

# BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



JUNE - JULY 2003

VOL. 81, NO. 6

## 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, 10 June** - Entertainment will be a special tribute to John Clark, featuring various speakers, slides, and a video. Organized by Lisa Baile.

**Tuesday, 12 August** - Barbeque at Jericho Beach. Details will be given in the next newsletter.

Mt. Columbia from the north



Mountain rock in summer

	<b>HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer</b>		
	<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS</b>		
<b>PRESIDENT -</b>	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462	<b>CABIN / TRAILS -</b> BRIAN STEEVES 604-408-4889
<b>PAST-PRESIDENT -</b>	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484	<b>CONSERVATION -</b> BRIAN WOOD 604-222-1541
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT -</b>	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097	MONIKA BITTEL 604-983-3097
<b>SECRETARY -</b>	DEB HARRIS	604-734-8849	<b>SUMMER CAMP -</b> DAVID SCANLON 604-464-3730
<b>TREASURER -</b>	TODD PONZINI	604-983-2612	<b>WEBMASTER -</b> KEITH SWANSON 604-943-4364
<b>MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -</b>	JULIA BORCHARDT	604-268-9502	<b>EDITOR -</b> MICHAEL FELLER 604-270-4050
	MIRELLA LIOCE	604-877-0344	
	DONNA BAILIE	604-736-5079	
<b>SOCIALS -</b>	PAM KRANNITZ	604-572-5051	
	PETER GUMPLINGER	604-946-9942	<b>EQUIPMENT -</b> PAUL KUBIK 604-876-0764
<b>CLIMBING -</b>	ANDERS OUROM	604-733-8264	<b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT -</b> KIT GRIFFIN 604-736-8462
		604-228-1798	<b>LIBRARY -</b> JOAN FORD 604-876-4255
<p><b>ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8</b>  <b>EMAIL ADDRESS: info@bcmc.ca or bcmc@bivouac.com</b>  <b>INTERNET SITE: www.bcmc.ca</b></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. 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.

**ORGANIZER**

<b>June 1:</b> Blanshard Needle Hiking and rock climbing in Golden Ears park.	B-C4/1560 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
<b>June 1:</b> Sigurd Pk. Skiing in the Ashlu valley. NW of Squamish.	C2/1935 m	Monika Bittel	604-983-3097
<b>June 7:</b> Eaton Pk. Scrambling in the Silver valley area south of Hope.	C3-4/2105 m	Irek Jasiak	604-930-8541
<b>June 8:</b> Edge Pk. More hiking and rock climbing in Golden Ears park, ascending via the White Dyke route.	C3-4/1679 m	Reinhard Fabische	604-462-9638
<b>June 14:</b> Black Tusk Classical hike and scrambling ascent in Garibaldi park.	B2(3)/2315 m	Marsha Ablowitz	604-261-8953
<b>June 14:</b> Flora Pk. Hiking in the Chilliwack valley area.	B2/1952 m	Todd Ponzini	604-215-2665
<b>June 14:</b> North Twin Sister In northern Washington, approaching by bike. Joint trip with the ACC.	C4/2024 m	Margaret Hanson	604-341-5961
<b>June 15:</b> Panther Pk. Hiking and scrambling in the Sechelt Peninsula. Joint trip with the North Shore Hikers.	C3/1691 m	John Sapac	604-873-6740
<b>June 15:</b> Dog Mtn. Easy family hiking in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.	A1/1080 m	George Malburg	604-877-1784
<b>June 21:</b> Cypress park Easy family hiking in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.	A1	Peter Oostlander	604-451-4585
<b>June 21-22:</b> Skihist Mtn. Extended hiking and scrambling north of the Fraser Canyon.	C3/2970 m	Greg Hamilton	604-984-6800
<b>June 21-23:</b> Skaha rock Rock climbing in the warm Okanagan.	A5	Nancy Henderson	604-875-1123
<b>June 22:</b> Williams Pk. Hiking and scrambling in the Chilliwack valley, ascending from the south.	C2-3/2123 m	Gerry Kollmuss	604-946-8055
<b>June 22:</b> Sky Pilot Mtn. Scrambling above Howe Sound.	C3-4/2025 m	Monika Bittel	604-983-3097
<b>June 28-29:</b> Galiano Island Easy family hiking to the Dioso Point Marine campground.	A1	Alice Obermajer	604-781-2656
<b>June 28-29:</b> Birkenhead Pk. Hiking and scrambling northeast of Pemberton.	B2-3/2523 m	Lewis Kaiserseder	604-254-5324
<b>June 28-30:</b> Mt. Shuksan Mountaineering in the Mt. Baker area of northern Washington, ascending via the Fisher Chimneys.	C4/2783 m	Will Neustaedter	604-324-1344
<b>June 28-July 1:</b> Mt. Rexford/Nesakwatch Spires Hiking and rock climbing in the Chilliwack valley area.	B4-5/2329 m	Dave Scanlon	604-464-3730
<b>June 28 - July 6:</b> South Chilcotin Mtns. Wandering with the club's most frequent wanderer in the southern Chilcotin.	B2	Brian Wood	604-222-1541
<b>July 5:</b> Mt. MacFarlane Hiking in the Chilliwack valley area.	B-C2/2099 m	Ian Fisher	604-688-8454
<b>July 5-6:</b> Ashlu Mtn. Mountaineering in the Ashlu valley, ascending via the east ridge.	C3/2590 m	Ernie McEachern	604-541-3036
<b>July 5-6:</b> Wedge Mtn. Mountaineering in Garibaldi park, ascending via the north ridge.	C4/2904 m	Dan Carey	604-731-4048
<b>July 5-6:</b> Ossa and Pelion Mtns. Mountaineering in the lower Ashlu valley.	C4/2290 m	Moe Lamothe	604-984-8766

