



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



March, 2006. Vol. 84, No. 3

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 March - Entertainment will be a slide show by Ravil Chamgoulov on his recent ascent of the Vinson Massif in Antarctica - another of the 7 summits ticked off.

Tuesday, 11 April - Entertainment will be a slide show by Karl Ricker on Antarctica prior to computers.



Vinson Massif base camp in Antarctica. Photo - R. Chamgoulov.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484
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VICE-PRESIDENT -	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
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TREASURER -	TODD PONZINI	604-340-9653
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SUMMER CAMP -		
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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 \$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 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

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 Gumplinger 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: Hatchethead Mtn. **B2-3/1959 m**
Rhys Gibb 604-321-9955

Skiing at the edge of Manning park.

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.

18: Organizer's choice **B3**
Ilze Rupners 604-222-3720

Skiing somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.

18: Williams Pk. **C2-3/2123 m**
Gerry Kollmuss 604-946-8055

Extended skiing and scrambling in the Chilliwack valley area.

18-19: Duffey Lake area **B3**
Helen Habgood 604-209-1296

Skiing somewhere off the Duffey Lake road.

Contact the organizer for further details.

18-26: North Ck. **B2-3**
David Scanlon 604-572-5051

A week skiing out of the club cabin in the upper Lillooet valley area.

19: Mt. Harvey (snowshoe) **B2/1672 m**
Fred Douglas 604-293-2951
Snowshoeing above Howe Sound.

19: Mt. Seymour **A2/1449 m**
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666

Easier skiing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.

25: Mt. Fee (ski/snowshoe) **C4/2162 m**
Jos van der Burg 604-463-7582

Skiing or snowshoeing and climbing in the Cheakamus valley area.

25-26: Cayoosh Mtn. **C3/2561 m**
Rhys Gibb 604-321-9955

Extended skiing off the Duffey Lake road.

25-26: Snowspider Mtn. **C3/2494 m**
Isabel Budke 604-224-5737

Extended skiing east of Lillooet Lake.

25-27: Spearhead traverse **C3**
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666

Classic ski traverse beyond Blackcomb in Garibaldi park.

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.

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. 3

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: Michael Ames, Craig Beaumier, Brian Boswell, Lorena Duran, Tannis Leah Giesinger, Soon Kae, Darryl Leniuk, Peter Malacarne, Sarah McMillan, Jason Richmond, Martin Spedding, and Tracy Spedding.

What club members are doing: There was much pog ma thoining again recently in Vancouver when **Mary Prendergast** and **Gavin Thurston** spent a short period here away from their home in New York. They had one enjoyable ski trip between storms before heading off to California where Mary promptly skied into a tree, finally getting to practise on herself what she does to others. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Club social evenings have been attracting large numbers of people recently, with over 100 and up to 140 people present at each of our last 3 socials. Even club members who have not attended many socials in recent years are now being frequently seen again. Such people include **Bill Maurer** and **Ross Wyborn**.

This recent period, however, has also been a sad one with the death of one honorary member and others with connections to the club through their children or parents. In particular, the club wishes to acknowledge the following people -

Mills Winram (1909-2006) died recently. He joined the club in 1926, earlier than any of our existing members, left in 1927, then rejoined again in 1938, remaining a member until 1951.

Aidan Oloman died in an avalanche near Fernie on 14 January. She was an outstanding and very active climber and guide. Her father, Colin, is also a climber who has been active on club trips in past years. The club sends its condolences to Colin, his wife Mab, their other daughter Rowan, and Aidan's partner, Sean.

If you so desire, the family would appreciate dona-

tions to the Aidan Oloman Fund. The purpose of the fund is to continue the work that Aidan believed in, empowering women to gain physical and personal strength through outdoor pursuits. Donations can be made by mail to the Vancouver Foundation, Suite 1200, 555 West Hastings Street, Box 12143, Harbour Centre, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6B 4N6, or on-line to www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca/donate/donateonline.asp. In either case, specify that the donation is to the Aidan Oloman Fund.

A memory book for Aidan's family and friends can be found at <http://aidan.oloman.ca>.

