



In the Premier Range, Cariboo Mountains

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, 8 June - Entertainment will be a slide show by Peter Woodsworth on hiking and canyoneering in the deserts of the American southwest.

Thursday, 1 July - Canada Day Picnic - A day of hiking or climbing in the Squamish area will be followed by a late afternoon barbeque, possibly at Murrin Park. Contact Anders Ourom (604-228-1798) for further information.



Cavorting in a canyon in the arid western U.S.

Photo - E. Feller collection.



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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). All material within this newsletter is copyright © British Columbia Mountaineering Club.

Submissions - of any written, drawn, or photographic material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club are welcome. If possible, submissions should be sent to the editor by email or on a diskette. Deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month preceding the publication month. Send submissions to Michael Feller (email - feller@interchg.ubc.ca, ph. 604-270-4050).

Editorial policy - All submitted written material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity, or for consistency with club policies.

Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the B.C. Mountaineering Club.

SCHEDULED TRIPS

Participation on club trips is open to any person with adequate skills and experience, subject to the approval of the trip organizer. All non-member participants must sign a disclosure and waiver form relieving the club and all other participants on the trip from any liability. A trip organizer is not a certified guide. The function of the organizer is to organize the trip, ensure that it gets underway, know the access to the area, and know a route or routes on the climb.

It is expected that each person on a club trip has the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment. The organizer may specify certain equipment mandatory for participation in a trip. The club has avalanche transceivers and snow shovels available for hire. These may be obtained by contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 at least 2 days prior to the day they are wanted. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment, may be requested to withdraw from the trip. The club has a satellite phone available for hire. This may be obtained by also contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 at least 2 days prior to the day it is wanted. Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking the equipment used. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer by Thursday evening for weekend trips, and by Friday for Sunday trips.

If you are given a ride, please remember to pay the driver your portion of the car costs. If you decide not to go on a trip for which you have previously registered, please be courteous and inform the trip organizer.

ORGANIZER

June 5: Eaton Pk. (hike) Scrambling to the north summit in the Chilliwack valley area.	C3/2117 m	Lesli Cowan	604-321-9955
June 5: Blanshard Needle Hiking and rock climbing in Golden Ears park.	B-C4/1550 m	Reinhard Fabische	604-462-9638
June 5-6: Mt. Garibaldi (ski) Approaching via Diamond Head to this well known peak northeast of Squamish. Skis will be used if snow conditions permit.	D3-4/2678 m	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
June 5-13: Chilko Lake-Tatlayoko Lake Extended traverse, climbing peaks between these 2 lakes in the western Cariboo.	C4-5	Michael McCrae	604-261-9670
June 12: Rainy Mtn. (hike) Hiking in the Tetrahedron area on the Sechelt Peninsula.	C2/1650 m	John Sapac	604-873-6740
June 12: Chilliwack valley area Hiking and scrambling somewhere in the Chilliwack area. Contact the organizer for further details.	B2-3	Ilze Rupners	604-222-3720
June 12: Needle Pk. Hiking and scrambling in the Coquihalla area.	B2/2092 m	Marsha Ablowitz	604-261-8953
June 12-13: Hozomeen Mtn. Climbing the North Pk. of Hozomeen, just inside Washington in the Skagit valley area.	C3-4/2459 m	Jos van der Burg	604-463-7582
June 12-13: Mt. Baker Mountaineering in northern Washington.	B-C3/3285 m	Will Neustaedter	604-523-1344
June 19: Mt. Habrich Biking, hiking, and rock climbing just southeast of Squamish. Joint trip with the ACC.	C5/1700 m	Margaret Hanson	604-341-5961
June 19-20: Mts. Roderick and Sedgwick Hiking and scrambling east of Howe Sound.	C2-3/2082 m	Andrzej Jarzabek	604-419-4492
June 20: Elk Mtn. and Mt. Thurston Hiking in the Chilliwack valley area.	B2/1625 m	Peter Pare	604-732-5555
June 26: Evans Pk. Hiking and scrambling in Golden Ears park.	B2-3/1132 m	Larry Kost	604-594-3130
June 26: Crown Mtn. Hiking in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.	B2/1503 m	Ian Fisher	604-688-8454
June 26-27: Mt. Matier Mountaineering south of the Duffey Lake road.	B4/2770 m	Jennifer Nageli	604-580-4660
June 26-27: Place Glacier area Blissful blundering and mountaineering east of Pemberton.	B3	Brian Wood	604-222-1541
July 1-3: Mt. Robie Reid Extended climbing at the head of Alouette Lake in Golden Ears park.	C3/2095 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
July 3-4: Tetrahedron Pk. Scrambling on the Sechelt Peninsula.	B2-3/1739 m	Liam Grimes	604-936-9660
July 10: Brunswick Mtn. Hiking and scrambling above Howe Sound.	B2/1785 m	Aki Nagai	604-986-2756
July 10: Mountain Lake area More hiking above Howe Sound.	B2-3	David Stange	604-437-8962
July 10-11: Snass Mtn. and Snazzy Pk. Hiking and scrambling near the W end of Manning Park.	B2-3/2310 m	Rick Raynsford	604-922-1897
July 10-11: Mt. Fee area Scrambling on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide. Joint trip with North Shore Hikers.	B-C2-3/2130 m	Gord Esplin	604-986-0603
July 17: Brandywine Mtn. Hiking and scrambling in the Cheakamus valley area.	B2/2229 m	Marsha Ablowitz	604-261-8953

