



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



November, 2006. Vol. 84, No. 9

Fall in Cathedral park.

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 November - The **Annual General Meeting**. Entertainment will be provided by your executive as well as by Peter Gumplinger who will give a slide show on recent skitouring on the European Haute Route.

Tuesday, 12 December - Entertainment will be a slide show by Marcus Dell on his recent ascent of Broad Pk., an 8000m peak in the Karakoram.



On the haute route. Photo - C. MacMillan.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484
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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 \$10 per day plus \$300 refundable deposit, all payable in advance, then \$2 per minute use.

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

First priority for equipment rental is club camps and trips.

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

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

Trip Schedule

November

18: Middle Needle **B3**
Todd Ponzini 604-340-9653
Biking and hiking via Hydraulic Ck.

Membership

Membership fees for 2006/2007 are now due - Membership fees for 2006-2007 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, **THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE.** You should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying the October newsletter, or obtainable from the club website, indicate if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, read and sign the waiver on the reverse

BCMC News

Club membership cards - These cards can be collected at social meetings. They are useful for obtaining discounts at certain businesses (Canada West Mountain School, The Hangout, Cliffhanger, and Edge climbing gyms, and Grippled Magazine) and for facilitating some overseas mountaineering trips.

Why don't you stand for the executive?

The November social evening will be the Annual General Meeting of the club. At this time a new executive will be voted in so, if you are interested in standing for any position, contact Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462. If you wish to assist with editing, contact

News

Federal Government to stop printing topographic maps

As of January 2007, Natural Resources Canada will discontinue the printing of paper topographic maps and will close the Canada Map Office. In response to Natural Resources Canada's decision the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA) has sent a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources to try to reverse this

Want to go to Ellesmere Island?

John Sapac and Jenny Faulkner are planning a trip to the remote Ellesmere Island in Canada's high arctic in July 2007. If you would like to join them in this rare adventure, call Jenny at 604-602-1428.

side, then send the form with the appropriate dues to the club.

Membership dues are -

Single	\$45	Junior	\$20
Couple	\$68	Life	\$800

New members: The club welcomes the following new associate members: Stuart Clark, Jerry Cyr, Alena Dzujkova, James Newby, and Karen Newby.

Michael Feller at 604-270-4050.

Centennial committee update - Next year will be the 100th anniversary of the club and the club's centennial committee, lead by David Scanlon, has been very active organizing activities. A centennial banquet is being planned, probably for next October on the North Shore; a calendar has been produced and is available (see p. 5); and the video subcommittee, lead by Martin Kafer and Brian Wood has had the production started and saw it progressing during the summer.

decision. An independent website (www.mapsforcanadians.ca/) has been set up to lobby and inform people.

Many Canadians place a priority on the paper map service the Government currently provides. Natural Resources Canada's digital mapping policy will effectively cut off access to the majority of Canadians. However, our politicians see this issue as a minor one. The digital-only initiative by Natural Resources Canada is a natural

progression in the longer term; however, it is undoubtedly premature and unrealistic for the present. Our government wants to get out of the business of producing maps. In the interim, or until technological and institutional support systems can catch up, the Government of Canada must ensure all Canadians have access for both print and digital maps.

ACMLA, which represents both the public and research communities, would like to convince them of this. Cessation of map printing will have an enormous impact on the Canadian public and

on map users. This is not a minor policy amendment but a major change that has implications not just for map librarians but for anyone who is looking for a map for their cottage or who wants to go hiking or mountaineering.

How you can help:

This is a political issue and we must get the message out to as many Canadians and organizations as soon as possible. Check out the [mapsforcanadians](http://mapsforcanadians.com) website, then inform others and let your M.P. and your Minister of Natural Resources know what their constituents think of this decision.

B.C. government assault on provincial parks – continued

In our previous newsletter were several articles and comments about the B.C. government's attempt to open up provincial parks to commercial lodge and resort development.

Mike Barkusky follows up with a note about the economics and pseudo-economics of this potentially destructive activity.

