



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter

Vol. 84, No. 2



February, 2006

Skiing in the upper Birkenhead valley.

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, 14 February - Entertainment will be a slide show by Marcus Dell on climbing Ama Dablam in the Himalayas.

Tuesday, 14 March - Entertainment will be a slide show.



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
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -		
	JULIA BORCHARDT	604-204-0726
	DERRICK JOHNSTONE	604-505-6250
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	DONNA BAILIE	604-572-5051
CLIMBING -	JOS VAN DER BURG	604-463-7582
	EMANUELE PORRA	604-533-7723
CABIN/TRAILS -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
	PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
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SUMMER CAMP -		
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FMCBC REP -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
WEBMASTER -	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
EDITOR -	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050

EQUIPMENT -	PAUL KUBIK	604-876-0764
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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 - \$3 per day for members, \$5 for first day then \$3 per subsequent day for non-members.

Snow shovels - \$3 per day.

Avalanche probes - \$3 per day.

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

Satellite phone - \$60 per week or \$30 per weekend 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 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 (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

February

4: Organizer's choice B2
Greg Hamilton 604-949-0770
Skiing somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.

4: Phalanx Glacier B3
Tom Kuczmierowski 604-468-9092
Skiing beyond Blackcomb.

4-5: Tetrahedron area B2
Michael Feller 604-270-4050
Skiing on the Sechelt Peninsula, snow permitting.

11: Cloudburst Mtn. C3
Evelyn Feller 604-270-4050
Skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.

11-12: Mt. Price B3/2052 m
Tom Kuczmierowski 604-468-9092
Skiing above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi park.

11-12: Mt. Caspar C3/2402 m
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Extended skiing off the Duffey Lake road.

11-12: Tetrahedron Plateau B2
Alfred Menninga 604-886-0775
The three cabins ski tour on the Sechelt Peninsula.

15: Tele-clinic at Cypress. B2
Isabel Budke 604-224-5737
Telemark clinic in Vancouver's North Shore mountains. Joint trip with the ACC.

18: Cayoosh Mtn. C3/2561 m
Randy Enomoto 604-224-6184
Extended skiing off the Duffey Lake road.

18-19: North Joffre Ck. area C3
David Hughes 604-980-6484
More extended skiing off the Duffey Lake road.

19: Mt. Seymour A2/1449 m
Blair Mitten 604-922-0470
Easier skiing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.

25: Knight Pk. (ski/snowshoe) B-C3/2235 m
Jos van der Burg 604-463-7582
Skiing and snowshoeing in the Chilliwack valley area.

25-26: Hatcherhead Mtn. area B2
David Scanlon 604-572-5051
A beginner's trip for skiers at the edge of Manning park.

March

4: Cloudburst Mtn. C3/1871 m
Bill Maurer 604-789-2172
Extended skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.

4-5: Cayoosh Mtn. B3/2561 m
Peter Gumlinger 604-733-8264
Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.

9-12: Prospector Peaks camp B3
Todd Ponzini 604-340-9653
Four day ski camp on the Phelix-McGillivray divide northeast of Pemberton.

11: Hatcherhead Mtn. B2-3/1959 m
Rhys Gibb 604-321-9955
Skiing at the edge of Manning park.

11: Organizer's choice B3
Ilze Rupners 604-222-3720
Skiing somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.

11: Tonic Pk. B2/1803 m
Karl Ricker 1-604-938-1107
Skiing opposite Whistler.

11-12: Mt. Garibaldi C3/2675 m
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Extended skiing in Garibaldi park.

12: Knight Pk. (snowshoe) B-C3/2235 m
John Sapac 604-873-6740
Snowshoeing in the Chilliwack valley area.

Mini ski camp - Prospector Peaks area, March 9 - 12.

This will be a 4 day trip to the Prospector Peaks area in the vicinity of Phelix Creek. We will set up camp south of Prospector and can ski Prospector itself, Mt. Taillefer, and gladed runs south of camp. It would be a great trip for members who have

been on weekend trips but would like to do more exploring, without taking a whole week off. For more information or to reserve a spot, please call Todd Ponzini at 604-340-9653.

Membership

New members: The club welcomes the following new associate members: Corina Acheson, Russell Armstrong, Craig Beaumier, Colin Chudyk, Chris Cooper, Paul Cottle, Julie

Granger, Lyman Gurney, Sarah Hart, Derek Jones, Joanna Juffermans, Darryl Leniuk, Doug Macmillan, Andrew Port, Alan Robertson, Goran Rokolj, Dhanook Singh, Amy Smith, Peter Szydowski, Megan Turnock, and Jim White.

