



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



October 2008. Vol. 86, No. 8

Fall near Pinecone Lake.

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, 14 October - Entertainment will be a show by Todd Ponzini on - First ascents within a two hour drive of Vancouver - nine days around Falk Lake.

Tuesday, 18 November - The **Annual General Meeting** to be held one week later than usual, in order to avoid the long, long week-end. Entertainment will be provided by your executive and a slide show will be presented.



Mt. Rexford from the east in October.

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
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	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
2 courteous and inform the trip organizer.

Trip Schedule

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.

11-18: Red Rocks (rock climbing) **A-D**
Peter Woodsworth 604-254-7076
Rock climbing camp in the U.S. desert, featuring day hikes, canyoning, and multi-pitch rock climbs.

25-26: Ben Lomond **B3/1654 m**
Michael Feller 604-270-4050
Scrambling above Howe Sound in the Mountain Lake area. The organizer may not be able to go but will still organize the trip.

November

8: Mystery hike/snowshoe **B2**
Tracy Leach 778-828-5681
Hiking or snowshoeing somewhere, depending on conditions.

8-11: North Ck. **B2-3**
David Scanlon 604-572-5051
Based in the club cabin, ascending nearby peaks.

Membership

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 this newsletter, indicating if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, read and sign the waiver on the reverse side, then send in the signed form with appropriate dues.

Membership dues are -

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

New Members

The club welcomes the following new associate members: Jonathan Armstrong, Magnus Byne, Andy Devlin, John Forsyth, Sylvia Lambert, Colin Leech-Porter, Julie Lowry, Corinne Moore, Christian Ian McCormack, Louis Moskven, Curtis Pollock, Renata Saunders, Diane Whiteley, Don Whiteley, and Brenda Yamanaka.

What club members are doing

The club wishes to congratulate Derrick Johnstone and Amy Weber on their recent marriage.

In Memoriam - After a brief illness, Halvor Lunden passed away in the palliative care ward of Vancouver General Hospital on 30 July 2008. Born in Norway in 1915, he came to Canada in 1951. He is survived by his wife Edna. Halvor's passions were the outdoors - mountains, trail making, gardening. His contributions to people and the environment were many, including the Halvor Lunden Trail. He leaves many family members in Norway and England, and friends in Canada, to grieve his passing. At Halvor's request there will be no funeral. Donations in Halvor's memory may be made to the Nature Trust Fund of British Columbia, #260 1000 Roosevelt Crescent, North Vancouver, BC, V7P

3R4 or the Land Conservancy, 301-1195 Esquimalt Road, Victoria, BC, V9A 3N6. An online obituary and guest book has been created at <http://www.legacy.com/CAN/Obituaries.asp>?

Activities in the Norwegian mountains made him an excellent climber, skier, and guide, though starvation was common during the war. His thanks to Canada, when he immigrated, prompted his trail building. Nearly always alone, with chainsaw, clippers and other tools he established trails, particularly in the Buntzen Lake area, where he was given a key to the gate by BC Hydro to enable him to continue after hours.

Other areas of the lower mainland also are identified by his large rectangular grey markers on trees. He even found time to enjoy climbs with the BCMC, latterly more often with

the fast group of the North Shore Hikers. He was a veritable unsung hero.
Joyce Davies

In memoriam - Mary Macaree

Mary Macaree also passed away on 30 July, 2008. Mary co-wrote two classic outdoor guide-books with her husband David: 103 Hikes in Southwestern BC, and 109 Walks in BC's Lower Mainland. She was working on the latest edi-

tion of 109 Walks when she took ill just a week before her death. A full obituary will appear in our next newsletter.

A celebration of Mary's life will be held at the West Vancouver Senior Centre (695 21st St. west Vancouver), Saturday, 18 October, at 4.30 pm.

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

climbing 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.

BCMC Executive News

At their September meeting, **your executive decided -**

1) not to renew our satellite phone subscription until it is needed - probably next spring. This will save money for the club.

2) keys to the gates on the Furry Ck logging roads could be given to non-BCMC members, but these people need to be screened, provide a \$50 deposit, and pay fees for use of the Mountain Lake cabin in advance of their trip.

3) to approve the car cost guidelines recommended by Werner Grzimek and Francis St. Pierre. **These guidelines appear below. The executive requires feedback on these guidelines by the end of November, so they can be finalized.** Feedback can be given to the executive by email to info@bcmc.ca.

