



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



December 2008. Vol. 86, No. 10

Winter skiing off the Duffey Lake road.

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 December - Entertainment will be a show by Monika Bittel and Francis St. Pierre on climbing in the Peruvian Andes.

Tuesday, 13 January - Entertainment will be a show by Chris Cooper on canoeing around the U.K.



Approaching a summit in the Cordillera Vilcabamba, Peru. Photo - M. Feller..

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	TODD PONZINI	604-936-9369
PAST-PRESIDENT -	DAVID HUGHES	604-980-6484
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SECRETARY -	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
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TREASURER -	CRAIG KALNIN	604-787-5396
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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 **Alice Purdey (ph. 604-293-2951, email - alicep.fred@gmail.com)**.

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

All trips are ski trips unless otherwise indicated.

December

6: Squeah Mtn. (snowshoe) C3/1800m

Alastair Ferries

Snowshoeing north of Hope. Joint trip with NSH.

6: Diamond Head B2

Darlene Anderson 1-604-789-8020

More early season skiing in Garibaldi park.

6-7: Avalanche evaluation - Mt. Seymour B3

Justin Bennett 604-813-4666

Skiing from Mt. Seymour to Mt. Elsay, emphasizing avalanche terrain and risk evaluation for safe backcountry travel. Oriented towards newer backcountry travellers.

7: Evans Pk. (hike/snowshoe) B3

Silvia Bakovic 778-230-7528

Hiking or snowshoeing, depending on conditions, in Golden Ears park in the Lower Fraser Valley.

13: Nak and Thar Pks. B2-3/2010m

Jos van der Burg 604-824-5676

Skiing in the Coquihalla area.

13: Diamond Head B2

Justin Bennett 604-813-4555

Yo-yo skiing off Paul Ridge east of Squamish.

13: Self arrest practice - Mt. Seymour (foot) B2

Gordon Esplin 604-986-0603

Walking in the snow (we hope) practising ice axe self arrests. Joint trip with the NSH.

20: Coquihalla Mtn. C3/2160m

Justin Bennett 604-813-4666

Extended skiing in the Coquihalla area.

27-29: Pyramid Mtn. C3/2130m

Justin Bennett 604-813-4666

Skiing in Garibaldi park in the Diamond Head area, camping at Mamquam Lake.

January

10: Hollyburn Mtn. A2/1324m

Alena Dzujkova 778-881-5642

Easy skiing in Vancouver's North Shore mountains. Beginners are welcome.

10: Magnesia Meadows B2

Ian McGillivray 604-988-3618

Skiing above Howe Sound. Joint trip with the ACC.

10: Unnamed, Misison area (snowshoe) C2

Alastair Ferries 604-329-1637

Snowshoeing north of Cascade Ck., north of Misison.

11: Diamond Head area B2

Kathy Nemis 604-254-1170

More yo-yo skiing off Paul Ridge east of Squamish.

14: Needle Pk. C3(4)/2075m

Matt Gunn 604-221-1190

Skiing in the Coquihalla area, descending the peak back to the highway via Two Bears slide path. Only possible if the avalanche hazard is very low and the weather is reasonable. Participants must have had some formal avalanche education.

Membership

Membership fees for 2008/09 are now due

- Membership fees for 2008-2009 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, **THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE**. You should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying the October newsletter, or on the website, 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	Youth	\$20
Couple	\$68	Life	\$800

New Members

The club welcomes the following new associate members: Kimberley Bernard, Sylvia Lambert, Tracey Loverock, Ryan Morasiewicz, Grant Pearse, Damien Robert Pym, Renata Saunders, and Sergey Sorokin.

103 Hikes will be available for sale at the December social meeting - \$15 for club members, \$16 for non-members.

Introduction to Backcountry Skiing Program

Program Objectives: To develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence required to safely participate in overnight backcountry ski trips. The program will include 1 evening seminar and 2 weekends spent on overnight ski trips in the mountains. The seminar will be held on the evening of January 5th, and the ski trips will run on the weekends of January 10&11 and 17&18.