July 17-19: Meslilloet Mtn. Scrambling north of Indian Arm.	B3/2001 m	Ian Hopper	604-983-9044
July 17-18: Ashlu Mtn. Mountaineering in the Ashlu valley area. Joint trip with the North Shore Hikers.	C3/2590 m	Gord Esplin	604-986-0603
July 17-18: Cassiope Mtn. area Hiking and scrambling east of Pemberton.	B3/2290 m	Greg Stoltmann	604-926-6496
July 24: Edge Pk. Hiking and rock climbing the white dyke route, in Golden Ears park.	C-D3-4/1688 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
July 24: Sky Pilot Mtn. Hiking and rock climbing above Howe Sound.	C3-4/2025 m	Jeff Oh	604-708-9191
July 28 - August 3: Taseko Mtn. and area Extended mountaineering in the southwestern Cariboo.	C3	Rick Raynsford	604-922-1897
August 7: Black Tusk Classic hike and rock scramble in Garibaldi park.	B2-3/2315 m	J.P. Shason	604-682-7298
August 7-8: Mt. Vayu Mountaineering in the upper Hurley River area.	C3-4/2794 m	Cameron Long	604-581-1848
August 8: Burke Mtn. Hiking north of Coquitlam.	A1-2/1200 m	Peter Parrota	604-552-1423
August 14-15: Sahale Pk. Scrambling in Washington's North Cascades.	B-C3/2646 m	Greg Iuzzolino	604-561-8553

WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMBING

Informal Wednesday evening rock climbing trips will occur on Wednesday evenings

throughout the summer. To participate and for further information, contact Margaret Hanson at 604-349-5961.

BCMC SUMMER CAMPS 2004

7th Annual Lake Lovely Water Summer Camp - July 17-25

Camp is full, but for further information, contact Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

Rutledge Glacier Climbing Camp (C3-D5) - July 31 - August 8

A hike in - hike out mountaineering trip to the Rutledge Glacier in the Stein valley area. Peaks of snow and rock climbing, generally class 3 and 4.

Participants must be current BCMC members, must be fit, and must be prepared to discuss their climbing experience with the organizer.

Party size will be limited to 10.

For more information and to reserve a place, contact Todd Ponzini at 604-340-9653.

Plummer hut climbing camp and work party - July 25 or 26 - August 7 or 14

A one or two week climbing camp will be based in the club's Plummer hut, located in the Mt. Waddington area. Access will be in and out by helicopter. Some work will be done on the hut during the camp.

Participants should be proficient at glacier travel and should expect to pay a deposit. Estimated cost is \$600+.

For further information, contact David Hughes at 604-980-6484.

