

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



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.

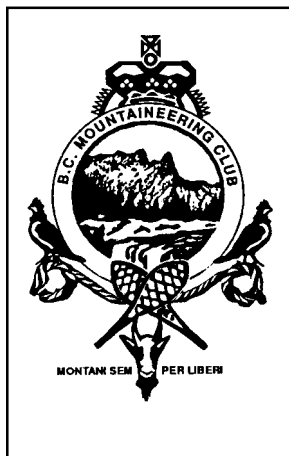
Tuesday, 14 January - Entertainment will be a slide show by Dave and Dave (Hughes and Scanlon) who will present last year's summer camps to the Ape Lake and Bendor Range areas. This social will also feature a presentation by members of the backcountry winter recreation forum of the **proposed plan to accommodate motorized and non-motorized recreation in the Squamish - Pemberton area.** Where and when will you be able to escape snowmobiles? Come and find out and provide feedback to the forum.

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

Skiing on the Phelix-McGillivray divide.



Bendor Range camp. Photo - K. Ricker



HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| PRESIDENT - | KIT GRIFFIN | 604-736-8462 | CABIN / TRAILS - | BRIAN STEEVES | 604-408-4889 |
| PAST-PRESIDENT - | DAVE HUGHES | 604-980-6484 | CONSERVATION - | BRIAN WOOD | 604-222-1541 |
| VICE-PRESIDENT - | MONIKA BITTEL | 604-983-3097 | | MONIKA BITTEL | 604-983-3097 |
| SECRETARY - | CAROLYN HART | 778-882-6297 | SUMMER CAMP - | DAVID SCANLON | 604-464-3730 |
| TREASURER - | TODD PONZINI | 604-983-2612 | WEBMASTER - | MICHAEL McCRAE | 604-326-0156 |
| MEMBERSHIP/MAILING - | | 604-268-9502 | EDITOR - | MICHAEL FELLER | 604-270-4050 |
| | TAMMIE SIBBALD | 604-877-0344 | | | |
| | MIRELLA LIOCE | 604-736-5079 | EQUIPMENT - | PAUL KUBIK | 604-876-0764 |
| SOCIALS - | DONNA BAILIE | 604-572-5051 | SAFETY EQUIPMENT - | | |
| | PAM KRANNITZ | 604-946-9942 | | KIT GRIFFIN | 604-736-8462 |
| CLIMBING - | PETER GUMPLINGER | 604-733-8264 | LIBRARY - | JOAN FORD | 604-876-4255 |
| | ANDERS OUROM | 604-228-1798 | | | |

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8

EMAIL ADDRESS: info@bcmc.ca or bcmc@bivouac.com

INTERNET SITE: www.bcmc.ca

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 | |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| January 5: Hat Mtn. Skiing above Lion's Bay | B4/1653 m | Paul Kubik | 604-876-0764 |
| January 11: Needle Pk. Skiing in the Coquihalla area. | B3/2101 m | Jeff Oh | 604-708-9191 |
| January 11: Howe Sound Crest Trail Skiing from Cypress park above Howe Sound. | B3 | Jos van der Burg | 604-463-7582 |
| January 12: Mt. Sproatt Skiing near Whistler. | B2-3/1844 m | Monika Bittel | 604-983-3097 |
| January 12: Zoa Pk. More easy skiing in the Coquihalla area. | A2/1860 m | Brian Gavin | 604-929-0675 |
| January 18: Needle Pk. More skiing in the Coquihalla area. | B3/2101 m | Randy Enomoto | 604-244-6184 |
| January 18: Hatchethead Mtn. Skiing near the western edge of Manning Park. | B2/1948 m | David Scanlon | 604-464-3730 |
| January 18-19: Cayoosh Ck area Skiing off the Duffey Lake road. | B3 | Robert Gordon | 604-873-5364 |
| January 18-19: Mt. Rohr or Marriott Basin More skiing off the Duffey Lake road. | B2-3 | Isabel Budke | 604-224-5737 |
| January 19: Cypress park (snowshoe) Easy family snowshoe trip above West Vancouver. | A1 | Peter Oostlander | 604-451-4585 |
| January 25-26: Caspar Ck. area Skiing off the Duffey Lake road. | B2 | Mike Peel | 604-444-4068 |
| January 25-26: Mt. Rohr Yet more skiing off the Duffey Lake road. | B2/2433 m | Todd Ponzini | 604-215-2665 |
| January 25-26: Lillooet (ice) Ice climbing in the cool interior. | A5 | Anders Ourom | 604-228-1798 |
| January 25-26: Place Glacier area. Skiing east of Pemberton. | C3 | Greg Hamilton | 604-984-6800 |
| January 26: Zoa Pk. Easy skiing in the Coquihalla area. | B2/1250 m | Carol MacMillan | 604-879-2947 |
| January 29: Cypress Bowl telemark clinic. Practise telemarking above West Vancouver. | A1 | Isabel Budke | 604-224-5737 |
| 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 |

