



# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Uto Pk. and Mt. Sir Donald, Glacier National Park.

**June - July, 2006. Vol. 84, No. 6**

## **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, 13 June** - Entertainment will be a slide show by Brian Wood and Peter Woodsworth on rambling in the Dolomites. Also - a special fund raising GEAR SALE (see p. 6).

**Tuesday, 8 August** - Barbeque at Jericho Beach. Details will be in the next newsletter.



**Peter resting in the Dolomites. Photo - B. Wood.**

## 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
SOCIALS -	PAUL HAWMAN	604-924-1235
	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
CONSERVATION -	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
SUMMER CAMP -		
	PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
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
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](mailto:info@bcmc.ca)

**INTERNET SITE:** [www.bcmc.ca](http://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 refundable deposit, all payable in advance, then \$2 per minute use.

If the phone is returned damaged, the renter will be responsible for repair costs. If the phone is lost or damaged beyond repair, the renter will be responsible for reimbursing the club the \$2000 cost of the phone. Trip organizers should request a deposit from trip participants to cover this cost.

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](mailto: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.

## Trip Schedule

---

### June

---

**2-4: Mt. Cayley** **B4/2380 m**

Justin Bennett 604-813-4666  
Mountaineering on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.

**3: Vicuña and Guanaco Pks** **B3/2127 m**

Larry Kost 604-594-3130  
Scrambling in the Anderson River peaks.

**3-4: Anderson Group** **C2-3**

Alastair Ferries 604-263-5835  
Extended hiking in the Anderson River area. Joint trip with the NSH.

**4: Mt. Varley** **C2/1639 m**

John Sapac 604-873-6740  
Hiking in the Rainy R. area in the Sechelt Peninsula again. Joint with North Shore Hikers.

**10: Hozomeen Mtn., N. Pk** **C-D4/2459 m**

Bruce Cassels 604-617-6774  
Mountaineering and rock climbing in the Skagit valley area of Northern Washington.

**11: South Twin Sister** **C3/2140 m**

Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264  
Biking, hiking, then scrambling in N. Washington.

**14-15: Golden Ears traverse** **B-C4-5/1706 m**

Reinhard Fabische 604-462-9638  
Extended scrambling and climbing in the Lower Fraser valley.

**17-18: Coliseum Mtn. + Mt. Burwell** **B2-3/1541 m**

Justin Bennett 604-813-4666  
Hiking in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.

**17-18: Mt. Robie Reid** **C3-4/2095 m**

Stanislav Liarsky 604-983-4476  
Extended scrambling in the Lower Fraser valley.

**24: Mt. Hanover** **B-C3/1748 m**

Fred Douglas 604-293-2951  
Hiking and scrambling above Howe Sound.

**24: Mt. Payne** **D2-3/2468 m**

Alastair Ferries 604-263-5835  
Very extended hiking and scrambling south of Hope.

**24-25: Chehalis area** **C5**

Anders Ourom 604-228-1798  
Rock climbing in the Lower Fraser valley.

**25: Fissile Pk.** **C3/2439 m**

Neil Beattie 604-669-7847  
Hiking and scrambling in the Singing Pass area of Garibaldi park.

**25: Tomyhoi Pk.** **C3/2266 m**

Murray Lashmar 604-221-4183  
Hiking and scrambling in N Washington, on the edge of the B.C. Chilliwack valley.

**30-2: Noel Mtn. area** **B2/3**

Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496  
Scrambling north of Pemberton.

### July

---

**1: Slesse Mtn.** **C4-5/2439 m**

Emanuele Porra 604-533-7723  
Rock climbing in the Chilliwack valley, ascending from the SW.

**1-2: Mt. Matier** **B3(4)/2783 m**

Randy Enomoto 604-224-6184  
Mountaineering south of the Duffey Lake road.

**1-3: Tetrahedron Pk. + Rainy Mtn.** **B2-3/1739 m**

Peter Feichtner 1-604-886-7476  
Hiking and scrambling in the Sechelt Peninsula.

**1-3: Dickson Pk.** **C5/2814 m**

Margaret Hanson 604-341-5961  
Extended hiking and mountaineering in the southern Chilcotin ranges. Joint trip with ACC.

