

# BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



MAY 2003

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## 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, 13 May** - Entertainment will be a slide show by Tom Kuczmierowski on trekking and travelling through Southeast Asia from Nepal to Malaysia with much in between.

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

Summit of Mt. Matier in spring.



Himalayas rising over Pokhara in W. Nepal



**HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS**

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	ANDERS OUROM	604-228-1798	<b>LIBRARY -</b>	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

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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](mailto: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**

<b>May 3-4:</b> Mt. Baker Skiing in northern Washington.	B-C3/3285 m	Erich Hinze	604-224-5646
<b>May 3-4:</b> Athelney Pass Extended skiing in the upper Lillooet valley area.	C3	Paul Kubik	604-876-0764
<b>May 3-4:</b> Mayne Island (hike) Easy hiking in the Gulf Islands, staying overnight at Marsha's cabin.	A1	Marsha Ablowitz	604-261-8953
<b>May 10-11:</b> Hurley River road area Skiing north of Pemberton.	B3	Jordan Peters	604-987-0635
<b>May 10-11:</b> Pylon Pk. Extended skiing in the Meager Ck. area, upper Lillooet valley.	C3/2473 m	Greg Hamilton	604-984-6800
<b>May 17-18:</b> Tricouni area Easy skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.	B2	Marsha Ablowitz	604-261-8953
<b>May 17-19:</b> Elaho Mtn. Extended skiing in the Elaho valley area.	C3/2822 m	Paul Kubik	604-876-0764
<b>May 25:</b> Elk Mtn. and Mt. Thurston (hike) Hiking in the Chilliwack valley area.	B2	Peter Pare	604-732-5555
<b>May 25:</b> Diez vistas (hike) Hiking above Indian Arm.	B1	Peter Gumpfinger	604-733-8264
<b>May 31 - June 1:</b> Rock climbing Rock climbing at a location TBA. Contact the organizers for further details.	A5	Monica Durigon and Arnie Wilson	604-222-3713
<b>May 31-June 1:</b> Mt. Garibaldi Extended skiing in Garibaldi park, approaching via the snowmobile-free route from Diamond Head.	D3-4/2678 m	Jeff Rabinovitch	604-874-6455
<b>June 1:</b> Sigurd Pk. Skiing in the Ashlu valley. NW of Squamish.	B2/1935 m	Monika Bittel	604-983-3097
<b>June 7:</b> Eaton Pk. (hike) Scrambling in the Silver valley area south of Hope.	C3-4/2105 m	Irek Jasiak	604-930-8541
<b>June 7:</b> Flora Pk. (hike) Hiking in the Chilliwack valley area.	B2/1952 m	Todd Ponzini	604-215-2665
<b>June 7 - 12/15:</b> South Chilcotin Mtns. (hike) Wandering with the club's most frequent wanderer in the southern Chilcotin.	B2	Brian Wood	604-222-1541
<b>June 8:</b> Blanshard Needle (hike) Hiking and rock climbing in southern Golden Ears park in the lower Fraser valley.	B4/1560 m	Reinhard Fabische	604-462-9638
<b>June 14:</b> Black Tusk (hike) Classical hike and scrambling ascent in Garibaldi park.	B2(3)/2315 m	Marsha Ablowitz	604-261-8953

**WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCKCLIMBING**

Every Wednesday, beginning in May, the club will run rock climbing trips to local destinations. These are not rock climbing instruction trips. If you wish to go, or

for further information, contact Margaret Hanson at 604-341-5961.

## BCMC SUMMER CAMPS

### 1. Lake Lovely Water Summer Camp,

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.

## B.C. SUMMER MOUNTAINEERING AND ROCK CLIMBING INSTRUCTION

This summer the BCMC will offer several instructional programs. Most are the same as in the last few years, with the addition of Alpine Climbing. The objectives of the programs are to increase members' skill levels, provide shared experiences for participants, and so strengthen the BCMC. The programs are experience oriented, and require commitment and effort. They are economical, and organized by BCMC volunteers. Organizers are experienced, and may have some related training, but they aren't professional guides. The emphases of the programs are skills, safety, self-reliance, and responsibility.

