



# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



**November 2008. Vol. 86, No. 9**

**Mt. Olympus in fall, 1971.**

## **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, 18 November** - The **Annual General Meeting** to be held one week later than usual, in order to avoid the long, long weekend. Entertainment will be provided by your executive and Silvia Bakovic and Greg Stoltmann, who will present a show on a recent trip to Washington's Mt. Olympus.

**Tuesday, 9 December** - Entertainment will be a show by Monika Bittel and Francis St. Pierre on climbing in the Peruvian Andes.



**McGillivray Pass on a sunny November day.**

## HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

|                             |                   |              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>PRESIDENT -</b>          | TODD PONZINI      | 604-936-9369 |
| <b>PAST-PRESIDENT -</b>     | DAVID HUGHES      | 604-980-6484 |
| <b>VICE-PRESIDENT -</b>     | DAVID SCANLON     | 604-572-5051 |
| <b>SECRETARY -</b>          | ALICE PURDEY      | 604-293-2951 |
|                             | JANE WELLER       | 604-988-3618 |
| <b>TREASURER -</b>          | CRAIG KALNIN      | 604-787-5396 |
| <b>MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -</b> |                   |              |
|                             | DERRICK JOHNSTONE | 604-505-6250 |
| <b>SOCIALS -</b>            | DONNA SCANLON     | 604-572-5051 |
|                             | ROBERT WOODHOUSE  | 604-730-0371 |
| <b>CLIMBING -</b>           | ROBERT WOODHOUSE  | 604-730-0371 |
|                             | RADMILA JAKSIC    | 604-602-0468 |
| <b>CABIN/TRAILS -</b>       | DAVID SCANLON     | 604-572-5051 |
| <b>CONSERVATION -</b>       | MONIKA BITTEL     | 604-983-3097 |
| <b>CAMPS -</b>              | ALENA DZUJKOVA    | 604-708-5385 |
| <b>FMCBC REP -</b>          | BRIAN WOOD        | 604-222-1541 |
| <b>WEBMASTER -</b>          | KEVIN SWANSON     | 604-943-4364 |
| <b>EDITOR -</b>             | MICHAEL FELLER    | 604-270-4050 |
| -----                       |                   |              |
| <b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT -</b>   | KIT GRIFFIN       | 604-736-8462 |
| <b>SATELLITE PHONE -</b>    | PETER GUMPLINGER  | 604-733-8264 |
| <b>LIBRARY -</b>            | JOAN FORD         | 604-876-4255 |

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**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [info@bcmc.ca](mailto:info@bcmc.ca)

**INTERNET SITE:** [www.bcmc.ca](http://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](mailto: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

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### November

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**1: Jeffrey Pk. C2-3/2051m**

Alastair Ferries 604-329-1637  
Hiking south of Hope. Joint trip with NSH.

**8-11: Sessel and Sugus Mtns. B2-3/2710m**

David Scanlon 604-572-5051  
Hiking and scrambling up North Ck., based at the club cabin.

**9: Mystery hike/snowshoe B2**

Tracy Leach 778-828-5681  
Hiking or snowshoeing somewhere depending on conditions. Contact the organizer for further information.

**15-16: Pender Island bike and hike B1**

Lisa Baile 604-732-5555  
The 3rd annual trip, staying at Lisa and Peter's log house. Joint trip with ACC.

**22: Panorama Ridge (ski) C3**

Ian McGillivray 604-988-3618

Early season skiing above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi park.

**29: Diamond Head (ski) B2**

Francis St. Pierre 604-224-0502  
Early season skiing east of Squamish in Garibaldi park.

### December

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

Alastair Ferries  
Snowshoeing north of Hope. Joint trip with NSH.

**6: Diamond Head (ski) B2**

Darlene Anderson 1-604-789-8020  
More early season skiing in Garibaldi park.

**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.

## Membership

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### Membership fees for 2008/09 are now due

- Membership fees for 2008-2009 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, **THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE.** You should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying 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: Mary Baker, Kimberley Bernard, Dan Cancade, Andre Chang, Daniel DeJong, Igor Dykman, Karin Gwbb, Debra Richardson, Adam Shih, Anastasia Telesetsky, and Philippa Wall.