"Most club members instinctively know where they stand on this issue, and I'm no exception. But I still think it is worth engaging the "economic" case for this shift in government policy head-on, and not conceding that even on that terrain of argument, the government's thinking has much merit at all. I admit that I have not researched the subject in any great detail, but after giving it a bit of thought, I strongly suspect that the "benefits" are more political than economic, and will accrue to the government itself and to the successful bidders, and likely not to the taxpayers or any other residents of BC. Most of the costs, obviously, will be borne by the park ecosystems (and thus indirectly by all of us, not to speak of the wildlife and ecosystems) but other costs will likely be borne by operators of other forms of accommodation located outside the parks, whose businesses will very likely be damaged by the initiative.

This plan seems to me to be a classic case in which the general difficulty the public has in distinguishing economic "rents" (in this case, returns to scarce endowments from nature) from profits justified by added-value (competitive returns to entrepreneurial initiative and risk-bearing) allows schemes that add no real socio-

economic value to be presented as promising "economic development" opportunities.

Real value is only added if resources from outside BC that would not have come here and been spent here otherwise, or if local resources that would otherwise be spent elsewhere, are now spent in BC; and if this net inflow of resources is sufficient to justify the depletion and wear-and-tear on natural capital assets (our parks) when the latter costs are properly calculated, which they generally of course, are not. I have to seriously doubt that this is the case here.

More likely, this plan is politically attractive for two reasons:

(1) the appearance of greater "activity" in the form of new construction and more rapid circulation of cash creates the impression of greater prosperity while the costs, both ecological and in terms of disruption of existing businesses are much less noticeable and can be easily ignored or played down (2) since it is empirically hard to precisely separate rents from "real profits", licence fees cannot easily be set (as is required for socio-economic "efficiency") so as to exactly capture the entire economic rent for the taxpayers; and as a result, fees are very likely to be set too low; thus the successful bidders earn an economic windfall profit for which they are duly grateful while most of those whose individually smaller losses pay for that windfall are hardly the wiser.

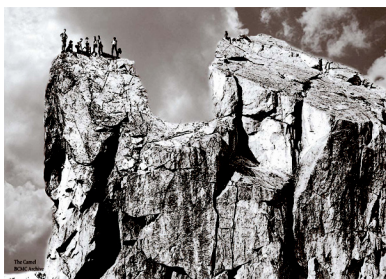
Any "new" value here is overwhelmingly attributable to the ecological value of the parks themselves, not to the initiative that can be expected of the prospective bidders. Logically, that

value (plus the costs of the ecological disruption, and the costs of the disruption of existing businesses outside of the parks) ought to be captured in the price set for the licences. If those licences are indeed properly priced, I strongly suspect there will be no bidders for them.

An implication of this analysis, which is really confirmation of points made earlier by other commentators from the conservation and recreation communities and not any great new insight on my part, is that the obvious allies for

the non-mechanized recreation and conservation communities on this issue are the existing operators of “fixed roof” accommodation facilities outside the parks. Together with these allies, we need to make the case that this plan, like low stumpage rates on Crown-owned forest land, is a selective subsidy to new licensees at the expense of existing “outside of park” operators and a rip-off of taxpayers in general, as well as an assault on wildlife and ecosystems.

BC Mountaineering Club Calendars



The BCMC is proud to present its 2007 Calendar!

This beautiful, full colour calendar is 8.5" x 11" in size (11" wide and 17" high when open).

Featured are photos from the Club archives to more recent trips, with every decade represented from 1910 to 2006, and quotes from the Club's old publications.

The calendar includes statutory holidays, phases of the moon and a reminder for each of the Club's monthly socials. Anniversaries of significant first ascents and of the creation of provincial mountain parks celebrate BC's mountaineering history and culture.

The calendars are available at the Club's socials and will be available at the Mountain Equipment Co-op in Vancouver and North Vancouver. For those unable to purchase in person at these locations, we are offering the calendars for online purchase (visit our website: www.bcmc.ca). Online payment is handled through PayPal, in a



completely secure transaction. Any major credit card can be used when making an online purchase.

