



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



August - September 2008.
Vol. 86, No. 7

Morning in the Adamants.

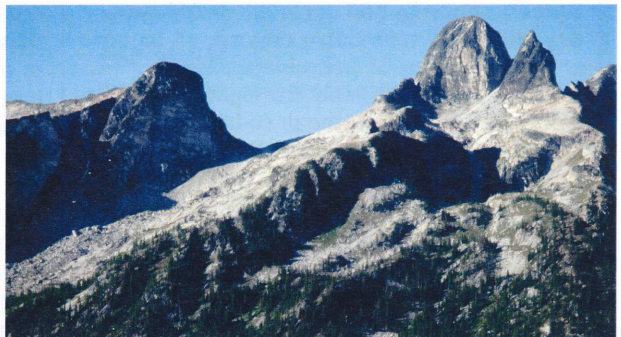
EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

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, 19 August, BCMC Summer Barbecue, starting at 6 PM

To be held at Jericho Beach Park, just east of the foot of Trimble Street. Refreshments, buns, snacks and condiments will be provided. Just bring your barbecuables!

Tuesday, 9 September - Entertainment will be a show by Brian Wood on a recent summer trip to the Valhallas.



Rocky Valhallas. Photo - E. Feller.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	TODD PONZINI	604-936-9369
PAST-PRESIDENT -	DAVID HUGHES	604-980-6484
VICE-PRESIDENT -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
SECRETARY -	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
TREASURER -	CRAIG KALNIN	604-787-5396
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -		
	DERRICK JOHNSTONE	604-505-6250
SOCIALS -	DONNA SCANLON	604-572-5051
	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
CLIMBING -	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
	RADMILA JAKSIC	604-602-0468
CABIN/TRAILS -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
CONSERVATION -	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
CAMPS -	ALENA DZUJKOVA	604-708-5385
FMCBC REP -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
WEBMASTER -	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
EDITOR -	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050

SAFETY EQUIPMENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
SATELLITE PHONE	-PETER GUMPLINGER	604-733-8264
LIBRARY -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

**ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674, Vancouver, 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 (604-736-8462) or Peter Gumplinger (604-733-8264), 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

August

2-4: Mt. Shuksan C3/2783 m

Andrej Dobos 604-764-0174
Mountaineering near Mt. Baker in N Washington, ascending via the Fisher Chimneys.

2-4: Mamquam Mtn. + Delusion Pk. C3/2595 m

Stanislav Liarsky 604-983-4476
Mountaineering east of Squamish, approaching from the south.

2-4: Siwhe Mtn. C2/2855 m

Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Extended scrambling at the edge of the Stein valley near Lytton.

2-4: North Ck. trail clearing B2

David Scanlon 604-572-5051
If you use trails, here is your chance to do your bit. A new start to the trail on the east side of N Ck. will be worked on.

5: Mid week alpine + rock climbing B3-C5

Werner Grzimek and Reinhard Fabische
604-737-1091

For further details of this and subsequent midweek trips, contact the organizers or check the BC Mountaineering forum (<http://bcmountaineering.com/forum>)

9: Tricouni Pk. B3/2130 m

Valerie LeBlanc 604-722-2690
Hiking and scrambling on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.

9-10: Liberty Bell area A5

Andrej Dobos 604-764-0174
Rock climbing in the Washington Pass area of Washington's North Cascades.

9-17: Mt. Robson C4/3954 m

Randy Enomoto 604-224-6184
The highest peak in the Canadian Rockies, ascending the Kain Face route. Limit 9.

11: Midweek summer scrambles B-C2

Kevin Swanson 604-943-4364
Scrambling somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.

12: Midweek alpine + rock climbing B3-C5

Werner Grzimek and Reinhard Fabische
604-737-1091

Further details from the organizers or the BC Mountaineering forum, as for August 5.

16: Tomyhoi Pk. C3/2275 m

Radmila Jaksic 604-602-0468

Scrambling near the BC-Washington border at the edge of the Chliiwack R. drainage.

16-17: Chilcotin area B3

Ian McGillivray 604-988-3618
Hiking and scrambling with much driving.

16-17: Coquihalla Mtn./Ilal Pk. C3/2160 m

Matt Gunn 604-221-1190
Scrambling in the Coquihalla area, approaching via Ilal Ck.

19: Midweek alpine + rock climbing B3-C5

Werner Grzimek and Reinhard Fabische.
604-737-1091

Further details from the organizers or the BC Mountaineering forum, as for August 5.

23-24: Castle Towers Mtn. C5/2675 m

Marcus Dell 604-274-9511
Mountaineering in Garibaldi park east of Whistler.

25: Midweek summer scrambles B-C2

Kevin Swanson 604-943-4364
Scrambling somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.

26: Midweek alpine + rock climbing B3-C5

Werner Grzimek and Reinhard Fabische.
604-737-1091

Further details from the organizers or the BC Mountaineering forum, as for August 5.

30-Sep 1: Lone Goat Summit and The Frost Fiend C3/2620 m

Daniel Carey 604-731-4048
Mountaineering off the Hurley River road, approaching via the E fork of Surfusion Ck.

September

4: Midweek summer scrambles B-C2

Kevin Swanson 604-943-4364
Scrambling somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.

6: Chilliwack area B3

Chris Trautman 604-299-2240
Hiking and scrambling in the Chilliwack area. Contact the organizer for further details.

6-7: Snass Mtn. and Snazzy Pk. C3/2310 m

Darlene Anderson 604-789-8020
Scrambling just north of Manning Park.

6-7: Stewart Pk., The Still, and Baby Munday Pk. B4/2286 m

Denis Lalonde 1-604-793-9675
Mountaineering in the Lucky Four Group of the

Chilliwack valley.

7: Williams Pk. C3/2123 m
Philip Kubik 604-266-5873
Hiking and scrambling in the Chilliwack valley area.

13: Crown Mtn. and The Camel B5/1503 m
Neil Beattie 604-669-7847
Hiking and rock climbing in Vancouver's north shore mountains.

13: Markhor Pk.-Needle Pk. B-C4/2075 m
Ilze Rupners 604-222-3720
Rock climbing traverse in the Coquihalla area.