Prerequisites:

\* Current membership in the BCMC (2002-03).

\* Good physical and mental health.

\* Payment of program fees, which cover only BCMC and instructor's expenses (surpluses are used to buy club equipment). You must provide most equipment, transport (car pooling encouraged), and food.

\* Read and sign a comprehensive waiver, and complete a health information form. The focus of the programs is on safety and skills. However, mountaineering and climbing always involve significant risks of injury or death, and you must be prepared to assume those risks.

\* Participants will be screened for skills, experience, fitness, equipment, and potential to contribute to the BCMC. We want participants who will volunteer to help the BCMC - programs, trips, socials, etc. Otherwise, the longer you have been a member of the BCMC, and the earlier your application is received, the higher priority you will have.

Related matters:

1. Programs are open to members in good standing of the Varsity Outdoor Club, though BCMC members have priority.
2. Your application must include the application, waiver, medical form, and fees. Applications which are not complete (membership, fees enclosed, forms fully filled out) will be ignored.
3. Dates may be altered due to bad weather, illness or other reasons.
4. All sessions are mandatory.
5. The organizers do not arrange transportation; carpooling is strongly encouraged. A participant contact list will be prepared for each program, as needed.
6. Do not call organizers after 10 PM or before 9 AM.
7. Program fees usually cover some related materials or equipment, amounting to about 30% of the fees. For Essential Rockclimbing, Mountaineering, Lead Climbing, and Alpine Climbing, purchases will be determined at the organizing meeting, depending on what participants already have.
8. Participants may need to travel in the U.S.A. for the mountaineering program, and perhaps others, and should have appropriate documents for doing so.
9. Complete a separate form for each program you are interested in.

### **Basic Outdoor Toproping**

This was run in April.

### **Essential Rockclimbing**

\$70 (full-time students \$50). Limit 12 participants. Prerequisite - Basic Outdoor Toproping or equivalent. This consists of an evening lecture/practice, and a weekend at Squamish. It may be offered twice. At the end, you should be able to set up and use a simple top-rope, including rappelling, basic anchors, and belaying from above. You must provide rock shoes, a sit harness, a helmet, two locking karabiners (one large), a belay device (no figure 8s!), and two slings of 7mm perlon (1.5 and 5 m). Instructors and the BCMC provide other needed equipment.

Rock 2: 3 & 4 May (lecture 1 May, evening)

This program (or equivalent) is a prerequisite for the mountaineering program. Fees and schedule do not include Basic Outdoor Toproping.

Organizers:

Paul Miller 604-657-7285 pmiller@argus.ca

Dave Morriss 604-732-9896 welsh@dowco.com

Kit Griffin 604-736-8462 kitgriffin@telus.net

### **Mountaineering**

\$225 (full-time students \$200). Limit 12 participants. This includes three evening lectures/practices and three weekends. (Essential Rockclimbing or equivalent is a prerequisite.) Covers mountain travel and navigation, safety and environmental issues, snow travel, glacier travel, crevasse rescue, self arrest, and ascent of a moderate peak. You must be an experienced backpacker, and by the end of the program you should be able safely to undertake most club trips up to the B4 level. Participants must provide all backpacking and camping equipment, sit harness, ice axe, helmet, crampons. The BCMC provides needed technical equipment (ropes etc), and two prussiks for each participant.

Mountaineering: 24 & 25 May, 31 May & 1 June, and 7 & 8 June (foul weather fallback 14 & 15 June). Evenings: Thursday evenings of 15, 22 and 29 May. Fees and schedule do not include Essential Rockclimbing.

