

# BC. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER, 2005

VOL. 83, NO. 8

Cathedral park in October.

## **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 October** - Entertainment will be a slide show by Ravil Chamgoulov on his recent solo climbs of the highest peaks in South America (Mt. Aconcagua) and Europe (Mt. Elbrus).

**Tuesday, 8 November** - Entertainment will be a show by Dave Way on climbing in Cuba.



Mt. Sheer from Mountain Lake. Photo - H. Price.



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**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

<b>October 1:</b> Little Ring Pk. Extended scrambling in the upper Squamish valley.	C3/2260 m	Alastair Ferries	604-263-5835
<b>October 1-2:</b> Squeah Mtn. Karl's annual fall outing to the rocky ridges, this time NE of Hope.	B2-3/1798 m	Karl Ricker	1-604-938-1107
<b>October 2:</b> West Lion Classic scramble above Howe Sound.	C2-3/1654 m	Phil Kubik	604-266-5873
<b>October 8-10:</b> Cathedral park Fall hiking east of Manning Park.	B2	Ellen Woodd	1-250-494-0527
<b>October 8-10:</b> Mt. Weart and Wedge Mtn. Mountaineering in Garibaldi park.	C3/2904 m	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
<b>October 9:</b> Brunswick Mtn. Hiking and scrambling above Howe Sound.	B-C2/1788 m	Neil Beattie	604-669-7847
<b>October 15:</b> Mt. McGuire Hiking in the Chilliwack valley area.	B2/2018m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
<b>October 22:</b> Mt. Alpen Hiking and scrambling east of Squamish.	B-C2-3/1703m	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
<b>October 22:</b> Evans Pk. Hiking in Golden Ears Park in the lower Fraser valley.	B2/1132 m	Larry Kost	604-594-3130

## 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 this 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

**New Members** - The club welcomes the following new associate members: Sylvia Berryman, Peter Drzymala, Doug Fentiman, Matt Gunn, Radmila Jaksic, Peter Jamieson, Serena Levy, Sonja Lindstrom, Christine Loren, Lance Mitamura, Lorne Owen, Baizad Cawas Todiwalla, Barbara Towns, and Robert Woodhouse.

### What club members are doing - The Rucksack -

**John Holmes** has recently moved to Saltspring Island and is feeling lonely. He can be contacted there at Greenwoods, 133 Blain Rd., Saltspring Island, V8K 1Z9.

A distinguished honorary club member, **Ross Wyborn**, notable for his love of bush, recently celebrated his 60th birthday and was presented with a mountain bike by his BCMC friends to help mitigate knee problems.

Congratulations to **Steve and Celia Tate** on the recent birth of their son - Eric Bruce.

Congratulations to **Paul Miller** and **Amy Lee** on their recent marriage.

**Lisa Baile** has stepped down as the program manager for the Wilderness Education Program that she and John Clarke ran and built up. The mountains have been increasingly beckoning her and she wishes to continue exploring them while her knees still work. She will still assist WEP in an advisory role while Sherry Reid becomes the new Program Manager. WEP is now a program of BC Spaces for Nature.

## CENTENNIAL TRIVIA -

Did you Know? - The 1923 BCMC Annual Camp was at "Avalanche Pass". The trip required much planning and organization. The participants took the Union Steamship Company boat from Vancouver up Howe Sound to Squamish. They then caught the Pacific Great Eastern Railway

train built in 1914, which they left at Alta Lake. After renting pack horses they carried on to camp. The two week camp saw the first ascent of Mount Blackcomb and Overlord Mountain. As you may have guessed, Avalanche Pass is now Whistler.

Dave Scanlon

## BCMC NEWS

### Articles wanted 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 Flag?

More input is required on the design of a new club flag. We have received some suggestions, but if you have any further ideas, please contact Dave Scanlon at 604-572-5051.

### BCMC Centennial Committee continues its work -

The Club's centennial committee continues to actively work on producing a club commemorative video, developing club crests, having a mountain named after John Clarke, but using the name given to him by the Squamish First Nation, and building a new cabin. With respect to the latter, the executive at their September meeting voted in favour of the club moving forwards in the planning of a new club cabin in the Battleship Lakes area near North Lizzie Ck. Final approval and financial commitment to the cabin awaits club approval after members have had time to consider the pros and cons of a new cabin. With this in mind, the following article outlines these for your information and later discussion.

