



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter

March 2009. Vol. 87, No. 3

Dream Shadow
Photo: Peter Gumplinger

EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

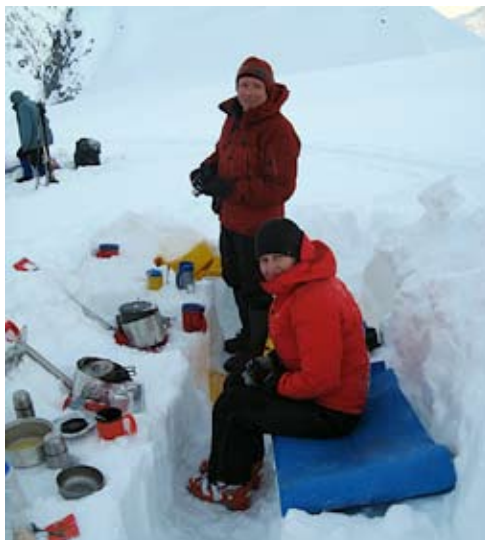
Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Cookies, tea, and coffee are provided.

Tuesday, 10 March

Dave Scanlon and friends made an eight-day ski traverse of the McBride Range in Garibaldi Park last March. The presentation is about that trip.

Tuesday, 14 April

Matt Gunn, author of ski-mountaineering guide books, will present on ski-mountaineering in South America.



Winter Kitchen
Photo: Radmila Jaksic

British Columbia Mountaineering Club

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Esther and Martin Kafer

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EDITOR - OTHER	MICHAEL FELLER	

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SATELLITE PHONE	-PETER GUMPLINGER	604-733-8264
LIBRARY -	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)**.

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.

March

7: Box Canyon Coquihalla	C3
Jane Weller	604.988.3618
7: Rainbow Mtn via Beverley Ck	C3
Peter Gumlinger	604.733.8264
7-8: Big Buck Mtn	B2
Michael Feller	604.270.4050
7-8: Mt. Rohr	A2
(take igloo building gear, contact leader for details)	
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 Gumlinger	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 (tentative)	B/C3
David Scanlon	604.572.5051
15: Welch Pk	C3
Justin Bennett	604.813.4666
21: Mountaineering Practice	B2
Justin Bennett	604.813.4666

21-22: Breckinridge	C3
Greg Stoltman	604.926.6496
21-22: North Joffre Ck Loop	B3
Andrej Dobos	604.764.0174
21-29: Wapta Traverse (FULL)	B3-C4
Ron Caves	604.970.7322
28: Mt. Manson	C3
Alastair Ferries	604.329.1637
28: Mountaineering Practice	B2
Justin Bennett	604.813.4666
28-29: The Sphinx	C3
Phil Kubik	604.266.5873
28-29: Steep Ck. (tentative)	B4
Eric Hughes	604.315.5975

April

4 Chanter Pk.	B2
Peter Oostlander	604.451.4585
4-5: Birkenhead	C3
Greg Stoltman	604.926.6496
4-5: Mt. Baker	C3
Peter Gumlinger	604.733.8264
5: Spearhead OR Neve Traverse	C/D3
Jane Weller	604.988.3618
10-13: Watersprite Lk	B3
Dave Scanlon	604.572.5051
11-12: Rainbow Mtn (tentative)	B2
Andrew Geisheimer	604.569.0084

New Members:

The club welcomes the following new members who joined mid Nov. 2008 to mid Feb. 2009.

Cheryl Lee	Erika Kosarko	Gregory Magolan	Winifred Swatschek
Adam Gomes	Eva Nagyova	Katrina McKeown	York H Robertson
Lisa Brown	Colin Ellis	Kerry Wannell	Eric Ashworth
Daryl Handley	Brennen Parkin	Ian Whitehead	Gordon Bedford
Greg Colquhoun	Gayle Roodman	Kim Little	Paul Olynek
Ron Nishimura	Thomas Price	Russell Anderson	Valerie Belanger
Cale Nishimura	Catherine Zaborowska	Andrea Ouchi	Paul Cottle
Todd Kabaluk	Zaid Maiter	Ariel Goldenberg	Scott Campbell
Birgitte Rossabo	Hans Selde	Rafal Andronowski	Nick McMahon
Alex Gibbs	Sarah Carten	James McDonald	Monica Sliva
Joseph Wong	Dean Wutke	Milena Semproni	Beth McDonald
Gilad Rosenberg	Stanislaw Szpala	Viire Daniels	Hugues Lacroix
Maxim Aleksandrov	Mark Janzen	Michael Andereggen	Vanessa Abbott
Paul Cottle	Scott Campbell	Adrian Lazar	Valdemar Jonsson