Organizer: Miles Quesnel 604-460-1466 or [mquesnel@uniserve.com](mailto:mquesnel@uniserve.com)

### **Lead Climbing**

\$100 (full-time students \$80). Limit 6 participants. This is for those who have solid outdoor top roping skills **plus** a season's experience. (Participants will be required to organize a basic top rope on the first day.) You must also have experience in overnight mountain travel. The program will include three weekends and several evenings, plus an optional alpine rock climb weekend. Participants may be asked to help with other programs, and are expected to climb regularly together on evenings and free weekends. By the end of the program, participants should be comfortable leading 5.7 rock climbs, and moderately technical mountain routes. Covers placing and using anchors, equipment selection and use, safety and environmental issues, leading, training, and related issues. Participants must have all basic climbing equipment, and must be prepared to invest in all equipment needed for leading, likely several hundred dollars. Organizers' equipment is also used.

Rock 3: 3/4 May, 24/25 May, 14/15 June, TBA (alpine weekend). Evenings: the Wednesday or Thursday evening before each weekend, at participant's homes.

Organizers: see Essential Rockclimbing.

### **Alpine Climbing**

\$100 (full-time students \$80). Limit 3 participants. This will be a summer-long seminar on alpine climbing. A challenging and serious climb will be attempted each month from May to September. Participants should have 2-3 years solid mountaineering and climbing experience, and be comfortable leading 5.8 on rock and Grade 2 ice. You will have to provide all needed equipment. Current plans:

24 & 25 May: Mt. Weart North Face

21 & 22 June: Viennese Peak South Face

19 & 20 July: Mt. Clarke North Ridge

23 & 24 August: Castle Towers Northwest Face

20 & 21 September: Yahk Crack

Destinations and dates may change depending on conditions and weather.

Organizer: Anders Ourom 604-228-1798 or [aiourom@telus.net](mailto:aiourom@telus.net)

## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO ASSIST THE PREPARATION OF A NEW MOUNTAINEERING GUIDE TO THE SOUTHERN COAST MOUNTAINS

At the March Club Social Meeting, several people offered to assist Jack Bryceland to accumulate information for a new guide. However, more people are required. Jack writes -

"It seems to me that we need to start with about twenty people who will each commit to researching, investigating and documenting a specific area. I see the

information-collection phase as being from now until the late summer of 2006. As long as I have been able to collate and edit the accumulating data in that time, it should be possible to do the final editing, layout and printing during the winter of 2006-2007 and have the book on the market in the Spring of 2007".  
**If you want to help**, contact Jack at 604-858-6601 or jackb@imag.net.

