



B.C. Mountaineering Club News Letter

February 2009. Vol. 87, No. 2

Mt. Waddington from Plummer Hut
Photo: David Hughes

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, 10 February 2009

Four VOCers set out on a kayak-accessed ski tour of the Whitemantle range, aiming to do the entire trip self-supported. Outfitted with two double ocean kayaks, a custom made ski-dry bag, four person tent, and all the food and gear required for a month, this is the story of their journey and the various challenges they encountered.

Tuesday, 10 March - Presentation to be announced - watch the website.



Looking for snow
Photo: Madeleine Martin-Preney

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
	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
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	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
CLIMBING -	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
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RECREATION		
CONSERVATION -	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
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FMCBC REP -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
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LIBRARY -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

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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 **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 courteous and inform the trip organizer.

Trip Schedule

Please check the website for final updates. All trips are ski trips unless otherwise indicated.

February

6: Rainbow Mtn - joint with SPOC	C3
Ryan Bougie	604.906.1077
6-8: Sphinx Glacier and The Sphinx	C3
Justin Bennett	604.813.4666
7: Ice climbing Whistler area	A5
Neil Beattie	604.669.7847
7-8: Mt. Lindeman	B/C3
Larry Kost	604.594.3130
7-15: Roger's Pass ski week	B+3
Francis St. Pierre	604.224.0502
8: Mystery snowshoe trip	B2
Tracy Leach	778.828.5681
14-15: Russet Lk area via Musical Bumps	B2
Andrej Dobos	604.764.0174
14-15: Steep Ck (tentative)	B4
Eric Hughes	604.315.5975
14-15: Caspar Ck - beginners welcome	B2
David Scanlon	604.572.5051
14-15: Intro to ice climbing	A5
Marcus Dell	604.831.4117
15: Coleman Pinnacle - beginners welcome	B3
Radmila Jaksic	604.602.0468
18: Tele-clinic at Cypress - intermed/adv	A2
Isabel Budke	604.224.5737
21: Frosty Mtn - joint with ACC	C2
Ian McGillivray	604.988.3618
21-22: The Rambles ice climbing	W12-3
Justin Bennett	604.813.4666

28: Howe Sound Crest/Cypress back	B/C3
Monika Bittel	604.983.3097
28: Metal Dome via Callaghan	B3
Jane Weller	604.988.3618
28: Needle Pk	C3
Justin Bennett	604.813.4666
28: Sigurd Pk	D3
Alastair Ferries	604.329.1637
28-1: Cayoosh Mtn - Marriott Crossover	C3
Peter Gumpfinger	604.733.8264

March

7: Box Canyon Coquihalla	C3
Jane Weller	604.988.3618
7: Rainbow Mtn via Beverley Ck	C3
Peter Gumpfinger	604.733.8264
7-8: Big Buck Mtn	B2
Michael Feller	604.270.4050
7-8: Mt. Rohr	A2
Brian Wood	604.222.1541
7-8: Garibaldi Neve Traverse	B3
Justin Bennet	604.813.4666
8: Blackcomb Backcountry	B3
Ilze Rupners	604.222.3720
14: Brandywine Mtn	C2/3
Peter Gumpfinger	604.733.8264
14-15: Powder Mtn Traverse	C2/3
Daniel Carey	604.731.4048
14-16: Rhododendron & Sugarloaf (tentative)	C3
David Hughes	604.980.6484
14-22: Overseer Mtn	B/C3
David Scanlon	604.572.5051
15: Welch Pk	C3
Justin Bennett	604.813.4666

Winter season skills trips and sessions

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.

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.

Rock Climbing Programs

The BC Mountaineering Club is pleased to announce that a complete range of climbing programs will be offered again to new and current club members. As dates, plans and volunteers are assembled we will publish the details over the next few months in this newsletter and on the BCMC web site. The application forms and waivers will be on the bcmc.ca site mid-March (or phone Kit Griffin 604-736-8462) or sending an email to climbingprograms@bcmc.ca

Introduction to rock climbing in Squamish.

Basic: April 21 evening intro. One day, Saturday April 25 or Sunday 26 (weather dependent).

Essential: April 28 evening intro. Two days, Saturday May 2 and Sunday May 3



The Basic Program is for those who have never climbed outside or want to revisit the basics.

The Essential Program is for those who have completed the Basic Program or have outside climbing experience (belaying, communication, safety and climbing) but no formal direction.