### In Memoriam - Mary Macaree

The B.C.M.C. lost a long standing member with the death on July 31st, 2008 of Mary Macaree. Mary and her husband David joined B.C.M.C. in 1964 and over the years were active hikers and mountaineers. In later years they led weekly outings in their own community of West Vancouver. David predeceased Mary in 1998.

Mary was born in eastern Scotland in 1922, the eldest in a family of six children. She trained as a school teacher at Aberdeen University and followed that profession for a number of years. On her marriage to David in 1949 they migrated to Canada and ultimately settled in Vancouver.

Mary's next achievement was a Bachelor of Library Science from U.B.C. in 1963. She was employed by the U.B.C. Library from that date until her retirement in 1985, her final assignment being head of MacMillan Library.

Mary and David co-authored several editions of 103 Hikes in Southwestern British Columbia and 109 Walks in British Columbia's Lower Mainland. These volumes have been very popular with the public and Mary had endeavored to keep them relevant by revising them as needed. As a result of their efforts on the guidebooks, Mary and David were made honorary members of the B.C.M.C. in 1975.

Another of Mary's recent projects, together with myself, was to overhaul the Club library, a job that took several months and gave great satisfaction to two retired librarians. She had other interests

as well: travelling, Scottish country dancing, and her daily game of tennis. We have indeed lost a busy lady.

Marilyn Dutton

## Annual General Meeting, 18 November - business

Firstly note that the date of the AGM has been put back one week to avoid a clash with the previous long weekend. Two items require votes.

### 1. Proposed change to the club By-laws

"That the term "summer camp" be replaced by "camps" in section 7(a) of the By-laws. This will mean that the executive will have a "Camps chair: rather than a "Summer Camp chair", which reflects the current reality of the club holding camps in more seasons than just summer, and allows one person to co-ordinate these various camps.

### 2. Removal of money from the Literary and Reserve Fund

"That up to \$4500 be withdrawn from the Literary and Reserve Fund to assist publication of the climb-

## Canadian Alpinism: Beginnings

George Parkin Grant (1918-1988) 'has been called Canada's greatest political philosopher. To this day, his work continues to stimulate, challenge and inspire Canadians to think more deeply about matters of social justice and individual responsibility'. Grant visited Vancouver in 1975, and William Christian, in the biography of George Grant stated, 'Grant did not much like mountains and thought the scenery in all respects inferior to Terrance Bay' (p.XII).

George Parkin Grant's attitude towards the mountains was quite different from his well known and much loved grandfather, George Munro Grant (1835-1902). In the summer and autumn of 1872, Sir Sanford Fleming, George Munro Grant and others traveled by train, steamer, canoe, wagon and horseback from Halifax to Victoria. The trip was described, in detail, by Grant in *Ocean To Ocean: Sanford Fleming's Expedition Through Canada in 1872*. The tome is now a classic of 19<sup>th</sup> century Canadian literature, and a must read for adventure keeners. Grant was the secretary of the expedition, and his evocative and inviting descriptions of the trip draw the reader into the challenges and beauty of the journey. There are plenty of illustrations in

ing guide to the Cariboo and Monashee Mountains." Earle Whipple, one of the author's of the previous Columbia Mountains guides, has submitted to the club for publication, copies of updated climbing guides to the Cariboo-Monashee and Purcell mountains. The executive has decided that the club should publish the guides, beginning with that for the Cariboo-Monashee mountains. Earle has committed to provide an interest-free loan of \$3000 U.S. to the club to assist publication of the guides. Printing of 500 copies of the Cariboo-Monashee guide will cost approximately \$7500.

the book, and the thirteen chapters tell us much about Canada as it was in the latter half of the 19th century.