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

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

This will be your chance to DONATE (yes, give not sell) your old outdoor recreation gear, books and magazines, to the Club, which will then try to sell them to those at the meeting to raise funds for the Club's Centennial celebrations in 2007. This benevolent act will enable you to practise the noble art of recycling, while simultaneously providing more room at home to store all those new goodies you received for Christmas.

The "outdoor recreation" limitation applies to the literature too. Because many of you do other outdoor activities, "outdoor recreation" should include cycling,

kayaking etc., and not just mountaineering stuff.

Please bring your gear/literature donations to that meeting, marked with a price that you feel is fair, and your name if you wish the item to be returned to you if it does not sell. Otherwise, stuff that does not sell will be donated to a worthwhile cause. I feel that it is probably better to sell something for a little less than you think it is worth, because the Club Centennial Fund is not in good shape yet, and we have only 4 more years. If you have any queries, suggestions, or would like to help, please contact Brian Wood at 604-222-1541, or email: bjwood@axion.net

REPORTS FROM THE 2002 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - CONTINUED

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – by Mirella Lioce, Peter Goy, Tammie Sibbald and Mike Peel

We've had a good year in membership with the team of Tammie Sibbald, Mirella Lioce, Peter Goy and Mike Peel working hard on membership renewals, mail pickups, envelope printing, member queries and address changes. The total membership count remains over 500 (see figure to right) and most of these are in the Lower Mainland but we do have a few members in England, Germany, Australia and the USA.

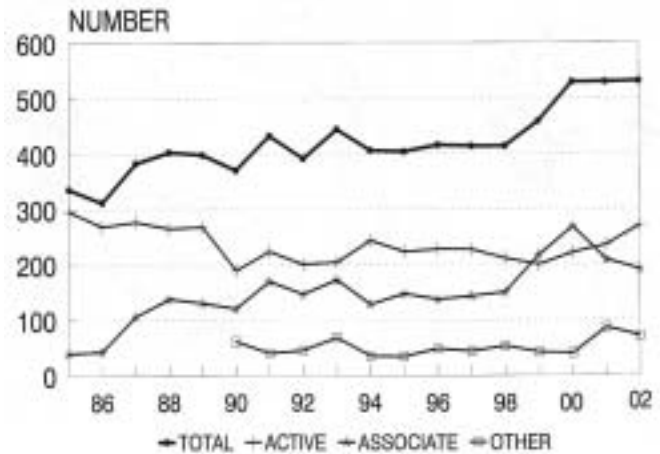
We want to thank everyone for voting for the membership increase as we badly needed the funds not only for mailing/printing costs but also to help out the good work that the Federation of Mountain Clubs has been doing in the Sea to Sky corridor and other areas. If you have any suggestions/criticism about membership then keep it to yourself or tell someone at the local pub because we don't want to hear about it! But seriously, please come by the membership desk and give us your input as we are always open to new ideas.

CONSERVATION REPORT - by Brian Wood and Monika Bittel

The BCMC Recreation and Conservation Committee (Rec & Con Committee) operates primarily through the Recreation & Conservation Committee of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. (FMCBC), which is recognized by government and interest groups as an advocate for non-motorized wilderness recreation. If the BCMC does not have standing to represent its members at a particular forum, committee or table, the Rec & Con Committee pursues its objectives and concerns through the FMCBC. The BCMC is well represented at the FMCBC Rec & Con Committee and BCMC members frequently attend committee meetings and sit at tables and forums on behalf of the FMCBC. The following are highlights of some of the activities over the past year:

1. Sea to Sky Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum (the "Forum") and Sea-to-Sky LRMP: Since September 2001 the Forum has met regularly to de-