The purchase price is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. The member's price of \$12 is only available when purchasing from the Club.

The Centennial Calendar Committee, which consists of Alice Purdey, Carol MacMillan, Peter Stange and Monika Bittel, thanks everyone who submitted photos for use in the calendar. We especially appreciate the efforts of our older members, who sorted through hundreds of photos in their private

collections to submit photos from earlier decades. This project was an opportunity to learn about the Club, its history and the exploits of Club members, past and present. This is the essence and spirit of the BC Mountaineering Club, which is worth celebrating and which is captured in the centennial calendar.

The Committee acknowledges the guidance and

professional services provided by Club member Peter Oostlander, who works for Hemlock Printers Ltd., which printed the 2007 calendars.

The Committee also acknowledges Julia Borchardt and Jason Brawn, who worked on the 2006 calendar with Alice and Monika. The 2006 calendar provided some valuable lessons and the ground work for the centennial calendar.

Access Notes

A hypothetical circuit around Grouse Mountain.

On July 11, 2003, I postulated that it would be possible to walk around Grouse Mountain, and that this is something that had never been done before. One would start going west on the Baden-Powell Trail from Lynn Headwaters Provincial Park, getting a long, strenuous section of the trip out of the way at the start. This would take 2 hours. In the early days of mountaineering in Vancouver a trail was blazed across the south slope of Grouse to ascend a ridge to the summit of Dam Mountain. I suppose that this trail could be found from the north-west corner of the Gondola Parking Lot or behind the grease shed north of the entrance to the Grind. At this point the adventurer would be entering the Greater Vancouver Watershed and though this is forbidden lands, imagine if one slipped into the old forest and past the old trail sign and just kept going. Before one kilometer one would cross a significant double creek-bed that is almost always running and climb up the steep bank west of the creek. At this point a legendary trail climbs off to the right, passing the remains of Don and Phyllis Munday's honeymoon cabin on the way to Dam Mountain, apparently. I sure hope that the remains remain. I reckon if one were to follow the top of the creek bank downslope to the southwest about twenty or thirty meters one might latch onto a discreet

Lastly, on behalf of the Club executive and the Club, I thank Peter Stange, Carol MacMillan and Alice Purdey for all the time and effort each of them contributed to creating and producing the 2007 calendar.

Monika Bittel

path that would traverse the slopes west northwest and down until a rumoured old logging grade can be followed. This might become a trail and be followed surreptitiously, crossing Crown Creek, (high water in spring), through a grove of ancient trees, and up a forested, also ancient, moraine. It is entirely possible that at the top of the moraine a marker might point left to a scramble with one easy fifth class section up an airy spur coming off Pyramid Mountain, but we must focus our imagination if our task is to be accomplished. Its obvious that if one were to follow this path traversing steep forest above Crown Creek, doing a sharp turn north up a dry creekbed a hundred meters after regaining the main creek and looking for the trail climbing to the right, one would get to Crown Pass, leaving the restricted watershed and entering Lynn Headwaters Provincial Park. This section would take 3 hours. For a true epic one could bear off and climb Crown Mountain, but after climbing steeply for a hundred meters we could not find fault if the ascent on this trip was left for heroes, and none were to be found. Lets concentrate shall we, and descend the talus to follow Hanes Creek, cross Lynn Creek, (possibly treacherous if possible at all in high water), past Norvan Falls on a well traveled path that leads one to the car, bike, or bus-stop 4 hours from Crown Pass.

Total time: 9 hours of fast and steady travel.

Blair Mitten

Trip Reports

North Twin Sister, West Ridge, 24 June, 2006

It was midsummer, so what better than a modest mountain adventure? The original plan, thwarted by other responsibilities, was a weekend in the Chehalis. Instead we decided to go to North Twin Sister, in Washington state. We met in east Vancouver, and set off in elegance. The first time

I've ever been on a club trip in a Mercedes. Not a late model, granted, but still classy transport. We arrived at the border at Sumas, and when asked where we were going, informatively told the officer "Washington State".