**8: Stewart Pk.** **B-C3/2238 m**

Larry Kost 604-594-3130  
Scrambling in the Lucky Four Group in the Chilliwack valley.

**8: Mt. Elsay** **C2/1419 m**

Peter Stange 604-437-8962  
Extended hiking in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.

**8-9: Wedgemount Lake area** **C5**

Anders Ourom 604-228-1798  
Rock climbing in Garibaldi park.

**8-9: Organizer's choice** **C3**

Dan Lord 604-516-9291  
Scrambling somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.

**15: Brandywine Mtn.** **B-C2-3/2229 m**

Martin Cook 604-733-5452  
Hiking and scrambling in the Cheakamus valley area.

**15: Mt. Rexford** **D4-5/2329m**

Will Neustaedter 604-523-1344  
Extended rock climbing in the Chilliwack valley.

**15-16: Saxifrage + Cassiope Mtns.** **B3/2501 m**

Lesli Cowan 604-321-9955

Scrambling east of Pemberton.

**15-16: Mt. Breakenridge B-C2/2395m**

Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496

Scrambling east of Harrison Lake.

**20-23: Tantalus area mini camp D4**

Todd Ponzini 604-340-9653

Mini mountaineering camp in the Tantalus Range NW of Squamish.

**22: Blanshard Needle C3-4/1550 m**

Emanuele Porra 604-533-7723

Hiking and rock climbing in the Lower Fraser valley.

**22-23: Pinecone Lake B2**

Mike Peel 604-444-4068

Hiking east of Squamish

**29: Tszil Mtn. B3/2377 m**

Ilze Rupners 604-222-3720

Hiking and scrambling south of the Duffey Lake road.

**29-30: Stonerabbit Pk. B-C3-4/1856 m**

Reinhard Fabische 604-462-9638

Hiking and rock climbing in the Chehalis area of the Lower Fraser valley.

**August**

**5-7: Mt. Rainier C3-4/4392 m**

Emanuele Porra 604-533-7723

Mountaineering on Washington's highest volcano, ascending via the Kautz Glacier route.

**12: Tomyhoi Pk. B3/2266m**

Will Neustaedter 604-523-1344

Scrambling on the BC - Washington border.

**12:13: Mamquam Mtn. C3/2588 m**

Stanislav Liarsky 604-983-4476

Mountaineering in southern Garibaldi park.

**12-13: Joffre Pk. C4-5/2721m**

David Hughes 604-980-6484

Mountaineering S of the Duffey Lake road, ascending via the NW Ridge.

---

**BCMC Summer Camps**

**North Creek Cabin Summer Camp, Aug. 26-Sep. 4**

This will be a climbing and hiking camp for club members only, with a range of activities from casual alpine strolls to establishing new multi-pitch routes on the local, as yet untouched, rock. Objectives include Mts. Sampson, Delilah, Sessel, Hemonius, Blockhead and Sugus. This

is also a work camp and participants are expected to contribute some of their time to maintenance projects.

Fees of \$350 cover helicopter in and out.

For further information, contact David Scanlon at 604-572-5051 or Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

---

**BCMC News**

**Centennial Committee Report**

The centennial committee has been very active in preparation for next year's centennial.

Work on the centennial video has started, artwork on next year's calendar is progressing, the committee has produced club flags and banners which consist of a white and black club crest on a blue flag or banner. These can be purchased at cost (\$30-\$70). If you are interested contact Donna Bailie (604-572-5051) or Alice Purdey (604-293-2921 or [alice.purdey@shaw.ca](mailto:alice.purdey@shaw.ca)).

**First ascent of the Bishop's Mitre - from the 2004 BC Mountaineer**

The 2004 BC Mountaineer contained an article by Brian Creer describing the first ascent of a N subpeak of The Black Tusk - the Bishop's Mitre - in 1938. The article was followed by a comment from

Anders Ourom suggesting that Brian had actually climbed the N peak of The Black Tusk. Brian recently contacted the club saying that this is not so and it was the Bishop's Mitre that he climbed in 1938.

**Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Annual General Meeting - June 9-11.**

The 2006 AGM will be held June 9-11 in Vancouver. This year's AGM will be hosted by the Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Section and will be located at BCIT. There will be a schedule of the weekend activities and registration form in the next issue of Cloudburst. Again, we have programmed some exciting workshops as part of the AGM agenda, as well as two forums to plan FMC strategy and organizational structure. We will also have two exciting evening presentations planned for the

Friday night reception and the Saturday night banquet. Sunday field trips will include a Squamish area hike and rock climbing at the Smoke Bluffs for both experienced climbers and those members wanting to learn. As with last

year, we have deliberately framed this AGM as a mini conference in part to try and increase member participation. Hope to see you there. Evan Loveless.

## **Report on Workshop for proposed Smoke Bluffs Park – by Monika Bittel**

---

On April 18, 2006, the Federation of Mountain Clubs (“FMC”) sponsored a workshop regarding the proposed Smoke Bluffs Park. Brian Wood and I attended the workshop. Manrico Scremin and Evan Loveless, who hosted the workshop, provided a brief description of the Smoke Bluffs Park planning process.

The FMC owns three parcels of land (approximately 3 hectares) in the Smoke Bluffs area of the District of Squamish (“DOS”). The FMC purchased these lands in the 1980’s to protect access to the popular rock climbing crags. Since the Fall of 2004, the FMC and a number of other stakeholder groups have been participating in a committee, which is planning for the creation of the Smoke Bluffs Park. The FMC Board of Directors has decided to transfer the FMC lands to the District of Squamish for inclusion in the park. The transfer of the FMC lands will be subject to a conservation covenant. The stated primary objective of the FMC is to ensure that the Smoke Bluffs are preserved for the use of rock climbers in perpetuity.

Having had the benefit of reviewing a draft of the “Development Plan for Smoke Bluffs Park”, a draft of the bylaw creating the Smoke Bluffs Park Commission and the terms of reference for the Commission, we raised the following issues and concerns at the workshop:

1. There has been no market value appraisal of the FMC lands. Even if the FMC lands were to be donated to the DOS or transferred for some nominal value or consideration, there should be a market value appraisal of the FMC lands. The FMC should know the value of what it is proposing to donate or transfer so that an informed decision is made. The proposed recipients – the people of Squamish - should also know and appreciate the value of what they are receiving. The goodwill generated by the transfer may be leveraged in

the future for the benefit of climbers, i.e., when competing uses within the Smoke Bluffs Park have to be managed or if user fees are raised. At those critical times, the climbing community can point to the actions taking by climbers since the mid 1980’s to preserve the Smoke Bluffs for climbing, including the transfer of the FMC lands to the DOS for inclusion in the Smoke Bluffs Park.

2. The draft vision statement for the proposed Smoke Bluffs Park makes no reference to rock climbing or the value of the Smoke Bluffs to the rock climbing community. The vision statement should clearly state that the primary purpose of the park is to preserve the Smoke Bluffs for rock climbing in perpetuity.

3. The proposed park is used by other user groups, such as walkers, hikers, sightseers, trial riders and cyclists. Zoning would be a way to minimize and manage competing and conflicting interests in the Smoke Bluffs Park. Zoning could clearly demarcate areas where rock climbing is and will be the primary use.

4. There is currently a proposal for a Smoke Bluffs Park Commission - an “independent advisory park planning and park policy making body” for the proposed Smoke Bluffs Park. The Commission will not be empowered to manage or maintain the Smoke Bluffs Park, park property or facilities. Its purpose will be to steer the development of the Smoke Bluffs Park, including to ensure the continued provision of climbing within Smoke Bluffs Park for the benefit of the public. The proposed commission will consist of 10 commissioners, 7 of whom must be Squamish residents. Up to 5 commissioners will be nominated by 5 not-for-profit bodies, which include the FMC, Climbers’ Access Society of BC and Squamish Access Society. Squamish Council may decline to appoint a nominee and may request the not-for-profit group to submit a further nomination. Squamish Council may also

terminate the appointment of a commissioner at any time, providing notice and the reason for such termination is given in writing. The chair of the commission must be an individual who was nominated by one of the not-for-profit groups. All questions before the commission will be decided by a majority of the commissioners present at the meeting. The chair may cast a deciding vote. As currently envisioned, the climbing community will only have token representation on the proposed Smoke Bluffs Park Commission, which will only have an advisory function.