13: Vicuña Pk. B-C4/2100 m
Ed Zenger 604-434-3095
More rock climbing in the Coquihalla area.

13-14: Devil's Tongue C3/2453 m
Jos van der Burg 1-604-824-5676
Hiking and scrambling on the Skagit-Chilliwack divide near the BC-Washington border.

14: Tricouni Pk. B3/2130 m
Dennis Siska 604-945-2866
Hiking and scrambling on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.

20: Welch Pk. C3/2440 m
Stanislav Liarsky 604-983-4476
Mountaineering in the Lucky Four group in the Chilliwack valley area.

20: Dog Mtn. A1/1000 m
Steve Tate 604-737-3608
Easy hiking in Seymour park above North Vancouver. Family trip.

October

4-5: Mt. Davis B2/2008 m
Karl Ricker 1-604-938-1107
Another attempt, using the Hudson's Bay Brigade trail in BC's Cascade Mtns. east of Hope.

11: Alpaca Pk. B2/2040 m
Linda Bily 604-733-0042
Hiking and scrambling in the Coquihalla area.

11-13: Cathedral park B2/2628 m
Ellen Woodd 1-250-494-0527
Hiking east of Manning Park, visiting The Box Car and Lakeview Mtn.

Summer Camps

Jasper National Park – North-South Traverse, 1-12 August (B-C2)

The Skyline-Endless Chain-Nigel Pass traverse is a classic trek through this national park, located east of the Columbia Icefields Highway and west of the Maligne Lake drainage basin. This trip is now full. For wait listing, phone Karl Ricker at 604-938-1107 (evenings).

Garibaldi Park Traverse, 2-10 August 2008 (C3-4)

This is joint trip with the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, and the party will be limited to 12 people. It will be a self-supported trek across a portion of Garibaldi Park, with the first few days being based at one campsite to permit day trips and to lighten our loads. Experience in, and gear for, glacier travel and camping are required. We hope to do some Class 3-4 scrambling up easy peaks if the circumstances permit, but this trip is not for high angle technical rock climbers or obsessive peak baggers.

For further information contact Brian Wood at tel/fax (604) 222-1541, or by email at: bjwood@telus.net

North Ck. cabin, 9-17 August (B2-4)

A long week at the club cabin in the upper Lillooet valley where a variety of climbs and scrambles are possible. Gear will be flown in but everything will be packed out.

Organizer - David Scanlon 604-572-5051.

Snowcap Lake area, 23-30 August (C3)

A week of extended mountaineering with at least 10 hours fast travel per day to attempt all the peaks in this area in eastern Garibaldi Park. Participants must be fit and competent.

Organizer - Alastair Ferries 604-329-1637.

Spectrum Pass (Chilko Lake park), 20-28 September (C3)

A week of hiking and scrambling in the Spectrum Pass area approached via the Tchaikazan valley. If interested, more challenging peaks, such as Mt. Oreamnos, can be attempted using climbing gear.

Organizer – Norbert Eckert 604-734-2195.

Wednesday night climbing in Squamish

Weekly Wednesday evening top roping at Smoke Bluffs (weather permitting). Depending on the experience of participants and group size some evenings we may climb on the Apron instead. While I'm sure 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 (indoors or outdoors).

Meeting: 4:50 pm, parking lot at Taylor Way & Hwy 1. Departure: 5 pm sharp; Arrival back to Vancouver: around midnight (during the longest days of the year)

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.

For further information, contact Justin Bennett at 604-813-4666 or Andrej Dobos, by email.

FMBC News

New president from the BCMC – As of June the FMCBC president is the BCMC's own ubiquitous jet-setting Brian Wood.

FMCBC has financial problems – At the June AGM of the FMCBC, the treasurer reported a deficit in 2007/08 for the third year in a row. During the last 3 years, the FMCBC has recorded a cumulative deficit of almost \$42,000. Smoke Bluffs has been a major drain on the FMCBC budget, accounting for over \$10,000 in expenditures, partly in taxes to the town of Squamish, and partly for the preparation of the

Conservation Covenant. The FMCBC hopes to have the taxes reimbursed when the land transfer to Squamish is complete.

FMCBC trail building equipment is missing – Four bent shovels were borrowed from the tools cache last year and the FMCBC equipment custodian, Blair Mitten, has misplaced a record of the borrowers, and the shovels have not been returned. Anyone having information about the whereabouts of the shovels should contact Blair at 604-922-0470 or mitma@lynx.net.

News

Guide to safer sunscreens

A recent survey by the Environmental Working Group has found that 4 out of every 5 sunscreens contain chemicals that may pose health hazards or don't adequately protect skin. Some of the long-lasting chemicals in sunscreens may even result in bleaching of coral reefs.

Recommendations for sunscreen use are –

1. **Reapply often.** It washes off in water and can break down in the sun.
2. **Buy new sunscreen every year.**
3. **If using insect repellent as well, apply it at least 15 minutes after sunscreen** to cut down on the pesticide soaking through the skin.
4. **Use one of the top sunscreens**, the top 10 being -

Blue Lizard (anything without oxybenzone)

California Baby (anything with SPF 30+)

CVS with zinc oxide

Jason Natural Cosmetics Sunbrellas Mineral Based Sunblock

Kiss My Face "Paraben Free" series

Neutrogena Sensitive Skin Sunblock

Olay Defense Daily UV Moisturizer (with zinc)

SkinCeuticals Physical UV Defense

Solar Sense Clear Zinc for Face

Walgreens Zinc Oxide for Face, Nose, & Ears

5. **Buy sunscreen with –**

SPF 30 or higher for best protection, and at least 7% zinc oxide or titanium dioxide for broad spectrum protection.

6. **Avoid buying –**

a) **Sunscreens containing Oxybenzone** or

benzophenone-3 (skin absorption, allergies, hormone problems)

Spray and powder sunscreens (inhaling sunscreens can pose extra risks)

Fragrance (allergies, reproductive problems)

Sunscreen with added bug repellent (you can get too much of the pesticide in your body)

Most sunscreen made by Coppertone, Neutrogena and Banana Boat (fewer than 5% of their products are recommended as safe and effective).

