



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



May, 2006. Vol. 84, No. 5

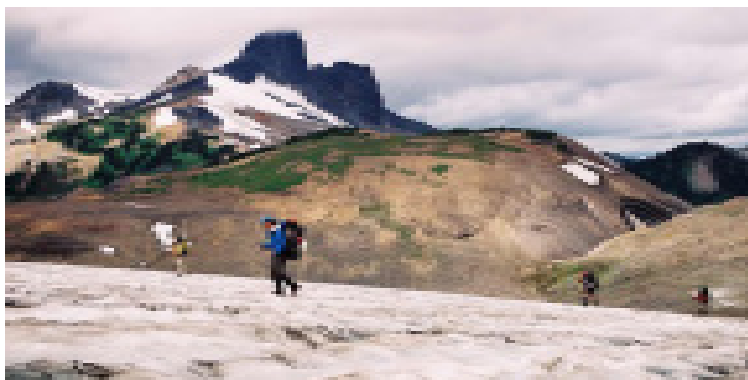
Peaks in Lost Valley Ck., Cayoosh Range.

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, 9 May - Entertainment will be a slide show by Todd Ponzini on recent mountaineering in Garibaldi park.

Tuesday, 13 June - Entertainment will be a slide show by Brian Wood and Peter Woodsworth on rambling in the Dolomites.



Hiking up the Helm Glacier, Black Tusk behind.
Photo - M. Savage.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484
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CABIN/TRAILS -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
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CLUB EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

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

Snow shovels - \$3 per day.

Avalanche probes - \$3 per day.

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

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

First priority for equipment rental is club camps and trips.

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

The **BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER** is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published 10 times per year (every month except July and September). All material within this newsletter is 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

May

6-7: Chimai Mtn. C3/2306 m
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Skiing in the Ashlu valley area N of Squamish.

13-14: Mt. Baker B-C3/3286 m
Erich Hinze 604-224-5646
Ski mountaineering in northern Washington.

13-14: Silverstar Mtn. C3/2705 m
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Skiing and climbing in Washington's North Cascades.

13-14: Mt. Shuksan C4/2783 m
Tom Kuczmirowski 604-468-9092
Skiing and climbing, ascending via the N Face, in northern Washington.

20-22: Exodus area B-C3
Monika Bittel 604-983-3097
Skiing in the Squamish valley area.

20-22: Mt. Rainier C3/4392 m
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666
Skiing in central coastal Washington, up Washington's highest peak.

28: Rainy Mtn. (hike) C2/1650 m
John Sapac 604-873-6740
Hiking in the Sechelt Peninsula. Joint trip with the North Shore Hikers.

June

2-4: Mt. Cayley B4/2380 m
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666
Mountaineering on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.

4: Mt. Varley (hike) C2/1639 m
John Sapac 604-873-6740
Hiking in the Rainy R. area in the Sechelt Peninsula again. Joint trip with the North Shore Hikers.

10: Hozomeen Mtn., N. Pk C-D4/2459 m
(mountaineering)
Bruce Cassels 604-617-6774
Mountaineering and rock climbing in the Skagit valley area of Northern Washington.

BCMC Summer Camps

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

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

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

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.

Membership

New members: The club welcomes the following new associate members: Warwick Board, Ron Caves, Joanne Challen, Joane Crozier, Ron Dart, Anna Fong, Pauline Joly de Lotbinière, Ron Klassen, Leonie Kraus, Pete Kovanda, Bill Lamberton, Esther Lehmann, Douglas Lonsbrough, Niall Mann,

2006 Mountaineering Instruction Program

The club will again be offering a Mountaineering program. This will consist of two evening lectures/practices and three weekend practical sessions.

The program will encompass the following:

- Mountain travel & navigation
- Safety & environmental Issues
- Snow travel/climbing & self arrest/belay
- Glacier travel & crevasse rescue
- Ascent of a moderate peak

Upon completion of the program, you should be able to undertake most club trips up to the B4 level.

Participants must meet the following prerequisites:

- be a club member in good standing
- be an experienced backpacker
- have completed the Essential Rock program or equivalent, and have a sound understanding of basic rock climbing techniques, ropework (belaying) and basic anchor building.
- have a good fitness level
- be willing and eager to participate in future club activities, such as leading trips, assisting in camps and programs, and providing mentorship to less experienced members.

Participants must be able and willing to commit to all theory and practical sessions. Given the popularity and high demand for this program, it would be unfair to other potential participants to take the limited spaces available if you are not prepared to commit yourself to the entire duration of the program. Additionally, participants must provide the following:

- all personal backpacking/camping equipment and supplies
- sit harness, belay device and locking karabiner
- ice axe and crampons
- climbing helmet

The Club will provide other needed technical equipment (ropes, pickets, etc.) and two prussiks

Colleen McCain, Ferdinand Reinstadeer, Hans Selde, Simi Sharifi, Yaniv Tal, Amy Weber, Arnold Witzig, and Charles Yuen.

for each participant.

Cost for the program is \$280. Limit 8 participants

Please note that members who have joined the club specifically to take this program will be required to join for two consecutive years. This is to encourage new member participants to continue to “give back” to the club, with time and effort in the future. Spaces in the program will be given on a “first come” basis, provided you can provide satisfactory proof of your suitability to participate.