5. Conservation covenants were introduced in B.C. in the mid nineties and their enforceability is still relatively untested. The terms and conditions of the proposed conservation covenant still need to be developed and drafted. Funds need to be available to enforce compliance with the terms and conditions of the conservation covenant in the courts should the need arise in the future.

6. The "Development Plan for Smoke Bluffs Park" is still in draft form and incomplete. There are several areas that still need to be addressed. For example: What are the plans, if any, for user fees? Will municipal occupier's and liability insurance have an impact on the Smoke Bluffs as a climbing area?

### **Gear sale fundraiser at the BCMC June social meeting – 13 June**

*The Lions Bay Search and Rescue Society (LBSAR) is raising funds for a new rescue truck. As part of their fundraising activities, team members will attend the June BCMC meeting and have brand-new climbing gear for sale that was donated to the team. Bring cash or your chequebook in order to get some great deals and get ready for the climbing season!*

*LBSAR is a registered charity. The team of approximately 35 volunteers provides wilderness and urban search and rescue services, primarily in the area from Horseshoe Bay to Porteau Cove. Lions Bay Search and Rescue also assists search and rescue teams in nearby regions as well as participating in disaster relief efforts across the province. Most members are active climbers and mountaineers and trained in ground search, rope rescue, swift water rescue, avalanche response, etc. For more information, or to make a donation, please visit [www.lbsar.com](http://www.lbsar.com).*

## **News**

### **Escalating Secrecy Surrounds Government Plans for BC Parks**

A recent press release from the Western Canada Wilderness committee states that the Provincial government refuses to release public documents regarding plans for lodges and meters in provincial parks

"The provincial government has refused to release government documents regarding parking meters and lodges in BC parks in response to two Freedom of Information (FOI) requests from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee. After months of delay, the information was required to be released in the first week of May but at the last minute the government refused to provide the records.

Under BC's Freedom of Information Act, requests are supposed to be processed in 30 business days. However, research has shown that politically sensitive requests are routinely flagged

by the government and take much longer. The Wilderness Committee's request for documents related to parking meters was first submitted 21 months previously.

"People have a right to know about the degree of privatization that is being planned for BC's parks," said Gwen Barlee, policy director with the Wilderness Committee. "Parks belong to the people of BC and they have the right to know how they are being managed. The provincial government is treating our parks as if they are McDonald's franchise."

In response to the Wilderness Committee's request for information on the government's BC Park Lodge Strategy, the government originally identified 2,400 pages of relevant documents. On May 1, 2006, the day the government was ordered to release the documents by the Office of the

Information and Privacy Commissioner, just 19 pages of heavily censored emails were provided as well an unrelated public report.

The government has received sharp criticism for a series of policy blunders regarding privatization initiatives in BC provincial parks. In 2003, they introduced parking meters in 28 parks in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island. The meter policy was later expanded to include 13 parks in the Interior in 2004. Implemented with no public consultation, the parking meters have proven to be deeply unpopular with the public and a continuing boondoggle for the provincial government.

Criticism has also been leveled at the government for their soon-to-be-released BC Park Lodge Strategy. Information provided to the Wilderness Committee over the last 12 months from private sources and previous FOI requests has shown that the government had been secretly developing a policy that would allow the development of private-for-profit lodges, including “high-end” resorts, in provincial parks.

The government planned to launch the BC Park Lodge Strategy in February of this year but has reportedly delayed the launch for fear of a public backlash. It is also anticipated that the Minister of the Environment, Barry Penner, will soon announce whether parking meters will be removed from provincial parks. Minister Penner, who commissioned a report last fall to help determine the future of the parking meter program, received the report in April but has not made the contents public.

The BC government is under growing pressure to get rid of the meters after Washington State scrapped a day-use fee program for state parks last month, citing reduced visitation and lost revenues.

“The future of BC’s parks should not be negotiated behind closed doors,” commented Barlee”.

## **European Helicopter Lands on Summit of Mt. Everest**

On May 14, 2005 an AStar AS 350 BC helicopter landed at 8850 m, on top of Mt. Everest. This broke the world record for the highest altitude land and takeoff ever, setting an ultimate milestone in the history of aviation. The helicopter remained on

the ground for 2 minutes before flying back at Lukla at 2866 m. The feat was renewed a day later. The helicopter then flew some rescue mission on behalf of the Nepalese government.