Program topics: Clothing and equipment, trip planning, winter camping, route and snowpack evaluation, avalanche safety, transceiver use and self-rescue, winter mountain travel and weather evaluation. *This program does not cover glacier travel or first aid. Cost for the program is \$250.*

For whom: Strong downhill skiers with previous summer or winter backcountry camping experience, and/or: Experienced backcountry day skiers who want to gain experience on overnight winter trips.

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

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

Equipment Required: Backcountry ski equipment (skis, boots, poles & skins), shovel, and avalanche transceiver, all of which can be rented from MEC if necessary, plus overnight camping gear. Group gear such as tents and stoves will be organized at the pre-trip evening seminar.

For further information check the "Programs and Camps" section on the BCMC Web Site: www.bcmc.ca

For more information and to book one of the twelve available spots, please call Todd Ponzini at 604-936-9369.

Winter season backcountry skills trips

To prepare for the approaching ski season, the BCMC is offering a series of trips and practice sessions to polish those safe backcountry travel skills and good habits that have not been used since last winter:

Nov 29-30: Transceiver practice

- basic single and advanced multiple beacon recovery

Dec 6-7: Avalanche terrain/risk evaluation field day

- a ski trip emphasizing terrain/risk evaluation for safe backcountry travel in avalanche terrain

Dec 13: Self arrest practice with ice axes

Jan 17-18: Winter roped travel/rescue systems practice

- two days practising proper roped travel techniques, rescue systems, and belay systems for use on snow and ice

Jan 31-Feb 1: Organized avalanche response

- two days of organized avalanche response practice simulating various scenarios and group practice

Mar 1, 2009: Advanced snow/ice rescue systems practice

- Compound hauling systems, complex hauling systems, and belays. All participants must have a solid working knowledge of knots (prussik, figure 8, clove, MÜNter), simple hauling systems (2:1, 3:1, 5:1), snow anchors, and basic belays will be used.

Mar 21, 2009: Mountaineering Practice

- a day of mountaineering practice for members to hone their skills prior to the spring/summer mountaineering season

Mar 28, 2009: Mountaineering Practice

- another such day of mountaineering practice

Take advantage of these FREE trips and special sessions to brush up your existing skills or learn one or two new ones. Visit -

<http://bcmc.ca/Schedule/tripsched.asp>

for more information and to sign up for these skill refreshers.

Avalanche courses

Basic Avalanche Course (AST-1)

Run by Canada West Mountain School for BCMC members and suitable for anyone looking for a solid foundation in avalanche safety. The AST-1 course is conducted over 2 days (day 1 - Mt Seymour, day 2 - Whistler backcountry) and includes: 16 hours of instruction, CAA approved curriculum for AST-1 course, "Evaluator" avalanche decision-making tool, avalanche manual, use of beacon, shovel and probe, and CAA industry-recognized certificate of completion.

For more information, visit: <http://www.themountainschool.com/avalanche-custom.html#2>

COST: \$145 + 1 x \$39 for Whistler ski pass

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: email Alena Dzujkova by Dec 8.

Advanced Avalanche Course (AST-2)

Run by Canada West Mountain School for BCMC members. The program is conducted over 2 weekends (Jan 24-25 and Jan 31-Feb 1) with emphasis on the development of skills and techniques to assist in decision making, route finding, terrain evaluation, snow profile interpretation and rescue techniques.

Participants should be comfortable with avalanche theory and snow science applications, including basic snow testing practices, digging snow-pits and performing transceiver searches. For more information, visit <http://www.themountainschool.com/avalanche-advanced.html>

COST: \$525 + 2x\$39 for Whistler passes

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: email Alena Dzujkova by Dec 12.