4) have their next meeting at the Community His-

tory Centre of North Vancouver, to assess the possibility of housing the club archives and library there.

Other activities of your executive include -

1. Communicating by email about forthcoming trips and developing a system which allows members to add and edit trips on the schedule, after vetting by the climbing chairs.

2. Dave Scanlon continues to discuss with First Nations and government officials, the location of a future club cabin site.

3. Discussing ideas for club programs, refreshers, skills development, and camps that would offer more value to members and assist in integrating new members. Francis St. Pierre is assessing membership opinions to facilitate this.

4. Kevin Swanson is beginning to convert old

newsletters into electronic format.

5. Monika Bittel has revised the liability waivers for the club.

Proposed Guidelines for payment by passengers to drivers of cars on club trips

Drivers: Pay "in kind" with car, cleaning costs, driving time (while passengers can rest, relax etc.)

Passengers: Pay a per kilometer fee of 10% the price of 1 litre of gasoline (currently approximately \$0.14 per km.) covering passenger and luggage (pack, etc.). This rate is per passenger, when one or two passengers are on board. If three or more passengers share the vehicle with the driver, they split the total cost for 2 passengers.

Extra Costs: For unpaved road over 3 km, each person pays an extra \$5.

For driving on rough 4WD logging roads, this fixed fee becomes \$10 per person.

Luggage/Equipment: Any luggage or equipment transferred to another vehicle is accompanied by a \$10 fare.

Distribution: Trip leaders and all club members should fairly distribute passengers to all vehicles.

Discretion: Exceptions and hardships should be dealt with at the driver's discretion.

Example - Garibaldi Lake Road (182 km round trip from St. David's)

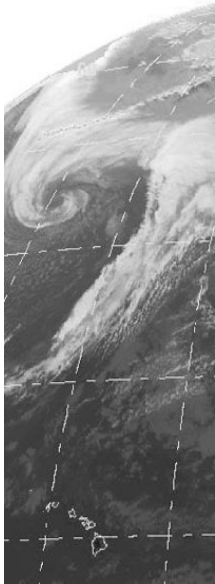
One Passenger: \$25.48

Two Passengers: \$25.48 each (\$50.96 total)

Three Passengers: \$16.99 each (\$50.96 ÷ 3)

Four Passengers: \$12.74 each (\$50.96 ÷ 4)

Weather Education - Applied Mountain Meteorology



Is the weather in British Columbia important to you? Do you want to understand what is going to happen exactly when and where it matters to you? The BC Weather Education Series is a set of educational courses aimed at people whose life and work depend on weather. They provide a firm understanding of basic meteorology, interpretation of Internet resources, practical observations and forecasting techniques in the field. Taught and developed by a certified BC meteorologist, the courses are based on the professional weather-training courses of the Canadian Avalanche Association.

You will gain tools and knowledge needed to check observations and forecasts prior to a trip that are publicly available on the Internet (bring your Internet-laptop, if you have one!).

In the field you will be able to recognize signs of changing weather and alter the forecast and trip accordingly. Additionally you will get a firm grasp of weather patterns in British Columbia and be able to use a huge array of tools such as satellite imagery, weather charts and weather observations.

When: Friday–Sunday, January 9(evening) - 11, 2009

Where: TBA, (Vancouver Area)

Participants: Minimum 8–maximum 16 enthusiastic people

Cost: \$420. (The fee includes work material, handouts, electronic references and internet resources. A deposit of \$100 is required.)

Very useful: Bring your wireless laptop

Contact: Uwe Gramann at **250.877.3785** or weather@uniserve.com

News

China and Nepal lock down Everest

From an article in the Winter, 2008, issue of the New Zealand Alpine Club's magazine, "The Climber" –

China got its moment of glory on May 8, when a Chinese and Tibetan team summited Everest via

the North Ridge and lit the Olympic torch. The ethnically mixed team was perhaps meant to represent Tibetan and Chinese unity, but anyone paying attention to what was going on elsewhere on the mountain and in Tibet could never be fooled, writes Francesca Eldrige.