## **A new North Coast Trail**

On Vancouver Island a new trail, called the North Coast Trail, is due to open in spring 2006. It will be a 46 km wilderness route utilizing several BC Parks campgrounds. The new trail will start at the current Cape Scott Park trail end at Nissan Bight and continue to Shushartie Bay. The trail will include boardwalks and bridges, sections along open beach, stream and river crossings, and will make use of portions of the old Settlers Trail built almost a century ago. The new section plus the existing Cape Scott Trail will be 70 km in length along the northern tip of Vancouver Island. The starting point for the North Coast Trail is at Port Hardy. For further information -

[www.northernvancouverislandtrailsociety.com](http://www.northernvancouverislandtrailsociety.com).

## **BC government creates new “conservancy” areas which permit some industrial exploitation in mid coastal B.C.**

According to a recent press release from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, the Proposed “conservancy” areas in coastal British Columbia raise troubling questions about the level of protection they confer. In late April, the British Columbia provincial government announced that they would establish a new designation of “conservancy” areas in the Great Bear Rainforest.

“The “conservancy” zones, a proposed new protected area designation under the BC Park Act, allow for industrial road building, independent power projects and the “sustainable” development of natural resources within conservancy area boundaries.

“We applaud the recent protection of the Great Bear Rainforest. However, we are concerned about the government’s complete lack of public consultation and the decision to allow development within these new conservancy areas,” said Gwen Barlee, policy director with the Wilderness Committee. “Anytime the government

permits roads and commercial development within protected areas, you have to be concerned.”

On February 7, 2006 the BC government announced the protection of 1.2 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, at that time no mention was made of roads or commercial development within the proposed protected areas.

“The problem with these amendments is that they have the potential to erode the ecological integrity of these new conservancy areas and appear to pave the way for future development,” said Barlee. “In particular, allowing roads within conservancy areas is a recipe for trouble. Roads fragment wilderness areas and bring in poachers - exactly what you don’t want if you are interested in protecting wilderness values.”

The BC Liberal government has received significant criticism from environmental groups over the last five years for a series of policy announcements that have negatively affected parks and protected areas in BC. Weakening of the Park Act to allow development within park boundaries (including resorts), logging in parks, the introduction of parking meters in 41 provincial parks, and dramatic reductions to BC Parks funding and staffing levels has resulted in continued public relations problems for the BC government.

“One of the problems with this new designation is the fact that the BC government has steadily eroded protection for parks over the last 5 years,” commented Barlee. “Right now they are saying ‘trust us’, but because of their poor track record there is a lack of trust within the environmental sector and the public at large that the BC government will keep their word and make sure our protected areas are actually protected.”

## Trip Reports

---

### **Mt. Caspar, 11-12 February, 2006**

With a promising forecast and two participants in addition to myself, we left St. David’s church at about 7:10 am on the Saturday morning. After a Petrocan stop in Pemberton, we hit the Duffey Lake Road and eventually arrived at what we initially thought was the bottom of the Van Horlick Road. Then Todd pointed out that it was, in fact, the Caspar Ck. Road. Since my plan had been to ski in via the Van Horlick, we quickly drove over there and managed an 11:07 start.

The road was snowmobile broken so travel was pretty fast. Lunch was at about 1:10 where we left the road after about 8 km of travel. The plan was to ski up into a SE facing gentle basin. Basically it’s the southernmost of the four basins one sees on Caspar’s east side.

Our lunch spot was not yet directly below the basin so this meant trying to angle in to it. This worked up to a point but after crossing some open avalanche paths we found we were only able to move across in the forest. The forest was steep and micro bluffy with many thick areas and at times we felt lucky to be able to move forward. But gaining elevation had to wait as the map

indicated the slope easing off closer to the basin entrance, which it eventually did. The camp plan was to head for a small lake at the treeline at 1950 m, but when we reached the area a little after 5 pm, no lake was to be found. Of course this meant melting snow in addition to all the usual camp activities. The temperature was about – 4° C when I got to bed at 10:25 pm.

Day two dawned beautifully and immediately exceeded expectations. This was due to the fact that the forecast had called for cloudy conditions on Sunday, and after a 7:30 am rise, we were underway and skiing by 10 am under sunny skies. We weren’t that fast getting going, as Todd was having back problems.