Reports from the 2008 Annual General Meeting

The club's Annual General Meeting was held on 18 November. Over 90 people, including many more than a quorum, were present. Reports were presented, as given below (additional reports will be printed in our January 2008 newsletter), a new executive was voted in (by acclamation!), and Stephen France gave an impressive show on summer and winter mountaineering in New Zealand.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - by Todd Ponzini

As the Club begins its second century, I believe that our biggest challenge is to remain relevant to the local outdoors community. There was a time when the easiest way to go on a trip to the mountains with a friendly group of people was to join a club and take advantage of its trip schedule. But we face "competition" from the internet, where people have the ability to chat and to organize their own trips, which makes the club, in its traditional format, somewhat less relevant. Despite this competition, our membership numbers have remained fairly steady over the past few years, due in large part to the efforts of the membership executive members and other volunteers.

We are currently drafting a strategy and a vision to enable the club to grow and to move forward into our second century, and during the last year we have undertaken several initiatives in this area.

We have formed a Membership Retention Committee, whose mandate is to find out why we have a large number of members who join for a year or two, but then let their membership lapse and do not continue with the Club. This committee has undertaken a membership survey, and Francis St. Pierre has been interviewing past and present members to determine their satisfaction with the Club, and if they have left the Club, to determine the reasons why they did not renew their memberships. This survey has recently been completed, and the results will be used to help us determine the Club's strategy for the future, and to focus our attention on areas where past and present members feel that a membership in the Club lacks value.

The trip schedule is the backbone of the Club, and you may have noticed that we've started to send out periodic e-mails to remind everyone of trips that are coming up in the next two weeks. Feedback has been positive and members have appreciated the up-to-date information that these updates provide.

We have launched our own online web forum, at <http://bcmountaineering.com/forum>. Since the forum was launched about this time last year, we have had 272 users join, and 894 articles have been posted, including some great trip reports.

Log on and check it out if you haven't already done so!

Our Club has a reputation of being insular, and non-members have commented that when they attend the social they don't find it easy to approach people, as we appear somewhat "cliquey". We have recently started to use a greeting table at the door to welcome people to the social, and the executive members have committed to talk to at least one person who we don't know when we're at the social, as we want to change our image to be more welcoming and friendly.

We are developing a curriculum of instructional programs for the winter season, everything from the traditional backcountry skiing program, to one day "skill refresher" programs. I really believe that one of the ways to grow our membership is to have a great roster of instructional programs. In conclusion, times are changing and the club has to change with the times. I believe that our initiatives above are a good start, and we'll continue to pursue our strategy to grow the Club while still maintaining our traditional activities.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT - by David Scanlon

The vice president did what was required this past year, chairing an exec meeting and hosting a social when the president was away. The one social I did host, however, was one of the best attended ever, with over 180 people present.

CABIN AND TRAILS REPORT - by David Scanlon

The club has been dealing with the Lil'Wat for several years trying to get their permission to build a cabin in their traditional territory. All to no avail. The provincial government will not entertain any cabin application anywhere without First Nations approval.

The club is now actively applying for a permit for a cabin at Watersprite Lake. It is in the Squamish and Tseil-Waututh First Nations jointly claimed area, 1 km S of the SW corner of Garibaldi Park. The next cabin project is to next year rebuild the Mountain Lake hut's foundation. It has settled a lot and needs major repairs. So next spring look for the announcement for helpers. It will probably be scheduled for a week long work party and volunteers who can come even for a day or two will be welcome.

There were two trail clearing trips on the schedule this past summer. One to the Place Glacier trail was the first one in July. That trail was in bad shape with a lot of blowdown, and the 4 of us did a lot of work chain sawing for two days. We did get it all done though and still had time to go to the top and enjoy the view on day 2. That trail is one that we all recommend to those who have not been there. It follows the river most of the way and gives fantastic views of the waterfalls on the way up and Place Glacier at the top.

The other major trail clearing trip was to put in a new trail on the east side of North Creek connecting up with the old trail. This was accomplished just in time for the summer camp held at the North Creek Cabin this past summer. This new trail eliminates the river crossing that has been problematic for years. There is more to be done on this trail so look for that work party next summer, probably in June before the brush grows back.