It is in the last few chapters (8-12) that Grant waxes eloquent, eager and enthusiastic about the West Coast and the mountains. Each of these dramatic chapters is not to be missed: 8) The Rocky Mountains, 9) Yellow Head Pass to the North Thompson River, 10) Along the North Thompson River to Kamloops, 11) From Kamloops To The Sea, and 12) The Coast, And Vancouver's Island. Those of us who live on the West Coast tend to have an abiding fascination and interest in the Waddington area. Don/Phyllis Munday opened up the appeal of this glacier thick and mountain castle terrain, and others have followed their guide and challenging lead. George Parkin Grant does not let us down in *Ocean to Ocean*; chapter 12 tells us much about the area, and the Waddington area was written and amply illustrated in 1872. 'The Coast, and Vancouver's Island' has many an enduring description and graphic sketch of Bute Inlet, Waddington Harbour, Glaciers, early maps of the area, Hamathco and Hamathco below the Defile. It is in Grant's generous portrayal of both

the area and the history of the Waddington region that we are walked into the Coast Mtns. decades before the Mundays made the place a sacred site for mountaineers.

*Ocean to Ocean* offers us a taste, and is a primer, in many ways, of early Alpinism in Canada. But, there is more to come. Sir Sanford Fleming, in *England and Canada: A Summer Tour between Old and New Westminster* (1884), has this to say. 'During the past summer (1883), circumstances induced the writer to visit England, to recross the Atlantic, and make a journey through the whole extent of Canada to the Pacific coast' (introduction). *England and Canada* is a fit and fine companion to *Ocean to Ocean*. Grant and Fleming were on both trips, the trips across Canada to the West Coast were done almost a decade apart, and both men had an attraction for the mountains.

*England and Canada* has twenty-five chapters, and chapters 13-18 vividly describe the pilgrimage through the bold peaks of Alberta and British Columbia. It is in chapter 15, though, that we are greeted with a delightful and often ignored piece of Canadian mountaineering history. Fleming unfolds the drama well in 'To the Summit of the Selkirks'. The previous chapter, 'Down Kicking-Horse Valley' (14) prepares the reader for what is about to emerge just as the following chapters, 'Down the Ille-Celle-Waet' (16-17) conclude the archivist memory well. 'To the Summit of the Selkirks' reaches its climax with these words by Fleming.

"The horses are still feeding and we have some time at our command. As we view the landscape we feel as if some memorial should be preserved of our visit here, and we organize a Canadian Alpine Club. The writer, as a grandfather, is appointed interim president, Dr. Grant, secretary, and my son, S. Hall Fleming, treasurer. A meeting was held and we turn one of the springs rippling down to the Ille-celle-waet and drink success to the organization".

There we have it. The first Alpine Club in Canada was founded in 1883 by Sir Sanford Fleming and George Munro Grant. It is a few decades after the trips taken by Grant and Fleming that Alpinism in Canada takes off in a fuller and more demanding way. This history is well tracked and traced in *Mountain Climbing Guides in Canada: The Early Years* (1977). Grant and Fleming

explored and trekked the mountains and mountain passes before mountaineering in Canada became popular and mountain guides arrived in Canada. *Ocean to Ocean* (1873) and *England and Canada* (1884) speak much about the lure and appeal of the mountains, written in evocative prose, before mountaineering in earnest began in Canada.

It should also be noted that George Munro Grant was the editor of *Picturesque Canada: The Country as it Was and Is* (1882), and, in this classic of Canadian art and literature, George Munro Grant penned the articles on British Columbia and the appeal and lofty lure of the peaks in Western Canada. *Picturesque Canada* is a Canadian classic and collectors item, and the sensitive approach of George Munro Grant did much to make it so.

The publication of *Picturesque Canada* in 1882 warmed many in Canada to Grant's aesthetic and nationalist sensibilities. Politics and mountains, art and alpinism joined affectionate hands in this literary and artistic overview of Canada at its expansive and welcoming best. It is interesting to note that *Picturesque Canada* was published by the Belden brothers, and Arnold Shives, one our finest West Coast mountain painters and climbers, is a relative of the Belden brothers. Arnold's father, Kilgour Belden Shives

(a keen west coast mountaineer), stood solidly in the Belden line and lineage, and Arnold Shives, his son, has combined both the artistic and publishing finesse of the Belden brothers with the passion for the outdoors and mountaineering. The circle does come full circle.