Costs: Basic - \$60 (plus BCMC membership); Essential - \$130 (plus BCMC membership). Maximum eight participants in each. This is the same as last year.

Information on other programs such as Lead Climbing and Mountaineering will be published in the next newsletter.

PADDLE TO SKYE (and climb)

Chris Cooper is an adventurer, explorer and photographer who has made several inspiring presentations to BCMC. His current project is to circumnavigate Britain in 12-person (with gear) Montreal canoes with various teams from Canada and Britain. The journey was launched on the River Thames in London in May 2008. Chris is inviting BCMC members to participate in the next stage of the journey, from Fort William to The Kyle of Lochalsh, in Skye, Scotland. Fort William is a Scottish climbing hub; plan to go early or return to climb after the paddle.

Date: from June 1st for approximately two weeks, weather dependent. There are four spaces currently available for the continuing 80 nautical mile leg to Gairloch further up the west coast.

Vagaries: Because of weather vagaries, a contact person will be in constant communication with paddlers with situational updates.

Distance: Approximately 120 nautical miles of paddling.

Cost: All personal expenses (airfare, transportation, and food and accommodation, though some accommodation may be free, e.g., tenting)

Registration fee: \$500.00 goes to the Non Profit *Spirit Dancer Canoe Journeys Society*. This Society manages planning, administration etc and works with sponsors (of which there are 52 and growing.)

Provided: Paddling and safety equipment, jackets for paddlers, liability insurance, a lifetime experience like no other

Experience: Beginners welcome, fitness a credit, no limit to age, eldest so far 89.

Application Deadline: April 30th 2009

For questions and further details contact **Chris G. Cooper at 604 465-9320, Website: www.spirit-dancercanoejourneys.ca**

Reports from the 2008 Annual General Meeting

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT - *David*

Hughes

I would like to thank Todd Ponzini for capably and enthusiastically taking over the leadership of the Club. It is gratifying for me, as your Past President, to once again to be able to report that my replacement has successfully assumed the responsibilities and provided the leadership that we have come to expect and appreciate from the BCMC President.

Our challenge this year has been to maintain the momentum the Club built up during 2006 and 2007 in celebrating the Club Centennial. We are pleased to see that membership total for this year is almost identical to last year, which saw a significant increase in the centennial year. The hard work of many members and the continuing dedicated support from our long serving executive members deserves much of the credit. We have also been fortunate to have three new executive members join this last year, who have brought great passion and energy to the Club's activities. Pending our election, we should have another enthusiastic addition to our executive this coming year.

We are continuing to increase member participation in leading courses, organizing trips and being actively involved in executive committees. Two of our new executive members this last year became involved because of their participation in our centennial committee. Climbing, membership, editor committees particularly need people to help. We have decided to divide the editor position in two, as the journal and monthly newsletter have become an onerous task for one person.

We are continuing to deploy efforts to find another cabin site. There is strong interest in back country skiing and we are trying to help members participate in this fast growing area of recreation and to preserve areas as non-motorized. Our first site in the Battleship Lakes has been very difficult to get approval because of resistance from the Lil'wat Nation. As a result, David Scanlon who has worked tirelessly for several years is now focusing the Club's efforts on a location east of Squamish near the southwestern end of Garibaldi Park.

The Club continues to work hard at preserving and

documenting our history, being a spokesman for wilderness preservation and recreation, and as an educator helping people to learn about and participate safely in the backcountry. Hopefully our plans to offer more courses and trips, along with initiatives for additional guidebooks, trails and cabins will make good progress this coming year.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you on Club trips this coming year.

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Report — *Brian Wood*

The FMC continues to facilitate communication between its 20 plus member clubs (having a total membership of about 3500) to protect the interests of self-propelled/non-motorised backcountry recreationists. The FMC assist its member clubs in a wide range of backcountry recreational matters, many of which relate to maintaining or improving access to the backcountry. Some current items are described briefly below.

1) Most of the "backcountry" work is done through the FMC Recreation and Conservation Committee (R&C) which deals with strategic land use planning and disputes arising from incompatible backcountry activities, and the Trails Committee which, through the members clubs, co-ordinates, builds and maintains backcountry trails. Individual members from the various clubs donate their time, experience and expertise on these committees, and we are always looking for more members to help on these committees. Our member clubs are located throughout the Province of BC, and we believe that we are the only province-wide organization that advocates solely for the non-motorised backcountry community. Some of our present backcountry concerns are detailed in the Recreation and Conservation Committee report.