2006 BCMC Calendars are still 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 are also available at Mountain Equipment Co-op. Also - **you might get a price reduction at the February social meeting!**

Canadian Avalanche Foundation Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction

6 pm, Friday, February 24th, 2006

with special presentation

"The Nature of Risk"

by

Laurie Skreslet, The First Canadian to Summit Mt. Everest

Co-hosted by Justin Trudeau & Chris Stethem

You are invited to attend the second annual Canadian Avalanche Foundation fundraising dinner and silent auction on Friday, February 24, 2006 at the Vancouver Rowing Club.

The path forward to safer winter mountain travel depends on the availability of better information on avalanches. It requires a wider and more frequent distribution of avalanche forecasts to everyone who travels in the mountains. The Canadian Avalanche Foundation is a federally registered charity formed to raise money in support of public avalanche safety initiatives, education and research.

*The speaker for the evening is **Laurie Skreslet**, the first Canadian to summit Mt. Everest. Laurie's presentation entitled, "The Nature of Risk" will be about the inseparable nature of adventure and risk. Ticket are \$150 per person and are supported by a \$75 tax receipt. Purchase 10 tickets and have a table reserved in your name for a total cost of \$1500.*

Tickets can be obtained from the Canadian Avalanche Foundation, 409-8th Avenue, Canmore, AB, T1W 2E6, Tel: 403-678-1235, Email: info@avalanchefoundation.ca, www.avalanchefoundation.ca

Letter to the Editor - Huts and The 2007 BCMC Centennial celebration.

*To hut or not to hut: that is the question
Whether 'tis nobler in the rain to suffer
The wet and freezing of outrageous weather
Or to take tools against a sea of storms
And by opposing build them. To hut, to build
More, more; and by a hut to say we end
The wet tent, and the thousand natural chills
That climbs produce. 'Tis a consummation*

*Devoutly to be wish'd. To hut, to build.
To build: perchance to trash: ay, there's the rub
For in that build of hut what trash may come
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil
Must give us pause . . .*

There is no question that we should do something magnificent, and of long-term value, to celebrate our 100th birthday. However, I do not

believe that another hut is the answer. Instead, let's improve our low-impact access to the mountains and encourage ecological sustainability in our recreational experience: neither of which are helped by expending time, energy & money on another hut.

Now I am not trying to criticise the hard work that BCMC's Centennial Committee has done and is currently doing. In the absence of innovative input from the membership (myself included) they have come up with a plan: much of which is grand. It is just the hut part of the plan that I believe to be unsound.

So what's the downside of huts? The October 2005 BCMC Newsletter has an article listing pros and cons; therefore I will just re-emphasize the major problem. A hut becomes an objective even for people who have no intention of using the hut: it becomes a turn-around place for a trip. The area around the hut becomes severely impacted when, without the hut's existence, the people would have been more widely spread around the area: maybe even have gone elsewhere. BCMC's Russet Lake and Wedgemount Lake huts are obvious examples of this. The old Golden Ears shelter was another junk pile and the Radium Lake cabin, albeit fallen in, is still an attractant for hiker garbage. (Not that BCMC was responsible for these two latter examples.)

You might say 'other clubs build huts so why shouldn't we?' My answer is: let's not be swayed by the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) and their numerous huts. BCMC is very different from the ACC in many important respects. The major differences are our lack of bureaucratic structure, huts and guides. We have a long, admirable record of self-guided mountain travel without the need for hut-bookings or guides telling us where/when to climb. For example, read the history page on BCMC's website. Although there is a section devoted to our huts note that none of the historically significant climbs, trips or explorations have been done from huts: they were all done from tent camps and/or snow caves; and they were all done without paid hand-holders.

I have not always been anti-hut: In the late 1960s I was right into the alpine hut construction boom: slapping glue on 1x4s; clamping them into the former; going home to let the beam set; then back next week to make another. So it has taken me many years to arrive at the belief that we should

build no more huts. In the last 98 years we have built huts on Grouse and Seymour, at Williamson Lake, Mountain Lake, Wedgemount Lake, Russet Lake, North Creek and beside the Tellot Glacier (the Plummer hut) and time seems to be on my side of the argument: Grouse and Seymour are gone. The Williamson Lake hut was taken out by an avalanche (and we never cleaned up the debris). Wedgemount and Russet are now in BC Parks control. We only have three that we still must maintain. Mountain Lake hut is in a sweet location but there is no shortage of campsites in the area. North Creek is a fine hut in a poor location and the Plummer hut is similar: two days at the hut and you've run out of climbing objectives so what do you do now? Go camp of course! So what the hell is the hut for? As a club we are spending precious time, energy and money on facilities that are of little mountaineering value and which have serious ecological deficits.

