

# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



**February, 2007. Vol. 85, No. 2**

**Skiing in the Cariboo Mountains on the Adams - North Thompson divide.**

## **EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS**

Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Cookies, tea, and coffee are provided.

**Tuesday, 13 February** - Entertainment will be a North Creek extravaganza, featuring several speakers presenting the history of the club's activities in the area.

**Tuesday, 13 March** - Entertainment will be a slide show on outdoor activities in Utah by Kevin Swanson.



**Resting at the North Ck. cabin, August, 2006, after some serious work and play. Photographer to be revealed in the next newsletter.**

## HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT -</b>	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484
<b>PAST-PRESIDENT -</b>	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT -</b>	TODD PONZINI	604-340-9653
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<b>MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -</b>		
	DERRICK JOHNSTONE	604-505-6250
	PAUL HAWMAN	604-924-1235
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	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
<b>CLIMBING -</b>	JOS VAN DER BURG	604-463-7582
	EMANUELE PORRA	604-533-7723
<b>CABIN/TRAILS -</b>	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
	PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
<b>CONSERVATION -</b>	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
<b>SUMMER CAMP -</b>		
	PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
<b>FMCBC REP -</b>	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
<b>WEBMASTER -</b>	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
<b>EDITOR -</b>	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
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<b>LIBRARY -</b>	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

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B.C., V6B 3W8**

**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 courteous and inform the trip organizer.

## Trip Schedule

### All trips are ski trips unless indicated otherwise February

<b>3: Mystery trip</b>	<b>B2/3</b>
Anders Ourom 604-228-1798	
Skiing somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.	
<b>3: Ben Lomond and Red Mtn.</b>	<b>B3/1654 m</b>
Jos van der Burg 604-463-7582	
Skiing above Howe Sound.	
<b>3: Howe Sound Crest trail (snowshoe)</b>	<b>B-C2</b>
Neil Beattie 604-669-7847	
Snowshoeing above Howe Sound.	
<b>4: Blackcomb backcountry</b>	<b>B3</b>
Ilze Rupners 604-222-3720	
Skiing in the Spearhead R. beyond Blackcomb.	
<b>10: Decker Glacier</b>	<b>B3</b>
Margaret Hanson 604-873-2276	
Skiing in the Spearhead R. beyond Blackcomb.	
<b>10-11: Caspar Pk./Mt. Duke</b>	<b>B-C3/2410 m</b>
Erich Hinze 604-224-5646	
Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	
<b>10-11: Tszil Mtn.</b>	<b>C2/2377 m</b>
Mike Peel 604-444-4068	
Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	
<b>10+11: Mt. Seymour-De Pencier Bluffs</b>	<b>A4</b>
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666	
Training "meet and greet" climb, suitable for those wanting to go on Justin's spring trips. Trip will practise traverses, rescue systems, and ice climbing if conditions permit.	
<b>10-12: Mt. Robie Reid</b>	<b>C3-4/2095 m</b>
Emanuele Porra 604-533-7723	
Climbing via the SE ridge/E face. Maximum 5 participants - restricted to club members only. Participants will have winter camping and mountaineering experience.	
<b>16-18: Mt. Rainier</b>	<b>C3/4392 m</b>
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666	
Winter mountaineering, ascending via Camp Muir and the Gibraltar Ledges. Participants must have gone on one of the meet and greet days the previous weekend.	
<b>17-18: Dalton Dome</b>	<b>C3/2653 m</b>
Jos van der Burg 604-463-7582	
Extended skiing in Garibaldi park near Mt. Garibaldi, which may also be climbed if conditions permit.	
<b>18: Mt. Price</b>	<b>C3/2052 m</b>
Jane Weller 604-988-3618	

More extended skiing above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi park.

**18: Hollyburn Mtn.** **B2/1326 m**  
Peter Parrotta 604-552-1423

Skiing in the North Shore mountains.

**24: The Table** **B3/2021 m**  
Will Neustaedter 604-523-1344

Yet more skiing above Garibaldi lake in Garibaldi park.

**24-25: Callaghan or Rhododendron** **C3**

David Hughes 604-980-6484

Extended skiing to a destination to be determined by conditions and interest. Callaghan may require a snowcat ride up the Callaghan road.

