

# BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



MARCH, 2004

VOL. 82, NO. 3

## 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, 9 March** - Entertainment will be a slide show by Peter Norris on cave exploration in Canada and Mexico.

**Tuesday, 13 April** - Entertainment will be a slide show by Don McPherson on the new Indian Arm trail and its construction.

Nearing the summit of Hatcherhead



View from the summit of Hatcherhead.



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

<b>PRESIDENT -</b>	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462	<b>CABIN / TRAILS -</b>	DAVID SCANLON	604-464-3730
<b>PAST-PRESIDENT -</b>	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484		PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT -</b>	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097	<b>CONSERVATION -</b>	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
<b>SECRETARY -</b>	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951	<b>SUMMER CAMP -</b>		
	ANDERS OUROM	604-228-1798		PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
<b>TREASURER -</b>	TODD PONZINI	604-340-9653	<b>FMCBC REP -</b>	MIKE PEEL	604-444-4068
<b>MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -</b>	JULIA BORCHARDT	604-268-9502	<b>WEBMASTER -</b>	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
	STEVE TATE	604-204-0726	<b>EDITOR -</b>	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
	PAM KRANNITZ	604-737-3608	-----		
<b>SOCIALS -</b>	DERRICK JOHNSTONE	604-946-9942	<b>EQUIPMENT -</b>	PAUL KUBIK	604-876-0764
	JOS VAN DER BURG	604-221-9097	<b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT -</b>	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
<b>CLIMBING -</b>	EMANUELE PORRA	604-463-7582	<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). 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](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. 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

**All scheduled trips are ski trips unless otherwise indicated.**

<b>March 6-7:</b> Mt. Garibaldi Skiing above Squamish in Garibaldi park.	C3(4)/2675 m	Rhys Gibb	604-321-9955
<b>March 6-7:</b> Gentian Pk. Skiing in the Black Tusk area of Garibaldi Park.	B2-3/2197 m	Evelyn Feller	604-270-4050
<b>March 7:</b> A local mountain Easy skiing somewhere close to Vancouver. Contact the organizer for further details.	B2	Pat Crean	604-986-5622
<b>March 12-14:</b> Mt. Robie Reid Snowshoeing and snow/rock climbing near Alouette Lake in the Lower Fraser valley.	D3(4)/2095 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
<b>March 13:</b> North Shore mountains (hike) An easy family hike in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.	A1	George Malburg	604-877-1784
<b>March 13-14:</b> Snowspider Mtn. Extended skiing east of Lillooet Lake.	C-D3/2540 m	Russell March	604-433-8868
<b>March 13-14:</b> Price Glacier Skiing somewhere with a seldom-seen carefree wanderer.	B3	Brian Wood	604-222-1541
<b>March 13-14:</b> Snowshoe Weekend Snowshoeing somewhere in easy to moderate terrain.	B2	Paul Morton	604-874-7372
<b>March 13-21:</b> Rock climbing An extended rock climbing trip. Contact the organizer for further details.	A5	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
<b>March 14:</b> Mt. Laughington Skiing in the Chilliwack valley area.	B2/1790 m	Tania Zulkoskey	604-738-0696
<b>March 20-21:</b> Organizer's choice Skiing somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.	B2	David Scanlon	604-464-3730
<b>March 20-21:</b> Mt. Breakenridge Skiing east of Harrison Lake.	B-C3/2402 m	Jos van der Burg	604-463-7582
<b>March 20-21:</b> Caspar Ck. area Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B2	Liz Ball	604-879-4648
<b>March 21:</b> Frosty Mtn. Skiing in Manning Park.	C3/2434 m	Robert Gordon	604-873-5364
<b>March 26-28:</b> Spearhead traverse Classic ski traverse near Whistler in Garibaldi park.	C3	Nick Vipond	604-684-4124
<b>March 26-28:</b> Snowspider Mtn. Extended skiing east of Lillooet Lake.	C3/2540 m	Linda Bily	604-733-0042
<b>March 27:</b> Alpen Mtn. Skiing in the Mamquam valley area.	B2/1703 m	Mike Peel	604-444-4068
<b>March 27:</b> Metal Dome Skiing on the Brandywine-Callaghan divide.	B2-3/2010 m	Phil Kubik	604-266-5873
<b>March 27-28:</b> Marriott Basin Skiing off the Duffey Lake road. Joint trip with the ACC.	B2-3	Margaret Hanson	604-341-5961
<b>March 27-28:</b> Place Glacier Skiing east of Pemberton. Joint trip with the ACC.	B3	Isabel Budke	604-224-5737
<b>April 3:</b> Decker Glacier Skiing in the Spearheads, approaching via the Blackcomb ski lifts. Joint trip with the ACC.	B2(3)	Margaret Hanson	604-341-5961
<b>April 3-4:</b> Mamquam Mtn. Skiing east of Squamish.	C3/2579 m	Marcus Dell	604-274-9511
<b>April 3-4:</b> Rhododendron Mtn. Skiing west of Pemberton.	C3/2530 m	Murray Lashmar	604-221-4183