Dates for the program are as follows:

May 18 + 25 - evening theory/practice

May 27-28 - weekend practical

June 1 - evening theory/practice

June 3-4 - weekend practical

June 10-11 - weekend practical

Dates are subject to change, especially weekend sessions which may be rescheduled or cancelled due to weather.

To register, please download and complete the application form on the club website <http://bcmc.ca/forms.asp> and mail it along with your cheque for payment to Monica Durigon, 4127 Cambridge Street, Burnaby B.C., V5C 1G8, or register in person at the club social.

For more information please e-mail climbing@bcmc.ca or call Emanuele Porra at 604-533-7723.

BCMC Centennial Video Report

At their April meeting, the club executive approved the first payment to Bill Noble to commence production of the video documentary of the club's history.

Summer Camp organizers still required

The club likes to offer a range of summer camps. Although two are currently being organized, additional camps would be nice to cater to the demand. If you are interested in organizing such a camp, please contact Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

Photographs wanted for the 2007 BCMC Centennial Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Does the BCMC need liability insurance?

Brian Wood has recently raised the issue of whether or not the BCMC needs liability Insurance. He has passed on the following information:

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club recently joined the FMCBC. This was partly to obtain the

liability insurance that the FMCBC offers member clubs. Doug Brown made the following points in an article published in the Sep-Oct. 2005 issue of the Kootenay Mountaineer, reprinted with the permission of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club.

“Personal liability is an issue that is of increasing interest to the members of the KMC. Some members are considering quitting their volunteer activities with the Club due to liability concerns, and others have already done so. Last winter the Executive asked me to investigate this issue, and based on my findings, they voted at the September Executive meeting to join the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC in order to purchase liability insurance through them.

We are all exposed to personal liability when we volunteer. We live in a litigious society, and when someone is injured or killed, the injured person or their family will often seek financial redress in the courts. There are many recent examples in Canada where people injured skiing, climbing, or biking have sued individuals and organizations seeking compensation for their injuries. Most outdoor clubs in BC are already covered by liability insurance.

I sought the legal opinion of Harper Grey, a Vancouver law firm with a specialty in litigation, on this issue. It is their opinion, that through the Club’s activities, virtually all club members have personal liability exposure. This applies to trip participants, trip coordinators, hiking/climbing/skiing camp coordinators and committee members, officers, and directors. Their advice is that the Club should protect its members with liability insurance.

While lawsuits and liability insurance have very negative connotations, it is important to realize that they are the mechanism our society has devised to address a wrong done to one person by another, either directly or indirectly, and either unintentionally or otherwise. Liability insurance for motor vehicles is mandatory and accepted. Insurance for our Club’s mountaineering activities can be seen in the same light.

In our society, the realities of being permanently handicapped and unemployable without financial support are not pretty. Also, as lawyers say, it takes only a “moment’s inattention” to cause a terrible accident. If someone were disabled in part because of a moment’s inattention on your part, you would feel dreadful, and would be glad that your insurance was there to assist the injured party.

I have noticed a few common misconceptions

among club members regarding personal liability:

• “While I participate in club events, I don’t coordinate trips or camps, and I am not on the Executive, so I don’t have any liability exposure.”

Not true. If you dislodge a rock onto a fellow participant, don’t come to the assistance of a fellow participant who is obviously over their head, or administer improper medical care after an accident, you could find yourself at the sharp end of a lawsuit.

• “The members of the KMC are good people, they wouldn’t sue me.”

While KMCers are great people, even strongly held beliefs can change in the face of a horrible reality like becoming permanently unemployable due to an accident and at the same time facing a lifetime of expensive medical treatment. Also, in the case of a severe injury or death, it is often the family of the victim who will initiate the lawsuit.

• “This is not the US, the Canadian courts are sensible about personal liability lawsuits, so I don’t need to worry about personal liability insurance.”
Wrong. Even if you are found to not be liable, it can cost up to \$150,000 to defend yourself against a serious personal liability lawsuit.

• “I don’t have much money, so I don’t need to worry about personal liability insurance.”

You’d better also take vows of eternal poverty and unemployment. If you own your home, you could lose that. If you work, you could find your wages garnished.

Club trips and camps are core to the KMC; without them the club will die. To ensure that the Club can continue indefinitely with a busy trip schedule, and that the Club’s volunteers and members are properly protected against litigation, the Club needs to purchase liability insurance.”

Doug investigated the liability insurance that was available and concluded that the FMCBC insurance was the best option. So, what is the FMCBC insurance?

Peter Rothermel, an FMCBC director describes the FMCBC insurance policy as follows:

“Our present policy is with All Sport Insurance Marketing Ltd. (the Company) and they specialize in providing insurance coverage for sporting organizations. The policy is a Commercial General Liability Policy to protect our members from lawsuit. It is not accident insurance. In other words if you break a leg you don't receive any compensation. We are covered with \$5,000,000 in liability insurance, with a \$500 deductible. So, if someone breaks a leg and another member is accused of causing it, taken to court and the case is ruled against that member, he/she will be covered up to \$5,000,000 in court costs and settlements.

Our 2004/2005 premium fees were \$6 per member. As a group, the Fed presently pays \$4,500 for 900 member's (who participate) coverage per year. In contrast the Alpine Club was paying \$7 per member for \$1,000,000 coverage... a higher premium for a fifth of the coverage the FMCBC gets. Now they are having a hard time even getting insurance. If we lowered our coverage to \$4,000,000, we would only save about 65 cents per member, per year. The Company won't give coverage higher than \$5,000,000., which is probably more than enough. If we have a claim against any of our covered members, the following year's rates would probably increase or the policy may not be renewed. Trip waivers don't have any effect on policy coverage or premium rates. Yet, they do serve as a warning to participants of what possible dangers could be encountered on trips and would show intent and indemnification in a court of law.