SOUTHERN CHILCOTIN TRAVERSE

Karl Ricker is organizing a traverse from Lorna Lake to Tyaughton Lake travelling on the N side of Tyaughton Ck., ascending Mt. Relay and Card Table Mtn. Party size will be 5 minimum, 16

maximum. Possible dates are August 7-15, 15-22, 22-29 or August 29 - September 6. If you are interested, contact Karl at 1-604-938-1107 for further information.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members - The club welcomes the following new Associate Members: Silvia Bakovic, Carolyn Goluza, Nicolas Jimenez, David Karkut, Michael Kung, Kathryn McIvor, Chrissy Spencer, and Justiin Spratt.

What Club members are doing - the rucksack - The club wishes to congratulate Tammie Sibbald and Nick Ranicar on the recent birth of their twins, no less - Benjamin and Michaela. This appears to be a new outcome of an around the world climbing trip!

In memoriam - Dennis Sims

Dennis had belonged to BCMC for many years. He met Pamela Jenkins at a summer camp at Farnham Creek in 1976. He enjoyed climbing well known peaks such as Mt. Sir Donald at Roger's Pass, Eisenhower Tower, and Mt. Louis in the Rockies. He led Pamela to the summit of Mt. Rainier in June 1991, a few weeks after their wedding. He had suffered a heart attack in July 1997 after climbing Mt. Fisher in the Rockies with Pamela; and Mt. Baker behind Moraine Lake, alone. He did not get suitable medication for 12 hours and so had permanent heart damage. He was given 2 years to live and yet survived almost 7 years, unable to do the things he had enjoyed so much in the past.

Pamela Jenkins

BCMC NEWS

New booking policy for Plummer hut -

The club executive at their May meeting decided to implement a booking policy for Plummer hut as its use appears to be heavy this year. Details of the policy will appear in a future newsletter. If you wish to spend time there, please contact the Cabin and Trails chairs - Peter Woodsworth (604-254-7076) or David Scanlon (604-572-5051).

Centennial committee progress -

The club's centennial committee, chaired by David Scanlon, has been meeting monthly to develop a program for the club's centennial year in 2007. Construction of a new club cabin has been discussed, with the committee favouring a traditional gothic arch design with a wood-burning stove. Several possible locations will

be assessed this year. Further oral history interviews, progress on a written history, and production of a video on the history and development of the club, have also been discussed.

Modification to the first volume of the index to club publications -

The first volume of the index to club publications has been revised after finding a number of club newsletters that had not been indexed. Your editor apologises for this, but everyone who purchased a copy of the index can receive a free copy of the revised version. To do this, please return your copy to the editor who will then use the cover from your copy to enclose the revised index. Please do this before 30 June to take advantage of the free offer.

ACCESS NOTES

Lizzie Lake road washed out - Access to Lizzie Lake is currently problematic due to a major washout relatively low on the road.

Indian Arm “trail” - detailed trail notes by Don McPherson, as supplied by Peter Gumplinger.

The Indian Arm “trail” is a trail only in the loosest way. Extremely rugged hiking, short sections of 4th class climbing / descending, and some rope and ice axe skills define the route.

Most people who are very fit are capable of hiking the route. The question must be asked - Do you have other skills required to safely traverse the route? I sense some would be going way beyond their boundary of safety, even with excellent weather conditions, and may need to be rescued or worse. Only those with mountaineering skills in excellent condition will enjoy the challenge. Even with them, should the clouds or rain move in or a mishap occur, a challenging path would turn into an epic.

The route is more like hiking a 68 km series of mountain peaks. Traveling the easy way is a 5500 m elevation gain, and nearly a 6100 m. descent. A climbing rope and the knowledge of how to use it should be included in your 15 – 23+ kg pack. I do not recommend this route to anyone. We have all done foolish things, lived through it and gained valuable experience that way. I don't want to dissuade anyone from a challenge or adventure. I am requesting you take a good, hard, honest look and decide.