There were other work parties also this past year. Paul Kubik had two that come to mind. Thanks to you Paul.

And a reminder to anyone else that you may schedule your own trail clearing trip at any time.

TREASURER'S REPORT - by Craig Kalnin

It's been another year, and another bundle of fun accounting for all the various exciting Centennial Year events, video production, raffle and banquets, and as my first year handling the Club's finances, figuring out exactly what Todd was doing last year! As you may know, the Club has different funds to keep the finances orderly, and our centennial fund continued to have lots of activity with sales of stamps, calendars, bandanas, crests, donations by members, and especially the raffle ticket sales, and production of the DVD version of *Passion for Mountains* for all our members. In the end, our Centennial banquet was a success, both for the club and for accounting; we managed to net a little over \$700, thanks to the great member turnout and Grouse Mountain's generous donations, which will go towards covering the total costs of the video incurred last year.

In our general fund, membership revenue was down slightly, as was expected after such a big push to bring people in for the centennial year, but remained healthy. Our expenses were kept

Revenue and Expenses from the General Fund for the year ending 30 September 2008, and previous years.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
REVENUE								
Membership dues	14,832	16,849	13,885	14,891	15,853	15,945	15,917	6,919
Interest income	2,504	2,333	1,395	1,148	1,538	1,740	2,723	4,195
Equipment rental, cabin fees	432	414	40	426	205	385	375	285
Centennial/T-shirt sales	1,219	2,165	---	220	198	218	111	---
Centennial banquet	9,720	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Centennial gear raffle	4,700	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Instruction courses (net)								
- ski	3,000	1,925	2,100	1,645	196	385	1,385	1,112
- summer	4,296	4,494	3,942	4,156	4,179	3,474	4,410	2,313
Sat phone rental	658	654	1,006	60	520	---	---	---
Member donations	795	5094	392	205	---	476	80	---
Publication sales/ads	288	633	---	673	169	680	17	994
Camps (net)	---	147	60	257	285	318	230	758
Other	110	369	107	51	59	2,493	---	86
Bequests	---	---	---	---	---	---	9,000	---
Total Revenue (after bequests)	42,554	35,077	23,567	23,652	23,224	26,074	25,275	26,773
EXPENSES								
Publications								
Mountaineer/journal	8,000	11,726	5,128	4,458	2,624	4,406	4,004	4,574
Brochures, constitution, index, etc.	---	424	---	---	269	1,057	---	---
Newsletter	4,758	4,517	4,036	4,615	5,954	7,316	7,627	6,396
Website	97	253	153	477	1,810	1,742	1,268	978
Social activities (net)	1,725	1,602	1,610	1,522	1,608	1,472	1,530	1,478
Postage and stationary	1,905	1,553	2,139	1,836	2,434	2,630	3,003	2,190
Amortization of assets	1,580	1,884	1,932	2,001	2,197	1,578	1,052	1,081
Insurance + tax (cabin)	---	---	---	---	850	---	19	584
Video	1,466	21,516	---	---	---	---	---	---
Memberships (FMCBC)	5,775	5,775	5,260	5,720	5,500	5,520	4,040	4,284
FMCBC insurance	1,466	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Radio licence/ Sat phone fees	330	471	802	385	322	---	124	151
Cabins	402	827	1,586	176	223	348	43	27
Stamps bandanas crests	---	3610	---	---	---	---	---	---
Conservation	---	---	---	---	---	---	500	---
Voice mail	176	215	194	180	190	251	252	59
Miscellaneous	135	1,467	350	75	458	203	295	253
Donations	1,377	1,510	797	500	836	252	719	1,946
Archives/Library	---	---	---	---	---	1,281	1,005	2,023
Centennial banquet	9,006	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total expenses	38,197	57,348	23,987	21,945	25,275	28,056	24,524	25,988

within budget and the general fund recorded a small, budgeted loss.