We slavishly followed the guidebook instructions, or at least we would have had the car's odometer

been functioning. Apparently it doesn't like heat, and it was a warm day indeed. But we managed to figure it out, and arrived at the trailhead by 9. There were a total of 12 vehicles there, which we instantly concluded meant traffic issues on a narrow ridge. Many seemed to be on bicycles.

We set off, up a long dull logging road, eminently driveable were it not for the gate at the bottom. And then on a side road, leading to the oddly-named Dailey Prairie. It's fairly flat, but entirely forested - not a stalk of grain to be seen. From there we zigged up a spur road, then onto the trail leading up to the west ridge, passing most of the cyclists en route.

After a snack at the base of the ridge, we proceeded. Two forged ahead, one lagged, delayed by ingestion of an unpalatable "power gel", then by banging his head on a rock. (Is the proper signal for this eventuality "Head!?"?) Two were on top by 1:30, the last by 2:30. The ridge involved about 400 vertical metres of class 3 - low class 5. The crest offered more continuous and solid rock, with more climbing. A rope wasn't necessary, but might be for the inexperienced.

We descended nice soft snow slopes on the north side, eventually traversing back to the trail at about treeline. An interminable hot plod down the road was enlivened by a head wash in a creek, and we were at the car at 6:40.

Participants: Merran Fahlmann, Bill Andrews, Anders Ourom (Organizer and reporter).

Ledge and Sky Pilot Mtns., 1-3 July, 2006

The year was 1990 when I first summited Sky Pilot. That route was a mountain bike ride up Britannia Creek past the old Mt Sheer town site; then a hike/scramble up the creek, through side alder to Utopia Lake. We then scrambled up a north facing gully on snow and then on to the summit. That route is today no more. The old road is gone, washed away long ago, with what's left being very very overgrown. The powers that be (lawyers? - no offence to my lawyer friends) have forbidden access to the road also!! This Canada Day trip was to take the new Furry Creek access towards the club's Mountain Lake Hut. When the lake came in sight we went straight instead of going left to the hut. This took us over a col just south of Mount Sheer. After losing a little elevation we carried on staying mostly level (except for the leader going higher than necessary

at one point) intersecting a ridge running south from Sky Pilot. 15 minutes later we were at camp; at the lowest point in the ridge, on snow. From here we had an east-west view in the col of the sunrises and sunsets.

Our timing was great in that all of the brush and boulder fields were covered with snow. Great! The forecast was for it to be 28° C. Was it HOT! Boy oh boy did we sweat; getting the glare from the snow and with no wind we worked really hard hiking in with our full packs on.

Six hours was the time it took to get in and make camp. Everyone was bagged pretty good by then with no one up to doing anything - except Monika! We both spoke and went through the old, "I will if you will" exchange, so the destination chosen was Ledgeing. This was because it was new to both of us and wasn't too far away. (She later blamed me, and I blamed her). Anyway, we went. We chose the western buttress. This turned out to be a nice but rather short route to the summit. From here we had a first hand view of our route the next day up Ledge's regular route. We could see lots of exposure on that route but we still couldn't be sure what we were getting into; then after a rest we descended, getting back to camp about 9pm.

Sunday dawned clear and hot. Our plan was to go over and up the regular route on Ledge then to descend, traverse west below the summit, and go up the south ridge of Sky Pilot. All went well on the way up. The slope was more than half snow covered and this was a Godsend as there was much loose scree there. And I'm sure it isn't fun. It wouldn't be nice later on in the season with the heat and scree. At the mid point of the route on Ledge's eastern shoulder we stopped for a break. This was where we put on our helmets and harnesses as we weren't sure just what the intricacies of the route were going to be. Ledge's normal route was a "walk" in some reports, or a high wire tippy toe" in others. As it turned out, the walk was closer to the reality of the route. It was narrow in a couple of spots but the hand holds were plentiful and solid. It is a ledge though and it does slant downwards with loose gravel so don't be thoughtless if you go. Slow and easy will prevail. The exposure was awesome.