As the Olympic torch team triumphed, soldiers patrolled both the Tibet (north) and Nepal (south) sides of Everest. All climbers on the Nepal side had to sign papers issued by the Nepalese government, promising not to proceed above Camp Two before May 10. No signature, no climbing permit. Anti-China banners - aka pro-Tibet banners - and an audio-visual devices that might harm "bilateral relations between Nepal and China" were banned, and each teams' electronic gear was locked in police storage at Base Camp (BC) until May 10. In other words, contact with the rest of the world was heavily restricted.

The papers also stated the Nepali government could take action against anyone breaching laws related to bilateral relations between Nepal and their 'friendly (neighbouring) country'.

Nepal also banned all media from BC and banned climbers from talking to media. Climbers even had to be careful they weren't overheard speaking the word 'Tibet'. An independent climber was kicked off the mountain for having a 'Free Tibet' flag and banned from Nepal for two years.

On the north side, Tibet was closed to climbers, media and tourists alike following the Tibetan protests and subsequent massacres, which began in Lhasa on March 10. China announced the ban on climbing Everest from the Tibet side, effective April 1, in a letter to expedition companies from the China Tibet Mountaineering Association, which stated: 'Concern over climbing activities, crowded climbing routes and increasing environmental pressures will cause potential safety problems in Qomolangma (Everest) area. We are not able to accept your expedition, so please postpone your climbing.'

So, overcrowding and environmental damage on Everest are a problem only when an Olympic torch is being taken to the summit?

Nepal was a little more honest. Tourism minister Prithvi Suba Gurung announced the closure, explaining, 'This is to prevent some people who could infiltrate and cause trouble during the time when they take the torch to the top.'

China's megalomaniacal approach is hardly surprising, but why did Nepal, a supposedly democratic nation with a constitution that allows free speech, go along with all this? The finger is pointing squarely at a 121 million Euro soft loan

from China for a couple of Nepali power projects. Three days after this loan was announced, Nepal placed the restriction on Everest climbers. It probably didn't help that the recent Nepal election was won by the Maoists.

Adventure Consultants director Guy Cotter helped set up BC on the Nepal side in April then returned to New Zealand. When asked how the situation had affected his team, he responded:

'Just the presence of the soldiers was intimidating.....they were packing rifles at Camp Two and had threatened to use them on anyone who went above Camp Two before May 10.

'What I found difficult to accept was that when we paid for permits, we had an agreement with the Ministry of Tourism stating we only had to stay below Camp Three. Then the military changed the rules on us once we were there.

'No one could go above Camp Two until the Chinese were off the mountain, so it affected the acclimatization routines we know work and put more pressure on.'

Cotter said the biggest challenge for him was the thought all the 'hassles' might prevent clients from summiting. 'If the weather had not been so kind at the end of the season, there could have been some real serious crowding issues on the few good weather days.

'The Nepalese were just trying to keep their northern neighbors happy. I think it amazing climbers should be seen as being a threat to the security of a nation like China. But if a country like Nepal wants to achieve growth in their tourist industry, actions like these are not the way forward. It was the military changing the rules that really got to me more than anything.'

Parking and theft problems at the Pierce Lake trailhead in the Chilliwack valley

Apparently cars are getting warning notices from the police regarding the no parking overnight along the Chilliwack Lake Road while parked in the usual place. It is unclear if someone is being overzealous or if it the government's intent to prevent overnight parking for people camping at Pierce Lake.

Also, there are reports of many cars being broken into at this trailhead. And, even worse, apparently the thieves look around in your car to find out

where you live and then go to your house and steal everything in it since they know you are out camping, as happened to a VOC group.

So, perhaps the police presence isn't the worst thing, and probably part of their intention is to curb the crime in the area, but an access problem is also being created.

From Scott Webster, of the VOC.

BC Parks is surveying visitors to the Bugaboos to assist management

BC Parks is considering restricting numbers of visitors to the Bugaboos to reduce crowding and

is asking visitors their opinions about this. Currently an average of about 60 people per day visit the Bugaboos in summer. BC Parks is also considering placing a Via Ferrata-type structure to provide easier access to the Bugaboo-snowpatch col area. This would start on Snowpatch Spire and ascend the rock buttress to the left of the current standard approach. This would theoretically reduce the number of accidents there. Brad Percival has concerns about these actions. He can be contacted at brad.darb@gmail.com

Access Notes

Zenith Lake trail/route to be logged

The lower part of the Zenith Lake trail/route goes through a timber sale cutblock. That section of the trail will be re-routed closer to the creek to go through a wildlife tree patch (non-harvested) section of the block.