Canadian Alpinism has compelling origins. *Ocean to Ocean* (1873), *Picturesque Canada* and *England and Canada* (1884) are motherlodes beneath our historic feet. If we dig deeper and further, an older mountaineering tale will be told, and we will learn much about how those before us traveled through the well carved valleys, perched passes and high peaks. The beginnings of Alpinism in Canada are yet to be fully heard and faithfully retold, but when we turn to Grant, Fleming and the Belden brothers, we have surely turned to the literate and artistic origins of mountaineering history in Canada.

Ron Dart

## Events of interest

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### 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 shows \$25; package of 3 tix to all 3 shows \$35.

Advanced tickets are available online at [www.vimff.org](http://www.vimff.org); and at the Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver, (604) 984-4484.

**Thursday, November 20**, 7pm (doors and reception at 6pm)

Robbin McKinney (Vancouver) and his slide show **GREAT BIKE SHOWS OF THE WORLD.**

Gwendal Castellan and Tanie Lo: **LONG ROAD NORTH** (documentary film)

**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**

## Trip Reports

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### Tolkien Pk., 26 April 2008 - Addendum.

The report for this trip was published in our last (October) newsletter. The list of participants got electronically covered by a photo for which Adobe should apologize, but your editor will do so instead. The list of participants is - Alastair Ferries (organizer), Brad Jarema, Craig, Duanne, Jeff, Josh, Jorge Parra, Marek, Mark B., Mark T., Michelle, Misha, Stephanie, and Ye Chu (reporter).

### Mt. Shuksan via the Fisher Chimneys, 2-4 August, 2008

Fred Becky waxed poetic in his description of Mt. Shuksan in the Cascade Alpine Guide. So when this climb showed up in the BCMC schedule I jumped at the chance to go and have a closer look at it. The forecast was for three days of sunshine but rain was splashing on our windshield as we drove toward the Mt. Baker area. Andrej had the trip well organized, with the four rope teams of four each traveling together in the same vehicle with their ropes, snow stakes, ice screws, pulleys and other paraphernalia potentially useful for crossing glaciers. We hung out by a warm fireplace in the Mt. Baker visitor center until the precipitation more or less abated (the nearby Bible Center had refused us entry), then saddled up and hiked along a soggy trail to a ridge above Lake Ann. We hit the hay early, as Andrej wanted us up at 3:30 am. I thought that this was optimistic, given the soggy sky, but when I went out for a leak during the night I almost shouted out with joy as the sky was ablaze with stars.

We left camp at about 4:30 am, staying high on the

snow slopes and scree slopes until we approached the Lower Curtis Glacier. Andrej found the lower entrance to the Fisher Chimney. It is not obvious and starts well before one reaches the Lower Curtis Glacier, then angles up to the left above this glacier. One needs to leave the tourist trail at 10 U 600404 5409481 (on WGS84 UTM grid), and then head for about 100m West (up & right) towards the entrance into the lower gully at 10 U 600509 5409493. From there we scrambled up the gully, trending towards climber's right, until we reached a scree slope at 10 U 600706 5409515. We traversed across the slope for about 300m heading North-West, reaching the entrance into the upper part of the Chimneys at 10U 600993 5409683.

Some climbers reach the entrance to the upper part of the Fisher Chimneys by staying on the tourist trail until it ends at Lower Curtis Glacier, then traversing to the climber's left of the glacier until below the scree slope, and then climb straight up towards the entrance into the upper part of the chimney. Actually, this is probably one of the original variants of the Fisher Chimneys route – but these days most people seem to follow the former route through the lower chimneys.

The Chimney itself is fairly straight forward, with a few Class 3 moves to add some interest, before one is spat out onto a snowfield above (10 U 601324 5409646). The upper portion of this snowfield consists of "Winnies Slide" (10 U 601642 5409668), a steep snow slope where presumably a lady by the name of Winifred took a whipper in the days of yore. The Slide now sports a fixed rope, more useful

for the descent then the ascent.

