

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



JANUARY, 2005

VOL. 83, NO. 1

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 January - This social meeting will feature a presentation on avalanches and backcountry safety, by Colin Zacharias.

Tuesday, 8 February - Entertainment will be a presentation by Michael Koehle on high altitude medicine, and Himalayan rescue.

Winter in the Lizzie Ck. area



Slab avalanche in Kokanee park.



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

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| PRESIDENT - | KIT GRIFFIN | 604-736-8462 | CABIN / TRAILS - | DAVID SCANLON | 604-572-5051 |
| PAST-PRESIDENT - | DAVE HUGHES | 604-980-6484 | | PETER WOODSWORTH | 604-254-7076 |
| VICE-PRESIDENT - | MONIKA BITTEL | 604-983-3097 | CONSERVATION - | MONIKA BITTEL | 604-983-3097 |
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| | DERRICK JOHNSTONE | 604-505-6250 | SAFETY EQUIPMENT - | KIT GRIFFIN | 604-736-8462 |
| CLIMBING - | JOS VAN DER BURG | 604-463-7582 | LIBRARY - | JOAN FORD | 604-876-4255 |
| | EMANUELE PORRA | 604-533-7723 | | | |

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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. Please note that images should be at least 60 pixels/cm (150 pixels/inch) for successful printing. Images with a lesser resolution will probably not be printed. 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.

All trips are ski trips, unless otherwise indicated

ORGANIZER

| | | | |
|---|-------------|---------------------|--------------|
| January 2: Frosty Mtn. Skiing in Manning park. | B-C3/2426 m | Robert Gordon | 604-873-5364 |
| January 2: Decker Glacier Skiing in the Spearheads above Whistler, using the Blackcomb lifts. | B2 | Tony Knight | 604-873-2276 |
| January 8-9: Brew Hut (snowshoe) In the Cheakamus valley, ascending via the Railway trail. | B2 | Justin Bennett | 604-813-4666 |
| January 9: Needle Pk. Yet more skiing in the Coquihalla area. | B2-3/2092 m | Monika Bittel | 604-983-3097 |
| January 9: Cayoosh area Skiing off the Duffey Lake road, east of Pemberton. | B2-3 | Randy Enomoto | 604-224-6184 |
| January 15: Mt. Windsor-Deeks Pk. (snowshoe) Snowshoeing above Howe Sound. Joint trip with the ACC. | C2-3/1689 m | Julien Henley | 604-990-9224 |
| January 15: Coquihalla area Contact the organizer for further details about this ski trip. | B3 | Ian McGillivray | 604-988-3618 |
| January 15: Diamond Head area Easy skiing in SW Garibaldi park. | B2 | Peter Oostlander | 604-451-4585 |
| January 15: Cypress park (snowshoe) Easy snowshoeing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains. Joint trip with NSH. | B2 | John Sapac | 604-873-6740 |
| January 15-16: Caspar Ck. area Skiing off the Duffey Lake road. | B2-3 | Greg Hamilton | 604-949-0770 |
| January 16: Musical bumps Skiing above Fitzsimmons Ck. beyond the Whistler ski area. | B2-3 | Helen Habgood | 604-984-6842 |
| January 22: Crown Mtn. (snowshoe) Snowshoeing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains. | B3/1504 m | Emanuele Porra | 604-533-7723 |
| January 22: Dinky Pk. - Mt. Seymour area Ski practice day in Vancouver's North Shore mountains. | B2-3 | Justin Bennett | 604-813-4666 |
| January 22: Needle Pk. Skiing in the Coquihalla area, suitable for snowboards. | B3/2092 m | Paul Morton | 604-874-7372 |
| January 22-23: Saxifrage Mtn. Skiing east of Pemberton. | B3/2501 m | Dave Scanlon | 604-572-5051 |
| January 29-30: Cayoosh Ck. area Skiing off the Duffey Lake road. | B2-3 | Arnie Wilson | 604-222-3713 |
| February 5: Whistler-Blackcomb area Skiing near a well known ski resort. | B2-3 | Ilze Rupners | 604-222-3720 |
| February 5-6: Knight Pk. Skiing and snowshoeing in the Chilliwack valley area. | B3/2237 m | Justin Bennett | 604-813-4666 |
| February 5-6: Caspar Pk. Skiing off the Duffey Lake road. | C3/2402 m | Greg Stoltmann | 604-926-6496 |
| February 6: Mt. Sproatt Skiing opposite Whistler in the Cheakamus valley. | B3/1834 m | Monika Bittel | 604-983-3097 |
| February 6: Mt. Seymour Skiing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains, with another run up John Clarke's variation. | B2-3/1449 m | Blair Mitten | 604-922-0470 |
| February 12: Hollyburn Mtn. (snowshoe) Skiing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains. | A2/1326 m | Kim and Paul Talbot | 604-222-9227 |
| February 12: Dinky Pk. - Mt. Seymour area Another practice day in Vancouver's North Shore mountains, suitable for anyone going on the Spearhead Traverse. | B2-3 | Justin Bennett | 604-813-4666 |

