



# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



**August-September, 2007.**  
**Vol. 85, No. 7**

In Mt. Revelstoke national 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.

**Thursday, 9 August** - Barbeque at Jericho Beach, near the foot of Trimble, starting at 6.00pm. Condiments, buns, and some snacks and refreshments will be provided. Bring your own barbecuables.

**Tuesday, 11 September** - Entertainment will be a slide show not to be missed and to be announced later.



**Climbing Mt. Tupper, Glacier National Park, in 1935. Photo (from glass slide) - J. Irving, in BCME archives.**

## HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

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<b>PAST-PRESIDENT</b> -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> -	TODD PONZINI	604-408-9617
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<b>SUMMER CAMP</b> -		
	PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
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<b>WEBMASTER</b> -	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
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<b>EQUIPMENT</b> -	PAUL KUBIK	604-876-0764
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<b>LIBRARY</b> -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

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**EMAIL ADDRESS: info@bcmc.ca**

**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  
2 courteous and inform the trip organizer.

## Trip Schedule

### August

- 4-6: Semaphore Lakes B2-3**  
 Julia Smith 778-317-5795  
 Hiking and scrambling above Railroad Pass on the Lilloet-Hurley divide. Family- and dog-friendly. Rescheduled from the July long weekend.
- 3-6: Petlushkwohap Mtn. C-D2-3/2939 m**  
 Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496  
 Hiking and scrambling at the edge of the Stein valley.
- 9: Brunswick Mtn. B2/1788 m**  
 Kevin Swanson 604-943-4364  
 Hiking and scrambling above Howe Sound.
- 11-12: Reh and Gemse Pks. C3/1890 m**  
 Larry Kost 604-594-3130  
 Hiking and rock scrambling in the Anderson River Group east of Hope.
- 18-19: Stonerabbit Pk. C5/1856 m**  
 Jane Weller 604-988-3618  
 Rock climbing in the Chehalis area. Participants must be happy leading low 5th class rock with exposure.
- 18-19: Ashlu Mtn. C3/2561 m**  
 Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264  
 Mountaineering in the Ashlu valley, NW of Squamish.
- 19: Tricouni Pk. B2/2122 m**  
 Dennis Siska 604-945-2866  
 Hiking on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.
- 25-26: Scuzzy Mtn. B2/2223 m**  
 Bruce Cassels 604-617-6774  
 Hiking east of Harrison Lake.
- 26: Mt. Arrowsmith B-C 3-4/1819 m**  
 Ralph Hutchinson 1-250-756-1916  
 Hiking and rock climbing near Port Alberni on Vancouver Island.
- 31-1 Sep: Ashlu Mtn. C3/2561 m**  
 Kevin Swanson 604-943-4364  
 Another chance for mountaineering in the Ashlu valley, NW of Squamish.

### September

- 1-2: Mt. Robie Reid C3-4/2095 m**  
 Stanislav Liarsky 604-983-4476  
 Mountaineering at the end of Alouette Lake in Golden Ears park.
- 8-9: Meslilloet Mtn. B2/1990 m**

- Ryan Bougie 604-942-7981  
 Mountaineering north of Vancouver, walking out via the Indian Arm trail. Rescheduled.
- 8-9: Ledge Mtn. C3/1764 m**  
 Larry Kost 604-594-3130  
 Rock scrambling in the Sky Pilot group, above Howe Sound.
- 8-9: Mt. Rexford C4/2329 m**  
 Denis LaLonde 1-604-793-9675  
 Rock climbing in the Chilliwack valley area.
- 9: Crown Mtn. B2/1504 m**  
 Margaret Ellis 604-266-6591  
 Hiking in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.
- 9: Brandywine Mtn. B3/2213 m**  
 Kathy Nemis 604-254-1170  
 Hiking and scrambling on the Brandywine-Callaghan divide.
- 12-16: Five Fingers B3**  
 Jos van der Burg 604-824-5676  
 Climbing east of the Coquitlam River, flying in to Widgeon Lake (\$150 one way). Limit 5-6.
- 15: Mt. Markor and Needle Pk. B4/2075 m**  
 Marcus Dell 604-274-9511  
 Rock scrambling in the Coquihalla area.
- 15-16: American Border Pk. C-D4-5/2437m**  
 Alastair Ferries 604-329-1637  
 Rock climbing on the BC-Washington border in the Chilliwack valley area.
- 15-16: Mountain Lake family camp B2**  
 Peter Oostlander 604-451-4585  
 At the club's Mountain Lake cabin, above Howe Sound.
- 15-16: Mt. Shear, Ben Lomond, and Red Mtn. B3/1752 m**  
 Dennis Siska 604-945-2866  
 Scrambling around the Mountain Lake cabin area, above Howe Sound.
- 15-16: Zenith Mtn. B2-3/1944 m**  
 Ramsay Dyer 604-874-1114  
 Bush and scrambling in the Tantalus area.
- 16: Williams Pk. B3/2123 m**  
 Goran Rokolj 604-708-5478  
 Hiking and a small amount of rock scrambling in the Chilliwack valley. Joint trip with the ACC.
- 18: Stewart Pk. B2/2238 m**  
 Kevin Swanson 604-943-4364  
 Midweek hike to the Lucky Four Group in the Chilliwack valley.

**29: Brunswick Mtn.** **B2/1788 m**  
Peter Oostlander 604-451-4585  
Hiking and scrambling above Howe Sound.  
**29: Mt. McGuire** **B2/2008 m**  
Fred Douglas 604-293-2951  
Hiking and scrambling in the Chilliwack valley.  
**29-30: Mt. Davis** **B2**  
Karl Ricker 1-604-938-1107  
Hiking NE of Hope on Karl's annual trip to  
"Coldcoqu" country, approaching via the  
Hudson Bay Brigade trail.

**30: Evans Pk.** **B3/1132 m**  
Silvia Bakovic 604-871-1472  
Rock scrambling and hiking in Golden Ears  
park.  
**30: Rainbow Mtn.** **B2/2314 m**  
Evelyn Feller 604-270-4050  
Hiking and scrambling near Whistler.