<b>April 9-12:</b> Mt. Currie Skiing to the northern edge of Garibaldi park.	C3/2596 m	Greg Stoltmann	604-926-6496
<b>April 9-12:</b> North Creek area Skiing in the upper Lillooet valley.	C3	David Hughes	604-980-6484
<b>April 10:</b> Cambie Ck. Skiing in Manning Park.	B2	Alice Obermajer	604-781-2656
<b>April 10-12:</b> Mt. Sir Richard Skiing in Garibaldi park.	C3/2681 m	Todd Ponzini	604-340-9653
<b>April 10-12:</b> Snowspider Mtn. Extended skiing east of Lillooet Lake.	C-D3/2540 m	Peter Norris	604-240-6087

## BCMC SPRING SKI CAMP 2004

### Upper Hurley River, May 1-9

After driving as high as possible on the Railroad Pass road, the camp will be reached by skiing. Some days will be spent travelling and some will be spent on day trips from a fixed camp. Climbing objectives will include Mts. Samson, Sessel, and Thiassi.

Participants must be BCMC members, must have

been on at least one overnight ski trip during the winter, and must be comfortable skiing moderately steep slopes with a heavy pack. Some mountaineering experience (use of an ice axe) is also required to reach some of the peaks.

Limit - 12 people.

For further information and to book, contact Todd Ponzini at 604-340-9653.

## BCMC SUMMER CAMP 2004

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

Eight days of mountaineering in the glorious Tantalus Range (Map Ref. 92G/14). Accommodation is in the luxurious A.C.C. Lake Lovely Water cabin with swimming and boating at the door. We will

also be running a mountaineering school for several beginner level participants. This is a self guided camp for club members only, \$325 covers helicopter and hut rental.

For further information, contact Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

## MEMBERSHIP

**New Members** - The club welcomes the following new Associate Members: Emma Bernacly, Lisa Birke, Christopher Blay, Jon Coutts, Nathalie

Froud, Karen Golinski, Quinn Jordan-Knox, John Tai, James Tan, Scott Tebbutt, and Thomas Weigeldt.

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

This summer the BCMC will offer several instruction courses. Most are the same as in the last few years, with the recent addition of Alpine Climbing. The objectives of the courses are to increase members' skill levels, provide shared experi-

ences for participants, and so strengthen the BCMC. The courses 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 courses are skills, safety, self-reliance, and responsibility.

#### Prerequisites:

- \* Current membership in the BCMC (2004) — you may join at the time of application.
- \* Good physical and mental health.
- \* Payment of course fees, which cover only BCMC and instructors 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 courses 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 that are not complete (membership, fees enclosed, forms fully filled out) will be delayed.
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. Course fees usually cover some related materials or equipment, amounting to about 30% of the fees. For Essential Rockclimbing, Mountaineering, Lead Climbing, and Alpine Climbing,

ing, 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 course, and perhaps others, and should have appropriate documents for doing so.
9. Complete a separate form for each course in which you are interested.

#### **Basic Outdoor Toproping**

Basic topropping is aimed at those who have done some indoor gym climbing, and want to move to outside climbing, particularly in Squamish. It, or equivalent, is a prerequisite for Essential Rockclimbing. The course will cover safety, environmental issues, basic equipment, basic climbing skills and techniques, and the elements of topropping. Tying in, belaying, lowering, etc. It will be a **one-day course** (plus one evening). The course will not cover setting up top-rope anchors, rappelling, or belaying from above.

To participate, you must have a sit harness, rock shoes, a belay device (no figure 8s), two locking karabiners (D's or oval), plus one large pear/Münter-biner, and a helmet. Instructors or the BCMC provide other needed equipment. \$40 (full-time students \$30). Limit 12 participants.

**Date:** May 1 or 2 (Evening Apr 29)

Registration: Mail in your completed forms with cheques to:

M. Durigon - BCMC

4127 Cambridge St, Burnaby, BC, V5C 1G8

Organizers:

Paul Miller 604-657-7285 [pjm@proman.argus](mailto:pjm@proman.argus)

Kit Griffin 604-736-8462 [kitgriffin@telus.net](mailto:kitgriffin@telus.net)

#### **Essential Rockclimbing**

Essential Rockclimbing consists of an evening lecture/practice, and a weekend at Squamish. At the end, you should be able to set up and use a simple top-rope, including rappelling, basic anchors, "follow a second" and belay from above. You must provide rock shoes, a sit harness, a helmet, two locking (D's or oval) karabiners, plus one large pear/Münter-biner, 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.

Prerequisite - Basic Outdoor Toproping or equivalent.

\$70 (full-time students \$50). Limit 12 participants.

**Date:** May 15/16 (Evening May 13)

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

Organizers & Registration: see Basic Rockclimbing

### Lead Climbing

This is for those who have solid outdoor top roping skills plus a season's experience. (Participants will be required to organize a basic toprope on the first day.) You must also have experience in overnight mountain travel. The course will include three weekends and several evenings, plus an optional alpine rock climb weekend. Participants may be asked to help with other courses, and are expected to climb regularly together on evenings and free weekends. By the end of the course, 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. Organizer's equipment is also used.

\$100 (full-time students \$80). Limit 6 participants.

**Date:** (Evening Apr 22) Apr 24/25, May 8/9, May 29/30

Organizers & Registration: see Basic Rockclimbing

### Mountaineering

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 course 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.

\$225 (full-time students \$200). Limit 12 participants.

**Dates:** 29 - 30 May, 5 - 6 June, and 12 - 13 June (foul weather fallback 19 - 20 June).

Evenings: May 19, May 27 and June 3. Fees and schedule do not include Essential Rockclimbing.

Organizer: Miles Quesnel 604-592-9464 or mquesnel@uniserve.com

Please contact Miles directly for an application form - e-mail should be titled "Mountaineering Application"

### Alpine Climbing

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.

\$100 (full-time students \$80). Limit 3 participants.

Current plans and dates:

May 29 - 30: Viennese Peak, South Face

June 26 - 27: Yahk Crack

July 17 - 18: Castle Towers, Northwest Face

August 21 - 22: Mt. Weart Northwest Face

September 18 - 19: TBA Destinations and dates may change depending on conditions and weather.

Organizer: Anders Ourom 604-228-1798 or aiourom@telus.net

### **Gear for sale (regretably moving east):**

*North Face Westwind in excellent condition. (5lbs 14 oz) 2-person, 4-season tent. US made. Asking \$450.*

*Sierra Designs Tiros Expedition in excellent condition 2-person, 4-season tent. US made. Asking \$575.*

*Charlet Moser 65 cm ice axe - excellent for mixed ground. Asking \$60.*

*Wild Country insulated super gaiters. Size Medium. Never used. Asking \$60.*

*Kanuk synthetic insulated super booties with knee-highs. Size 9 - 11 Asking \$50.*

*Tua Mega MX 195 cm with Riva ZX cable binding on Voile release kit with G3 dual height heel lift. Hardly used. Asking \$600.*

*Call Brian Gavin at 604-929-0675*

## BCMC NEWS

**New constitution approved at February Monthly social meeting** - The February social meeting overwhelmingly approved of the proposed new constitution and By-laws which had been distributed in the January newsletter.

**A new hut for the BCMC?** - The club's centennial committee is currently planning for the club's centennial in 2007. One possible activity is the construction of a new hut. The committee has reviewed several possible locations and is currently considering 5 - Caspar Ck., un-named tributary of Van Horlick Ck., Battleship Lakes (N Lizzie), N Miller Ck., and Pebble Ck. If you support or oppose any of these or if you have any other suggestions, please contact Dave Scanlon at 604-464-3730.

**New executive position** - The executive at

their February meeting created a new executive position - that of Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. Representative - formalizing the involvement of this person with the executive.

**New sign for club cabins** - The executive wishes to express the club's appreciation to Rick Carlson for very kindly producing excellent wooden signs for our 4 club cabins. This was done without charge but the executive decided to give Rick a small honorarium of \$90.00

**Access to a developing club trip schedule for those who don't have the internet** - The club website on the internet is being used more and more to develop forthcoming club trip schedules. If you cannot access the internet, you can obtain a copy of the developing program at any time, by contacting Emanuele Porra at 604-533-7723.

## NEWS

**B.C. Government steps us its assault on our parks and backcountry areas, part 2.**

**Commercial backcountry recreation tenures (correction) by M. Feller** - The February BCMC newsletter stated that following the continuing granting of commercial motorized backcountry recreation tenures and following the deliberations of the Sea-to-Sky Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum., there was now only one area left in the Squamish Forest District outside Garibaldi Park, where we would be able to escape motorized recreation, and that was the Lizzie Lake area. This is incorrect as this area was recommended to remain open to helicopter access. The only area is 21-Mile Ck. At the head of this valley is Rainbow Mountain which is heliskied and the Gin and Tonic Lakes-Sproat ridge for which there is an application for an expanded commercial snowmobile operation, as well as for commercial heli-snowshoeing.

**More cheery news about our parks and the B.C.**

**government** - The government approved the construction of a logging road through the narrower western section of **Manning Park** to allow logging of the forests near the park. This road recently resulted in an embarrassed club trip! The government has also recently approved logging in **Silver Star Provincial Park** near Vernon, ostensibly to reduce the wildfire threat of almost 600 hectares in the 4,107-hectare park which are affected by mountain pine beetle.

Gwen Barlee, Policy Director for the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WC<sup>2</sup>), stated "This announcement sets a dangerous precedent for the integrity of parks in British Columbia. Once you open the door to large-scale logging in parks, what is next - industrial development, mineral exploration and rolling back of park boundaries?" "What really concerns us is that logging won't reduce the risk of fire".

On Vancouver Island, a press release from WC<sup>2</sup> indicates that the government is paving paradise by allowing logging in **Cathedral Grove** for a new 2 ha parking lot. The press release states - "Log-

gers in Cathedral Grove began work today to log some of the world famous giant trees that make MacMillan Park one of the most visited parks in B.C. Critical elk habitat along the Cameron River will also be cleared to make room for a 5-acre parking lot for 150 plus cars and 20 buses and RV's. In a surprising turn of events the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has rejected the call for a public review of the proposed plans and is moving ahead today to log the Park.

"Concerns started to grow as calls for a public review began to reveal that information was being withheld from the public," commented Annette Tanner, spokesperson for WC<sup>2</sup>, "The number of giant trees to be logged has jumped from 3 up to possibly 18. A recent tour of the Park revealed that one of the large giants with 'do not cut' ribbon around it would be the first to go," Tanner added.

Calls for a public review have also revealed that one third of the Park, the "Oldgrowth Trail" going to Cameron Lake, and the entire west side of the park will be closed. Concrete barriers will be installed along the shoulders of the highway through the park to prevent cars from stopping. Visitors to the park will be directed to the metered parking lot 1.5 km away from the old parking lot. Access to the parking lot will require a dangerous left turn to enter the lot, as well as another left turn back onto the highway to continue driving west."

The **South Chilcotin Mountains park** has now been removed from government documents, and has been shown by the government as an area open to mining. Another press release from WC<sup>2</sup> states -

"A map shown by a Deputy Minister of the Sustainable Resource Management Ministry, Jon O'Riordan, at a recent mining conference in Vancouver has some conservationists questioning the real intent of a recent accord signed by the mining industry promising to keep mining outside of BC's parks and protected areas. Joe Foy, Western Canada Wilderness Committee Campaign Director, first learned of the troubling map presentation last week. "I immediately

phoned up Mr. O'Riordan and asked him if it was true that his recent talk to the BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines "Round Up" conference included presenting a government map that showed the South Chilcotin Mountains Protected Area open for mineral exploration and mining," said Foy. O'Riordan confirmed that the map was used at the conference and that on it the South Chilcotin Mountains Protected Area is shown as open for mineral exploration and mining, running contrary to a 2001 Order in Council that established the South Chilcotin Mountains Protected Area as equivalent to a Class A Provincial Park.

The Deputy Minister went on to state to Foy that while the South Chilcotin Mountains are currently closed to mineral exploration and mining they *could be opened up to mining activities if the new Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, the Honorable George Abbott decides to roll back its boundaries.*"

For those wishing to more fully understand what the present B.C. government is doing, visit the website [www.bcfacts.org](http://www.bcfacts.org), which has been put together by 9 different B.C. environmental organizations, including WC<sup>2</sup>, and West Coast Environmental Law Association. This website is stated as providing factual information on what the government is doing as well as providing the government's spin, so that visitors can judge for themselves.

**Mt. Baker area recreation use regulations**-Club members are reminded of the following:

1. In 1984, the Washington State Wilderness Act created the Mt. Baker Wilderness. An estimated 5,000 climbers attempt to summit in an average year and thousands of day hikers and backpackers enjoy the trails and dispersed campsites around the mountain. The popularity of the mountain is leading to resource impacts on its slopes.
2. A 12 person limit applies to all camping and mountaineering activities in the Mt. Baker Wil-

derness Area. Mt. Shuksan via the Fisher Chimneys, Ruth Mountain and Lake Ann are accessed by, or are within, the Mt. Baker Wilderness area and as a consequence, the 12-person party size regulation applies.

3. Opportunity does exist on the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area located on the south side of Mt. Baker for visits from large groups of up to 75 .

## EQUIPMENT/GEAR NOTES

**Plastic water bottles** - Most mountaineers use plastic water bottles on trips and today we have many choices over the type of water bottle to use, in terms of size, colour, and type of plastic. Recent studies, described in the November/December, 2003, issue of Sierra, the magazine of the Sierra Club, suggest that polycarbonate bottles (labelled no. 7 on the bottom) can leak bisphenol-A (BPA), a chemical that mimics the hormone - estrogen, and has been found to be an endocrine disrupter - a chemical which can impair the reproductive organs of rats and mice, reduce sperm counts in rats, and bring about changes in tissue that resemble early-stage breast cancer, among other effects. Eggs and embryos are particularly sensitive to endocrine disrupters.

The amount of BPA leached from polycarbonate bottles increases as the plastic ages and is degraded by use. Even new polycarbonate plastic

has been found to leach BPA, however.

People most at risk from BPA are people with developing endocrine systems - pregnant women and babies, followed by young children and women who might get pregnant.

So what is the best plastic for a water bottle? "Single use" plastic bottles made from polyethylene terephthalate (#1 PET) may break down and release the suspected carcinogen DEHA, so they are not recommended. However, polypropylene (#5 PP) and the polyethylenes (#2 HDPE and #4 LDPE) are currently considered not to leach any undesirable chemicals, and are the recommended plastics.

Further information can be obtained from [www.thegreenguide.com](http://www.thegreenguide.com) under "plastics for kitchen use".

## ACCESS NOTES

### To access the backcountry using the Whistler-Blackcomb ski lifts

Whistler-Blackcomb offers a Backcountry Access Pass which provides a single lift ride. Passes

may be purchased (\$32.10) by signing in at a Guest Relations Counter (Oh the euphemisms!), which are open between 8 and 9 am, showing appropriate gear (transceiver, shovel, probe), and filling out a route card showing the intended trip.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Mountain Lake Cabin Revisited

#### 1. 2-4 August, 2003

My pet project for this year - 5-6 trips, but I don't know as I've lost count. The schedule read B-2. Why - I don't know. I should have put in A-1 and may have had more calls. Anyway, my plan was to have lots of people come and everyone carry a bit

of lumber, hardware, paint for the cabin. Maybe that's why 17 people called and only 4 came. No-no-no. Only joking.

Anyway, Donna Bailie, Tracy Leach, Kevin Swanson, and Peter Gumplinger came. My slaves - er - porters - er - fellow hikers. Thanks. We carried some 2x4's, 1x3's plywood, 8 litres of paint, and some hardware.

We got away and found to our pleasant surprise that someone had cleared part of the trail. Yahoo! We followed the deactivated logging road to its end and then headed about 150 to 200 metres up into the old growth forest: We followed the ridge up until we came to a break in the buttress that we were looking for. A steep ramp down into a basin leading down - over - then up to the outflow of Wind Lake. This route saves distance and elevation. It also gave us a view of a ramp leading almost back to the deactivated logging road. Looking much shorter again than this route.