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|
| February 12: Mt. Crickmer (ski/snowshoe) B2/1340 m | Reinhard Fabische | 604-462-9638 |
| Skiing or snowshoeing in the lower Fraser valley. | | |
| February 12-13: Snass Mtn. B-C3/2310 m | Jos van der Burg | 604-463-7582 |
| Skiing at the edge of Manning Park. | | |

MEMBERSHIP

New Members - The club welcomes the following new Associate Members: Bruce

Cassels, Johanne Cordeau, Gwil Roberts, Abraham van Poortvliet, Johnson Yang.

COURSES

Introduction to Winter Camping

This course involves one evening seminar (10 January) and one weekend of practice (22-23 January) in the Mt. Seymour area. Mode of travel is snowshoe only. It will be run jointly with the ACC.

If interested contact Peter Woodsworth (604-254-7076) for further information.

Introduction to Winter Ski Mountaineering

Program Objectives: To develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence required to safely participate in overnight backcountry ski trips. The program will include 1 evening seminar and 2 weekends spent on overnight ski trips in the mountains. The seminar will be held on the evening of January 25 and the ski trips will run on the weekends of February 5-6 and 12-13.

Program Topics: Clothing and equipment, trip planning, winter camping, route and snowpack evaluation, avalanche awareness, transceiver use and self-rescue, winter mountain travel and weather evaluation.

This program does not cover glacier travel or first aid.

Cost for the program is \$150.

For whom: Strong downhill skiers with previous summer or winter backcountry camping

experience, and/or experienced backcountry skiers who want to gain experience on overnight winter trips.

Prerequisites: Open to all BCBC members (new and current) in good physical health and fitness who are able to confidently ski "blue" (intermediate) runs with an overnight (15kg) pack.

Note that this is not a program on how to ski - the program group will be relying on you to be at least a confident intermediate skier!

Equipment Required: Backcountry ski equipment (skis, boots poles & skins), shovel, avalanche transceiver, and overnight camping gear. Group gear such as tents and stoves will be organized at the pre-trip evening seminar.

To book one of the twelve available spots, please call Todd Ponzini at 604-340-9653.

Wilderness First Aid

The club has again arranged a wilderness first aid course to be given by St. John Ambulance of the North Shore.

The course consists of one evening seminar (Thursday, 20 January), including CPR and two days of outdoor classes (22-23 January weekend).

Cost will be no more than \$188 + GST and may be reduced if more people take part.

Contact David Hughes (604-980-6484) for further information.

SUMMER CAMPS

8th Annual Lake Lovely Water Summer Camp - 9-17 July, 2005

Eight days of mountaineering in the glorious Tantalus Range (1:50,000 mapsheet 92 G/14). Accommodation is in the luxurious A.A.C. cabin with swimming and boating at the door. We will

also be running a mountaineering school for several entry level participants.

This is a self guided camp for club members; \$375. (+/-) covers chopper and hut rental.

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

Interested in organizing a camp?

If you are leading a camp, could you let Peter Woodsworth (604-254-7076) know so that we can co-ordinate dates to maximize membership choice. If you are considering a camp, feel free to ask for assistance.

REPORTS FROM THE 2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Further reports from the November, 2004 Annual General Meeting, including the correct Past President's report, are printed below.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT— by David Hughes

It has been my pleasure to again serve with an Executive that has worked diligently and shown good comradeship. Our key measure of success is member participation. Again, the Club has been able to offer a good selection of Courses, Winter and summer trips, and Summer climbing camps.