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## October

**6-8: Grimface Mtn.** **B3/2635 m**  
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264  
Hiking and rock climbing in Cathedral park.

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## BCMC Summer Camps

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### Garibaldi Park Mountaineering Camp, 4 - 12 August (C3)

This will be a hike in, hike out, week long mountaineering trip to Garibaldi Park. The plan is to travel through Singing Pass and the Spearhead Range to Naden Pass, where the primary objectives will be ascents of Mt. Sir Richard, Nivalis Mountain and Outlier Peak. We will climb other peaks in the Spearhead Range on our return if time permits.

Participants must be BCBC members, have a strong level of fitness, and have experience in glacier travel and scrambling to class 3. Please be prepared to discuss your mountaineering experience with the organizer.

For more information or to reserve one of the eleven available spaces, please call Todd Ponzini at 604-408-9617.

### Valhalla Provincial Park, 17-26 August

This camp will be a joint one-week camp with the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, and is part of an

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## Wednesday Evening rock climbing

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Weekly top roping in Smoke Bluffs or Murrin Park area (weather permitting), until September 19. While the more experienced climbers will be happy to share their knowledge, this is NOT a climbing course. Every participant must be able to belay and is expected to have some top roping experience.

Check out BCBC 'Last Minute Trips' forum (go to <http://bcmc.ca/bb/> and click on Last Minute Trips) for up-to-date information about the trip. I'll make

initiative to invite members of the BCBC on joint outings. There will be a car shuttle before and after the camp to enable us to camp in two sites for exploring peaks around these sites. A half-day pack-in on a good trail with 7-8 days of supplies takes us to Gwillim Lakes campsite for about 4 days of hiking and Class 3 scrambles. Then a full-day pack-in to another site for about 3 more days of exploration before hiking out to the cars. Ice axes required, and rope(s) for occasional (?) use.

For more information please contact Brian Wood, 604-222-1541 or [bjwood@telus.net](mailto:bjwood@telus.net)

### North Ck. hiking and climbing camp, 25 August - 3 September.

A week of hiking to 5th class climbing based at the club cabin in North Ck. For more information please contact David Scanlon. 604-572-5051.

sure to post a go/no-go message on this forum every Wednesday by 3 pm. Note that some evenings may be cancelled even if the weather is

good.

Meeting: 4:50 pm, parking lot at Taylor Way & Hwy 1  
Departure: 5 pm sharp

All participants must bring their personal climbing gear (harness, belay device, locking biner, climbing shoes) and a headlamp (we may be

returning to the parking lot after dark). Also highly recommended is a helmet, prussic for rappelling, water, and snacks. Ropes & anchor material for

this event are provided by participants and not by the club. If you have a full strength climbing rope and anchor material, please do bring it.  
Andrej Dobos (604-764-0174)

## Membership

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New members - The club welcomes the following new associate members:  
Myriam Berube, Susanne Hempel, Dave Henwood, Marvin Job, Urvi Joshi, Claire Kilner, Tracy Leach, Marilyn Liu, Jasmine McEachern,

Rhonda McNaught, Marie Naubert, Miyuki Numata, Don Reddick, Jean-Philippe Roy, Johan Skoglund, Jories Johannes Timmers, Maria Soledad Fernandez Utrera.

## BCMC Centennial activities update

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### Centennial stamps

Centennial stamps are now available. The stamps arrived early, in fact the day of the May social, so sales have already taken place. We have 3 sheets left of the Keepsake stamp sheets (21 useable stamps and 1 large commemorative one) at \$26 per sheet and plenty of the 40 stamp sheets at \$33 per sheet. These stamps will be on sale at the September social.



### The club's centennial banquet – not to be missed

SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 28

The only trip you should be planning for Sunday, October 28, 2007, should be to the Grouse Nest, for the BCMC Centennial Banquet.

Just to point out, if you miss this one, the next one will be a LONG TIME COMING!

Tickets cost \$60 each and will be on sale at the club socials. Contact Donna Scanlon at 604-572-5051 if you want some tickets but cannot make the socials.

## News

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### Canadian topographic maps are now available free on the internet.

These maps are now available from a somewhat awkward site - [www.geogratis.gc.ca/geogratis/en/index.html](http://www.geogratis.gc.ca/geogratis/en/index.html)

### Centennial logo available.

The club's centennial committee is working on different ways of making the centennial logo designed by Claire Oldham, available to club members. A sew-on cloth logo, about 9 cm in diameter, is available at a cost of \$5 each.

### North Vancouver Museum special centennial display

This will occur beginning in September, after North Vancouver's centennial display has finished (The club is as old as North Vancouver!). The display will focus on several themes, featuring the club's exploration, conservation, and mountaineering history. Photographs, Ross Wyborn's excellent slide show, and historical artifacts will be included.

### Special centennial trip successes

The club's special centennial expedition to Mt. Fairweather successfully ascended the peak in May. On the Canada Day long weekend, a successful centennial ascent of Mt. Garibaldi was accomplished. Full details of these trips will be in this year's centennial journal. In March back to back week long ski and snowshoe trips enjoyed North Ck. (see report of one of these trips on p. 11) if not the helicopter arrangements.

To find a map, click - search by product, select - maps and charts, topographic and 1:50,000 to 1:250,000, then - search. You must specify lat. and long. ranges in which to search for a mapsheet.

Then click on the square to the left of the mapsheet, then - submit, - add to basket, - order, and finally - download.

Getting the same quality as a printed map will be difficult, however.

### **Mt. Everest not yet climbed by someone in shorts.**

A Dutchman who failed in his attempt to climb Mount Everest wearing just shorts has vowed to have another half-naked crack at the world's highest peak next year. Wim Hof, known as "Ice Man" for his ability to withstand cold, reached 7400

metres in May. But he wants to complete what he describes as mountaineering's final challenge. "Next year I will try Everest again, and then with a paraglider with two French people we will fly down," said the 48-year-old.