North Ck. trail has been recently re-routed

Dave Scanlon reports -

There is now a trail on the east side of North Creek linking up with the old trail after the original

first crossing of North Ck. From parking on the east side mainline of North Creek, at Delilah Creek - as far as one can drive), you walk about 3.1 km on the logging road, then drop down to the valley bottom and then it is 1.4 km on the new trail to meet up with the old trail at the river crossing.

Place Glacier trail is now cleared

Dave Scanlon lead another trail clearing trip to the trail from the Darcy area up to Place Glacier. All fallen trees were removed and the trail is now quite passable.

Trip Reports

Mount Breakenridge, 15-16 March, 2008

A 6:30 meet time was set for the Chevron south of Grandview Hwy and Boundary Road in Vancouver for Saturday morning. From here 4 of us piled into Greg's Isuzu and headed out to another Chevron on 200th Street in Langley. Here at just after 7 we met Cameron and Eduard to complete the party. Some packs were transferred to Cameron's truck and the party was on its way. Once at Harrison Hot Springs we drove to the east side and proceeded a long way up this gravel road. At Bear Creek we happened upon a vehicle just off the road at a wild tilt. The owners were sheepishly sitting at the side of the road and Cameron stopped to talk. There was no way we could pull them out. They wanted to circumnavigate the lake in a normal car. Do the roads make this possible? We didn't think so.

About 10 km up Big Silver Creek from Silver River is a bridge across the creek and this was our turnoff. The 1st right was ignored and after some switchbacking a fork was reached with a sign indicating E and W forks. We went right to the east. A few nasty ditches later we parked at about 400 m. We started at 10:30 and probably walked no more than a ½ hour before donning skins. The road had just curved north into the main drainage of English Creek which is SW of Breakenridge's summit area. From here it was north for perhaps a kilometer to where a steeper left fork goes up. We took this fork and after another kilometer or so came to another left fork which we ignored. Lunch was at the top of the clearcut at about 1100 m. After 2 more isolated clearcuts we entered natural forest and trailbreaking became heavier, as did the clouds.

Peter, having some familiarity with route, led the way. He also had his trusty GPS. At about 3:15, having ascended unnecessarily to an open ridge in fairly thick fog we spied a lake down and to the east. Peter recognized this lake as one near which he had snowcamped on a previous ski trip and confirmed this with the GPS and suggested we camp there, and so we did. The fog was too thick to inspire us to yo-yo ski above the lake so we set up camp and commenced with the usual activities. There were definitely question marks about the visibility.

On Sunday morning it was up at 6 to note that the fog was still there. Greg conferred with Peter and Silke and the consensus was to wait an hour. At 7 everyone got up and the visibility was no different. Nevertheless Peter, with his GPS, was quite eager to give it a go.

So after he had plotted coordinates off the map he entered them into the GPS. At 8:50 we left the 1400 m lake and headed up into the clouds, being guided by GPS waypoints. This went on and on and on and it was surprising when we found ourselves already halfway up the first big alpine slope at 1700 m – all this in a whiteout. But there was more to come, in fact all the way to the summit - for 7:30 without any view but the straining search for dark features amidst the white. As it was windy we didn't linger and immediately walked back down the summit ridge to the skis below and retraced the uptrack to a flat at around 1700 m for lunch. The visibility did open up a bit just before camp but didn't agree with Environment Canada's sun/cloud forecast. We packed up and skinned up to our initial uptracks and then took skins off. We began the final ski out just before 4:30 and the vehicles were reached at 6:15. It seems that the combination of having a GPS and it being mostly cloudy as opposed to a snowstorm was enough to give it a shot but the organizer wants to try again next year for a view.

Participants: Peter and Silke Gumplinger, Cameron Long, Eduard Bron, Jane Weller, and Greg Stoltmann (Organizer and reporter).

Cypress Peak (2083m), 3 May, 2008

After the usual car sorting-out at the Church at 6.30 am, under the drizzle, and the gas/coffee stop in Squamish, the three cars turned into Chance Creek Road. We only managed to drive



Skiing up Cypress. Photos - C. Tatin-Jaleran.

up 3 km of logging road to where Roe Creek Main branches off the Chance Creek road. Our convoy would have been stopped even earlier if not for Dave skillfully punching his 4-Runner through several snow patches. Snow covered the remaining 8.5km of road, which we skinned up in two and half hours. Precipitation had stopped by then and our way up the road was only interrupted by the noise of avalanches on the other side of the valley and the roaring engines of four snowmobilers who, to their credit, overtook us at slow speed and obvious consideration.