### PROS AND CONS OF BACKCOUNTRY CABINS FROM SOME MEMBERS OF THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Some people feel that wilderness should remain in its natural form, and be visited only by those with

the necessary skills, using "no trace" techniques and minimal motorized assistance to reduce impact so that future generations can enjoy it. On the other hand, others feel that it should be exploited like any other natural resource, possibly only for enjoyment, but in cases of commercial enterprises, for profit. There are many opinions between these two extremes, and we are now more cognizant of the fact that "true" wilderness is being lost very quickly, and little if any wilderness will remain for future generations. To build or not to build a backcountry cabin, whether private or commercial, is an important aspect of this endless debate, because a cabin produces a long term impact on an area which could spoil it for future generations. A cabin also uses many resources, such as cash, volunteer time and labour.

This article is intended to provide opposing viewpoints and to open up, once again, the debate on building a cabin, so that we might thoroughly consider the presently tentative decision to build a BCMC Centennial cabin at Battleship Lakes, a few km north of Lizzie Lake. The Club has a long history of building cabins, starting in 1910, and in the early days there was probably little opposition to building cabins as cabins provided shelter from the elements, especially in the winter, as well as a good social center for the members. Also, many of the early club members came from Europe which has a strong tradition of mountain "refuges", although many of these European structures are now very large, provide good accommodation and meals, and are often close to a convenient cable car at a ski area, and thus are not in a wilderness setting. The Club has received some generous financial legacies, and also has a special account funded mainly by royalties from sales of "103 Hikes", and thus can afford to build a modest, "Gothic Arch type" cabin. However, just because we can, does not mean that we should!

### **Basic assumptions.**

- a) To maximize potential usage, the cabin location will be suitable for four-season usage, preferably by B-type, ground-access weekend trips from Vancouver.
- b) It will be located in moderate skiing, low avalanche risk terrain, and in good hiking terrain with some scrambling and easy rock climbing so as to appeal to “non-elitist” or average Club members.
- c) The cabin will be similar in size to the North Creek cabin (eg. 5 x 6 m), will sleep about 12 people comfortably, and will be heated by a woodstove fueled by local deadfalls .
- d) To obtain good utilization of a cabin, the trailhead must be relatively easily accessible. Preferably, the access road should not be gated, although if we have easy access to a key this is not a big problem. At least the lower part of the road should not be prone to regular closures by avalanches, to permit some car access.
- e) The cabin will not be located in a popular snowmobile, ATV, and/or heli-skiing area, and preferably the access and/or terrain would not appeal to these motorized recreation groups.
- f) While the cabin will be open, ie the door unlocked, a contact person/custodian will try to regulate use of the cabin to minimize overcrowding.

Below are some general “pros and cons” for cabins, and also some that are specific to the proposed site at Battleship Lakes. These lists are not all inclusive, nor are the individual points equally weighted or ranked for any assessment.

### **GENERAL PROS**

- 1) Cabins probably attract new members and help to keep existing members as members can use them without a fee.
- 2) Cabins can be sociable meeting places as well as providing reasonably comfortable accommodation out of the weather.
- 3) If accomodation in the cabin is assured, there is no need to carry camping gear, thus enabling inexperienced and/or less fit persons to enjoy an easier trip into the cabin, so as to use it as a base for easy day hikes.
- 4) Club camps can be based at the cabin, and the cabin’s biffy would ensure that human

waste is contained to reduce local area contamination.

- 5) To ensure a place in the cabin, users would be required to book a place in advance through a part-time or volunteer custodian/coordinator.
- 6) Camping or tent platforms will be provided around the hut to reduce environmental damage from camping around the cabin when the hut is full, or when some wish to sleep outside.
- 7) The materials cost for the cabin can be estimated fairly closely as we are using a familiar design. The Club has received a commitment from local military engineers to provide free labour to pre-fab the cabin at Abbotsford, and then to make foundations and to reassemble the cabin on site. The Club would provide all materials, arrange and pay for transportation, and provide additional help as needed.
- 8) If a non-motorised recreation group establishes a cabin in an area which currently receives few visits from any recreation groups, this can help to zone that area as “non-motorized recreation” in future land use negotiations. Members participating in the recent Sea-to-Sky winter backcountry recreation forum feel that a cabin really does help to “stake out” an area for non-motorized use.
- 9) Cabins are useful for emergencies or rescues, but hopefully this would not be a regular occurrence
- 10) The year 2007 is the Club’s centenary, and we should celebrate this achievement by providing a legacy for future generations.