We have continued to earn significant revenue from our summer and winter instructional programs. Extra summer rock and navigation

courses allowed us to earn a few more dollars to go towards covering the club's expenses this year. Aside from membership, they continue to be a key source of funds to keep our club vibrant and financially healthy and we have some new

exciting ideas ready for the upcoming year! A big "Thank you!" to all our volunteers for donating their time to run these courses and to those members to enjoyed them, and all the new members we earned in the process!

As my first year handling the Treasurer duties of the Club, I thank you all for your patience while I learn and understand the accounts and records. With this year's experience under my belt, I look forward to another good year with the club, and I'm sure as past Treasurer, Todd is looking forward to a few less questions from me!

EDITOR'S REPORT - by Michael Feller

The year saw another 10 issues of the newsletter which contained the same number of pages as the previous year - 128 (see Table below). However, considerably less space was devoted to trip reports - the least amount in over 10 years (considering no photos accompanied these reports in 2001/2002, the only year with fewer actual pages of reports). We need more trip reports! Articles on economic growth and the environment, as well as the advocacy role of mountaineering clubs accounted for the relatively large number of pages devoted to features.

All contributors to the newsletter must be thanked, particularly Ron Dart (who wrote all the book reviews), Greg Stoltmann, Dave Scanlon, and Jos van der Burg. Thanks are again due to Susan Rootman and Stefanie Pollock for typing and Evelyn Feller for assistance with stuffing newsletters into envelopes, and to Kit Griffin for printing the envelopes for stuffing.

In addition to newsletters, your editor has also devoted many hours to the centennial journal, which is now one year behind its original publication date. This is a massive undertaking as it has involved intensive scrutiny of the club archives, trying to match unlabelled photos with trips that were done up to 100 years ago. Three important new donations of photos to the club archives - those of the 1st ascent of Mt. Garibaldi, the original glass slides of Neal Carter (donated by Margaret Waddington, who was given them by a friend who found them at a garage sale!), and photos by Chas Townsend of the first ascents of Wedge, James Turner, and other peaks, (donated by Gayle Sullivan) necessitated extra work to scan and incorporate the photos into the journal.

A more recent diversion has been work on the production of a new guidebook to the Cariboo and Monashee Mountains - a major publishing undertaking by the club.

Material has continued to accumulate for cataloging and placing into the club archives. Your editor has simply been overwhelmed and will be relieved if the club is able to find an additional editor for the coming year. The activities of the editor, involving production of newsletters and journals, and responsibility for the library and the archives, is just too much for one working individual. In the forthcoming year we are looking to have our archives placed within the archives collection of the North Vancouver Museum and archives. This should provide them with long-term security and decrease the demands on your

Newsletter Total Number of pages (%)

	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2006/07</u>	<u>2005/06</u>	<u>2004/05</u>	<u>2003/04</u>	<u>2002/03</u>	<u>2001/02</u>	<u>2000/01</u>	<u>1999/00</u>
Trip ads	11(9)	8 (6)	14 (13)	7.5 (7)	9 (8)	10.5 (10)	10.5 (9)	11.5 (10)	15 (14)
Trip reports	24(19)	39.5 (31)	26.5 (24)	30 (29)	28.5 (26)	30 (28)	22 (19)	30.5 (27)	28.5 (28)
Club news	45.5(35)	51.5 (40)	42 (38)	47 (46)	46 (43)	43 (40)	43.5 (38)	40 (36)	26 (25)
Other news	24.5(19)	21 (16)	16 (14)	17.5 (17)	17 (16)	12 (11)	24.5 (21)	24 (22)	28.5 (28)
Features	16(12)	4.5 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11.5 (11)	11 (9)	0 (0)	3.5 (3)
Equipment/ Technique	2(2)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.5 (0)	2 (2)
Letters/Reports	0.5(0)	0 (0)	7 (6)	0.5 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3.5 (3)	5.5 (5)	0 (0)
Book reviews	2 (2)	1.5 (1)	0.5 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ads	3.5(3)	0.5 (0)	4.5 (4)	1(1)	2.5 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total no. of pages	128	128	112	104	108	108	116	112	103.5

editor's time, from those wanting access to the archives.

