



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



October, 2007. Vol. 85, No. 8

Elfin Lakes area in Garibaldi park,
September, 2007.

EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, 9 October - Entertainment will be a slide show by David Hughes et al. on the club's successful expedition to Mt. Fairweather this summer.

Tuesday, 13 November - Entertainment will be a slide show by Linda Bily on ski touring on Baffin Island..



Mt. Fairweather from the plateau. Photo - E. Woodd.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

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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

October

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

November

3-4: Pender Island (hike and bike) **B2**
Lisa Baile 604-732-5555
Easy hiking and biking on a sunny Gulf Island.

Membership

Membership fees for 2007/2008 are now

due - Membership fees for 2007-2008 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, **THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE.** You should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying this newsletter, indicating if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, read and sign the waiver on the reverse side, then send in the signed form with appropriate dues.

Membership dues are -

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

New members: the club welcomes the following new associate members:

Andrew Brown, Farah Fahimi, Denis Hughes, David Hunter, Craig Kalnin, Les Pitt, Jean-Philippe Roy, and Robyn Savage.

BCMC Centennial activities update

We are now in the stretch run for our Centennial Year celebrations. The banquet committee has the event well organized and has sold over 105 tickets as of the beginning of September. The banquet is being held on October 28, our anniversary date, at Grouse Mountain. Bill Noble, the producer of our centennial video, "Passion for Mountains" has assured us that the video will be ready for its inaugural showing at the banquet.

We have successfully held our centennial climbing and hiking planned events. Our Fairweather expedition, Bug Light hike on Grouse, Mt. Garibaldi climb commemorating the first ascent in 1907 and our summer camp to eastern Garibaldi Park have been completed as well as a climb of Mount Arrowsmith on Vancouver Island. We also held a joint trip with the Kootenay Mountaineering Club in late August and Karl Ricker is leading a special Coquihalla trip on September 29-30th.

The Centennial Committee, chaired by David Scanlon, has produced a number of centennial memorabilia that includes crests, bandanas, stamps and a soon to be released special Centennial 2008 calendar. Peter Stange and Peter Oostlander have been working hard to put together a calendar that will use pictures from these years' events.

The special Centennial Year Journal is nearing

completion and it will include an article on the banquet. It should be available shortly thereafter. The Club is using a significant portion of its cash reserves to fund the centennial projects, and in this regard the Executive has voted to make a copy of the Centennial video available free of charge to each single member and one copy for each couple membership. To be eligible you must have been a member in 2006/2007 and renewed your membership for 2007/2008. The video project was conceived to make the Club's archives available to the membership, so the Executive believes this is an appropriate way to help make this goal a reality.

David Hughes

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 June Social. Contact Donna Scanlon at 604-572-5051 if you want some tickets but cannot make the social.

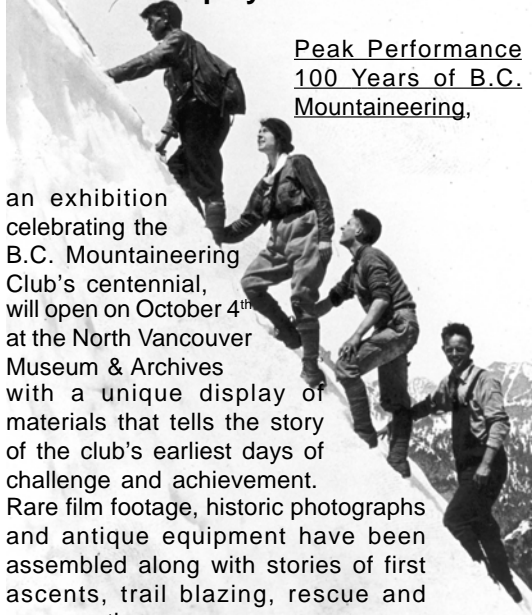
Centennial logo available

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, will be available at a cost of \$5 each. Contact Dave Scanlon if you want one.

Club bandanas are available

The club has also recently produced bandanas with the club logo and wording stating the club is 100 years old. These are available at club socials for \$10.

North Vancouver Museum special centennial display



Peak Performance
100 Years of B.C.
Mountaineering,

an exhibition celebrating the B.C. Mountaineering Club's centennial, will open on October 4th at the North Vancouver Museum & Archives with a unique display of materials that tells the story of the club's earliest days of challenge and achievement. Rare film footage, historic photographs and antique equipment have been assembled along with stories of first ascents, trail blazing, rescue and conservation.