The Dutchman was beaten back by a recurring foot injury he sustained while running barefoot in the Arctic last year. Hof managed to climb from base camp to about 6700 m wearing just shorts and sandals, but after that he had to wear boots. "From there you need crampons, which can't be attached to sandals", he said. (Your editor can verify that this is not correct.)

## **Access Notes**

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### **21 Mile Ck - Rainbow Mtn. area**

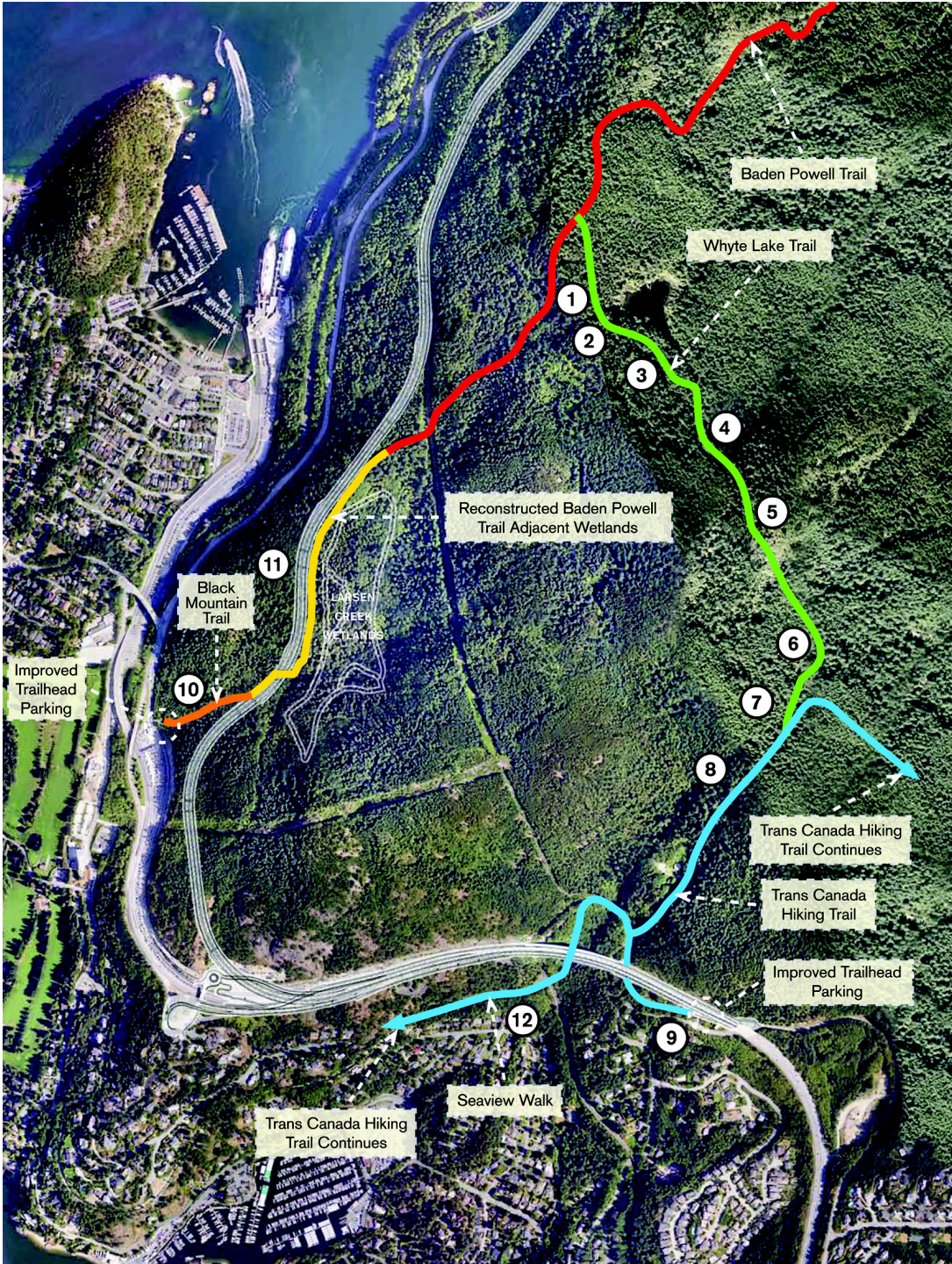
With snowmobiles all over Rainbow Lake and people not allowed to camp in the 21 Mile Ck. watershed - Whistler's water supply watershed - the FMCBC sought to clarify access issues. Bryce Leigh determined the following:

According to Dave Patterson from the RMOW (Resort Municipality of Whistler) Park department "there isn't any legislated restriction on motorized activity in the Rainbow watershed. There are suggested restrictions on motorized activities in the area for obvious reasons and the trail head signage designates the area as dog free and restricts overnight camping." He also clarified that not all the 21 Mile Ck. (Rainbow) watershed is within the current RMOW boundaries. The maps indicate the RMOW's western boundary crosses 21 Mile Creek at approximately 1000 m. So everything west, upstream, from that point is outside the RMOW. This means that all of Sproatt Mtn (the lower part of Sproatt off the Callaghan Road is in the RMOW but everything above 1100 m is not in the RMOW") Gin & Tonic Lakes, Rainbow Lake, Hanging Lake, Beverly Lake, and Rainbow Mtn. are not in the RMOW." This suggests that no activity is controlled by RMOW in the headwaters of 21 Mile Ck. With the recent decision by the Integrated Land Management Bureau to grant a commercial snowmobiling tenure to the top of Sproatt Mtn., we can only expect more intense snowmobile trashing of the upper 21 Mile Ck. valley.