We skied up some fairly gentle slopes to Caspar’s north/south ridge with views to both east and west. Then we skied north along the ridge and descended on foot to a low col. From here it looked too rocky to ski to the summit but Todd soon proved that wrong as he wound his way up on skis through the rocks. The summit actually took me by surprise. Suddenly there it was at about 12:20 pm. We had lunch on the summit and soaked up the views.

Initially the descending was fairly straight forward to the low col followed by a 15 minute walk up. But then the skiing became great so I filmed Todd and Ramsey skiing. We had shallow powder on a firmer base. Back at camp it was on to packing up and breaking camp by 3:30. For awhile the tree skiing was great and the three of us were very well speed matched, both uphill and downhill. Lower down the skiing became a lot more demanding requiring jump or kick turns to come around. The Van Horlick valley was reached at 5:20 pm after a messy thrash at the bottom. We experimented with Nordic kick on the road, which was very flat and this was fairly successful. The vehicle was reached at 6:45 pm. Dinner was at the Mongolian Grill in Whistler.

Participants: Todd Beernink, Ramsey Dyer, and Greg Stoltmann (Organizer and reporter)

### **Mt. Garibaldi, 11-12 March, 2006**

On Saturday morning a good turnout of eleven people gathered at St. David's church in West Vancouver for a ski attempt on Mt. Garibaldi. The plan was to try to approach via Culliton Creek and a higher side valley, thus avoiding snowmobile traffic. After a re-meet in Brackendale we crested the big highway hill north of Brohm Lake and turned right into a pull out – road exit. Perhaps a kilometre or 2 to the north.

This is the start of the Culliton Creek road which can only be driven a kilometre or so up to about 400 m where an artisan couple have their home and a private chalet for rent. Of course barking dogs announced our arrival to the couple. Since there were no "no trespassing" signs we felt it was ok to use the road and the couple were friendly anyhow.

Once gear was sorted out we managed a 9:15 ski start up what I know was a fairly long road with at least 22 ditches, many likely open. True to memory from 3 or 4 years previously, the road wound around a lot before coming into the Culliton Creek valley. Maybe one third of the ditches were open. This road has been de-activated beyond the artisan's residence.

After almost 3 hours of skiing we came to the base of a large clearcut on the north side of Brohm Ridge. Near the east edge of the col the road made a 180° switchback to the west. About 100

m up this switchback was our lunch spot. Here we were passed by a large North Shore Hiker party. During lunch I questioned coming up the switchback at all. Looking east we stared right into the bottom of the Culliton Creek tributary which would provide a snowmobile-free corridor to Garibaldi's treeline.

During lunch another realization occupied my mind. One of our party was way behind and we had already been there for 45 minutes. Therefore it was decided that the group would ski up the wild tributary and set up a camp at treeline and I would go down to fetch the missing skier with no guarantee of rejoining the group. After 15 minutes of ski descending with my pack I found our member steadily plodding uphill and so I turned around and joined him.

Higher up at the switchback we discovered a roadcut that lead to the edge of the tributary valley, making it very easy to get into. And a beautiful valley it was, with some large fire scars on it's lower west slopes, but lots of old growth forest down below and a winding creek. Part way up we spotted Greg Iuzzolino digging what appeared to be a snowcave. But at that point we were about 60 m away from him and were then forced away from the creek so we didn't know what he was doing. Eventually we got to camp at the treeline at 6:30 pm, some time after the others had arrived. This was of course following by the usual camp procedures. Greg incidently broke a ski and Eric his tent mate then camped with two others in a 2 person tent. I was probably the last to bed at 10:15.

Sunday morning saw us up at 5 am hoping for a 6:30 ski start. This did not materialize and we started skiing at 7:30 instead. The ski travel was easy due to the largely wind-packed snow. On the Warren Glacier this turned to powder for a while and then on the higher north eastern aspect back to windpack. At 10:30 a snowpit was dug just short of the upper steepening, with good results. A second just below the Bergschrund at the top of the glacier had the same result so on up the 40° slope on foot expecting a predictable boot pack to the summit. Predictable however it was not. As after a brief shallowing we found the final 40° pitch to be absolutely bullet-proof, and no one had crampons. But Dan somehow had the tenacity to kick into this stuff and make enough

of a dent it it to get a foothold. Only four of us summited though and all thanks to Dan.