Above Winnies Slide is a rocky ledge where we roped up for the ascent of the Upper Curtis Glacier. The start of this ascent is steep and icy and then moderates to a reasonably flat glacier, pock-marked with an occasional yawning crevasse. The Upper Curtis Glacier then necks into a steep jumble of snow and ice called “Hell’s Highway” (10 U 601900 5408931), before it turns left, to the north, and joins Sulfide Glacier.

The summit pyramid soars above the north end of the Sulfide Glacier. There’s a damp, Class 3 gully running up the middle of this pyramid or one can ascend via the airy West Ridge. I hiked up the upper half of the West Ridge, passing roped climbers who were grumpy over such temerity. There were well over 20 climbers on the peak, including a guided party of four and two other smaller, private parties. The views from the summit were spectacular, especially of the nearby Mt. Baker massif.

But all good things must come to an end so we down-climbed and rappelled off the peak and then roped up and trudged back down to our bivy site. There were a few slips on the way and some of us had to use our self-arrest maneuvers. We straggled into camp around 9:30 - 10 pm, exhausted yet exhilarated over our adventure. We slept in late Monday morning then had breakfast, packed, saddled up and hiked out in the blazing hot sun to the trailhead, where Paul had a six-pack buried in the snow. The resuscitating qualities of the cold brew were as close to a religious experience as this writer will probably ever get. At Graham’s quaint pub in the town of Glacier we all gathered around a long table and inhaled fish tacos, cold brew, other sustenance and toasted Andrej for a splendid job in leading this trip.

Climbers: Alena Dzukova, Marc Hewitt, Andrew Brown, Clemence Tatin-Jaleran, Darryl Leniuk, Dan Lord, Paul Gaudry, Derek Jones, Nancy Manning, Peter Steiner, Sean Pickersgill, Alan Brelsford, Luke Vivier, Radmila Jaksic, Andrej Dobos (organizer), and Gordon Esplin (reporter).

### **Mt. Davis in Dismal Desperation, 4-5 October, 2008**

The title reflects the outlook of one participant; for the first time in 36 years your editor finally attended our annual early autumn classic ramble through the Coquihalla countryside. With Mike also comes

unusual weather, but this trip was a grudge match. Poor route advice, low clouds, and very slippery wet snow foiled our attempt last year, which saw the party sliding to a halt when confronted by an unexpected and near vertical north face just below the summit. This year it was weather-be-dammed, we are going to the summit by the easiest route. Veteran “attendor”, Norm Hansen, googled some colour aerial photos off the internet to make sure that we would be on the easiest route possible. Quite a good retrieval for a 74-year-old school forester. The pictures showed rugged north and northeast faces complemented by an opposing gentle slope dipping to the south, topographically mimicking the underlying stratigraphic dip of the conglomerate and sandstone strata.

The plan, or “platform”, as the politicians would say these days, was to hike with overnight packs to aptly named Conglomerate Flats, set up camp among the heather and boulders in sunshine, and then stroll to historic Palmer Pond (featured on the BCMC calendar – 2008) to round out an easy day, before lounging around an evening campfire. But, weatherman, Hooley, had a well-advertised wet weekend in store, and for a change, his forecast was spot-on! Sunshine at the politically-motivated destruction site at the Coquihalla toll booth, now in full swing, quickly changed to rain while driving down the Tulameen Forestry road. New extensive clear cuts in the pine-beetled forest gave way to several hunting camps shortly before reaching the Sutter Creek crossing. To the south of this drainage hunting can only take place on foot. Thus, the Jacobson Lake Forest Service Campsite was again empty for our exclusive use.

