

BC. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER, 2005

VOL. 83, NO. 9

EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Cookies, tea, and coffee are provided.

Tuesday, 8 November - The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Entertainment will be provided by your executive and by Dave Way who will give a show on climbing in Cuba. If you have any climbing equipment that is still usable that you would like to donate to needy rock climbers in Cuba, bring it to this meeting and give it to Dave who will give it out in Cuba.

Tuesday, 13 December - Entertainment will be a slide show. In addition, Brian Jones of Canada West Mountain School will give a presentation of backcountry winter travel and avalanche safety.

Cathedral park in October.



Mt. Lindeman (see p. 7). Photo - S. Liarsky.



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. 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.

ORGANIZER

November 5: Alice Ridge-Little Diamond Head Hiking above Squamish, possibly on skis.	B-C2	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
November 13: Mts. Daly and Edgar Extended trip above, and to east of, Chilliwack Lake.	C-D2-3/2130 m	Alistair Ferries	604-263-5835
December 17: Mt. Seymour transceiver practice Practicing avalanche transceiver use above Vancouver.	A1	Peter Woodsworth	604-254-7076

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees for 2005/2006 are

now due - Membership fees of 2005/2006 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE. You should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying the October newsletter, indicate if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, read and sign the waiver on the reverse side, then send the form with the appropriate dues to the club.

Membership dues are -

Single	\$45	Junior	\$20
Couple	\$68	Life	\$800

INTRODUCTION TO BACKCOUNTRY SKIING PROGRAM

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 19 and the program will run on the weekends of February 4&5 and 11&12.

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 \$175.

For whom: Strong downhill skiers with previous summer or winter backcountry camping experience, and/or: Experienced backcountry day skiers who want to gain experience on overnight winter trips.

New Members - The club welcomes the following new associate members: Mihaela Albu, Daniel Darie, Diana Diaconu, Paul Fodchuk, Paul Gaudry, Cameron Hardinge-Rooney, Ken Hardinge-Rooney, Thorsten Jurgens, Scott Jutson, Joseph Kitos, Eva Martinak, Vladimir Martinak, Mark Mennie, Dino Octavian, Claire Oldham, Paul Olynek, Chris Petrus, Andreas Prucker, Steve Sproule, and Ian Wilson.

Prerequisites: Open to all BCMC 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 entire 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.

For further information check the "Programs and Camps" section on the BCMC Web Site: www.bcmc.ca

For more information and to book one of the twelve available spots, please call Todd Ponzini at 604-340-9653

CENTENNIAL TRIVIA

Trains, Planes, and "Horses"

Many decades ago horsepower was measured by the number of horses in the herd. Today horsepower is measured by the horsepower under the hood. Today we load up our \$50,000, 400 horsepower, gas-guzzling V8, then moan and whine when we

can't drive to the end of the logging road because of a washout. Or we drive instead to the airport and board a fixed wing plane or helicopter to get to our alpine chalet.

Our more senior members can still remember when a trip to Whistler was a week's undertaking. A steamship to Squamish, train to Whistler, horses to camp, canvas tents, and no bug spray either.

Points to ponder as you embark on your next trip turning up the heat or the air conditioning in your climate-controlled SUV.

Dave Scanlon

BCMC NEWS

Articles want for the 2006 BC Mountaineer - Articles with illustrations are required for next year's B.C. Mountaineer. If you have been on any more interesting, or extended, or exotic trips, write them up and submit them to your editor - by 31 January, 2006.

Club to purchase a digital projector – The executive at their October meeting decided to purchase a digital projector to meet the needs of many presenters at our socials.

Membership cards to be distributed – As a number of businesses offer discounts to BCMC members, the executive at their October meeting decided to have membership cards produced. These will be distributed to club members, primarily via a newsletter, in the near future.

Canada West Mountain School offers discounts to BCMC members – Canada West Mountain School offers BCMC members a 10% discount up to \$25 per course for all scheduled instructional programs. If club members want to organize a custom course they will also give a discount off their regular private rates. The custom

rates discount will vary based on the nature of the program and number of people. Interested people should contact their office and let them know that they are BCMC members.