Many of the stories are of personal success while others are of the Club's role in charting unknown territory, ensuring safe access to wilderness

BCMC Executive News

The club executive at their September meeting decided to produce 400 calendars for 2008, and a large club banner for display at major events, such as the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival. In addition, it was decided to provide a copy of the DVD containing Bill Noble's centennial

mixture of very old and modern tools and clothing, the story is in some ways a microcosm of twentieth century change. The changing role of women, the impact of new fibres and manufactured materials, increased mobility and interest in recreation all touch on the core story of hiking, climbing and mountaineering. A 1924 women's hiking costume when compared to a modern one from MEC really makes the point!

Peak Performance: 100 Years of B.C. Mountaineering was assembled by club members and the North Vancouver Museum & Archives. The exhibition will open on October 4th at the North Vancouver Museum Galleries at 209 West 4th Street North Vancouver. The North Vancouver Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday from noon to 5 pm. For more information call 604-987- 5612.

Media Coverage (to September) of the Club's centennial

Feb 23. BCMC at the Vancouver International Film Festival, having the club in the North Shore News, Vancouver Courier, Grippled magazine, festival flyers/brochures, Explore magazine, the club display at the show, the slideshow itself.

Feb 25. A ¼ page picture and small write up in the North Shore News on the club being at the Film Fest.

June 3 saw a cover picture on the North Shore News and a 2 page writeup with more pictures in an article inside. All pertaining to the club's Bug light hike on Grouse Mtn that had 49 participants.

June 10 the Province Paper had a full page color picture of Martin and Esther Kafer as well as a three full page interview with them.

June 22 had a CBC radio interview with David Scanlon on the BCMC.

June 28 had the Pique Paper run a full page over photo of the BCMC with no less than a 6 full page article inside.

David Scanlon

video to each current club member, one for couples who renew for 2007/08.

The executive has also been approached to contribute to the Skaha access fund. There are a number of unanswered questions about this fund, which the executive is currently persuing.

Why stay in the BCMC?

The following article, entitled "What's in it for me?" was written by Dick Culbert and published in the January 1966 BC Mountaineer. Because it is still very pertinent today, we reprint it. If you are hesitating about renewing your membership, you should read this article. If you plan to renew, you should also read it and think about it when you are contacted to see if you are interested in leading a trip.

"Climbers in training are more common in the Vancouver area now than at any period before. Many new faces are looking for new ranges, and so many young people are pushing their standards up through the twin echelons of class 5 and aid that it is becoming very difficult to keep track of all their names. For these new climbers, what does a club have to offer?

The Vancouver clubs can train a newcomer in basic mountaineering and in rock climbing take him to where he may competently lead class 4. In addition, they give the novice some chance to learn the geography and access problems of the Vancouver area and meet other climbers. Club camps which introduce the techniques of expeditionary mountaineering are a recent and important innovation. All this is distinctly basic but necessary, and very few climbers who trained locally did not take some of their first steps with a club. Despite feelings to the contrary, however, an aspiring young climber can go through this initial stage of his development in a year or two. Soon the day comes when he is faced with next year's fees, knowing full well that he no longer needs the Club. Nor will scheduling tougher trips help much. The established mountaineer may climb whatever interests him most, whenever he feels like it, and with a party of his choosing. What is even more important, these private trips are entirely his own.

At this point the question "What's in it for me?" has meaning which should be understood by new climbers and club members alike. If the new mountaineer is interested only in his own climbing future and no longer enjoys club programs, the answer is simple - there is nothing in it for him. If, however, he is interested also in the sport of climbing and is willing to do a little to help newcomers over the initial gap he has just crossed, then a case may be made for keeping a

finger in club activities.

On the average club trip there are about fifteen people. Perhaps ten of these are not developing. They are along to enjoy the trip and it is nice to be able to help them do so. But it is as a result of the other five that the leader is making a contribution to the sport of mountaineering. A weekend for five people may seem poor odds, but I would contend that leading club trips still offers the least complicated, least painful, and most useful investment of a weekend in basic mountain training.

