

# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



June 2009. Vol. 87, No. 6

Spring Skiing  
Photo: Peter Margetak

## **EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS**

Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Cookies, tea, and coffee are provided.

**Tuesday 9 June** - Justin Brown will WOW us with a mountaineering photographer's dream right in our own back yard – the Coquitlam/ Pitt divide of Pinecone Burke Provincial Park. This will whet your appetite for summer adventure!

**Tuesday 8 Sept.** - To Be Announced



Mt. Mamquam 1138m  
Photo: Justin Brown

## British Columbia Mountaineering Club

**ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674,  
Vancouver, B.C., 6B 3W8**

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

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

### HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND 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>	SILVIA BAKOVIC	778-230-7528
<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 - NEWSLETTER</b>	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
<b>EDITOR - OTHER</b>	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050

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<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

### 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](mailto: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.

### June

Wednesday night climbing in Squamish (3, 10, 17, 24) with Winifred Swatschek	604.828.8541
<b>6: Sky Pilot</b>	<b>D3/4</b>
Brad Percival	604.782.1471
<b>6: Mt Brunswick. Joint ACC</b>	<b>B2/3</b>
Thomas Schroeder	604.315.3515
<b>6-7: Trail clearing</b>	<b>B2</b>
David Scanlon	604.572.5051
<b>7: Goat Mtn. WA</b>	<b>B/C3</b>
Dan Friedmann	604.737.0840
<b>20: Blanchard Needle 1550m</b>	<b>C3/4</b>
Silvia Bakovic	778.230.7528
<b>20-21 Wedge Mtn NE Arete</b>	<b>B3</b>
Alena Dzujkova	778.881.5642

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<b>26-29: Mts Spickard and Redoubt</b>	<b>C4</b>
Jos van der Burg	1.604.824.5676
<b>27-28: Castle Towers W. Ridge</b>	<b>D4</b>
Brad Percival	604.782.1471
<b>27-July 1 Mt Challenger</b>	<b>C4/5</b>
Peter Gumplinger	604.733.8264

### July

Wednesday night climbing in Squamish with Iveta Janot (8, 15, 22, 29)	
<b>3-5: Mts James Turner and Wedge</b>	<b>C3/4</b>
Radmila Jaksic & Gordon Esplin	604.602.0468
<b>10-12: Semaphore Lakes</b>	<b>B2</b>
Jeff Nairn	604.488.9727
<b>11-12: Cloudraker Mtn via Rogers Ck</b>	<b>B3</b>
Helen Habgood	604.357.3094
<b>11-12: Wedgemount Lk - Rethel Pk</b>	<b>C3/4</b>
Adrian Lazar	778.240.1696

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## Courses

The General Mountaineering Program, running for three weekends in June, is full. Organizer: Alena Dzujkova 778.881.564

The Lead Climbing Program, beginning May 30th and running throughout June is organized by Kit Griffin 604.736.8462.

## Member News

The Club welcomes the following new members: Peter Margetak, Ge-an Rijniersce, Mary-Catherine Kropinski, Graham Doerr, James Clarke, Bas Rijniersce, Keiran Rankin, Françoise Thibault, Nathaniel Harburn, Samantha Anne Harrigan, Nadine Ebner, Iveta Janot, Sabine Decamp, Alexander (Ali) Cant, William Akerberg, Daylen Luchsinger.

## FMCBC Notice of AGM

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Annual General Meeting will be held in Prince George on **6th June**. Following its practice of holding its AGMs in various regions of BC, this year it will be in Prince George. It will be hosted jointly by the Alpine Club of Canada-Prince George Section, and the Caledonia Ramblers who have generously offered to provide billets for those from out of town. We are hoping that some folks

new to the FMCBC will be able to attend, to make new friends, and to contribute to the FMCBC's efforts of supporting the interests of self-propelled backcountry recreationists.

We expect that most attendees based far from Prince George will be able to car pool. Vancouver to Prince George is a bit less than 800 km and so SW Mainland BC 'ers can expect the drive to take about 10-11 hours. Normally Vancouverites would leave home on Friday morning at about 8-9 am, but do not worry we will pass a few "Timmies" on the way!