An informational meeting hosted by BC Parks on March 11/04 was attended by B.C. Parks, the GVRD, the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation, running, hiking, and mountaineering clubs. Three major themes came out through the discussion: Safety issues, boundary issues, and legal issues. Any hiker going on this “trail” will be on an illegal route, going into watershed at Fannin Lake, and trespassing on recently acquired fee simple land of the First Nation near Indian River twin bridges.

De Sales' law states - The road to hell is paved with good intentions. I am more than concerned that the uniformed get into big trouble expecting a groomed “trail” and moderate slopes with no legal issues.

The following text is a description of the “Indian Arm Trail” that Don McPherson originally hiked in its entirety in the fall of 2003. There is no guarantee to the accurateness of this description nor is there any implied level of safety for the route at any time of year. Please use this description responsibly and offer your improvements to the author.

From the Seymour parking lot, hike north past Pump Peak, past Second Peak, to the notch between Second Peak and the base of Mt. Seymour (Third Peak). Drop down on the W side of Mt. Seymour from the notch until the old trail soon comes to a large boulder field, which usually has snow/ice at its base. Beware of hidden large holes in the ice in the fall of some years.

Continue north traversing beneath Runner Peak, cross a small boulder field and follow the beautiful ridge down to the base of Elsay Peak in heather, etc. Start up Elsay in old growth forest for 200 m to where a large old tree has fallen across the trail. Follow it to its base and traverse to the crescent ridge above Elsay Lake. Travel this lovely ridge to Vicar Lakes [5-6 hours from the parking lot].

Please be sensitive to the fragile ecology of these pristine lakes and walk carefully. There is an access trail here branching down to within 200 m of Seymour Dam below. On the NW end of the largest lake do a stepping stone hop across boulders where the lake narrows into old growth forest on the N side. If the water is high, a 10 minutes marshy walk will take you around the end of the lake and back onto the trail.

Do not go uphill looking for the trail. It stays near the lake shore for a short way then slowly diagonals up to a notch in the ridge coming down from the S peak of Bishop. Good hiking will take you back into the alpine. Heathery slopes 200 m

below the top of S peak lead to a traverse left to a steepish gully, leading to the notch between the middle and S peak of Bishop [2-3 hours from Vicar Lakes].

A gentle diagonal traverse across the base of the W face of the middle peak will lead up to the long summit plateau of N Bishop Peak. Going down the N ridge from the top is interesting. Several goat slides shoot down to the flat ridge below. These 20-30 degree paths can be tricky when wet. Look down at what appears to be a very wide trail on the flat. You never get to this great looking trail as you double back SE on a grand heathery, treed ramp beneath the growing face of the N peak of Bishop.

Traverse across boulders and steepish herbage for approximately 300 to 400 m above Fannin Lake. This moderately exposed 30 to 50 degree section can be difficult to down climb (roots and shrub hand holds). There is some fixed hand line here that the goats chew on. Follow the route through some old growth, etc. to scenic Fannin Lake. Fannin Lake is in our Seymour watershed, so be extra careful where you pee and poo until an intended latrine gets built. There is a lovely creek, which runs year round in the meadow on the NE side of Fannin Lake [2-3 hours from the notch between S and middle Bishop and Fannin Lake]. The trail goes around on the N shore of the lake but will have to be bushwhacked during high water (a 10 minute excursion) to join the easy hiking trail leading up to the four peaks of Mt. Dickens through old growth. Several fixed hand lines are in place along the scenic undulating ridge until you drop through a beautiful hiking ravine and onto a lovely football field sized flat spongy area where the Fannin range veers NW [6-7 hours from Fannin Lake].

A steep, often slippery, descent for 200 to 300 m down a ribbon boulder field is the beginning of a descending traverse to Bearclaw Ridge where you pass some old growth up to 3 m in diameter. It appears it is slated to be heli-logged as there is much new tape running in a straight line on the downhill side of the trail after crossing a year round running creek. Descend the ridge that becomes vertical

on the NW side through an older heli-logged area, with great care needed in several places when descending (slippery, exposed). Exit onto the well traveled road from Squamish about 50 m upstream from the bridge that crosses Indian River. To get to great campsites near the sandy river banks, travel up the two lane road for about 200 m where you will find a rough road to your right doubling back toward the river [3-4 hours down from the football field in the saddle of the Fannin Range].