### **Hiking trails above Horseshoe Bay -**

Access to Black Mtn. and Baden Powell trails around Horseshoe Bay has changed as a result of highway construction. Details are given at [www.seatoskyhighwayimprovements.ca/Detailed\\_Design/West\\_Vancouver/WVDD\\_Trails.pdf](http://www.seatoskyhighwayimprovements.ca/Detailed_Design/West_Vancouver/WVDD_Trails.pdf) and also in the photo on the next page. Currently, to get to these trails from Horseshoe Bay hikers would have to follow Seaview Walk (old railbed) from Gleneagles and then follow the TCT up Nelson Creek, before following a rough trail past Whyte Lake and eventually joining the B-P Trail eastbound. This is the route that will be upgraded, and by starting at Cranley Drive (off Marine Drive) it could be done by bus from Vancouver. The Black Mtn. trail from Horseshoe Bay will also be rebuilt, from an improved parking area, in a couple of years when all construction is finished (...2010?).

People are currently wandering all over the area, including walking through the massive construction area, i.e. setting out for hikes unaware that the old trail has been demolished, as the new highway section follows the old B-P route north.



# Mountain Science

## Glacier Update – 2007

by Karl Ricker, Dave Lyon, Ed Zenger, Nina Evans-Locke, Doug Wylie and Carys Evans

Our last report on our two glacier monitoring projects in northern Garibaldi Park was in The 2004 BC Mountaineer. The recession of the terminus of both glaciers has been measured each year since 2003, with the exception of Overlord in 2004. Ricker was sidelined with a rehab period on a rebuilt knee for that year; Ed did the measurements on Wedgemount, however, to maintain our yearly record for what we now term as Bill Tupper's legacy, who pioneered its study beginning in 1973. Bill's son will take over the project in 2007 with his sophisticated surveying prowess.

Over the years of 2003 to 2006 the overall recession is 15.0 m/yr., by combining the data sets for the two glaciers shown on Table I. In the case of Overlord there is a significant jump in recession from prior years (1996 to 2003), whereas the rate of recession for Wedgemount is roughly unchanged for the same period.

With the tabled data we are hoping to find a La Nada signal. That is to say, in the record winter snow pack of 1998/99 on our local mountains, the entire summer season was required to melt it away on non-glacierized terrain and much of it remained on the glaciers. So it is hypothesized that the accumulation zone on the glaciers should have a storage volume of excess snow for that year, and melt of underlying ice near the glacier's terminus should be reduced. Indeed, Overlord Glacier responded with a slight advance for that year, while Wedgemount had a notable decrease in the rate of recession. Moreover, excess snow in the accumulation zone, left over from the 1999

melt season, upon eventual transformation to moving ice in the years to follow, should eventually generate an advancing glacier, or at least a significant slow down in the rate of terminus recession. This time lag in response from accumulation zone build-up to moving it along to the terminus is unknown, though older data sets do provide some hunches.

The lag varies from glacier to glacier and factors controlling it are: length of glacier, slope of glacier, glacier bed roughness (to retard sliding), glacier bed lubricants (water) and others. The tabled data indicates that the La Nada signal has not yet arrived at the terminus of the Overlord, but the data for Wedgemount provides possibly a hint or arrival of the event with a slow down in recession rate for 2006. Another two or three years of monitoring are needed to confirm the arrival of the signal for Wedgemount, and it could be several more years before Overlord's terminus reacts. However, there is always the possibility that the signal could be wiped out by outrageous ablation of the glacier surface in a blistering summer heat wave. For glaciers of about Wedgemount's size the lag period deduced elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest is about six years. The next survey (2007) will be year eight.

We wind up this report by noting that there are a number of other marker cairns at Overlord Glacier, which are not ours. In the universal scheme of scientific ethics the person or organization that places such there (the purpose for which is blatantly obvious), would identify themselves to us personally, knowing full well who we are, and what we are doing, by our record of publications. This poor behaviour and goes against the grain of the universal spirit of scientific cooperation.

	Glacier Snout Movements (m/yr)			
	2004	2005	2006	Accum. (1900+/- - 2006)
Wedgemount Glacier	(-) 15.4	(-) 15.6	(-) 11.1	(-) 1403.8
Overlord Glacier				
- left side (south) snout	N.D.	(-) 30.3*	(-) 11.2	-
- right side (middle) snout **	N.D.	(-) 36.3*	(-) 18.2	-
- left/middle averaged	N.D.	(-) 33.3*	(-) 14.7	(-) 1077.8

\* No measurements in 2004, measured values cover the period of 2003 to 2005. The average value for each year is (-) 16.65 m.

\*\* The middle snout was barely discernable as a separate lobe in 2006, and will likely soon disappear as a separate entity.

## Trip Reports

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### **Mystery ski trip (Mt. Harvey), 3 February, 2007**

Well, it was advertised as a ski trip, anyway. An inversion for the week before the trip took care of that. By Friday, reports from near and far were of bullet proof snow. At some point or other, eight had indicated an interest, but by late Friday that had dwindled to four, intent on a little exercise and fresh air, though the weather was forecast to deteriorate.

We rendezvoused at [product placement omitted] at 8 am, only to discover that one person had, as it were, been misplaced. Confusion as to address and such. We called her, and she said "carry on". We did. We canvassed various mysterious destinations, and decided to attempt Mt. Harvey. After exploring Lions Bay, we arrived at the trail head, which provides spaces for about eight vehicles. (More room at the school.) We departed at 9:15, on a cool grey morning. The clouds were steadily thickening.

We ground up the old logging road, seeing signs that a lot of trees had fallen during the winter's windstorms. There wasn't much snow until well up the trail proper. There were fixed ropes on the trail, plus we had to don crampons and ice axes. So we can plausibly say it was a mountaineering trip. After lunch, we ran into some of the errant trip members - they were duly reproached for abandoning the mystery ski trip. At 1:30 we arrived on the ridge, in the face of a respectable snow storm, and so made a strategic withdrawal, arriving at the vehicle, in the rain, at 3:30.

We had cocoa at the [product placement omitted], and while doing so ran into Joan Hendrix. Joan is the widow of one time BCMC member Howard Zwecker, who died in an accident in the Tantalus Range in 1998. She has re-married, and lives in Lions Bay with her husband and 15 month old daughter.