**24-25: Welch Pk. (S Ridge)** **C4/2431 m**  
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666

Extended roped mountaineering in the Lucky Four Group of the Chilliwack valley. Participants must have gone on a previous meet and greet trip with the organizer.

**25: Tonic Pk.** **B2/1803 m**  
Karl Ricker 1-604-938-1107

Skiing opposite Whistler on the Callaghan - 21 Mile Ck. divide.

### March

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

A meet and greet training trip in Vancouver's North Shore mountains for the Spearhead traverse the following week.

**3: Rainbow Mtn.** **C3/2314 m**  
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264

Extended skiing opposite Whistler.

**3-4: Bagpipe Pk.** **C3/1657 m**  
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496

Extended skiing east of the Mountain Lake area above Howe Sound.

**9-11: Spearhead Traverse** **C3**  
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666

Classic ski traverse in Garibaldi park near Whistler-Blackcomb. Participants must have gone on the previous week's meet and greet training trip. The trip may take 4 days and will go only if weather and avalanche conditions are favourable.

**10: Border Peaks area** **B3**  
Jos van der Burg 604-463-7582

Skiing up Tamahi Ck. in the Chilliwack valley to the area between the Border Peaks.

**10-11: Saxifrage Mtn. B3/2501 m**  
Jeff Rabinovitch 778-846-2546

Skiing east of Pemberton.

**10-11: Mt. Duke B3/2501 m**  
Helen Habgood 604-357-3094

Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.

**10-17: North Ck. (snowshoe) B3**  
David Scanlon 604-572-5051  
A week of snowshoeing at the club cabin in the upper Lillooet valley area.

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## **BCMC News - CENTENNIAL YEAR and BACKCOUNTRY SKIING PROGRAM**

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As you should have gathered by now, this year is the club's centennial. Our club will be 100 years old this year, in October, to be precise, when the club was first formed and called the Vancouver Mountaineering Club, to change its name a year later to the current B.C. Mountaineering Club. The club's centennial committee, lead by Dave Scanlon, has a wide and exciting range of activities planned for the year. We already have our centennial calendar and centennial logo, designed by Claire Oldham, appearing on the first page of this and every newsletter this year. This summer will see some special trips, such as an expedition to Mt. Fairweather and a re-enactment of the first ascent of Mt. Garibaldi, during which an ice axe used on the first ascent will be taken back to the summit. Later in the year, a centennial video of 100 year of mountaineering in coastal B.C. will be produced and made available to club members as a DVD. In addition we will have a special centennial banquet on Grouse Mtn. in October, very generously supported by Grouse Mtn. Resorts. All these events will be recorded for posterity in a special edition of the B.C. Mountaineer, which will also feature articles about the club's 100 years of history as well as a selection of the club's writings and photographs during this period. There will also be a display in the North Vancouver Museum, which dovetails in with North Vancouver's centennial display as North Van, too, is 100 years old this year. A short slide history presentation will also be made at this month's Vancouver's International Mountain Film Festival, kindly and expertly put together by Ross Wyborn. You have a lot to choose from. The club will be offering you a lot this year. Get involved. This will only happen once in your lifetime!

The December, 2006 social evening, which featured an excellent slide show by Marcus Dell on his ascent of Broad Pk, an 8000'er, had what must be a record attendance of about 150 people. The ice tool

that Marcus donated to the club also raised \$200 for the centennial in a raffle held at the December social meeting. If we can maintain this level of interest, then our predecessors and the club's founders will be smiling happily in their graves and flowers will be blooming brightly from their ashes, and we can all look forward to another 100 years of the BCMC.

Michael Feller

### **BCMC Summer Camp - Tantalus area, 21-29 July**

A week of excellent climbing based out of the new, posh Haberl Hut. \$490 gets you choppered in and out and covers hut fees. This is a self guided mountaineering camp with routes typically Class III and above. This is not hiking terrain. For further information, contact Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

### **BCMC Introduction to Backcountry Skiing Program - February**

**Program Objectives:** To develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence required to safely participate in overnight backcountry ski trips. The program will include 1 evening seminar and 2 weekends spent on overnight ski trips in the mountains. The seminar will be held on the evening of January 18 and the program will run on the weekends of February 3/4 and 10/11.