If traveling on, walk 6 km down the road to the end where large stone barriers stop further travel by car. There is a little fresh stream water until you get past the Deep Cove Yacht Club about 1.5km down a superb trail (road) from the rock barrier. The yacht club appears to be erecting a fence across the trail to keep out motorized bikers. There are several large signs giving the common sense rules for hiking past the gate. (The logging road/trail is a public right of way that bisects their property). Continue past the club over a recent rock avalanche/gully, past another dock, and hike up to where you can see a trail diving off the road to the northern end of Grand Falls Park and public dock. Hike a short way up the logging road where you can decide to continue up to the beautiful falls thundering above, under and below the 1st old bridge, and continue over a precarious looking 2nd bridge or two. Take a short cut avoiding the first two bridges over Grand Creek, by veering uphill on an obscure logging road (well marked) below a huge electrical power pylon.

No matter which way you go, you will soon be on the same, sometimes washed out, road (done two winters ago) which will take you to a fork in the road, both branches of which may have orange marking tape on them. Take the right fork that has both orange flashers and flagging, where you will soon come to the third and most secure looking of the three bridges. Continue up an increasingly overgrown road (cleared two years ago) until you come to Flume Creek that can be easily crossed with dry feet unless it has been heavily raining. (It has been waded in an extended severe rainstorm). It is about 6 km from here back to the main road from Squamish.

After crossing the creek (500m elevation) follow the logging road for about 30 m then turn sharply uphill. The trail winds through obstacles up to 700 m where an old log filled landing from a higher road crosses the trail. There is a campsite here in the bushy road and water is 15 minutes down the road in Flume Creek. Follow the flashers and tape to the top of Grand Ridge with a beautiful tarn on bald granite. Your legs will probably require a sit down amidst spectacular scenery. A 100 m easy descent and traverse leads to a series of steepish short steps and a slab traverse to the gully leading straight up to the crest of Eagle Ridge. (Often tiny pools of running water can be found low in the gully). Top out on Eagle Ridge with a tremendous view and incredible tarn on the edge of precipices on two sides. It is unusual in that it is deep (funnel shaped sides). Don't miss it as it is 30 m N of where the trail breaks out on the ridge hidden by some stubby alpine trees and heather. The wide well worn trail on the top looks like a human trail in a park, but it is a goat highway leading to the tarn [4-5 hours up from the Flume Creek crossing on the lower road].

Gentle ridge running takes you to a right hairpin curve just before a cliff edge. Descend on the low angled ramp wrapping around the growing cliff above. Avoid the possible great view from the cliff above (near the hairpin curve) as there an overgrown, bush-covered, deep hole in the vicinity, that if fallen into,

will result in a change of form permanently. Follow tape and markers down the ridge toward the high hump to your S. Another easy traverse across good granite slabs (in dry weather) will soon lead to the base of serious looking cliffs. Continue SE beneath the cliffs where weaknesses and some short grunt moves (fixed safety line) lead to an enormous ledge with superb views. Continue hiking up past several tarns and ridge run until you drop down to the base of another large hump. The trail weaves through cliffs with several steep rock sections involving a few moves with fixed rope at hand. Travel along the ridge until you drop down into an old growth area with a lovely large tarn (Goat Oasis) just before starting up another mound heading S. [4-6 hours from cresting on Eagle Ridge]. Similar short steep sections lead to the top and at the end of another long ridge run, a precipitous tooth can be seen with a large talus slope on its NW side.

Continue down to the notch with a spectacular view of Coquitlam Lake to the E (the talus slope to the SW). Diagonal down on the talus that travels through some gorgeous old growth and large boulders to an E/W ridge crest and a descending traverse to the Dilly Dally (D.D.) trail about 5 - 7 minutes down from where the D. D. trail crests Eagle Ridge. There is usually running water just before reaching the D. D. trail [3-5 hours from Goat Oasis]. 20 minutes down the D. D. is a round creek. Take another 2.5 to 4 hours to get back to Buntzen Lake parking lot.