To keep up this success, we need organizers and participants. We particularly need more leaders for weekend and multi-day ski mountaineering trips. It has become more difficult to access several of our traditional areas for backcountry skiing due to forest road closures. A good case in point is our North Creek Cabin, our best cabin. North Creek is a wonderful backcountry ski area with 5 valleys that connect to North Creek close to the cabin site. We need to visit our cabins more. The existence of our cabins has helped our efforts to obtain non-motorized status for the cabin areas at the various land use planning forums.

The Club's Centennial Committee headed up by Dave Scanlon has made good progress in identifying programs and initiatives for our centennial year – 2007. One of these initiatives is to build another cabin in an area that has good backcountry skiing. We believe we have a potential site that will provide good skiing and will help to preserve another valley for non-motorized recreational skiing.

This past summer, I was able to organize a climbing camp to the Upper Tellot Glacier in the Mt. Waddington region. It is a great climbing area with easy access from the Plummer Hut. The club has not had a camp or work party here in more than two decades. Thanks to David Scanlon and

One interesting idea that has come up was a family camp based at the Mountain Lake Cabin; easy approach, moderate terrain, swimming and generally great for kids. Any one like to pick up on this?

Peter Woodsworth who spent countless hours designing and building a new outhouse for the Plummer Hut. By the way, the outhouse is no ordinary biffy. In addition to Dave and Peter's work repairing the Plummer Hut and building the new outhouse, the Club would like to acknowledge the efforts of Marcus Dell, Paul Morton, Theo Mosterman, Norbert Eckert, Isabel Budke and myself who joined Peter and Dave in giving up a day or more of their holidays to work on the outhouse and the cabin. White Saddle Air and Blackcomb Helicopters also contributed to our project by donating helicopter time for flying in materials.

It is worth mentioning again our efforts to improve our communication and record our history through the website, newsletter, library and archives initiatives. Tonight you can obtain a copy of our 2004 B.C. Mountaineer. The quality and size of our Mountaineer gets better with every edition. Thank you Mike Feller. Most of the website objectives I presented to you in my President's Report of 2002 are within our grasp because of Kevin Swanson's hard work. The committee chairs of Climbing (Jos and Emanuele) and Membership (Julia and Steve) are now using the website as an integral part of their service delivery. You can use our website to take better advantage of your membership.

Thanks for your help and participation.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - by Monika Bittel

I echo the comments of Kit Griffin and David Hughes in expressing thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of all members who have contributed their time, skills and talents to the BCMC over the past year.

The BCMC Constitution and Bylaws were amended at the Special Meeting held on September 14, 2004. The special resolution,

amending the Constitution and Bylaws, (which was filed with the Registrar of Companies on November 15, 2004) is now effective.

Over the coming year, a number of members will be focusing their efforts on projects for the BCMC Centennial year, 2007, which is just around the corner, including raising funds for the Centennial year. One idea is to put together a calendar for 2006 and for 2007. The calendars will highlight some of the Club's history by using some of the archival photographs. The calendars will also feature some superb photographs from current Club members. There are three of us currently working on the calendar project – Alice Purdey, Julia Borchardt and myself. In the new year we will provide details on how to submit photographs for the calendars. Please contact Monika Bittel or a member of the executive if you are interested in being involved in the calendar project, or other Centennial projects.

CLIMBING REPORT - by Jos van der Burg

and Emanuele Porra

Firstly off we would like to thank all the volunteers who helped organize trips for the club in 2004. Without you the club would not exist. Secondly, a

special thanks to our phone volunteers who had the thankless job of having to make many calls, sometimes more than twice to the same person, to collect the trips - Alastair Brown, Cathy Choinicki, Michael Fuhrmann, Rhys Gibb, Peter Gumplinger, Larry Kost, Michael McCrae, Peter Oostlander, Jack Pals, Alice Purdey, Todd Podzini, Karim Winsor, Winifred Swatschek, and Brian Wood. Without their help, putting together the trip schedule would be an almost impossible task. A few numbers stand out in the statistics for 2004. We had a better winter/spring schedule than summer/fall despite having a great summer. Day trips had a 65 % chance of going compared to roughly 50% for the weekend trips. Again, despite the great summer, the percentage of trips going did not improve for the summer/fall schedule. In both cases, day trips were more popular than weekend trips, which might be due to more day trips going than weekend trips. Non members on average represented approximately 23% of all participants.