Participants: Ingrid Schechter, Evelyn Feller, and Anders Ourom (Organizer and reporter).

### **Easter ski trip - Van Horlick valley area, 6-8 April, 2007**

This relatively easy trip for beginners and those wanting a less demanding trip was to have gone to the Mt Fee area but due to access problems, the destination was changed to an area off the

Duffey Lake Road. The access was along mostly logging roads with the hardest thing being the heat. All of us were mole skinning and duct taping various foot parts due to walking in our ski boots. Other than that the trip in was uneventful with the exception of two snowmobiles passing us. Turns out they have a cabin in the valley. (There are now snowmobile cabins in the Van Horlick - our valley - and the next valley, Blowdown Creek) Camp was at the outflow of a large unnamed lake with open running water. One other thing I liked was that we got the rising and setting sun at this camp. We then went skiing from there. A lot of the runs were to and from camp which was so convenient and made everyone happy.

The snow on Saturday morning was slightly crusty, slowly giving way to softer and softer snow as the day wore on. We split into two groups each going to a different side of the valley. One group got 3 runs with a couple of people getting in 4. This was the group starting and finishing at camp. The other group of 7 went to another area getting to the summit above camp, skiing down then getting to another summit at the eastern end of the valley. From this second summit we could hear the snowmobiles and see their tracks in the adjacent Blowdown Creek drainage.

As this was Easter weekend an Easter bunny turned up. He was hiding in Ilse's pack and came out each evening at dinner time to look around. MISTAKE. Dinner was not the time to come out. His ears were the first to go. Seems that this is the time of year for Easter bunnies to most definitely not come out. He was saved, but it was only temporary. He was now handicapped as well as he now couldn't hear. The next night after dinner he ran away and hid. He was found later under Silke's tent fly. Guess he couldn't hear anyone coming! The game was really up now and he came to an untimely death as all Easter bunnies eventually do. Dessert!!

There was a small emergency Saturday evening. One of the group went to the facilities. As we all should do: he was diligent and used a sanitary hand cleaner to clean his hands afterwards. Next thing to do was to burn the paper. In lighting the paper one hand went up in flames. Then, in trying to put it out he used his other hand. He now had

both hands on fire! A word of caution here. That sanitary hand cleaner you use has a high alcohol content. When he went to light the paper, his hands flamed up. Very short and brief and no harm done. But it was very exciting there for a moment. He was asked to try again later after dark so we could get a more vivid view of the flames. His refusal was fast in coming.

The weather for Sunday was for showers. It did drizzle Saturday night and Sunday we woke up to a little shower. The mountain tops were now starting to get cloud covered and things weren't looking good weather wise. We headed out in two groups again after breakfast. After a few hundred metres we all stopped, looked at each other and all agreed to go back, pack up and head out. It was slightly drizzling all this time. If the forecast was to hold true, the freezing level was to go to the valley bottom giving us an icy crust to ski out on the next day. All wanted to go. The ski out was uneventful. Upon arriving at the cars though we found that they all had been egged by someone. Better I suppose than being broken into, or worse. In town we went to the new Pony Express for a bite to eat. Goodbyes were said and homeward bound we were. It was a fun trip.

The contestants were - Marius Dimov, Patrice Cook, Dan and Marilyn Friedman, Clemence Tatin Jaleran, John Duffey, Ilse Rupners, Silke Gumplinger, Ron Caves, Helen Habgood, Ed Fisher, Ron Groom, and David Scanlon (organizer and reporter).

### **Singing Pass, 15 April, 2007**

An old standby B.C.M.C. trip, beginning in the early 1920s for the club – it is an addictive mission. This de facto leader took on the trip after the real leader-to-be (Ed Zenger) had to take his soccer team to Victoria, once again sacrificing his sparkling alpine career for youth sport. So, Singing Pass is “my bag”. I do the trek every spring, preferably in sunshine, because it provides ethereal views deep into the environs of Garibaldi Park to restore mind, soul and muscle, overall well-being, and yet not over-taxing any system while doing it.

Those are the usual expectations, but for this year the 65% correct weather forecasts were not so encouraging. And the telephone was not exactly

buzzing with a plethora of enquiries. Six calls netted one definite “not interested” (ski lift tolls are admittedly stiff), and five others saying they would likely come (translation: waiting on the weather). Not surprisingly two actually showed up on a day of spooky, ever-changing cloud cover. The previous two days of heavy snowfall had once again re-elevated the snow post reading at the Pig Alley weather station on Whistler (elev. 1600 m) to slightly above 3.0 metres.

It would not be a glide on spring corn snow to Singing Pass. The run from the top of the lifts to the Flute-Piccolo Saddle was on powder snow. A half hour later, while “de-skinning” atop Flute Peak, four other B.C.M.C.ers arrived unexpectedly and momentarily re-set the party strength at seven.

More powder with no wind slab as we scooted down to the Flute-Oboe saddle, but the renegade foursome dived ever lower into the basin below. At this point Lorie said she needed some trail breaking exercise to prepare for a Goddard Glacier ski camp. The scene showed the complete antithesis: a short Aussie lady full of v.v.v., with the latest in wide shovelled telegear, helmet, and digital transceiver, followed by a lanky, bare-headed and slow-moving o.f. on longer and narrower skis fitted with 30 year old “retro” Marker touring bindings, and without any transceiver! But Darrell, who was in the rear, had us covered with his gear — though the slope on Oboe would be stretched considerably to even cough up a minor slough. Reaching the summit ridge, black clouds moved in to provide a dual damper; lighting was now very flat on what should have been a great run to Singing Pass, and suffocating lack of radiation heat loss had also changed the snow to heavy GORP! Any thoughts of continuing on to Russet Lake were cancelled at the pass. Out came the skins, duly slathered with “Gorp stopper”, and then the grind back to Oboe, and then Flute, and finally a couple of runs on Whistler before calling it a day. it was not quite the sterling day for my annual trek long the “Musical Bumps”, but ‘twas enjoyable nonetheless.