For further information – visit

www.cosmeticsdatabase.com/special/sunscreens2008/index.php

Sea-to-Sky LRMP report released

The B.C. government released the Sea-to-Sky LRMP this spring. The report is quite complex and more detailed than other LRMPS as it specifies where recreation lodges may and may not be built, for example. It delineates several new land use zones, including conservancies, essentially provincial parks for First Nation uses, as described in our last (June – July) newsletter. Eight conservancies, varying in area from 1000 to 10,000 ha, had been created. These include – Upper Elaho and the adjacent 100 Lakes plateau, Sigurd Ck., Upper Callaghan, Upper Soo, Upper Birkenhead, Twin Two Ck., and Upper Rogers Ck. These will be collaboratively managed by the province and First Nations. No logging, mining, or IPP's are to occur within them, but existing motorized use will continue, subject to review later.

In addition to conservancies, Wildland Areas have been delineated (see map on p. 7). Logging and IPPs are not allowed within them, but mining is. Wildland areas are subdivided into those with a cultural, recreation, tourism, or wildlife emphasis. Large (>12 persons) commercial lodges are only allowed in Tourism emphasis areas, but small commercial lodges are also allowed in Recreation emphasis areas. First Nations can build infrastructure "for cultural purposes" anywhere. Management recommendations for Cultural emphasis areas tend to be area-specific. Cultural emphasis areas include Blanca Lakes, Tricouni Lakes, Lower Sims, North Lizzie-Cloudraker, Upper Elaho, Upper Birkenhead, Upper Ryan, Owl Ck., Upper Lillooet, and Upper Soo.

Recreation emphasis areas include Cypress Pk – Cloudburst, Mt. Currie, Mt. Jimmy Jimmy, Pebble-North Cks., Phelix Ck., Powder Mtn, Ryan River – Rutherford Ck., Sky Pilot, South Ck., 19 and 21 mile Cks. and Upper Madeley, Twin 1/ Twin 2 divide to Joffre Lakes, Upper Meager Ck, and westside of Elaho R. below Sims Ck.

Tourism emphasis areas include Birkenhead Pk., Salal Ck., Tantalus-Woodfibre, Upper Ashlu, Upper Haylmore Ck., Manatee Glacier, and Upper Sloquet. Wildlife emphasis areas include Tenquille Lake, Sockeye Ck., Phelix to D'arcy, Rogers Ck., Salal Ck. – NW fork, Falk Ck., Upper Douglas Ck., Upper Sims Ck, and 7 Mile Ck to Haylmore Ck. Public huts, such as those built by the BCMC are allowed only in Tourism and Recreation emphasis areas, and in some Cultural emphasis areas, such as North Lizzie – Cloudraker (!), Upper Ryan, and Upper Lillooet. Although the LRMP report has been published, the LRMP is far from complete, with certain areas still requiring negotiation (see the last June-July newsletter) and no motorized/non-motorized recreation zoning in place, as this is still, as of July, being negotiated.

Agreement with the Lil'wat First Nation has been hard to achieve with the Lil'wat requiring assessment, for specific management, of their "Spirited Ground" areas, which include nearly all areas of recreation value within the territory they claim, such as Salal, Meager, North, Sampson, and Miller Cks., as well as Cheakamus Lake, Black Tusk, Lizzie Lake, etc.

The closest the LRMP comes to recreation zoning is in the Squamish First Nation agreement area. Here there are attempts to stop the cancer of commercial motorized recreation from spreading, by banning it in certain areas (Blanca Lakes, Sims Ck., Sigurd Ck., and Skookum Ck. (S. Mamquam)), and prohibiting expansion in others (Ashlu, Upper Elaho, Tricouni Lakes, Cloudburst, Sky Pilot, Rainbow Mtn).

21 Mile Ck. watershed is singled out for detailed management direction, presumably because it is an important water supply for Whistler. No public motorized access and no horse or pack animals are allowed within it. The heliski operation will be the only motorized recreation tenure. It will not be expanded and helicopter use of the area in summer will be discouraged.

Map 11
Wildland Zones

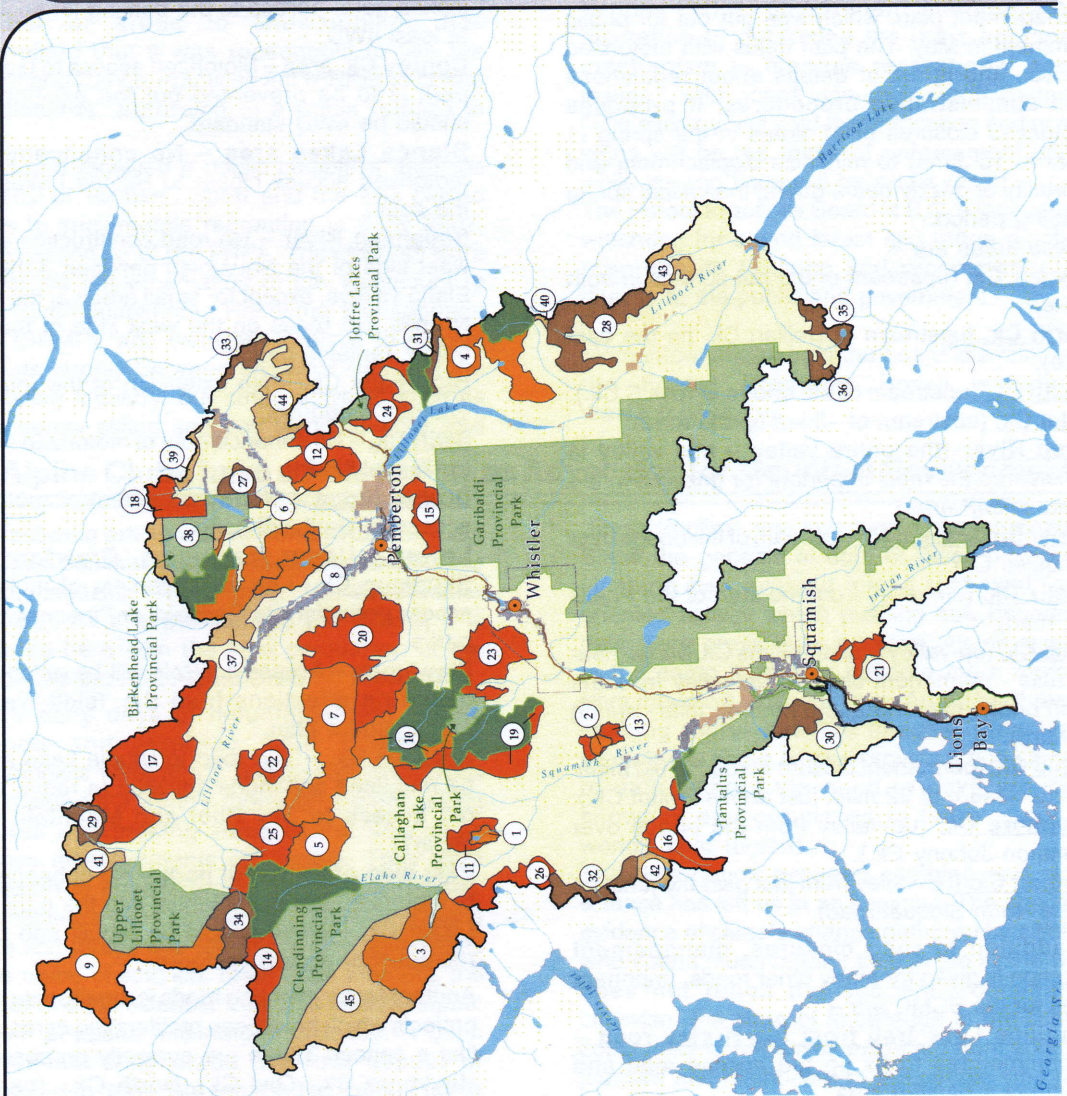
- Wildland (Mining/Tourism Permitted) Zone**
- Cultural
 - Recreation
 - Tourism
 - Wildlife
- Parks and Protected Areas**
- Conservancy
 - Private Land
 - Indian Reserves
 - Highway 99
 - Sea-to-Sky LRMMP Boundary
 - Municipal Boundaries