2) At the FMC AGM this year we received encouragement to continue our efforts for improving the organization of the FMC. Some of the recommendations of the FMC Re-structuring Committee have been adopted and are improving communication with and voting opportunities for its member clubs. There are many opportunities for individual club members to

volunteer to help with a wide range of specific tasks, particularly fund raising, improving communication (paper and electronic) with the member clubs as well as with the public, and encouraging more clubs to join the FMC. Also, our treasurer will retire this year, and so we will need a new treasurer.

3) Work on the transfer of the FMC Smoke Bluffs property to the District of Squamish (DOS) continues, but we were unable to complete the transfer before a new district council was elected in 2008. We are waiting to see how the new district council will react to our present proposal. Our hope is that we can use our **small** parcel of land there as “leverage” to protect “in perpetuity” the **whole** of the rock climbing areas in the proposed Smoke Bluffs Municipal Park. This is because we are concerned that access for rock climbers may be restricted sometime in the future due to liability concerns. Presently, our attempt to use a Conservation Covenant to achieve this type of protection is not acceptable to the DOS.

4) In 2008 the BCMC joined the FMC’s liability insurance program which is intended to provide coverage for certain eventualities. Even with this coverage, BCMC members must still follow our previous practice of obtaining signed “waivers of liability” for all trip participants. For a waiver to be truly effective, a fairly strict protocol should be followed before and during trips, and thus instructions on this protocol are being drafted. This is a complex subject and will be a “work in progress” for some time to come.

5) Work on improving the restructured FMC website (www.mountainclubs.org) is continuing under our new webmaster. We are hoping to make it easier for members to input and amend entries, possibly by using “wiki” type software, so that the website will be more responsive to members’ needs.

6) The FMCBC has a small office generously provided by the Mountain Equipment Coop (MEC). We have not yet found a suitable person to be our Executive Director, but we have a part-time Administrative Manager who can handle many day-to-day matters.

Recreation & Conservation Report – *Monika Bittel*

The BCMC is a member of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. (“FMC”) and participates in the

Southwest Region Recreation and Conservation Committee of the FMC. The FMC is recognized by government and interest groups as an advocate for non-motorized backcountry and wilderness access and recreation, specifically mountaineering, climbing, hiking, backcountry skiing and snow-shoeing. The BCMC is well represented in the FMC’s Southwest Region Rec & Con Committee. BCMC members who have participated over the past year include Brian Wood, Evelyn Feller, Michael Feller, David Scanlon, Stephen France and Karin Grubb. BCMC members (too many to list) also contribute through the FMC Rec & Con list serve by voicing opinions, sharing information, providing feedback and writing letters or submissions. Other BCMC members, most notably John Baldwin, have provided information or feedback on specific matters.

The following are highlights of matters of interest or concern over the past year:

1. **Garibaldi at Squamish (GAS):** This proposed all season resort (25 ski lifts, 2 golf courses and 5,739 housing units) to be located on Brohm Ridge, adjacent to Garibaldi Provincial Park, has not been approved by the Environmental Assessment Office (“EAO”). The project is currently on hold. Our primary concerns with the GAS proposal are its impact on Garibaldi Provincial Park, potential expansions into the Park, re-location of the Black Tusk Snowmobile Club (located on Brohm Ridge for the past 10-20 years) and a snowmobile route proposed by Black Tusk Snowmobile Club through portions of the Park as a way to ameliorate the impact of the resort on snowmobiling. While GAS has no immediate plans for expansion into Garibaldi Park, proponents want to keep future expansion options open to provide expanded opportunities for resort visitors and access to steeper terrain or better snow conditions and to respond to climate change. GAS proponents will not consider either a buffer between the proposed resort and Park or a covenant running with the resort land, which would prohibit expansion into the Park. A meeting was held with a BC Parks representative to discuss our concerns with the proposed resort. We continue to monitor developments with respect to this proposal.