This is also the last year I intend to be editor for the newsletter - although it has been a great labour of love, after years it is time to let someone else inject new ideas. Club publications were floundering in the late 1970s. They were stabilized to 6 newsletters a year by 1980, and then to 10 per year during my tenure as editor.

Not all members have been happy with the content of the newsletters, but negative comments have been more than offset by positive comments, which have kept me going. Negative comments have most commonly been given to various conservation articles that have appeared in the newsletters. It is my belief that the BCMC exists for 2 major reasons - one is to provide opportunities for people to hike, climb, ski, or

snowshoe in our mountains, and the second is to ensure that these opportunities remain for future generations. It is within the spirit of this second reason that conservation articles have appeared. Those who do not believe that club members should be informed about, and urged to fight, all the activities that threaten future mountaineering opportunities, particularly those that threaten access and wilderness experiences, should remember the second and third purposes of our club given in our constitution - preservation through legislation and promotion of activities which will accomplish this. These words, written over 100 years ago, are even more relevant today as the threats to our club's *raison d'être* only escalate. If you read something in the newsletter with which you disagree ideologically, think about the purposes of the club and the needs of other club members.

Apologies

The photograph of Cayoosh Mtn. on p.9 of the last (November) newsletter was taken by L.

Chrostowski and not David Hughes, to whom it was attributed.

News

Jumbo ski resort lacks public support

The majority of people who live in the Kootenays are against the proposed billion-dollar Jumbo Glacier Ski Resort, according to a new poll that was conducted by McAllister Opinion Research for the environmental group Wildsight. It found that 63 percent of the respondents were against the Jumbo ski resort, while only 19 percent were for it, and 18 percent said they were undecided or had no opinion. Although opposition was fairly uniform throughout the Kootenays, the greatest opposition came from the Columbia-Revelstoke area. McAllister asked 910 residents of the Kootenays in September and October 2008, "Should the ski resort development at Jumbo Creek be allowed to proceed, or should the Jumbo Valley be kept wild?" The results have a margin of error of 3.2 percent, 19 times out of 20. Opponents have long argued the project is being forced on people who live in the Kootenays, but the developers have always maintained there is a silent majority that wants the jobs and four-season skiing. Jumbo spokesperson Grant Costello said people are misinformed about what

the project would entail, so he is not surprised by the poll results.

In July 2007 the resort cleared a major hurdle when the master plan was approved by the Liberal government. The project now needs local zoning approval before it can go head, or the provincial government could designate the area as a resort municipality and grant approval in Victoria, bypassing local people, as it has done in the past to ensure various environmentally destructive development projects go ahead over the wishes of local residents.

Law passed to protect glaciers in Argentina

Argentina appears to be ahead of B.C. in attempts to protect mountain environments. According to a press release from IANIGLA, on 22 October, 2008, "Argentina passed a new law of minimum budgets for the protection of glaciers and the periglacial environment to preserve them as strategic reserves or water resources and as critical to the recharging of hydrographic basins [translation from Spanish!].

The law establishes a precise and clear defini-

tion of 'glaciers' and the 'periglacial environment'. It also prohibits and/or restricts certain projects or activities in glacial or periglacial environments, such as the release of contaminants, the construction of buildings, mineral exploration and exploitation and the establishment of new industry, among other activities.

The law also requires that the state of glaciers be inventoried and monitored to aid in protecting them."