**Program topics:** Clothing and equipment, trip planning, winter camping, route and snowpack evaluation, avalanche awareness, transceiver use and self-rescue, winter mountain travel and weather evaluation. This program does not cover glacier travel or first aid.

**For whom:** Strong downhill skiers with previous summer or winter backcountry camping experience, and/or experienced backcountry day

skiers who want to gain experience on overnight winter trips.

**Prerequisites:** Open to all BC MC members (new and current) in good physical health and fitness who are able to confidently ski "blue" (intermediate) runs with an overnight (20kg) pack.

Note that this is not a program on how to ski – the entire group will be relying on you to be at least a confident intermediate skier! If your skiing ability is not adequate, you will be asked to withdraw from the program before the second weekend trip, and there will be no refund of your program fee.

**Equipment Required:** Backcountry ski equipment (skis, boots, poles & skins), shovel, avalanche transceiver, and overnight camping gear. Group gear such as tents and stoves will be organized at the pre-trip evening seminar.

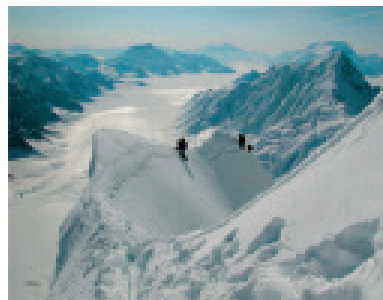
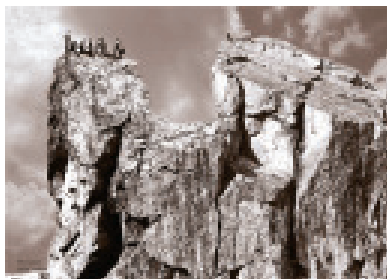
Cost for the program is \$175.

For more information and to book one of the twelve available spots, please call Todd Ponzini at 604-408-9617.

***Got Old Equipment for a Club Centennial Museum Display?***

*The Club is working with the North Vancouver Museum & Archives on a centennial display which will run from September to December 2007 at the North Vancouver Museum. This is an opportunity to share with the public some of the Club's history and activities in mountaineering, exploration and conservation. While we have the Club's photo archive for the display, the Museum would like to feature some of your hidden treasures, such as old equipment - skis, ice axes, clothing, etc. If you have something you'd like to lend, contact Hugh Kellas at 604-209-4744 or [hugh.kellas@gvrd.bc.ca](mailto:hugh.kellas@gvrd.bc.ca).*

## BC Mountaineering Club Calendars still available

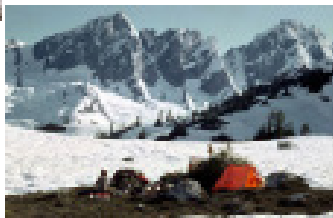


The BC MC is proud to present its 2007 Calendar!

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 also by online purchase (visit our website: [www.bcmc.ca](http://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.

## 10<sup>th</sup> VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL 16-24 February, 2007

**GUEST SPEAKERS** include *Dan Mazur, Andrew Brash, Beth Rodden, Tommy Caldwell, Kelly Cordes, Geoff Powter, Colin Angus and Julie Wafaei*

**VENUES** - *Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver, Pacific Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver*

*North Vancouver District Public Library, 3045 Highland Boulevard, Info (604) 987-4471*

*ANZA Club, 3 West 8 Avenue, Vancouver*

**TICKETS** (generally \$15 per evening in advance or \$17 at the door)

from [www.vimff.org](http://www.vimff.org),

604-984-4484 (Centennial Theatre), or

Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver,

Mountain Equipment Co-op, 130 W Broadway, Vancouver, or 1341 Main St., N Vancouver

**THEATRE PACKAGES** (Centennial Theatre Only)

2 Separate Evening Shows + 1 Bonus Matinee \$25

3 Separate Evening Shows + 2 Bonus Matinees \$35

**FEATURES** a *BCMC centennial presentation on Friday, 13 February, put together by Ross Wyborn, plus a BCMC sponsored evening reception.*

**FULL DETAILS** at [www.vimff.org](http://www.vimff.org)

## BCMC proposed cabin in the Battleship Lakes area rejected by the Mt. Currie Band.

The BCMC proposal to build a cabin in the Battleship Lakes area north of Lizzie Lake was recently rejected by the Mt. Currie Band who claim ownership of the area. The reasons for this were provided in a letter from Liz Jones of the Land and Resources Department of the Band Council to the B.C. Ministry of Forests in Squamish. Dated 7 November, 2006, the letter reads -

"We have conducted a thorough review of this proposal, including a field visit to its proposed location and an analysis of all other existing cabins in the Lil'wat Traditional Territory.