While the AGM will be held on **Saturday 6 June** (65th Anniversary of D-Day!) there will be several events held over the weekend of 5-7 June. Following our usual procedure, there will be a social gathering and BBQ on Friday evening, the AGM will be all day Saturday, with a social event and guest speaker on the Saturday evening. On Sunday we might be able to fit in a short hike before leaving for home.

This year we are electing at least a new Treasurer and a new Secretary, and while we have a volunteer for the Treasurer position, at the moment we are lacking a volunteer for the Secretary position. So now is your chance to help the FMCBC as its new secretary, or to assist in any of the other committee positions.

If you would like more details, or are planning to attend this event, please contact your FMCBC Director, Brian Wood, at (604) 222-1541 or bjwood@telus.net. Thank you.

## Update on Club Development Committee

After 6 months of intensive work in the BCMC Club Development Committee (CDC), members Francis St-Pierre and Werner Grzimek have made the decision to step down as co-chairs of the CDC. The CDC was formed at the executive team request in November 2008, with the aim of helping to rejuvenate the club. Francis and Werner decided that it is time to step down and move on as their more enterprising and internet-oriented style isn't compatible with the current more traditional and conservative culture within the executive group.

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## MOUNTAIN LAKE HUT REPAIR: PAINTING PLUS!! Sept 12th - 20th

The hut needs a new foundation and has to be raised about 6" to a foot, a new door, a new front porch, possibly work to be done on the shutters, and a paint job.

This may or may not be called a camp as you may stay as long as you want but your help with the repairs is needed. I am leaving the exact time you stay open ended so the time spent is not all work, and you can stay for a few days and then leave later on in the week: or come to the hut early in the last week to help finish. The hike in is 3 ½ hours and the hike out of course, is less.

Come and help for a few days then take some time off to climb. Mt Sheer, Ben Lomond, and Sky Pilot are all a day's hike from the cabin. We may even have a designated Sky Pilot climbing day.

All of the building supplies will be flown in. THEN! Depending on the amount of material needed, there may be room to fly in everyone's packs!!

**Mark your calendar now - September 12th to 20th.**  
No pets please.

David Scanlon  
604 572 5051

## President's Comment

I'd like to thank Francis and Werner for their contributions and for their ideas. The members of the executive are working to keep the Club's trip schedule, instructional programs, social events and publications interesting and relevant. We welcome ideas to improve the Club, so long as they are for the equal benefit of all members and don't put the Club's financial stability at risk.

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Mountain Lake Hut  
Mts. Sky Pilot and Ledge  
Photo: M. Feller





















Snow-twisted rails near  
Mountain Lake Hut  
Photo: A. Purdey



# B.C. Mountaineering Club

## 2009 Summer & Fall Trip Schedule

### June 2009

3	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Winifred Swatschek</a>	604-828-8541
6	 <a href="#">Sky Pilot Mountain *</a>	D/3-4	<a href="#">Brad Percival</a>	email only
6	 <a href="#">Mt. Brunswick - joint with ACC</a>	B2/3	<a href="#">Thomas Schroeder</a>	604-315-3515
6-7	<a href="#">Trail Clearing</a>	B/2	<a href="#">David Scanlon</a>	604-572-5051
7	 <a href="#">Goat Mountain, WA *</a>	B/C 3	<a href="#">Dan Friedmann</a>	604-737-0840
10	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Winifred Swatschek</a>	604-828-8541
13-14	 <a href="#">Mountaineering Program - wknd 1 (FULL)</a>	B2	<a href="#">Alena Dzujkova</a>	778-881-5642
13-14	 <a href="#">Lead Climbing Program - wknd 2</a>	A5	<a href="#">Kit Griffin</a>	604-736-8462
17	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Winifred Swatschek</a>	604-828-8541
20	 <a href="#">Blanchard Needle 1550m *</a>	C3/4	<a href="#">Silvia Bakovic</a>	778-230-7528
20-21	 <a href="#">Wedge Mountain - NE Arete</a>	B3	<a href="#">Alena Dzujkova</a>	778-881-5642
20-21	 <a href="#">Mountaineering Program - wknd 2 (FULL)</a>	B2	<a href="#">Alena Dzujkova</a>	778-881-5642
24	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Winifred Swatschek</a>	604-828-8541
26-29	 <a href="#">Mt Spickard and Mt Redoubt *</a>	C4	<a href="#">Jos van der Burg</a>	604-824-5676
27-28	 <a href="#">Lead Climbing Program - wknd 3</a>	A5	<a href="#">Kit Griffin</a>	604-736-8462
27-28	 <a href="#">Wedgemount Lake - Rethel Peak (re-scheduled) *</a>	C3/4	<a href="#">Adrian Lazar</a>	778-240-1696
27-28	 <a href="#">Mountaineering Program - wknd 3 (FULL)</a>	B2	<a href="#">Alena Dzujkova</a>	778-881-5642
27-28	 <a href="#">Castle towers - West Ridge *</a>	D4	<a href="#">Brad Percival</a>	email only
27-1	 <a href="#">Mt. Challenger</a>	C4(5)	<a href="#">Peter Gumplinger</a>	604-733-8264