What then can we do to celebrate this centennial without building a hut? Here's one simple idea: trails!!! I am informed by one of our current Cabins and Trails Chairs, David Scanlon, that BCMC holds itself responsible for the upkeep of six trails: Binkert (Lions), North Creek, Place Glacier, Salal Creek, Sigurd Creek, and Wedgemount Lake. Now Salal Creek & Sigurd Creek, although built by club members (Steve Grant/Jayne Hardy and Paul Kubik respectively) were not even built by BCMC but if we want to assume maintenance then I'm sure that Steve/Jayne and Paul would be delighted. But are we meeting our (self-imposed) responsibilities on these trails? Not a chance! When did BCMC last put trail-work on the schedule? Answer: November 2004 on the Place Glacier trail, and the work never took place (unintended pun) anyway!

OK, but how about before that? Well you tell me. I gave up hunting through the schedules trying to find one.

Now I'm well aware that we are all ecologically-sensitive and trail-aware so that we do some maintenance every time we access the mountains. There are also groups or individual club members who do trail work e.g. Sev Heiberg has, almost single handedly, rebuilt the Stollicum trail. But that is not the same as the club acknowledging its responsibilities by actually scheduling trail work and standing up for mountain access. Let's look after our current

commitments and celebrate the value of what we currently do well before we create another responsibility that may be of little long-term value. So when it comes to a vote at one of the next club

meetings why not vote against the hut construction motion: then make a motion of your own to celebrate our 100 years by doing a better job of mountain access.

Jack Bryceland

Trip Reports

My Fifth Trip to Battleship Lakes, 7-10 September, 2005

My fifth trip to Battleship Lakes area last year was to be a reconnaissance trip with the emphasis on no work. All previous trips had been trail clearing or road clearing.

We were to have been 3 but ended up being 2. Wednesday saw us cruise on up, park, and hike into the cabin site. A leisurely 2 hours in. All of the previous work really paid off as the hike in was very pleasant and the trail was getting more broken in with each trip. We set up camp using the tarp and bench I'd taken in previously. All terribly civilized! We then did some measuring. I'd taken up my 30 m tape so we measured distances. Distances from the lake to the outhouse site. Distances from the lake to the cabin site. Distances from the helicopter land pad to the closest trees.

The next day we rose, ate, then went up the valley, up to and over a 2400 m mountain, then down and up onto Meditation's summit. The whole day went quite well. There are lakes, rambling brooks, large open meadows and many tarns. The weather was, well, ok. We had views of Phacelia and Lindisfarne – Aurora Peaks. We hiked back to camp to once again have a quick dip in the lake before dinner.

There was some moisture overnight with a dusting of snow up high. We hummed and hawed until finally venturing out on day three about 11am with the weather slightly drizzling. We headed up past a couple of large unnamed lakes en route to BellaVista Ridge. As we went higher, the drizzle changed to snow and visibility worsened. We walked the ridge for a while then descended to Fried Egg Lake for a snowy lunch. Back at camp, we cooked and ate under the tarp (what a luxury!). Saturday, day four, was a leisurely get up. We went once again in a different direction to another large lake which was only 20 minutes away. We enjoyed the scenery for a bit then slowly went back to camp. The hike out and trip home was uneventful. I'm looking forward to the club having its Centennial Cabin there so more people can enjoy the area. It is truly a wondrous place.

Participants: Diana Diaconu and David Scanlon (Reporter)

Advance notice of a meeting to consider BCMC committing funds to construct a cabin in the Battleship Lakes area -

Probably the BCMC April evening social meeting will be declared a Special General Meeting to consider whether or not the club should commit funds to construct a cabin. Funding details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Photos on page 8

Clockwise from top left -
Rock climbing, photo - Jeremy Frimer;
Skier near cornice, BC Coast Mtns., photo - Kari Medig;
Greg Child climbing, photo - Simon Carter;
Jumbo Pass touring, photo - Kari Medig;
Rock climbing, photo - Jeremy Frimer;
Nelson powder, photo - Kari Medig.

All photos supplied by Alan Formanek, Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival.

New appearance of this newsletter

I hope that even a not very discerning reader will notice a number of changes in the formatting and layout of this newsletter, compared to previous newsletters. These changes have been made with the impressive help of Jason Brawn, and represent an attempt to improve the appearance of the newsletter for the club's centennial.

Michael Feller, Editor.