Our community-based Referral Committee has concluded that the Lil'wat Nation does not support the construction of the cabin at this time. This conclusion was reached based on the following points:

- A multitude of cabins already exist within the

Lil'wat Traditional Territory;

- The access to the cabin site is difficult, due to steep terrain, and therefore would not be widely used by Lil'wat people.
- The Lil'wat Nation does not want to promote further access into more remote locations within the Lil'wat Traditional Territory; and
- The past destruction of Lil'wat cabins by the Province in the Battleship Lakes area and other locations.

Thank you for consulting with us and we look forward to receiving information on the Ministry of Forest's final decision for this proposed activity."

Your editor will refrain from commenting, other than to state that he was unaware that there had been any cabins previously in the Battleship Lakes area.

## News

**Rock climbers attitudes towards low impact practices depends upon how they were introduced to climbing**

A study of rock climbers in Montana's Bitterroot valley (W.T. Barrie and J.A. Harding. 2002. USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station Research Note RMRS-RN-15) found that those

who learned climbing indoors, as opposed to those who learned outdoors, and those who learned with removable protection, as opposed to those who learned with fixed anchors, were more likely to practise low impact climbing. Low impact climbing was defined as minimizing erosion on approach trails to climbs, respect for Native American artifacts, and placement of permanent bolts into the rock.

This presents a strong case for introducing people to rock climbing in indoor gyms with removable protection.

### **Roofed accomodation in parks - update**

It appears that there are 5 proposals for roofed accomodation in parks. Two are of little concern - one to run the existing lodge in Assiniboine park, one, by the ACC, to run the existing old ranger cabin in Elk Lakes park already being operated by the ACC. The other 3, however, are potentially problematic. One is for a lodge in Cape Scott park, another for a lodge in Maxhamish Lake park, and the third is by the ACC for a lodge somewhere in Mt. Robson park, possibly near the ranger cabin, possibly elsewhere. This lodge would be hydro-powered, necessitating construction of a small scale hydro power generator as well. The current management plan does not allow lodge construction in Robson park, so the plan would have to be changed. Work on a new plan for the park has commenced.

### **Smoke Bluffs - update**

On 5 December, the Squamish council endorsed the Smoke Bluffs park development plan. This plan basically outlines how the park will be managed. The land owned by the FMCBC will become part of the park with some protective covenants, the details of which are still not clear. The Squamish council intends to appoint an advisory group to develop a management plan and assist with management of the park. The group will comprise one delegate from each of - the Squamish Trails Society, the Howe Sound Trail Riders Association, the Squamish Access Society, the Access Society, and the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., and four at-large members, at least two of whom must be Squamish residents and climbers. Ex-officio members may include the mayor, one councillor, and the District's Chief Administrative Officer, Director of Recreation Parks & Tourism, and Manager of Operations.

### **Latest developments at Skaha**

From the 11 December, 2006, issue of Access News of the Climbers Access Society, we learn that -

#### **"1. Braesyde Parking - Closure and Sale**

The public parking lot at Braesyde has been closed permanently, effective November 1st 2006. The property is owned by the Dunlop family, and is being sold. The sale is subject to conditions, but should take effect in mid-April 2007. One can never know, but it is most prudent to assume that the sale will go through, and that alternative parking and access must be found. The Dunlops have generously provided public parking at Braesyde since 1992, although it has required much work and some inconvenience. Their reward has been modest, given the related expenses, and the value of the property. The climbing community owes the Dunlops a vote of gratitude for their hospitality, and thanks to the city of Penticton and the Agricultural Land Commission for permitting the parking.