Final Report from the 2008 AGM

Climbing Report – *Bob Woodhouse and Radmila Jaksic*

I'll start and end this report the same way: A HUGE Thank-you to all trip organizers! You make the Trip Schedule what it is – outstanding. In some ways there are too many to recognize individually and in others we never have enough.

For those of you, who haven't yet organized a trip but are tempted, please give in to the temptation. You'll find it most rewarding. If you want any help please talk to Radmila or me. Neither of us bites.

There are many, many others who contributed to a rich trip schedule such as last year's:

Course instructors and volunteers: Todd Ponzini, Marcus Dell, Kit Griffin, Ron Caves, Ramsay Dyer, Paul Miller, Paul Talbot, Kim Talbot, Dave Morriss, Wendy Morriss, Scott Tebbut, Stehanie Sersli to name a few.

Camp leader: notably Dave Scanlon and Peter Woodsworth.

Phone Volunteers: Karin Albert, Darlene Anderson, Neil Beattie, Rita Ciammaichella, Marilyn Cox, Ron Groom, Peter Gumplinger, Margaret Hanson, Mary Hearnden, Chad Hooper, Marian Jans, Scott Jutson, Tracy Langham, Valerie LeBlanc, Leonie Knaus, Larry Kost, Alice Purdey, Don Reddick, Rich Sobel, Jane Weller.

In addition there were some regularly planned activities during the week:

- Wednesday Night climbing in Squamish organized by Andrej Dobos and Justin Bennett.
- Midweek summer scrambles organized by Kevin Swanson.
- Midweek Alpine and Rock Climbing organized by Werner Grzimek and Reinhard Fabische.
- Indoor climbing organized by Silvia Bakovic, Tracy Langham and Justin Bennett.

There were a number Trail Clearing trips scheduled last year and I would like to thank the organizers: Dave Scanlon, Paul Kubik and Stanislav Liarsky. I would also like to thank all those who did do trail clearing work on their own. It is appreciated.

Kevin Swanson, webmaster extraordinaire, has implemented weekly email and last minute trip notifications as well as figuring out how trip leaders can post/update trips themselves. Yeah!

There are many others helping us out, some subtly and others not so subtly, some shyly and some not so shyly and to them we also offer our thanks. If I've missed anyone, my apologies, and please let me know.

All in all, a very good year. We look forward to 2009 with great optimism and hope. Hope that we will see a significant rise in the number to NEW trip organizers and hope that you all have a rich and safe year in the mountains.

Some Numbers

	# Trips Scheduled	# Trips Went (%)	Reached Dest'n (%)	# Participants	# Members (%)
2008	169	110 (65)	89 (81)	879	657 (75)
2007	158	90 (57)	61 (68)	650	494 (76)
2006	168	104 (62)	77 (74)	697	539 (77)
	2008	2007	2006		
Day Trips	92	81	85		
Weekend	66	69	76		

Some General Observations

Hiking	56	Includes Midweek Summer Scrambles led by Kevin Swanson
Mixed	9	
Mountaineering	38	Includes Mid week Alpine/Rock Climbing led by Werner Grzimek & Reinhard Fabische but not the Mountaineering course
Ice Climbing	3	
Navigation Course	1	NEW: Led by Ramsay Dyer and Ron Caves
Trail Clearing	4	
Rock Climbing	6	Does not include: 1) Wednesday Rock or Gym Climbing, 2) Rock courses
Skiing	44	Skiing includes the Introduction to Backcountry skiing led by Todd Ponzini
Snowshoeing	8	



Executive News

Membership Co-Chair Derrick Johnstone has served ably and productively on your executive for the past six years, all the while maintaining a fully packed schedule with distractions like work, studies, getting married, trips, etc. Derrick has now decided to re-order his obligations and therefore has resigned from the executive, effective immediately. A HUGE thank you, Derrick. We'll miss your energy and ideas at the meetings. At the same time, we know that there is lots of energy and ideas amongst the members and so invite you to step forward to fill the vacancy. Silvia Bakovic, the other Membership Co-Chair, would certainly appreciate your assistance and here is your opportunity to contribute to the running of the club. We meet monthly on the first Tuesday.