1:700,000
0 10 20
Kilometers



Projection: BC Albers
Produced in BC: Region
Lower Mainland Service Centre, Susan Mundy
Map Produced: March, 2009
File: Map 11.mxd
Print Size: 11 x 17



Camping is not allowed within the watershed but only at the Rainbow-Madely trail campsites.

The above summary severely condenses a massive amount of information. The full report can be obtained from -

<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/surrey/s2s/index.html>

Squamish area proposed access closures

Part of the Sea-to-Sky LRMP is an access management plan, which was put out for public comment in May. The plan deals with motorized access and is full of details about regulations and administrative procedures. It proposes motorized closures of 11 areas in the spring (1 April to 15 June) to minimize displacement and mortality of grizzly bears during the critical spring feeding period.

These areas are –

Meager Ck. (upstream of the hot springs in both forks).

North Ck. (upstream of Delilah Ck. on the east side).

South Ck. (upstream of the bridge across S Ck.).

Salal Ck. (upstream of ~3 km up the road).

Ryan River (the entire valley – this valley is considered the most important for grizzlies in the entire LRMP area).

Upper Birkenhead R. (upstream of the bridge over Tenquille Ck).

Phelix Ck. (up-valley from the start of the Phelix Ck. road).

Sims Ck. (up-valley from the Sims Ck. bridge near 56 mile - permanent closure; up-valley from the main bridge over the Elaho near 43 mile - spring closure).

Ashlu Ck. (permanent closure of road to old mine, spring closure at 32 mile, just above Pykett Ck.).

Haylmore Ck. (up-valley from the bridge over Common Johnny Ck.).

Sloquet Ck. (up-valley from just past the junction to the North Sloquet road).

In addition to road closures, management direction is given for many other roads. Important ones for the BCMC are –

Tenquille Lake trail from the Hurley road – Recommended to fix up the access road and construct a parking area.

Upper Lillooet valley above Salal Ck. – Deactivation of the road so that there is no motorized access into Upper Lillooet provincial park.

Wedgemount Lake trailhead – road to this should be maintained to at least 4WD standard.

Callaghan Lake and Upper Callaghan valley – No new roads will generally be constructed and the road to Callaghan Lake should be maintained to at least 4WD standard.

Upper Cheakamus River area – Motorized access to Garibaldi park is to be prevented by a locked gate. Access to the parking lot should be at least 4WD.

Conroy Ck. area – Motorized access to Garibaldi park is to be prevented but the existing road should be 4WD standard.

Blanca Lakes area – No enhancement of motorized access closer to Blanca Lakes from the south.

Squamish River – No road construction on the west side of the Squamish between Ashlu and Elaho valleys, except for small areas at the S and N ends. No roads on the west side of the river below Tantalus park.

High Falls Ck. – No extension of the road into Tricouni Meadows.

Swift Ck. – No enhancement of motorized access to Garibaldi park.

Brohm Ridge – No enhancement of motorized access to Garibaldi park.

Lower + Upper Mamquam, Crawford Ck., Skookum Ck. – no enhancement of motorized access potential into Garibaldi or Pinecone/Burke parks.

Stawamus – Access controls will be established based on directions from the Tseil-Waututh management plan.

Brittania Ck. – The road to Utopia Lake should be reopened and made drivable! (a return to the old access to Sky Pilot and Mountain Lake cabin?).

East side of Garibaldi park – No enhancement of motorized access potential into the park.

Lizzie Ck. – Road should be rebuilt and public recreational access restored.

Another factor affecting roads is small scale hydro projects which have been proliferating across B.C. like a cancer. These are currently proposed for Haylmore Ck., Owl Ck., North Ck., (near its

confluence with Delilah Ck.), Salal Ck. (near the road end), Upper Meager Ck. (several) Wedgemount Ck., Ashlu Ck. (upstream from the existing IPP), Crawford Ck., Skookum Ck., Raffuse Ck., Furry Ck. (upstream from the existing IPP), and Lizzie Ck. (several).

Use of forestry legislation to create recreation closures reasonable

Apropos of road closures, a recent Forest Practices Board investigation into a public complaint about the use of legislation to close a number of areas to snowmobiling has determined that it was reasonable to use the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) to create the closures, according to a press release in June.