The club had one spring ski camp, which was negatively affected by weather and snow conditions. Three successful summer camps were held which benefited greatly from the good summer weather.

| Number of trips | | | Participants | | Success/Outcome | |
|---|-----------|-------|--------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Went | Cancelled | Total | Member | Non-mbr | Reached Objective | Changed/Failed to reach objective |
| Winter/Spring | | | | | | |
| Day Trips | | | | | | |
| 31 | 13 | 44 | 186 | 69 | 22 | 9 |
| Reason for cancelled trips – weather (2), personal (7), no interest (3) | | | | | | |
| Weekend trips | | | | | | |
| 21 | 23 | 44 | 136 | 25 | 14 | 7 |
| Reason for cancelled trips – weather (4), personal (10), no interest (9) | | | | | | |
| Ski camps | | | | | | |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Summer/Fall | | | | | | |
| Day trips | | | | | | |
| 22 | 8 | 30 | 129 | 70 | 16 | 2 |
| Reason for cancelled trips – weather (4), personal (4) | | | | | | |
| Weekend trips | | | | | | |
| 18 | 18 | 36 | 113 | 22 | 14 | 4 |
| Reason for cancelled trips - weather (7), personal (5), no interest (2), access problems (2), no transport (1). | | | | | | |
| Climbing Camps | | | | | | |
| 3 | 0 | 3 | 29 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

CONSERVATION REPORT – by Monika Bittel

The BCMC Recreation and Conservation Committee (“Rec & Con Committee”) operates primarily through the Recreation and Conservation Committee of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. (“FMCBC”), which is recognized by

government and various interest groups as an advocate for non-motorized backcountry recreation (hiking, climbing, mountaineering, backcountry skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing). The BCMC is well-represented at the FMCBC Rec & Con Committee and BCMC members represent the FMCBC and the BCMC at committee meetings, forums, open houses, etc. Many other BCMC members contribute through the FMCBC Rec & Con list serve by voicing opinions, sharing information, providing feedback, writing letters, and drafting letters or submissions on behalf of the BCMC or FMCBC. As a result of heavy work commitments over the past year, I was not always able to attend to Rec & Con matters and other BCMC members (Michael Feller, Brian Wood and Mike Peel in particular) ensured the interests of the BCMC were well-represented.

The following is a summary of some of the activities over the past year:

1. Sea to Sky Winter and Summer Backcountry Recreation Forums and Sea to Sky LRMP: The Winter and Summer Forums and LRMP consumed the bulk of our time and efforts. Michael Feller and I continued to represent the BCMC and the FMCBC at the Winter and Summer Forums.

The Summer Forum started meeting at the end of June 2004 and continued until the end of the year. Fortunately, unlike the Winter Forum, there was minimal conflict among the different backcountry recreation users and a Sharing Accord was developed for summer backcountry recreation. Access to the backcountry was the primary issue for all Summer Forum participants. Access to the backcountry is effectively barred by deterioration of forestry roads, gating of roads and aggressive cross-ditching. The Summer

Forum identified the roads, which were critical for access to backcountry recreation, including the Mamquam Forest Service Road (“FSR”), the Stawanus-Indian FSR, Lizzie Lake road, Meager Creek FSR, Ashlu Valley road, High Falls Creek road, North Creek road and Brohm Ridge road. The Summer Forum also developed operating principles to govern recreation road management. The Sharing Accords and recommendations developed by the Winter and Summer Forums were presented to the LRMP, which adopted the Sharing Accords and recommendations, with some modifications. While adoption of the Sharing Accords by the LRMP was a positive step forward, decisions and policies emanating from governmental agencies, tended to undermine the Accords. This applied particularly to Land and Water B.C. (“LWBC”), the government agency which issues commercial backcountry recreation tenures. This agency continued to issue motorized commercial tenures in areas designated for non-motorized use, thereby compromising the Sharing Accords and the LRMP. The non-motorized sector recognized that the Forums and Sharing Accords were likely the last opportunity to have areas designated for non-motorized backcountry recreation outside parks. Rather than watch more than two years of volunteer effort and productive dialogue wasted, Forum participants were determined to raise government awareness of the problems created by LWBC. LRMP officials supported the work of the Forums and together with Pat Harrison (chair of the Winter and Summer Forums) had numerous telephone conferences and meetings with LWBC and government officials regarding the need for LWBC to honour the Sharing Accords. Leslie Bohm (North Shore Hiker) arranged a meeting with Premier Gordon Campbell, at which Pat Harrison outlined the work done by the Forums and how LWBC’s commercial tenuring process was undermining the work of the Forums and the LRMP. A letter writing campaign in March and April 2004 solicited letters from members of the BCMC, Alpine Club, North Shore Hikers and Varsity Outdoor Club, supporting the Sharing Accord and areas designated for non-motorized backcountry recreation. The campaign resulted in many well-written letters, including one from Peter Oostlander, who prepared a letter, which he took

to the summit of Mt. Sproatt, where he and five trip participants signed the letter. A big thank you to all who wrote letters in response to the letter writing campaign.