IN MEMORIAM - ENID HARRIS (1922-2006)

One of the sad duties of long time BCMC membership is to commemorate the passing of another old time member, yet at the same time to relive and reflect on the happy times spent together.

Our honorary member, Enid Harris, together with her late husband John, joined the club during the golden age of Coast Mountains exploration in the early sixties. She was not a daring rock or ice climber, but enjoyed the beauties of the mountains in the fullest when she climbed with friends on easier terrain, either locally or on some of the early exploratory club camps, such as at Falls River, 1964 and at Ape Lake, 1965. "She was devoted to exploring and preserving the hinterlands of BC; together with friends she and John spent countless weekends hiking, camping, clearing trails and building shelters for the enjoyment of others." (Quote from the Van. Sun). Enid was on the BCMC executive for 4 years as secretary and one as editor during the 1960's, but it was her commitment and support, together with John, on the creation of the first issue of the "103 Hikes Trail Guide" that prompted her election to honorary member.

Martin Kafer

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

(1.5 m and 5 m 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.

Final Report for the 2005 Annual General Meeting - Conservation Report

By Monika Bittel

This report on the activities of the Recreation and Conservation Committee is long overdue and I apologize for the delay.

As in the past, the BCMC Recreation and Conservation Committee ("Rec & Con Committee") operates primarily through the

Recreation and Conservation Committee of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. ("FMC"), which is recognized by government and various interest groups as an advocate for non-motorized backcountry recreation, focusing primarily on hiking, climbing, backcountry skiing, snowboarding or snowshoeing. If the BCMC does not have

standing to represent its members at a particular forum, committee or table, the Rec & Con Committee pursues its objectives and concerns through the FMC. The BCMC is well-represented at the FMC Rec & Con Committee and BCMC members frequently attend committee meetings or sit at tables and forums on behalf of the FMC. Michael Feller, Brian Wood, Mike Peel, Alastair Ferries and Evelyn Feller regularly participate at FMC Rec & Con meetings and represent the BCMC and/or the FMC on various issues. Many other BCMC members contribute through the FMC Rec & Con list serve by voicing opinions, sharing information, providing feedback, writing letters, and drafting letters or submissions on behalf of the BCMC or FMC.

The following is a summary of some of the activities over the past year:

1. Sea to Sky Winter and Summer Backcountry Recreation Forums: Pat Harrison, who chaired the two Forums, was successful in obtaining funding from the provincial government and from Mountain Equipment Co-op for educational signs, which will be posted at approximately 18 trailheads or access points in the Squamish Forest District. Each sign will include a map of the relevant area and the recommended zoning (e.g., motorized, non-motorized or shared use) for the area. The objective of the signs is to familiarize the public and commercial operators with the concept of zones and the recommended use of zones. The government is also willing to support the website of the Forums as a public education tool. The maps which will be posted on the signs will be uploaded on the website. The website will provide the contact information for the various commercial operators, including heli-ski operators, who have avoidance protocols as part of their commercial tenures. This will allow back-country skiers, snowshoers and snowboarders to notify such operators of trips planned in the tenured areas so that the commercial operator can avoid use of the area if possible. The website will hopefully be a tool that will allow the public to report problems with commercial operators and provide a means to monitor the effectiveness of the avoidance protocols.

2. Coast Range Heli-skiing Tenure: Coast Range Heli-skiing Ltd. applied in June 2005 to Land and

Water BC for a commercial heli-skiing, heli-hiking and heli-fishing tenure for a large area surrounding the Duffey Lake Road and Seton Portage. Some of the areas included in the tenure are high value backcountry skiing terrain (e.g., Steep Creek, Lost Valley Creek, Downton Creek, East of Mt Rohr, Gott Creek, Prospector Peaks and Whitecap Peak and Creek). The application can be viewed on the Land and Water BC website, application number 3410470. Members of the BCMC, Varsity Outdoors Club and FMC are meeting with Coast Range and Land and Water BC regarding this tenure.