The summit, the view, a rest, lunch, pictures, then we were off. We traversed below Ledge as close

as we could so as to not to lose too much elevation on our traverse over to Sky Pilot. We picked up one member of the party on the way who had decided not to go up Ledge. There is a hidden ramp/bowl that runs from east to west on Sky Pilot's south side leading to a col on the ridge where the route starts. This south ridge route meets up with the regular west ridge route part way up. This southern ridge is one of my favorites, and is for the most part a continuous class 2-3 scramble with some exposure thrown in for good measure. The rock for the most part is reasonable too with lots of big hand- and foot-holds. One can take different routes up just by going a bit left or right on most areas just for a change of pace. There is also one place where you have to scramble over, under, or through a tree. Fun.

A summit lunch on a clear windless day with a fine group of friends. A most rewarding day indeed. The 360 degree views had us all looking around in different directions at the splendor of it all. Lots of pictures were taken. Some with our flag (Canada Day, remember) and some with our new club banner. After we all signed the register, we desummitted and retraced our route back to camp. The rope was out a few times up and down. It was there for safety, and for a confidence builder for some. Others wanted to rappel just for the practice, which is always good.

Monday was to be our leave day. Not without one more ascent though. The way out went right by Mt. Sheer and it couldn't be bypassed without everyone going up it too. We dropped our packs and went up with just our cameras and water bottles. The route goes up from the west to intersect with the south ridge of Mt. Sheer. You aim for the lowest point in the ridge then just follow the ridge/ trail to the top. Only one little 6 m scramble and a bit of exposure and you're there. The cairn on the top just keeps getting bigger each year.

Another photo op and then we were off. Yahoo! It was all downhill from there to the cars! Well; almost, there's always some up and down isn't there? An uneventful hike down to the cars and the work was over.

About 60 m from the cars is the river crossing at Cyrtina Creek where we all washed up. I for one sat with my feet in the cool water for a long long time. That sure felt good after 3 very hot days.

When we were all clean and smelling much better we could go to dinner. We ate at the Furry Creek golf course restaurant where the food was hot and the beverages were cold. After a short drive to the church we sorted gear and said our goodbyes.

Our timing was perfect with being able to travel on the snow over the shrubbery and over the boulder fields. If you can repeat this trip in these conditions do so. Three days gives an opportunity to do a lot and not be rushed or bagged. Getting up Ledge and Sky Pilot in the same day is very rewarding. The group was very compatible and all helped and encouraged each other very selflessly all weekend. We've all made new friends. It's always been my hope that everyone learns something new on each trip and I hope everyone did on this one also.

Best part of the trip was.....I think we all had FUN. Participants: Donna Scanlon, Liam Grimes, Jenny Henshaw, Monika Bittel, Carol MacMillan, Dino Diaconu, Diana Diacanou, Norbert Eckert, and David Scanlon (Organizer and reporter).

Cokely/Arrowsmith-Lady Pk, 7-8 July, 2006

It is 80 years this year (1926-2006) since Don and Phyllis Munday began their many attempts to scale Mount Waddington. The tale began, though, in 1925 when Don and Phyllis were in the Cokely/ Arrowsmith area, and on their descent, Waddington, through an opening in the clouds, was spotted.

I took the ferry to Vancouver Island July 6th, and spent the evening with Peter Rothermel at his place in Qualicum Beach to begin a couple of days hiking in the footsteps of the Mundays. Peter's home is a veritable cornucopia of mountain gear, books, legend and lore. We were up early July 7th and on the original trail to Cokely, built in the early part of the 20th century, by 7:30. We wound our way through a thick forest, logging companies having done their ominous deeds in places, to a planned meeting place with others. Viggo/Judith Holm, Judy Carlson, Kristina Swerhun (who is doing research on high altitude alpine flowers) and her research assistant, Amber, joined us about 10:30. We were soon out of the forest, the clouds now parted, and on the old ski hill. The sight is not pretty in such a clearcut area, but we wound our way ever higher to the

snowfield at the base of Cokely. We were following, as closely as possible, the trail of the Mundays. Many in the group were dressed in the attire of the era.