As a result of the various efforts to draw attention to the problems created by LWBC, a meeting was called by George Abbott, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, who is responsible for LWBC and the LRMP. Pat Harrison and Cathy Milne (snow cat operator and snowmobiler from Pemberton), represented the Forums at the meeting and outlined the conflicts created when LWBC issued motorized commercial tenures in areas designated for non-motorized recreation or public motorized recreation and problems with the tenuring system, including the stacking of multiple, conflicting tenures in one area. The Minister directed a further meeting between the motorized applicants, LWBC, LRMP and Forum representatives to resolve the conflicts. The meeting occurred in May 2004 at Whistler. LWBC officials announced LWBC would honour the Sharing Accords and consult the Forum before issuing further commercial tenures. This meeting was a positive step forward for the Forums and the LRMP. Although the Sharing Accords had been compromised by non-conforming commercial tenures, the Sharing Accords were salvaged. The non-motorized sector of the Forums met with the commercial tenure operators in the Sky Pilot area, Lizzie Lake area and Phelix Creek area to develop agreements or protocols to minimize the potential for conflicts created by LWBC when it issued motorized commercial tenures in these areas, which had been designated for non-motorized recreation.

The LRMP was supposed to be completed by the fall of 2003, one year after its start. However, official meetings continued into March 2004. A sub-committee, which includes representatives from tourism, forestry, recreation, and conservation, continues to meet (often on a weekly basis because of tight timelines) to negotiate details on various land resource management issues, including grizzly bear recovery strategies, locations for commercial lodges, independent power projects, and wildland areas (areas where logging and mining will be restricted). Pat Harrison, with Michael

Feller as his back-up, represents the backcountry recreation interests at the LRMP. The LRMP submitted a short draft report to government in October 2004. Details of the LRMP report will be provided in future newsletters. Work continues to flesh out all the details.

There is one final item regarding the Winter Sharing Accord. Mountain Equipment Co-op provided a grant of approximately \$9,000 to the Forum to implement the Sharing Accord. The MEC funds will be used to finance large 4' x 4' signs, which will be posted at various trailheads and common access points to educate backcountry recreation users about the Sharing Accord and the recommended form of recreation in various areas in the Squamish Forest District. The Forum planned to post the signs in early December. However, the Squamish Forest District asked the Forum to delay posting the signs until after a government announcement or directive scheduled for sometime in early December. Any signs posted prior to the announcement or directive would be removed. The work party for posting signs was therefore put on hold until after the government announcement or directive.

Thank you to all members who attended the FMCBC Rec & Con meetings, participated on the FMCBC list serve, provided input, draft letters and submissions and provided comments. Special thanks to Pat Harrison and Michael Feller for their determination and commitment to ensuring our interests are well-represented in the Sea to Sky LRMP. If the Sea to Sky LRMP fails to reflect the interests of public backcountry recreation (both non-motorized and motorized) on Crown Lands, it will not be for lack of effort on their part. Anyone interested in participating in the Rec & Con Committee or anyone with any recreation and conservation concerns, please contact Monika Bittel.

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC REPRESENTATIVE – by Mike Peel and Monika Bittel

The Federation of Mountain Clubs (FMCBC) continues to be active in preserving non-motorized areas and maintaining backcountry access for its member clubs. Some of our accomplishments and work of the past year, have

been detailed in Monika Bittel's Conservation report - Monika, herself making a tremendous contribution to both the FMCBC and the Mountaineering community, as has Mike Feller, Brian Wood and Pat Harrison, but we still have room for additional enthusiastic individuals. I know some people get depressed at the thought of attending meetings, but we have tried to make the FMCBC committee meetings like social gatherings where club representatives can share stories/experiences/hiking adventures and trail access tips. With this "meeting" format, we are able to come together as an as a larger organization rather than as isolated individuals struggling against a monolithic Government intent on selling of the wilderness to the highest bidder (bit of a Socialist rant there).