The board received a public complaint after the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts closed areas to snowmobile recreation in early 2007, using section 58 of the FRPA. The closures were part of the implementation of the Valemount to Blue River Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP), and were put in place to resolve conflicts largely between snowmobilers and the heli-skiing industry, but other activities such as backcountry skiing and dog sledding were also

affected. Safety concerns and quality of experience for heli-industry clients were the main reasons for the closures.

Some local snowmobilers complained that a voluntary approach should have been used, rather than legislating the closures. The board found that government agencies considered a voluntary approach, but believed the involvement of the Conservation Officer Service was necessary to enforce the closures. This required a legislated tool to give the conservation officers enforcement authority.

“Under FRPA, government managers have discretion to determine the most appropriate mechanism to manage recreational access issues,” said board vice-chair Geoff Battersby. “The ministry has said that education and posting signs will be the focus of enforcement efforts, while issuing fines will be a last resort.

The Forest Practices Board is B.C.’s independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices, reporting its findings and recommendations directly to the public and government.

More information about the board is available on the Forest Practices Board website at www.fpb.gov.bc.ca.

Do Alpine Clubs have a Role to Play as Advocates for Mountain Environments?

The following article was written by Kate Sinclair, and was published in the New Zealand Alpine Club’s magazine “The Climber” No. 62 (Summer 2007-08). As it is pertinent to the BCMC, it is reprinted here with the kind permission of the author and the N.Z. Alpine Club.

In the early days of mountaineering, alpine science and climbing were intertwined. Glaciologists were hardy, bearded outdoor types who roamed the world’s mountain regions taking pictures and making some of the first mass balance measurements of glaciers. They were interested in observing and recording changes. Mountaineers were just as exploratory and many of the first forays into remote ranges were made in the name of science. More often than not, the climber and the scientist were one and the same: English physicist and natural philosopher John Tyndall not only made the first ascent of Weisshorn in 1861, but returned to Europe many

times to climb and investigate glacier motion. Since the genesis of both of these disciplines, climbing has evolved into a technical, goal-oriented activity where pushing new boundaries gets more press than journeys. Alpine science, at the same time, has become more removed from mountain environments. An array of remote sensing tools—satellite images, radar, laser altimetry, to name a few—provide a huge amount of data without the need to poke around in snowpits and crevasses to learn about the world’s cold regions.

The divergence between climbing and alpine science has left us at an impasse. The anecdotal evidence of climate change gathered by climbers who spend much of their time in the alpine world does not reach the academic community. Likewise, the state of knowledge in the science community is not easily extracted from scholarly journals and distributed to the people who need to use it, as advocates for the environment.



The Muir Glacier in Alaska in 1941 (left) and 2004 (right). Photos - W.O. Field (1941) and B.F. Molnia (2004), US National Snow and Ice Data Center, Glacier Photograph Collection.



The Holgate Glacier in Alaska in 1909 (left) and 2004 (right). Photos - U.S. Grant (1909) and B.F. Molnia (2004), US National Snow and Ice Data Center, Glacier Photograph Collection.



Wedgemount Glacier in 1971 (left) and 2003 (right). Photos - M. Feller (1971) and K. Ricker (2003).

The Alpine Club of Canada, recognising the need to foster new dialogue between scientists and climbers, organised a workshop titled 'Climate Change Impacts on the Alpine: The Future of our Mountains' at the UIAA meeting in Banff in 2006. This initiative called for alpine clubs around the world to act as a voice for climate change. Climbers are in a unique position with respect to this issue and, by working together, alpine clubs

can make a huge contribution to the public awareness of what is fast becoming the biggest environmental issue facing our planet. After all, if the climbing community does not respond to the biggest threat facing our mountain environments, who will? Alongside initiatives by the ACC/UIAA, an array of new scientific information has hit the news-stand, the most prominent of which is the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 2007 report, which synthesises our current understanding of climate change and the knowledge gaps, of which there are many. As someone who climbs and studies alpine science, I decided to summarise the latest—and not so happy—state of the world's mountain regions.

The State of the Meltdown

Our climate fluctuates naturally between warm and cool periods and, over millennia, the world's glaciers and ice caps have responded to these temperature variations. What stands out about our current warm phase is that the rate of warming is very likely to have been unprecedented in more than 10000 years. The world's top climate scientists now have a 'very high confidence' (greater than 90%) that the rise of greenhouse gases expelled by our energy-hungry societies has had a net warming effect. The years from 1995–2006 rank among the warmest in our instrumental record of temperature (since 1850), with 1998 being the hottest on record. Furthermore, the global temperature is expected to continue to rise by 1.1–6.4°C by the end of this century, with this range reflecting uncertainty in climate model projections and different emissions scenarios. Somewhere in the middle of this expected warming lies a 4°C threshold, beyond which it is projected that most of the world's alpine glaciers would disappear into thin ice.

Because most of the world's ice is locked up in Antarctica and Greenland, these ice caps could play a major role in future sea level rise, though it is the mountain ranges at mid-latitudes and in the sub-tropics that are responding most rapidly to a warming world. Alpine glaciers in areas such as the Andes, the Rocky Mountains, the European Alps and the Himalayas maintain a delicate balance between accumulation and melt. They rely on low temperatures at high elevations to sustain their ice volume, and minor amounts of warming at these elevations have an immediate and profound effect on the entire system.

These glacial systems also respond far more quickly to climate change than their polar counterparts due to their fast 'turnaround' time. The ratio between their annual flow rates and total mass is higher, so that they have a more touchy response to temperature fluctuations. That

said, it may still take decades to see the true response of the world's glaciers to the warming of the 1980s and 1990s. Even if all atmospheric warming could be stopped in its tracks today, we would still see the widespread loss of ice in the mountains in the next few decades as glaciers adjust their volume to account for the warm years that we've already experienced.

The rate of ice loss is also surprisingly difficult to predict. As glaciers respond to the new climate reality, melt water that reaches the bed increases the flow rate, accelerating ice flow into lower elevation zones. This, in turn, speeds up the rate of glacial retreat. Given that these alpine systems are the water towers for continents and the lifeline of river systems, their continued loss will have devastating impacts in highly populated countries that rely on this water for almost every facet of daily life.