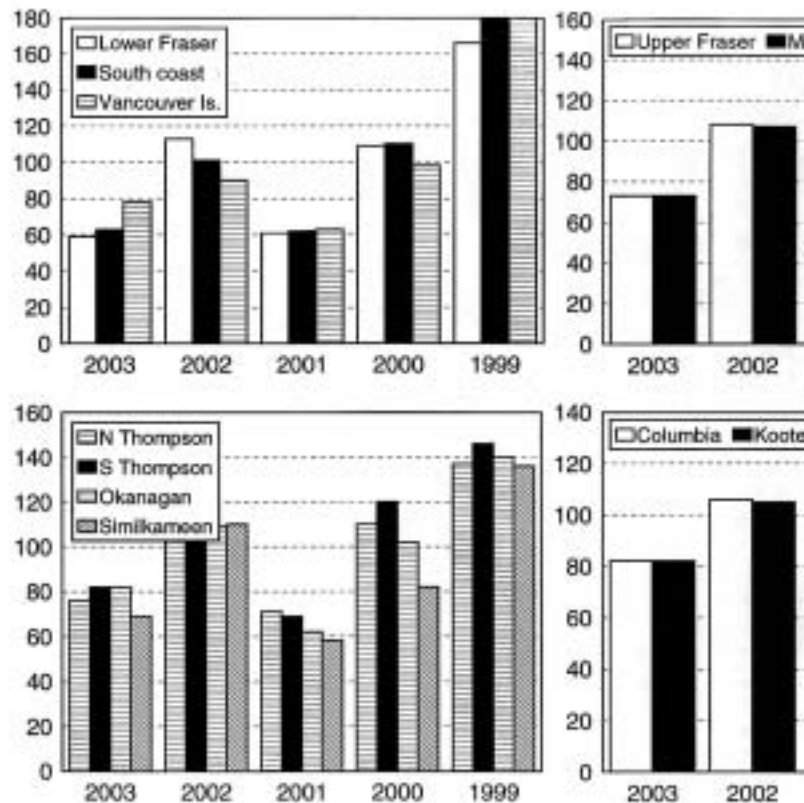
## NEWS

### BC Snowpacks still low

BC snowpacks, as of April 1, are given in the accompanying figures, where they are expressed as percentages of normal. It can be seen that this year snowpacks are low (60 - 80% of normal) but not as low as they were in 2001 - the year with least snow at

this time during the last 5 years. Snowpacks have recovered somewhat, however, from their winter levels when they averaged only 40 - 70% of normal for most of the province, except for Vancouver Island where they averaged around 100%, in January.

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## TRIP REPORTS

### North Ck. work party, 12-14 October, 2002

Our two 4WD's took the 8 members of our party to the end of the drivable section of the North Ck. logging road with ease. Interestingly, the road had been deactivated for 2-3 years with monstrous water bars, which were removed 3 years ago. Three years without water bars later, the road is still in good shape. Perhaps those water bars weren't needed at all!

Cutting, snipping, and clearing, we slowly made our way through the forest then into the slide alder. At the first patch of conifers in the alder, an unusually large number of bear droppings caused this writer to accelerate somewhat. On the return trip it was observed that a bear had made a den directly on the trail under a large tree that had fallen and was leaning against another one. Then a surprise - North Ck. had drastically changed its course around the first creek crossing. The huge tree which had spanned the creek, and whose lower side had been about 2 m above the water, had trapped debris and boulders so that it had become part of the streambed with water flowing over the sand and gravel upstream then over the log. The deep channel was now on the far side of the tree, with a small log leading from the end of the large tree to the opposite bank. This was crossed au cheval but it will likely disappear next spring. North Ck. is a very dynamic, strongly eroding stream and this first crossing will remain a problem.

With the excitement of the crossing over, we continued through the slide alder, cutting, snipping, and clearing. We left a couple of mattocks by a small pond whose steep slippery edges have been crying out for a formed trail for years. Ziff and Mike (P) set off early from the cabin on Monday digging a fine trail beside the pond - one less traumatic section.

The final beautiful forest section of trail was traversed relatively quickly as the troops apparently wanted to reach the cabin in daylight for a change! This was uneventfully accomplished, the final 2 creek crossings presenting no major problems as the logs from previous years were still in place. There was even enough time to chainsaw some of the fallen trees around the cabin into firewood.

A warm, pleasant evening and night followed, made brighter by a new glass we had brought in for one of the lanterns. Why and how people break these lantern glasses remains a mystery.

Sunday morning, after a leisurely start, Carol and Mike P. headed up to the Boomerang Glacier. Several of us demolished the old rotten steps and constructed new stairs up to the front deck using the materials we flew in the previous Christmas. Following a suggestion from Peter we decided to make these stairs removable to lengthen their life. They are stashed under the cabin. When they are needed they can be removed and attached to nails on the verandah and nails in the wooden support on the ground. Stairs are not needed during the snow season. More firewood cutting followed the work on the stairs. After lunch Ziff headed up the "Gun Barrel" while Jim, Peter, Katrina, and Michael headed up the moraine wall leading out of the "Gun Barrel". Ziff observed a grizzly entering the forest about 500 m from the cabin, just as the others were traversing through this forest. The bear was shy, however, and no contact was made. The higher elevation shaded N-facing slopes had a sprinkling of new snow, and spray from the creek near the cabin had coated the adjacent rocks and logs with ice. However, in the full sun and warmth on the moraine wall, the black flies were biting - a spectacular climate difference.