Party: Leonie Kraus, Darrell Lenicki; with transient additions of Ilse Rupners, Ovi Albinson, Tony Knight, and Margaret Hanson; Karl Ricker (organizer and reporter).

## **Never Say Névé, 21 April, 2007**

When the ice sheets last retreated some 25,000 years ago, they left behind a few calling cards. One of these was left in our own back yard: the Garibaldi Névé. These days, skiers take two to three days to traverse from Diamond Head to the Black Tusk trail head. My trip was on the BCMC schedule as a one day trip. And why not? A day trip across the Névé leaves room for doing other things the next day; besides, I would have no tent to dry out.

The trip had been postponed due a lack of good weather, a lack of fitness, lack of enthusiasm, lack of time and a dozen other excuses humans can give. Friday evening at 8:15. I had resigned to cancel the trip once again. Then Peter Gumplinger called and I sensed that an adventure may indeed happen. Moreover, Silke was as enthusiastic as ever. My friend, Roger Goodwin is turning 60 next week, so, arguing human limitations, I suggested he join us as his birthday treat.

Having left a car at the Black Tusk parking lot, we were skiing in the unsullied dawn by 7:30. There were exceedingly black clouds to the south. Mt. Atwell had pierced a large hole through a grey lenticular. But so what? As the poet Robert Frost writes, "way leads onto way"; by the time we had skied down to Ring Creek, we were committed.



**On the Névé traverse. Photo - J. Weller.**

By mid morning a mournful oatmeal sky had dissolved the shafts of sun. The rolling terrain had faded into shades of grey and white watercolors on a flat plain of no perspective. The crevasses were worrying. Skiing the Névé in a white-out is like handing your keys to a parking valet. You're handing your fate to the gods.

We followed vague tracks that seemed to climb way too high. We threw candy wrappers and snowballs down the slopes to test the steepness. We probed nervously for slots and debated the route. We ate chocolate.

Suddenly a dorsal fin of rock loomed through the fuzzy mist – the "Sharks Fin" – a welcome landmark that indicates the northern edge of the Névé. What follows the Shark's Fin is comparably easy - a pleasant ski down to Sentinel Bay, a glide across yawning Garibaldi Lake and a ski and stumble down the trail to the car.

We'd come one heck of a long way in a day. As Silke noted, "It barely warrants a 'D' level trip on the BCMC schedule. At 12 hours 5 minutes it's really in the 'C' ranks." Somehow I don't think so. Well done everyone.

Participants: Silke and Peter Gumplinger, Roger Goodwin, Jane Weller (organizer).

## **North Creek ski week, 17-24 March, 2007**

The second half of Dave Scanlon's North Ck. trip left Vancouver in the early hours of Saturday, 17th to accomplish a 9 am rendezvous at the Pemberton airport. Rain and low cloud suggested we could have got some extra sleep. The hours went by with no change in conditions, so Saturday was not to be a flying day. At the airport we met a party waiting to be flown to Pebble Ck. We had arranged a joint flight in with them to share costs. Fortunately one member of their party came from near Pemberton and she offered to put our party up in a cabin on her property. This was gratefully accepted. After retrieving Woody who was shifting boxes of food and gear backwards and forwards between his car and piles corresponding to different flight options, we drove off for a night in the cabin on an

organic garlic farm, run by a man who did just about everything – a fascinating place.

Sunday greeted us with less rain, but just as much cloud so we had another period of extended waiting interspersed with phone calls from Dave with weather updates from North Ck. Around mid-day things appeared to be clear in North Ck, so we set off, 4 to leave from the airport, Woody and 3 others to be picked up at Black's farm, and 2 others to be picked up at the Hurley-Lillooet River road junction, along with 2 members of the Pebble Ck. party, who were planning on skiing out of Pebble Ck, ending up skiing down the Hurley road to the junction.

Pemberton Helicopters was having some difficulties and were unable to use their helicopters, so they had contracted our trip out to Blackcomb Helicopters from Whistler. In the helicopter it became apparent that our pilot wasn't very certain where North Ck. was and did not know where the cabin was. Thick cloud in North Ck. caused him to rise high, flying around Delilah to see if he could approach the cabin from high. Cloud obscured the cabin however, so we retreated to Pemberton. There we got Pemberton Helicopter's office assistant to telephone Black's farm to ask them to tell Woody that we could not fly at the moment, but to keep waiting. The message that the farm relayed to Woody was that we could not fly at all that day. Woody then packed up his boxes again and drove to the Hurley-Lillooet River road junction, to inform the others and the Pebble Ck. party. They had driven to the Outdoor School to phone Pemberton Helicopters and were told the correct situation, so they went back and waited, along with Woody's mob. This little mix-up would prove to be very beneficial to us at the end of the trip.

Eventually in mid afternoon we set off again in much less cloudy conditions, arriving uneventfully at the cabin. We unloaded and the first group of Dave's party loaded up, to be taken down to their car at Black's farm. The helicopter returned empty, not finding Woody and his boxes at the farm. Why the pilot did not go to the Hurley-Lillooet junction to pick up people he knew were waiting there, will remain a mystery. The remainder of Dave's group loaded up to be deposited at Black's farm where they were to wait for 2½ hours. The pilot then flew to the Hurley-Lillooet junction to pick up

Woody's mob and their boxes, and later the final 2. After we were all in the cabin the cloud and snow came in as well. We then had cloud and snow every day for the entire trip. About 1 metre of snow fell during the week and the temperature ranged from + 2°C initially, with porridge-like snow, down to -5°C on Wednesday and Thursday with excellent powder on a firm base, back up to +2°C by the following Saturday.