3. Juliet Creek Resort Proposal: The proposed Juliet Creek Resort is an 8900 hectare resort to be located near the Coquihalla Summit. The controlled recreation area will extend south as far as Zoa and Bighorn-Alpaca-Llama Peaks. Westscapes Development Inc., the proponent, is preparing a formal proposal for the resort. The FMC has written letters and met with representatives of Land and Water BC regarding the size and scale of the proposed resort and its encroachment on existing recreational areas. In the near future, the FMC will be organizing a workshop to identify, inventory and map the non-motorized recreation areas (winter and summer), trails, routes and access roads in the Chilliwack and the Coquihalla areas. A similar workshop was organized for the Squamish District Forest several years ago and the map and inventory generated proved to be an invaluable tool for the FMC and local clubs in their advocacy work for non-motorized areas, trails and access routes. Anyone interested in participating in the workshop can contact the writer (see contact information below).

4. Lions Bay Access and Parking: The FMC was successful in negotiating use of the gravel parking lot at the Lions Bay Elementary School for overflow parking for hikers on weekends and holidays. There is parking for about 60 cars. There is now a forest trail connecting the gravel parking lot to the trailhead on Sunset Drive. Resolution of the long-standing parking problem at the trailhead for the popular hikes to Lions, Harvey and Brunswick is thanks to the efforts of Pat Harrison, who worked co-operatively with the Council of the Village of Lions Bay and the West Vancouver School Board to find a solution. The

connecting trail was built by Alex Wallace, Bill Sims, Gabriel and Suzanne Mazoret and Pat Harrison.

5. Smoke Bluffs: The planning process for a regional park, which will encompass the Smoke Bluffs and adjacent forestlands, is ongoing. The regional park will be operated by the District of Squamish. It is proposed that the land purchased by the FMC in the late 1980's to save it from development be included in the park. The FMC is examining the options available to it for the transfer of the lands to the District of Squamish. While the FMC supports the plans for the regional

park, the FMC and the BCNC want to ensure that the FMC lands are used in perpetuity for the benefit of climbers and that the climbing community has a permanent and meaningful role in the governance of the park.

Thank you to all members who attend the FMC Rec & Con meetings, participate on the FMC list serve, provide input, draft letters and submissions and provide comments. Anyone interested in participating in the Rec & Con Committee or anyone with any recreation and conservation concerns, should contact Monika Bittel (E-mail: monikabittel@telus.net; Tel: 604-983-3097).

BCMC NEWS

Club sponsors Ravil Chamgoulov and his Climbing for Cancer Cure:

The club executive recently renewed their sponsorship of club member, Ravil Chamgoulov, in his attempt to climb solo the highest mountain on each of the 7 continents and raise funds for his Climbing for Cancer Cure cause. This feat does not appear to have been done previously. Ravil has now climbed 4 of the 7, his slide show of the 4th - the Vinson Massif (Antarctica) - will be given at the March social evening. At their February executive meeting, the club reaffirmed its support for Ravil and pledged to assist the BC Cancer Foundation raise money for cancer research and care in B.C. Sharing a booth with the BC Cancer Foundation at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, and providing written support of Ravil for the Cancer Foundation has been the start of this assistance. If you wish to support Ravil's Climbing for Cancer

Cure, see www.bccancer.bc.ca/don/eventlisting/default.htm.

Historical video production moves ahead:

The Centennial committee would like to produce a video of the history of the club with respect to mountaineering in B.C. Three people were interested in doing this and submitted bids to Martin Kafer and Brian Wood, who are spearheading this for the centennial committee. The committee and some executive members, subsequently ratified at the February executive meeting, selected Bill Noble, whose bid was lowest and who produced the excellent video about John Clarke that won an award at a Banff Mountain Film Festival. This video will be produced during the next 12 months.

Club produces some new banners:

The February executive meeting also gave the go-ahead to Alice Purdey to produce several banners containing the club emblem. One of these banners was given to Ravil Chamgoulov at the February social evening. We hope that it will reach the summits of the 3 remaining high summits.



Ravil on the summit of the Vinson Massif. Photo - R. Chamgoulov.

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!!

We need your photos 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 photos 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".