### **GENERAL CONS**

- 1) Easily accessible cabins are “people magnets” and this can cause severe damage to delicate alpine areas due to large numbers of people being concentrated in a small area. If a cabin is to be sufficiently easily accessible in the winter, it will likely be *very easily* accessible in the summer, thus aggravating overuse when alpine areas are most susceptible to damage.
- 2) Easily accessible cabins are prone to break-ins if locked, and to vandalism if not locked.
- 3) Users often do not pack out their garbage, and thus this will require regular monitoring and clean-up.
- 4) Given the relatively small number of member visits to our existing huts (with the possible

- exception of Mountain Lake Cabin), the Club may not get sufficient use out of another cabin.
- 5) If the cabin sleeps only 12 people, overcrowding situations can still occasionally arise even with attempts at numbers control using a booking policy because some people will arrive without booking ahead. This would likely result in impromptu camping around the cabin which would require enforced use of the camping platforms to prevent further degrading of the area. Numbers and camping location control requires a willing and competent coordinator/custodian, and if this does not work, cautious people will still carry tents in case the cabin is full.
  - 6) Construction costs, and volunteer labour time for building and maintaining cabins can vary considerably, and it is difficult to come up with reliable estimates. Even if initial construction is provided free by another organization, we still need volunteers for many related current and later tasks. It can be difficult to find volunteers for maintaining our few existing cabins, and trails if needed, after the initial enthusiasm for cabin building has faded.
  - 7) Truck and helicopter costs for transportation of the building materials to the site can be difficult to estimate as this depends on road access to reduce helicopter usage.
  - 8) To reduce on-going maintenance costs, sewage will not be flown out, and so a safe biffy is needed to contain waste until it degrades, and this requires monitoring and maintenance too.

- 9) Some members find cabins disagreeable (or at least some cabin occupants disagreeable!), and claim that they would not use them so why build them. Perhaps there are more worthwhile ways of spending our time.

#### **SPECIFIC PROS**

- 1) The proposed road access leaves the Lizzie Lake main and requires a 4-wheel drive for 8.3 km to an obstruction where one parks, and then one walks about 1.5 km along the road to access the trail head. From here the trail to the Battleship Lakes is about 3 km and in good shape, and has some steep sections which discourage snowmobiles. Total walking time to the cabin is about 2 hours.
- 2) In the Sea-to-Sky LRMP this area is presently zoned "non-motorized" in summer and "non-motorized with restricted motorized access" in winter. The winter designation prohibits snowmobiles but allows for some restricted helicopter access.
- 3) The terrain is excellent for summer hiking and non-technical scrambling, and for good moderate skiing in the winter/spring. A cross-over trip to Lizzie Lake cabin should be feasible for average parties on a three-day weekend.

#### **SPECIFIC CONS**

- 1) The proposed access road is likely to deteriorate at about 6.5 km. and this would add 1.8 km to the total walk

## **ACCESS NOTES**

**Callaghan valley becomes another construction site** - Comment by M. Feller  
 Construction has begun on the road to the 2010 Olympics Nordic and ski jumping venues in the lower Madley valley area. The road now boasts officious flag women and at least one pompous foreman who, now that he is in the valley for the first time in his life, puffs out his chest and acts as if he owns the valley. It is currently unclear what will happen to winter access to the area, although the main road may be plowed to the Madley road junction. Ironically the main road from Madley Ck. to Callaghan Lake is in bad shape with one

unrepaired culvert washout presenting a major challenge to low clearance vehicles – B.C.'s world class showcase to the rest of the world!

### **Lizzie Lake road**

The B.C. Ministry of Forests intends to repair and reopen the road to Lizzie Lake, probably this fall.

### **Mt. Brew access and reconstruction of the Brew hut**

The new winter access route from Roe Creek has been flagged and reflagged several times. We skied it in low and medium snow conditions and found it to be easily passable. Hiking this

route is a bit boggy in places, but has some nice views. If the problem of the current summer route is insurmountable then we could try to get a permit to build a couple of bridges or some boardwalk (one small stream, and two or three short boggy sections need protection from hiking boots). We will be looking into getting a permit to do some clearing this fall, post-field season and hut construction.