After the 4 summiteers had finished their lunch it was downclimb time for a bit and ski time after that. The wind-blasted snow was somewhat unpredictable and I got pitched a few times. The powder section was beautiful though. Then, of course, back to windpack and camp. The previous day's slow skier had left a "note" in the snow saying he'd gone down. This of course explained his absence from camp.

Ramsey and I were the last to break camp at 4:30. We all caught each other up at the valley bottom though. Then it was out to the logging road. We were late enough that darkness overcame us and that meant headlamps. We reached the vehicles between 8:20 and 8:30. Greg Iuzzolino and yesterday's slow skier had come down much earlier and had been able to sit inside the artisan couple's house. The couple were kind enough to serve us hot tea. They don't see many recreationists using the road. All in all a great trip.

Participants: Mike Simchuk, Greg Iuzzolino, Nancy Henderson, John Duffey, Danielle Wemsamer, Eric Kueaug, Dan Lord, Francis St. Pierre, Mike Peel, Ramsey Dyer, and Greg Stoltmann (Organizer and reporter)

### **Hollyburn Mountain, 10 March, 2006**

Arnold Shives and I headed up Cypress Parkway past the Hi View lookout to the CN/CP tower trailhead. We were on our way to Jim/Beverly Craig's cabin hidden deep in the forest. Much snow had fallen the night before, so we waded, snowshoes our companions, through the white stuff and winter wonderland. The cabin is tucked in the forest between Hollyburn Lodge and the former West Lake Lodge.

We hurried down Hollyburn to do lunch with Jim/Beverly Craig and Martin/Esther Kafer. Jim ascended Mount Waddington in 1962, he climbed Mount Kennedy with Robert Kennedy in 1965, and he climbed Mount St. Elias with a BCMC party in 1971. The Kafers have done many first ascents in BC, and Esther was the first woman to climb Mount Waddington. The Kafers are, in many ways, the modern Don/Phyllis Munday.

We left Jim/Beverly's, after a fine lunch and much mountaineering lore, and went to Martin/Esther's. We had a lovely chat, then Martin took us to the basement, and we watched slides of the 1962 climb of Mount Waddington. Martin/Esther also played a pivotal role in building Plummer Hut at the base of Claw Peak in the Waddington area, so we were walked through the various stages of the building of this hut - one of the highest huts in North America.

It was a full day with legendary BC mountaineers. Plentiful pictures were taken, and memories aplenty were shared.

Ron Dart (Reporter)

### **Marion and Loon Lakes, 11 March, 2006**

The day was picture perfect. There was nary a cloud in the sky as we (Lawrence Stearn, David Ortis, Ray Daws, grandson Matthew and myself) took to the trailhead at the UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest near Golden Ears. We hiked to Marion Lake (still frozen), had lunch on a snow thick dock as day star smiled down on us. The view from Marion Lake of the white crags of Golden Ears, Edge, Blanchard, and the well rounded Alouette Mountain was a delight. We headed south from Marion Lake and Ray and Matthew returned to their vehicle. Lawrence, David, and I continued our hike through the forest to Loon Lake.

Loon Lake is a well developed accomodation centre. We wandered about the vacant area, much snow present, checking out buildings and bends and twists in the lake. We headed south again, hiked up the snow laden trail to the telescope (a fine view of the valley on such a cloud free day). We were back at the trailhead by 5 pm. We had hiked 19 kilometers by day's end, and ascended more than 400 m. It was a full but good day. Mount Baker treated us to a fine visual feast as we headed south to Abbotsford and home yet once again.

Ron Dart (Reporter)

### **Nak and Thar Peak, 26 March, 2006**

We were scheduled to go to Mount Fee but several factors thwarted that plan. First the weather was forecast to be poor, second there was a shortage of four wheel drive vehicles, and

third I thought there would still be too much snow too low down to get very far up the logging roads. Also as it turned out we would have had some inexperienced people who had a good learning experience on this easier alternative. It made me let my guard down and not ask the right questions. Because of that I had 2 people without avalanche beacons and one skier who had no backcountry experience.