<b>July 6:</b> Flora Pk. Hiking in the Chilliwack valley area.	B2/1952 m	Wally Kerchum	604-224-8605
<b>July 12:</b> Rainbow Lake - Mt. Sproatt Hiking in the Cheakamus valley, opposite Whistler.	B2/1844 m	Deb and Chris Harris	604-734-8849
<b>July 12-13:</b> The Old Settler Hiking and rock climbing east of Harrison Lake.	C5/2132 m	Paul Morton	604-874-7372
<b>July 12-13:</b> Mt. Rexford Hiking and rock climbing in the Chilliwack valley area.	B5/2329 m	Rhys Gibb	604-294-3792
<b>July 13:</b> Marriott basin Hiking off the Duffey Lake road, staying at the Wendy Thompson hut.	B2	Werner Himmelsbach	1-604-932-3740
<b>July 19:</b> Cloudburst Mtn. Hiking on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.	B2-3/1870 m	Rick Raynsford	604-922-1897
<b>July 19-20:</b> Mt. Matier Mountaineering south of the Duffey Lake road.	B4/2783 m	Marco Iucolino	604-605-6003
<b>July 19-20:</b> Grainger Pk. or Baby Munday Pk. Hiking and rock climbing, either in the Chehalis or Chilliwack valley areas. Contact the organizer for further details.	C4/2197 or 2210 m	David Hughes	604-980-6484
<b>July 26:</b> The Black Tusk Classical hike and scrambling ascent in Garibaldi park again.	B2(3)/2315 m	J-P. Shason	604-682-7298
<b>July 26-27:</b> Cloudraker Mtn. Hiking and scrambling in the Lizzie Ck. area east of Lillooet Lake.	B2/2375 m	Mike Peel	604-444-4068
<b>July 26-27:</b> Meager Ck. area Scrambling or mountaineering in the upper Lillooet valley area.	C3	Greg Hamilton	604-984-6800
<b>July 26-27:</b> Kwoiek Needle Hiking and scrambling north of the Fraser Canyon.	C3/2660 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
<b>August 2-3:</b> Howe Sound Crest Trail Hiking above Howe Sound with some rock climbing deviations.	C2(4)	Lois Nordstrom	604-944-3066
<b>August 2-4:</b> Liberty Bell area Rock climbing in Washington's northeastern Cascade Mtns.	A-C5	Margaret Hanson	604-341-5961
<b>August 2-4:</b> Lizzie Lake - Tundra Lake area Hiking and scrambling east of Lillooet Lake.	C2-3/2440 m	Andrzej Jarzabek	604-419-4492
<b>August 2-4:</b> Manning Park Easy family hiking southeast of Hope.	A1	Alice Obermajer	604-781-2656
<b>August 2-4:</b> Cardtable Mtn. Hiking and scrambling in the Tyaughton Ck. area of the Southern Chilcotin mountains.	B2-3/2523 m	Rick Raynsford	604-922-1897
<b>August 9-10:</b> Cayoosh Mtn. Mountaineering north of the Duffey Lake road.	B3/2590 m	Marco Iucolino	604-605-6003
<b>August 10:</b> Brandywine Mtn. Hiking and scrambling in the Cheakamus valley area.	B2/2229 m	Kathy Nemis	604-254-1170

### WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCKCLIMBING

Every Wednesday the club will run rock climbing trips to local destinations. These are not rock climbing in-

struction trips. If you wish to go, or for further information, contact Margaret Hanson at 604-341-5961.

## BCMC SUMMER CAMPS

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

Camp is full.

### 2. Upper Stein Valley, 16-24 August

Camp is full, but to get onto the waiting list and for further information, phone David Scanlon at 604-464-3730.

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

This is a hike in - hike out camp in the vicinity of the Rutledge Glacier, which is one of the headwaters of the Stein River. Participants must be BCMC members and have experience in glacier travel and class 3 climbing. Peaks in the area rise to 2700 m and offer

both snow & ice climbing and rock climbing from Class 3 to 5. Limit of 15 participants. Cost is minimal (Vehicle costs will be shared).

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

### 4. Washington Pass Area, North Cascades, 9-16 August

A great selection of objectives from trail hiking to full on multi-pitch routes on Liberty Bell and surrounding spires. Camping at Lone Fir campground, just E. of Washington. Pass on route 20 - only 3.5 hours from Vancouver.

For bookings and more information, phone Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members

The club welcomes the following new Associate members: Simin Bagheri-Najmi, Julia Borchardt, Cathy Choinicki, Cyrus Eduljee, Brian Friedrich, Laura Friedrich, Ryan Mackie, Laurence McIntosh, Franck Prat, Dennis Siska, Gordon Stead, Shahram Yassemi, and Jon Zammit.

### What club members are doing

**Terry Taylor** was recently awarded a Queen's Golden Jubilee medal. This medal was awarded to several people who had dedicated a significant part of their lives to serving their community through conservation and education about the natural environment. Terry

has been active with the club for over 30 years, and was one of the members of the club's first conservation committee. He is a self-taught naturalist with special expertise in plant taxonomy and ecology, particularly in fungi, mosses, and lichens. He has lead numerous trips not only for the club, but particularly for the Vancouver Natural History Society, educating numerous people about plants in general. He has compiled plant inventories for many Lower Mainland sites, including several areas threatened with destruction. Such areas include Pacific Spirit Park, Burns Bog, the upper Elaho valley, and Francis Point on the Sunshine Coast.

## BCMC NEWS

### Clarification of the trip grading system.

The grading system used by the club rates a trip on the basis of how strenuous and how technical it is. This system has been described in our various schedules. Modifications introduced several years ago were

to indicate when a trip was mostly of a certain difficulty, but included a small amount of the next degree of difficulty or included a final climb which was more difficult than the rest of the trip. These modifications are described as follows:

1. When a trip consists primarily of one degree of difficulty with a small amount of the next degree of difficulty skiing, this is indicated by separating the two levels by a slash in the trip schedule, or a dash in the newsletter, putting the dominant one first. Thus 2/3 or 2-3 indicates a trip primarily of difficulty 2 with a small amount of 3.

2. Sometimes the final climb to the summit is more difficult than a ski up to it. In this case the final climb rating (for an ascent on foot) is given in brackets after the ski rating. Thus 3(4) indicates a ski trip of difficulty 3 with a final summit climb rated 4 (easy climbing with belaying required for average parties).