Partly due to the reverberations from 911 and an increase in auto thefts and a general over abundance of superfluous claims, all insurance, (auto, house, life, etc.), is on the rise. Yet, the greatest contributing factor for rate increases are low interest rates and a sluggish stock market, as this is where the insurance companies invest the money we give them as premiums. If the insurance companies can't make their profits in investments, the shortfall has to be born by the policy holders. I suspect we won't find a better deal, for the coverage we're getting. We are checking into some other companies, to see what they offer.

Members are covered on club sanctioned trips and meetings, including hiking, kayaking, canoeing (in boats under 9 m), cross country skiing, including self propelled back country, (but not lift, cat or heli skiing), climbing (including technical roped) and light

trail cleaning (no power tools or bridge building). Non-club sanctioned trips are not covered. For example, if several club members decide to go on a hiking trip that is not scheduled by their club, they aren't covered. If a trip leader changes a trip due to weather or any reason they deem reasonable, it is still considered a club sanctioned trip.

Trail work in Provincial or Regional Parks, sanctioned by them, is covered by their insurance. Provincial Parks has Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage and Commercial General Liability, as does my local Regional District (check with your own Regional District). Unsanctioned trail work would not be covered by the Parks. We are looking in to the details.

We could get bike touring added, but it would increase the premiums to about \$7.50 per member. The Company will not insure for mountain biking. Interestingly enough, the North Shore Hikers pay a \$2 per member premium and are covered for bike touring, but not rock climbing, with their insurance company.

Every club member is covered, not just the trip leaders, on all club sanctioned activities... that is scheduled trips and meetings in Canada and the United States. For example, if someone is hurt or killed (whether they are or not an insured member or a guest) and they or their heirs figure you (an insured member) are deemed at fault and they or their heirs sues you, the Company will take charge of and pay for your defense. If you are found at fault, the Company will pay what the judge orders, up to \$5,000,000, less legal fees. Anything over that amount is on your own head. That said, there has only been a handful of these types of claims ever, in Canada, having been awarded for as much or more than \$5,000,000. The Company will repeatedly cover each and any law suit to \$5,000,000 during that year's coverage. So if we had ten claims against us in a given year, we'd be covered up to ten times \$5,000,000. Although, if that happened, I doubt the Company (or any broker, for that matter), would renew us the next year. Although in another scenario, if a member, on a club scheduled trail maintenance, causes a rock slide that wipes out a subdivision full of houses, there could be several law suits arising from this one occurrence, but the Company would only foot the bill to the maxim of

\$5,000,000. In other words, five million for EACH single accident event. If a club member is needed to testify in court proceedings, the Company will compensate up to \$100 per day to them for loss of work.

All club members are covered as soon as they pay their club fees to the club officer. In a court of law the club officer would testify as proof. If a member belongs to more than one club he/she will only need to pay insurance premiums through one club (\$6). However, if a member belongs to either the ACC or the North Shore Hikers, and another club then the member will need to pay for that club's individual insurance premiums plus the FMCBC insurance premiums, i.e. ACC insurance will not cover members on Island Mountain Ramblers activities. Another good reason for all our clubs to be insured with the same broker.

The Company does have a special policy for guests. They can get coverage for a single activity for \$1.50, for up to three times (they should join by then anyway). This can be done on the point of departure and the collected fees can be remitted along with the club's regular insurance remittance to the FMCBC, even if it's several months later. Again, in a court of law, the trip leader would testify as proof, although we should keep a written record of guest coverages.

The Company will voluntarily pay reasonable medical expenses of guests injured by the actions of club members on sanctioned trips or activities, up to \$1000. This is coverage to create good will towards the clubs from the Company, and is available even if the guests have not paid the \$1.50 day coverage.

There is a clause protecting any director or officer of the Fed or clubs from lawsuits claiming they didn't fulfill their duties as a director for up to \$5,000,000. Tenants Legal Liability covers property damage to premises rented or owned by the clubs, up to \$250,000, with a \$250 deductible. There is a Standard Non-Owned Automobile Policy, that basically provides extra insurance if a club has an accident with a rental vehicle and the rental company insurance isn't enough to cover.

There are a number of policy exclusions: transportation to and from hikes is not covered. Auto insurance, airline and other commercial carriers

are covered by their own insurance policies (e.g helicopter access). For intended damage, such as if one member pushed someone off a cliff on purpose, the member wouldn't be covered if there was proof of this not being an accident. And a whole slew of other exclusions like war, nuclear accident, asbestos contamination, fungus, pollution, etc.

In regards to our insurance, young participants are a concern, as any minor under the age of consent can be held liable and therefore does need to be insured. The parents could be partly held responsible for any actions by the minors, yet minors are not off the hook in the eyes of the law. If not already in practice, we would recommend that written permission, from the parents, and an adult partner be standard for all minors on club trips, not accompanied by their parent or a legal guardian. This would be a two step approach to having minors on club trips... first it would insure that the parents of the young participant understand the scope of the trip and secondly it would insure that any minors, on a trip, had an adult sponsor with them, during the trip.

