Theatre walls. The **Krankensteiner Climbing Contest** will take place at the Edge. The **Polish and Czech & Slovakian Mountain Film Shows** will attest to the accomplishments of those communities. The **VIMFF Community Program** will bring shows on mountain environment to local students.

Come late January, tickets will be on sale at MEC and other select outdoor stores, The Cliffhanger, The Edge Climbing Centre, plus the Centennial Theatre Box Office (VISA & M/C, 604-984-4484) and Ticketmaster.

Watch for our posters!

Also see www.vimff.org

VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO ASSIST THE VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

Perhaps you don't know the VIMFF is a non-profit society. Modest salaries are paid to only a few persons who put huge amounts of time and work into the festival. Otherwise the Board of Directors and dozens of others are all volunteers. We all pitch in because we want to see the festival thrive – we want to celebrate the great mountain culture that exists in Vancouver!

This year, VIMFF needs at least 6 more key people to take on special roles. These are:

TREASURER (someone to stand for Director and handle all the books for VIMFF – do financial statements and budgets, etc)

GUEST SERVICES (someone to take care of all the VIPs from OUT OF TOWN – arrange transportation and accommodation, etc. The big perk is you get to meet all the famous people!)

MEDIA COVERAGE (someone to coordinate advertising to various media: faxing out press releases, calling reporters, sending emails, delivering tapes to film critics, along with a few other volunteers)

POSTER DISTRIBUTION (someone to oversee the putting up of posters throughout the lower mainland by a team of volunteers)

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR (someone to schedule and organize the volunteers during the event – in the lobby and back stage)

A/V TECHNICIAN (someone to oversee slide and film projection)

VIMFF is a very exciting organization and event to be involved with. If you can help out with any of these roles, please contact me soon. There's no obligation if you just call to find out more.
Thanks in advance.

Liz Scremin, Director
Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Society
(H) 604-921-2651

ACCESS/ROUTE NOTES

Ossa Mtn. NE Face

The NE face provides a late-season ice climb of about 40-degrees of about 4 pitches. It gains the east peak of Ossa Mountain, which is separated from the main peak by a discontinuity. It is possible to downclimb into the notch and follow a loose gully to the main peak.

Approach from the end of the Sigurd Creek Trail over moraine and glacier-scoured rock bands. Gain the glacier that drapes the bowl between Pelion and Ossa Mountains on their north side. Traverse the bowl to

the base of the NE face. Depending upon seasonal accumulation, the face may or may not be snow-covered until late in the season. Crampons and ice screws are probably all that are required to safely climb the route. Due to thinning ice due to warming, the bergschrund is increasingly difficult to cross later in the season.

From the account of the first ascent in Fairley (1985) it is possible the first ascencionists (Manfred Putz and Gernot Walter, on skis) climbed the face on its extreme climber's left, which somewhat resembles a gully as referred to in Fairley. This would have allowed them to gain the SE ridge (Fairley's "main ridge"?) adjacent to the 2150 m tower in the Pelion-Ossa col. The SE ridge is easily followed to the east peak - but is barely Class 3. Likely, they carried skis to the top and descended the face. However, Fairley adds a second variant involving a "ridge between the two summits". Is he referring to a second ridge? If so, it definitely refers to the SE ridge, so does that make the main ridge the N ridge? My suspicion is that he had not visited the area so assumed the east peak was the feature that shows as a subpeak on the 1:5000 topographic map, when in fact it is the 2150 m subpeak. The actual east peak is too close to the main summit to be differentiated at that scale.

This gives rise to an alternative. In this scenario, Manfred and Gernot climbed a snow tongue on the climbers' right side of the NE face, also resembling a gully and intersected the N ridge to reach the east peak. As this side is largely rock, it is actually more likely to be the Class 3 gully referred to in Fairley's account - the opposite side is more of a snow gully in ski season.

As a final thought, if Fairley was wrong about the east peak's location then perhaps the 2150 m tower has been climbed and is the "Class 3 rock climb" he refers to. Unfortunately, the BCMC September 2002 trip to ascertain the tower's difficulty was stymied by the formidable bergschrund at the base of the tower.