TRIP REPORTS

Downton Creek area, Peak CY5 (2950 m), 27-28 September, 2003

The trip officially began when I picked up Pascal in Vancouver at 5:30 pm on the Friday prior to the scheduled weekend. From there it was over to the North Shore to meet another of the trip participants. Kate had been hesitant about wanting to come along due to lack of experience though she had claimed to be a fairly regular hiker of the Grouse Grind. When I had last talked with her on the phone she had mentioned having to get some new gear, such as a pack and a stove. I found it interesting that a salesperson had sold her a 40 L pack for

overnight travel. At any rate, on to St. David's church we went to meet the others for a Friday night start.

After a 7 pm departure we soon ran into a big traffic jam on the Upper Levels highway. After enduring this delay we ran into another big slowdown on the Squamish Highway stretch. Most people wanted a dinner stop so we chose the Wendy Hortons complex in Squamish for efficiency. After another regroup in Pemberton, it was on to the Downton Creek road off the Duffey Lake road to reach our camp area on a road landing at about 1700 m. The time was 11:45 pm. The weather was beautiful and things looked very positive for a good trip.

Kate's sleeping bag was cold the first night at +8° C, but fortunately Carolyn had a spare -7° C bag that she was able to lend and Jack MacDonald provided a down parka.

Before our 9:30 hiking start a vehicle shuttle was set up since we were going to exit out a different way than our ascent route. A trail lead NNW keeping to the right of a creek drainage and brought us quickly to the treeline. The trail steepened and went straight up the fall line then came on a talus slope traversing east, just above the treeline. This was followed by a rougher section then it was NE up a pleasant draw for lunch.

After lunch we followed the creekbed/draw up for a while and then began angling NE out of it to the right up a vast tilted plane of a slope. After the top of this slope we eventually reached the summit of the 2700 m ridge. There we ran into a camouflaged hunter looking at mountain goats to the right of our 2950 m destination.

We descended north, then east to a small lake a good 300 m below where we gathered. Due to delays we would not be able to camp at the 2 lakes below the 2950 m peak to the north, also known as CY5. Pascal, Frank, and Kate had camped back up on the ridge.

The next morning we got up at 5, awakened by Alex's rooster call which sounded more like a croak. I had been dreaming that it was 6:20. While eating breakfast we saw headlamps up on the 2700 m ridge where Pascal, Frank and Kate were camped. Our group began hiking at 6:40 am and within half an hour we were at the lakes at the base of CY5. It became immediately apparent that this mountain was going to be nothing more difficult than a big scree slog. For me that was better than if it wasn't. Some people decided to make things more technically difficult by hiking and scrambling up a steep creek gully with Class

3 sections. Mostly I missed my ski poles which I had left behind. The summit was reached by the first party members at about 8:35 and after that the group was quite strung out.

We must have spent about an hour at the top, leaving at about 9:50. While descending, I saw Frank and Pascal heading up. At the lakes below I waited for Jack and Ilze. Jack was very anxious about the scree and preferred the creek gully which he descended with Ilze. Kate had stayed at the lakes.

Camp was reached between 12:20 and 12:50 with Pascal coming in last but not after a speedy effort on the mountain. Through binoculars I watched him practically running down the mountain.

We broke camp shortly after 1 pm and the group got quite strung out with some people getting way ahead. Jack and Frank stuck together and took a higher line down our descent route valley which caused Ilze and I to do a lot of waiting only to run into them further down the valley. Ilze and I descended to the road by 3:10 via this narrow valley and except for Carolyn and Klaus, this generally represented the group's pace. The latter 2 were so fast descending that they had time to walk the vehicle shuttle route to pick up their vehicle.

After Frank and I completed the other vehicle shuttle we arrived in time to find Kate and Pascal out of the bush. Dinner was at the Wendy Hortons in Squamish. All in all it was a very beautiful and successful trip.