The clubs have a fiduciary duty to the Company to promptly report any accident that might potentially lead to a lawsuit.

After reading all this material, I'm left with the perception that All Sport is dependable and that six dollars per year is very cheap, for what we're getting. Personally, after reading into insurance and it's ramifications, I would not want to lead club trips, hold a club office or be a Director for the FMCBC, if I weren't covered by an insurance policy or some other contingency plan.



BC Cancer Foundation
Supporting research & care at BC Cancer Agency



1man7summits

As you all know, Ravil Chamgoulov, one of our members and a researcher at the BC Cancer Agency, is climbing the highest mountain on each of the seven continents, alone and unguided, to raise \$1 Million for cancer research and enhanced care at the BC Cancer Agency. To date, he has climbed four of the seven mountains, alone and unguided, and will be climbing in Australia in May of this year, followed by Kilimanjaro in December, 2006 and Everest between March and May of 2007, coinciding with our 100th anniversary as a club. For the Kilimanjaro and Everest expeditions, the BC Cancer Foundation will be offering a number of limited spaces for trekkers and climbers to accompany Ravil. Those on the Kili expedition will have a chance to climb the mountain and go on a land safari. Those on the Everest expedition will trek into the Tibet base camp because Ravil will be climbing the north side of Everest. The Foundation will not be arranging climbs of Everest as part of this particular excursion, however. There will be a fund raising component for each individual who chooses to participate in these expeditions.

Many of you will have attended our March social where Nick Locke, Senior VP, Development, from the BC Cancer Foundation gave a presentation about the program. The 1 Man 7 Summits quest is a true metaphor for the heroism, courage and determination demonstrated by every human being who is diagnosed with cancer, each climbing his or her own highest

mountain in an effort to survive the disease. It is also a symbol of the dedication, creativity and caring of the researchers, scientists and clinicians who make every day count in their efforts to find the causes, cures and better treatments for cancer. Many of our members and their families and friends have been touched by a cancer diagnosis.

If you donate to cancer causes or wish to for the first time, please consider making a donation to the BC Cancer Foundation in the name of Ravil Chamgoulov. You can make an online donation by going to the BC Cancer Foundation web site (www.bccancerfoundation.com) and following the links, please remember to specify your donation is for the 1 Man 7 Summits program. You may also mail a cheque to the BC Cancer Foundation at #200 - 601 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C., V5Z 4C2, or call the donation line to give with your credit card at 604-877-6040, always mentioning 1 Man 7 Summits.

By joining the BC Cancer Foundation in sponsoring and supporting Ravil's quest, you are helping to provide hope and inspiration to hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of people facing a cancer diagnosis, and their friends & families.

News

Etiquette for those heading off into the North Shore mountains

The North Shore Search and Rescue have had a few incidents over the winter where people have gone missing on the local mountains while their cars are left in the parking lots. NSSR are asking as a response measure that people traveling in

the backcountry (or anywhere out of the controlled Recreation Areas) to register with the mountain guest services and when not available leave a note in your glove box explaining your trip plan.

Parking at Skaha

According to Access News of 19 April, put out by the Climber's Access Society –

“Braesyde Farms will be undergoing agricultural development in spring/summer of 2006. It is the site of all legal parking for climbers at Skaha. Owner Hugh Dunlop has assured us of continuing access to, and parking for, Skaha during 2006. It appears that Braesyde will continue to host the parking in 2007 and beyond, although the location and arrangements may change. Thanks to the Dunlops and Braesyde for their hospitality, including rebuilding the stairs last year, and the kiosk. The use fee for the area is \$5/person/day, however one arrives. The fee is mandatory for all users, and helps make the parking arrangement viable and so guarantees access. Please pay the fee, keep all dogs leashed at all time, and be respectful of others”.

Washington State Axes Parking Fees in State Parks

According to a press release from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee –

On Monday March 20, 2006, Washington State governor Christine Gregoire signed a bill to repeal the unpopular parking fees in Washington State parks. Introduced in Washington in 2003, the \$5 a day parking fees proved to be immensely unpopular, resulting in missed revenue targets and the loss of over 7 million visitors in the three years the parking meters were in effect.

“The governor clearly saw that the parking fees were not working, that they were driving families away from parks, and she correctly acted on that information,” said Gwen Barlee policy director with the Wilderness Committee. “What is surprising is that the BC government hasn’t done the same thing when our experience with park-use fees has mirrored Washington State’s.”

In 2003, the BC government introduced parking meters in 28 popular 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.

Freedom of Information (FOI) documents obtained by the Wilderness Committee in 2005 revealed the parking meters drove away over 1,000,000 park visitors in the Lower Mainland the first year they

were introduced, substantially missed revenue targets, and have been beset by continuing vandalism problems and high non-compliance with the public. Government records also revealed that some of the meters could not accept Canadian coins and repeatedly broke down when plugged with Canadian currency.

In October 2005, after consistently embarrassing media coverage on the parking meters, BC environment minister Barry Penner instructed his deputy minister Chris Trumpy to reexamine the parking meter program. The review is to be completed this spring.

Land containing the start of the Lake Lovelywater trail is for sale

Do you want to buy the start of the Lake Lovelywater trail? For only \$3 million (asking price) this 38 ha of land fronting the Squamish River could be yours! The implications of this sale for access to Lake Lovelywater are as yet unknown. The FMCBC is investigating. Thanks to Blair Mitten for alerting us.

