



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Peaks in Lost Valley Ck., Cayoosh Range.

April, 2006. Vol. 84, No. 4

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 April - Entertainment will be a slide show by Karl Ricker on Antarctica prior to computers.

Tuesday, 9 May - Entertainment will be a slide show



**Vinson Massif 3 km south wall in Antarctica.
Photo - R. Chamgoulov.**

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484
PAST-PRESIDENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
VICE-PRESIDENT -	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
SECRETARY -	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
TREASURER -	TODD PONZINI	604-340-9653
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	JULIA BORCHARDT	604-204-0726
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	EMANUELE PORRA	604-533-7723
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	PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
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SUMMER CAMP -		
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WEBMASTER -	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
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SAFETY EQUIPMENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
LIBRARY -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8

EMAIL ADDRESS: info@bcmc.ca

INTERNET SITE: www.bcmc.ca

CLUB EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Avalanche transceivers - First day - \$5 per day for members, \$7 for non-members then \$3 per subsequent day .

Snow shovels - \$3 per day.

Avalanche probes - \$3 per day.

VHF radios - \$8 per day, \$40 per week

Satellite phone - \$60 per week or \$10 per day plus \$300 deposit, all payable in advance, then \$2 per minute use.

First priority for equipment rental is club camps and trips.

Equipment is rented from Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462, who should be contacted at least 2 days prior to the day the equipment is wanted, except for the satellite phone, which should be arranged at least 2 weeks prior to the day it is wanted.

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 copy-right © 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 (ph. 604-270-4050, email - feller@interchg.ubc.ca).

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. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment, may be requested to withdraw from the trip. 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 more than 1 day prior to the trip.

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.

Trip Schedule

April

- 1-2: Garibaldi N v  traverse B-C3**
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666
Another classic traverse between Elfin Lakes and Garibaldi Lake within Garibaldi park.
- 2-4: Snowspider Mtn. C3/2494 m**
Blair Mitten 604-922-0470
Extended skiing east of Lillooet Lake again.
- 8: Tszil Mtn. B-C3/2377 m**
Erich Hinze 604-224-5646
Skiing in Joffre Lakes park off the Duffey Lake road.
- 8-9: Mt. Carr B-C3/2590 m**
Phil Kubik 604-266-5873
Skiing above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi park.
- 8-9: Elfin Lakes (snowshoe) A2**
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666
Easy snowshoeing in Garibaldi park.
- 14-16: Atwell Pk. C-D4/2620 m**
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666
Skiing and climbing in Garibaldi park.
- 14-17: Ashlu-Elaho traverse B-C3**
Monika Bittel 604-983-3097
Ski mountaineering in the Squamish valley area.
- 15: Alouette Mtn. (ski/snowshoe) C2/1361 m**
Emanuele Porra 604-533-7723
Skiing and snowshoeing in Golden Ears Park in the lower mainland.
- 22: Tomyhoi Pk. (ski/snowshoe) C3/2266 m**
Skiing and snowshoeing on the B.C./Washington border at the edge of the Chilliwack valley.

- 22-23: Mt. Rahm C3-4/2584 m**
Jos van der Burg 604-463-7582
Ski mountaineering on the Skagit-Chilliwack divide.
- 22-23: Eldorado Pk. C3/2703 m**
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Ski mountaineering in Washington's North Cascades.
- 29: N Twin Sister (ski/snowshoe) B-C3/2013m**
Gerry Kollmuss 604-946-8055
Skiing, snowshoeing, and climbing in northern Washington again.
- 29-30: Cassiope + Saxifrage Mtns. C3/2500 m**
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Ski mountaineering east of Pemberton, approaching via Spetch Ck.

May

- 6-7: Chimai Mtn. C3/2306 m**
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Skiing in the Ashlu valley area N of Squamish.
- 13-14: Mt. Baker B-C3/3286 m**
Erich Hinze 604-224-5646
Ski mountaineering in northern Washington.
- 13-14: Silverstar Mtn. C3/2705 m**
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Skiing and climbing in Washington's North Cascades.

Backpacking in Mt. Edziza Provincial Park, July 29 - Aug 13.