Skaha now has about 20,000 public visitors each year, with a substantial spin-off contribution to the area's culture and economy. Since the early 1990s, Skaha rockclimbers and the Access Society have put thousands of hours into looking after the area and working on access to it, and spent perhaps \$40,000, half cash and half donated materials and services, on needed projects there - toilets, trails, signs and such. Plus the thousands of hours and dollars spent by many climbers on creating new routes.

#### **2. Skaha Rockclimbers**

Penticton-area climbers have organized to work on this issue. Key individuals include Howie Richardson, Hugh Lenney, Drew Fullerton, Russ Turner and Sean Dougherty, but the group is inclusive. If you're a climber living in the area, and can help, let them know. The group has prepared a report summarizing all the access options, their pros and cons, and what would be needed to implement each. (There are many possible permutations.) They met with Penticton council and guests on November 30th. They've contacted a variety of other stakeholders and interested parties, including The Land Conservancy of B.C. and MEC.

An interim solution may be possible, but a long-term or permanent solution is likely to take time, effort and money. It is also likely to involve carefully balancing the interests of several parties.

### 3. The Land Conservancy

It has been agreed that the Land Conservancy of British Columbia ([www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca)) will be leading representation on this issue, with advice, information, resources, and backing from the

climbing community. It brings to bear considerable resources and experience at addressing issues of this kind, and putting together multi-party solutions. TLC, with help from Mountain Equipment Co-op and the Access Society, acquired the Stawamus Chief gravel lot (aka gondola base) in 2005, a great help to us.

### 4. Information & Updates

There is more information at [www.skaha.org](http://www.skaha.org), and updates will be posted there. The Access Society will send periodic broadcast e-newsletters, with information as it becomes public. “

## Trip Reports

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### Mount Breakenridge, 15-16, July, 2006.

After picking up a young German fellow named Markus, it was off to the Chevron just south of Grandview Hwy and Boundary Road to meet the others. Ziff House, one of two remaining participants, was picked up at the Harrison Hot Springs Road Junction. We met Mark Burgoyne, our final participant, on the Big Silver main line along Harrison Lake.

We managed a 12:10 pm hike start from the 450 m level on a spur that heads into a major drainage on the south side of Breakenridge. At a fork almost immediately after the starting point we took the left road which was decommissioned. We followed this up to 1000 m at its end then had lunch.

After lunch it was briefly through a clearcut and then into the old growth forest. An inaccurate compass bearing took us left of our preferred course and we wound up on the westernmost ridge system before the slopes drop down to Harrison Lake. As a result we gained some unnecessary elevation. We made the highest lake at 1500 m at 6:15 pm and set up camp. From this vantage point the summit of Breakenridge has an impressive horn-like appearance. But as we were to find out, looks can be deceiving.

On the Sunday we were up at 5 and managed a 6:35 start. The route up involved mostly moderate grade snow hiking and by 9 everyone was on the summit enjoying the sunny views and enduring the slightly wintery temperatures. As we had lots of time we decided to head west across the top of Breakenridge's large north flowing glacier to another summit for lunch and lazing around. From here we could see along the entire length of Harrison Lake.

The descent route was via a large 25 degree slope with some steep bush grabbing at its bottom and a creek ford. Camp was broken at 3 and we stayed more east than on the ascent. Lower down we were always angling rightwards on a left slope. There is no single clear fallline on Breakendridge's south slope. Some GPSing was done to keep us on track and get us back to the end of the logging road. Vehicles were reached at around 6:30. Dinner was at a pub in Harrison Hot Springs. All in all an excellent trip in great weather and a good group of people.

Participants: Alistair Ferries, Ron Caves, Allan Neufeld, Allan Moats, Jason, Diana Diaconu, Ziff House, Markus, Martin Cook, Mark Burgoyne and 2 others whose names have vanished , and Greg Stoltmann (Organizer and reporter).

### Petlushkwohap Mountain, 5-7 August, 2006

The group met at the Chevron Station a block south of Grandview Hwy on Boundary Rd. at 6 am. The surprise was the lack of BCMC people versus North Shore Hiker people on this joint trip. There were only 2 BCMCers and they were dual members. Considering that Petlushkwohap is the second highest mountain in the old Culbert Guidebook. I would have expected more BCMC people.