Canada West Mountain School

www.themountainschool.com

Vancouver 604-878-7007, Squamish 604-815-3451, Toll Free in Canada 1-888-892-2266,

Fax 604-876-7047

October Social discusses issues associated with a new cabin in the North Lizzie Battleship Lakes area –

Dave Scanlon led a discussion about a new cabin proposed for the North Lizzie-Battleship Lakes area, based on the article in the October newsletter. The club is currently applying for a permit from the B.C. Ministry of Forests to build such a cabin. If the permit is given, a special resolution to spend money, approximately \$25,000, to build the cabin will be put to the membership at a future social meeting, probably next year. No vote was taken at the October social and some people spoke in favour of a cabin while others voiced their concerns. Think about it because it will probably be voted on next year.

BCMC CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

A calendar committee of Monika Bittel, Julia Borchardt, and Alice Purdey, assisted by Jason Brawn, has just produced the club's first (?) calendar.

The calendar is a great mix of old and new photographs, ranging from fascinating early 1900's archival images to stunning full colour photographs

from more recent camps and trips. You can pick yours up at a club social or purchase the calendar online at www.bcmc.ca. The price is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. If you purchase the calendar online, there are additional shipping and handling charges. The calendars will also be available at Mountain Equipment Co-op.

WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE ONLY AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

If you would prefer to receive only an electronic version, and not this printed version of the newsletter, you could help the club save postage costs, receive the newsletter sooner, and receive a version with fewer mistakes. To do this, just visit

the club website (www.bcmc.ca) and alter how you receive the newsletter as follows:

1. Go to Member Area and log in
2. Click on "Update your member record"
3. Go to 6th line "Printable" and set to "no"
4. Click on "Update"

ACCESS NOTES

Brew Lake trail

Recent logging about 1 hour's walk from the car park has obliterated a section of the trail. No trail has been cleared through the logging slash; rather, a route has been flagged up the left hand edge of the slash (looking up) but some slippery logs and

dense bush/slash present obstacles. The route crosses 2 logging roads, the upper of which may well become the route of choice as using it avoids the walk along the railway track. The road, however, is part of a logging road maze and is barred by a locked gate not far from the highway

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Tulameen, 19-20 August, 2005

A lack of interest at first almost made me decide to cancel the trip, but 4 keeners helped me change my mind. A change in dates may have contributed to a few people not being able to join. The plan had been to drive up Saturday afternoon, car camp and climb the peak Sunday. But because of other commitments on Sunday I had to change it to leaving on late Friday afternoon and climbing Saturday.

It was Friday 6 pm when we all met at the park and ride in Abbotsford near the Sumas exit. From there we headed for the Sowaqua exit on the Coquihalla Highway 12 km north of Hope. Derek parked his car at the start of the logging road and all 5 of us piled into my truck for the 16 km up the road to just past the Montigy Creek crossing. Here at the top of the hill past the creek crossing is a flat area good for car camping. We arrived at 8 pm, set up the tents and socialized till the late hour of 9.30 pm. The plan was to have an early start to beat the heat in the climb up the steep south facing slopes and to get back at a reasonable time in the afternoon.

After getting up shortly after 5.30 we managed to get away just after 6.30 on a clear morning. We walked back down the road to the west side of Montigy Creek and started heading straight up the fairly open forest, scree if too far to the right and bluffs in sections, but none of it too difficult. There was some flagging in certain places indicating that the route had been used by others. The lower sections might change in the near future as tape indicated a new road location and cut block. As one gets higher the slopes open up more and more and the views expand. The slopes don't relent though. Iris started having increasing difficulty with the terrain and at the 1800 m level I had to make the tough decision that she was not going to be able to make it. Iris would have to wait for us. We found her a good place to wait. There was a big tree for shade and great views to be enjoyed. It was 10 am and we told Iris we would be back at the latest by 3pm.