Whistler ski lifts take another step closer to Singing Pass

Whistler has recently announced that next season they will have a new lift running up Piccolo. Given their progression up Fitzsimmons Ck. valley and support from various B.C. governments for this cancerous growth (editor’s comment), there seems little likelihood that Singing Pass will be spared the same unfortunate fate.

Juliet Ck. resort proposal moves forward

In March the proponents of the Juliet resort put forward their proposal to the B.C. government’s Environment Assessment Office (EAO) for the terms of reference that the EAO would have them address (Yes, this is the way it now works in this make-believe world of B.C.). The public was given a few weeks in which to comment. Your editor, on behalf of the club, made the following points in a submission to the EAO:

“Firstly, and above all, the process being used by the Environment Assessment Office is seriously flawed and contrary to the interests of the public. Having a proponent come up with their own terms of reference and then hiring their own consultants to address their terms of reference is

tantamount to asking a fox to manage chickens. No consultant hired by the proponent will produce anything which seriously harms the proponent's case. Consequently, we have no confidence that this process serves the public interest, or that an objective environmental assessment will occur.

Secondly, the process is further flawed when the map showing the area of interest to the proponent (p. 6 of the draft terms of reference) is so completely fuzzy that no words can be read or geographic features identified. Higher resolution images are critical if any meaningful public comment is to be made. This map appears to be different from earlier maps of the proposal, so one is given the impression that the proponent wants to hide something. [The map is completely illegible. However, it is still clear that the area of interest has changed. Ski lifts are now being proposed up to the Alpaca-Vicuña and the Zum-Zoa ridges. The emphasis of the proposed resort has also shifted from a ski resort to an all season one].

Thirdly, the terms of reference should more specifically include an assessment of the impacts of the proposal on the existing backcountry users of the area. This assessment should not be restricted to the immediate area wanted by the proponent, but should also include the entire Coquihalla Pass - Anderson River region which would be influenced not just by the facilities to be constructed, but also by the growth in numbers of people and machinery (helicopters, etc.) associated with the proposed resort. Where displaced backcountry recreationists would go, and how the different recreation groups (motorized vs. non-motorized) would be accommodated, should be addressed. Cumulative impacts, and not just individual impacts, should be addressed. The draft terms of reference vaguely state that impacts on existing users will be addressed, but say nothing about cumulative impacts or their duration. On this latter point - the draft terms of reference say little to nothing about the duration of impacts”.

Trip Reports

Mt Seymour Extreme Snowshoeing, 21 January, 2006

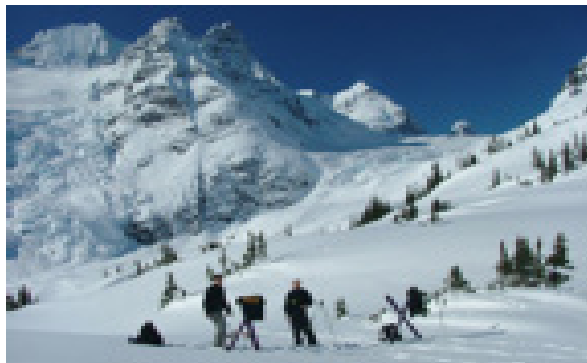
I thought it was a little inside joke: “Extreme snow shoeing?” When I called to put my name in, however, Peter W. asked if I could climb up a 60

RCMP enforce an LRMP - non-motorized zone in the backcountry near Smithers

Snowmobilers have caused problems in the Smithers area by going into an area designated as non-motorized by the Morice LRMP. The local snowmobile club was also trying to re-open the LRMP and over-turn the designation. In this case there was also a local ski-tour operator that had a cabin (and tenure) in the area (Burnie Glacier Chalet).

A group of stakeholders (including the FMCBC) approached the government and sought resolution of this issue. As it turns out the government actually got involved and got the RCMP to enforce the non-motorized area through Section 58 of the Forest and Range Protection Act (FRPA). This is significant because the Morice LRMP is still an Order in Council and hasn't actually been signed off. However the zoning is being enforced.

This could set a precedent for the Sea to Sky winter backcountry accord and other non-motorized designations that are adopted by the Sea to Sky LRMP (still being discussed by local First Nations groups).



RCMP snowmobile block.

degree slope with snow shoes. Little did I know that he was serious, and should have added “how about an 80 degree slope down”?

But our group of six stalwart skiers and climbers turned showshoers for the day learned fast, and

at the end of seven hours or so in the Mt Seymour back country, were baptized and converted to the leaders' firm belief that snow shoeing should have a more prominent place in our club's activities.

By the time we climbed up to the Pensier ridge area we figured out how to kick steps in the deep snow, sometimes using tree branches to full advantage, and throwing ourselves recklessly down any almost vertical bump that we came across, spurred on by our intrepid leader's encouragements, like "now, do it again properly!"

Of course, some of us had no idea where we were, since it was snowing almost continuously, and the terrain started looking suspiciously the same after awhile despite our guide's glowing reports of the fine views that could be enjoyed if the visibility would not have been so poor.

After descending into a basin close to the ski run, a small mutiny broke out with a few – now much more confident – members of our party striking out a more agreeable route to our lunch spot on top of yet another bump without view. In depth discussions on snow shoe construction and possible patent application for snow shoe modifications ensued.