Paul Kubik

Photos of Ossa on next page are by P. Kubik. The lower photo is of the NE face.



North Creek cabin - new stairs

Stairs to climb up to the deck in front of the cabin were rebuilt during a club work party to the cabin in October, 2002. These stairs were made removable to lengthen their life. They are stored beneath the front of the

cabin and can be hung from nails in the left side of the deck. The bottom of the stairs gets inserted into nails on a wood base structure.

TRIP REPORTS

Needle Peak North Ridge 7 September, 2002.

I've skied and hiked Needle Peak a number of times. Naturally I looked at the stunning rocky slabs on the flanks of this beautiful peak and said to myself "...some day...", softly, wistfully. We all need our illusions, right? Last winter I came across a short, enthusiastic description of the North Ridge route and was instantly intrigued. Class 4? On that lovely rock? Perfect for a club trip...and then there are no excuses. Onto the schedule. Sorry dear, I've committed to this. The club is counting on me!

The usual flurry of calls: the unqualified, the unassuming, the unlikely, and the rest. A limit of 8 to prevent the usual chaos when the ropes come out. Friday the weather forecast (as usual) looked uncertain, but not terrible. One frantic call "...I heard 80% chance of rain, are you cancelling the trip? What's your backup?". I'm nonplussed. Is it really that bad? No. Grit teeth and squint eyes slightly - Eastwood in a spaghetti western. Would Bonatti give up? No. Me neither.

In the morning droplets spatter the car windshield and at the equipment sheds the clouds are down low. Nothing visible but the nearby trees. Just before 9am a quick look at the compass gives us a direction and we dive into the woods. The head of the group has something to prove. He forges on in high spirits at high speed, ignoring screams from behind as the tail of the group is repeatedly stung (the woods are lovely, dark, and deep...and full of wasps apparently). Close to treeline, it gets thick and bushy around slabs and small bluffs, surmounted by the usual grovelling. I love it! (it keeps the Euros away). Now we walk on an alpine ridge - heather and gnarled trees and long ramps of grainy white rock covered in clumps of moss. A footstep in the sand - we are not the first! The ridge narrows just before Markhor and we scramble in the fog. A summit! Now, how do we get down. The obvious way is via the bushy ramps directly south, but

info suggests this involves rapping off krummholz (ooh, ick). Wander over to the recommended SW ridge which at first does not look any better. Hmm...why don't YOU go and have a look Rich, says Jane. So I do. And (as promised) it's actually very aesthetic - a deep wide crack in an open corner that can be followed down virtually the entire distance to the col. Hello up there! You can come down! Hello? Helloooooo? I'll bet Whillans never had to put with this.

On to the "minor bumps" and the dreaded 4th class notch which is actually rather fun, with a beautifully situated "peanut gallery" on the other side from which contradictory advice can be enthusiastically yelled at the hesitant (down)climber across the void. "Lower your left foot!", "Raise your left foot!", etc. Some people do feel more comfortable with a line there and we string one up. Interesting scrambling follows and soon we are heading up the North Ridge proper, looking at the silhouetted figures of hikers on the summit and smearing into dirt-filled corners. I arrive at a small step - the obvious crux, to be outflanked by an obvious sloping weakness on the left. Another handline and by about 1:30 we are at the summit, ecstatic conquistadors of the useless, shaking hands, laughing, looking at the sunny blue patches of sky scudding over the landscape, recounting past glories (aka swapping lies), and eating lunch.

After an hour the clouds hide the sun and we begin to head down the regular route. Just below the summit we meet my wife carrying our 7-month-old son, hiking up with a friend to meet us. Part of the group heads straight out, others decide to dally and pick blueberries lower down. I head back to the summit to help Ian add another to his "bag" (although he has in fact been here once before, some 5 months before birth). As we descend a passing shower in the valley creates a gorgeous rainbow over the awesome slabs of Yak Peak. "...Some day..."

Participants: Michael Fuhrmann, Mirella Lioce, Peter and Silke Gumlinger, Zoran Vasic, Nikola Tokich, Jane Weller and Rich Pawlowicz (Organizer and reporter), Anne Lavergne, Karon Maclean and Ian (regular route). Thanks to Brett whose experiences the week before on the route reassured me and to the Bivouac web site which had the route description.