### **July 2009**

3-5	 <a href="#">Mount James Turner &amp; Wedge Mountain *</a>	C3/4	<a href="#">Radmila Jaksic &amp; Gordon Esplin</a>	604-602-0468
8	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Iveta Janot</a>	email only
11-12	 <a href="#">Cloudraker Mtn via Rogers Creek</a>	B3	<a href="#">Helen Habgood</a>	604-357-3094
15	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Iveta Janot</a>	email only
17-19	 <a href="#">Black Peak near Rainy Pass</a>	C3	<a href="#">Ilze Rupners</a>	604-222-3720
18	 <a href="#">Foley Peak *</a>	C3/4	<a href="#">Gordon Esplin</a>	604-986-0603
19	 <a href="#">Macdonald Peak/Mount Webb</a>	B/C 3	<a href="#">Murray Lashmar</a>	604-221-4183
22	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Iveta Janot</a>	email only
26	 <a href="#">Markhor-Needle Peak traverse *</a>	B/C4	<a href="#">Bruce Cassels</a>	604-617-6774
29	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Iveta Janot</a>	email only

### **August 2009**

1-3	 <a href="#">Siwhe Mountain *</a>	C2	<a href="#">Greg Stoltmann</a>	604-926-6496
5	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Michael Lim</a>	778-997-4922
8-16	 <a href="#">Strathcona Park Summer Camp</a>	B/C3	<a href="#">Brian J. Wood</a>	604-222-1541
12	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Michael Lim</a>	778-997-4922
15	 <a href="#">Mount Robie Reid *</a>	D3/4	<a href="#">Radmila Jaksic</a>	604-602-0468
15-23	 <a href="#">Bendor Range Summer Camp</a>	B/2/3	<a href="#">David Scanlon</a>	604-572-5051
19	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Michael Lim</a>	778-997-4922
22	 <a href="#">Mt. Slesse SW (standard) route</a>	C4	<a href="#">Francis St Pierre</a>	email only
22-23	 <a href="#">Mount Baker *</a>	C3	<a href="#">Peter Malacarne</a>	604-525-6708
26	 <a href="#">Wednesday night climbing in Squamish</a>	A5	<a href="#">Michael Lim</a>	778-997-4922
29	 <a href="#">Tomyhoi peak</a>	C3	<a href="#">Henry DeJong</a>	604-574-4805

### September 2009

5-7	 <a href="#">Liberty Bell, WA</a>	B5	<a href="#">Dave Morriss</a>	604-892-9899
5-7	 <a href="#">Mount Rainier - Disappointment Cleaver *</a>	C3	<a href="#">Gordon Esplin</a>	604-986-0603
10-14	 <a href="#">Five Fingers *</a>	C3	<a href="#">Jos van der Burg</a>	604-824-5676
12	 <a href="#">Welch Peak *</a>	C3	<a href="#">Denis Lalonde</a>	1.604.793.9675
19	 <a href="#">Crown / Camel *</a>	C 4/5	<a href="#">Neil Beattie</a>	604-984-6345
19-20	 <a href="#">Semaphore Lakes - Locomotive/Face</a>	B3	<a href="#">Ilze Rupners</a>	604-222-3720
19-20	 <a href="#">Mystery Peak</a>	B3	<a href="#">Helen Habgood</a>	604-357-3094