Some of the more significant activities of the FMCBC this last year, in addition to active involvement with the Sea-to-Sky recreation forums and LRMP are described by Monika Bittel –

1. Parking at the Lions/Harvey/Brunswick trailhead in Lions Bay: After the Village of Lions Bay eliminated all public parking at the popular Lions/Harvey/Brunswick trailhead, the FMCBC initiated some meetings with the Village council to restore parking at the trailhead and to develop overflow parking for the many people who hike the network of trails year round. The meetings were spear-headed by Pat Harrison. Some parking at the trailhead was restored in the fall of 2003.

Lions Bay is also investigating the option of opening the school parking lot for hikers on weekends, with the possibility of a trail to connect the school parking lot to the Lions/Harvey/Brunswick trail. The FMCBC will continue to work with Lions Bay to ensure adequate parking for hikers.

2. Sea to Sky Highway Improvement Project: The FMCBC is participating in the Sea to Sky Highway Development meetings, focusing its efforts on ensuring proper access and parking to trailheads affected by the highway improvements – Sunset trail, Brew Lake trail and the Baden Powell trail. The FMCBC is supporting the work of the Climbers' Access Society, which is focusing its attention on the impacts of the highway improvements on Murrin Park, Stawanus Chief Provincial Park and the Cheakamus Canyon.

3. Miscellaneous: The FMCBC Rec & Con Committee wrote a letter opposing the Jumbo Glacier resort and supporting the "Keep Jumbo Wild" coalition and a letter opposing the extensive logging proposed for Mt. Robson Provincial Park. FMCBC submitted comments on the Kakwa Provincial Park draft Management Plan.

Please drop in to any one of our committee meetings - either as an observer, or for the free cookies as we would be glad to hear of anyone's backcountry experience - either good or bad.

Next upcoming FMCBC rec and con meetings:

Jan 24,2005, 7:30 pm at Shane's. Proposed cookies = chocolate chip

Feb 28,2005, 7:30 pm at Shane's Proposed cookies = peanut butter/oatmeal (new!)

Please email Shane or myself for directions: mpeel@telus.net, shane@triumf.ca

BCMC NEWS

Smoke Bluffs and the FMCBC - In 1987, in response to a land sale which could have put a section of the Smoke Bluffs (Burgers and Fries, Neat and Cook, Smoke Bluff wall, and Crag X) off limits to climbers, the FMCBC managed to raise enough money to buy the land in question. The FMCBC is

now considering disposing of the land it owns. Your club executive, at its December meeting, passed a motion requesting that before anything happens, the FMCBC should provide a statement to all member clubs of the different options and their pros and cons, and obtain club feedback.

NEWS

Brandywine trail to be logged over again - comment by M. Feller.

The once superb Brandywine trail which threaded its way through magnificent mossy old-growth forests,

has been reduced to a speck of its former self. Unfortunately, however, a portion of what's left still traverses through some old-growth. Some cutblocks proposed for this year (2005) will either run beside or across the trail, necessitating its relocation in the 1100 m to 1230 m elevation area. It will be relocated closer to the creek to a "wildlife tree" patch that will not be logged. This, at least, is a refreshing change from previous practice which essentially ignored trails.

Plans for the Callaghan valley post 2010 cause concerns for some -

comment by M. Feller.

The existing commercial cross country ski operator in the upper Callaghan - Brad Sills of Callaghan Country - as well as the Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations, who both claim the Callaghan valley, are objecting that the post 2010 facilities created by the Olympics will be too large - 100 km of ski trails and a camping and building accomodation area. While these concerns are likely to be made out of self-interest, it is in the interests of non-motorized winter, recreationists to have the post-2010 plans accepted as they essentially endorse the Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum's proposals, which are to have

the Sproat-Madeley-21 Mile Ck. area non-motorized.

Proposal for a gondola into the Tantalus Range - comment by M. Feller.