Rainfall ceased temporarily while the luxurious car camp set up prevailed: propane barbecue, large tents, leaky rain tarps over two tables, cast iron frying pans with steaks a sizzling, gas lantern, an embarrassing thick mattress in one tent, and even s’mores and beer! Rainfall resumed soon after, becoming heavier, and not even a roaring campfire would vaporize the deluge. Hansen’s dripping tarp eventually persuaded all of us to hit the sack, with three hardy stalwarts electing to sleep in their vehicles! Sunday morning provided a surprise: little moisture from the sky but snow was on the ground. Slowly, the troops readied for the climb, with Ellen bemoaning the complete loss of air in her rear tire. This problem was ignored in favour of trudging up

the muddied Brigade Trail to Conglomerate Flats in a brisk three quarters of an hour. By this time Holly was getting the hang of using her husband's GPS unit, announcing that we had a too fast pace rate of four km/hr and we were less than a kilometre from the summit. Her instructor, Norm Hansen, concurred after checking his unit, but Erich, with his micro-sized receiver, set on NAD 27 (instead of 83), was obstinate as usual.

Traversing southeasterly across the Flats and onto an east-facing open slope with slippery footing, an obvious open gully was reached and ascended to the skyline on the lowest point of the ridge connecting Mt. Davis and an unnamed hump to the south. From there, Ed led the hike around Krummholz groves, through heather, and up scree to a cairnless summit in a cool breeze: time - 2.75 hours from camp. Not bad going for a group averaging 63.3 years in age, ranging from Holly at 51 to Bert at 76. The weather certainly provided the impetus for the quick ascent, notwithstanding Ellen's plight with a flat tire to fix before garages closed at Merritt. The summit had a small pond and nearby campfire ring; we added a cairn which now houses our BCMC Centennial record, apologizing for not getting it there last year.

Departure was swift and it began snowing again before camp was reached. The sighting of a grizzly bear at the "Flats" did not materialize at all, coming or going, despite said bear being seen there by a hunter on the day before, though we did pass by a few Franklin's (Spruce) grouse. Pumping up Ellen's tire proved to be successful for the 46 km ride to the highway where the gang split homeward in two directions, north and south.

The trip was a "salvaged" success; Mike's knees did not give out despite the lack of useful cartilage in either and, yes, Ellen did reach the garage at Merritt with 15 minutes to spare to have her slow tire leak fixed. Next year, however, the Coquihalla entourage has asked to have the trip scheduled one weekend earlier to, hopefully, upgrade it from "dismal" to "somewhat favourable" weather-wise!

Participants (oldest to youngest): Bert Parke, Norm Hansen, Karl Ricker (age  $2^6 + 2^{1/3}$ , organizer and reporter), Ed Zenger, Michael Feller, Ellen Woodd, Evelyn Feller, Erich Hinze, and Holly Colquhoun. Mt. Davis (2012 m): via east and south-facing slopes by way of Conglomerate Flats using the historic Brigade Trail (1846-1861). Not ascended

very often!

### **Cayoosh Mtn. (2590 m), 8-9 March, 2008**

A popular and relatively short trip, Cayoosh is accessed from the first logging road at the apex of the Duffey Lake road. After a relatively dry February we were now facing the possibility of stormy weather. The weather forecast was less than promising, especially for Sunday. As a result, Peter decided we should climb the peak via the standard east glacier route on Saturday and stay over to explore the seldom-visited northeast glacier route on Sunday. A Saturday climb meant an earlier start and we were away from St. David's church in West Vancouver a little after 6:30 am. We arrived at the first logging road near the summit of the Duffey Lake road around 10 am.

The route follows a relatively short logging road into the Cayoosh side valley. A new cabin near the end of the logging road is about an hour from the highway. After visiting the cabin, which was being used this weekend, we proceeded to a small clearing just beyond the cabin site at about 1450 m. Here we set up camp and grabbed some lunch before starting up. A short distance further up the valley, we came to a clearing near the bottom of the run out from the east glacier. From here the route climbs semi-open slopes until it reaches the east glacier. This access to the east glacier is a preferred route from that followed on previous trips, where we headed directly to the first creek basin valley SE of the peak then contoured around the bluffs to the east glacier valley.