### October 2009

3-4	 <a href="#">Spius Basin - "Far Out" and "Ainslie"</a>	B2	Karl Ricker	1.604.938.1107
10-12	 <a href="#">Grimface Mountain *</a>	B3	<a href="#">Peter Gumplinger</a>	604-733-8264
11-31	 <a href="#">Red Rock Nevada Climbing Camp</a>	B5	<a href="#">Francis St Pierre</a>	email only
17-18	 <a href="#">21 Mile Ck. - Madley Lake</a>	B2	Michael Feller	604-270-4050
24	 <a href="#">Mt Harvey</a>	B2	<a href="#">Tracy Leach</a>	email only

#### Grading of trips:

##### ***Degree of Strenuousness***

- A** Easy - Less than 4 hours travel on any one day
- B** Moderate - 4 to 8 hours travel on any one day
- C** Strenuous - 8-12 hours travel on any one day
- D** Extreme - More than 12 hours travel on any one day

##### **Technical Difficulty - Hiking and Climbing Trips**

- Class 1 Hiking
- Class 2 Scrambling - Occasional use of hands required.
- Class 3 Easy Climbing - Beginners may use rope if exposed.
- Class 4 Climbing - Continual belaying required for average parties.
- Class 5 Climbing - Climbing hardware required for protection.
- Class 6 Aid Climbing - Climbing hardware required for direct assistance.

#### **\* Exposure will increase the apparent difficulty for inexperienced people.**

When a trip consists primarily of one degree of difficulty with a small amount of the next degree of difficulty, this is indicated by separating two levels with a slash, and putting the dominant one first. The rating of the (optional) final climb to the very summit is given in brackets when it is more difficult than the trip as a whole.

## Participation

Participation on club trips is open to any member with adequate skill and experience, subject to the approval of the trip organizer. All non-members must sign a disclosure waiver form relieving the club and all other participants on the trip from any liability.

Mountaineering is a potentially dangerous activity whose hazards include rock and ice fall, danger from avalanches, hidden crevasses, sudden changes in weather, hypothermia, falls on steep terrain, failure of climbing equipment, and the possibility of becoming lost as well as other hazards associated with hiking, wilderness travel and other pursuits of the BCMC. The organizer of a club trip is not a professional mountaineer, guide or first aid attendant. The function of the organizer is to organize a trip, ensure that it gets under way, know the access to the area and know a route or routes to 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 the participation on a trip. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment may be requested to withdraw from the trip. The club has some equipment for use (rent) on club trips.

Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking equipment used.

Participation on trips may be limited for environmental or safety considerations. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer by Thursday evening for weekend trips and by Friday evening for Sunday trips.

### Legend:



hiking



mixed



rock climbing



snowshoeing



ice climbing



meeting



mountaineering



skiing



instructional program

(blank) - other

*HAPPY TRAILS & SAFE CLIMBING*

*And please submit your trip reports*

## **FACTS ABOUT BC PARKS**

### **BC government threats to our provincial parks intensify – financial and aircraft**

*Comment by Michael Feller*

In late April it was announced that the BC government could be laying off up to half of its park rangers this summer. This would mean less management and less checking for illegal activity, amongst other things. This has led to increased criticism of the government for spending millions on the 2010 olympics, which will benefit few, while the needs of the community go wanting. This announcement prompted a flurry of emails through the FMCBC.

Alex Wallace made the following points:

BC Parks funding / annual operating budget is a bit more complicated since the Frontcountry contracting-out five years ago, whereby the funds that used to pay rangers now go to pay the companies (such as Mt Seymour Resorts) which manage BC Parks as PFO's ( Park Facility Operators). And in some cases, like Golden Ears, the successful bidder did such a lousy job that they lost the contract. (In the meantime - at Golden Ears the very active volunteer group, GETPARC, had become disgusted and actually disbanded).

At one time there were only ten "full-time" BC parks rangers, but I think it has dwindled since then. In working to resolve the conflict at Cypress, we tried for some years to get the figures, which were tangled up with the park use permit and things like snowclearing contracts. In fact it's not easy to get clear figures for BC parks, and perhaps that is deliberate on the part of government, as by my calculations which I have re-run several times, BC parks gets 1/20th ( one-twentieth) the funding of comparable Park agencies in Canada or the US.