Participants: Ilze Rupners, Jack MacDonald, Carolyn, Klaus, Ziff House, Kate Sedell (?), Pascal Roussel, Frank, Alex Hudson and Greg Stoltman (Organizer and reporter).

Mt Frosty ,17 January, 2004

An uncertain weather forecast left many people undecided if they were willing to brave the impending rain. With the objective changed from Hatchethead mountain to Mt Frosty due to active logging I was willing to take the chance. Because of the higher start and being on the other side of the pass I was betting on the storm being less intense and it to be snow instead of rain because of the very mild weather along the coast. Seven of us were willing to take that chance on Saturday morning. The four who didn't show up ended up missing a surprisingly beautiful day. As far as the skiing concerned that ended up to be another matter.

After meeting at 7:30 am in Abbotsford we had an uneventful drive up to the Lightning Lake day use area which we reached at 9:30 am. We left shortly before 10 am under clear sunny skies and started climbing up the icy summer hiking trail. About a third of the way up it changed more to a breakable crust with lots of icy lumps that had fallen off the trees. We started to get a pretty good idea of what was waiting for us on the way down. But the weather was beautiful and the scenery was outstanding. We reached the start of the long ridge leading up to Mt Frosty around noon and stopped for lunch before we carried on towards the peak. At about the 2100 m mark we reached the larch forest on the ridge. We were then roughly about 45 minutes to an hour from the top. But it was already 1:45 pm and we had a rough ride down ahead. We didn't have time to waste. It was decided that those who wanted to give it a try had until 2:30 pm to make the summit. Irek, Darren and Dan decided to give it a try. They had their eye on the couloir coming off Mt Frosty. After getting to within 100 m from the summit, which would have taken them 15 min. more, they had to turn back. Their time was up. After some good but delicate turns in the few cm of fresh snow on hard ice they joined us back on the ridge from where we had some surprisingly good turns down to the shelter at about 1800 m. After that it was back to the slog along the ridge. It was about 4 pm when we left the ridge and faced the ride down through the trees and icy trail back

to the lake. Evelyn decided that she was not about to face that torment and put her skis on her pack and walked down. She ended up being the fastest even though she ended up post holing in a few places. The rest of us remembered that this was a ski trip and refused to take our skis off. We suffered along by making kick turns and sliding down icy sections. Eventually we reached the long trail traverses near the bottom where Evelyn re-attached her skis and we all had an exhilarating descent down the icy and fast trail. The last section was in now almost complete darkness which made it even more exciting. Luckily we all made it down without injury but we were all very tired from this self-preservation exercise.

After all that it was time for a bite to eat at the Manning Park lodge where we had a good meal beside the fireplace. We all agreed that it had been a good day but that the ski down was in some of the worst conditions we had all been in for a while. Then it was time to head home, but not before Darren's car developed transmission problems. When his warning light came on and he started leaving a great plume of smoke behind it was time to pull over and top up the fluid level. He was losing fluid and after topping it up it seemed to be ok - at least to make it home. And so ended another BCMC trip in the mountains.

Participants: Brian Gavin, Evelyn Feller, Irek Jasiak, Marilyn Cox, Dan Friedman, Darren Steele and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter).

Burnt Nipple, 27 March, 2004

We'd had our eye on this area all winter, intending to check it out when we got some favorable road conditions. It didn't look worthwhile until late in March. Drew Brayshaw had inserted a beguiling road report on the Powder Puff Main earlier last summer with tantalizing details of a large burn with good road access going quite high. In fact we had eyeballed the burn on an earlier trip into the area. A photo essay of Drew's from across the Fraser River showed The Nipple, Laughlan, Vx and Schist Cap as featuring favorable ski mountaineering terrain.

We hadn't turned up any concrete information on the winter road access north of North Bend so we were taking a bit of a risk that the Powder Puff Main would be blocked by snow very low on the route to The Nipple.