You must include: date and location of photo, name of photographer with contact info, and name of identifiable people in the photo. If your photograph is chosen for the 2007 BCMC Centennial Calendar, we will need a signed consent from all identifiable persons in the photograph 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 cmacmill@shaw.ca). Please submit your photos in protective coverings; all photos will be treated with care and returned to the owner.

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

Filming at the Stawamus Chief

According to the 22 January issue of Access News, of the Climber's Access Society of B.C. - "Three movies were filmed at Stawamus Chief Provincial Park during 2005, all at least in part in the Grand Wall boulders. The first was in the spring, the second in August. The last was a large project in November. We noted concerns with increasing use of the area for filming, the potential for conflicts with existing user groups, and possible environmental impacts. There was a negative response to this from a few.

Climbers visiting the boulders in mid-November were appalled by the apparent impacts of the film, although clean up and restoration work had just begun. There were many e-mails and calls, and some media attention. After a tour of the area, an agreement was reached for full restoration, which has largely taken place. Thanks to Jack Fieldhouse, D'Arcy Bloom, Tyrone Brett, Jim Sandford, Kevin McLane and others for their work.

B.C. Parks has begun a review of its policy for filming in the park, and the Access Society will be

participating. We have raised the issue of "location fatigue" with both the film company and the B.C. Film Commission – there may be other locations in the Squamish area that have similar attributes for filming, but are less likely to conflict with other values and users.

The master plan for the park discourages filming from Victoria Day – Labour Day. However, this can be overridden by provincial government policies. The park does not gain directly from movies and other commercial permits, although sometimes in-kind contributions can be obtained. The Access Society may soon enter into a stewardship agreement with B.C. Parks, which would provide for advance consultation.

The Squamish climbing community and the Access Society have put substantial effort into looking after the Grand Wall boulders, a cherished place. Climbers have had some impacts on the area, but do their best to minimize and mitigate them. It is ironic that our volunteer work may make the area more attractive to film crews."

Should the FMCBC develop a comprehensive trails database for B.C.?

Alastair Ferries has initiated discussion by suggesting that the FMCBC should establish a comprehensive trails database for B.C. which would be free to everyone on the FMCBC website.

Alastair states -

“The big reason for creating this database would be to get people to visit our website. The goal would be to create such a good source of trail information that all other sources, such as Bivouac.com, 103 Hikes, etc, would become obsolete and the FMC site would become the sole source of BC trail information. The hope would be that some of the people visiting the website would become interested in some of the things the FMC is doing, and get involved, or give support (thus giving the FMC more clout).

My idea is that the information on the trails would come from individual hikers sending in information according to a format designed by the FMC. Hopefully this would also create a spirit of volunteering and getting involved. I think that some members of the hiking community would like to contribute and will if it is in a way that appeals to them. It could add something to one of their hikes if they did it with a notebook, GPS, watch etc., took notes, and perhaps photos, drew a map, etc., and then sent this information to the FMC trails site coordinator.

Some of the misgivings are:

1. It would be like reinventing the wheel, there is already such information out there.

True, but the motive is to get people to our website. The information would be free, (unlike most other sources) and it would be high profile.

2. People wouldn't contribute the trail information. This is possibly most likely. I don't know. But perhaps the idea is good enough to try. There is no shame in trying to achieve a good idea.

3. Nobody has the time and energy to organize this.

Again, probably correct. I know that I could only contribute a couple of hours a week at the most. If Evan's job was to become full time would he and the board be interested in his spending time on this project? The FMC has some money. Would getting this started be a good use of it? If so could Robin Tivey who started and runs

Bivouac.com be approached? Could the FMC buy Bivouac.com with the idea of turning it into a free source of trails information on the FMC website?

4. Liability issues.

These are probably surmountable. there are lots of print trail guides and websites. If they manage with a disclaimer (and perhaps insurance) we should be able to as well. An additional advantage to creating such a site is that needed trail maintenance work could be added to the site. I have received the odd phone call or email from visitors to BC wanting to contribute by working on trails for free.

5. Such a site would conflict with the trail guides that some clubs (and members) publish as a source of revenue. I don't know what clubs publish guides but perhaps the site could at least initially leave out those areas of BC already covered by a club's source of revenue.”