Several new climbers are already pushing standards to a height which most of us from past years would find difficult to imagine, yet the club programs badly need competent leaders. The question "What's in it for me?" is asked in many forms, and those asking it are among the most important assets the club has. Let us hope that a sufficient number of the climbers now developing acquire a deep enough appreciation for the sport to keep the vital training program adequate and dynamic."

Interested in a trip to Kilimanjaro?

Club member Ravil Chamgoulov is organizing a climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro at the end of November. Ravil is nearing completion of his bid to climb the Seven Summits - solo - to raise money for cancer research. Ravil, a cancer researcher at the BC Cancer Agency, has climbed five of the seven summits so far, leaving only Kilimanjaro and Everest to go.

The plan is to climb the Machame route, the second most popular and the most beautiful route on the mountain, with a group of ten people. After the climb and optional safari, Ravil is going to climb the mountain a second time - alone - to complete the sixth peak in his quest to climb the Seven Summits unguided and alone.

This is a unique opportunity to climb with a 'Snow Leopard', a title Ravil holds, to the top of Kilimanjaro. It's also a great opportunity to escape rainy Vancouver in November, for sunny Africa. Anyone is invited to join the climb. However, members of the group will be asked to participate in fundraising for the BC Cancer Foundation. Please contact Ravil at 604-294-0761 for more information.

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC News update

Summary of Issues

1 Logging at Elk-Thurston Trail,

Chilliwack: The proposed logging road at Elk-Thurston in Chilliwack is very close to the trail and crosses it. As a result ATVs would be able to get to the alpine using the new road and the existing trail. The FMC is asking for buffers to the road and no crossings of road and trail.

2 Brohm Ridge Ski Resort, Squamish: A ski resort for Brohm Ridge bordering Garibaldi Park is far advanced in the planning process. FMC members have attended Open House sessions for the resort, and the Recreation & Conservation Committee met with a representative in September to discuss various issues with the new resort.

3 Rainbow Mountain Heli-biking,

Whistler: The FMC opposes an application for a heli-biking operation from Rainbow Mt because of the noise impact and the increased potential for further trail cutting on Rainbow ridge. A letter has been sent to the Ministry responsible.

4 Mount Waddington Heli-skiing: Knight Inlet Heliski has been awarded tenure for heliskiing except in the immediate vicinity of Mt Waddington. Knight Inlet Heliski will receive tenure for Mt Waddington once an agreement is reached with all stakeholder groups. The FMC's goal is to make Mt Waddington non-motorized except for access. The FMC is working with environmental groups and commercial operators and associations to achieve this aim.

5 Snowmobiling at Mount Sproatt,

Whistler: Mount Sproatt was designated non-motorized in the backcountry accord reached by the winter recreational users in the Sea-to-Sky Backcountry Forum (www.backcountryforum.org). Now the BC Government gives much of Mount Sproatt to commercial snowmobiling to compensate the operator who will have to move

out of the Callaghan Valley for the 2010 Olympics. This removes the only remaining non-motorized area in the backcountry accord that is an attractive day ski trip. The FMC has sent a letter to the Ministry opposing the unilateral changing of the Backcountry Forum results.

6 Commercial recreation tenure applications

1 Elk-Thurston trail: Trail and proposed road do not overlap, but they are very close and cross, and no buffers are planned. ATVs would be able to get to the alpine even if the road is gated because ATVs can use the trail. FMCBC contacted MoF and MTSA stating that the trail and road should not cross.

2 Brohm Ridge ski resort: The latest massive new real estate / ski resort development proposal had a public comment period with the Environment Assessment Office ending Aug 5. Undoubtedly Mt Garibaldi and Garibaldi park would suffer massively were this proposal to go ahead. Wilderness backcountry skiers would also suffer, not only in Garibaldi park, but also in the area which would be given to the displaced Brohm Ridge snowmobilers.

3 Mt Rainbow heli-biking: Helicopter mountain biking tenure application for Rainbow ridge. The FMCBC has sent a letter detailing concerns over compliance with Backcountry Forum, development of more trails from Rainbow in the future, and Whistler watershed values.

4 Homathko helicopter tours: Tenure application for Bute Inlet and Homathko Icefield flight seeing and heli-picknicking. The proposed management plan is available on the ILMB website. The proposal does not include public recreation in the list of potential conflicts, so the FMCBC has contacted the proponent about potential conflicts between wilderness recreationists and helicopter traffic.