Brew is being reconstructed this year and its progress can be tracked on the VOC website - [www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/index.php?title=brew\\_hut](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/index.php?title=brew_hut)  
Sandra Nicol (VOC)

## **Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. negotiates a new Lions Bay bypass trail to access the Lions trial.**

After 1 ½ years of discussions with the Village of Lions Bay and the West Vancouver School Board, the following proposal by the Federation of Mountain Clubs has been agreed to and has been put into effect by the FMCBC Trails Committee:

The Lions Bay Elementary School gravel parking lot can be used by hikers on holidays and weekends as a hiker overflow parking lot throughout the year including all days in the months of July and August when school is out. Currently there are 30 metres of angle parking at the gate on Sunset, and a few other spots. The gravel parking lot at Lions Bay Elementary School has parking for about 45 cars. There will be no charge for parking on School Board property. This is a privilege that may be revoked if it is used inappropriately.

The Trails Committee of the FMCBC has roughed out an extension to the existing Lions Bay trail system, which allows hikers to use forested trails to get from the overflow parking lot at the school all the way to the logging road at the water treatment plant 300 m past the existing trailhead. This lower level trail is just under 1.5 km in length and will take about 35 minutes to hike. In other words, it adds about 1.2 km in length and 160 m in elevation gain to existing hikes. It is intended as an inbound trail, as hikers returning from their hikes late in the day will be able to use the paved roads more quickly and safely in darkness.

The trail starts at the gravel parking lot at the school and skirts the school playing field. It heads roughly north, losing a bit of elevation and crossing the power line and two metal bridges

before starting an ascent on a bluff with conifers and arbutus trees above the highway and Alberta Bay. The trail then ascends and crosses a small creek before reaching the lower fire road. At this stage hikers will have to go north on the lower fire (Sound View) road for about 100 m to start the second section of trail. This new section of trail takes hikers northeast for about 300 m through pleasant second growth forest without any obstacles and reaches a point just below the water treatment building at the first switchback on the hiking trail.

Currently the trail is flagged with pink flagging tape and a few orange markers are being installed. The Village of Lions Bay has ordered signs for the parking area to clarify the situation and has donated gravel for some key access points to make the trail safer. We will continue to do work on the trail as the season progresses.

We hope that hikers will respect the local residents in the lower area of Lions Bay, who support this hiker access. Hikers littering or using the school area as a toilet may well result in the gravel parking lot at the school being withdrawn as a hiker overflow parking lot, and we will be back to square one.

This is a positive resolution to an access problem that has existed for almost 20 years. We thank the Village of Lions Bay and the West Vancouver School Board for working with the Federation of Mountain Clubs to ensure hiker access to the popular network of hiking trails, which start at Lions Bay.

Pat Harrison and Alex Wallace  
Co-Chairs, FMCBC Trails Committee

## **Improved access to Tricouni from the south**

There's now fast and easy access to the north-south alpine ridge which leads from the road over to Tricouni.

We cleared it in August - lots of lopping and flagging. Start with a 10 - 15 minute walk up an old logging road that goes right at the final fork, just before the road heads in to the usual Tricouni Meadows trailhead parking. A cairn on the road indicates where the trail starts - diagonal up left on a couple of sun-bleached windfalls, then keep going up following the flagging. Once on top of the ridge initially stay to the left side to avoid minor bumps. At the north end of the ridge go down a short, steep snow slope, then traverse right over to Tricouni.

The new route offers spectacular views and avoids the lower muddy access trail.

Shem Sharifi, Paul Vaughan, Gerry Westie, and Gordon Esplin (Reporter).

## NEWS

### All fourteen 8000 m peaks ascended again

Twelve climbers have now climbed all fourteen 8000 m peaks, with Reinhold Messner being the first and, as of May this year, Ed Viesturs being the latest, and first American, to do so. Notable about Viesturs' ascents was that they were all accompanied without oxygen.

### New high intensity LED headlamps released

**Silva** has taken the leap into true high intensity LED headlamps with the launch of their **L-series**

**range**. The **L1** uses the very powerful 3 Watt Luxeon LED unit, gives a range of up to 100 m and is claimed to be the most powerful LED headlamp in the world. The **L2** has a 1 Watt LED, a range of 60 m and is touted as the second brightest LED head torch available. Both the L1 and L2 models have built in electronic controls that maintain constant light output down to 15% remaining battery life, then switch to power save mode. Across the four model range all headlamps have a number of useful light intensity, colour (red), flashing and power saving modes. Cutting edge technology comes at a price though, and the L-series headlamps are reputed to be expensive. Their availability in Vancouver is unclear.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Eaton Peak, West Ridge, 4 June, 2005

It was touch and go with the weather all week but on Friday afternoon when the forecast changed for the 10th time and every weather web site was forecasting something different, I decided to just go for it. Jim was coming along. He has apparently sold his soul in exchange for sunshine on his trips so I figured we were in good shape.