We hiked up the snowfield and rambled over rocky terrain, timid alpine flowers appearing, finally, at the summit of Cokely. Peter had brought plenty of photographs taken by the Mundays on their ascent up Cokely. Judith Holm read from the initial pages of Don Munday's *Mystery Mountain* in which he described their spotting of Waddington. The clouds were dense and thick to the north, parting for moments, but we would be denied a glimpse of Waddington.

Many fine photos were taken atop Cokely looking across to Arrowsmith's appealing and inviting peak. Emerald Lake, between Cokely and Arrowsmith, was still snow covered and ice thick. We lingered on Cokely, then our descent began across a more scenic rock ridge, ever down to where the trucks were parked. The day had spoiled us, and both Cokely and Arrowsmith had offered us many an alluring delight.



**On the summit of Cokely.
Photo - R. Dart.**

I managed to catch the 9:30 ferry to Horseshoe Bay, and reached home in the Fraser Valley by midnight, Don and Phyllis Munday ever a step before me. I was up with the birds on July 8th, met with Wells Jones and Phil Jarvis at Cheam Centre in Sardis by 7 am, and we were on our way up Lady Peak. Lady Peak, in the Cheam massif in the Upper Fraser Valley, was named after Phyllis Munday, just as Baby Munday in the same massif, was named after the Munday's daughter (Edith). Don and Phyllis had done many a climb in the area in 1923-1924 (see *Phyllis Munday: Mountaineer*. pgs. 72-75). Don had rediscovered an old Silver mine in the vicinity that did much to reinvigorate the economy in Hope.

We drove the rough and deteriorating logging road up to the trailhead of Cheam and Lady Peak. We arrived about 8:30 am. Spoon Lake at the

base of Cheam/Lady Peak was still frozen, but a slight thaw was round the edges. The Cheam trail is a pleasant alpine stroll, but the Lady Peak ascent is more demanding and more scenic. We were soon, ice axes needed, inching up steep snowfields. We reached the thin ridge that led above the snowfield and delicately wound our way yet higher. There was yet another snowfield, then a short chimney scramble to the summit of Lady Peak. It took us 3 hours from the trailhead to the cairn on the summit, but the vistas from such a well placed perch opened up in all directions. Rock ridges and massive snowfields, large lakes and white spires charmed and pleased the senses. We dined on a small rock ledge just below the peak of the grand lady.

Many were threading their way up Cheam, but we had Lady Peak (higher than Cheam) to ourselves. Baby Munday and Foley, Welch and Stewart (named after the owners of the largest railroad construction company at the time) gazed at us, and we knew a visit to them was in the offing. The trip down from Lady Peak was done with some speed. The snowfields made for a hasty and delightful glissade, and it took us less than an hour to reach Spoon Lake from the summit.

We were, much to our surprise, as we wound our way back to the trailhead, met by many bare breasted woman and their male friends who were on their way up Cheam. Needless to say, this is not a usual sight in the mountains. Hopefully, the intense heat of the day did not burn too many tender places.

Wells, Phil and I were off the mountain and back at Cheam Centre by 4 pm. It had been a busy two days, but the trip up Cokely, the alluring peak of Arrowsmith and Lady Peak had done much to whisper much about some aspects of the mountaineering life of Don and Phyllis Munday. It is quite appropriate that, this summer, *Passion for the Mountains: The Lives of Don and Phyllis Munday*, written and researched by Kathryn Bridge, was published. Kathryn's earlier book, *Phyllis Munday: Mountaineer* (2002) is a must read and primer on the life of Phyllis Munday. *Passion for the Mountains*, I'm sure, will take the tale and drama deeper and further. [Ed's comment – See review of *Passion for the Mountains* by Ron Dart in our previous (October) newsletter]. Do make both must reads for the summer. Cokely/Arrowsmith and Lady Peak gave

me yet a greater yearning to know more about this pioneering mountain couple in both Canada and British Columbia.