All too frequently at the moment, unfortunately, someone puts forward an absolutely absurd development which threatens massive loss of non-motorized recreational opportunities. A gondola up the Squamish Chief was the first such outrageous local example. The latest one is for a gondola up into the Tantalus Range, put forward by Peter Chrzanoski, a film maker and extreme skier who appears to have little appreciation of wilderness and non-motorized recreation. Following a meeting called in October, 2004, to discuss the proposal, Manrico Scremin reported - "Peter said that he thought a sightseeing gondola, combined with a "small" ski area, would be good in the Tantalus range. It was clear that he had done little preparatory work; he didn't know where the park boundaries are and had not read the park management plan. It was also clear that he was expecting the others in the room to do a lot of the leg work in getting this established." With luck this proposal will die a well-deserved death. It appears that no-one except Peter was willing to devote time to make the gondola happen.

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Currie and Wedge Mtn., 9-12 April, 2004

At 6:30 a.m. on Friday, 9 April, 6 of us met at St. David's church for yet another attempt to summit Mt. Currie on skis. Two previous attempts on Easter weekends over the last 2 years had failed due to avalanche conditions. Edward Voth became a last minute addition to the group when he asked if he could come along due to a last minute foul-up in his weekend schedule. We started skiing just prior to 9:30 from the first junction of the Wedgemount road, and road conditions varied with alternating snow-covered and bare sections. Then just before the hiking trailhead we branched north onto another road to cross Wedgemount Creek and then headed up the north side of a new clearcut to reach old growth forest at about 900 m. From here it would have been better to go right up on an angle and traverse left above some bluffs and below a cliffy area but I chose to lead left instead mistakenly seeing a shortcut. this

forced us to fight a creek gully and got us into the SE corner of an old clearcut. I quickly regretted my "shortcut" as we fought our way up the extremely steep and evergrown clearcut for about 40 minutes. At least I knew it wouldn't get any worse. Skis were put on about 60 metres up into the old growth and then the going became fine. We followed a diagonal north trending bench below a cliff band for quite a while and had our lunch at 12:30 on this bench system. From here we continued along the bench to a cliff band junction where one can ascend into a higher bench system. The higher bench eventually lead us into a draw and at 1400 m we proceeded to contour generally north while maintaining this elevation. At about 3 pm we crossed the creek in the first valley south of Mystery Creek. Then we continued to contour NW, then N and finally NE around a mountain ridge with some bluffs to negotiate. This fed us into the Mystery Creek valley

which is directly south of Mt. Currie. The plan was to camp at the highest of what I thought were 3 open meadows which provided access to running water. But the upper meadow was accidentally over-shot and there may only be 2 open meadows. We camped about 40 minutes from the treeline, arriving there at 7:20. Since there was no running water snow had to be melted. The weather looked as good as it gets.

The start of Day 2 saw us up at 6 am and packing up camp and reaching the treeline by 9:30. Here we decided to cache gear and then continued to ski up towards Mt. Currie. The start of the avalanche zone was reached at around 11. At this point the slope angle changed from around 20° to about 35°. Unlike on the last 2 attempts where I had seen numerous fracture lines, there did not seem to be any evidence of avalanche activity. The snowpit revealed a slightly hard moderate shovel shear and we also noted a previous party had left descent tracks on Currie's south face. As there were no ascent tracks we assumed that they had helicoptered to the top.

So it felt good to finally push on from where I had been stopped twice before. Although at least one person decided to continue to ski up, most of us opted for foot travel. We were sinking a good 20 cm and it was a bit of a slog up the 35° part. At the point where the slope angle decreased to 25° about 120 m below the summit, we switched back to ski travel. At this point 2 members of the party decided to descend, being uneasy with the big slope and the ever-increasing strength of the sun. The upper 25° slope was a hot slog due to a total lack of wind. Then with the slope over we skied onto the top of the north facing glacier and angled up it heading east towards the summit which was reached at about 12:30. Conditions for the descent were windboard on the upper North facing glacier/summit ridge and slush/corn on the south face. For the most part the conditions were excellent and very forgiving for skiing. A lazy lunch was had partway down at about 2100 m. After this we enjoyed a mellow ski to our gear cache and then took our packs to the top of a creek gully where we hoped to find water and camp. This worked in our favour and we were able to enjoy a pleasant afternoon in our camp. Most people opted to relax in the camp and I had to laugh when Ron Groom was seen using a mini

level to level out his tent platform. Mike Peel and I decided to ski a 2500 m peak to the east of Currie which provided a mellow pleasant ski descent.