We managed a 10am hike start from the Stein Trail parking lot. One does, however, not take the Stein Trail at all to go up Stryen Creek. Using directions I had been given we managed (with one screwup) to find the Stryen Trail. The trail cuts left up a bank by a barbed-wire fence and then runs west along the top of the bank. The trail eventually reaches a road and, shortly after, a fork.

The left fork is the one to take. Shortly another junction is reached. Left goes to a visible small metal clad building and right leads into the Stryen Creek drainage. The road slowly turns into a trail. After three hours of hiking on the well-built trail, we reached a major fork in the valley and a cool very pleasant spot for lunch. We headed up the right fork at 2 pm. Shortly we came upon an old log cabin with a newer add-on. After this the trail went straight up the fallline as its original switchbacks had been obliterated by windfall. The trail was clear as it angled up big slopes to approach the flatter upper valley in which more windfalls begin to appear.

We entered the upper valley at around 3 to 3:30 and quickly lost the trail. We found it again awhile later but its quality was definitely deteriorating. Before we knew it 5 pm, then 6 pm passed and we found ourselves bushwacking in dense dwarf willow and not close enough to the lake at the valley's head to feel that we would reach it by day's end. We crossed the creek to its south side for better terrain. At 7:30 Danielle announced that she absolutely had to stop and eat. We went on a bit looking for a well-drained flat camp area amidst the swampy patches and found a spot. I estimated that we were 1½ hours from the lake. This might cost us the next day.

The next morning it was up at 4 am in order to start at first light. As we headed up valley encountering some more bush I realized that Petlushkwohap didn't really fit in the daylight window as we'd lost about 4 hours due to coming short of the lake. There was talk about bushwhacking to camp in the dark. The way I saw it was that if the peak was reached camp wouldn't be reached until midnight.

The crux point, at which we had to decide whether to drop 350 m into the head of Earl Creek SE of Petlushkwohap or try to circle around the valley head on a dubious ridge system to connect to Petlushkwohap, was reached at 9:15. Some people didn't want to continue and two of the keeners were quite taken with the ridge route. I didn't feel like trying to force the valley route but sensed that the ridge route doomed any possibility of getting up Petlushkwohap. But the ridge it was. When we reached the crux where the ridge had big gaps one of the keeners promptly announced that he suddenly felt like going to sleep so I knew that the game was up. This was disheartening as the weather was perfect and one could see the whole route to the base of the mountain laid out below in

the head of Earl Creek and I sensed very strongly that if the keeners and I had reached the base of the mountain that we would have made the summit. So the summit group had lunch at the impasse on the ridge. It should be noted that by contouring at a lower elevation one can pass below the gaps and reach a col abutting onto Petlushkwohap, a distance of around 3 ½ km. By this route camp would probably not be reached until 1 am. After lunch it was back to find the others where we'd left them, sleeping and relaxing and staying out of the bug zone. From here it was ultimately back to camp arriving there at 8:30.

On the Monday it was up at 6 am and moving by 8:30 under clear skies. It was definitely faster going out and we reached the vehicles by 4:40. Finding a swimming spot seemed to be on everyone's mind and through information obtained at the cable reaction ferry on the Fraser, we found a landing just south of Lytton where there was a nice back eddy in the river. There was also a sandbank immediately above the shore. It was a classic summer moment in the middle of summer. As for Petlushkwohap we're hoping to try again next year with a Friday night start.

Participants: Stephanie Li, Jeff Han, Alistair Ferries, Michael (Misha), Pavel Sarokin, Mark Burgoyne, Danielle Wensamer, and Greg Stoltmann (Organizer and reporter).

### **Mts. Brunswick and Hanover, and Hat Mtn., 23-24 September, 2006**

Our trip began early on Saturday morning, jockeying for a parking spot at the entrance to the Paul Binkert/Lions Trail. As soon as the shuttle was set up for the hike along the Howe Sound Crest Trail (HSCT), we set off at about 8:15 with sunny and clear skies ahead. We saw several other regular hikers on our way up, some were doing day trips, others overnighting near Magnesia Meadows.