Recreation & Conservation

The following letter was sent to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts by the FMCBC in response to the government's request for public comment.

Draft Trails Strategy *Brian Wood, FMC President*

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) represents the interests of over twenty outdoor recreation clubs and some 4,000 members in British Columbia. The FMCBC's mission is to foster and promote the hiking, mountaineering, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing activities of the membership and the general public through leadership, advocacy and education. The FMCBC is pleased to provide com-

ments on the Draft Trails Strategy document issued late in 2008 and presented in public meetings.

The FMCBC congratulates the government on initiating this public input process to ensure that BC will achieve a world class trail system. Our province is blessed with an abundance of spectacular terrain, and in some areas where the resources were available, we have well constructed and maintained trails to access this terrain. We now need to improve and expand this trail system to include more of our province, so that local and overseas visitors can access more of our wilderness, but in a limited manner so that special areas can be preserved for future generations to experience it as it is now.

The FMCBC believes its response will be most helpful to the Trails Strategy Committee if it uses this letter to respond to (A) the vision and (B) the four guiding principles. The letter will include a few high level concerns about the 17 specific actions.

Comments On The Vision

The draft document outlines the vision as follows:

"A world-renowned network of sustainable trails, accessible to all, which fosters social, cultural, health, economic and environmental benefits for trail users, communities and the province."

1. The FMCBC supports this vision. However, the vision should be clarified to ensure that the trail system **as a whole** is accessible to all users, and **not** that all trails are accessible to all users. If all trails were accessible to all users, there would be

1. conflict between certain user groups, as has been found in numerous instances of multi-use trails.
2. Achieving the “world-renowned” trail network must be the guide when choices need to be made in implementing the vision. With its spectacular natural environment BC has vast potential to become the world’s premier destination for non-motorized trail users. We believe that, properly developed, BC’s system of trails can greatly inspire many more British Columbians to use and enjoy the outdoors thereby greatly improving their health and cultural awareness. Equally important, we believe that a world class network of trails will attract the users from other provinces and countries who can bring significant financial benefits to our local communities by way of jobs and tourist revenues. We have serious competitors for this role, including New Zealand, Switzerland and the western U.S. states. Yet BC has the raw materials in its abundance and diversity of mountains, valleys, oceans, rivers, lakes, plateaus and true wilderness to easily best Switzerland and other competitors. What BC does **not** have is a world class trail network. A rapid implementation of the Trails Strategy vision will let BC overcome this.

Comments On The Four Guiding Principles

3. In general, we offer broad support for the four guiding principles, but feel there is vagueness in principles #3 and #4 that could lead to problems when these principles are put into practice.
4. We strongly support principles #1 and #2 provided the stated collaboration includes ample opportunities for the public to review and comment on the progress of the panel drafting the final document.
5. Principle #3 attempts to be “all inclusive” and in the past this general approach has generated many problems with different user groups. Many other jurisdictions, particularly Europe and Australasia, have tackled this tricky problem, and we should learn from their successes and mistakes. If we expect to attract overseas visitors to use our trails, their expectations should be considered as many of them will have experienced recreational facilities and services of a much higher standard than is presently available in most of our province. This will require much more funding than has been available in the past. In addition, some of our members

have extensive experience in negotiating these types of issues, and feel that there needs to be an open and fair accounting of the distribution of enjoyable recreation opportunities between the various user groups.

6. Principle #4 recites that a full suite of benefits should be available to communities, and this is a particular concern as it is too vague and may set impossibly high standards. The trails throughout the province cover a very wide range of qualities and standards because of the wide variety of terrain and trail user groups, and wide range of resources available to build and maintain the trails. This will require considerable negotiation and compromise to attain a satisfactory conclusion.