2. **Mt. Waddington:** In June 2007, Knight Inlet Heli-Sports Ltd. (“KIHS”) was granted a commercial

tenure for heli-skiing and heli-assisted activities over a massive area, including the Mt. Waddington area, White-mantle Range and the whole Klinaklini-Silverthorne watershed. In June 2007, a moratorium on heli-skiing in the Mt. Waddington area was granted by the Ministry of Tourism and Arts ("MOTA") in response to many letters and e-mails opposing heli-skiing in the Mt. Waddington area. The moratorium is in effect until September 1, 2009. The purpose of the moratorium is to provide MOTA with further time to assess public and commercial use in the area and to ascertain if shared use of the area is feasible. During the moratorium, KIHS is required to organize and participate in discussions with key stakeholder user groups of the Mt. Waddington area with the goal of developing "a sustainable and collaborative working agreement between the stakeholders". MOTA will review any agreement reached prior to September 1, 2009 and decide on the future use of the Mt. Waddington area. Negotiations are ongoing with KIHS to develop a working agreement regarding public and commercial use of the Mt. Waddington area.

3. Sea-to-Sky Corridor: The provincial government has negotiated agreements on land use planning with the Lii'wat Nation, the In-SHUCH-ch Nation and Squamish Nation. The effects of these agreements and the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) were reported in the BCMC newsletter of August-September 2008. The full LRMP report can be accessed at <http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/surrey/s2s/index.html>.

More recently the Squamish Forest District LRMP Winter Backcountry Recreation Management Proposal was released. The report recommends changes to the zoning in Phelix Creek to allow access for snowmobilers, improvements to operational management practices in the Callaghan Valley, adoption of zoning based on the recommendations of the Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum with clarifications, and other management recommendations with respect to public recreation. We are advised that the recommendations contained in the report will be implemented. The full report can be accessed at <http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/surrey/s2s/news/whatsnew.html>. An FMC representative (Bryce Leigh) and alternate (Michael Feller) have been nominated to represent the

non-motorized sector on the Plan Implementation Committee for the Sea-to-Sky LRMP.

With respect to the Callaghan Valley, the FMC and local clubs are working to refine parking and access protocols for the Callaghan Valley. In 2007, pursuant to section 58 designation under the Forest and Range Practices Act, Callaghan Valley was closed to winter motorized recreation from November 1 to May 15 of each year. The designation was made to protect recreation resources and non-motorized recreation experiences, specifically self-propelled sporting activities such as cross-country skiing, ski touring, mountaineering and snowshoeing. While Whistler Olympic Park, located in Callaghan Valley, provides a much needed cross-country skiing facility, the parking and access needs of the backcountry skiers were largely ignored. To remedy this oversight, the FMC and local clubs used various avenues and approaches, including a meeting with the Premier in October 2008, to resolve the parking and access issues. At the start of the winter season, new requirements and protocols for backcountry skiers using Whistler Olympic Park were announced (see BCMC newsletters of December 2008 and January 2009). These protocols will be refined over the winter as users familiarize themselves with the facilities and access to the surrounding terrain.

4. Smoke Bluffs Park: Since 2004, the FMC, local clubs and Squamish Access Society ("SAS") have been working towards incorporating FMC lands into the Smoke Bluffs Park. In July 2006, the FMC and District of Squamish ("DOS") agreed in principle that FMC would transfer its lands to DOS for inclusion in the park in exchange for a nominal monetary amount and registration of a conservation covenant (a voluntary written agreement to protect land in specified ways) against the FMC and park lands. The covenant is intended to last forever and legally binds future owners of the land. The holder of the covenant can enforce the covenant if necessary through legal action. The conservation covenant was drafted and presented to DOS in 2008 by FMC and SAS. In August 2008, FMC and SAS were advised by DOS staff that they were investigating the use of by-laws to designate and protect Smoke Bluffs Park instead of a conservation covenant. Both FMC and SAS have reservations about the effectiveness and longevity of a by-law to protect climbing in the

Smoke Bluffs in perpetuity and have expressed these concerns to DOS staff. Over the next year, FMC and SAS will continue to work together to achieve the climbing community's long-term goal of ensuring public access to and climbing in the Smoke Bluffs in perpetuity. A full report on the history and status of the Smoke Bluffs can be found in the 2008 FMC newsletter, Cloudburst, at p. 27.

Thank you to all members who attend FMC's Southwest Region Rec & Con Committee, participate on the FMC list serve, provide feedback and draft letters and submissions. Anyone interested in participating in FMC's Southwest Region Rec & Con Committee or anyone with recreation, access and conservation concerns, should contact Monika Bittel (E-mail: MBittel9@gmail.com; Tel: 604-983-3097).