After a quick snack break we dropped down into Roe Creek before starting the ascent of the steep slope above the creek. The snow was quite wet and since we observed a few sloughs, we spread out and steadily skied up, at a meditating pace. Another short food stop to fuel up, gave us

clearing skies to spot our route... We reached the ridge a few minutes later and discovered beautiful views. Four of us kept skinning further up towards the summit while Paul and Dave booted their way up from the low point along the ridge. We all reached the top of Cypress Peak, ice-axes in hands, and admired Tricouni, Fee and the surrounding mountains as clouds dissipated. Once again, as we were taking pictures and enjoying 360-views from the summit, we tried to convince ourselves that bees were back in large numbers, but three other snowmobilers appeared from an adjacent valley while others were 'playing' around our up-tracks. We had a late lunch and at 3:30 pm started our way down. Warm and sunny conditions had turned the snow into heavy springtime cover. We needed another stop before hitting the logging road, where we had more drinks and snacks. Skiing down was quite fast despite a few up-hills, and we were back at the vehicles around 5:45 pm, about 9 hours after we started. Later we enjoyed a hearty long-awaited meal at the Watershed in Squamish.

Participants: Darlene Anderson, Paul Geddes, Liam Grimes, Silke Gumplinger, Dave Henwood, Darryl Leniuk, Peter Gumplinger (organizer), and Clémence Tatin-Jaleran (reporter)

Mt. Gabbro, 28 June 2008

On Widgeon Peak just before it clouded in I had one of those great hiking sights - completely unexpected, a dramatic looking mountain. It was roughly 3 km to the north, and about the same height as the surrounding mountains. Unlike them though, the summit was a tusk with what seemed like 60 m of near vertical west, south and east sides. Back home looking at the map I was surprised to see that it had a name. It was Mt. Gabbro and a report on Bivouac.com said that the approach was bushy. I decided to first try it from the north - going up the Widgeon Creek road and then bushwacking up Hanging Creek valley to Gabbro's north ridge.

Despite it being a cloudy day, everything went well. The bush wasn't bad and although it was white-out conditions above 1,300m according to my map, altimeter and newly bought GPS I reached the summit. I was actually a bit disappointed that it was so easy - the north ridge was a 30 degree

walk. And the east side seemed to be a lot less dramatic than I remembered. Anyway this was a rarely climbed mountain so I put it on the schedule and planned to write a trip report afterwards relating what pleasant near-to-Vancouver canoe/hikes Widgeon and Gabbro were.

At 6 am Ramsay Dyer, Brett McConochie, Dave Roberts, Mike Symchuck and I left Grant Narrows in two canoes. The tide was high and we were at the campsite up Widgeon Slough in less than an hour. Three hours later in thick bush above Hanging Creek, I pointed out Gabbro through a hole in the bush. It was indeed dramatic. After a minute or two Brett said that it seemed pretty close to Widgeon. It did seem pretty close to Widgeon. I realized that it couldn't be Gabbro. It was a spike on the ridge between the two. We pushed on through much worse bush than I remembered. Finally we gained the ridge and firm snow which covered the bush. Soon we had our first view of Gabbro. Again it was gratifyingly dramatic - I hadn't led the group on a bush thrash to climb a bump. But where was the 30 degree north ridge? Maybe as we headed north-west it would reveal itself. This didn't happen. What I had summited was the high point on the north ridge just before the 60m higher and 90 degree north wall of the true summit. There was a drop between the two that wasn't marked on my Trim map. We made our way to my earlier highpoint (which someone named Vicki Gabreau) and evaluated. We had no rope or gear, we couldn't see anything less than class 5, and to get around to the south was a big drop and not straightforward. Furthermore we were running short of time.

This was one of the most annoying hikes that I have ever been on. Thanks to all for being such good sports — everyone chose to do this day hike on a long weekend just to get this rarely climbed peak in.