Comments On The 17 Proposed Actions

FMCBC wishes to highlight a few key matters with regards to proposed components and actions:

7. In some cases, there are too many participants on the same trail or in the same area, which over-crowds the terrain, often termed exceeding the “carrying capacity” of the terrain. Assessing the carrying capacity for certain activities in a particular terrain can be a complex subject, and this matter has been addressed by other jurisdictions, but we could find no reference to this important concern in this draft. Once the carrying capacity has been ascertained, adequate management protocol must be established, for example, by an effective user registration and enforcement system.
8. At present, there is a common tendency to locate incompatible activities adjacent each other, or even occupying the same terrain. For example, non-motorized recreationists commonly find that nearby motorized recreationists completely destroy their recreational experiences, as well as being dangerous, whereas motorized recreationists commonly are not affected by non-motorized recreation activities. It should be obvious that a hiker would not like to share a trail with ATVs, or a back country skier share the same area with snowmobiles, and yet in some poorly regulated (or poorly enforced) backcountry areas these incompatible activities commonly take place side by side. Inevitably, as the experience is so unpleasant for the non-motorized recreationists, they abandon the area to motorized recreationists, and this is

clearly unfair. We are pleased to note that the basic incompatibility and danger of shared-use trails is mentioned in the draft, and request that these issues be satisfactorily resolved in part by ensuring that there is an open and fair distribution of trails between the different user groups. This requires adequate signage and enforcement.

9. One thrust of the strategy is to provide employment and generate revenue. As can be seen in many other countries, this approach has good potential, but only if regulations and an effective management protocol are in place to ensure this relatively new industry does not “kill the goose that laid the golden egg”. At present there are many examples in BC where poor management of public and commercial backcountry recreation is spoiling the wilderness experience for many. If we are expecting to generate revenue from this product, we have to provide value for money for those who participate. Initially, this requires an ongoing commitment to fund rebuilding of our worn out backcountry infrastructure such as trails, bridges, parking areas at trailheads etc. In addition, all direct public revenue collected from the backcountry activities should be returned to the infrastructure, and not to government’s general revenue.
10. For decades, recreationists of many differing interests relied on resource roads, which were usually gravel-surfaced logging or mining roads, to access the backcountry. Many of these roads have become impassable even in high clearance 4-wheel drive trucks and SUV’s due to road de-activation. The rationale for de-activation includes reducing water erosion damage to the hillside traversed by the road and to restrict entry to motorized vehicles for environmental reasons. The result is that accessing the backcountry is more onerous or may be impossible. We realize that some roads have to be closed for certain reasons and that road maintenance is costly. However, if trails are to be used it is essential to include trail access in resource road planning and maintenance.

The FMCBC looks forward to continue working with government through the Trails Strategy Committee on refining and implementing the strategy.

FMCBC Needs Volunteers And Articles

The Federation of Mountain Clubs will be publishing

the Spring/Summer issue of our journal “Cloud-burst” within a few months. The FMCBC is now seeking articles and images relating to non-motorised outdoor recreation, eg. backcountry trips, wilderness conservation, news of clubs and members, and other subjects that may be of interest to FMCBC members.

At the AGM in June this year we will need two volunteers to replace our Secretary and Treasurer. While experience in these two positions is an asset, it is not a requirement. So, please step forward to help the FMCBC in its mission to maintain and improve access to the backcountry and to represent the interests of non-motorised backcountry recreationists in BC. Contact Brian Wood at 604-222-1541 or bjwood@telus.net.

Recreation User Survey Stats - Michael Feller

The following table is found in the 2005 UBC PhD thesis of H.W. Harshaw: The Representation of Outdoor Recreation in Land-Use Planning in British Columbia. This is the most recent available data of which I am aware. Older data show similar differences between backcountry non-motorised and snowmobiling use - A 1989/90 survey (BC Min. For. Recreation Branch. 1991. Outdoor recreation survey 1989/90. BCMoF Recreation Branch Technical Report 1991-1) did not separate backcountry skiing from downhill or X-country skiing, but snowshoeing had .08 days per capita vs <0.01 days per capita snowmobiling in the then Vancouver Forest Region.