In the Lower Mainland, where there were two full-time rangers ten years ago, there now are three part-time rangers who are hired on for four month contracts in winter and summer. The announced laying off of park rangers would mean that there would be no rangers in the 17 Lower mainland parks, including Cypress and Seymour -where all the winter trail marking poles were removed in late March ( the 24th) while it was still SNOWING..!

Peter Rothermel also provided the following facts about BC provincial parks:

-BC Parks receives about 1/20th of the funding as comparable Park agencies in Canada and the US.

-When the NDP were in power, they doubled the amount of parks from 300 to 600, yet with no increase in funding.

-When the Liberals first came into power, they immediately slashed all Ministry budgets by 30%, including Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

- The Liberals have created 50 new parks, yet none on Vancouver Island, even though Mt Arrowsmith was handed to them on a platter, with the Regional District of Nanaimo assuming all of the management costs and the Federation of Mountain Clubs assuming trail maintenance. The Province would have born no costs, yet still rejected Provincial Park status.

- Under the NDP, the Parks budget peaked at \$42 million. Currently, under the Liberals, the Parks budget is about \$30 million and is about to receive more cuts. Minister Penner's recent quotes of saving \$24.3 million, with reduced camping times in some parks, is exaggerated ten times more than is possible.

- Currently there is one full time equivalent (FTE) Park Ranger for each 1.3 million hectares of Park land and there will be fewer in the future. Minister Penner's recent quotes of currently hired ranger numbers were exaggerated by 300%.

- Since the Liberals came into power, in 2001, there has been a 30% decline in ranger numbers. They now propose to axe 40% of the remaining ranger positions.

- Alberta has three times the number of park rangers as BC does, dealing with a smaller park system than that of BC.

- A 2001 Liberal report on the economic viability of Provincial Parks stated that for every dollar that the Provincial Government invested in parks, ten dollars were spent in visitor expenditures.

- BC Parks receives about \$30 million for 650 parks (13,500,000 hectares). In contrast, Metro Vancouver spends about \$21 million on only 21 Regional Parks (3,700 hectares).

- The Provincial Liberal government has committed to \$1.5 billion dollars in subsidies to the oil & gas sector over the next three years. The same government has committed \$6 billion dollars to the Olympics, yet proposes continuing cuts to the world famous

Provincial Parks system.

BC, "The Best Place On Earth" is quickly becoming that... for corporate interests. For Provincial Park users, it's soon becoming "The Last Place On Earth".

Another recent development, pointed out by Steve Grant, has been the government's very quiet changing of the regulations concerning aircraft access to provincial parks. Previously the default policy was no landings without prior permission. The quietly amended Section 27 of the Park regulations now states "a person may use an aircraft to arrive at or depart from a Park or Recreation Area.." subject to Schedule A, which lists a number of places with access restrictions. The BC Floatplane Association now states that its "members may obtain seasonal pre-authorization for access to many of these restricted locations through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Partnership Agreement (PA) between BC Parks and the BCFA".

Locally, Lake Lovelywater and Duffey and Callaghan lakes are not on the restricted list. Garibaldi park is on the restricted list, but these restrictions may be overcome "with prior authorization from a park officer". No "Memorandum of Understanding" seems to exist between BC Parks and non-motorized recreationists that non-motorized recreation opportunities will be maintained.

Park regulations can be found at - <http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/content/site?id=freeside&xsl=/Recon/template/toc.xsl/group-P/>

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## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **Watersprite Lake: April 11-12, 2009**

Watersprite Lake was "found" by Todd Ponzini and Derrick Johnson a few years ago on one of Todd's wanderings. He lived in Squamish for a while and could see some peaks to the east and always wondered where exactly where they were, how to get there, and what if anything was to be discovered there. By wandering and exploring he and Derrick found the lake. It is named in your back roads map book but not on your topo maps. Go figure. Your club executive has been for the last four years been trying to find a suitable place for another club cabin and this lake was suggested so last year Todd had a spring ski

trip there with some executive members attending to check out the area to see it's suitability for a cabin, and the decision was made to make an application for a cabin at the lake. This trip was to get more members there and explore other options for travel in the area.