TRAILS STRATEGY DRAFT

YOUR COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED NOW

by Matt Gunn and Brian Wood

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts has produced a Draft Trails Strategy for British Columbia and is now seeking feedback through open houses and written submissions. A copy of the draft and the feedback link can be found at the following web page:

http://www.tca.gov.bc.ca/sites/Trails/docs/Provincial_Trails_Strategy/DraftTrail_Strategy_LowRes_111708.pdf

The official deadline for receiving this feedback is **31 January 2009**, though a few late submissions may be accepted. Feedback should be emailed to: TrailStrategy@gov.bc.ca.

In general, the draft wording is so broad that initially there does not seem to be much to object to. However "the Devil is in the details"; we should try to ensure that the final document reflects our interests. It is important that club members submit feedback on any concerns with the broad wording that may create issues in the future. A major thrust of the strategy is to encourage existing outdoor clubs to assume stewardship and maintenance role for individual trails, which could then receive "official status". Many thousands of volunteer hours have gone into trail building and maintenance so recognition is desirable, but it is unknown if many of our mountain access trails would comply with pro-

posed trail standards.

Some **potential benefits** from the trails strategy include:

- 1) The recommendation of a collaborative planning process that would ensure the needs of motorized and non-motorized user groups are met. It is hoped that this would result in a fair division of trails between the different user groups. Governments often like "shared use trails" but this is usually not practical as many trail and land uses are incompatible with each other, e.g. motorized use versus non-motorized use. This is VERY important to us.
- 2) The strategy mentions a potential "inherent risk legislation" to limit liability of stewardship groups from trail users. This would be very positive, but you can assume, even if the government regards this suggestion favourably, it would take many years for it to be adopted, so we have to live with the present unsatisfactory liability situation.
- 3) Development of 'best practices' for managing trails on private land, although it is uncertain what this will eventually mean.
- 4) The integration of recreational trail use into resource road decisions. We would like this IF, and it is a BIG IF, trail groups' opinions were taken seriously when decisions are made regarding road planning, maintenance and de-activation. We need DRIVEABLE resource roads to access trailheads, and it would be really appreciated if they were TWO-WHEEL driveable.
- 5) An inventory of trails and a comprehensive survey of trail users. This is long overdue, but I would not like to see many resources invested in this "paper project" before we see something positive actually happening on the ground.

Some **negative components** are listed below:

- 1) The strategy indicates the trail systems need to be designed to "not adversely impact other users of Crown land resources such as forestry, mining, ranching and trapping." For a group to take responsibility for trail maintenance, we feel there should be some assurance that any industry would **definitely accommodate** the trail, and not merely

“log over” or bulldoze our trails, or gate the access road, as is very common practice.

- 2) While the strategy briefly mentions the need for classification of trails according to the desired experience or user group, we **strongly believe** this point needs to be far more significant in the strategy. For non-motorized groups such as hikers, the distinction of a trail as non-motorized is critical if a club is going to take on responsibility for maintenance. In addition, a trail that traverses rugged terrain primarily for accessing mountains should be held to a much lower building and maintenance standard than a low level trail in easily accessible terrain. Clearly, there should be a strong emphasis on signage and enforcement of non-motorized trail status.
- 3) The strategy states “Liability insurance can be provided to trail stewardship groups who manage approved trails” and is specific to trails that are established under Section 56 of the Forest Range and Practices Act. The Trails Strategy does not specify what happens if the trails are not approved, which I believe will be likely for many of our mountain access trails. Stewardship groups, whether registered societies or not, should **not** take on liability for “non-approved trails”, given the high cost and vagueness of insurance, and thus, if not maintained, such trails likely will deteriorate and become more dangerous. It is hoped that eventually “inherent risk legislation” would mitigate this potential problem. A pessimistic take on this particular subject is that liability problems probably will get worse before they get better.
- 4) The strategy also focuses on the “marketing” of the trail system, presumably to increase revenue, but there is no reference to determination of the “carrying capacity” of the trail, or the terrain adjacent to the trail. If trails are to be considered as an important tourism asset or commodity, there should be adequate funding to protect the asset by incorporating adequate trail construction and maintenance funding into the tourism budget.
- 5) Canada has two ambitiously proposed, coast-to-coast trails, i.e. the National Hiking Trail (NHT) and the Trans-Canada Trail (TCT). The NHT is not so well known as the TCT and was NOT mentioned in this draft, yet it was proposed well before the TCT. The NHT is a single use, low budget trail and

traverses some wild country, whereas the TCT is a more urban, low level trail, much more costly (it was once well-funded) and is mostly a multi-use or shared-use trail with less appeal to hikers. We should ensure that the NHT is clearly mentioned in the final document, as this trail, particularly the BC section, would likely appeal to many more hikers.