Wedgemount area, 8-9 July, 2006

The plan was to climb one of the moderate north face gullies on Wedge. Six or seven expressed interest, but by Friday there were only three left, and a very indecisive forecast. We set out anyway, at a respectable time on Saturday morning. After some small vehicle adventures, we arrived at the trailhead at noon, and after lunch started hiking. We arrived at the hut around 4 pm. It was fairly cloudy, with bits of sun.

While we were hiking in, B.C. Parks flew in the new outhouse receptacle. We ran into two fellows from B.C. Parks who hiked in on Friday, did some work and clean up around the hut, then hiked out, doing chainsaw work on the way. (The saw was flown in.) One of them was at it again on Sunday morning, on the lower part of the trail.

There were a few others in and around the hut, also BCMCers, but we occupied it and ate and drank. Annoyingly, the only reasonable water source is several hundred metres away - take water bags. It was cloudy Saturday evening, and showered a bit. We never saw the peak, and so couldn't assess the possibilities.

We were up at 4:30 on Sunday, and away at 5:30. Still cloudy and showery. The glacier has sure retreated a lot since I first went to Wedgemount! We got to the ridge north of Wedge, at about 2,500 metres, by 8:30, and had a second breakfast. The clouds and showers weren't cooperating - we couldn't see if there were passable bergschrunds at the base, or hazardous cornices at the top. The weather was less than stable. Some others retreated, and so did we.

We were back at the truck in mid afternoon, in time for a leisurely drive home and a beer in Whistler.

Participants: Esther Lehmann, Dan Lord, Anders Ourom. (Organizer and reporter).

Tantalus, Zenith, & Pelion, 20-23 July, 2006

My plan for this trip was to spend four days in the northern Tantalus Range, with the main objective being an ascent of Tantalus by the north ridge. I had done this climb with Derrick Johnstone two years ago, but most of the way there and back we had nothing but rain and fog, so I was keen to

organize a trip and see the view from the top. I made sure that the participants were up to the challenge of this trip, since Tantalus is not technically challenging via the N ridge, but it's a long way to go. For once the forecast was in our favour - warm and sunny for the entire four days! Our first day saw us hiking slowly but surely up the Sigurd Creek trail. This trail, built mainly by BCMC volunteers, climbs steeply into the Sigurd Creek valley, which is a rugged coastal wilderness with beautiful scenery. As we hiked into the upper valley, I saw a large cougar run across the trail up ahead. The big cat was impressive, and after we had a staring contest for a few seconds it quickly darted away. Eventually we reached the bridge over the creek and the fork in the trail where one can head for Pelion and Ossa, or continue up the main valley to Sigurd Lake. We had a break by the creek and then wound our way up the last section of trail to the moraine below Pelion and Ossa. The day was warm so we had another water break before starting the long climb up and over the shoulder of Pelion.

As we were hiking up the snow slopes below the glacier, we had a surprise when a large section of snow that was undercut by a creek suddenly collapsed, and Monika dropped down a metre or so while Norbert quickly jumped across the gaps to solid ground. We used the moraine to bypass the rest of the undercut sections until we gained more solid snow higher up. Eventually we reached the glacier and roped up, which lightened up the packs somewhat, and we steadily plodded up the glacier and rounded the corner until we finally reached the 2150 m col at the northeast ridge of Pelion. It had been a long climb up 2000 vertical metres to our high point, but it was all downhill from here!

After snapping some pictures of the north ridge of Tantalus and eyeing the route, we started down the southeast side of Pelion to a perfect campsite at 1800 m on the ridge that leads southwest from Pelion towards the col between Zenith and Tantalus. Our camp had good water, excellent views and a nice breeze. It took 11.5 hours from the cars to camp with full packs, and we were ready for some relaxation after the long day.