From that point we were able to make good time. 100 meters above where we left Iris was a prominent rocky knoll from where we started contouring east gaining elevation gradually as we went along. After traversing for about half an hour we climbed up to the col between the true summit and peak 2200 m. From the col it was a fun scenic scramble to the summit which we reached by 11.30 am. We relaxed enjoying the view of the nearby peaks of Dewdney, Outram, Manson, Hatfield, and McLeod, to name but a few. Most other more well known peaks in the Chilliwack area were also clearly visible. To the east – just the rolling hills into the interior. There was a huge cairn on the summit with a class jar and registry in it. If that is to be believed the peak was last climbed by a large BCMC party in 1990. They came in from the old mine site reached from the old town site of Tulameen, but that involves a long drive through the toll booth (or Princeton). Our route was much shorter and very scenic.

After enjoying the cool breeze on the summit for nearly an hour, it was decided we would travel back along the ridge partway and then drop down. This involved scrambling over the top of peak 2200 m. We followed it to a great cleft in the ridge where a deep dark gully dropped down the north side. From here we dropped down to the rocky knoll while being watched by a big buck looking down on us from the ridge. It was 2.15 pm when we reached a very happy Iris. After a short break, we headed down in the afternoon heat, slowly working our way down to reach the cars by 4.45 pm. Not a bad way to spend a Saturday with a good group of people. A stop at the Major League pub in Chilliwack completed the day.

Participants: Iris Choi, Alex Banks-Watson, Tracy Langham, Derek Jones and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter).

The Portals 10 September, 2005

We met at Graham's Store in Glacier WA at 8 am and began hiking the Ptarmigan Trail in the Baker

area at 9. With such a dry year, we passed Coleman Pinnacle and continued almost another 5 km to "The Portals" at 2119 m. It had snowed on Skyline Ridge overnight, but it did not rain on us and we appreciated close up glimpses of the summits of Mts. Baker and Shuksan. For me the highlights included goats near the trail, especially a billy sporting his new super white winter coat; fresh blueberries and huckleberries, marmots and kid romping among three nannies, and ptarmigan with lower bellies and legs already snow white on the lava rock ridge. We returned to relax at the car before 5 pm, having enjoyed 24 km of alpine trail in autumn colours and agreed it was a privilege to meet and hike together. Hoping to do more the mountains, the participants were BCMC members: Marg Tranah, Rosalind Scarnell, Ross Nichol and Marilyn Cram (Organizer and reporter).

Mt. McLeod, 17 September, 2005

Wet, misty, bushy, steep, slimy, and foggy best describes the trip to McLeod on this particular day. Planned to be a weekend trip but an iffy forecast decided me to change it to a day trip. It turned out that Sunday might have been a better choice than Saturday. Hindsight after the fact is always easy. It was at 7 am that 11 participants met at the Park and Ride in Abbotsford. After sorting out the carpooling we were soon on our way. As we headed east toward Hope, clouds seemed to thicken and near Hope we encountered some drizzle and light rain. Not very encouraging because it meant it wasn't going to clear as fast as the forecast said it might. But we were not deterred and at just after 8 we reached the Eleven Mile Creek road turn off just before you reach the Hope slide area. Another 2 km brought us as far as we wanted to go up the road before it had grown in too much. ATVs have attempted to clear / drive over the alder but have not been able to reach the end of the road yet. They have made more of a mess by driving over the alder and bending and breaking it over the path that was established. But again it did not deter us.

After 1½ hours we reached the end of the road, fighting some alder along the way. There were no views to be had but there seemed to be some brightening at times. We had some snacks before we headed up along side drainages through the last clearcut at the end of the road. Our aim was to head for the col between Hatfield and Manson, but before we reached it we turned left onto a sort of a bench that we followed around towards Hatfield. It saved

us having to follow the up and down ridge. The meadows were beautiful and the blueberries very plentiful. Every break saw us plundering the berries around us.

We passed Hatfield below its south flank and headed for the col between Hatfield and McLeod. This was easily reached in the fog although some sucker holes appeared at times, giving us hope. We followed the ridge towards McLeod until just before the steep part started. We had lunch at just after 12 pm. To this point we had been hiking for three and a half hours. Lunch was in the fog.

The final ridge was class 3 with a short 6 m section of class 4/5. We climbed it in the fog. Luckily the rock was not too wet to make it dangerous. Those in the lead thought they had reached the summit at the top of the ridge because of a cairn and triangulation tripod. But because of the fog they couldn't see the true summit 10 minutes further ahead. We reached it at 1.30 pm in the fog.