Pelion Mtn., 21-22 September, 2002

My interest in this route was to assess the possibility of connecting Pokosha and Sigurd Creeks via a trail across their headwaters. Equally intriguing was a fault zone that shows clearly on airphotos, providing an avenue across the back end of Pokosha Creek. I had crossed this area several times before when covered with snow so I was keen on seeing it snow-free in summer.

Despite last year's trail clearing up Pokosha Creek road A-610, vegetation was regrowing thickly. From road end at 750 m, we crossed the evil avalanche gully off 1850 m "Pokosha Mountain" lying west of the road and entered a thick band of slide alder. After emerging from it 15-minutes later we side-hilled through relatively open, old growth forest to the central part of Pokosha Creek valley, alternating from bush to open, swampy ground and timber. It was 1:30PM when we had lunch and we were still less than half-way to camp.

The climb to the back end of the valley went a little better but then we had to climb a wet waterfall through a supposed weakness zone of schist, in order to avoid more slide alder. At its top we reached the fault line in which I was interested. According to the BC Geologic Survey, the fault runs along an interface between the more recent granodiorite rock of the Coast Plutonic Complex and older volcanic and metasedimentary rock of Gambier Group Greenstone- a zone of high mineralization potential. Interestingly, the fault appeared to be a mafic dike (darkly-coloured, high ferromagnesium - content igneous intrusion) but its surface exposure looked like a road, as though a small bulldozer had gouged out a shallow trough in a straight line for several hundred meters. Parallel to it was a vegetated hump and then another dike. Unfortunately, since we were running late there wasn't time to poke around more looking for the mother lode.

Beyond a rockfall of big chunks of granodiorite, which shows up as a clearing on the 1:50,000 map, the fault line became indiscernible in the encroaching forest and we headed up steeply E to gain

Sigurd headwaters at 1400 m. After a break for most in the party to get their first glimpses of the north faces of Pelion and Ossa Mountains and our destination - the tooth at the head of the glacier, we dropped down through open heather meadows and lake country towards our camp site on the moraine. Then, as organizer, I made the only major blunder of the day I will admit to, in that to avoid additional elevation gain, I led the party into a steep side-hill traverse of thick mountain azalea. At this point, now around 6PM, there was mutiny and the group split in two. Anyway, those who stayed with the organizer arrived in moraine camp below Pelion-Ossa glacier at 6:30PM, eight hours after leaving the vehicles. The others struggled in ten minutes later. Altogether we covered about 14km, considerably longer than approaching via Sigurd Trail and about 3 hours longer.

After a long, refreshing sleep under the full moon, the alarm went off at 5:15 am. We set off around 6 am to climb a supposed unclimbed pinnacle in the col between Ossa and Pelion, at the head of the glacier. The route involved climbing the first few pitches of the NE face of Ossa. I had climbed Ossa NE face about six years before in September with Randy Enomoto and it had gone without difficulty. Unfortunately, the glacier was losing volume and we found an almost insurmountable bergschrund straddling our route. A couple of exotic schemes were hatched to get above it but overall, the enthusiasm level was lukewarm. We retreated to the opposite end of the glacier, below Pelion's W rib, to try to outflank the pinnacle. But now groups started going off in different directions. I was myself beginning to lose enthusiasm because we were wasting a lot of time and there were several difficulties to overcome. Normally, on a club trip this is indicative of an approaching epic.

Enthusiasm to bag a summit was still high so we backed off again and set off to climb Pelion Mountain via a route I had climbed and skied numerous times. I was happy to achieve yet another ascent of Pelion - probably my fourth or fifth. We retraced our up-track down the main glacier before we could diagonal up to the ski route up Pelion's N face. This went without difficulty as far as the icefall near 2050 m. Still roped together, we set off to climb the seracs, the first rope not protecting and the second belaying. After one knife-edge serac was climbed about one rope length, the upper glacier was reached without incident and followed to the summit ridge. In winter, the summit ridge is another knife-edge snow ridge with white-

knuckle exposure on its S side. Many elect not to attempt it. In September, it is basically a Class 3-ish scramble if you stick religiously to the ridge crest and easier, if you don't.