We reached the HSCT and the turnoff to Mt. Brunswick at about 11 am. It was here that we entered blueberry country! Sadly, the crop on the west slopes was dry and seedy, with little flavour in all species sampled. Upon reaching the summit of Mt. Brunswick and lunching on the helipad, we spied our campsite at the south end of Brunswick Lake and better blueberry territory. Hope was still with us. We returned to the HSCT and headed over to Hat Mtn. It was here that we encountered our first real

blueberries. *Vaccinium membranaceum* and *V. deliciosum* were in abundance, with scattered *V. ovalifolium* providing a juicy contrast. The paths up to Hat had small patches of berries, but were disappointing in quality.

As we headed down into the valley between the mountains, we were treated to *V. deliciosum* and *membranaceum* yet again, but our best berry crop encountered was near the south end of Brunswick Lake. Urges by our fearless leader to hurry up were met with outright mutiny as everyone slowed to a crawl for those seductive, dusky blue globes. Eventually, we made camp on the delta at the south end of Brunswick Lake.

On Sunday morning, we left camp at 7:40 for Mt. Hanover. Although there were some rather impressive blueberries at the base of the mountain, we soon left berry country and began the long scramble up the southernmost chute on the west face of Hanover. Although entirely devoid of berries, this chute (home to a rather charming pika) had two chock stones that provided some very fun climbing for us all. The first stone was the highest by far, and some were top belayed as they climbed.

We reached the summit of Hanover just after 10 (no berries were noted), with almost an hour spent in the very top part of the chute alone. After a brief lunch, we headed back, taking a route around the northeast face of Hanover which Peter G. had taken on another trip. We traveled south along the ridge of Hanover and down to a muddy chute, ending in a relatively flat snow field. Our path along the north face took us over two more snow fields and boulder fields, and led us to a fun scramble to the saddle between Hanover and "the Page". The blueberry crop was adequate here, but we longed for our fat, valley berries.

After a brief rest, Alan and Peter W. looked for the forested descent chute Peter G. had described. Without much difficulty, they found it and we all descended back to Brunswick Lake. We came out on the northeast side of the lake and walked back through boulder fields and berry patches again, reaching camp at about 1:15.

Discussion of timing and our exit route encouraged us to break camp as quickly as we could and most of us hit the trail by 2:15. We wandered along Deeks Lake trail past the stunning waterfall at Middle Lake and rendezvoused at the log jam on the south end of Deeks. From here, we were "burning daylight", as it was now 4 pm and we only had 2.5 hours of

light left to make a 3 hour exit. The berries would have to wait for another trip.

While the older map that Alan had was a help, many trail markers had been knocked down by recent clearing for a subdivision above the highway near Deeks Creek. After about 10 minutes of debate and backtracking, we finally reached the trail out along Deeks Bluff/Creek. Some steep trail awaited us in the semi darkness, and we crashed out of the bush at the highway bridge over the creek at 7:15 pm. Purple fingers and a mild sunburn were the souvenirs of the weekend from a varied and challenging trip!

Participants: Peter (Organizer) and Silke Gumplinger, Peter Woodsworth, Serguei Okountsev, Alan Moat, Miles Haupt and Suzie Lavallee (Reporter).

### **Wedgemount Lake, 11 October, 2006**

The day could not be denied. There was nary a cloud under the blue canopy, a few of us were in Whistler for a couple of days, so Trevor Walters and I took to the Wedgemount trailhead (the road is well groomed) by 9 am. The hike is stiff and steady up through an ever thinning forest, round a boulder field to a spacious clearing.

The broader path was soon left behind (as was the forest) by about 10:30 as we wound our way up a rocky thread like trail. Frost was on the rocks, it was slippery in places, but the rising sun over the mountains soon melted the frigid crystals. We met a hiker descending from Wedgemount Lake who had spent the night in the freshly painted hut. Trevor and I reached the hut about 11:45. The lake was a still turquoise and scarcely a ripple appeared on the water. The icefield of Mount Weart appeared to one side, Wedge Mountain (with its fuller and more evocative glacier) to the other side, and the lesser peaks of Parkhurst and Bethel strutted their wares. The day being so generous and clear, we borrowed a few chairs from the hut, took a bounty of photographs, then rested and delighted in the fact we had the meadows, the peaks and glaciers to ourselves on this fine and fair day. Wedge Mountain tugged our souls, and we pondered how we might take to the summit next year.