We were off at 6:30am on our second day on our way to Tantalus. The first obstacle was a steep heathery step in the ridge that was a lot easier for us in dry conditions than when Derrick and I did it

in the rain. Soon after this the organizer dropped the ball and lead the innocent participants to the wrong side of a knoll, and 15 m of severe bush bashing was needed to regain the ridge. Smooth sailing then prevailed, and once we gained the col between the Rumbling Glacier and the Clowhom River we took a break to rope up. We enjoyed the views across the Rumbling Glacier and down to the head of Tantalus Creek as we climbed to 2000 m and the small knoll where heli parties fly in to climb Tantalus by the north ridge. We shook our heads.....why even bother flying in equipment, why not just fly to the summit!?! The route climbs up three rope lengths of steep snow, and we used pickets to do a running belay as the slope was exposed to a large bergschrund below. The snow slope narrowed into a short thin couloir that lead to a notch at 2100 m where one can cross to the west side of the north ridge and climb easy snow slopes instead of the steep lower ridge. The snow depth here was impressive, and I estimated about 6-9 m of snow that was not there in July 2004.

The north ridge is long but not technical, and once we reached the top of the snow slopes, we packed the ropes and scrambled along the long ridge towards the summit tower. The final climb to the summit is a mix of steep scrambling and steep snow, and eventually we were all perched on the cramped summit. It was a perfect day and we could see forever, and the views down the Rumbling Glacier and across to Dione and the Witches' Tooth were very impressive. Eventually it was time to go, and we downclimbed the summit tower and reversed our route all the way back along the ridge, using the rope at various times to cross bergschrunds or crevassed areas. We set up another running belay down the steep snow face, which was time consuming but safe. Darkness fell as we hiked back along the ridge to camp, and the organizer redeemed himself by having a headlamp with new batteries and finding a flawless route back along the complex ridge to camp. The night was warm and pleasant, and we sat out under the stars for dinner and reflected on the climb, which was a full 17 hour day.

Needless to say we slept in on day three! Eventually around noon we were all up and enjoying brunch, and the warm sunny weather showed no signs of ending. Most of the group elected to stay in camp and relax, but Ramsay

and I wanted to climb Zenith, so we set out at the leisurely hour of 1pm. A pleasant hike along the ridge took us to a long level traverse across the head of Mawby Creek. We scrambled up to the southwest ridge of Zenith and soon were on top, admiring the views down to Zenith Lake and across to Tantalus. Zenith is a fine blade-like summit and gives excellent views of the area, and it was Ramsay's second ascent of the peak, the first coming after a trip up the old trail to Zenith Lake a few years ago. We headed back to camp, taking many water breaks to beat the heat, and were back in camp by 8pm.

Day four and time to go home. We were off by 6:30 as we wanted to do the 350 m climb from our camp up to the shoulder of Pelion in the cool of the morning. Along the way we followed a family of goats, who seemed unimpressed that we woke them up, so commenced with their usual routine of kicking rocks down on us. We dropped the majority of the gear at the col and climbed Pelion by its northwest ridge, which involved some steep snow, a troublesome moat, a few crevasses, some more steep snow and a short scramble. From the summit we admired Tantalus' north ridge for the umpteenth time, as it's an extremely aesthetic alpine line. We descended back to our packs using one rappel, and the trip to and from the summit was only 2.5 hours. We roped up and descended the glacier and then snowfields all the way back to where the trail enters the forest and had a nice long break before starting the long hike out. We conserved our energy since the last part of the trail is the toughest where it drops steeply back to the Ashlu River. We could feel the heat rise up to meet us as we descended, and we were all glad to see the cars at the end of the day.

I'd like to thank all the participants for making this a fantastic trip. The northern Tantalus Range is an area that is under-used given the ease of access up the Sigurd Creek trail. For those who would like to climb Tantalus on foot, the route that we did via Sigurd Creek is an easier and more accessible three day trip than going via Lake Lovelywater. If you go, take glacier gear and a few pickets, and leave the rock gear at home as it isn't necessary. I know I'll be back.....

Participants: Neil Beattie, Monika Bittel, Ramsay Dyer, Norbert Eckert, Mackay Savage and Todd Ponzini (Organizer and reporter)



Clockwise from top - Tantalus and Alpha from Pelion (MS), N Ridge of Tantalus (RD), view from the summit (MS), heading down the N Ridge ((RD), and the N Ridge (RD). Photos - R. Dyer and M. Savage.