BCMC MEMBERSHIP



velop a land sharing accord for the Squamish Forest District, extending from North Vancouver to the Duffey Lake Corridor, that gives all users reasonable access to an enjoyable backcountry experience. The Forum consists of commercial operators, snowmobile clubs, the Snowmobile Federation, Whistler municipality, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, provincial government representatives (Forests, Parks, Sustainable Resources and LAWBC), the FMCBC (Pat Harrison and Monika Bittel), BCMC (Michael Feller), Varsity Outdoors Club (Mark Grist), Alpine Club – Vancouver Section (Mary Henderson), and the North Shore Hikers (Leslie Bohm). The Forum has almost completed the land sharing accord, which it plans to present to the various clubs, organizations and the public in January and February 2003. The Forum is also developing a proposal on how to implement the accord and to manage backcountry recreation in the Squamish Forest District and this will also be presented to the public in early 2003. There are ongoing discussions between the Forum and the Sea-to-Sky LRMP on how to incorporate the accord into the LRMP.

2. Lillooet LRMP: The Liberal government is still reviewing the former NDP's selection of the "green" coalition option, which designated the South Chilcotin Mountains (SCM) or Spruce Lake Area as a park under an Order in Council. The opposing "brown" coalition option proposed a smaller SMC protected area. There has been tremendous lobbying and campaigning by the mining sector, which had refused to participate in the Lillooet LRMP and interest groups from both coalitions, hoping to influence the outcome of the Liberal government's review of the LRMP. We are still waiting for the outcome of the Liberal government's review of the Lillooet LRMP.

3. Tantalus Park Management Plan: The open houses for public comment regarding the draft park management plan were well-attended by members of the mountaineering community, confirming the significant value of the Tantalus range for mountaineering. As a result of public support for the proposal advocated by the FMCBC, the Wilderness Recreation Zone was extended to include the entire Sigurd Lake area, Mt. Pelion and Mt. Ossa. The Aviation Committee, which included representatives from the commercial fixed wing aircraft sector, the commercial helicopter sector, the FMCBC (Peter Woodsworth and Monika Bittel) and the Alpine Club – Vancouver Section (Manrico Scremin), recently concluded its consultations on exploring ways to minimize the impact of fixed wing aircraft and helicopters on the Park and users of the Park. Parks is currently consulting with the First Nation communities and expects to complete the park management plan in early 2003.

4. Manning Provincial Park: Interfor is planning to build a road through the "panhandle" section of the park to access trees outside the park. The road through the panhandle will supposedly have a smaller

impact on the park than if it were to go around the park boundary. There are ongoing talks with a consultant, reviewing four proposals to mitigate the damage. The park master plan is being reviewed and includes a proposal for the expansion of the Manning Park Lodge and ski runs, a proposal to add mountain bike routes, and a proposal that park cabins be used exclusively by equestrian groups who presently maintain the trails.

5. B.C. Provincial Parks and Forest Service Recreation Sites and Trails: Proposed extensive changes to management and operation of our Parks and Forest Service recreational facilities for saving costs are producing uncertainty in the recreation and tourism sectors. FMCBC representatives have attended meetings of the Park Stewardship Panel and the BC Forest Service Recreation Stakeholders meetings and have provided input on the proposed changes. Some of the proposed changes adopt a "user pay" approach to boost revenue from recreation on Crown Land. With respect to Park facilities and Forest Service recreation sites and trails, the government is proposing to transfer or is transferring the operation of such facilities to commercial operators or non-profit organizations. The transfer of Forest Service recreation sites and trails is to be completed in much of the province by March 31, 2003. The deadline for the Park Stewardship Panel recommendations is the end of November 2002.

Thank you to all members who attend the FMCBC Rec & Con Meetings, provide input, help draft letters, make submissions and provide comments. Anyone interested in participating in the Rec & Con Committee or anyone who has any recreation and conservation concerns, should contact Brian Wood or Monika Bittel.

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.

EQUIPMENT - SKI BOOT LINERS

Dennis Vacha reports - "MEC discontinued molding Intuition Sports' boot liners some time ago, but the firm is still in business. I visited them twice last year - to fit my oversized Scarpa boots with new liners. It

also works for anyone who wants to renew their boots while keeping the plastic shell or simply replace with much lighter and warmer material. The contact is Rob Watt. Address - 380 W. 1st Ave. ph. 604-879-9231."

TRIP REPORTS

Teddy Bear saves climber - Mt Sloan, 6 July 2002

We crossed the Lion's gate Bridge before 6am under a shimmering blue sky and glanced in the distance a quivering, silver tint at the ocean's edge. A leisurely, Patio Breakfast at the Pony Espresso had us set fare for the day. Even a flat tire and then the sight of a brand-new rolled and crushed Ford Explorer in the middle of the road did not dampen our high spirits.