Call For Articles And Images For Cloudburst

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) attempts to publish its journal, Cloudburst, twice a year. We are ALWAYS looking for material for this worthy publication, and this can include any article (within reason!) that relates to backcountry recreation matters. This could be a serious discussion reviewing the latest government initiative on access to or management of the backcountry, motorized commercial recreation problems, ski resort problems, avalanche issues, accident reviews, new gear and book reviews, epic (?) trip reports, your club’s historical events etc. We also like lots of images, some of which might be published in colour.

You can see that this is your chance to attain guaranteed immortality - so send your articles and/or images to Jodi Appleton, the FMC Administration Manager, at admin.manager@mountainclubs.org.

Thanks. *Brian Wood, FMCBC Director*

.... And for THIS Newsletter

The editor is looking for trip reports, photographs and articles of interest to BCMC Newsletter readers. The photos needn’t be associated with any recent trip.

BOOK REVIEW

The Coast Mountains Trilogy: Mountain Poems, 1957-1971. By Dick Culbert. Illustrations by Arnold Shives. Vancouver: Tricouni Press, 2009

There is no doubt that Dick Culbert is a mountaineering legend and pioneer on the West Coast. *Canadian Mountaineering Anthology: Stories from 100 years on the edge* (1994) suggests that 1960-1975 is 'The Culbert Era in the Coast Mountains'. *Pushing the Limits: The Story of Canadian Mountaineering* (2000), by Chic Scott, concurs with Bruce Fairley's position in *Canadian Mountaineering Anthology*. Scott unpacked the significance of 'Culbert's Decade' in visual detail in *Pushing the Limits*.

There are those who know about the mountaineer, Dick Culbert, and there are others who have found his informative book, *A Climber's Guide to the Coastal Ranges of British Columbia* (published by the Alpine Club of Canada in 1965), the first book to describe, in meticulous detail, the various peaks and routes worthy of ascent in the Coast Mountains. Culbert had become such a climbing legend in the 1960s-1970s that he was lionized in Phil Dowling's *The Mountaineers: Famous Climbers in Canada* (1979).

There is, therefore, Dick Culbert the mountaineer and author of book that went into a couple of editions on the Coast Mountains. But, there is also Dick Culbert the poet. *The Coast Mountain Trilogy: Mountain Poems, 1957-1971* threads together some of Dick's most challenging, evocative and insightful poetry in the years that the mountains were his hearth, home and cathedral.

The Coast Mountain Trilogy is divided into three sections: 1) The Coast Mountain Trilogy, 2) Early Poems and 3) Late Poems. The Coast Mountain Trilogy is just that: 3 poems ("Land of Lichen", "Land of Ice" and "Land of Lakes"). Early Poems is the largest section in the missive, and has many an evocative and compelling tale to tell with images and metaphors that hold the attention and imagination for lingering moments well after the read. Late Poems is the shortest section in the book, and there is a decided sense that Culbert is bidding adieu to the mountains and the reasons for such a nod to the fading past.

Glenn Woodsworth has written a fine 'Introduction' to *The Coast Mountain Trilogy*. Glenn places the poems in both a chronological and thematic context. He also makes more than clear where Dick's poetry fits into the larger genre of mountaineering poetry within the Canadian alpine tradition. Robert Service, Earle Birney and E.J. Pratt are held high as models that Culbert drew from both in style and content. Arnold Shives, a trekking companion of Culbert and Woodsworth from the early 1960s, adds to the charm and allure of *The Coast Mountain Trilogy* with his unique and rare black/white sketches of the Coastal Mountains.

The publication of *The Coast Mountain Trilogy* should be welcomed at a variety of levels. Culbert's poetry is celebrated, West Coast mountaineering history is recounted and recalled, mountaineering literature is revived, and Culbert, Woodsworth and Shives team up again to celebrate an era of Coastal Mountain mountaineering culture. This is a book that should be read, digested and reread many times. It will become part of the archives of Coastal Mountains lore and legend. *Ron Dart*

Memorium: Louise Lorenz 1919 – 2008.