A review of the most current glaciology literature takes us on a global tour of the world's iconic mountain ranges and the consensus is grim. There has been widespread retreat throughout the twentieth century and this has accelerated since the 1970s in most parts of the world. There are some exceptions to the widespread pattern of retreat. A warmer atmosphere can also hold more water and a shift to warmer, wetter conditions in some regions has led to glacial advance, but this only occurs if the precipitation falls as snow, not rain. Some glaciers in Scandinavia and the New Zealand Southern Alps, for example, advanced during the 1990s in response to increased snowfall. However, the effect of warm temperatures tends to dominate in the long term because warmer, wetter conditions also lead to a longer summer melt season. This generally overshadows any mass gain from increased snowfall. Overall, glaciers in the New Zealand Southern Alps have been in retreat since the nineteenth century; on average, they have shortened 38% and lost 25% in area since the mid-1850s.

In other regions of the world the pattern of retreat has been unequivocal. The decline in ice volume started after 1800, towards the end of the Little Ice Age. This accelerated throughout the twentieth century, gaining even more momentum after 1970 when temperature increases ramped up to new levels. The loss of ice in both hemispheres was

more than twice as fast in the 1990s compared to previous decades, with the strongest mass losses per unit area observed in Patagonia, Alaska, north-west USA and southwest Canada. Early visitors to Glacier National Park, Montana, coined the area the 'Little Switzerland of North America.' When the park was created in 1910 it was home to about 150 glaciers—only thirty now remain, and the ice-covered area of these survivors diminished by 73% from 1850 to 1993. Dan Fagre of the United States Geological Survey, has devoted his career to observing these changes and predicts that within 30 years most, if not all, of the park's namesake glaciers will disappear. This will be the first time in at least 7000 years that this area has not had glaciers draping the valley walls.

Ice in other parts of North America tells the same story. Alaska's spectacular glaciers are losing an estimated 96 cubic kilometres of water each year—an enormous contribution to sea level rise. In Canada, glacier cover in Banff, Jasper and Yoho National Parks, decreased by more than 25% during the twentieth century. This is a response to major changes in the distribution and timing of snowfall across the Rocky Mountains. There have been significant decreases in spring snow cover over western North America and the time of maximum snowpack is two weeks earlier than in 1950. The upshot of this is that spring runoff is also earlier, so that glaciers have to sustain streamflow for a longer part of the summer.

The Himalaya encompasses the world's third largest glacier system after Antarctica and Greenland. Similar to most other alpine regions of the world, the vast majority of all Himalayan glaciers have been retreating and thinning over the past 30 years, with accelerated losses in the last decade. In Central Asia, glaciers are wasting away at exceptionally high rates. Glaciers in the Ak-shirak Range (Kyrgyzstan) have lost 23% of their area since 1977, similar to area losses in the northern Tien Shan (29% from 1955–1990). Since the 1960s, the average retreat rate on the north slopes of Qomolangma (Mount Everest) is 5.5–9.5 m per year and on Xixiabangma it is 4.0–5.2 m per year. The Chinese Meteorological Association predicts that China's north-western mountains will lose over a quarter of their current glacier coverage by 2050. These glaciers supply 15–20% of the water to over 20 million people in

the Xinjiang and Qinghai Provinces alone. The 1991 discovery of Ötzi, the 5000 year-old 'ice man' preserved in the Schnalstal Glacier in the European Alps caught the world's attention, yet his emergence meant that this glacier had reached a 5,000 year minimum. In fact, researchers have calculated that glaciers in the European Alps lost 35% of their total area from 1850 until the 1970s and almost 50% by 2000. It was in 2003, however, that the continent really began to wake up to the effects of glacial recession. In the long, hot summer of that year, 10% of Switzerland's glacial mass simply disappeared.

Tropical glaciers occur in Irian Jaya (Indonesian New Guinea), on the East African Mt Kenya, Kibo (Mt Kilimanjaro), and Ruwenzori, and in the South American Andes between Venezuela and Bolivia. The last 15 years has been characterized by the synchronous retreat of ice on all tropical mountains. The famed snows of Kilimanjaro have melted more than 80% since 1912, from 12 km² to just over two km² in 2000. In Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, shrinking glaciers supply water year round to major cities. In Peru, for example, thousands of people rely on the Quelccaya Ice Cap for drinking water and electricity. If the ice cap continues to melt at its current rate, it will be gone by 2100.

Where does this story of doom and gloom leave us as climbers? Even if we continue to climb and do little to try to influence public policy on climate change issues, the impact of global warming in our alpine playgrounds will simply become impossible to overlook. There are reports worldwide of increased rockfall hazards on many well-travelled alpine routes. Changing weather systems and more extreme precipitation events will make avalanches less predictable, and the summer climbing season will become shorter in many areas due to impassable bergschrunds and crevasse fields. As alpine clubs have a mandate to protect as well as gain access to the climbing areas, the climbing community has a responsibility for understanding and responding to the impacts of climate change.

Glaciers are often referred to as 'global thermometers' because they are some of the most visible indicators of climate fluctuations on the planet and the mountaineering community is in a unique position to report on their state of

health. The level of public knowledge about the state of the world's mountains is low to non-existent because, let's face it, most of the western world's population spends their working hours in an office and weekends in the city. Mountaineers, on the other hand, have both the environmental savvy and experience necessary to contribute significantly to shaping public attitudes about climate change in alpine regions. As Bob Sandford, Chair of the UN Water for Life Initiative and leader of the 2006 ACC climate change workshop, concluded: 'By working together through the UIAA the world's mountaineering community may well be able to

extend their influence into the domains of public action on climate change issues that could in time result in the strengthening of public policy world-wide in response to this most dangerous threat to our collective mountain heritage.' If anything is sure in a world that is experiencing such rapid change, it is that alpine clubs will need a strong, coordinated vision to achieve this and climbers will need to commit to playing an active role in voicing our concerns about this critical issue.

Kate Sinclair, originally from New Zealand, is currently based in Calgary, Canada, where she is working towards a PhD in climate change science.

Access Notes

Lions Bay Parking

At Lions Bay the escalating parking conflict of a few years ago was resolved by Pat Harrison working out an FMCBC agreement with the West Vancouver School Board in 2006 - allowing hikers to use the Lions Bay Elementary gravel parking lot on weekends and holidays. Prior to this, there had been several attempts over an 18 year period to find a solution or build a new parking lot, without success.]