By 11am we were all at the Green Mountain turn off. We had decided to take the longer but more scenic Green Mountain route that would allow us to camp high on the airy ridge and bag Mount Sloan the next day. Reports had reached me that the road was partly drivable, and the rest a striding path. However, after half a kilometer of struggling with vehicles in the dense bush we decided that it would take too long to cut the logs blocking our way and turned around. Much scraping, tight turning and closely supervised reversing later, we were back near the road and ready to start what was a pleasant 3 hour hike to our camp on the 1st peak beyond the forestry hut.

From the ridge the lights around the lakes far below sparkled as we supped our evening meal. Some of the party ventured along the crest to check out the best route for next day. And after studying Kevin McLane's stylized, beautifully executed - but useless - aerial photo's and a map, the verdict was that the slopes to the right of our objective looked doable but an early start would be advisable. Some people thought they might just do part of the route and return early to camp, though for all it would be a 6am departure.

The descent to Ault creek is short but strewn with loose rock and snow. A large rock was dislodged glancing Peter's leg, bruising Steven's shoulder slightly and giving everyone pause for thought. Nevertheless we reached the frozen lake in good time, took on water, had a bar, and after some discussion started up a wide gully for the ridge. The weather forecast had been good but high clouds came in over-

night and now all around the sky was darkening. But we made good time in the easy gully with only an occasional third class section slowing us a little.

And then disaster struck. Just before we reached the ridge Shirley let out a horrible scream as she dislodged, though barely touching it, a huge, teetering fickle boulder (bar-fridge sized). Liz and I turned to see it trundle onto her as she fell backwards and hear the crunch of rock and bone and smell the burning rock. Shirley's teddy bear-friend, Betty, clipped as always to the back of her pack took the full force of the blow. (Later we found that Shirley's helmet had been crushed inside the top of her pack, but Betty was undamaged.) The air was filled with screams as the great rock continued on down and Shirley came to a halt jammed between two boulders.

Liz and I were the first to reach her. Shirley thought she was dying while Liz (ever positive) thought this was good as she was conscious and had enough energy to scream. Within seconds the others arrived and together we managed to stabilize her then splint her right lower leg, which was hanging at a right angle mid shaft, and try as best we could to check for other damage. Shirley was in great pain, conscious, but starting to drift off. She undoubtedly had an open fracture to her right leg, crumpled ribs and other unknown injuries. After anguished discussion we decided to move her 5m to a flatter area where she could be made more comfortable and kept warm. Using a backpack under her torso, we slowly moved the pain riddled body hoping we were not doing further damage. Once repositioned we checked her again for less obvious injuries. Only the right leg and ribs were giving her problems and we could find no other external blood flow.

After a short pow-wow at 10am we decided that Peter and Steven would go straight to Gold Bridge to alert the emergency services and get a helicopter with a long line as quickly as possible. Meanwhile 4 people would stay with Shirley while the other 6 would head back to camp and out to the cars. Before they left we

stripped them of extra food, clothing, medical supplies, and anything else we might need. Then we ate another bar. And then the long wait began.

We took turns comforting Shirley, who though still in great pain and seemingly drifting off now and again, had regained a little of her color and even, I think, occasionally smiled, through clenched teeth. Everyone felt a chill as black clouds encircled us and drizzle came and went. I've never asked for very much but up there on the mountain I asked the heavens to send a helicopter. The wind howled continuously bringing sounds of pick-ups and even animals and overhead planes, but never the sound of a chopper. By 3pm I was beginning to worry that rescue might not come that day. If no one came by 5pm Doug and I would hike back to camp and collect tents, bags, stoves etc; we were, after all, a long way from home. Just before 4 pm Shirley's sad eyes flickered and she whispered softly into Heather's ear "helicopter". Everyone turned to look, but nothing, nothing... And then. Tharummp-baa! Tharummp-baa! From the West a great red whirly-bird come over a distant shoulder. It circled and danced above us for 10 minutes before landing on the snow, beside the lake, in the valley below. Before we could quite figure out what was going on another helicopter appeared and landed by the lake.