There had been a lot of interest in this trip since I'd put it on the BCMC trip schedule and I was expecting a great group of people. There was more to this trip than just another summit too.

The Eaton family contacted me through my web site after finding my 2003 Eaton Peak trip report and pictures. One thing led to another and we decided to put a memorial on the summit for the two brothers for whom the lake and peak are named. Alice Eaton provided me with pictures of Douglas and William Eaton, their last letters, news paper clippings, and more. I had it all laminated and put two small boxes together containing the information and a notebook where people could register their visits. One was to be hidden at the lake as a geocache; the other was to go to the summit. Geocache located at:

N 49° 15.032' W 121° 21.394'

UTM: 10U E 619598 N 5456606

We met at 8am under cloudy skies at the Tim Horton's between Abbotsford & Chilliwack. 16 adventurous souls who were not to be deterred by a forecast ranging from 40 – 80% rain. The group dynamic was great right from the start. We were back on the road at 8:15 and regrouped at the trailhead about an hour later. By 9:40 we were on the trail. The large group quickly spread out as we had agreed to meet up at the lake, 4km away and 900 m up.

I don't think anyone minded the low temperatures as we switchbacked up towards the lake. We were in for a VERY nice surprise as the trail had been cleared just the day before by Wulf Pirang. We had been expecting a lot of deadfall but the worst we had to climb over was some sawdust. The trail was in excellent shape with the exception of a slightly tricky river crossing on a log bridge that had seen better days.

It was very cool up at the lake so we didn't hang around too long. I hid the geocache, gaiters went on, snacks were gobbled and then we were off again. There is no trail from this point so it's really just a matter of bushwhacking up to the alpine. We traversed along the lake, climbing steadily. Alder, deadfall, boulder fields – this stretch has it

all – but it goes by relatively quickly and in an hour or so we broke out into the alpine.

What a difference from two years ago! In 2003 there had been snow right at the tree line. This time we were in for a mix of wet boggy meadows, slippery rocks, and heavy wet snow. So much for the nice long glissade down I'd been expecting!

Rhys, Jon, Gerry, and Gerry's son Nick were planning to do the Northeast Ridge, the route we had taken in 2003. The rest of us were heading for the West Ridge. So we decided to regroup at the point where our paths would diverge. We stopped for a break right under the dark hulking mass of Eaton Peak. The clouds had lifted a little and we enjoyed the views of Outram and the surrounding peaks. Our two groups then struck out, agreeing to meet on the summit. The Northeast Ridge group would then descend with us via the West Ridge. According to Peter Gumlinger, the West Ridge is mostly a class 2-3 scramble with two exceptions: a stiff open chimney (3+), the crux, with loose rock about a third of the way up (you may want to bring a short rope for the descent) and a short 'au cheval' with the summit in sight. - The ridge proper is initially krummholz choked and it is better to traverse right into an open draw and gain an adjacent ridge line to the south. The rampart where this joins the W ridge is climbed by traversing left again and finding the aforementioned chimney. For the remainder of the climb it is always easier to stay directly on the ridge than to traverse right and hope to regain it later.

The West Ridge ended up being a little more technical than I'd remembered it and not everyone was very comfortable with it. We managed to get everyone but Moxie (our four legged climbing canine) up the hardest part with the promise of a rope for the way down. This is a real scramble with some exposure but it's loads of fun. Some of the rock isn't as secure as it looks so you'll want to give everything a good hard tug before you trust it. There are several big boulders that move so you do need to pay attention.

We ended up quite spread out along the route with two or three bottlenecks. With a group that size I suppose it's inevitable. The sun peeped out about 20 minutes before the first group reached the summit but it was very short lived. By the time I placed the memorial in the cairn the fog

was rolling in and the views were gone. Not a drop of rain had fallen though, so we were all feeling pretty lucky.

We used the rope for most people on the spookiest part of the descent and before long we were back on the snow, making our way down to the bushwhack and then the lake. We regrouped at the lake before heading back down to the cars. Everyone was back at the trailhead by 9 pm about 11.5 hours after we had started.

A great time was had by all. Many thanks to Wulf for clearing the trail, to Mother Nature for not raining on us, to Rhys, Gerry & Peter for their help with ropes and routes along the way, and to everyone for their enthusiasm and great company. Hope to hike with you all again soon!