Driving Highway 1 through the Fraser Canyon, we could see the snow line was around 1000 m on east-facing slopes and probably lower on the north sides. Powder Puff Main climbs through the north-facing slopes and gullies of The Nipple. At Boston Bar all five of us climbed into Larry's 4Runner. Across the river, we joined the Nahatlatch River FSR north of North Bend. The road was completely bare. We passed three locals with an ATV who had just been up the Powder Puff Main and confirmed it was the right road for climbing The Nipple. We found the right road and followed their tracks to the first switchback. At this point we began to doubt we were on the right road because we could see the ridgeline we wanted and it was still a long way further west. We doubted our spur was headed that way as an evil-looking gully separated us from it.

After a debate, we decided to head down and check out the next lower spur. This spur is at km 4 on Powder Puff and heads to the only stand of live trees in the entire valley north of The Nipple. Everything else is either logged, scorched or burned. Past a large beaver pond the first abandoned hippy bus lay derelict at the side. Squatter encampments lay peppered throughout the scrappy trees. After a deadend petered out, the only remaining unexplored spur lay through the encampment. The last locals we'd talked to seemed normal but I still got the feeling there were maybe one or two rifles trained on the 4Runner. We drove through the encampment. Now there are different ambiances with squatter villages. The ones around Tofino are phantasmagorical and earthy and probably populated with more than a few Ph.Ds and M.Sc.s. These were more the other end of the spectrum - loners, goofballs, marginals and just quite possibly, inbred Ozark hillbillies. The road came to an abrupt end. A figure in a black leather jacket, dirty T-shirt and filthy jeans emerged from a squat. I kept the window rolled up. Larry did the talking-

"Say, we're looking to climb The Nipple." All that was missing was a large, black dog.

The last government agent up this way was never heard from again. I was just hoping they didn't think we worked for the government. The information we gleaned from the man was questionable. He wanted us out of there. A small crowd had emerged from behind us, Deliverance-like. There was enough time for them to have blocked the road. We backed up slowly and got the hell away from there. Maybe there were too many of us. Hell, we looked like a posse. Maybe they thought the ski bag had our rifles.

We eventually gave up looking for a better road and headed back up past the first switchback until we got blocked by snow at the second. A nice-looking gully headed up towards the NW spur of The Nipple. We used it on our descent. For now, we contented ourselves to sticking to the road, which surprised us as it made a long traverse W to the slope break with Kookipi Creek. We were on the right road after all.

We were looking straight down onto the squatter camp. Northwest was Kwoiek Needle and Tachewana. A great view, blue sky and crappy snow. A crust over isothermal snow occasionally swallowed a skier, but Denis was having major trouble on snowshoes. That was the last we saw of him for the day. The skiers foreshortened the traverse by heading up to the top of the burn. A half hour in the trees brought us to the wide, forested NW spur of The Nipple. On top of it, a layer of wet snow over cold powder made trailbreaking even worse. Giant clods of snow were sticking to the skis at every step- your typical spring ski conditions. We eventually emerged onto the aureole where we had lunch in the sun. This allowed the skins to dry off enough so we weren't clodding so much anymore. The Nipple was still over 1 km further east over rolling alpine terrain. In summer this would be predominantly rock piles and reindeer moss- very pleasant hiking.

It took a further one hour or less to reach the summit. Some debate was had about whether to ski the amazing-looking west bowl. I personally felt like living to ski another day and in the end

everyone went back down the ridge. As a variation, we decided to ski off the NW ridge into the gully down to the second switchback. It would be quite a line under better snow conditions. At the top, the line drops steeply through ledges into a wide open bowl. The snow was difficult and you had to really crank the turns. The crust was a heavy layer that heaved you up and down depending on whether it held or gave. I think everyone was feeling it was just as much work getting down as up. The important thing is that the route went more or less without a hitch. We arrived back at the 4Runner to find Denis, who had made it to 1350 m.



Nipple aureole. Photo - S. Yassemi.

This is definitely a good access route that has lots of potential for scrambling, hiking and ski mountaineering. And there is still the question of that unskied west bowl to address. Just keep left at all forks and your nipples covered.

Participants: Jos van der Burg, Larry Kost, Denis Lalonde, Shahram Yassemi, and Paul Kubik (Organizer and reporter).



Nipple W bowl - r and below. Photos - S. Yassemi