News

BC government's plan to maintain spotted owls - capture them, breed them, but destroy their habitat.

According to a recent press release from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee -

BC Government Says Logging Will Not Be Reduced For Owls

In a dramatic turn of events, the Wilderness Committee recently learned that the BC government has begun capturing BC's last spotted owls, placing them in cages at the

Langley-based Mountain View Conservation and Breeding Society, and attempting captive breeding despite no plan to protect the owl's critical habitat. In fact, documents obtained by the Vancouver Sun through Freedom of Information state that timber harvesting will not be reduced for the owl, the most endangered animal in Canada.

Spotted owls have been reduced from 1000 birds historically to only 17 today, with ongoing logging being the principal culprit. Monitoring by WCWC shows that 14 owls have gone missing since 2005. Without immediate protection of all remaining old growth, and aggressive recruitment of old growth, the spotted owl could be extinct in BC just in time for the 2010 Olympics when the eyes of the world are focused on BC.

Rich Coleman, in an article published in the Vancouver Sun today is quoted as saying "when we find a pair of owls that are mating we protect that area". What Coleman neglected to say is that there are only 4 remaining owl pairs and that they are all either in parks already or are otherwise protected. "Coleman seems to be misinformed about spotted owl habitat protection in BC. The spotted owl scientific community is united in disagreement to his claim" said Andy Miller, Wilderness Committee Staff Scientist and former member of the Spotted Owl Recovery Team.

There are currently 9 single spotted owls and one juvenile remaining in BC, all of which are subject to capture and placement in breeding zoos. Five current owl sites are currently being logged and/or have plans for imminent logging, including Fire and Rogers Creeks near the north end of Harrison Lake, Utzius Creek near Boston Bar, and S & M and Blackwater Creeks near Pemberton. The BC government has advanced logging plans at these sites despite stern warnings from its own scientists on the Spotted Owl Recovery Team to not log in current owl areas. "We are concerned that sites from which owls are being captured and placed in zoos are scheduled for logging" said Miller, "The government seems to have no plan to protect habitat at current owl sites nor at potential sites where young captive bred owls can be released in the future. For this reason we suspect that once the owls are all safely in cages the BC government will declare them functionally extinct claiming there are no places left to release captive bred owls. This captive breeding plan could be a red herring; it seems designed to make the owl

problem go away so the BC government can log the remaining old growth".

British Columbia has no laws designed specifically to protect endangered species. What BC dearly needs is an endangered species law that removes discretionary power from politicians and mandates habitat protection.

Currently, BC is in direct violation of the Federal Species At Risk Act (SARA) in their management of the spotted owl. "We have been calling for federal government intervention for years", said Miller, "If they don't intervene soon, there will be no owls left and the public will know that this federal law has no value to spotted owls."

For more information contact Andy Miller @ 604-992-3099 or 604-683-8220.

Expedition Launched in August to Document BC Government Plan to Privatize BC Rivers For Power Production.

AXOR plans to produce unnecessary, wilderness-destroying, dirty energy in heart of endangered mountain caribou country in Kootenays, without an environmental review.

According to an August 13 press release from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee -

At Glacier Creek, 100 km north of Nelson, the Wilderness Committee recently launched a major wilderness expedition led by experienced local mountaineers to document areas, within current National and Provincial Park proposals, that will be harmed by a misguided, BC government-sponsored attempt to privatize BC rivers and streams for energy production. The Glacier-Howser Independent Power Project (IPP) is proceeding with construction of seismic lines, drilling, and testing this summer, before the proponent even submits the project application. The Wilderness Committee is calling for a moratorium on construction, and an environmental review that includes detailed analysis of cumulative effects of all similar projects in the region.

Supposedly intended to benefit BC consumers, the energy produced at the proposed Glacier-Howser power plant, near Argenta, will be delivered to communities with decreasing populations and/or with little need for new energy sources. Once AXOR's short-term power

contracts are up, or by using Bill 40, they will be allowed to sell power to the US. The Wilderness Committee fears that this independent power project (IPP), and many of the 600 odd others planned for BC rivers and creeks, are more about privatizing BC's public power system, increasing the cost of electricity to consumers, and exporting power to the US.