Reporter – Julia Borchardt

### **Vicuna and Guanaco peaks, 11 June, 2005**

My second club trip as organizer, this time in the Coquihalla area. With rain and unsettled conditions forecast for the weekend my list of participants dwindled to 5. Heavy rains all the way to the tollbooth then the skies got noticeably clearer, a good sign for the group who decided to stick it out. This area has been visited by some hardy souls with rock climbing intentions as there are bolts and anchors placed at various points on Vicuna. A solid trail complete with sign and footbridge had us going up in relative ease. It took us just over 1.5 hours to the col through a great boulder field, complete with a white staircase to show the way. It was a joy to hike in the shadow of such pleasant mountains. One person decided to relax at the saddle while the rest quickly climbed to the summit of Vicuna with a few stiff moves on the Northeast Ridge route. The wind was blowing strongly so we settled in low to have lunch. Without incident and with confidence the group re-joined the person at the saddle and struck off for Guanaco.

This peak is just a pleasure; as hiking is all that is required. While on top an impromptu bouldering session broke out with various juvenile delinquents proving they hadn't lost the flair of acting like children. With an amateur videographer catching the foolhardiness we can only hope those short videos never surface, as the bouldering community would be shocked at the less than good form used to solve the

problems. After this we departed for our packs back at the saddle and the real reason for my trip - trail maintenance under the guise of a B.C.M.C. outing! With all hands from forest top to valley bottom. Hurray to all for making one day so enjoyable. If you haven't checked this area out, you're missing a gem.

Participants: Denis Lalonde, Gerry Kollmuss, Murray Lashmar, Jennifer Nageli, Tony Taccone, and Larry Kost (Organizer and reporter)

### **Tricouni Pk., 19 June, 2005**

June 19th was a rainy day. Over 20 people had called about this trip and there were not enough 4wd vehicles for over 20 people so I made a wait list. But due to the rain only 13 people showed up at the St Davids parking lot on Saturday morning. All but one were BCMC members.

We drove to the upper parking lot in drizzling rain. The group hiked in along the creek through mud then snow, to the first lake. I am slow and bringing up the rear, took the short cut to the snow above the first lake and then back tracked to find the group below kindly waiting for me. We got above the third lake in a near whiteout. The snow was mushy and giving way at first, but solidified higher up. Then most of the group, following GPS directions, headed bravely up a snowslope into the clouds looking for the summit ridge. It seemed to me, that maybe they were going too far west to hit the south west ridge. Some of us waited a bit then as a few more people returned, some of us headed down.

The whole group arrived back at the cars, damp but happy, within half an hour of each other. The intrepid climbers, who went higher up, ran into some steep cliffs and turned back. It was hard to know exactly where the summit ridge was. Someone should discover a small portable device to see through the clouds.

It was a fun trip, despite being fogged out.

Participants: Ziff House, Sean Dickson, Peter Jamieson, Silvia Bakovic, Helen Habgood, Andrej Dobos, Gabriela Jiraskova, Bob Nodelyk, Pavel Sorokin, Bernhard Piechota, Andrzej Jarzabek, Shawn Dirksen, and Marsha Ablowitz (Organiser and reporter).

### **Ashlu Mtn., 10 July, 2005**

This was scheduled as a joint BCMC and North Shore Hikers trip. The idea was to car-camp at

the end of the logging road, then get up early the next morning and do Ashlu via the South Ridge. My last time up there was about 20 years ago, when we (a BCMC trio) climbed a slightly more technical route up from Rugged Lake and then traversed the mountain to the south and finally dropped down into the Shortcut Creek valley below.

The day before the climb, seven of us crammed our gear into two 4x4's and drove the 3 hours up to the end of the Ashlu Creek road. On the final spur there are a number of deep water-bars; a couple required shoring up with rocks to make them passable. The road is washed out 2.6 km from the trailhead at Shortcut Creek. The sky looked rather gloomy as we pitched our tents in a light rainfall. But the precipitation soon ended and an assortment of libations and food did much to repair our spirits and raise our anticipation of the adventure the next day.

Sunday dawned with a cloudless sky and we were soon on our way. There is a flagged trail winding through the forests and rockslides to the south of Shortcut Creek that eventually leads to the upper Shortcut Creek basin. From there one can either traverse up a scree slope to the right to avoid glacier-polished slabs, or go straight up the slab, to attain a small plateau. The route then goes up to the left, up a rather steep ramp, to attain an east-west ridge that leads up towards the main (south) ridge of Ashlu. Rather than traverse way to the right to attain this main ridge most of us decided to go more or less straight up. This was not a good idea. At this higher elevation 5 cm of fresh snow lay on top of loose rock and slimy slab. What should have been easy class three cruising turned into serious scrambling. But we all finally made it to the snow shoulder above. From there it was more scrambling on snow-covered boulders with a final steep snow-slope thrown in. Ice axes were a necessity and two of the group, without axes, had to remain below.