## TRIP REPORTS

### MT. FEE – NORTH PEAK, 8-9 February, 2003

Mt. Fee can offer good skiing, steep snow/ice climbing and relatively easy access. I say “can” because all the above depend on conditions and your tolerance for snowmobiles.

Mt. Fee is a spectacular looking peak, with two rock blade towers that are comprised of unstable and rotten rock. The peak is located on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide at the head of Brandywine Creek. I have had several trips to Mt. Fee before and in general have had good skiing, but mixed climbing conditions. A ski trip to the base of either the south or north peak can be undertaken as a one-day trip. Experience, however, has shown if you want to climb the North Peak, a two-day trip is recommended. The South Peak is higher but the top is dangerous and rotten from all sides.

Access is usually from Hwy 99 although the peak can also be approached from the Squamish River valley. Starting from Hwy 99, we proceeded past the Blackcomb Snowmobiles commercial operation, and then headed up the road. Ledcor Construction is constructing a small hydro project this year, and they have closed the first six kilometers of Brandywine Creek main to vehicle and snowmobile traffic. Ledcor was undertaking brush clearing and burning at about the 3 km. mark, close to where we found sufficient snow cover to start skiing. The Ledcor crew was good enough to allow us to drive in to the snow's edge to deposit packs and skis before returning our 4 by 4s to the Hwy 99 parking lot for the balance of the weekend.

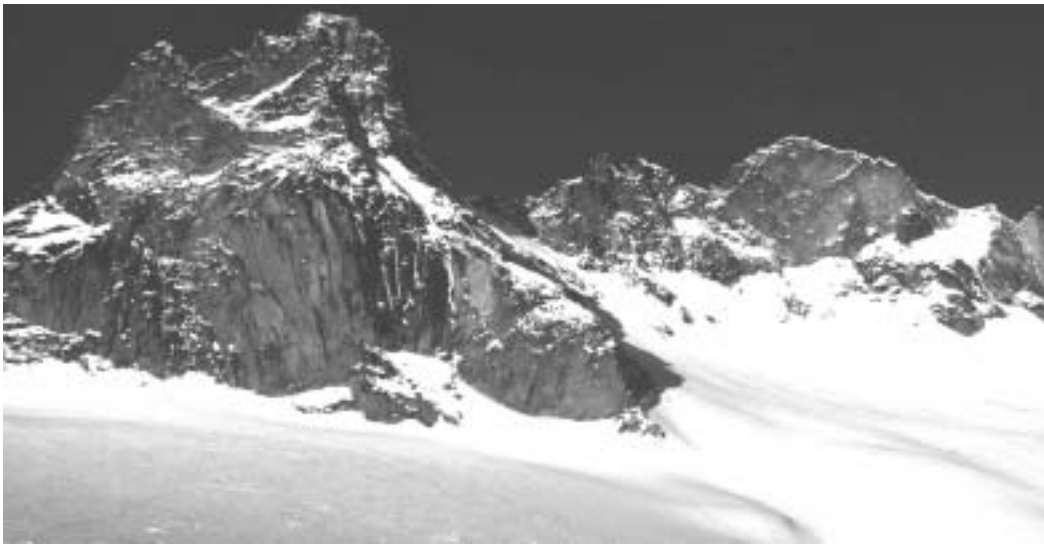
The route to Mt. Fee leaves the valley logging road very close to slopes that descend from the mountain on the ENE side (between 7 - 8 km) from the Highway. The route drops slightly from the old logging road to

cross Brandywine Creek at about 1100 m. The route then heads to a forested ridge above a relatively recent clear-cut just above the creek. The route up the forested ridge is both pleasant and safe. In past years, parties often headed up a Brandywine subsidiary creek to the left (south) of the forest ridge, but this creek gully is prone to avalanches.

Good spots to camp are reached as you come out of the trees between 1500 and 1600 m. We enjoyed a great evening and had time for a short ski. A heliskiing company uses the eastern slopes of Mt. Fee and Blackcomb Snowmobiles does not allow their operators on the east side of Mt. Fee. As a result, one can usually find lots of untracked terrain on this side of Mt. Fee. From our camp in the late afternoon we did watch two stray “Joe Q Public” snowmobilers venture over to this side of Mt. Fee, but they left after finding heliskiers' ski tracks.