The Glacier-Howser site is a proposed 125 megawatt "run of the river" power plant that will make energy by diverting streams into 16 kilometres of tunnels and pipes. Instead of following or linking existing right of ways, the 91.5 km of new 100 metre wide transmission lines will pass through numerous protected forest reserves, old growth forests, 23 kilometres of pristine wilderness, and will be the first bisection of the Purcell Mountains, famed for their mountain caribou, grizzlies and recreation. The BC government is hailing Glacier-Howser as "green" and "oriented toward energy self sufficiency" but it seems to be more about building up capacity to export energy and gain access to road-less wilderness areas for logging, mining and other development.

Although the BC government reports that these projects are about increasing BC's energy self sufficiency, they seem to be working against self sufficiency by integrating BC's electricity system with the US via the Columbia River grid, and reorganizing other transmission grids to facilitate private energy exports. "The Glacier-Howser project seems like a plan to privatize electricity production and water resources, resulting in increased energy costs to consumers and increasing corporate profits" said Wilderness Committee Staff Scientist Andy Miller.

The Glacier-Howser, project will produce most energy when it is least needed, in the summer, when streams are full of glacial melt. The proponent claims that the project will power 34,000-40,000 BC homes, but the sad fact is that local energy consumers do not need more summer power. The only conceivable time when local BC homes will need more energy than they have now is during the winter, when energy production from the Glacier-Howser project will be least because of low stream flow.

The Glacier-Howser project "Terms Of Reference" state that the purpose of the project is to "sell green electricity to BC Hydro" and

"increase energy self sufficiency". What the proponents do not say is that BC is already energy self sufficient, having been a net exporter of energy for 9 of the last 12 years. Further, for this project to qualify as "green electricity", according to Environment Canada, it must displace non-renewable fuel, reduce impacts on aquatic, riparian and terrestrial ecosystems, and must have no adverse impacts to any species designated as endangered or threatened. "The Glacier-Howser project meets none of these criteria" said Miller "In fact, the new road and transmission lines will enable the BC government to log and mine in remote wilderness areas that otherwise would not have been considered feasible for extractive resource use."

"The claim that the Glacier-Howser project is "green energy" could not be further from the truth" said Miller, "This project will produce millions of tons of acid-leaching waste rock from tunneling, will add thousands of tonnes of carbon to the atmosphere because of logging for transmission lines, will route new power lines away from the BC grid and through nearly 100 km of remote wilderness to a community, Invermere, whose population is decreasing, and will present a migration and movement barrier to endangered grizzly and mountain caribou populations. "The nearly 100 km transmission line seems to have been designed to be as environmentally destructive as it possibly could be" said Miller.

This part of the east Kootenays boasts some of the most popular hiking trails in BC, is located between two of the most endangered herds of mountain caribou, the East Purcell and Central Selkirk herds, in a roadless wilderness area with healthy populations of grizzly, wolverine, mountain goat, and wolf, and is an important raptor migration route.

Officially referred to as "IPP's" or "independent power projects" by the BC government, citizens now refer to them more accurately as "RPP's" or "River Privatization Projects". The BC government has launched a new gold rush by encouraging private companies to stake claims to over 600 BC rivers and streams without clear government oversight and regulation. Ownership of the streams and rivers affected by these projects will shift from public to private.

"What we are hoping to accomplish by mounting this expedition" said Miller "is to focus attention

on what these RPP's really are – a BC government sponsored sell-off of public water bodies for the production of high-priced power for export. What the BC government will get in return is 3-4% of the energy value returned to the province, and access roads plowed into many remote areas to facilitate future logging, mining and other development. Many of these “IPP” projects are in roadless areas, long-standing park proposals, forest reserves, and endangered species habitat. The way these projects are being evaluated by the province shows absolutely no respect for values the people of BC hold dear.”

American Mountaineering Museum opens soon

The Bradford Washburn American Museum will open in 2008 in Golden, Colorado, and will be a dynamic, interactive museum which will focus on mountains, mountaineering, mountain cultures, and 10th Mountain Division history.



As a collaborative partnership between the Colorado Mountain Club, the American Alpine Club, and the National Geographic Society, the museum will allow visitors to experience mountains in new ways. This one-of-a-kind, national museum will provide visitors with a fun way of learning about this precious global resource.