On the morning of Day 3 we got up at 4 am in order not to have any time constraints for heading over to the Wedge Mountain area. The weather looked perfect again and by 6:10 the party was moving on very icy snow. We had to traverse across a 30° - 35° west-facing slope system and then contour more eastward into the east fork of Mystery Creek. I was impressed with Mike's ability to edge on such a slope in single leather tele boots as I probably would have been afraid of losing an edge. Once off the slope we were able to ski east up this drainage and then curve south to the toe of a glacier. Then it was up the glacier, which was fairly steep in places, to a col which lead to views of a large snowy east facing bench. Off to our left was the valley of the Weart Glacier for which we were headed. On south we skied across the bench without the skins on. This lead us to a beautiful SE facing run down to the Weart Glacier. On our way down we met a north-bound party wanting to exit the high traverse route via Gravell Creek.

We started our ski up the Weart Glacier at 10:40 and by noon we were just north of Lesser Wedge Mtn. and it seemed like a logical place for lunch. Since we had lots of time, lunch was extended to a good 1½ hrs. From here we headed west to a saddle separating the Weart Glacier from the Wedgemount Glacier. From this point our planned campsite at the Wedge-Parkhurst col was clearly visible and by 3:10 after a nice ski down the upper Wedgemount Glacier it was reached. After this we set up camp and basically relaxed.

The start of Day 4 saw only 4 of us get up in order to tackle Wedge Mtn. The other 3 had opted to ski down to the valley some time in the morning. So at 7 am the four of us were off initially going around the west side of Wedge and then wrapping our way around to the SW side. We all seemed to have different ways of going up, some on the hard snow and some on the talus boulders. As I got ever higher I began to suspect that Wedge's south facing slopes might not soften.

We all summited at around 10:30 and probably started down around 11. It soon became apparent that the south face of Wedge was going

to be pretty icy. Mike gave it a shot near the top but with his limited edging power he decided to walk near the main chutes edge where he actually sunk into the snow a bit. Andrew took off down the slope like a shot and I couldn't believe the speed at which he was able to ski this 35° icy slope. I would have blown right off my edge at his speed which was at least double mine. Edward was on alpine gear as well and had been skiing for four years and he did pretty well down the slope, though at times he resorted to some interesting glissade pole techniques. When we got out of the main chute my selective memory began to kick in and this caused us to continue another 100 m down, thus missing a bench that we should have taken to head west. After we had regained the elevation Mike was nowhere to be seen. Thus began a long hollering session to try and find him. Once we got to the SW corner of Wedge I noticed him sitting on the west side of the mountain. Once regrouped it was up to camp by 1 pm. Here we had lunch and then packed up and were moving by 2:30. Once off the glacier and across Wedgemount Lake we had to fight some pretty heavy sloppy snow down the headwall. The rest of the descent went well and at one point Edward pulled off a remarkable totally expert jump over a log with his pack on. The vehicles were reached at about 4:20 and the

others had obviously gone down in the morning. Dinner was at the Shady Tree where we ran into the highly successful BCMC Spearhead Traverse party.

Participants: Tanya Zukalski, Ron Groom, Vince Haughland, Mike Peel, Edouard Brom, Andrew McIntyre and Greg Stoltmann (Organizer and reporter).

Mt Harvey in the Rain, 17 October, 2004

This trip was originally planned as an outing to Mt. Gillespie in the Pinecone Lake area, but the weather was not in our favor. On Thursday, the organizer's decision day, the forecast for Sunday was "a mix of sun and cloud". However, by the time Sunday rolled around, it had changed to "periods of rain, heavy at times"!

Nevertheless, eight eager hikers met me at the church on Sunday morning, and after some deliberations, we decided on a quick exercise hike up Mt. Harvey. The walk up the logging road and the initial hike were in light rain, and there were several comments on how things were not so bad after all. However, after a rainy and rushed lunch at the lower viewpoint, the rain increased and by the time we reached the ridge crest at 1400 m, things were pretty wet – in addition, a strong wind was driving the rain more or less

sideways across the ridge. It wasn't hard to convince the troops that we'd had enough exercise for one day and that retreating to Trolls in Horseshoe Bay was the best play.

Despite the rain, we all got a good workout and enjoyed some good conversation – thanks to a keen group for a good day in the hills.

Participants: Marilyn Cox, Dan Friedmann, Michael Fuhrmann, Dave Henwood, Alex Hudson, Barbara Meier, Ian Voboril, Matt Westwood and Todd Ponzini (Organizer & Reporter)

High point on Harvey. Photo - A. Hudson.