Low clouds had started to roll in about 11 am so that when we summited at noon the view was restricted to the more local peaks and Jervis Inlet was out of sight. Rugged Lake, way below, still had ice on it. The route north down to the lake looked intimidating – steep loose boulders covered with 5 cm of snow, and tons of exposure. We left a new plastic NSH canister, containing the summit log, under the summit cairn and then headed back down – this time traversing the

entire South Ridge before dropping down into the upper Shortcut Creek basin via the slab route (easy when dry). This basin looked to be a great place to camp, with plenty of fresh water, beautiful flowers and spectacular mountain views all around.

We arrived back in North Vancouver at about 9 pm, tired but happy having accomplished an enjoyable and somewhat challenging climb.

Participants: Gordon Dunham, Michael Fuhrmann, Marek Labecki, Shawn Dirksen, David Kakubcak, Stas Liarsky and Gordon Esplin (Organizer and reporter).

### **Mountain Lake cabin, August, 2005**

Have you ever heard the expression, "Do bears shit in the woods?" meaning "Of course"? Well, not always. On the way to Mountain Lake Hut, Rob observed a healthy young black bear and then a mule deer defecating on the Forest Service road. It must have something to do with not wanting to be jabbed in the behind with a bush. It also explains all the scat you see on the trails.

We were on our way to the BCMC Mountain Lake Hut from the Furry Creek access trail blazed by Dave Scanlon and others. This hut, built by BCMC members, had been accessed though the Britannia Creek watershed. When this access route was cut off, the hut saw less use. Dave saw a way to give something back to the environment he loves. He negotiated access for BCMC to the trailhead with the forest company. He and others blazed a trail and refurbished the hut.

Rob and I were on a day trip to try this trail and look at the hut. This was my second attempt to reach the hut by this route. Last year Sandie and I were stopped about a third of the way there by equipment failure – her boots and my heart. Sandie couldn't make it this time but I had had a rebuild and was confident that I could make the round trip.

With the aid of a topo map, trip reports in the BCMC Newsletter, slash mark tapes, and cairns, we were able to reach the hut with little difficulty. The trail has three parts: a long haul up deactivated logging roads in the Furry Creek watershed; an ascending traverse through steep forest; and, once you reach Wind Lake, a romp through boulders and meadows past lakes and tarns in an alpine type environment not often seen at that low an altitude.

The hut is a little gem and currently is in excellent repair. It would accommodate six comfortably and twice that number in a pinch.

There is relatively easy access to the Sky Pilot Massif, Mt. Sheer and about a hundred smaller bumps and knobs. Most of the rock in the near vicinity looks like granite with lots of clean lines.

It took Rob and me three hours 40 minutes to reach the hut, with lots of gawking and picture taking on the way. Our return was under two and a half hours. That isn't much effort to visit a very special place. Thanks Dave.

Howard Price (Organizer and reporter)

### **Mt. Cheam, 27-28 August, 2005**

Whenever I drive to Vancouver, a little way past Hope, when the sky is clear, Mt. Cheam dominates the skyline. The mountain has been a beacon and symbol for the people of the Chilliwack area for many years. Van der Zalm built his Fantasy Gardens in view of Cheam. An old route to the top started somewhere near Bridal Veil Falls, then zig-zagged its way up through the coastal rain forest to a flat plateau about an hour from the summit. Years ago, mountain enthusiasts endured this route. Now it's possible to drive behind the Cheam massif via the Chilliwack River. Driving east along the river, which did not have a great water flow, we saw rafting companies and gates for a canoe or kayak race. About 28 km along this road we turned north across the river, then followed the Chipmunk Creek Forest Service Road. The road got nasty as it climbed uphill, with 23 water bars and numerous deep potholes on the lower part. We passed a turning which led towards Mt. Thurston. The road got steeper and there were 33 water bars closer together. One vehicle had parked at a place with a large rock slab in the middle of the road. There were tire tracks continuing over it, so I trickled along very cautiously. Soon we were at the parking lot. There were many trucks and SUV's. Some hikers were just returning. They told us there were some lovely meadows with a creek running through, and a small lake further on. On the map we saw it to be Spoon Lake.