American Alpine Journal seeks articles and reports.

Reports are 250-500 words (sometimes longer), and should include the relevant who/what/where/when type of climbing info. Feel free to add whatever other information you wish, and write it however you desire - just be sure to include those key specific details. Your name will appear at the bottom, though we may do some editing for clarity, grammar, and conciseness. If you are affiliated with any climbing club or group, please list the affiliation at the bottom of your report. If you aren't American, please also note your home country at the bottom.

Please try to stay as close to the word count guidelines as possible for each report, so you can be sure the report has what you want in there - we often have to cut portions of long reports to meet our print space guidelines. Please email your reports, either as regular email message text and/or as an MS Word (best!) or text attachment. Also, please include your phone number and email address in case we have any last-minute questions about your report.

We welcome your photos and will try to publish one if possible. Please request our photo guidelines. For more details on AAJ submissions (reports and photos), go to www.americanalpineclub.org/knowledge/aa-j-submissions.asp

North and South American reports and photos should be sent to Kelly Cordes, AAJ senior editor, at kellyaaj@yahoo.com.

Reports and photos from the rest of the world should go to Lindsay Griffin, at mountaininfo@onetel.net.

General correspondence should go to John Harlin, AAJ editor, at john@johnharlin.net. We can also be reached through aaj@americanalpineclub.org.

Wilderness First Responder Course: *The Wilderness Medicine Institute is running a wilderness first responder first aid course. The objective of the course is to give people confidence and skills to make sound medical decisions in remote settings. The course will be at Simon Fraser University and involves 80 hours of work from 29 April to 8 May. It costs \$650. Further information and registration at www.livemoreadventures.com*

Access Notes

New Papoose Trail, Squamish: According to the 22 January issue of Access News by the Climber's Access Society of B.C. - "As part of preliminary work for the highway project, the Access Society agreed with MoT and B.C. Parks to re-route the Papoose access trail. The new trail

leaves the Shannon Falls access road just before (south) of the bridge across Shannon Creek. A new descent route, along the north shoulder of the Papoose, was also created - it involves scrambling. Thanks to MoT for project funding, and to B.C. Parks (Chris Gooliaff) for help with the route. The old trail has been blocked.

Trip Reports

Sky Pilot, July, 2005

Several people desiring an impromptu trip to the same place resulted in a small club party driving to the end of the drivable section of the Furry Ck. road, negotiating considerable areas of recent logging and road reconstruction. Leaving the cars, we wandered up the road through increasingly encroaching red alder, with some willow and salmonberry thrown in as well. This caused Fred and I to take out our clippers – which should be mandatory equipment for all parties heading up this route (and many others as well) – and commence cutting back branches as we advanced. The encroachment got increasingly strong as we ascended, finally declining when we left the road and headed up Dave's trail to Wind Lake. Overcast conditions prevented us from overheating.

In the subalpine lakes section we met an ACC party retreating from the bad weather around the cabin. Over 3 months later they had still not paid the club their cabin fees! Lunch was had at the cabin – indoors to avoid a few bugs. The cabin seemed in good shape, which is somewhat amazing given the severe snow loads it has regularly received for more than 30 years.

After lunch we headed off along the old trail down to Utopia Lake, explored the old mine debris, then left the trail, traversing upwards towards Mt. Sheer.

We traversed up and across talus slopes, heather hillsides, and rocky ridges to the west of Mt. Sheer, before settling on a sandy flat basin for camp.

After leisurely setting up camp we equally leisurely wandered up Mt. Sheer, scrambling up its final rocky ridge to the summit. With lifting and dissipating clouds, views of distant mountains emerged while we dallied on the summit. A leisurely descent was followed by a leisurely dinner, watching the setting sun slowly causing cool shadows to envelop us.

Next morning dawned clear and sunny, so we left camp continuing our traverse along the west side of the broad Sky Pilot-Sheer ridge. After descending into a vegetated and buggy basin, we climbed up to the ridge, trading greenery for rock and then snow. Mixed snow and rock took us to the base of Sky Pilot's West Ridge, which I had last ascended over 30 years previously. Very enjoyable class 3 rock and some scrambling lead to a worthy summit where a cool breeze again prevented any overheating. More superb 360° views kept us there for some time.