**9th Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival
February 17-26, 2006; North Vancouver and Vancouver
March – November 2006: on tour in Canada**

www.vimff.org

The Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival (VIMFF) has been bringing films, multimedia shows and special events on mountain sports and mountain culture to Vancouver since 1998. VIMFF traditionally brings to Vancouver world celebrities of mountaineering, climbing, skiing and mountain biking, and pairs them up with the back yard heroes, fringe personalities of the climbing world and with film screenings, photographic competition and exhibition, book readings, interactive seminars and special events in a forum intended to bring people together, to inspire. VIMFF supports young emerging Canadian filmmakers and innovative ways of creating a theatrical mountain experience. VIMFF 2006 guest presenters will include Australia's **Greg Child**, one of the most accomplished and versatile mountaineers and climbers, a well-published author and an empathic and engaging presenter. Greg will be offering a Canadian premiere of his recent presentation, *Friends in High Places: a light-hearted view of the past 30 years of climbing. The show will feature the 'superlatives' in his climbing career - the coldest climb he ever did, the most scared he ever got, the most unsuccessful expedition he was on, the strongest and the luckiest climber he ever met, the biggest mistake he ever made on a climb....)*

Rumor has it that **Alain Robert**, the French Spiderman, will be visiting, traversing the Vancouver skyline, climbing a few skyscrapers, spending a few days in prison, and presenting at VIMFF in the end. He has climbed most of the world's tallest artificial structures, including skyscrapers and pyramids, all of them solo, without rope, insurance or any margin for error.

Klem Loskot, the "bouncing, muscular Austrian", is one of the strongest rock climbers of our times. He is able to send a French 9a (5.14d) route, a 8c boulder, and he is a Deep Water Soloing addict – he regularly deep water solos 8b (5.13d) 20 meters above the sea level. Klem's VIMFF multimedia presentation "Emotional Landscapes" is

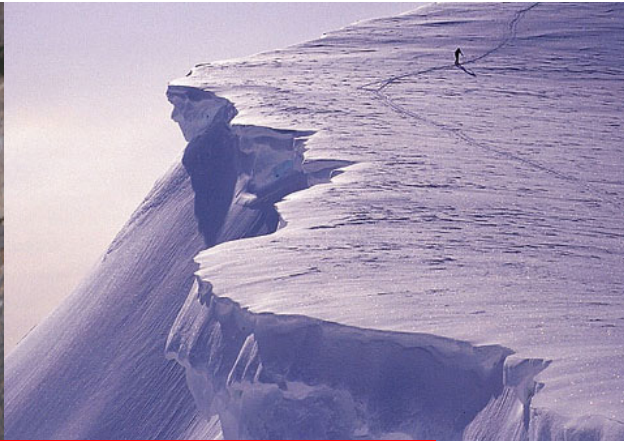
based on his own film clips, still images and gripping funny stories, intertwined with other people's material.

Vancouver's home grown alpine talent of **Jeremy Frimer** will bring his latest presentation, *Cut Loose, Karakoram*, in which Jeremy and a strong international team set sights on a monstrous unclimbed rock line on Trango II in the Karakoram. **Dave Dornian** of Calgary will be presenting a premiere of his slide show, *New Tricks for the Old Dogs – Superlight in the St. Elias*. Dave will talk about Canadian unclimbed lines in remote corners of the planet that don't have to remain a fantasy for everyday climbers. BC photojournalist **Kari Medig** will show images from two of Western North America's longest ski traverses: the epic 2001 West Coast Ski Traverse and 2002 Over the Top expedition. He will also be sharing photos and stories from some of his favourite local winter ski touring playgrounds and then take a ride overseas with his latest ski touring exploits in Asia and Eastern Europe. **Katherine Fraser** and **Katy Holm** will present **3 Girls, 4 Girls Mountains, China**: Local women kick ass climbing 3 first ascents of sexy granite peaks in the Four Girls Mountains, China.

Isabel Budke, **Barry Mason** and members of the **North Shore Search and Rescue Team** will revive the dramatic circumstances of the 2005 epic ascent of the Canada's highest peak in *Thin, Cold Air: Being part of the 2005 Mt. Logan Rescue*. Other VIMFF special events will include library mountain book readings in conjunction with the North Vancouver District Public Library; a Polish and Czecho-Slovakian mountain film show; the BC Paddle Sports Festival; a ski evening films and guest speakers; and more.

VIMFF film selection and complete program will be announced in early February on the festival website, www.vimff.org. VIMFF is looking for volunteers – please email info@vimff.org if you are interested.

VIMFF would like to acknowledge the support of the BCMC.



9th vancouver international mountain film festival

february 17 - 26, 2006

- climbing films
- seminars
- multi-media shows

guest speakers
 alain robert
 katy holm
 greg child
 klem loskot
 katherine fraser
 jeremy frimer
 kari medig
 dave dornian

win a trip for 2
 in northern pakistan
 with nazir sabir
 expeditions

PHOTO: JAMIE MCELIFF, DESIGN: JAMES BIRNBAUM

vimff

info and tickets: (604) 984-4484

www.vimff.org

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