A small band of hikers arrived at the plateau about 1pm, so Trevor and I headed down the thin trail and fuller path again. It took us less than 2 hours to reach the trailhead.

Ron Dart (Reporter).

Three years ago Halvor Lunden told me that he had found a class 3 route up Canadian Border Peak (on the right of the 5.7 crack on the NW face). Last summer I tried to find it.

The Tamihi Creek logging road was gated at 11 km and it took 4 hours to get to the 1900 m knoll just below the NW face. The face itself turned out to be mostly scrambling up loose scree with a couple of patches of climbing (that I felt was at least stiff class 3). After about one hour I reached the crack, which is at 2150 m – 100 m below the summit. The crack is only about 6 m of climbing, but I didn't want to fall 6 m. About 12 m to the right I found a zigzag route up that I could manage. As I was doing it, however, I was thinking, Halvor's idea of class 3 is different from mine. And the final 2 m worried me – could I handle down climbing this bit? I decided not to chance it, and to return next year with a rope. So this summer I tried again. I managed to summit by the same route and on the way down I found an easier (class 2-3 route) to get past the crack. (It is about 60 m to the right of the crack on the ridgeline.) So I put the hike on the NSH and BCMC schedule. Eleven of us met at the Boundary Chevron at 6 am Sunday and a twelfth met us at the Tamihi gate. This time I had the key and we drove another 4 km to 1000 m where the road became impassable. From here we made extraordinary time and we were all on the knoll within 2 ½ hrs. I felt a bit funny leading this trip because I was perhaps the least experienced climber. Because of the experience level, I had asked Valery if he would lead climb the crack and set up a belay (thinking that most might prefer to do the crack than the bypass). Valery generously agreed to do this and brought a rack with him. Because there is so much loose rock on the face we divided up into three groups of four, setting off after 15 minute intervals. Group I was a strong group led by Valery. They were to climb the crack and set up a rope for the next parties to top rope it. Group II, also strong, was simultaneously led by Gordon and Gordon (I couldn't resist this). And group III consisting of those with the least amount of experience, thus probably the slowest, was led by myself.

I tried to give Group I accurate directions. "Cross over the ridge to the gulley, 60 m above that small bush." My directions seemed to be understood and Group I set off. I busied myself with a sandwich and was surprised to hear 5 minutes later that Group

I was already out of sight in a gulley starting on the right side of the lower face. So Group II set off following Group I, who were supposed to know the route. But when Group II arrived at this gulley it looked loose, steep, and had an ugly headwall to get around. I shouted over at them that that was the wrong way and they traversed left back across the loose face to a more solid corner "gulley" and the first bit of class 3 climbing.

By the time Group III had climbed the ridge (minus one who didn't feel comfortable climbing on this day) Group II was half way up the 150 m gulley and I could see Group I high above already working on the crack. We waited until Group II got out of the gulley and then ascended and caught up to the last two of Group II at the base of the crack. Everybody top-roped the face just to the left of the crack, which was a bit wet, except for myself who took the bypass. After getting above the crack I then forgot the route up the final 60 m (which has a class 3-4 section), and accidentally found a much easier route, again to the right.

By the time I arrived on the summit, Group I had been there nearly two hours (Stas and Valery having free climbed to the left of the crack.) Group I had ascended the far right gulley from its base and most of them felt that this was not to be recommended. Group II had very ably followed the standard route without mishap.

For the descent we again divided into groups. Despite a few mishaps, everyone made it down without injury. From the knoll it was 1 ½ hrs. back

to the vehicles. It seemed like everyone had brought beer – perhaps because I had warned people that there was no water on the trip. Most of the beer was consumed.

This was a really good group. There is a lot of rockfall hazard and everyone behaved very responsibly. I didn't lead the trip – people just

sort of worked by themselves and in groups to try to make it safe for everyone.

Participants: Alan Blair, Joy Bloser, Mark Burgoyne, Gordon Esplin (Editor), Marek Labecki, Duane Lawrence, Stas Liarski, David Knight, Valery Milner, Francis St-Pierre, Gordon Stead, and Alastair Ferries (Organizer and reporter).



**Alistair beneath Canadian Border Pk. (above), party on the summit (below left), and Slesse Mtn. from Canadian Border Pk. (below right). Photos - G. Esplin.**