It was argued by the law's chief proponent that "there is no question that the protection and valuation of glaciers - as ecosystems that are a fundamental part of our country's natural environment and as one of the most important freshwater reserves for the Patagonian region - should be recognized and promoted by a national law." "The new law creates a National Inventory of Glaciers which will be managed by the IANIGLA - Instituto Argentino de Nivolog Glaciolog y Ciencias Ambientales - (Argentinean Institute of Snow

Studies, Glaciology and Environmental Sciences) in coordination with the enforcing authority. (The law establishes that this authority will be held by the top environmental organization in the nation.) Likewise, activities that are not prohibited by the law will be required to conduct an environmental impact study, evaluating any damaging effects on the glaciers, in order to be approved."

Powder Mountain Catskiing leaves much garbage in the Tricouni area

According to active posts on the ClubTread website, with photographic evidence, Powder Mountain Catskiing has been leaving large numbers of snow poles and other garbage behind, creating an unsightly mess when the snow melts. Attempts by members of the public to get some government agency to prevent this have been met with "we can't do anything; it's not our responsibility" type responses. Is this the future of our mountains given over to commercial motorized tenures?

Events of interest

Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Fall Speaker Series

Where: Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Avenue

Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$17 at the door; package of 2 tix to 2 different show \$25; package of 3 tix to all 3 shows \$35.

Advanced tickets are available online at

www.vimff.org; and at the Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver, (604) 984-4484.

Friday, December 12, 7pm (doors and reception at 6pm)

John Dunn's **JOHN DUNN'S WILD CANADA: CROSSING BC'S CORDILLERA + A HIGH ARCTIC ISLAND ADVENTURE**

Access

New requirements and protocols for backcountry skiers using the Olympic Park parking lot in the Callaghan valley

John Aalberg, the director of the Whistler Olympic Park, informed the FMCBC in mid-November -

1. All backcountry skiing or snowshoeing parties must register at the new Day Lodge in the morning to get a special parking pass. This pass will allow you to park overnight, and/or leave through the gate after normal hours. The parking pass is free.
2. There is a \$6 per person fee if you want to use the XC trails for backcountry access. To qualify you must be on AT or Tele gear (no skinny XC skis). For safety, you must follow the same rules

as XC skiers on one way trails. If you want to ski the backcountry around Madeley Lake, this is the best way to get there.

3. If you want to access the backcountry without using the groomed XC trails, there is no fee. However, you still have to sign a waiver and get the parking pass. Please be careful when crossing XC ski trails and always yield to XC skiers. There are 3 suggested backcountry access routes that minimize XC trail crossings: from the Day Lodge climb the hill north of the ski jump to Hanging Lake or Sproatt; from the biathlon parking skirt the XC trails heading east to Hanging Lake; or from the biathlon parking drop down a

short hill to the west and turn up Beverley Creek. Signage for these routes is being worked on. During competitive events, one or more of these routes may be closed. Be sure to check with staff at the Day Lodge when you get your ticket.

4. The XC ski trails and the 21 Mile Creek watershed (Rainbow Lake) are closed to dogs.

This closure includes the ski touring loop from Hanging Lake over to Beverley Creek and ascents of Rainbow Mountain from the south and west.

Please follow the above rules or we may lose access privileges. In particular, don't get caught skiing on an XC trail without the \$6 ticket. If you really want to use the trail, \$6 isn't much to ask.

Be a part of BC history - Help the North Vancouver Museum & Archives to tell the story of 100 years of mountaineering in British Columbia

*The NVMA is looking for members from B.C.'s climbing community to participate in the storytelling component of their upcoming VMC (Virtual Museum of Canada) exhibit, **Climbing to the Clouds: A Century of Mountaineering in British Columbia**. Participants will have the opportunity to tell their own stories of adventures in the BC mountains (mountain climbing, survival, environment, cabin culture, and exploration). Climbing to the Clouds will build upon the recent exhibition of Peak Performance: 100 Years of B.C. Mountaineering, an exhibition*

organized by the NVMA in conjunction with the centennial of the BCMC.