Both ropes attained the summit where there were distant views south to Mount Baker and north to Mount Tinniswood. We descended via the route that bypasses the seracs by dropping onto the S side of Pelion from a gully on the upper icefield and swinging back to the 2100 m col above the NW ridge. This is an easier and more straightforward ascent or descent route without much technical difficulty.

We descended to camp, packed up and descended the Sigurd Creek Trail arriving back at the dead-head vehicle shortly after dark. Someone commented that the trail is tough. Indeed, sometimes at the end of a long day, the trail seems tougher than the climb.

Paul Kubik (Organizer and reporter)

Brandywine Mtn., 21 September, 2002

We met at St. Davids church at 7 am. It was a perfect clear day. Luckily there were two 4WD vehicles. We stopped for coffee then took the Whistler highway and turned off left at metal hydro pole #64-2, 2.7 km past the Brandywine falls park. We drove up Brandywine creek road staying left about 4 km, then turning right onto a deactivated road. We took the 1st left then kept on the main road, avoiding a left spur at 2.8 km from the turnoff. We reached the parking area close below the snowmobile cabin around 9 am. We then parked and walked up the valley on an old road below the cabin to reach Brandywine meadows in about 20 minutes. The blueberries were tasty.

From the meadows our group, in true BCMC style, broke up, some went high to the left immediately following markers towards the left ridge, some went to the end of the valley on the trail, and then up to the ridge and snowfields, and one went to the end of the valley to the glacier and climbed the cliffs to the snowfield and summit ridge. We all met on the summit between 2-2:30 pm. The views were wonderful.

Most of us had a speedy descent down the snowfields and ramp to the right of the cliffs and steeper glacier. We were back at the cars around 6 pm. We had a quick gourmet dinner at Wendys in Squamish.

Participants: Peter Woodsworth, John Sapac, Marta Fechete, Anne Laverene, Alin Antonescu, Stuart Daniells, Blake Drummond, Gloria Flores-Fuster, and Marsha Ablowitz (Organizer and reporter).

Widgeon Peak, 22 September, 2002

At the crack of a sparrow's fart, led by Peter Gumplinger, six of us set off on a thigh – and character – enhancing hike to Widgeon Peak. As this was to be a loop, cars were parked at both the start and finish, Minnekhada Regional Park and Harper Rd in Port Coquitlam. The first leg, a steep 750m ascent to Munro Lake was basically an exercise in waking up for more than one member of the group. We were greeted by a surreal dew-covered landscape, and abundant blueberries that seemed to multiply as the day wore on (as did our appetite for them).

After 40 min of trudging through mud, we reached Dennet Lake and paused for an entire 5 min. Lunch at approximately 11am was spent on a ridge overlooking Coquitlam Mtn., and was cut short by swarming blackflies for which none of us were prepared. A series of descents and ascents followed, 3 in total. Just before the final descent to the ridge connecting us to Widgeon Peak, spectacular views of Mt Baker, Shuksan and Golden Ears were obtainable. By this time we had hiked a total of 5 hrs. What followed was a rough bushwhack through a narrow forest – enclosed ridge. We climbed the final ascent following the ridge crest proper, which deserved a higher rating, but retreated by leaving the ridge where it steepens, down the western forest slope, a line less challenging, but still requiring blueberry bush rappels due to the steepness. The 30 min spent resting on the peak was relaxing despite the blackfly hordes and the thought of having to retrace our steps. Everyone donned long pants to avoid further scratches from the flora.

On the way back we eventually followed a trail via Hourglass and Lily Pad Lakes to the "South Slope Connector", marked on a map produced by Burke Mountain Naturalists, which unfortunately our organizer couldn't find. As darkness was fast approaching, 7 pm, we had to retrace our steps and find the original flagged trail. This exercise added about 30 to 40 min extra to guarantee the D rating of >12hrs. Thank you Peter! We reached the end in darkness exactly at 8pm, not having run into any animals other than 2 deer.

Participants. John Sapac, Mike Peel, Silke Gumplinger, Peter Gumplinger (Organizer), Theresa Duynstee, and Marta Fechete (Reporter).