This park, south of the Stikine River in northwestern BC, protects a geologically unique area of volcanic cones. We will fly to Buckley Lake in the northern part then trek south for about ten days to Mowdade Lake to fly out. Conditions permitting (it is often cold and wet), we will ascend Mt. Edziza itself (2787 m). The area is remote and rugged; participants must be experienced in travelling in such

conditions. Participants must also be prepared to carry community equipment on a rotation basis (sat phone, rope etc.). Maximum party size twelve and you must be a BCMC member. More details to follow. For further information, contact Alice Purdey at 604-293-2951 or alice.purdey@shaw.ca.

Rock Climbing Instruction Program

The BC Mountaineering Club is pleased to offer club-based, mentor organized climbing programs for new and current members. If you wish to attend, please visit www.bcmc.ca for

an application form and fill out one form per program (if you are interested in attending more than one activity).

Mail your completed and signed forms to: Monica Durigon, 4127 Cambridge St, Burnaby BC V5C 1G8.

If you are not a current member you should include a completed membership form as well (also available at bcmc.ca). Please include cheques for payment made out the "BC Mountaineering Club".

For more information you may e-mail:
Paul Miller at pjm@proman.argus.ca
Kit Griffin at kitgriffin@telus.net

Basic Outdoor Top-roping (max 8 people)

Cost is \$50

Dates: Eve Tues Apr 25, 1 Day of Apr 29/30

This program is aimed at those who have done some indoor gym climbing, and want to try it outside. It, or an equivalent, is a prerequisite for Essential Rockclimbing. The program will cover: safety, environmental issues, basic equipment, basic climbing skills and techniques, and the elements of top-roping (tying in, belaying, lowering, etc.). It will be a one-day program (plus one planning evening). The program will not cover setting up top-rope anchors, rappelling, or belaying from above.

To participate, you must have a sit harness, rock shoes, a belay device (no figure 8s), two locking karabiners (Ds or ovals), plus one large pear/Münter-biner, and a helmet. (Some items can be rented from area retailers.) Program mentors or the BCMC will provide other needed equipment.

Essential Rockclimbing (max 8 people)

Cost is \$120.

Dates: Eve Thurs May 11, Day May 13/14

Essential Rockclimbing consists of an evening lecture/practice, and two weekend days at Squamish. At the end of the program, you should be able to set up and use a simple top-rope, rappel, set basic anchors, belay and follow a lead climber. You must provide rock shoes, a sit harness, a helmet, four locking (Ds or ovals) karabiners, plus one large pear/Münter-biner, a belay device (no

figure 8s), and two slings of 7mm accessory cord (1.5m and 5m in length). Program mentors and the BCMC will provide other needed equipment.

Prerequisite - Basic Outdoor Top-roping or equivalent. This program (or equivalent) is a prerequisite for a Mountaineering Program. Fees and schedule do not include Basic Outdoor Top-roping.

Lead Climbing (max 6 people)

Cost is \$200.

Dates: Eve Tues Apr 18, Day Apr 22/23, May 6/7, May 27/28

This is for those who have solid outdoor top-roping skills plus a season's experience. Participants will be asked to demonstrate a basic top-rope system on the first day. The program will include three weekends and at least one evening. Participants may be asked to help with other programs, and are expected to climb regularly together on evenings and free weekends. By the end of the program, participants should be comfortable leading 5.7 rock climbs, and moderately technical mountain routes. This program covers: placing and using anchors, equipment selection and use, safety and environmental issues, leading, training, and related issues.

Participants must have all basic climbing equipment, and must be prepared to invest in all equipment needed for leading, likely several hundred dollars. Organizer's equipment is also used.

Note that members joining the club, specifically to take this program are required to register for next year's club membership at the same time. This is to encourage participants to give something back to the club in the future.

ROCK CLIMBING CAMP

A camp will be organized at Skaha, near Penticton in the Okanagan, during April 14-22.

If you are interested in attending, contact the organizer - David Scanlon - at 604-572-5051.

BCMC News

Your editor apologizes: For the weird symbols that appeared throughout the last newsletter.

These can be blamed on Microsoft, whose software introduced them for no obvious reason.