Being away in Calgary for my latest grand baby's 1st birthday for the days leading up to the trip had some people trying to contact me by phone missing out on the trip. I tried to get hold of everyone that called: but getting home Thursday evening just the day before the trip wasn't to be for some. Sorry guys: but grand babies get priority.

There were 10 of us in all with the day being OK weather for our trip in. My notes from last year's trip were sketchy, but we made all the right turns and we didn't get lost trying to find our way in. The memory still works folks. Hooray! Sorry guys if I was somewhat undecided there for a time or two. The last uphill to the lake was the steepest, but doable, and we even found an easier way up from last year. The 12 k in took us just under 7 1/2 hours with stops for breaks here and there. The route in is mostly on logging roads with of course the last k being the hardest. Isn't that always the way?

There were two in the group who just came for the day, Erich and Ehleen Hinze, who with just their day packs had a fairly easy time of it. Right? Anyway, they stayed for a short look around at the lake then left. Those remaining then made camp with a view looking west towards the Tantalus and Howe sound. After a dinner and chat as what to do the next day, sleeping bag time came. There was a bit of wind and snow during the night and the clouds came in limiting visibility for the next day. We were awakened by our friendly neighborhood raven calling us first thing in the morning. The plan was to try to go north towards Mamquam Mountain and explore for a way to try to get there from the lake. Visibility was poor but we did get to the low spot towards the north and there seemed to be no way to go any further so we turned back and had a fun ski back to camp. There may be a way but we couldn't see it in the poor visibility. Next time.!

Lo and behold someone had a cell phone! They tried and had reception so we called the weather number for an up to date forecast. It was worse than when we left, so after a short discussion we decided to go out early. Today! Now! It was a disappointing decision but turned out to be totally right as the system that came in

was worse than predicted. And we were in a bit of rain on the way out, not a lot but enough to be glad to be home that night and not in our tents in a storm. Drat.

We got to the lake, had a good ski in and out, a good camp, and we posted a notice on a tree there for the ILMB. Others agreed that the area was a good place for a cabin, and new friends were made. That was most important. New friends. A good time.

Thanks to Natasha Suvorova, Diana Diaconu, Erich Hinze, Ehleen Hinze, Leif Marmolejo, Ian Whitehead, Francoise Thibault, Thomas Price, Waldemar Jonsson. David Scanlon, organizer and reporter.

### **THE UNOVERSEER TRIP** March 20-23

I had planned a trip to Overseer mountain for the week of March 14 to 22. but due to personal commitments, had to cancel. A couple of days came available though around the weekend of the 20 to 23 and then with a couple of friends we changed plans and went to explore the access from South Creek towards Overseer. Alas even that fell through as the road wasn't even close to being drivable with all of the new snow. And it was raining quite hard. It became a rather easy decision then to come up with a plan "B". Our reasoning was that if we were to get higher the rain would then be snow. Right? So we drove back through Pemberton and up the Duffey Lake road to Cayoosh Pass.

Going up the Van Horlick logging road, from the Duffey lake road at the 6 K mark is an old logging road leading left, east. This in turn switchbacks another 6K to a great high alpine valley with a rather large lake. This was our plan "B". With all of the driving though we didn't get away from the car until 1pm. Having been here before I knew that the way in would take about 6 hours, and it ended up taking all of that and more with us getting to the lake and camp at 7:45pm, dark. If anyone can remember that week, there was so much new snow that trail breaking was very tiring and slow. We made camp and ate in the dark hitting the sack about 10:30pm.

Those up early go getters in life would not be proud of us the next day as we didn't get up until 9am with a bright sun just hitting the tents. The weatherman was right on { what a treat}. With clear skies and sun and full tummies we went skiing. And the views in the clear air were great. From our first high point we got out

first views of Matier, Joffre, Rohr, Wedge, and others from a completely new direction, making identification difficult. And all of that new snow was just SO sweet for our ski down! So soft and forgiving that one had to really work at it to try to fall. We didn't. Then up a different valley to another high point, our aim being a gap in the ridge above camp. We arrived there to look down on camp and to our great surprise saw an anchor. Way out there in the middle of nowhere, high on the ridge, an anchor, chains and all. We tried to see if there were any clips further down but didn't want to get any closer to the edge to see. Saving that for next time.

I'm thinking of going back in the summer to check the area out for climbing and camping at the lake. And then it would only be 6K in as the logging road could be driven in the first 6k, right?