Descending, we encountered another party of 2 who had come up the old way via Britannia Ck. They had nothing but horror stories of their struggles up overgrown roads. We smiled and offered commiseration, left them with their one good hour for their entire weekend trip, then

retraced our steps back to the cabin, up and across the subalpine lakes section, then down to the road where clippers came out again in an attempt to prevent the Furry Ck. approach becoming like the Brittanica Ck. one. Thus ended a true and highly enjoyable B.C. Coast Mountains alpine experience.



Participants:
Dave Scanlon,
Donna Bailie,
Alice Purdey,
Fred Douglas,
Evelyn Feller
and Michael
Feller (Reporter)

**Sky Pilot and
Mtn. Lake
cabin. Photo -
J. Borchardt**

Mount Gillespie, 10 December, 2005

After a less than stellar ski up Thar Peak a week prior to my scheduled Thar Pk. Trip, I decided to change it to the Squamish area which so far this season had had the better snow pack. At that time the snowpack was not all that great and a repeat of last year's winter seemed to be in the works. One bonus of this is that a lot of the back roads could still be driven while normally they would be snowed in. With that in mind I thought of Mount Gillespie. It would be a gamble on how far we would be able to drive and if we could get the peak in the short days at that time of year. Having been able to drive to around 1000 m all of November and there having been no fresh snow to speak of, I was confident we would be able to drive to the E main of the Mamquam main.

On Saturday morning at 7 am a group of 13 friends and club members met at the church for the drive up. At 7.15 am we were on our way. We turned up the Mamquam main below the Chief and started the long drive up the road. There was snow on the road but not enough to be a concern. Depth increased as we went up but we had no problem getting to the E main at around 9 am. After driving another 200 meters to the E 100 turn off, it was time to park the cars. There was enough snow on the road to ski from the cars and it was 9.30 am when we got underway. It was shaping up to be a sunny warm day and the temperature started to rise as we climbed up the road. Sunscreen and sunglasses

were necessary. We reached the end of the road at around 1200 m, after which we had a short section of forest to get through. Snow cover was thin there but it wasn't long before we broke out into the open again. Because of the snow being wet in places and powdery in others, most had problems with snow balling up underneath skins. That slowed the group down and also took a lot of energy, which later in the day would manifest itself in tired and dehydrated people. Also the warm temperature had the effect of making us all somewhat lethargic.

At shortly after noon we reached the 1750 m bumps along the ridge to Gillespie before you drop down. It was time for lunch and to regroup as we had got split up because of the balling up problem. By the time the group was back together and had eaten, it was after 1 pm before we got going again. We dropped down about 100 m, climbed back up and reached the point just above a glacier west of Gillespie which is not on the map. We still had about 45 min to an hour to go but it was after 2, the group had split up again and it would be dark at 4.30 pm – it was time to turn around. People were tired; some had headaches or were not feeling well. It was going to take some time for everybody to get out. We also had some climbing to do as well. The sun was setting when we left the 1750m bumps for the ski down. The skiing was good. Through the forest some walked and others skied carefully down. Once on the road the moonlight helped a lot, getting us down without headlights but even so there were still some wipeouts because of dips and water bars that were not visible in the dark. It was 6 pm when everybody reached the cars and joined Evelyn and Marilyn who had been waiting a while for us to show up. They had not tried to keep up with the peak baggers. An extra hour of daylight would have helped us getting to the summit. But it was a great success nonetheless because of the spring like conditions and great people on the trip. Let's hope for more snow so we can do it in the spring when the days are longer.

Participants: Adam Swartz, Ramsay Dyer, Dan Lord, Greg Stoltman, Larry Kost, Evelyn Feller, Dan Friedman, Marilyn Cox, Silvia Bakovic, Alex Forrest, Dana Lis, Tennessee Trent, and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter).

Photos on next page by Jos van der Burg.



Greg and Pk. 1980m.



Larry and Mt. Gillespie.



Group with Meslilloet Mtn. behind.



Last rays.