BCMC Centennial Video Committee Report

The newly formed Video Committee reports that an award-winning film-maker has been selected from several possible film-makers to make our historic documentary of over one hundred years of mountaineering in the Coast Mountains. Two applications for funding have been made to two local funding bodies to contribute towards the \$49,000 budget of the video, but decisions (and cash if successful) on these applications are not expected for several months.

The Executive feels that the Club is in no position to presently cover the budget from its own funds, and so it is essential that adequate outside funding be secured promptly. As the Club was first formed in the fall of 1907, we have a rapidly approaching deadline of 2007.

The Video Committee intends to present a progress report to club members at the next social meeting and we are anxious to hear from any member who wishes to assist, or donate suitable material, such as recent or older footage (or even money!). For further information, contact Martin Kafer (604 733-0462) or Brian Wood (604 222-1541).

Photographs wanted for the 2007 BCMC Centennial Calendar

Now that you've seen the spectacular 2006 BCMC calendar, the calendar committee is inviting:

- 1) Your comments on how to make the Centennial 2007 edition even better, and
- 2) Your PHOTOGRAPHS, DIGITAL IMAGES, OR SLIDES

We need your images of BCMC members doing the things we love to do in all seasons: - backcountry snow sports – rock climbing – mountaineering – hiking - enjoying spectacular scenery - setting up camp – etc. We want photos that will CAPTIVATE the viewer and DRAW THE VIEWER INTO THE ACTION.

The images must include people, can be old or recent, can be colour or black and white, and must be sharp enough for enlargement to 8" by 10". We will accept photographs, digital images, or slides. You must *include*: date and location of image, name of photographer with contact info, and name of identifiable people in the image. If your image is chosen for the 2007 BCMC Centennial Calendar, we will need a signed consent from all identifiable persons in the image and the

photographer must confirm in writing that the image has not previously been published, with the exception of BCMC publications. There will be no compensation for any images used in the calendar.

*We need to complete a mock-up of the calendar by late spring to meet production deadlines. Please **bring your submissions to the March, April, and May socials or contact** any of the following: Monika Bittel (604-983-3097 or monikabittel@telus.net), Alice Purdey (604-293-2951 or alice.purdey@shaw.ca) or Carol MacMillan (604-879-2947 or cmmacmill@shaw.ca). Please submit your images in protective coverings; all images will be treated with care and returned to the owner. Please submit digital images to all members of the calendar committee.*

And, we are looking for others to contribute ideas and talent to help make the calendar a truly memorable BCMC Centennial souvenir. Please contact any of the above.

News

B.C. Government quietly plans its assault on our provincial parks:

Government documents released to the Western Canada Wilderness Committee under Freedom of Information legislation reveal, yet again, that

the B.C. government knows the price of everything and the value of nothing when it comes to our provincial parks and special wilderness areas. Recent press releases from WC² have stated the following:

1. Resorts are being planned for B.C.'s parks with key marketing documents being withheld from public scrutiny.

"The confidential government documents reveal that the BC government is preparing to expand commercial development in provincial parks under their "Park Lodge Strategy" initiative. The Strategy includes plans for roofed structures ranging from cabins and ecolodges to "major resorts" as well as accompanying commercial recreation services. The government has thus far refused to release additional information relating to the province's marketing strategy.

According to the government documents, 12 - 18 parks are being considered for development, including Duffey Lake, Stevens Lake (Wells Grey Park) and Golden Ears. Under Stevens Lake there is reference to a "high-end" lodge as well as an "80 bed four-season resort" for Golden Ears.

"The extent of private development being considered for our parks is astounding," said Gwen Barlee, policy director with the Wilderness Committee. "The documents refer to road construction, 100 bed lodges, helicopter and float plane traffic, staff housing and exclusive lodge opportunities. These are not mom and pop operations that we are talking about. What is truly amazing though is the fact that although these are public parks there has been no public consultation."

In the documents it is acknowledged that resorts "typically include enhanced amenities such as a pool, tennis courts, ski hill and/or golf course." The documents also reveal that the Park Lodge Strategy is closely tied to the government's BC Resort Strategy which aims to remove barriers to resort development across the province.

The data identifies concerns around public consultation, and whether government can adequately monitor and control the development and the expansion of lodges. Of special concern are park management plans, (typically created with years of public input), which will likely need to be revisited to accommodate developers' interests.