We donned our boots and I carried my overnight pack with the day pack tied on top. It took about 15 minutes to reach another wire barricade across the old wide rough track. Russel squeezed through it with her pack. I tried, but the

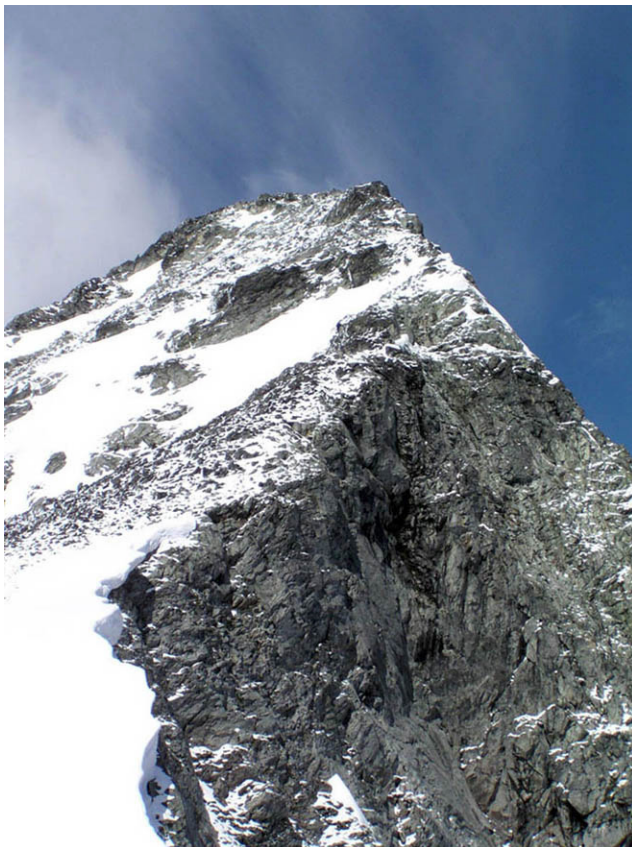
day pack was dislodged to one side, making it very uncomfortable. Fortunately there was soon somewhere to camp near the trees on low blueberry bushes, near the creek. We pitched our tents with a lovely view of Lady Peak. The sun was still shining, and various people were returning to their cars all elated about the hike. I returned up to the ridge we had come over to take pictures of Baker enshrouded by clouds, although Shuksan and the Border Peaks were still clear. At one point we got a glimpse of Slesse. Russel and I ate our suppers on a bridge across the small creek below our tents. She then decided to hike back to the car to get her day pack. The peaks to the SW were now all clear, but my camera was back at the tent, so I only have cloudy pictures.

Waking up about 1:30 am in my tent, I looked out delighted to see stars, but the tent was wet with a heavy dew. Later when I awoke about 6 am the tent was dryer, but there were lots of clouds drifting by. We got up, packed our tents away and went down to the creek to eat our breakfast. We agreed to set out at 8 am but turn around if conditions got any worse. We passed a tent and assumed those people must still be sleeping. A man with his three small sons had come the night before, and had been about to camp near us, until Russel asked him to camp further away. A little higher up we met them coming down. They had not been to the top and had got wet in a downpour. We reached the high flat area in an hour. It took another hour to climb up beyond the higher meadows, where a man with a large black dog overtook us, and over rock and shale to the summit. Clouds swirled around us and the wind blew, and we could not see Chilliwack or the Fraser Valley. After taking pictures of dramatic rock formations in the cloud, it was too windy and damp to linger. We hiked down the trail. Russel could go much faster than me downhill, as can most people. Below the flat area, we found a lovely spot in the hellebore to eat our lunch. It had taken us 2 hours to reach the summit. A fit lady had told us she'd reached the summit in one hour and fifteen minutes, and that would have been from the parking lot.

We packed out to the cars, this time carrying our overnight packs on our backs with our day packs on our fronts - not to be recommended. There seemed to be more cars in the parking lot than

would account for the people we had seen on the trails. We drove back to Vernon, arriving there before 9 pm. More people seem to be out in the hills than I've seen in the past. In a recent B.C.M.C. article about Cheam, the writer had commented on ATVs tearing up the meadow areas. The meadows are now recovering and all motorised transport had stopped at the log barriers blocking the access. The stupendous mountain views make this a noteworthy trip.

Participants: Russel Earnshaw and Pamela Jenkins (Organizer and reporter).



**Heading up Ashlu Mtn. Spot Stas. Photo - G. Esplin.**