After another warm and pleasant evening and night, the troops closed up the cabin then headed back down the valley, clearing a few fallen trees off the trail enroute. In one section a large jumble of fallen trees necessitated a slight rerouting of the trail to minimize the cutting through these trees. Although the trail gets better after every work party, we still got lost a couple of times, and sections through the herbaceous avalanche fans will always be indistinct and resemble more of a route than a trail.

Participants: Ziff House, Carol MacMillan, Mike Peel, Peter de Visser, Katrina de Visser, Jim, Evelyn Feller, and Michael Feller (Organizer and reporter).

### **(East) Hatcherhead Mountain, 11 January, 2002**

Originally planning a trip along the Howe Sound Crest trail, I considered the poor and icy snow conditions along this route after a week of sunny and warm weather, then decided to move the trip to a more gentle location. The route to Hatcherhead Mountain came to mind because it has a long road approach with a very low incline. Even in icy conditions one doesn't get into an out-of-control speed on the way down.

By Friday night a party of 6 had assembled and would meet at the Crossroads restaurant in Abbotsford at 7 am. The next morning at 7:30 am 5 people were there but one was missing. I was certain that Emanuele was coming along but where was he. Luckily Brett knew his cell phone number and we gave him a quick call. Between the interruptions in the conversation because of the connection breaking up, I realized he was already on his way. We quickly paid up and left. We were already a half a hour behind schedule. I knew that it would be a fairly long trip but wasn't sure anymore how long it would take. We caught up to Emanuele at a roadside stop at the bottom of the long hill that takes you to the Hope slide. There we learned that he was at the restaurant at 7:05. But somehow we managed not to see each other and he thought we had already left. He looked in my truck, parked at the restaurant, but didn't see my skis and he concluded we were gone.

But we were all together now and at 9:15 am 4 skiers and 2 snowshoers reached the parking area. The weather looked promising with lots of blue skies. The snow conditions were as bad as we had expected. I had hoped for firm hardpack but it was breakable crust. On the long track up the road we noticed all the marked cut blocks in the forest from the highway right up to tree line. Some serious logging is going to take place in this "doughnut hole" between Manning- and Skagit Provincial Park. This is not going to make this

long approach any more pleasant. In the meantime there was no difference in speed between the snowshoers and the skiers.

Once we reached tree line snow conditions improved markedly. We stopped for a bite to eat before the final assault of the last 460 m vertical to the 2043 m summit. It is called East Hatcherhead for lack of a better name. The true peak is 2 km to the west and about 100 m. lower. At around 2 pm we (the skiers first of course) reached the summit under increasing cloud and wind. Visibility was still good but most of the higher peaks to the south and west had disappeared in the clouds. We didn't linger very long because the wind was chilly. Now, what was the skiing going to be like? The first turns were not bad. The turns after that were alright as well. Some sun crust in areas and even some old powder in other pockets made for a pleasant unexpected surprise. Everybody dealt with the variable snow conditions differently, some more gracefully than others. Again the snowshoers were quite capable of keeping up. As we got closer to the road, conditions deteriorated and we knew what was coming next. Let me say that the snowplow got just awful. The groin area will stay sensitive for a while to come. But thanks to the gentle grade it was easy to stay in control. Here the snowshoers were at a disadvantage because of the glide that the skiers had. Everybody reached the car safely and at 4:15 pm the last person was down.

After a bite to eat at the Wildcat, just off the Freeway near Bridal Falls at exit 135, we concluded that despite the conditions it had been a good day with a great group of people.

Participants: Tania Zulkoskey, Brett McConockie, Greg Stoltman, Blake Drummond, Emanuele Porra and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter)