

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



MAY, 2004

VOL. 82, NO. 5

Spring on Garibaldi Lake

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, 11 May - Entertainment will be a slide show by Monika Bittel et al. on scrambling on Baffin Island.

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



Mt. Odin, Baffin Island. Photo - E. Feller



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

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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

May 8: Mt. Rideout (ski) Skiing and climbing south of Hope.	C4/2445 m	Irek Jasiak	604-930-8541
May 8: Crown Mtn. area (hike) Extended hiking and scrambling in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.	C2-3	John Sapac	604-873-6740
May 8-9: Place Glacier area (ski) Skiing east of Pemberton off the Duffey Lake road.	B-C3	Ed Zenger	604-434-3095
May 22-24: Mts. Adams and St. Helens (ski) Extended volcano skiing in southern Washington.	C3/3742 m	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
May 29: Mt. Baker (ski) Extended skiing in northern Washington.	C-D3/3285 m	Irek Jasiak	604-930-8541
June 5: Eaton Pk. (hike) Scrambling to the north summit in the Chilliwack valley area.	C3/2117 m	Lesli Cowan	604-321-9955
June 5-6: 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 12: Rainy Mtn. (hike) Hiking in the Tetrahedron area on the Sechelt Peninsula.	C2/	John Sapac	604-873-6740

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 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.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members - The club welcomes the following new Associate Members: Nancy Baxter, Marie-Belle Bulmer, Martin Ebadi, Dawn Purdy

Karkut, Barb Kornatowsky, Wencong Liang, Beth Macpherson, Eric Paton, Robert Smith, Klaus Tetzlaff, Jon Vereschagin, Yali Wei, Karim Winsor, and Kim Worbeck.

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 experiences 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, 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 top roping 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 top roping. 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/Münterbiner, 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

Kit Griffin 604-736-8462 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/Münterbiner, 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. **THIS COURSE IS FULL.**

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 top rope 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 27, June 3, and June 10. Fees and schedule do not include Essential

Rockclimbing.

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

THIS COURSE IS FULL.

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

KMC Climbing camp

Interested in this year's summer Kootenay Mountaineering camp? - 24 July - 1 August.

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club's (<http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca>) 2004 Climbing Camp will be located at the head of Granite Creek under the north faces of Mounts Lees and Clutterbuck in the heart of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. Climbing opportunities range from class 3 scrambles to difficult technical rock routes on fine granite. Peaks within day trip range from camp include Mt Clutterbuck, Mt Lees, Midge Peak, and Mount Findlay (highest peak in the Purcells south of Toby). Peaks accessible via an advanced high camp are: Morigeau, Mt Rowand, and Trikootenay Peak (hydrographic apex of the Purcells).

Map: 82 K/1 (Findlay Creek) (1:50,000)

It is a 2-day walk into camp, and air support is verboten in the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, so we will be using packhorses to carry our gear. Packhorse costs are dependent on the number of participants, but are expected to be between \$250 and \$350. This camp will be a very casual affair with only packhorse logistics provided; participants are expected to look after themselves during the camp.

KMC membership is encouraged, but not mandatory.

For more information, contact Doug Brown at toquepub@shaw.ca.

NEWS

Success and death on Mt. Everest -

Stimulated by the excellent show on Mt. Everest by Robin Walshaw at the club's February Social meeting, you might be interested in a recent analysis of Everest climbing expedition statistics, conducted by Raymond Huey and Richard Salisbury.

Route popularity - From 1953 to 1980, the percentage of climbers attempting Everest in spring declined from 100% down to around 30%, but since 1980, this percentage has increased back to around 90% with the remainder mostly going in autumn. Since the early 1990's the North Col route has

overtaken the South Col route in popularity in spring, but the South Col route still remains the most popular in autumn.

Success rates - Route and season popularity may be partly a response to success rates. Success rates have averaged around 25% of climbers in spring, but have been much lower in autumn, particularly for the North Col approach (1%). In general, success rates have been higher for the South Col than for the North Col approach, but only marginally so in spring.

Death rates - Death rates have averaged 1-2% of all climbers and have varied little by route or season.

Thus, recent history suggests that the South Col route in spring offers the greatest chance of success, with no greater likelihood of fatality than alternative approaches or seasons.

The full report, entitled "Success and death on Mt. Everest", is available on the website of the American Alpine Club (American Alpine Journal page on www.americanalpineclub.org).

Silverdaisy logging near Manning Park is in a Spotted Owl Conservation Area

According to a recent press release from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, the logging occurring in the Silverdaisy area adjacent to Manning Park, is actually within a government-designated Spotted Owl Conservation Area. According to the press release -

"The Northern spotted owl is considered to be one of the most endangered species in Canada. The chief cause of its drastic decline in numbers to an estimated less than 25 breeding pairs is the ongoing BC government approved logging of its oldgrowth forest habitat in southwest mainland BC - the only place in Canada where the owl is known to occur.

The area being logged is part of the five kilometre wide by ten kilometre long **Silver Daisy Area** that had been left out of the Skagit Valley Park due to mineral claims in the area when the park was designated in the mid nineties.

Everyone in government at the time felt that the mining company should be allowed to explore their claim for minerals - but if they failed to develop a mine in ten years or so, then the area should revert to parkland. No one thought that a future provincial government would be so foolish as to allow it to be logged, because the area is completely surrounded by parklands and is a government designated Spotted Owl Conservation Area. In fact, the BC government has done more than "allow" the area to be logged. The BC government, through its Timber Sales

Program, actually planned out the clearcuts and road locations and then put the Manning/Skagit spotted owl habitat out to the highest logging company bidder.

According to Joe Foy of WC² - "It looks a bit like a tag-team operation. First the mining industry gets the area free from park protection, claiming they need to explore for minerals, then the provincial government hands out the logging rights. That's exactly what mining and logging industry are trying to do in the South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park right now. The end result is catastrophic for parks and wildlife."

Last week, in a submission to Federal Environment Minister David Anderson, environment groups David Suzuki Foundation, ForestEthics, Sierra Club of Canada and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee called on the Minister to immediately ask his cabinet colleagues to issue an emergency order under the Species At Risk Act (SARA) to protect the habitat of Canada's spotted owl. The groups pointed out that the Province of BC is actually the biggest logger of spotted owl habitat through their Timber Sales Program."

Government recently opens up B.C. Parks to logging as well.

Just when we thought things could get no worse for B.C. provincial parks, the B.C. government, in early April, decided that they would help to pay for parks by logging them.

During an "Open Cabinet Meeting" on 5 April, available online at <http://www.prov.gov.bc.ca/prem/popt/cabinet/>, Premier Gordon Campbell and the Cabinet agreed that they would raise revenues for BC parks by commercially logging them. Under the guise of controlling pine beetles and preventing forest fires, the government asserted that forest health in our parks would be maintained by logging them. This contradicts the government's New Era promise which states they would "Ensure our parks are safe from mining and logging".

It also came a day after a leak in the Legislature by Independent Liberal Paul Nettleton of a memo by MLA Dave Chutter (Yale-Lillooet), who is

proposing to establish a 'parks improvement fund' by allowing mining in parks, such as "Windy

Craggy" in Tatshenshini Provincial Park.

TRIP REPORTS

Needle Pk., 11 January, 2004

Well, this was my first ski trip in a couple of years, and it seems much has changed. Many folks are more comfortable with computers than telephones, as for many this is the preferred way of "signing on" to a trip, and showing up at the meeting place (or not). Those unknown to the leader could submit photos to attest to their ski ability. It was also learned that the Tim Horton's under the BIG FLAG in Sardis is now de rigueur!

Most of us convened at the Boundary Road Wendy's for 6:30 am including yours truly by taxi since electing to become a one-car family. We pooled up and collected David Scanlon (plus caffeine and carbs) at the aforementioned Tim Horton's, and then on to the Zopkios Rest area where we met the Kamloops contingent. There was some considerable rain for part of the drive to Hope, but it eased off, leaving us with just low cloud.

Needle Peak has apparently become quite popular. An ACC trip under disguise as a North Shore Hiker outing was met, and there were several other small and unaffiliated parties. It was likely that there were 30 - 40 persons out to ski here today! Modern ski equipment has changed the ascent technique, with younger and more energetic trail breakers not aligned with the merits of the 10% gradient approach.

The Kamloops group and some others dashed ahead while I elected to keep a skier with wide skis and skinny skins company. We endured a brief snow squall as we ascended through the trees; the squall easing almost in concert with the slope as we came out of the trees and onto the ridge. After a brief pause (briefest for those at the rear), Ernie kindly offered some relief by carrying the first aid gear for me. We went on to a lunch spot just short of the col. Virtually the entire group was primarily motivated to ski, and not

attempt the summit. About this time the weather began to behave in accordance with the forecast. The clouds lifted and parted to reveal wonderful views of the Anderson River area, as well as those peaks closer at hand.

Andy and Andres went on to the peak SW of the col - the one adorned with the Telus repeater. All of the others took to skiing the bowl to the east side of the ridge. This was a first for me, and there were some absolutely divine turns to be made! The yo-yo-ing was determined by ones' fitness level, so my ascents were limited, but the turns were a wonderful reminder, and a lure for the future.

About 2:30 we paired up or otherwise skied in groups for the descent. The ridge was very pleasant, but as it steepened to drop into the trees, the effects of the warmer air became apparent and the snow became increasingly heavy. Close encounters with branches left one feeling as if splashed by a bus. And finally, in the open forest below, the skiing was down right tricky for all. Ernie resorted to some walking. However, we all arrived safely at the cars by 4:30 - 4:45.

Some reorganizing was necessary to accommodate those who preferred to return directly to the city, and those who would opt for a social outing at the excellent pub near the Tim Horton's - prime rib dinner for \$5.95 on Sunday evening. A beer was nearly as much! Thanks to all for the renewed acquaintances, and for the fun!!

Participants: Locals - Rafael Tsen, Andy Traslyn, David Scanlon, Andres Jarzabek, Marina, Ryan and Laura;
Kamloops gang - Phil Whitfield, Ernie Carson, Fred Thiessen and Emily;
Out-of-town visitor - Erin Schneider;
Organizer/reporter - Brian Gavin.