Then it was time to check out the other side of the hill, and we crossed the commercial ski area staying close to the ropes with the large yellow danger signs. It was here where the slopes were tested briefly for avalanche danger by knocking off a large chunk of snow down a steep slope. Well satisfied with the result, our party now engaged in advanced slope descents with only Monica getting stuck briefly in a tree cavity requiring the use of the shovels.

With our guide's exceptional navigational skills we came out at the precise location of the Suicide Bluffs, and then hiked into the First Lake area. It was suggested to finish off with a visit to Dinky Peak, a highlight of many a Lower Mainland school escorted trip. This however proved the Leaders Achilles' heel, and two attempts were made with the same outcome when we arrived at the exact same spot where we set off!

Using an established trail for the first time that day proved successful and Dinky Peak was ours! Not wanting to take the "obvious" trail back, we once again dove into the forest and came out within a few meters of the start of the First Lake trail. All the time we were "off piste", we did not see anyone, and we had the place to ourselves.

A great trip and excellent company!

Participants: Peter Woodsworth (Organizer), Monika Bittel; Julian, Todd Ponzini, Doug McMillan, Corina Acheson, and Peter Oostlander (Reporter)

Tetrahedron area, 4-5 February, 2006

Severe weather warnings and weeks of rain with more forecast all failed to deter a small party from leaving Vancouver to catch the first ferry to the Sunshine Coast. Dodging trees blown down onto the Stanley Park causeway and braving 60-80 km/hr winds, the party miraculously made it to the ferry. On the Sunshine Coast the heavens opened up yet again, ocean waves actually rolled across the highway near Roberts Ck (!) and the rain turned to sleet by the time we drove as high as we could on the Gray Ck. Forest Road. Snow plowing was in progress while we sat in the car looking at the sleet and a car of snowboarders, who spent half an hour getting another 200 m further up the road. Head off into the sleet or retreat to creature comforts? Due perhaps to lack of sleep causing an inability to think clearly, we set off skiing up the road.

The sleet gave way to snow by the time we reached the clearcut beyond the gate across the road. Saturated skins began to ball up in the fresh snow, clothes began to get saturated beneath parkas, and the wind increased as the temperature decreased – definitely dismal. We encountered a party, including past BCMC member Darren Quist, retreating from a short period of skiing in the last clearcut, then continued on up the deactivated "almost" logging road before heading down through concrete snow. This, together with badly balling up skins made for less than pleasant skiing. Binding problems added to our woes. Another party, passing above us on the road, suggested we were leaving the road too early. But we saw the lake below. When we eventually staggered upon it we found we were, in fact, at Gilbert Lake, and not the Edwards Lake we were seeking. So on we plodded up to Edwards Lake, lured on by thought of the other party's ski trail across the lake and up to the cabin. But no trail was visible on the lake so on we plodded, lured on now only by thoughts of a not too distant cabin. Once across the lake the other party of 2 appeared on our tracks where they first reached the lake. Perhaps if we went slower the ordeal of wading through the concrete into the storm, could be borne by the others. They only caught up to us about 100 m from

the cabin, however. At least the struggle through the snow had kept us warm, if not dry.

A whiff of smoke – was someone at the cabin? No recent tracks were visible. A party of 7 was indeed at the cabin, having come in the previous day. A night of heavy rain followed by 20 cm of fresh snow had obliterated their tracks. The disadvantage of a crowded cabin was overwhelmed by the presence of a warm fire in the stove. The cabin party was a very convivial group from the North Vancouver Outdoor Club and a very pleasant, warm, and drying evening was had by all. After wringing the water out of clothes, sleeping bags, etc. we were even able to dry out. By 9 pm the snow had stopped and glimpses of the moon could be had. Perhaps Sunday would make up for the Saturday ordeal.

This it did, many times over. Sunshine and whiskey jacks greeted us in the morning. Four of our party, one of the North Van. O.C. group, and the other party of 2 set off towards Mt. Steele. The air was dry, the snow was dry and the sun was shining – a perfect start to the day. The NVOC contingent had to stop below the ridge to get back to the rest of his group who were heading out early. The rest of us continued up to the trees above the Mt. Steele cabin. I had thought that the recent weather would have created a very high avalanche hazard, so chose a route up through the trees to the summit ridge of Mt. Steele. However, well frozen snow suggested the hazard was not that high. Still, we avoided skiing down the gully. As we reached the summit ridge, a growing cloud enveloped the summit, and the surrounding peaks disappeared into their own clouds. We decided to give the summit a miss, so headed up to the bump NW of the true summit. From here we took off skins and prepared for the ski down. One of the other party asked us if he could ski in the middle of our group due to his inexperience. No problem, except that he was about the first person down. He and his friend went back up for another run while our party continued down. The snow on the ridge was a bit crusty, but once off the ridge, perfect powdery snow provided us with much joy all the way back to the cabin. By this time the clouds from the various peaks had all joined together and an occasional snowflake drifted down.

Following lunch we headed down for an infinitely more enjoyable ski than the previous day, perfect snow conditions and better visibility making for more rapid and comfortable travel. Parties appeared

everywhere – perhaps bad weather has some advantages.

The skiing was uneventful until the last few hundred metres from the trailhead carpark when breakable crust pitted with numerous holes, presumably made by crashing skiers, presented such an obstacle course that skins or walking took over. We soon discovered, to our horror, that the road had now been plowed right up to the car park, so a walk for over a km down gravel and slush was required to get us back to the car.