OK. Another great ski down. But. The others then said that that was enough and went back to camp. Not this fearless leader though. Just one more run. So back up and a third run down ending a great day.

There was just one peak in that area that I hadn't been up yet and that was where I suggested we go the next day. So off we all went. Little did they know what they were in for.

At this time I have to say that the avalanche warning at this time was considerable from the past week's storms and new snow. We saw a couple of small natural releases. The day before there was a large class 2 slab avalanche close to where we were skiing, the fracture line being one of the largest that I had ever seen and the run out went a long way. Now on our second days outing we could see back to where the large avalanche from yesterday was, with a newer one coming down from even higher above overlapping the first. Something to keep in mind.

There were different choices for a route and we picked the one that looked safest. It turned out to be a route that had a problem though. Part of it was fairly steep and would funnel down into a narrowing gap if it were to slide. I do have to say though that some of the slopes we skied on were in part very steep. And we cut into them quite hard and nothing showed any sign of releasing all seeming to be very solid. I don't consider myself to be a risk taker and I thought that we would be OK going this way, single file. It went all right even though there were a couple of second thoughts by a couple of the group. I always tell everyone that

if you have ANY reservations about going anywhere. Don't. Just that simple. Don't. We did all eventually go on. At one point the slope became crusty so the boot stepping began to the summit. More great views.

But the noise! Snowmobilers. We could hear them and having been here before I expected to see and hear them. So we had entertainment for our lunch. Do any of you know what high pointing is in regard to snowmobilers? Taking a run at a steep slope going as fast and as high as possible and then, just before losing all forward momentum, turning back down. That is what these Darwinian twits were doing, and doing it on those very slopes that were avalanching! I was personally torn as to what I wanted to see, happen. Maybe see one of them start an avalanche to get partially buried and maybe learn something, or let the Darwin theory work it's wonders with them? Didn't have to worry though as nothing happened.

So then we went down to our skis for another run. And what did we end up doing! Skiing down that very gully we were so concerned about on the way up. One at a time and getting out of the run out zone right away at the bottom is what we did. The snow was SO sweet! Where we daring? Stupid? Risk takers for doing this? I didn't think so then and don't think so now. With everything that we had done and seen these past two days my opinion was that we were OK to have skied there. A calculated risk may or may not be the correct analysis of what we did. Part of what we do in this exercise of ski mountaineering is assessing and calculating everything we do and where we end up going and making a decision based on that information.

A ski down, and then, a climb back up for one last run for the day. Down we go. Then the tracks! A wolverine had crossed over our up track while we on the top. If only we had looked down we may have seen one of these elusive creatures. Back at camp the sky was ever so slowly clouding over and during dinner the snow slowly started falling. During dinner we could hear the sound of snow machines down in the valley doing their thing. Coming and going from the cabin they had built there.

We had decided the night before to just pack up and leave the next morning and that is what we did. Two hours and 20 minutes out to the car. Pretty good time. Nearing the car we were passed by 6 snow machines. They were still there when we arrived at the

cars so we chatted with them for a bit. Wow. Friendly snowmobilers for a change. It turns out they were having a 12 year reunion for those who built their cabin that was back past the end of the road. Quite a place by their telling. Sleeps 8 comfortably, two couches. It sounds nice. Nice and illegal too.

A great 4 days. The two in the middle being sunny and clear. Excellent snow. Fun friends.

Alena Dzujkova, Peter Margetak, Diana Diaconu, David Scanlon-organizer and reporter.



Skiing near Blowdown Pass and Van Horlick Ck  
Photo: Peter Margetak

## **VI Spine: A Trail from Victoria to Cape Scott.**

The Vancouver Island "Spine" is a proposed trail from Victoria in the south to Cape Scott at the northern tip of the Island. It follows an inland route that passes near many communities, yet retains its wilderness character, following historic routes and completed trails where they exist.

Over 700 km long, the "VISpine" will provide a recreational trail for residents and tourists through the beautiful back country of Vancouver Island. Primarily a hiking trail (but permitting non-motorized, multi-use where appropriate) the route traces mountains, forests and lakes, similar to successful routes in North America.

For further information, go to: [www.vispine.ca](http://www.vispine.ca).