With relatively good visibility, the ski route up the east glacier on moderately steep slopes proceeded quickly. At the head of the glacier, we passed through a narrow gap onto the glacier bench/pass that separates the east and northeast valleys of Cayoosh. We ascended the steep slope on skis to a small plateau just south of the peak. The last short section, as usual, was somewhat rocky and unconsolidated, so most of us left our skis and booted to the top.

We were greeted with variable visibility, especially toward the North Joffre Creek side and wind warning of an advancing front. After a short stay, we retreated to the glacier pass below the summit for an additional lunch break. The ski down was a little tricky as the slope was a little sun-baked and east and south facing aspects were somewhat



**Cayoosh Mtn. from the NE. Photo - D. Hughes.**

grabby. The north sides of the lower gunnels of the glacier provided the best skiing. We arrived back at our camp after 4 pm. From here Ove and Ilze had to leave as they had joined us only for the day. Overnight did not bring the snow as forecast so we had some hope we could repeat a ski ascent via the northeast valley. Peter, Silke, Greg, Chilko and I left camp under overcast skies and started up the valley past the east glacier run out. Travel up the valley forest to the north was easy going. Within a short time we were in the open heading up the valley, which was now bending around to the west.

On reaching a frozen lake at 1830 m we had a decision to make. The first alternative is to ascend slopes on the east side then to proceed along a bench to the 2135 m level. This is the route described on Bivouac.com. The route does have the disadvantage of traversing under steep east side slopes on the upper bench. If these slopes avalanche, you could be swept over the bench's cliffs. The second option is to proceed directly up the valley to the toe of the glacier and up a steep ramp on the glacier.

We chose the first option and started up the east side quickly running into a short hard frozen section where we had to climb a short distance carrying the skis. The upper portion of the slope to the upper bench was easier but our visibility was disappearing. On reaching the end of the upper bench, we were greeted with whiteout conditions.

After tentatively exploring the traverse onto the northeast glacier in the fog, we decided to retreat to the lake below. As we turned around, we met Isabel Budke and Steve coming over from the pass that leads to the Marriott Basin cabin. They had camped at the low point on the ridge that forms the east side of the Cayoosh valley. This ridge crest also forms the head of Seven Mile Creek valley. Back at the lake, Peter and I decided to check out option 2. We proceeded to the toe of the glacier and up the obvious ramp to the point close to where we would connect to our first option route. The ramp however was sufficiently steep that we had to boot track up and down. Both routes work but have their disadvantages.



**Heading towards Cayoosh Mtn. Photo – D. Hughes.**

Back to the lake again we elected to ascend the ridge to the Seven Mile Creek pass. Peter, Greg, Chilko and I decided to continue further up the ridge to the pass with the Marriott Basin. From here we could see the Marriott Basin cabin and a good north facing ski slope that provides a local ski traverse route between Marriott Basin and the Cayoosh valley.

We then turned and skied back to camp with a relatively quick descent. From camp the route back to the access-logging road is straightforward and the descent to the cars was less than two hours.

There are four steep side valleys on the east side of Cayoosh. The first accesses a valley southeast of Cayoosh and is described in Matt Gunn's "Scrambles" guidebook. The second is the normal ski route. The third steep side glacier dead ends on a subsidiary peak east of the main summit area and the pass that connects the east and northeast glaciers. The fourth, the northeast glacier route, provides a second worthwhile weekend objective to reach the peak of Cayoosh. The route tops out at the bottom of the same last slope used to access the peak from the east glacier. The northeast glacier route, however, is quite steep and crosses slopes that have higher avalanche danger than the east glacier. Caution should be exercised.

Participants: Saturday: Ove Albinsson, Ilze Rupners, Silke and Peter Gumplinger (organizer), Brad Badelt, Trevor Norman, Greg Stoltmann, and Chilko and David Hughes (reporter).

Sunday: Peter, Silke, David, Chilko, and Greg undertook the reconnaissance of the northeast valley.