The trailhead parking area at the Yellow Gate on Sunset Drive in Lions Bay is currently a bit restricted due to recent water main construction, which has left three deep pits at the gate: at least one car has driven into these so far. There is about 35m of angle parking at this point, about enough for 12 vehicles, and of course using the 'Resident Parking' is to be avoided, as towed cars end up in North Vancouver.

There are a few roadside spots throughout Lions Bay Village which hikers have traditionally used, but again, care should be taken, as one concern is that poorly parked vehicles may block the fire truck or ambulance on the narrow streets.

The main overflow parking, i.e. if you arrive too late to get a spot close to the trailhead, is at the Lions Bay Elementary School, 250 Bayview Road. On weekends and holidays, which is when

crowds tend to arrive, the street parking in front of the school is available, and this will take about ten cars. The large gravel parking lot is adjacent to the grass sports field at the school: as you drive up Bayview there are two gates just before the school: one is locked, one is always left open: the gravel parking lot is here, down a short ramp and there is capacity for 45 cars. The agreement that we have is for weekends and holidays only, and we note that there is now a "No Overnight Parking" sign. This is West Vancouver School Board property, and so far we have had no problem with litter, etc.

One concern expressed by hikers when Pat set this up, was that it entailed a walk up the streets to the trailhead...and so Pat and the Trails Committee extended an existing trail system so that it now leads from the North end of the school sports field all the way up through the forest to the gravel road 200m beyond the trailhead, joining the road just below the water treatment plant. This takes about 35 minutes, as against 15 minutes by road. On the return trip, we advise using the road as the forest trail is not all downhill, takes a bit of time, can be a bit confusing in the dark and the downhill walk back to the school by road takes around 12 minutes. The distance from the school to the trailhead is about 650m by road, roughly 1km through the forest.

Trip Reports

Bagpipe Peak, 1-2 March, 2008

We met at Saint David's church in West Vancouver at 6:30 am on the Saturday, then had a short drive

to Furry Creek, but the ski in was likely to be quite long. We went initially to the gated road at the top of the Furry Creek Hill to try out the BCBC's gate

lock key which did not work. So then it was down to the road by the golf course to find its gate open. We decided to gamble on its recent history of being open and drove up to about 400 m, managing an 8:15 start up the north fork of the Furry Creek road. Progress was good with no trailbreaking and few interruptions in ski continuity. By 11:50 we had reached the first switchback to the left on what was now the mountain lake trail after it had left the main road. We had covered about 9 km at this point and we decided on lunch. This lunch spot marked the end of the main logging road travel and it should be noted that there is an amazing contrast in the appearance of the area ahead of us between winter and summer. The road in front of us has bush covering everything. By contrast it's completely open in the winter, possibly due to wet snow avalanches coming from steep clearcuts above and covering all the bush.

Signs of the road reappeared beyond this open area in a patch of natural forest but the road was still filled in. We then reached a left hand switchback heading into the final clearcut. We were briefly on a road bed and then switchbacked up the clearcut close to its top corner. Then we entered the natural forest beyond the clearcut and shortly after crossing the top of a rockslide slope. (it would have been better to exit the clearcut earlier and cross the bottom of the rockslide instead). After this we were forced to descend to the creek which comes down from the SW side of Ben Lomond. But we came into the creek at the right spot - where it begins to open up. This is an excellent summer route to Ben Lomond. We crossed the creek valley and continued eastward up into the forest, which was open enough for good travel and soon opened up into glades. Eventually we reached the western edge of a drainage on the south side of Ben Lomond. We then skied north in order to cross it at its top on a shallow bench. The weather which had been fairly pleasant began to deteriorate into some snow squalls, but by the time we reached the east side of the drainage on the SE side of Ben Lomond the sun had come out again. It was around 4 pm and we decided to look for a camp spot.

We also surveyed the route ahead. In order to start up Bagpipe's skiable NW ridge one has to get to the north end of Loch Lomond first, and a

large shallow north downsloping bench will get you halfway there avoiding most of the cliffs on the west side of Loch Lomond. Camp was set up and the usual activities commenced. It was also nice and wintery considering the 1300 m elevation.

On Sunday it was up at 5:30 to be skiing by 7 am. We had to do a tiny bit of ascending to get to the top of the bench by 7:30. The weather looked quite good so things were looking up. After some beautiful powder on the bench we worked our way through bluffs and gullies to pop out at the southern edge of the Stawamus Lake flats to the north of Loch Lomond. We had come down about 150 m in 25 minutes. We were now at the base of Bagpipe's NW ridge and were also able to look up the dry creekbed which used to flow out of Loch Lomond before the lake's outflow was reversed into the Seymour watershed as part of Vancouver's drinking water supply.

We started skiing up the ridge at 8:10 and it should be noted that going more left would have been better. The steepish and at times icy conditions slowed progress somewhat but the forest opened and had some less steep sections. There were 15-20 cm of powder on an icy base. Some 40° slopes were skied up to a bench, beyond which the short 45° "crux" slope stood in our path. Two snowpits revealed a weak layer 60 cm down so we went up one at a time. Above there was a fairly long open 25° slope leading to the biggest flat on the ridge at about 1500 m. What was above was rising into clouds and near the top Chris scouted eastward to confirm that we had summited. It was likely around 10:30.

Off the top it was a brief ski down shallower slopes through fog and some good visibility to the 1500 m flat. Below here it got sunnier and the skiing was very pleasant. We shot through the 45° bit and made a few turns on the 40° stuff below and then deviated from the uptrack. This deviation was a pleasant surprise, yielding powdery glades right to the Stawamus Lake flats. It should be noted that there is a large open (not shown on the map) flat around Stawamus Lake. Perhaps the lake was bigger before Loch Lomond's outflow was reversed. Our run was 550 vertical metres to our lunch spot on the flats. Then we skinned back up to camp in just over an hour, noting the rapidly deteriorating visibility.