Within minutes Wayne had been deposited by long line and was issuing instructions by radio about the necessity of drugs, blankets etc. Tim Jones, a stalwart of North Shore SAR, and a well-known TV personality (only the best for us) arrived next with an enormous bundle of gear. It was all we could do to stop the stuff rolling down the hill, while the two technicians took control and started the medivac procedures.

First there were the details of the accident (So I got her birthday wrong, I was in shock), then the body check. Then the IV drip, which got everyone involved – one holding it high while another operated the drip. Then the morphine, then excruciating pain as the medics proceeded to take our ski-pole splint off to examine the injury. I would have left it; but I suppose they had to check. Once the narcotics took hold we levitated a hallucinating Shirley onto the stretcher and

into the body bag ready for the flight out.

I gave a little shudder as the big bird hovered over us and the pilot contorted himself to see the long line inching toward us. In the blink of an eye the stretcher was attached to the holding ring, Wayne was clipped in, everything was double-checked and whoosh they were gone. High in the sky swinging like a fish on the end of a line and deposited in the valley below. As we helped Tim gather up the rescue equipment for the final haul he told us that the plan was to take her to Whistler by air where she would be stabilized before going to Vancouver for surgery. Seconds later he was airborne with 6 huge sacks of equipment and on his way to the rendezvous below.

The air was still now as we watched, from a distance, the medics give more IV and prepare for the long helicopter ride. It was after 5pm when both helicopters rose and in a great sweeping arc turned to the South. We stood in silence under a threatening sky, below the dark, brooding peak of Sloan and felt the wind and thought of Shirley and hoped that her ordeal would soon be over.

Descending the gully into Ault creek was slow but we soon made it back to camp where we ate yet another bar. The rest of the team had left us a bunch of things in case of emergency, which now meant carrying double backpacks. What fun! With everything loaded we staggered down the trail and reached the cars just before dark to be met by Peter and Stephen who had steadfastly stoodby watching the rescue from Gold Bridge and waiting for everyone to come out safely.

After another bar we set out along the deer infested Railroad Pass Road where just before descending the big hill we had a flat tire – this time it was shredded. After much technical talk we put the original flat back on and inflated it to discover a fist-sized blister on the sidewall. Thinking positively we slowly drove to Pemberton where we checked everything once again and continued on our way to Vancouver at 70kph. It was after 5am Monday when we arrived back in town.

Shirley in the meantime had flown to Whistler and then been whisked to Lion's Gate Hospital by road. She was operated on at 10pm Sunday when a plate with 7 pins was attached to her tibia while the shattered fibula and distorted ribs were left to mend themselves. When I arrived at the hospital at 7am Monday she was drugged and dazed and discussing when she would go back to work! The next day she took her first tentative steps, started drinking coffee again and by Thursday when she had mastered the crutch thrutch and was developing a distinctive hop she was "released"

Ten weeks later Shirley was back at work and for exercise was swimming, weightlifting, kayaking and talking a lot about her upcoming Xmas holiday to Belize, Australia, Bali or North Africa. She was hoping to weight bear in another two weeks. And dreaming of the time very soon when she would be able to go to the high hills again with a thoroughly washed Betty proudly sitting on her backpack.

I would like to thank everyone who was on the trip for staying calm and contributing unselfishly to the rescue. A special thanks to Peter who, with Stephen, ran out to Gold Bridge to summon help and spent the day harassing and cajoling the rescue services into making our incident a priority and then guiding them in when they finally came. And to Heather who spoke soft words of encouragement to Shirley throughout the day. Thanks also to those magnificent men in their flying machines – Shirley already sent them a beer voucher. And, of course, a special thanks to little Betty.

Participants; Paul Ng, Liz Ball, Doug Berner, Ollie, Cynthia Neale, Helen Habgood, Peter Norris, Stephen, Heather Doig, Carl Doig, Shirley Rempel, Betty Rempel-Nugent, and Robert Nugent (Organizer and reporter)

Whirlwind and Fissile Peaks, 6-7 July, 2002

After much polite cajoling from someone in the BCMC exec earlier this year, I agreed to undertake organizing a trip for the first time. I should note that in no way did I actually lead this trip as I was the last to reach

Russet Lake on the way in and the last to reach the Whistler bus loop on the way out. This was partly due to the fact that I was carrying all the group gear for my tent companion and aging mentor, Simon Eteen.