We had a relatively late meeting time of 8 am in Abbotsford. The weather looked beautiful and was a nice surprise to everybody. Seven people managed to squeeze into 2 cars. No 4x4's required on this approach. After reaching the Falls Lake pull-out we started at just after 10 am in the sunshine and fumes of snowmobiles. We left that behind when we turned left on the pipeline road and headed south. At the highest point on the road just to the south of the drainage that comes down from between Nak and Thar we headed up in the trees. There was lots of snow compared to some years and travel was easy. Eleni, who was new to ski touring on AT gear, was having a hard time getting used to climbing up on skis. If you have never done it, it takes some time getting used to. We gave her some pointers and carried on. The snow shoers had no difficulty because the snow was nice and firm. Greg in the meantime was doing a great job staying with Eleni. About half an hour from the summit we left them behind and told them we would see them on the summit.

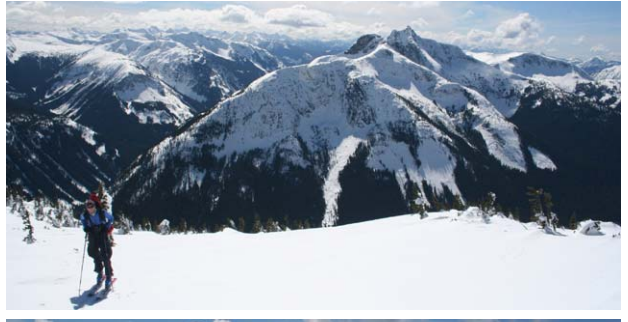
It was surprisingly cold and breezy on the summit but the views were great although the sounds of snowmobiles echoed through the air. We watched them high marking on the backside of Yak. They managed to get up there through Falls Lake. Later in the day we could hear them on Coquihalla Mountain on the other side of the highway. It was still enjoyable just to be out but after 30 minutes the cold got to us and we headed down. We ran into Eleni and Greg about 15 minutes from the summit. It was about 2 pm. We told them to go for the summit but for Eleni to take her skis off and walk up. That worked a lot better for her than trying to fight with her skis. When they had done the peak they would go back to the car and forget about Thar. The rest of us skied and snow shoed down. It wasn't long before there was a big distance between the snowshoers and the

skiers. Nicolas and I were waiting for quite a while. It was then that we found another use for cell phones. I phoned Ian who had his switched on and found out that they were waiting for Michael, our 14 year old junior snowshoer. We decided that Nicolas and I would carry on to Thar and they would come up as soon as they could. We reached Thar at 3 pm and watched the snowshoers coming up. Ian and Radmila reached us at around 3.30. They had left Michael at the bottom because he was fairly tired. We watched the snowmobiles ripping across the lake from the summit. The sun was starting to go down and it was getting colder. It was time to go down. Nicolas and I had a great run down from Thar. Ian and Radmila bum slid where they could. When we reached Michael the sun had disappeared behind the mountains and unfortunately breakable crust had set up. On the way down to the car both Ian and I were picking up wrappers from Michael's power bars. He must have had close to ten. But we were not too pleased and I hope he will change his ways. When we reached the cars at just after 4 pm Eleni and Greg had not yet arrived. We got a little concerned because we had not seen them anywhere. We waited for about 15 minutes and luckily they showed up. Eleni had skied all the way down on her skins. We encouraged her not to give it up but to get as much practice in as possible and sign up for easier trips.

I would like to thank Greg for staying back with Eleni and helping her out. Also I would like to thank Nicolas, Ian and Radmila for their patience. Otherwise we had a great day in the mountains with a good group of people.

Participants: Nicolas Jimenez, Radmila Jaksic, Michael Ames, Greg Iuzzolino, Ian Wilson, Eleni van Hemert, and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter)





**Nak and Thar pks. photos by Jos van der Burg.  
P. 11 - Nak and Yak pks.**



- Clockwise, from bottom -**
- 1. Nak and Yak pks. with the Anderson R. pks in the distance.**
  - 2. Ian near the summit of Nak.**
  - 3. Looking over the pass between Nak and Thar**
  - 4. Looking towards Needle Pk.**
  - 5. Heading to the summit of Nak.**
  - 6. Nicolas and Ian on Thar.**