Alastair Ferries (Organizer and reporter)

Trail clearing 2008

1. North Ck, 1-4 August.

The trail to the BCMC's North Creek Cabin has always been problematic due to the first river crossing which may or may not be passable.

And one never knew if it would be passable until they got thee. The river having periodically swept away the trees felled by Michael Feller across the

creek, stranding hikers who had no way to then get across the creek. This original trail being on the west side, I went in on the more recent east side main logging road and flagged a possible route to link up with the original at the old river crossing. I found that there were no major obstacles. Finding this I put a quick trail clearing trip on the web, but there were only 2 responses. We went ahead, however, camping on the logging road and working on the trail for 3 days, finally meeting up with the original trail on the final day. You can now hike into the club's North Creek Cabin in 5 hours or less and not have to worry about the first major river crossing.

I've once again found that there are people using the cabin [and others] who are not club members and are NOT paying. As all the cabin expenses, and upkeep, are paid for by members dues - your money - I've always been bothered by this. Last year the club cleared the Lions [Binkert] trail. This makes 3 major trail clearing events accomplished recently. More help is always needed for these trail clearing trips so whenever you see one on the schedule, try to come out and help. Participants: Peter Malacarne, Natasha Suvorova, and David Scanlon (Organizer and reporter).

2. The place to be, or not: Place Ck. trail clearing, 19-20 July, 2008

'Twas the morning before the 20th, making it the morning of the 19th - A Saturday July morning when we 4 met at St. David's Church to carpool to the trailhead, for the Place Creek trail. We were off to do some trail maintenance on one of the club's adopted trails.

This trail is one of the most impressive in that you are almost always right beside the river. It constantly reminds you of it's power with it's incessant roar. And the falls are just magnificent with the trail going right beside them, and the cascade just goes on forever - Nature at her best. There are many falls and canyons on this river with another large falls coming from the headwall just below the glaciology huts.

I've hiked a lot of steep trails in my time, including a full pack grunt up the infamous Wedgemount Lake trail a few times, but the Place Creek trail ranks right up there with the steepest of them. Now picture doing this carrying a chain saw and



cutting your way through deadfall after deadfall on a warm summer day. Well, we did it. There was so much deadfall - just like a game of pickup sticks only more dangerous if a mistake is made. All went well though and no injuries occurred.



Dave Scanlon (top) and with the crew. Photos - P. Malacarne.

Saturday saw us work our way up to the river crossing, gaining 900 m from the valley bottom. We left all of our gear there, then went back to camp for the evening. Up early the next morning saw us climbing back to get our gear and continue on to finish the job. With no chain oil left and only a dribble of gasoline, we finished. We once again left our gear, only this time we carried on out of the forest up into the alpine to the glaciology huts. This was the official end to the 103 Hike's Place Glacier Trail. Once there we rested, ate, and enjoyed the scenery. Ron even had enough energy left to go the extra ½ km to the foot of the glacier where, to our surprise, there was quite a large lake.

Done. In more ways than one we were done. Some tired puppies we were that day. We had almost hiked the trail in it's entirety twice in two days, AND cleared it! We had a slow hike down where we packed up and were off to the Whistler's

South Side Diner where for \$10 we had a burger and a beer. Or two. The Place Creek trail is now wide open again for business. You guys did great! Thank you.

Participants: Natasha Suvorova, Ron Groom, Peter Malacare, and David Scanlon (Organizer and reporter).

P.S. Many hands do make for an easier task. More helpers are always welcome for trail clearing.

Tolkien Peak (2380 m), 26 April, 2008

Lord of the Rings

In 1972, members of the Varsity Outdoor Club must have been big fans of “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings” novels, as they named three peaks in the Cadwallader Range Aragorn, Gandalf and Shadowfax. To add to this theme, a BCMC party unofficially named a peak south of Gandalf as “Tolkien”, the novels’ author. Alas, our ‘Ferries’ tale has another twist: Gandalf Peak is really Shadowfax Peak and vice versa. The maps we were all carrying were mislabeled; a shrewd tactic to thwart ‘Sauron’ from finding ‘Middle-Earth’ and clear cut this piece of virgin forest.