Monday was a heavy snow, cloud, and reading day, allowing Woody to re-sort his boxes. Tuesday actually offered about 2 hours of sun (the only sun we had for the entire trip) interspersed between storm clouds and driving snow. The troops skied up the Boomerang Glacier with the hard core group going up onto the NE ridge of Delilah before skiing down the east branch of the Boomerang Glacier. The soft core group skied up to the high point of the glacier before beating a hasty retreat in a blizzard down to the North Ck – Boomerang Ck. junction. There a patch of sun allowed for a pleasant lunch, during which the hard core group returned. The hard core group then skied up through the trees on the west ridge of Sessel for some yo-yo skiing, while the soft core group returned to the cabin. A flock of geese flew up North Ck. and up above the Pebble Glacier. The hard core group included Francis, straight from the summits of Aconcagua and Logan, capable of walking 8 km/hr in ski boots on a road, and Jane, a Garibaldi Névé traverse in a day



**Looking down N Ck. towards the cabin. Photo - B. Wood.**

person, while the soft core group included your editor missing a cartilage in one knee and waiting for a hip replacement operation, so the party was one of extremes in physical abilities.



**The hard core group. Photo - B. Wood**



**The soft core group. Photo - B. Wood collection.**

Avalanche conditions were impressive this year with major avalanches everywhere. A particularly impressive one had come down the valley to the west of the cabin all the way to North Ck. itself. Another one had come down the slopes to the SE of the canyon below the waterfall above the cabin. This avalanche had completely filled the 20 m deep canyon en route to the Boomerang Glacier, allowing easy skiing across it onto the slopes to the SE – the easiest route into the upper valley – Boomerang Glacier area. This route was used every day from Tuesday through Friday, as

cloud, snow, and the avalanche hazard prevented trips up the other valleys.

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday had increasing temperatures, decreasing atmospheric pressure, but steady snowfall. The trees on the west ridge of Sessel became the major destination for some safe yo-yo skiing. One day another flock of geese tried to fly up North Ck., but couldn't get through, so flew down again.

Hut life occupied much time on this trip. We had organized 2 food groups prior to the trip. Unbeknownst to us at the time, one food group contained all the hard core skiers while the other group contained the soft core, although a couple of the soft core skiers could probably have been hard core, had they so desired. Dinners were elaborate affairs with many high quality meals prepared. Snow was continually melted on a stove that was fed wood chopped up mainly by Don. Firewood supplies being a bit low, a dead tree was filled then cut up into a fine pile. Many books were read, a thesis marked, much falling snow – from the sky and from trees – was dodged on the way to the outhouse, whose roof was over 1 m below the snow surface (there was 4-5 m of snow on the ground around the cabin), more photos were taken inside than outside the cabin, and Woody was seen frequently shifting, searching through for lost items, and reorganizing his boxes. Lanterns worked, stoves worked, and a great time was had by all.

With no improvement in the weather, and memories of the previous weekend in mind, we telephoned Pemberton Helicopters to see if we could be flown out early – either Friday afternoon or Saturday. A man there said that Pemberton Helicopters still had no helicopters, that the helpful woman office assistant would not be in until Monday, and that as we had flown in with Blackcomb Helicopters, I should contact them. Trying to contact them, the battery went flat in the sat phone. A new battery and another more forceful call to Pemberton Helicopters an hour later had the same man denying that he had told me to contact Blackcomb and that a flight Friday after 3 pm might be possible as the weather was to be bad over the weekend. Frantic packing then followed, with Woody organizing his remaining boxes. With no change in weather by 3, a flight out appeared dubious. By 5 it appeared

impossible. Not to worry the man at Pemberton Helicopters then said. He was 90% certain that we could be flown out Saturday – any time after 8 am as a high pressure system was coming in. Woody retrieved his boxes.

That night the pressure dropped and the cloud and snow continued. Flying conditions looked hopeless at 8 am. The Pemberton Helicopters many said on the phone that the helicopter would be taking off within half an hour. An hour later, with the weather still hopeless I phoned Pemberton Helicopters again to find the helpful office assistant there, despite the fact that the man said she wouldn't be in until Monday. Flying conditions were no good, she said, but possibly in a few hours. Tiring of the weather and Pemberton Helicopters, we cancelled our flight out telling her that we would be skiing out but would need to hire a helicopter later to retrieve the food and gear we would be leaving behind. We hurriedly repacked for a ski exit and Woody reorganized his boxes.

Around 10 am we left the cabin, crossed the creeks to their east side and then had an excellent descent following a superb route set by Ian, down through the beautiful valley bottom forest which we had finally saved from the loggers during the Squamish LRMP meetings. Beyond the forest we glided through the open willow – slide alder areas, avoiding some, but not all, avalanche debris. We crossed to the west side of the creek, put on skins, then traversed over some massive avalanche debris before stopping just before the ascent up into the forest. At this point, during a brief break in the clouds, Ian and Lisa spotted the end of the new logging road up the east side of the valley. Although it seemed high up, anything would be better than the ski up to the existing trail, so we decided to give it a go, crossing back to the east side of the creek over some avalanche debris. We ascended a steep clearcut up to the road about 200 m above the valley. The road presented much easier travel than the trail although it climbed up as we followed it down valley, to a breach in the first of 2 major gullies, now about 300 m above the valley. From here the road began descending, crossing the second of the major gullies, both being plugged up with avalanche debris. The descent steepened as we approached Delilah Ck., then ran into a pile of

large rocks that had fallen over the road from the cutslope above. Delilah Ck. valley had some avalanche debris, but less than expected. Down we skied for another 3 km before running into a recently plowed logging road. It was then time to walk in ski boots – 3 km for some, 9 km for the fittest.

The early mix-up over the location of Woody's car was now to our great advantage – it was now only 8 km from the North Ck. East road, and not the 40 km it would have been, had it been parked at Black's farm. While walking down the road, who should be driving up it in a large pickup, but a nephew of Lisa – another fortuitous happening. With Francis driving Woody's car back to us and Lisa's nephew in his pickup, the entire party was collected and driven to Pemberton airport, where we arrived just after 4:30 pm. It had not stopped precipitating all day – snow down to the clearcut then rain all the way back to Pemberton. We wrung out our clothes and packs in Pemberton. No breaks in the clouds were seen. Had we not skied out we would have been in the cabin that night. After some light refreshment at the new Pony Express in Pemberton, we returned to the city.