Camp was reached just after 1 pm and we began heading out just after 3 pm with skins on to cross the initial bench and brief uphill beyond. Once the skins were off they stayed off but we had a fair bit of flat shuffling on the road. The 2 vehicles were reached just before 6 pm. It should be noted that Bagpipe is a unofficial name for the 1600 m peak on the east side of Loch Lomond and was coined by a local mountain information site inventor but it's Scottish theme seems fitting. Participants: Ramsey Dyer, Eduard Brom, Chris Trautman, and Greg Stoltmann (organizer and reporter).

Metal Dome, 12 April 2008

The four club members on this trip agreed - Metal Dome by this new route, which opened up this year by the changed realities in Callaghan Valley, now ranks as a superior day ski trip from Vancouver. We considered the amount of driving involved, the relative short time required for the outing, the length of time spent on logging roads (only about 50 minutes), the type of skiing accessed (what is a popular heli-slope), the relatively open forest and the stellar alpine feel of the route above tree line. We did not hear any snow machines, although there were many turning off with us at the highway. From the summit, we only saw two in the distance in Brandywine Valley. No tracks of theirs on the summit and no recent evidence of heli-skiers either.

This trip was originally scheduled for Mt. Pelion. The weather forecast had been changing all week but the last word on Friday was calling for dubious summit weather for Sunday, yet clear and hot on Saturday. Since Pelion is a rather serious investment in effort to get near it, I had little inclination to find myself inside a cloud again during a push for the peak. Instead, I proposed to change to a day trip and check out the new approaches to either Metal Dome or Brandywine from the paved Olympic Access Road in the Callaghan Valley. All my 'clients' were enthusiastic about this idea as well, so we met as planned at 7 am at St. David's Church. There, Phillipa, a good friend of ours from the Nordic Racers Ski Club, joined the group on short notice when her rendezvous didn't materialize.

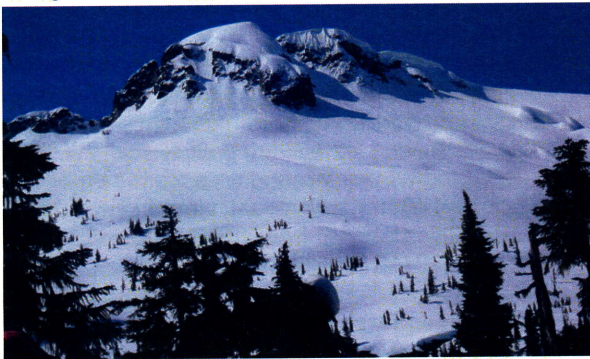
We were off on a maze of logging roads by about 9:30 am. I was well informed about the access

thanks to fresh information on bivouac.com. We started from the 'Dogsled Parking Lot', about 100 meters up from the paved road, a short distance before it crosses over to the East side of Callaghan Ck. What we were looking for was the Callaghan West FSR. To find it, we travelled a short distance, about 350m, up the 'Dogsled Road' (right hand branch from parking lot), left at a junction onto a short connector, 100 m on to a snowmobile mainline. 250 meters further, this mainline curves away downhill to the left (this road has also been used to access Metal Dome), where we took the right fork which goes slightly uphill. From here, the road runs for about 2-3 km (two switch backs) to its terminus above an open meadow containing two small ponds. Beyond the edge of the logging slash is a creek. This creek flows from the North Glacier of Metal Dome. It is best crossed no higher than road's end. Once on the NW side of the creek it is easy to find a line of ascent parallel to it. Parties climbing the near side reportedly found themselves tempted to veer off SE up drainages of several small lakes in this tricky area of 'micro terrain'.

Greg had been here before. He approved of my choice of route as it avoided steeper wooded slopes and a head wall immediately below the glacier tongue by staying well to the NW. This deposited us painlessly onto a slight rise at tree line at 1400m, with great views of the route possibilities ahead. I believe it is possible from here (0487168 / 5552424 UTM) to proceed toward Brandywine. Yet, after a short discussion, we opted for the shorter, hugely corniced, Metal Dome. To avoid crossing steep slopes of the north lateral moraine, we needed to traverse a level bench and make an end-run around the lowest portion of the moraine. This was quickly, and safely, accomplished. We were now on the lowest section of the gentle glacier. The only concern was the huge summit cornice. I traced a route that kept well to the left side of the glacier, on slopes which I deemed not exposed to debris avalanches should the cornice collapse.

The wind started to pick up close to the glacier's East Col. The final ascent to the flat summit was surmounted in two or three waves under increasingly strong winds. And while the day had been hot, the hottest of the year so far, our sojourn on the summit was distinctly unpleasant, although there were great views in all directions.

The winds were so strong that I imagined being blown away like a kite should I jump too high on my first downhill turn. The snow was incredibly slow and sticky, so slow in fact, that I stopped at the col to apply glide wax to my skis. The run down the glacier was somewhat better but it was now no longer a surprise that we hadn't encountered heli-skiers and that their most recent tracks were barely discernible. Instead, another ski party of four was coming up on our tracks. We stopped again near our earlier lunch stop, hoping to take in the warmth of the day and for some serious sun tanning. It was all well until the wind started to pick up even down there, so we quickly packed up and largely retraced our route. Before I knew it, we'd arrived back at our initial creek crossing. The road could be skied without skins. Some of us thought to shortcut from the second switch back, only to realize that the tracks we'd seen from above were not ours, or on the road, but snowmobile tracks ending at the edge of the trees. Not all was lost as we found a



Fine skiing on Metal Dome, with the summit, top right. Photos - S. Duflo.

good creek crossing and managed to regain the road without traversing too much thick re-growth. The other party arrived at the cars just as we were about to leave. They told us that part of the cornice had collapsed soon after we had passed them. The debris did travel towards our uphill tracks but stopped short due to the low gradient of the slope but mostly because of the exceedingly sticky snow.

In search for a pleasant and sunny patio, we opted for the one at Furry Creek Golf Course where the meal was good and the pub fare not even overly expensive. The day ended with a trip down the corridor of the resort building to where you can take in views of Furry Creek and its waterfall. Quite a charming end to a great spring ski day.

Participants: Grant Bullington, Stacha Duflo, Martin Gascuel, Silke Gumplinger, Greg Stoltmann, Phillipa Wall, Guy Wigham, and Peter Gumplinger (organizer and reporter)