After waiting for more than half an hour for the fog to lift, we decided it was time to head off into the fog down the south west rib of McLeod. This would save us a lot of time down climbing the south east ridge, heading east towards Manson and then dropping down to the end of the road. This route would drop us down somewhere halfway down the road. But it does have a few tricky sections in it which are worse when wet. And that would be the case today. Also loose rock would be a concern. It starts off nice and easy in beautiful meadows but it gets steep half way down. Steep rock with moss and dirt doesn't make one feel secure. Loose rock in places as well and you have a recipe for trouble. It wasn't long before the shouts of "Rock" could be heard. At one point a couple of huge boulders were dislodged in a tight spot causing a real scare. I should point out at this point that after the organizer had told everyone to bring their helmets he had not brought his. Even though a helmet would not have been much use against these size boulders it was embarrassing to be without one. But we were almost down and into the forest. The worst was over.

We hiked down through open forest to the clearcut on the north side of Eleven Mile Creek, fought our way through alder to where the bridge used to be, crossed the creek easily, then fought our way through alder up the short spur to the main road. After that it was an easy hike back to the cars. It had taken us less than 9 hours to complete. A fast time with a large group of people, none of whom never

complained once about the conditions they had encountered. It made for a great outing in the mountains. My biggest disappointment was that we didn't get to see a damn thing and I don't think that any member of the group is thinking of going back soon. It would be a shame because it is a beautiful area that doesn't see a lot of visitors and that is getting rare in south western BC.

A stop at the Major League in Chilliwack completed the day. A cohesive group made this a fun day.

Participants: Ilze Rupners, Ove Albinsson, Dan Friedmann, Marilyn Cox, John Halliday, Daniel Darie, Tracy Langham, Ferdinand Reinstadler, Ramsay Dyer, Bernie Brandt and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter).

Mt. Lindeman via Wasp Valley, 27 August, 2005

"The worst trip I have ever done" Rhys Gibb.

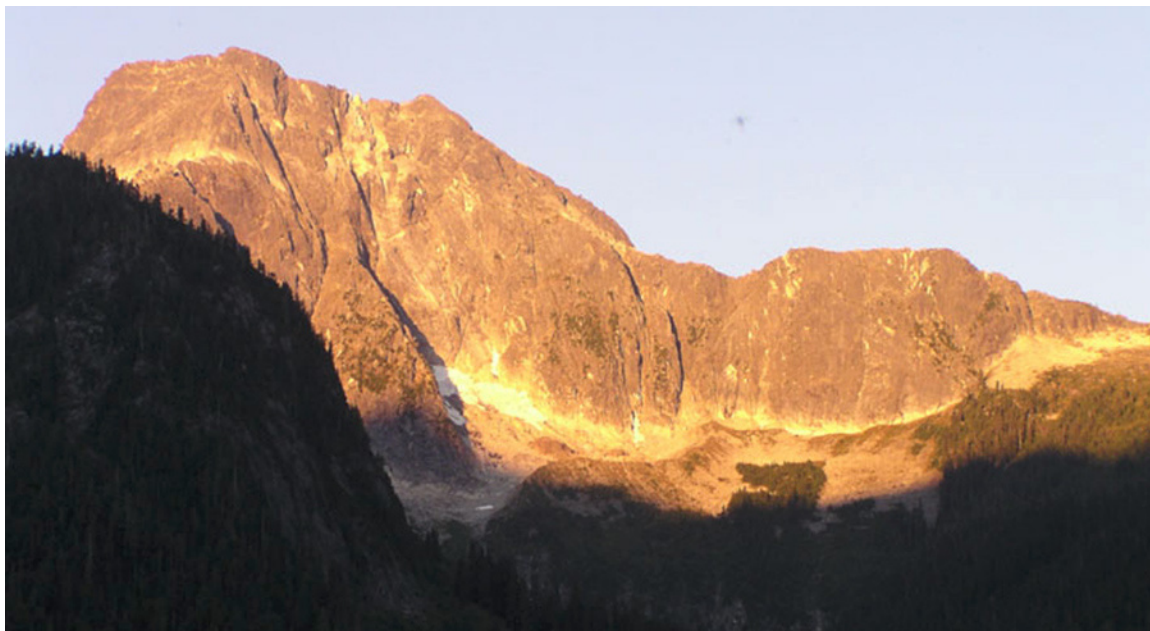
The idea was to gain the Macdonald / Lindeman col from the east by canoeing across Chilliwack Lake and bushwhacking directly up to it. There were seven of us (Stas Liarski [organizer], Gordon Esplin, Alastair Ferries, Jim Fraser, Rhys Gibb, Thomas Kutter and Tracy Langham), and we started to canoe across the lake at 6:30 am. Perhaps Thomas' experience was an omen. He left UBC at midnight and not really knowing the way he drove to Chilliwack, then to Abbotsford, then to Chilliwack Lake, arriving at 5:30 am. Or perhaps the fact that both Stas and Thomas were wearing knee braces was an omen. Anyway we got across the lake safely. From here things rapidly went downhill. First Rhys, then Alastair got separated from the group. Then Thomas fell in a hole and almost dislocated his hip trying to extricate his already buggered leg. Stas then fell, hurting his already gimpy leg. The main group soldiered on, unknowingly ascending the east side flank of Macdonald through thickly-forested old-growth. When they reached the treeline and could see where they were going, they realized their error and were rewarded with a 3 km traverse around Macdonald's east slopes to get over to the col. Alastair, who having chosen a more direct route had 5 major alder infested gullies to cross and arrived at the col at about the same time, with Rhys arriving shortly thereafter. Rhys had gone high up the side of MacDonalD to avoid deep gulleys and had got temporarily stuck on the side of a steep slab.