Participants: Lisa Baile, Jane Weller, Ian McGillvary, Francis St. Pierre Don Cann, Brian Wood, Yorie Yoshinari, Taizo Komori, Evelyn Feller, and Michael Feller (reporter).

### **Mt. Baker: Boulder Glacier Route, 28-29 April, 2007**

This was not an official club trip. I had meant to climb Baker on this route for some time now, even contemplated putting it on the BCMC trip schedule, but in the end, the trip came about because Silke wanted to get some altitude come rain or shine. Ravil was intrigued by the prospect of climbing his favourite mountain on a different route and Thomas, pretty fresh from Germany and a grad. student at TRIUMF, was keen to ski a most prominent local peak.

A mix of sun and clouds saw us drive the Baker Lake Road, following the directions in the now vintage edition of "Backcountry Skiing in Washington's Cascades" by R. Burgdorfer (1986). Soon after Baker Lake Rd crossed Boulder Creek, some 17.5 miles along, we turned left on to the Crater Moraine road. In 1.7 miles we turned left again, up a hairpin turn. The road ahead

dropped to the Baker Hot Springs but is at present (apparently) washed out by Park Creek. Someone had recently taken a chain saw at the dead fall across the road but in less than another mile we were stopped by a large tree trunk. The altimeter read 450 m, it was 10:30 am, and no snow in sight. We hiked the well graded and gently inclined road for well over an hour, initially climbing over several more downed trees, before we hit continuous snow. Another hour or so saw us finally at the trail head at 830m of what remains of the Boulder Ridge Trail. We then skied for a short distance along a road remnant heading northwest through an old clearcut. But soon the trail was almost lost in a jumble of dead fall at the edge of the old-growth forest. Beyond, we found and followed a few not yet faded ribbons left by another party and continued heading in a northwesterly direction. We were clearly gaining altitude over the sketched route in the book, eventually toping out on a level area of Boulder Ridge. Knowing where to look, we could make out a small meadow through the trees below. It is mentioned in the book and is at 1030m. To get back on course, we directly descended to the opening and a well deserved break.

Almost immediately after entering the forest again we hit upon a deep creek canyon impossible to cross. This terrain feature was not mentioned in the book, leaving us wondering. There was only one way to continue and that way led steeply up. Fortunately, we soon came upon a shallow gully which led miraculously into the open at tree line and easier terrain. Ahead was a basin below Boulder Glacier scoured out by a lahar (volcanic mudflow) in 1988. Covered with snow the ravine looked to me like a gigantic avalanche had come through and I felt uneasy leading across it and away from cliffs and sluffs coming off the south side of Boulder Ridge. A climbing traverse led in a wide gentle right arc onto the now broad ridge and our campsite at 1660m sheltered by a small wind circle. A perfect spot with great views of Mt. Shuksan and a good launch point for our attempt at the summit the following day. It was now just past 6pm, warm, skies clearing, and no wind. After the usual campsite activity and dinner, we celebrated my birthday with tea made potent by 80% proof Stroh Rum and retired well after dark. Sunday dawned high overcast but clouds would move in before long and obscure the summit.

Shuksan also caught a cloud and when we left for the peak at 7:30am it was clear we'd soon be moving into a white-out. Having memorized the route up the Boulder-Park cleaver from the evening before, we had little difficulty ascending this rib. A few breaks provided enough visibility to stake out a route where the cleaver steepened for a bit. Then, a big sunny break gave us an opportunity to rest and enjoy the view of Sherman Peak across the glacier. But it was not to last. Instead, we were in the thick of it, worse than at any time earlier in the day. We diligently worked our way up to a rock bluff we knew would signal to us the start of a required long left-climbing traverse. To our relief it finally came into view through the haze. But it really required another break in the clouds for us to actually attempt the traverse above some crevasses and below a hunk of ice. Fresh snow above a firm layer slid easily and so harscheisen (ski crampons) were helpful, especially for the person who broke trail. It got brighter as we reached the top of Boulder Glacier and the final slope to the summit. The visibility remained decent as we set our last kick-turns, popping out near Baker's very summit. Both Ravil on snowshoes and Thomas had switched to crampons and were not far behind. Patches of clouds whisked quickly through from the west as we were now at the top edge of the cloud layer. Not a sign of anyone else having been at the summit. It had taken us six hours to the top from camp and it was now 1:30pm.

Thomas had taken GPS tracks and waypoints but I was still tense about finding the way down again. To our great fortune, the visibility improved further, the sun was now more out than obscured, as we started to ski down in what turned out to be fantastic snow conditions; some 30+ cm of powder snow on top of an almost firm layer. The snow remained near perfect all the way down to camp. Ravil doing his best to keep up with the skiers. We left camp again at 4 pm. The ski on the lower glacier was a bit breakable but still acceptable, then we were truly into spring snow down to the meadow. We now decided to try and follow the lower sketched route out, passing a hiking register, but soon were again navigating the woods, checking the general heading and elevation with the GPS every so often. Eventually, the skis had to come off as we stumbled over bare spots and dead fall. Not liking what we saw

ahead, we gained some elevation and got back into easier terrain just as we came across our tracks from the day before. All it took now was getting back to the trail head, skiing down the road, then hiking to the car. We arrived at 9 pm after a 13.5 hour, very gratifying day. No time to stop for a late dinner. It was past midnight by the time Thomas shouldered his pack with skis and climbed on his bike home from our place.

Participants: Thomas Brunner, Ravil Chamgoulov, Silke and Peter Gumplinger (organizer and reporter)



**Ascending Mt. Baker. Photo - R. Chamgoulov.**



**The route on Mt. Baker. Photo - T. Brunner.**



**Heading up to the Boulder Glacier. Photo - S. Gumplinger.**



**Skiing down. Photo - T. Brunner.**