Highlights include:

- Entrance over a giant crevasse
- Global Climate Change interactive
- Mt. Everest model and interactive

Book Reviews

Coast Mountain Men: Mountaineering Stories from the West Coast

by Gil Parker

(Victoria: Aware Publishing, 2007)

The history of mountaineering on the west coast tends to be rather meager and lean. A few missives have left the press to tell this remarkable

- Oversized photographic projections
- Mountain safety and science
- Theatre featuring themes from extreme sports to historic climbing experiences
- Historic gear from Chouinard, Hornbein and others.

Alpine Club of Canada digitizes all their Canadian Alpine Journals

The ACC is digitizing their 100 years of Canadian Alpine Journals and will be putting them on a searchable DVD that they are selling for \$39.95. It should be available soon.

New edition of 103 Hikes in Southwestern B.C. in being produced

Jack Bryceland is currently working on revising the current edition of 103 Hikes and is looking for comments, correction, suggestions, etc., on the existing edition. He can be contacted at 1-604-858-6601.

Interested in a trip to Tibet?
 Alice Purdey writes –
*I am going on a trek in Tibet, well actually in the greater Tibet area in the Chinese provinces of Yunnan and Szechuan, with an outfit called Khampa Caravan. They are looking for a western colleague as described:
 ...we (KC) are trying to look for someone (ideally from the west who wants to spend a few years in Kham, Tibet) to help us with training/management of our operation in Gyalthang. Someone experienced and willing to travel/trek too but also work with our local staff/guides and train them in management/office skills, quality, etc. We won't be able to offer a huge salary but can take care of work visas, board and a small monthly gratuity in return. Any idea would be highly appreciated. Respond to yeshi@khampacaravan.com.*

tale, but the need has existed to hear and see the drama in a fuller way and manner. *Coast Mountain Men: Mountaineering Stories from the West Coast* puts strategic historic anchors in place, then belays the ascent ever upwards. Gil Parker recounts the story of mountaineering on the west coast through those he has climbed with in his years on the rock slabs. Each chapter walks the

reader into a fascinating phase and equally challenging life of those on the west coast that have taken to the ancient sentinels.

We meet, on this journey, in unfolding chapters, Syd Watts, John Gibson, Roger Neave, Rex Gibson, Dave Tansley, Ian Brown, The Willie Brothers, Chris Barner, Rudy Brugger, Rob Wood, Lindsay Elms, Rick Eppler & Rob Macdonald and Sandy Briggs. If Gil Parker were not so modest, he would have placed himself in this line and lineage; he certainly stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before him.

Coast Mountain Men is a delight of a read, a fine way to do history and an excellent pathway to the peaks on the west coast. Each actor in this mountaineering drama is like a living cairn that assures the reader they are on the path of those that have gone before them.

Do read this gem of a book. The mountaineering palette will be whet for more from the quill of Gil Parker.

Ron Dart

Mountaineering and the Humanities

by Ron Dart, with illustrations by Arnold Shives
[\$22.95 www.serratuspress.com]

If the humanities are concerned with man and his culture, one might wonder how mountaineering relates to this branch of knowledge. How do philosophy, literature and

the fine arts have anything to do with mountaineering and vice versa?

Ron Dart, a teacher of political science, philosophy and religious studies, has attempted to show that relationship, along with the historical record of people (men primarily) who did more than just look at the heights. His former writings about Francesco Petrarch and his *Ascent of Mount Ventoux*, 1336, clearly indicates his preference for those early writers who did more than simply look at the mysterious heights. Surprisingly perhaps, there are enough of such mountain writers to create a catalogue—the list of books he provides that one must read!

Dart's compilation includes both Eastern and Western approaches, the English Romantics and the American Beats, showing how a climb often begets a thinking man's response, the metaphors that relate to his life, and how the impressive proximity of nature creates a spiritual balance to the physicality of the climb itself. Shives' artwork likewise shows the concrete and the mystical in balance.

Progressing to the Canadian tradition, Dart quotes Earle Birney, Chic Scott, Andy Russell and Dick Culbert, among dozens of other climber/writers who actually have been to the heights and found treasures beyond exhaustion.