The hard and fast trip facts, as required for BCMC trip reports, are as follows: Saturday was a 5 hour walk to Russet Lake. Sunday was a 2.5 hour trek to the summit of Whirlwind followed by a 1 hour scramble to the summit of Fissile, 1 hour back to the lake and 4 hours back to the cars. The quantity of snow along with relatively firm conditions made for fast and safe moving over the varied terrain. The small glacier below Whirlwind was completely snow covered and the rock on Fissile was as miserable as ever. The viz was great and the wind was gusting hard at elevation. The blessed weight of crampons, ropes and harnesses carried was useful for extra calorie burn and nothing else.

The weather was fantastic, albeit temperamentally pissy on Sunday. Our beloved BCMC hut came in handy for the post summit festivities, which included suspending a small child from the ceiling and an over abundance of butter and salami. The Romans never had it this good.

Of particular note this weekend was intense alpine fireless fireside chat regarding the role of duct tape and butter in treating blisters. How to entertain with butter. Buttering your ice axe for better snow penetration. The nutritional value of butter on mountaineering weekends. How to butter up your leader and better living through butter. Some further serious discussion ensued regarding the BCMC "policy" regarding NO dogs on trips. Although we did not reach general consensus on the matter, mostly because we had a litigation lawyer in our midst, it was agreed that the club should make an exception for exceptionally large dogs capable of carrying such useful equipment as mini-bars and hibachis in a rum keg around their neck.

The trip ended with a stop at The Shady Tree Pub where we were not allowed in due to our 12 year old climbing member, so we moved onto the Brew Pub Restaurant where they were experiencing a "beer crisis" (no, I am not joking, that is what they said). We

were, however, served something frothy (beer I assumed), some absolutely delicious food and the serenading wonders of a 2 year old at the next table playing *"how I love to beat my spoon against the highchair while my parents are totally oblivious to how annoying it is to the other patrons in the restaurant"*

In closing, I'd like to say thanks to all the participants for making this first trip, as organizer, a very enjoyable one. My hat goes off to 12 year old Andrew Maurer - the amazing climbing boy wonder and no doubt future BCMC prez.. If all 12 year olds had the same disposition as he, I'd have more hope for the future of mankind. Lastly, I encourage all club members who have not organized a trip to do so. It does not have to be some huge undertaking. If you can ensure that you will enjoy the trip, then everyone around you will follow your lead (get it?) and remember, group consensus and group decision is a wonderful thing.

Participants: Simon Eteen, McKenzie Kitchen, Arnie Wilson, Bill Maurer, Andrew Maurer, Allan Palomares, Tim Martiniuk, Yurgen "the butterman" Menninga, and yours truly, Marco Lucolino. (Organizer and reporter).

Mt. Rexford, 12 - 14 July, 2002

This trip was scheduled for the Canada Day July 1st long weekend. As the day came nearer I became more and more nervous as this was my most ambitious undertaking as an organizer. This past 18 months or so I've been doing more and more climbing. I've always done the mountaineering aspect of things; to get over there, climb over this. Class 3-4-5. In my boots. I've been doing more actual climbing lately though; but doubts began! Was I in over my head? Then - it rained - I cancelled and was saved. Ok. Reschedule for July 12 - 14.

Having Friday the 12th off and being impetuous I went up to camp Friday alone. And - wow! That trail up to Mt. Rexford is relentlessly and neverendingly steep. And hot, and buggy! I was wishing I'd waited for the next morning to come up with the others who'd committed to the Saturday ascent. There was still more than a metre of snow so camping was easy with a stream to the west basin area for water. Settling in I enjoyed the views, which were fantastic

- that north wall of Slesse is awe-inspiring.

Saturday morning arrived and I went exploring. Having always been the restless sort I explored all the way to the summit of Rexford. I spent a long time on top. Eating, looking about, writing in the journal before descending. Partway down about 1:45 the others arrived - Trudy Rey, Toni Taccone, Leslie Cowan, Rhys Gibb. We met up just as they finished setting up camp and greetings were exchanged. Toni and Rhys decided to go for Rexford's summit so we talked about the route and off they went. They took about 4 hours for the round trip with an hour on the summit.

The evening was spent taking in the views and giving kudos to those who climbed Slesse's formidable slopes. Different strokes for different folks as we envied the talents of those who have climbed Slesse's more classic technical routes.