Wind Lake - Bingham Lake - Mountain Lake. Beautiful gems in B.C.'s alpine mountain lake hut area - absolute gems. There is no doubt as to why our past BCMC members built a cabin here. North from the cabin's windows, Sky Pilot and Ledge reach out to the sky. And your imagination and aspirations run rampant. High alpine tarns, late leaving snow, rock ridges ripped and scarred by the last ice age, leaving cracks and ridges to try your sticky shoes on. All for fun of course.

Looking north and down is Utopia Lake and its large dam, built when Britannia Mines was the second largest in the British Empire. History galore up the Britannia Creek area. There are numerous bits and pieces of steel all about the area - shovel heads, picks, wheelbarrows, steel rails for the mine cars. What would the area be without an actual mine shaft? Of course there is one, as well as the dam at Mountain Lake itself.

We arrived at the cabin. We painted, built, hammered, nailed, and screwed things together. Kevin did yeoman work. Lots of painting. Donna too.

On Sunday, Donna, Tracy, and Kevin went to play on Mt. Sheer with Kevin summiting. Peter and I went over to and up Sky Pilot Mtn. - 4 hours over and 3 1/4 hours return.

Monday saw us leaving. At the outflow of Wind Lake we looked at that oh so inviting ramp on the ridge side - so tempting. Would it go? It did! A short 150 or so metres and onto the deactivated logging road. The new route in. (I came back on

another trip and brushed it out and marked it).

Thanks to my slaves - oops - fellow BCMCers for their help. Donna Bailie, Keven Swanson, Tracy Leach, and Peter Gumplinger. David Scanlon (organizer and reporter).

## 2. 27-28 September, 2003 - version 1

I'd always wanted to check out the Mountain Lake Cabin so when Dave Scanlon put a trail clearing trip to the hut on the calendar I decided that I could ease some trail clearing guilt, check out the hut, and drag Mark along with me as it's a relatively short hike.

We parked about 10km up Furry Creek and continued hiking along the deactivated logging road. After about half an hour, we turned left onto an old, VERY deactivated logging road. After another half hour of scrambling over logs and through mud, the trail opens up a bit and you come to a bend before you begin to traverse an open hill side. We continued following the road for about another 30 minutes or so then plunged into the brush along the newly cleared (well its getting there anyway) trail which works its way up and across a steep forested slope. After another 20 minutes or so we broke out into a boulder field flanked by massive cliff faces (that looked like they'd be a lot of fun to climb I might add!). Beautiful views of Howe Sound can be seen from here. The trail was easy to follow except for one tricky bit through a small treed area just before emerging at the outflow of Windy Lake.

The rest of the trail was an enjoyable hike through heather meadows & alpine lakes with views of Mt. Sheer, Sky Pilot and Howe Sound if you go looking for it. After about 50 minutes, we found the Mountain Lake Hut.

After a short rest at the hut, most of us decided to pay Mt. Sheer a visit before dinner. We hiked down to the creek which is the water supply, crossed over, past the old mining shaft and made our way to the base of the scree slope before heading up. At the top of the scree, we veered left, past

a couple of big boulders, along gently rolling heather slopes and then up again. It's a fairly easy scramble to the top although there is one exposed section around the East side and then one vertical section just before the summit. It took an hour from the hut to the summit.

Views from the top include Howe Sound, Sky Pilot, Co-pilot, Mt. Garibaldi, Ben Lomond, and the Lions. We signed the summit register and hung out for about half an hour before heading back down.

I made dinner while watching a beautiful sunset. The thin clouds burned orange like a neon sign as the sun sank behind the mountains of the sunshine coast. We kept waiting for it to cool off but were surprised to find that it stayed pretty warm. The stars came out one by one and I watched Mars climb along the East ridge. Most of us slept in the hut. Peter and Elana chose to sleep under the stars, which in hindsight might have been a better choice as it was too hot in the hut.

There was much talk of getting up and climbing up the ridge to watch the sunrise, but at 8 we were all still in bed. After a leisurely breakfast, Mark and I started packing up as I was planning to climb Ben Lomond on the way out.

We stopped at a lake where I left Mark and my pack. Dave had told me to go up the ridge and follow it along so I started hiking up. I soon found myself part way up a steep rock face and decided that this probably wasn't wise given the fact that I was alone, so I downclimbed and fought my way up the side through thick brush. Emerging from the bushes at the top I could see a much easier route just to my left. I continued climbing up the rocky ridge, stopping at the high point to take some pictures. From here I could see that I was a LONG way from Ben Lomond. It was unlikely that I would make it in the time I had allowed myself.

I decided to go as far as I could anyway and started downclimbing from the ridge to the gully. When I got down I decided to explore a little to see if there might be an easier way back. It looked like

I could hike right down to Wind Lake and unless there were some impassible cliffs, I didn't see any reason why I couldn't get back from there and avoid climbing back up the ridge. The more I looked, the more likely this seemed. Since I wasn't going to make it to Ben Lomond anyway, I decided to just go on a bit further and then turn to explore a new route back. I enjoyed scrambling along the big slabs of rock and boulders as I continued on towards Ben Lomond. There were cairns marking the way now, so I followed them until the trail started to dip down. I spent a few minutes enjoying the view and scoping out Ben Lomond before turning back.

When you take off to climb a mountain by yourself and tell someone you love you will be back at a certain time, you better be back by that time or sooner, so I was feeling a little anxious as I headed down towards Wind Lake. I hoped that I would have enough time to climb back up the ridge and go back the way I had come if this route didn't work out. My worries started to melt away as I realized that the cairns I had found were actually leading back towards the lake where I had left Mark. I bypassed the ridge completely and it was a very easy hike out. I was back in no time at all. I'm glad I did the ridge though. The views were wonderful and it was a fun climb.

I went for a very quick dip in the icy cold lake since I was covered in evidence of my earlier bushwhacking escapades. We ate lunch perched on a rocky ledge at the edge of the lake, basking in the sunshine. It was such a beautiful day. We left the lake after lunch and began our descent. It was really hot on the way down and I ran out of water but it only took about 2.5 hours to get down. Of course the last 30 minutes along the logging road felt more like an hour but it always does, doesn't it?

Reporter – Julia Borchardt

### **3. 27-28 September, 2003 - version 2**

Eleven of us departed from the North Van church about 7 am on Saturday. Seven of us carried loppers and digging tools to work on the trail. Four were in for a day hike to the cabin. We 17

went on up the deactivated logging road to its end. Then we started our pruning and digging for the new trail I'd roughed out earlier in the summer. We finished up and carried on to the cabin, meeting the 4 others en route. They helped out by carrying out our tools. The weather was hot and clear. We lazed around for awhile then 5 of us went on up Mt. Sheer for a short hike. It was a warm clear night with a million stars.

The next morning Mary and I finished the painting while Peter tinkered about and made a latch for the new upper shutter. Donna and Elana went for a walk. Julia and Mark packed up and headed for Ben Lomond. Their plan was to leave their packs and then pick them up on the way out. It was quite warm again (31°C in Squamish). We lazed about quite a bit before packing up to leave.

We all took out a little bit of garbage. I was so pleased when we arrived on Saturday to find how clean the cabin was. Others had swept out the cabin from top to bottom. It looked great! It seems the work has paid off big time. Others are now cleaning up the place.



Rejuvenated Mountain Lake cabin. Photos - Julia Borchardt.

The new summer route is.....from parking on the Furry Creek main line at Cyrtina Creek (no bridge). Follow the deactivated road straight ahead east about 2 km, (ignoring a left branching road) then turn left following trail and ribbons to near the road's end. At the cairn and tapes, turn left on the new trail following tapes and cairns. About 300 m past Wind Lake go left - west. Caution!!! Take note of this turn so as to not miss it on the return trip. a cairned route goes east to Ben Lomond from here.

So.....it's done! Finally! - 6 trips for me. 5 for Donna - 3 for Peter. 2 club trips involving 12 victims - oops - er- fellow hikers carrying up paint, primer, lumber, plywood, and hardware. Working on trail. Much painting by Mary and Kevin.

Go. Enjoy.

Thanks to Donna Bailie, Elana Prchalova, Julia and Mark Borchardt, Mary Tainsh, Peter Woodsworth, and David Scanlon (Organizer and reporter).