Louise joined BCMC in 1965 after immigrating from Europe with her husband, George. George worked for BC Parks and was not permitted to join a club in order not to bias his duties. The couple hiked extensively throughout BC and elsewhere. Their love of the mountains was evident in the stories that George told me when we chatted. Happy trails, Louise. *Alice Purdey*

TRIP REPORT

Mt. Conybeare, May 24/25, 2008

Despite my lack of physical fitness and love of daily baked goods, I went on another exigent Alastair Feries canoe/hike. I adore canoeing and can be easily enticed to join any hike if canoeing is involved. Alastair had sent an alarming description of this canoe/hike to all potential participants, but when I saw the word "canoeing", I knew I had been hooked.

To my disillusionment, canoeing across Squamish River lasted ten minutes. However to get the canoes launched took 30 minutes. The river was swift, swollen with snow melt and high tide. Alastair laid on his belly holding canoes as we lowered ourselves a metre into the hull. The bank gave way like a snow cornice.



Alastair says “This is going to be an Endurance Test”

With aching calves, I began to doubt whether I could make it to Echo Lake, let alone Mt. Lapworth. After a break at Echo Lake (899m), I decided I was going to go for it as the snow pack was hard and we could dump our snowshoes in the bushes. The ridge between Mt. Lapworth (1568 m) and Conybeare Peak (1889 m) is challenging. We had to climb up and down seven minor peaks, adding 915 m in cumulative elevation gain. There were a few cliff bands that had us scouting out routes to get around. In one section, we climbed down a rock face and walked on top of tree canopies to get to the other side. Those in shorts had multiple cuts and bruises. After nine hours, we bagged Conybeare at 3:30 pm. We lunched on the summit for a brief 25 minutes as Alastair was worried about the descent and canoeing in the dark.

The toughest part of the hike for me was the gully down from Mt. Lapworth. I was beat and my knees were fatigued from kicking steps. In the middle of the descent, my footing gave way and I hung from my ice axe strap. The group waited patiently for me at the bottom of the gully. After Echo Lake, Alastair decided to bushwhack to cut ½ hour off our descent time. What seemed beautiful this morning seemed haunting at night. We were back at the canoes by 10:30 pm. Alastair and Jorge paddled out to do a reconnaissance of the river. They reported that the water was okay, but couldn't see where we could land

on the other side.

Alastair: “If we fell in the water, probably someone would die.”

Ye: “I don't want to die today.”

Greg: “We should just stay here until daylight.”

Alastair: “The only danger would be hitting obstacles. Floating logs would not be a problem.”

To sleep or not to sleep?

Alastair took a vote on whether we should stay put till daylight or go home now. The vote was three against three. With three of us already lying on the ground, he announced that we would stay put until 4:30 am. It was hard to doze off as my body was cold. It was an agonizing sleep of shift, adjust and roll. By 4:30 am, we all jumped up and were ready to leave. Immediately, Alan, Jorge and Mike were on the water. Alastair, Greg and I went last. We paddled up into the current as we knew we could not paddle straight across. Even with that approach, we missed our target and decided to go lower. We went around a bunch of fallen trees that create a whirlpool. Behind the whirlpool was a beach – it was now or never. We paddled through the eddy and landed on the beach. Alastair quickly got out and ran up the forested river's edge to tell the others to come here. Safely together, we left Squamish at 5:30 am.

My 28 ½ hour day:

I woke up at Saturday at 2:30 am and got home Sunday at 7 am. We hiked for 16 hours straight with a cumulative elevation gain of 2743m (9000') over a distance of 20 to 30 km. It was a grand adventure with a great group of people. **Participants:** Alan Brelsford, Alastair Ferries (Organizer), Greg Stoltman, Jorge Parra (Photographer), Mike Goluboff, Ye Chu (Reporter)





Litang Festival
Photo: Ed Jocelyn



Dent du Geant, free solo
Photo: Alex Huber

Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Feb 20-28, 2009

Mark your calendars! An international mix of world class climbers, skiers, paddlers and outdoor activists will come together at this year's 12th annual VIMFF. They will be showcasing their backcountry accomplishments with stunning and entertaining slideshows and cinematography. Speakers include BCMC's Matt Gunn.

See complete festival information at www.vimff.org

BCMC and VIMFF have worked closely together for many years. The club has been presenting the \$300 Macaree Award for Best Film on Mountain Culture since 2001, has had a display table at the festival on many occasions, including at the Speakers' Series, has had our logo displayed in VIMFF literature, including front and centre during our centennial year, and this year will be hosting the reception at the BC – Canada night for the second time.



Both photos by Alex Huber