The management of BC parks has been a hot potato for the provincial Liberal government. A series of unpopular measures have been introduced over the last five years including commercial logging within park boundaries, installing parking meters in 41 popular parks, weakening the Parks Act, changing park

boundaries to allow for industrial development, cutting the operating budget for parks and axing government-funded park interpretive programs. Since 2001 visits to BC parks have dropped by 20%.

"Parks were created to provide an environmental legacy for our children," commented Barlee. "What we are seeing today is a slow-motion dismantling of our protected area system. At the rate we are going, in 20 years we won't have anything left to protect."

2. On the subject of weakening the B.C. Parks Act, another WC² press release indicates that hydroelectric projects, industrial roads and motorized recreation are being considered by the provincial government for new "protected" areas.

"The British Columbia provincial government has quietly revisited the BC Parks Act and is considering imminently introducing a controversial new designation of protection. The proposed "conservancy areas" will apparently not rule out industrial road building, independent power projects, motorized recreation or the "sustainable" use and development of natural resources within the protected area boundaries. The planned legislative changes, which have proceeded with no public input or consultation, were designed for newly protected areas in the Great Bear Rainforest.

On February 7, 2006 the BC government announced the protection of 1.8 million hectares in the central and north coast of British Columbia, an announcement that received worldwide media coverage and was warmly applauded by environmental groups. However, the protected areas in this groundbreaking agreement were supposed to be equivalent to "Class A" provincial parks in British Columbia, which receive the highest level of protection under the BC Park Act. "This is really disturbing. The BC government promised world class protected areas, and what we appear to be getting are light industrial zones instead," said Gwen Barlee, policy director with the Wilderness Committee. "One of the greatest concerns with this new designation is the amount of secrecy that has surrounded it. Where was the public consultation process? I'm sure if the government had a full and proper public consultation

process that this idea would have been stopped dead in its tracks.”

“There are a lot of unanswered questions. Will the government be applying these quasi-protected area designations to existing parks and future protected areas in BC?” remarked Barlee. “What does the public think about run of river hydro projects,

industrial roads, lodges and motorized recreation within protected areas? The BC government seems to have conveniently forgotten that our parks and protected areas were created by British Columbians to protect them from development in the first place.”

For more information please call: Gwen Barlee at 604-683-8220 (work) or 604-202-0322 (cell)

B.C.M.C. Centennial Trivia

The social parts of our club have been and still are a big part of belonging. In years past, turkey dinners were the norm at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The turkeys were pre cooked and then carried up to the cabins on Grouse Mtn. where the festivities were held. Singing and dancing took place and many a good time was had by all. In the past, dances were held and it wasn't uncommon to have a bowling night now and again. Our club socials today are very well

attended and the social committee always has tea and cookies as well as an interesting slide show every month. The B.C.M.C. has also been called the B.C. Matrimonial Club. Our club is depicted to be a group of like minded people doing interesting, adventurous and fun things together, primarily away from the work atmosphere. AND very much involved in trying to protect those remote precious places.

Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C Workshop Announcement - Smoke Bluffs Park Development and Conservation Covenants for FMCBC Lands – 7-10 pm, Tuesday, 18 April.

As you may know, the FMCBC owns three land parcels (approximately 3 ha) in the Smoke Bluffs area of the District of Squamish (DOS). These lands were purchased by the FMCBC with the assistance of several clubs, particularly the BCMC, in the 1980's in order to protect access to the popular rock climbing crags. Since this time the FMCBC, along with local climbers, have worked to turn these and associated DOS lands into either a Municipal or Provincial park. The time is now upon us. For the past 18 months the FMCBC, along with other stakeholder groups, has been participating in a DOS-sponsored committee to plan for the creation of a new municipal park, which will ultimately include FMCBC lands along with DOS lands.