All in all, a very worthwhile trip, surprisingly enjoyable given Saturday's weather and snow conditions, and with really good company.

Participants: Laura Scull, Elisa Kreller, Leonie Kraus, Evelyn Feller, and Michael Feller (Organizer and reporter).

Dam Mtn. - Munday Cabin, 11 February, 2006

It is impossible to understand mountaineering history in BC without hearing about Don and Phyllis Munday. Baby Munday Peak in the Cheam Range was named after the Munday's daughter, and Phyllis (1894-1990) has been ranked as one of the top ten mountaineers in BC's history.

Don and Phyllis Munday lived in a cabin Don built on Dam Mountain (west of Grouse Mountain) from 1919 to 1922. Arnold Shives and I, the day promising to be most generous, decided to hike to the Munday cabin (what is left of it), on Saturday February 11. We drove to the Grouse parking lot, started up the Grouse Grind, then veered off the trail into the Capilano watershed area. We slipped through the metal fence and soon found the thin and at times disappearing Dam Trail. The trail (not listed in any mountaineering books) wound its way up Dam Mountain, round the base of an imposing bluff, then over the bluff to the Munday cabin.



Munday cabin remains and Ron Dart, photo by A. Shives.

in the early 1920s. Arnold did many sketches of this primary BC mountaineering site. The view of Vancouver Island to the west was superb, the city below an urban feast and the snow white Lions ever brooding over the area.

Day star had turned well to the west as we descended through the darkening forest and headed to home and hearth again. We were most grateful to have had the opportunity to see the old Munday cabin and take some photos before such a place decomposes into the soil and is irretrievable as an important source of BC mountaineering history.

Ron Dart (Reporter)

Clayoquot Sound - Hot Springs Cove - Meares Island, 16-20 February, 2006:

My wife (Karin) and I spent a lovely 5 days rambling round moss covered trails, up and down old-growth hillsides and on the open sea in the Clayoquot Sound area.

We stopped in Port Alberni on the way to the Sound to pick up a trail guide for Mount Arrowsmith/Mount Cokely (which we hope to hike to this summer). It was from Mount Arrowsmith in 1925 that Don and Phyllis Munday noticed Mount Waddington spiking through high floating cumulus clouds. Such a compelling sight altered their hiking/climbing lives. The Clayoquot Sound area was, as most keenly remember, the white heat core of the battle between environmentalists, First Nations, loggers and the government in the 1980s-1990s. We took the boat trip from Tofino, west and north of Flores/Vargas Islands to Hot Springs Cove. The 5 km round trip, along a well carved boardwalk, took us by many a gnarled old growth to the rock terraced and much envied hot springs. A full day was spent by the ocean and sulphur thick springs. Few were in the area at this time of year.

Meares Island, across Browning Passage from Tofino, was the flash point for Clayoquot Sound. Hanging Garden Tree on Meares is one of the wonders of the world. It measures 18.3 metres in circumference. There are those who think it is the oldest living tree in Canada (1500 years old). Mount Colnett and Lone Cone, sentinels of the Sound, rise from forest thick Meares, like guardians from an older time. The views from both the roof of Colnett and Lone Cone open up vistas of unsheathed jagged and white knife peaks to the east and the vast expanse of the ocean to the west.

The weather was most generous and lenient to us (unusual in storm watching season). Our many hikes along Wild Pacific Trail near Ucluelet, ambles about many a warm sand inlet and cove between Ucluelet and Tofino, then up to Hot Springs Cove was a charmer and keeper. Meares Island, Lone Cone and Colnett still massage the soul well. Ron Dart (Reporter).

Knight Peak/Mt. Laughington, 25 February, 2006

The trip generated more interest than I anticipated. It forced me to limit the numbers. I had to deny everybody who phoned after Thursday evening from joining the trip which is always a tough choice to make. Still, 14 of us met at 7 am in Abbotsford. There we had to spend some time figuring out the carpooling. We wanted 4x4 to get up the Airplane Creek road. Once Emanuele showed up with the key to the gate and his beefed up Jeep Cherokee we were ready to roll. We reached the gate at around 8.45am. There were about 5 to 10 cm of snow on the ground. It was going to cause some troubles getting up the first few switchbacks. Emanuele made good progress and managed to get to around 800m in about 50 cm of snow but there we waited knowing that the others would not be able to make it this far. We dropped our gear and drove back down to the rest of the group. They had made it past the difficult section but not as far as I had hoped. It was time to park and get going. It added time to the trip having to start lower. Because of the fresh snow, trail breaking slowed us down more than I had counted on. When we reached the point where you drop down to the Airplane Creek crossing I decided that we were not going to get to our objective. The weather was deteriorating sooner than forecast, conditions were slower than anticipated and a group of 14 just doesn't move as fast as a much smaller group. I suggested to the group that we do Laughington instead and get some nice powder turns. There was some discussion and it was decided that the snowshoers would carry on but the skiers were easily convinced to get some turns instead.

The snowshoers encountered tough conditions. Too steep most of the time to keep their snowshoes on, they found the snow was not hard enough to carry them so they were post holing a lot of the time. They reached the 1500 m mark before they decided to turn around and call it a day.