### **Tulameen River Summits, 16-17 August, 2008**

I had originally planned to organize this joint ACC-BCMC trip as an overnight to Coquihalla Mountain, but after considering the lengthy drive to the area and the fact that another summit in the area, Tulameen Mountain, deserved some attention, I decided to coordinate a more ambitious two summit weekend. This plan called for an early start, a lot of driving and potentially some long days of hiking. A solid weather forecast produced significant interest in the trip and I had to cut off participation at 12 people, probably a little on the large side. In the end only 10 people made it to the 5am meeting Saturday morning and we headed off for the Coquihalla. After

passing the toll booth we turned off at Coquihalla Lakes and followed logging roads to Illal Creek road where the trail began. This fantastic trail leads up into beautiful alpine terrain surrounding Coquihalla Mountain. We ascended talus and heather slopes below the north face of Coquihalla and clambered up the northeast ridge towards the summit. Despite looking somewhat difficult, ledges and some pleasant scrambling led to the upper East Ridge and the final summit and 9 of 10 trip participants made it to the rewarding summit, from which we could see the impressive North Cascades and our destination for Sunday, Tulameen.

As is likely predictable with such a large group, we had a slight discombobulated period during the descent when a splinter party broke off from the main group for a technically easier, but unexpectedly longer route down. After a short wait the entire group was reunited below Coquihalla's North Face and we all trudged back towards the cars, stopping briefly for swim in one of the many tarns in the area. Once back at the cars, we packed up and zoomed south along the Tulameen River Road to a Forest Rec Site en route to Tulameen Mountain. We had the site to ourselves and enjoyed some good conversation during dinner before an early bedtime, anticipating a lengthy Sunday.

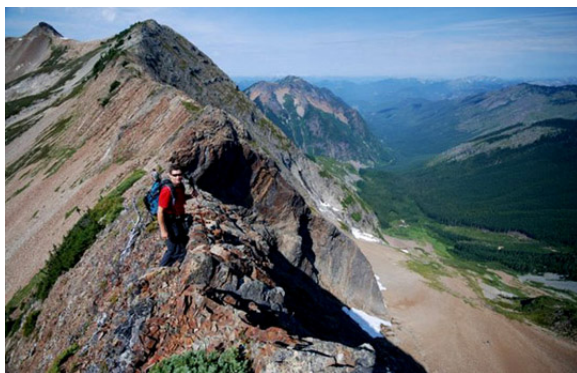
The next day's weather wasn't as solid as had been predicted, but would certainly be acceptable for a day of hiking. We drove up the Treasure Mountain road to a view point overlooking the forested access to Tulameen's Northeast Ridge. It was apparent at this point that there would be a few kilometers of bushwacking to access the alpine, which seemed to have a dampening affect on group moral. Understandably, two of the participants, who faced a more lengthy drive back, decided at this point they would now head back to town rather than wind up getting home at a ridiculously late hour. Their departure left eight participants and what might be described as slight concern regarding the sensibility of the proposed route. Regardless, we parked at the gate to some sort of tourist yurt facility and headed into the woods. Thankfully the bush was fairly easy and in short order the group was established on the Northeast Ridge heading towards the summit. The route involved considerable alpine ridge travel and time was slipping by as we wandered towards the summit. Summit fever began to take hold and after a quick meeting, a group of five split off with

the hopes of making the top while the other group members decided to enjoy the pleasant ridgeline travel. We crossed scree slopes to the south ridge, and headed up an easy ridge to the summit. After a short stay on top we turned tail and headed back to reconnect with the rest of the group, stopping only for a quick dip in a beautiful tarn below the summit. The entire group reunited above the bushwack to romp down to the cars and the long drive home. Of course, a car accident outside of Chilliwack ensured a very late return to the city.

Participants: Ziff House, Gerry Kollmus, Ye Chu, Helen Habgood, Ed Fisher, Stephen France, Lisa Thorne, Jenny Faulkner, John Sapac and Matt Gunn (organizer and reporter)



**On Coquihalla Mtn. Photo - M. Gunn.**



From top, clockwise – heading for Coquihalla Mtn., heading up Tulameen Mtn. (2 photos), flowery meadows near Tulameen Mtn., the group on Coquihalla Mtn. Photos – M. Gunn.