The FMCBC Board of Directors has decided to transfer the FMCBC lands to the DOS for inclusion in the new Smoke Bluffs park. This transfer will include a comprehensive Conservation Covenant to protect those lands and its values in perpetuity. In order to move forward with this process the FMCBC Board is hosting a workshop to receive

member input for the proposed park development and the development of our Conservation Covenant. The FMCBC will be holding a workshop at 7-10 pm, Tuesday, April 18, at the Mountain Equipment Coop Headquarters located at 149 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver. (Note, this is not the MEC store.) Any FMCBC member is welcome to attend the workshop, which will have the following agenda:

1. Brief description of the park planning process. Maps showing the climbing areas, park boundaries, and FMCBC lands will be reviewed.
2. Discussion of what items should be included in the Conservation Covenant including conservation and recreation objectives both positive and negative. Obvious items include:
 - a) Protection against any development inconsistent with park usage. (E.g., washrooms and park pavilion may be OK, condos are not OK.)
 - b) Protection for the climbing areas. (The FMCBC lands actually include few climbing crags; only a few minor boulders and the

lower parts of Burgers and Fries crags. The FMCBC lands were purchased to protect the trails to the main climbing areas, which are mostly located on DOS owned lands.)

- c) Protection of access (trails) to climbing areas.
 - d) Appropriate use of the land. E.g., non-motorized access only except for maintenance work. Proactively support rock climbing as the dominant activity in the Smoke Bluffs.
 - e) Maintenance of the area as a municipal park and to generally accepted municipal park standards.
 - f) Inclusion of other groups along with the FMCBC as covenant holders (enforcers) either from the outset or as a backup in case the FMCBC ceases to exist at some point. E.g., The Land Conservancy or the Alpine Club of Canada (national).
 - g) Baseline inventory of conservation/recreation assets and uses on the FMCBC in order to move forward with this process and set limits of acceptable change etc. (This inventory needs to be developed.)
3. Discussion of the draft Smoke Bluffs Park Development Plan.

It would be helpful if people coming to the meeting are familiar with the following documents ahead of time:

- “Greening Your Title”, a document published by West Coast Environmental Law which

describes Conservation Covenants. This is an easy to read document and can be downloaded for free from the WCEL website: www.wcel.org/wcelpub/2000/13247.pdf.

- The draft Smoke Bluffs Park Development Plan can be found on the FMCBC website: www.mountainclubs.bc.ca.

It would also be very helpful if participants are familiar with the Smoke Bluffs area.

We welcome your input even if you can't attend the workshop. Please provide any comments in writing to Evan Loveless, FMCBC Executive Director by e-mail at ed@mountainclubs.bc.ca, or fax to (604) 873-6086, or mail to FMCBC, P.O. Box 19673, Vancouver, BC, V5T 4E7.

Editor's comment – The FMCBC raised \$70,000 to purchase land at the Smoke Bluffs. The BCMC contributed many thousands of dollars towards this either directly or through its members, volunteering at Casino nights, and selling T-shirts. This land obviously has some value. The proposal by the FMCBC to give the land free to the District of Squamish when it (the FMCBC) badly needs money, has caused some concern on the part of BCMC members. There are alternatives to giving the land free to the District of Squamish. If you are interested or concerned, attend the 18 April meeting and make your concerns known. Be part of the debate.

Lenin Peak Festival, 2006 - you are invited

The Kyrgyz Alpine Club is planning to conduct Lenin Peak Festival 2006. We kindly invite you to take part in our festival from July 17 to August 21. The price starts from EUR 140 per person (economy package) on fixed dates.

The program includes:

Ascents of Lenin Peak, Paraplane flights, Individual races to Lenin Peak, Skiing/ Snowboarding, Trekking in Zaalay Range.

The Kyrgyz Alpine Club admits one representative from a federation (club or independent team) free of charge if the team of the federation (club or independent team) is 10 persons or more and arrives at the dates

mentioned above. The Festival programme has a favourable price for transportation and accommodation.

Deadline for applying: May 15, 2006

If you are interested in participating, visit their website at www.kac.centralasia.kg or ask them for the necessary forms.

Organization Committee of Lenin Peak Festival 2006:

Kyrgyz Alpine Club, Contact persons: Mr. Vladimir Komissarov, President, Tel. +996-312-651221, E-mail festival2006@mail.ru/ itmc@elcat.kg

Mrs. Irina Trubina, secretary, Tel. +993-312-651404.

www.kac.centralasia.kg