Each story will be prepared under the tutelage of the [Center for Digital Storytelling](#). Participants attend a free three-day digital storytelling weekend workshop where they will learn the techniques of developing a 3-4 minute story with the use of cutting-edge technology. Or participants may choose to work with North Vancouver's archives staff to record their story and assist in gathering materials to develop a digital vignette.

The stories are to be completed by the summer of 2009. An introductory meeting is to be held in December with the workshop in February.

Interested parties should contact [Shirley Sutherland](#) (SutherlandS@dnv.org) to be considered.

Trip Reports

Ben Lomond, 25-26 October, 2008

The relatively large party dwindled due perhaps to less than stellar weather forecasts. Following a no-show at the St. David's church meeting spot, seven of us finally set off at 7:30 am.

At the logging road turnoff from the Squamish highway, we noted that the club keys no longer fitted the new lock the logging company had put on the gate, so we left a note asking that we not be locked in on Sunday. The road was uneventfully driven until its effective end near Cyrtina Ck. In the cold air we set off.

Cutting branches had kept the trail along the road open, but the bush was growing in quite badly along the first section of the deactivated spur road. In summer it would present problems but in Fall, after many leaves had fallen off or died, the trail was clearly visible.

The first snow was encountered shortly before the trail left the old spur road. This increased up to about 20 cm in the alpine area around the lakes.

The plan had been to get to the hut on Saturday, possibly climb Mr. Shear (Note - the first ascent party called the mountain "Shear" and not "Sheer", as it is currently incorrectly spelled), then climb Ben Lomond on the way out on Sunday. However, we got above Wind Lake relatively early, the sun was shining, and the party enthusiastic, so we dropped packs, had a quick lunch, then set off for Ben Lomond. Dennis did an excellent job of leading us up the most direct route to the mountain. All was smooth sailing until we found ourselves on a cliffy bump on a ridge with a major gap between us and Ben Lomond. Again Dennis found a route down bushy benches and steep gullies, so we continued.

From the pass on the NW ridge, we traversed down to the north side of the mountain, working our way up a slope of snow, unmelted during the summer, then back to the rock where a short class 3 section was surmounted to put us on the NW ridge. This was followed easily to the summit. Unfortunately clouds had billowed up from the

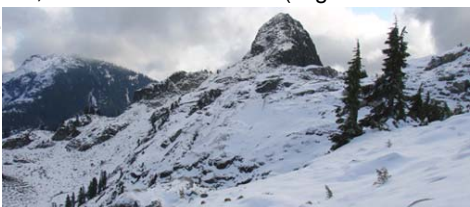
south and had begun to lick the summit as we arrived, obliterating most views, as well as the sun. But a summit is a summit. After a short stop we retraced our steps back to the packs, then quickly set off for the hut which we reached at 6 pm with only one minor injury resulting from a snowed-up hole in the talus.

Dennis elected to sleep in his tent while the rest of us had the cabin to protect us from the wind and cold. The door to the toilet was open when we arrived, but the local wildlife had behaved themselves and the toilet was clean. The marks of helicopter skids and footsteps in the snow just above the cabin indicated that it had seen other visitors recently, but nothing appeared in the log book.

After a pleasant, warming night we arose to a warmer and sunny day. The Polish contingent decided they wanted to climb Mt. Shear while the rest of us, having already done so in somewhat better conditions previously, opted for a leisurely descent to the cars, Dennis cleaning up cut branches off the trail on the way.

We reached the cars just before 2, then 3 of us departed, leaving Dennis to wait for his Polish passengers. They eventually arrived just after 4, having successfully climbing Mt. Shear. Fortunately Andrej had an ice axe as this was needed to cut ice off the crux move. A successful trip in late fall conditions, with a good group of people.

Participants: Ehleen and Erich Hinze, Dennis Siska, Andrej Jarzabek, Zbigniew Szymborski, Piotr Dzwewenski, and Michael Feller (organizer and reporter).



Ben Lomond (top and left), Mt. Shear (middle), and Erich (bottom) at Saturday's lunch spot. Photos - M. Feller.