Now back to us. Sunday morning saw us discussing our options. Toni and I opted to try the north edge of the north Nasakwatch Spire. Wow! What fun that turned out to be. About 3 hours up on a very sustained climb. Climbing - scrambling - steadily upwards. Our guesstimate would be about 60% class 3 - 35% class 4 - 5% class 5. What fun. This route is "very" airy in spots, but very protectable. Toni did most of the leading, and a very good job he did too. The north ridge downclimb was a bit more than we'd expected as there was still quite a bit of snow. We twice used old slings to help in our down climb. Our down time to camp was 2 hours.

The other members of the group had left so Toni and I began to pack up to leave. While doing this, 3 day hikers showed up and proceeded to give their account of the trail's steepness. Between their gasps and huffing and puffing the views took their thoughts away from their discomfort and the beauty of the area took over their conversation.

Toni and I finished packing and started out, the 3 day hikers following. We bombed out to the cars in two hours and we never saw the 3 day hikers again. Next year?? Maybe. We'll see. Greeting and salutations to Trudy Rey, Toni Taccone, Rhys Gibb, and Leslie Cowan. David Scanlon (Organizer and reporter).

Seton Ridge, 10-13 August, 2002

Seton ridge is a T-shaped dry ridge that runs east-west and north-south just south of Seton Lake, and west of Duffey Lake road. Access is a graded dirt road that is better than the Hurley, except for one spot that suffered a bit of a landslide recently (it is cleared but is rocky and a bit narrow at this point). This road begins 20km south of Lillooet – there is a green highway sign that says Lillooet is 20km away. When you see that sign, you have just gone past Seton Ridge road to your left. This is just after a number of Forest Service rec sites along the Cayoosh River. Once we turned around and got onto Seton Ridge road (no sign), a bridge crossed Cayoosh River. The road then turns north and crosses Copper Creek and winds steeply up for 6km at which point you reach the crest of the ridge and park (1700 m). This is where the trail starts. Seton Ridge road continues down to Seton Lake.

At the crest, there is a small logging road that wraps around the north side of the ridge, and the backcountry road mapbook shows the trail starting at the end of this road. It doesn't. We initially started straight up from the end of this logging road, following a flagged route that some other misguided soul had also taken. This was bushwhacking straight up false azalea; I was feeling strong and wanted to keep following the route up the side of the ridge but luckily Mary revolted, having heard that it was an "easy" trail, and that this thing we were going up definitely wasn't "easy". Unfortunately we didn't go straight back down, but bushwhacked some more along an older logging road at this higher level, thinking that the trail might start there. We unfortunately did find another trail-ish looking flagged route that petered out in about half an hour and with all the deadfall in that forest, we decided to go back to the car, bushwhacking this time through slide alder. A total of almost 3 hours after we first left

Not one to be defeated so easily, I looked at the topography of the ridge and did another search for the "easy" trail, and fifteen minutes later, found it. It started 75 metres past the car park area, on the left side of the logging road, just before a cottonwood tree, just after a patch of fireweed. There is flagging tape, but it is set back about 2 metres from the logging road.

So, given the drive and the bushwhack, we started hiking for real at 2:45pm. Luckily it WAS an "easy" trail, but as we hiked up I braced myself for our next challenge: lack of water. After 4 hours of going up, then down, then up again, we got to alpine, and as it was getting late-ish by this point, I was very grateful to see a patch of snow not far from a flatish spot where we decided to camp (2200 m). Real live water was another 2 hour hike away, at the head of the Copper Creek watershed. In retrospect, it would have been better to do the drive the Friday night, and then hike the 6 hours to get near one of the sources of fresh water. The patch of snow that we relied on that first night was almost gone by the time we left three days later.

It's an absolutely beautiful landscape back in there, with easy hiking along the ridge, and rugged peaks to the south of Copper Creek. Our highest point was 2400 m, with views of the Bendor Range. We waved hello to Dave Scanlon who had his camp there that week. The trail is an old horse trail, with an outfitter's camp just east of the lake at the head of Copper Creek, in a wide open meadow area that makes you want to sing songs from "The Sound of Music".

Participants: Mary Mitchell, Jutta Arendt, and Pam Krannitz (Organizer and reporter)

Tantalus at last! 12-13 August, 2002

Yeah! I finally summited Mt. Tantalus after many years of trying! I flew up to the Red Tit hut with Mike Spagnut Saturday afternoon (August 12). After pitching our tent on the snow below the hut we still had a few hours left before twilight. So we grabbed our ropes and hardware and climbed up a new route on the west face of Serratus Mountain. We did all the hard stuff and were on the top of the ridge by about 7 pm but decided that since it would soon get dark that it was time to get out of Dodge. So we did not hike the extra 20 minutes to get to the highest piece of rock on the ridge. While rappelling down a steep gulley I accidentally got a big boulder going. Mike was below, out of the line of fire, setting up the next rap station. But when the boulder hit a ledge in the gulley it exploded with shrapnel flying everywhere. One of the pieces caught Mike on the head and nearly knocked him off the mountain. He had on a plastic helmet but still suffered a nasty cut to

the scalp. Other than a sore head he was okay, so we continued rappelling and made it down the same time the sun did. We had a couple of brews - carbohydrate loading for the big climb the next day.