The skiers climbed up directly from the creek

crossing to the ridge on Laughington and then over to the true summit. The nice thing of doing it this way is that you avoid having to traverse the long undulating ridge from east to west. It was snowing steadily once we reached the summit but visibility was still reasonable. The turns from the summit were excellent. We climbed back up to meet our up track and had another great run back down to the deactivated road. The skiing on Laughington is not steep but it has some great tree runs, open glades and gullies to explore. Everybody was in agreement that we had made the right choice for the day. A quick ski down the road brought us back to the cars at 4.30 pm. The snowshoers had arrived 20 minutes earlier - not bad timing! The drive down the logging road went without incident but we were facing snowy conditions all the way to Chilliwack. Most stopped for drinks and food at the Major League. We had a good day and even though we never reached our objective everybody was satisfied.

Participants: Bernie Brandt, Greg Iuzzolino, Brad Burling, Ian Wilson, Ilze Rupners, Fleur Couvreur, Elienne Berthier, Sandy Detillieux, Adam Swartz, Erik Frebold, Peter Gumpfinger, Silke Gumpfinger, Emanuele Porra and Jos van der Burg (organizer and reporter).

Hatchethead Mtn. 25-26 February, 2006

An easy overnight trip for beginners to back country skiing and camping had us meet in Surrey at 7 am to carpool. After the mandatory stop at the Tim Hortons in Sardis, we were on our way to the trail head and 20-25 cm of fresh snow. The first part of the trip saw us skin up an old mining road for four hours to our camping area in a grove of trees. Here we were very well protected from the elements, wind especially. As we were making camp the snow started and as the afternoon wore on it continued to come down more and more heavily. Three of us went over towards Hatchedhead Mtn. as the others went on up the slope. We three turned back to camp at 5 pm due to the time factor and the failing visibility. Dinner turned out to be a rather solitary affair as we all cooked in our respective tents due to the severity of the snowfall. The temperature was to have been -15° C but wasn't anywhere near that.

The next morning saw about 4 to 8 cm of new snow. We left camp at the crack of 9:30 with Silverdaisy as our destination and all of the new snow giving us the promise of some good skiing. On the way two of

the party just couldn't resist the temptation and went on a side trip to do some yo yo skiing while the rest of us went on to the summit of Silverdaisy. En route the snowfall had stopped giving us some views. We could see Hozomeen Mtn., part of Silvertip and the lower part of Outram. On the way back to camp we caught up to our missing duo and we all skied back together. As mentioned, the snowfall was quite heavy, so much so that you couldn't quite ski down the road. So we leapfrogged our way down. The first person would start and break trail then step aside. The next person would take a run down their tracks going as far as they could before the deep snow stopped them. They then stepped aside letting the next person do the same etc. etc. etc. It was all rather fun. There was one place on the way out where we could ski down to the road below us where it switched back. This with our full packs on. This turned out to be a bit of a challenge for some who were new to the experience of having all that extra weight to try and control.

We all survived though, arriving safe and sound at the cars. Four of us went to the Wildcat cafe for dinner and the other two trip members had to depart to home. The newcomers I think learned a few new things which was the purpose of the trip as well as having some fun.

Thanks to Monika Bittel, Susan Bittel, Rita Bittel, Andre Bavlou, and Andreas Prucker. David Scanlon (organizer and reporter).

Cayoosh Mtn. 18 February, 2006

Everyone was on time for our 7 a.m. rendezvous at the church parking lot. We sorted ourselves into 3 vehicles and headed for Whistler, where we picked up Walter after he dropped his car at his cabin. I did a beacon check and we were moving up the valley from Cayoosh pass by 10 am. We stopped at the end of the logging road just before ascending the gulley with boulders to discover we'd set off without Bob, who was late getting out of the parking area. He soon appeared, but minus his beacon, which later turned up in his daypack at the car.

We quickly ascended the gulley, arrived at the lake and began the climb over the shoulder of a ridge that brought us onto the sparsely treed open slope that led up to the glacier. The day was bright and sunny, but cold (I'm guessing -20° C), and I was glad for the chemical foot and hand warmers I'd brought along. As we began the traverse on hard pack into the basin below the col, Bob decided to

wait for us because his skins were slipping. Our group had a brief standing lunch stop in the basin and then got moving again to fight off the cold. I found my new ski crampons were an energy saver as we edged up the lip of the col. Several skiers passed us in descent as we made our way to the base of the main summit. Watching them, we could see that the upper basin was an unpredictable mix of crust and surface hoar.

We drove boot steps into the crusty snow to the step above the rock knob (nobody else appeared to have gone for the summit) and then Lisa punched up a final steep pitch until we could walk to the main summit. It was now about 3 pm. Five minutes for photos and then our chattering teeth and the wind forced us to retreat downward to retrieve our skis. The descent, despite the unpredictable snow, was remarkably straightforward. We decided to ski the fall line instead of backtracking to the lake and found good snow as we descended into the trees to the valley bottom. There, we discovered a flagged trail that led past an A-frame cabin about 100 metres from the logging road. We caught up with Bob on the way out. He had come down earlier with 3 French skiers (the group who had passed us earlier).



Cayoosh Mtn. - the last steps below the summit (above), and the group on the summit (left). Photos - R. Gibb.

As this was my third attempt at Cayoosh (weathered off both previous attempts), I considered it a perfect trip (low avalanche risk, strong group and clear skies).

Participants: Bill Andrews, Lisa Baile, Sophie Carayon, Rhys Gibb, Walter Horton, Steve Palmier, Andrey Pavlov, Andreas Prucker, Bob Trydal, and Randy Enomoto (organizer and reporter).