The next day brought a great morning and we took off up the ridge at sunrise. Our travel up and across the east face was good and we arrived at the northeast corner of Mt. Fee at about 9:45 am. Jos and Tom decided to go around Mt. Fee on the west side that is longer but a little gentler and they arrived at the northwest corner of Mt. Fee about the same time.

From the northeast corner, we proceeded on skis up the lower third of the north face. At this point we left our skis and proceeded on foot with ice axes up the steepening and narrowing north face. This year's low snow pack made conditions less than favourable. We found several shallow gulleys through exposed rock bands that had sugar snow on steep slabs. We managed to find a gully that went and proceeded to the top through steep sugar snow arriving just after 11am.



Approaching Mt. Fee from the east. Photos - D. Hughes

Jos decided to try the west side route of the north peak as shown in Bruce Fairley's SW B.C. Alpine Guide. He found the route up to a notch between the south and north peaks easier going than the north face. From here, approximately 2 short leads caused him and us some concern, as the ridge from the notch to the north side of the north peak is fairly steep, narrow and rotten. Fortunately, we were able to lower a rope to him and he was able to complete this route. The top of the north peak is very small with room for 2 or 3 people on top at one time.

Our descent went well and we all traversed around the west side to the south side of the mountain. On our ski run down the east face, we stayed on the north side of several ribs that enabled us to find good snow despite the recent dry spell. The south side of the ribs, however, had cakey snow conditions.

After packing up, we had a good ski run down through the forest then proceeded back to the logging road.

The road out is nearly all a gentle downhill dropping about 500 m over seven plus kilometers. "Hats off" to Emanuele for determination and conditioning. He managed to keep up to most on the trip even though he traveled on snowshoes.

Participants: David & Cayley Hughes, Erich Hinze, Thomas Kutten, Michael McCrae, Todd Ponzini, Emanuele Porra and Jos van der Burg.

### **Pk 2300 m, Caspar Ck., 15-16 February, 2003**

Eight of us left North Van at 6:30 am, driving through pouring rain in places, up to Cayoosh Pass and the trailhead at Van Horlick Creek Bridge. We left the cars at 10:10 in a light snow with the temperature about 0°.

Three of our eight came together, one of them on his first backcountry ski trip, in downhill boots no less. As time went by, they said they were going back to ski at Whistler, as the person new to backcountry skiing was having problems with his boots.

We ate our lunch at the 6 km mark at the end of the logging road. The only problem we encountered was with snow sticking to our skins. We carried on to camp

about 2 km further on, traveling through lightly covered forest, generally following Caspar Creek. We were then about 1700 m up and the snow was very good.

At 3:30 pm we left camp, skiing up towards our objective. The sky was overcast with light snow obscuring the peaks with some wind. We turned around at about 2100 m having a fantastic ski down to camp. The 25 to 30 cm of new snow was very well consolidated above a harder layer 8 to 10 cm below. Everything below was quite stable.

We saw the moon occasionally at supper as planned. The snow had stopped but it started again, adding about 5 cm overnight to the 5 cm or so from the previous day.

Our camp was well protected and the next day we encountered more and more wind the higher we went. It was howling pretty good and visibility was poor. We yoyo'd for 3 runs in excellent snow then called it quits as it wasn't clearing up.

We packed up and started home. About 15 minutes from camp we came upon fresh tracks also skiing out. It was the 3 skiers who'd left us yesterday! They'd had a change of heart and followed our tracks, making their camp about 500 m from us. We all skied out together. Our friend with the downhill boots had some pretty good blisters but was smiling.

The drive home was the reverse of the drive up through showers and rain.

I recommend this trip for beginners. 6 km of easy logging roads, 2 km of light forest, then great skiing, or 2 peaks to try for. Peak 2300 m or Caspar Peak from the south.

As a group we rated the snow conditions at 8.5 – 9 out of 10. For me, the snow was about the best I'd ever skied. We had fun.

Thanks to Trudy Rey, John Tai, Ken Chow, Angela Barandun, Dan Carey, Mary Hearden, Raphael Tsen, and David Scanlon (Organizer and reporter).