Lord of the cake

Like novels, life is fiction and we are the authors. And in this story, our ‘Frodo’ is Alastair (who is one tall Hobbit), but instead of being the Lord of the ‘Ring’, he is the Lord of the ‘Cake’. He carried a 1 kg ‘precious’ cake all the way to the top of the mountain, to be consumed not by fire, but by the mouths of hungry healthy hikers. I guess that would make me ‘Sam’, Frodo’s companion to ‘Mordor’, otherwise known as the mountain of ‘Doom’. I made sure Frodo didn’t succumb to temptation and eat the cake before the summit. To get to Tolkien, we left Vancouver at 5:45 am and drove three hours toward the Birkenhead area, north of Pemberton and parked our cars next to Phelix Creek. Starting off at 9 am, we hiked north on a logging road parallel to Phelix Creek for 5 or 6 km. Then we hiked west for 3 km paralleling a tributary and finally up the sun-drenched south slope of the summit for 1 km. With the reflected sun on the snow, it felt very warm and some people hiked in shorts and t-shirts. Toward the summit, Frodo and another hiker felt nauseated from hunger and thirst. It is a five to five and half hour journey to the top and sometimes in our eagerness, we forget to eat or drink enough.

Lord of the rock

Near the very top, there is a six or seven metre rock face to climb to get to the summit. Duane called it a low class 4 climb. I nervously watched John and Jorge climb up. John grabbed onto a large rock and it came loose. John yelled ‘Clear!’ as the rock dislodged and smashed in half on the snow below. I waited for Frodo to come and he easily went up the rock face. I, Sam, hesitated, but decided to accompany Frodo under the watchful eye of Craig.

It turned out to be much easier than I thought it would be and the hand holds were secure. Approaching the summit, I saw Frodo in solitude and I felt I was invading his privacy. I know that being in the mountains gives him a “sense of peace” and the fewer signs of human activity the better. As I approached, he said he wished we could stay here for another three hours, ‘till 6 p.m. I agreed. It is not very often you have peace on Middle-Earth. We looked west towards Sockeye Creek, a pristine area with no signs of Sauron’s devastation. I thought “This valley has been there forever, as old as time, however it could be wiped out in a blink of Sauron’s Eye.”

Frodo asked me how I was getting down. I said I would go down the rock face if we were to go together and he said he would. The alternative would be to wade around it in thigh deep snow, which seemed like more work than descending the rock face. Once on the rock face, we had an attentive audience. Frodo dared to climb down facing out and he was quickly critiqued. Everyone advised me to face inward. In the middle, there was one tricky step, in the sense, that there was ‘no step’. Frodo extended his hand out for me to step in; exhibiting typical Hobbit generosity. Unlike other species, Hobbits are selfless and maintain ‘rock-solid’ friendships for life.

Back on the lower summit, we had a celebratory summit cake that I had made. Craig asked “Whose birthday are we celebrating today?” I said “It isn’t anyone’s birthday today.” How could I tell him that Frodo and I had just saved Middle-Earth from Sauron? Everyone thought it pretty amazing to have homemade chocolate cake on the summit. Jorge, John, and Jeff couldn’t stop raving about how delicious and moist it was. Oh, how the meek succumb to the seductive power of the ‘Cake’.

By far this was the best hike I have ever been on because it had the longest bum-slide in Middle-Earth– 460m (1500') continuous straight drop. No trees, rocks or ice, just smooth soft snow. We had 5 more bum-slides that were shorter in length, but just as fun. (It could have been an amazing ski trip too.) We got back to the cars in three hours. It was 7 pm.

I was glad I hadn't driven, as I was feeling achy and catatonic. I had awoken with a sore throat that said 'Stay in bed!', but I couldn't and wouldn't as I didn't want to miss this hike. I was not the only one eager to hike today: Michelle had to be at work by 5 am Sunday morning and she said she wasn't going to bother showering before going to bed as she had to wake up at 3:30 am to go to work.

I, Sam, got safely home to the 'Shire' by midnight, unpacked, bathed and collapsed by the fireplace.

Peace on Middle-Earth

I wonder where Frodo is now? He has never completely recovered from being the Lord of the 'Cake'. He is still suffering from the physical, emotional and psychological scars from carrying it. I hope his voyage from 'Middle-Earth' to 'Valinor', will help him discover the peace that he so much deserves and desires to find.

The End (of another Ferris Tale)



Trying to locate Tolkien (top), longest bum slide (middle), and 'Frodo' on the summit with Mark and John (bottom). Photos - B. Jarema (top), and J. Parra (middle and bottom).