Sunday morning we had a late start (7 am) and hiked across the Dione glacier to the ascent couloir on the west side of Dione. We had to do some hard rock and ice climbing just to get into the couloir, which was still hard ice that time of the morning. We front-pointed up with crampons and ice axe, using a rope and putting some pro into the rock on the side of the couloir. It took about 4 x 60 meter pitches to get to the top. Lots of fun. I did one lead where I had to climb some rock and ice with crampons on - the steel teeth of the crampons on hard rock sounds like fingernails on a blackboard. At the top of the couloir we flanked left (north), dropped down and hiked over to the Witches Tooth, which is a gnarly black tusk between Dione and Tantalus. We left our mountaineering boots, ice axes, etc. there, put on rock shoes and started climbing around the Witches Tooth and then up Tantalus. We went up the ridge line so that we had the full blast of the exposure below and to the west. There were a few hard moves - Mike likes challenge - and some 4th class stuff, and then we were at the top. I was totally elated!! At the top we met 2 young climbers from Pemberton who had started out at 5:30 am but had gone up a different route.

The trip down was okay, but scary down-climbing in some spots (it's a long way down to the Rumbling Glacier below). A strong wind suddenly came up and blasted around the Witches Tooth, making a flapping sound just a giant flag flapping in the wind. Strange - I've never heard that before in the mountains. We rappelled down the Dione couloir, using pitons as bomb-proof anchors. It all went smoothly till the last pitch, when the rope got caught up. While Mike went back up to clear it I used my cell phone to call the chopper pilot and tell him that we would be late. When we finally made it safely down to the Dione glacier I could tell that Mike was very relieved, because 2 years ago his buddy (Howie Zwecker) had died there while coming down under similar circumstances. We got back to our camp at 7:20 pm and I called the helicopter to pick us up at 8 pm. We broke camp and inhaled the rest of our brew. A large group of North Shore Search

and Rescue members had just come in, so we got out of there just in time.

A grand adventure and beautiful weather!
Gordon Esplin (Reporter)

Upper Chilliwack River – 24 August, 2002

With rumours of the FS road closing beyond Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park, I wanted to take one more trip through the Ecological Reserve along the upper Chilliwack River. What looked like being a very small group, ended up with nine of us setting out from the cars at Depot Creek. A 2 km walk beyond the gate brings you to Sappers Beach, and from there, you enter the big old forest, immediately surrounded by giant cedars, hemlock and fir, as well as some fine spruce and Douglas-fir. Approximately 2.5 km brings you to the US border, although the swath that was once cut is now an extremely overgrown shrubbery, as are several stretches of the trail. If you keep looking around, it is possible to see the cut on both sides of the steep valley. A recently fallen tree just north of the border provided a safe crossing of the river to a good picnic beach, but despite Hans' and Murray's enthusiasm, after 45 minutes of bush-whacking on the west side we decided that we might be too far south for Hanging Valley. So, with sighs of relief from the short-wearers, we crossed back, hiked back up the east side and re-crossed the river on a large log-jam, hoping again to glimpse a sight of the elusive Hanging Lake Trail, which would lead us to the giant red cedar.

However, we were completely distracted $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way across the river when someone spotted salmon, apparently preparing to spawn in the shelter of the fallen trees below us. There were at least five large sock-eye as well as several smaller kokanee, all with similar colouring, and we watched fascinated as they swam around, until it was time to head back to the cars. There might have been some disappointment at not finding a trail on the west side of the river, but I think everyone enjoyed the beauty of the old growth, the wildlife in the river and the thimbleberries on the way back to Depot Creek.

Participants: Murray Lashmar, Michael Fuhrmann, Christine Hubert, Dorothy Bartoszewski, Hans Veiel, Gerry Wood, Stuart Daniels, Wolfgang Hokenmaier and Michelle Martineau (Organizer and reporter).