But so far so good. It was 12:30. Collectively we only had 12 wasp stings. It was a halcyon day. And the summit, 450 m above us, was within grasp. We decided to circle around and do it from the west.

Descending down to get around Lindeman's NW ridge, Gordon flipped head-over-heels into a hole, banging his knees, lacerating his arms and hands, and cracking a rib. He soldiered on. 200 m higher Thomas's hip gave way, and he very nobly decided to head back to the col and wait for us. Alastair, Stas, and Gordon were ahead and scrambled up to the central peak in the ridge, which Alastair thought might be the highest peak. However, after reaching this peak Alastair then changed his mind and thought that the southern peak was indeed the summit peak and so he then proceeded to scramble back down to the snow field below and then hike up to the south peak. Stas and Gordon thought that this was way too much work to do. Instead they traversed the airy, knife-edged ridge that connects the two peaks. In one spot the ridge was so narrow that they had to straddle it, with 250 m of air under the left boot and 100 m of air under the right boot. Talk about a major blast of exposure! Everyone else managed to get to the south summit via the snow field and we then debated what was the highest point - this peak, on the far south end of the ridge, or the other point in the middle of the ridge.

Back to the col by 4:30, we had a break and left at 5 pm. There were only 3 hours left to dark. Gordon and Rhys decided to take the direct route back - a straight line. The rest went for the thoughtful route. Halfway down Tracy stepped in a wasp nest and was swarmed. She only managed to escape by running down the mountain with Jim killing the ones still on her body (11 stings). Alastair with only 1 sting so far, overconfidently went back to retrieve her ski poles. He was swarmed. He only managed to escape by running down the mountain emitting embarrassingly high-pitched shrieks (12 stings). It was now headlight time. Jim (4 stings) managed to find a good route down to the lake in the dark. Hobbling in the rear of the convoy were Thomas (6 stings) and Stas (2 stings) who was using his ski poles as crutches. At the lake we found Rhys waiting. Crossing an alder slash Rhys had been swarmed twice. He hadn't managed to escape - 25 stings to the head. Gordon (6 stings) was kayaking across the lake to find the vehicles and to shine a flashlight back across the lake to act as a guide.

This was a true mountain epic, complete with little or no sleep, bad accidents, attacks by angry avians and bushwhacking in the dark. If you like epics – it doesn't get much better!



Mt. Lindeman with the dark areas at the bottom of the photo caused by wasp swarms intercepting the sunlight. Photo - S. Liarsky.



Mt. Lindeman as seen from MacDonald. Photo - D. Vacha.

Crossing the ridge from the centre to the south peak of Mt. Lindeman. Photo - G. Esplin.