Gil Parker

Access Notes

Flora-Greendrop and Galene Lakes trails cleaned up

Recently BC Parks, along with members of the BC Conservation Corps, built 5 tent pads at Lindeman Lake, 2 tent pads at Greendrop Lake and brushed out the old Flora/Greendrop connector trail.

BC Parks partnered up with the Student Conservation Association and for the last two summers have been working to brush out the trail to Galene Lakes in Skagit Valley Provincial Park. Thanks to the hard work of the Student Conservation Association this past summer they were able to finish brushing out the trail all the way to Galene Lakes.

Trip Reports

Snow Camp and Peak 1939 m in Manning Park (not a true skiing report), 17 February, 2007

Originally the plan was for an overnight trip in Garibaldi Park to climb Dalton Dome, but due to a poor weather forecast on Friday night Jos decided to change the plan to a one day trip in Manning Park. Nobody knew what the destination

was and didn't bother asking because you can never go wrong with Jos as he is an amazing trip leader!

The day started at 6.40 am when Julie came to pick me up with her hyperactive dog Mini. We took off to pick up Dan in Surrey. While driving, we heard a strange banging noise. I was sure we

had lost a ski from the roof rack. Julie was doubtful but then she approached the side of the hwy to find out that indeed one ski was missing. We closed the car with the dog inside and we started frantically running back to look for the missing ski. It was quite a ways back but luckily, there it was, all intact, on the right lane of the road. Even more luckily, nobody was hit by it! We ran back to the car to discover that the left door was open and the dog was missing. Panic. A truck with flashing yellow lights approached the car and the truck driver started shouting at me how stupid we were and how dangerous it was what we just did, that we were completely out of mind and irresponsible leaving the car door wide open like that, blah, blah, blah. While he was shouting he noticed a dog running after a rat and he said "And now, look at that wild dog, he could create another accident!". At that point Julie also arrived at the car and she naively added, "That's my dog!". This fired the guy even more. He started yelling at Julie the same things he just finished yelling at me and Julie was trying to explain that the dog managed to open the door by itself and we didn't leave it open, duh! In the meanwhile, I was trying to answer one of Dan's many phone calls and explain to him what had happened, while the other two were shouting in my ears - a dramatic moment. We finally managed to capture the dog and escape from the guy. The dog was soaking wet and dirty because he jumped in a pond on the side of the hwy and after shaking thoroughly in the car, everything, including us, was wet and dirty. And we hadn't even skied yet!

After this almost epic adventure we picked Dan up, met in Chilliwack with the other participants and took off for Manning park. We got to Strawberry flats at around 10 am and started skiing at 10.30 We first followed the cross-country ski area and then turned into the wild backcountry. The snow in the forest was plain ice and not very pleasant to ski on but when we reached a certain elevation it became nice and powdery. We followed the side slopes of Peak 1939 m, headed towards Despair Pass and from this, following the ridge, reached the final slope to Snow Camp. It was very windy but sunny and the views of Hozomeen (which apparently is not the name of a drug), were stunning. We regrouped, left the packs and in 15 minutes we were at the top. We admired the beautiful mountains but because the wind was so strong, we had to leave soon and go back to where our packs were to have a sheltered lunch. The ski down was very enjoyable and the snow was awesome - fluffy and powdery. Since it was still early, we decided to ski up Peak 1939 m. The views from the top were absolutely gorgeous but you could now observe dark grey clouds covering the sky. The weather was definitely changing. I admired Silvertip, which is a very impressive mountain which I was lucky to summit last summer. Skins off and down the slope we went. It was a great ski down with great snow until we reached the lower part of the forest, where everything turned to ice. Then we skied the final cross-country ski stretch, which seemed way longer than when we skied it in the morning and finally we were back at the car at 5.30 pm. We all



Dan looking at Hozomeen Mtn.



Hozomeen Mtn.

stopped for a bite at the Lodge and completed with an awesome bunch another fantastic trip!
Participants: Ilze Rupners, Julie Granger, Leonie Knaus, Gerry Kollmuss, Bruce Cassels, Dan Lord, Jos van der Burg (Organizer), and Silvia Bakovic (Reporter)



**Small photos clockwise from above -
Final ridge to Snow Camp Mtn.;
Silvia with Three Brothers Mtn. to left;
Silvia, Ilze, Leonie, Dan, and Jerry.
All photos - J. van der Burg.**