Balmer in 1993 estimated recreation participation in the lower mainland of BC as 8% backcountry skiing and snowshoeing (K.R. Balmer. 1994. The future of outdoor recreation: an emerging BC ‘cultural trademark’. In A protected areas strategy for British Columbia. Outdoor recreation in British Columbia supply and demand issues and trends. Background papers. Province of British Columbia)

The GVRD also did an earlier survey with similar differences. These older ones can rightly be criticised as being out of date, but I am unaware of any survey which has shown snowmobilers as the dominant winter recreation group in this part of the world.

Ranked Outdoor Recreation Activities (n=665)

Rank Activity % 95% C.1.

Trail hiking	86.77%	±2.58%
Rock climbing	49.77%	±3.80%
Mountain biking	49.40%	±3.81%
Downhill skiing	49.02%	±3.80%
Off-trail hiking	44.06%	±3.78%
Backcountry camping	43.46%	±3.77%
Backcountry skiing	33.98%	±3.60%
Mountaineering	28.57%	±3.44%
Snowboarding (groomed)	23.61%	±3.23%
X-country skiing (groomed)	21.50%	±3.13%
Snow shoeing	21.20%	±3.11%
Off-roading	14.74%	±2.70%
Snow-mobiling	10.53%	±2.33%
Backcountry snowboarding	10.08%	±2.29%

Book Reviews

The Coast Mountains Trilogy by Dick

Culbert

Review by Barry Hagen

Like Glenn Woodsworth, I had the good fortune to explore and climb in the mostly-unmapped BC Coastal Ranges with Dick Culbert in the 1960's, and later in the Annapurna/ Dhaulagiri region of Nepal in the autumn of 1970. Right from my first trip with Dick, I, a neophyte, could see that Dick possessed the "wisdom of the hills", with powers of observation and analysis far superior to mine. Whereas I, like other less-experienced mountaineers, would be seized by self-doubt in adverse conditions, Dick appeared to thrive. From Dick, I absorbed back-country knowledge and skills which have helped me to this day. It was only decades later that I learned of Dick's prowess as a poet.

Dick Culbert's poems, most of which I've only recently read, aroused in me intense memories of my own highs and lows in alpinism, from the excitement of moving through untracked terrain, to the near-panic of loose holds, and to the pessimistic gloom of being tent-bound for days on end. Dick's poetry is always enjoyable and never boring, evoking the magnetic attraction of the mountains. Older mountain travelers will thoroughly enjoy re-living their past through Dick's poetry, while younger alpinists may gain even more, especially by reading such works as "The Coast Mountains Trilogy" to a companion in a cabin, tent, or snow-cave.

Glenn Woodsworth's comprehensive introduction is a must-read, clearly placing Dick's poetry in the context of the exploratory decades of the 60's and 70's. Arnold Shives' sketches, drawn during exploratory trips with Dick and Glenn, add a sense of the rugged, al-

most chaotic nature of the Coastal Ranges of British Columbia. The Coast Mountains Trilogy will become an essential addition to any mountain-lover's library, a treasure to read and re-read over the years.

Conrad Kain: BC Mountaineering Icon

Ron Dart

Conrad Kain (1883-1935) was born in the small Austrian town of Nasswald near the famous rock face, Raxalpe, where most of the best climbers cut their teeth and learn their demanding scrambling skills. Kain did not have an easy life. His father died when he was a young boy, and he, in his early teens, had to become the bread and butter provider for his family. He took jobs as a goatherder, worked in a quarry and even poached animals to feed his hungry siblings and mother. He managed to find his real passion, though, in his late teens: mountaineering and mountain guiding. He received his Austrian mountain guiding certificate ('FührerBuch') in 1906, and his reputation as a mountain guide in Austria soared with each led trip.

Kain was keen to see the larger world, though, and his restless longings soon opened up new guiding possibilities. Kain applied in 1909 to be a CPR mountain guide, like many Swiss guides, in the Canadian Rockies. There were no openings for the eager Kain with the CPR. He was welcomed by Arthur Wheeler (president of the Alpine Club of Canada) to be the first paid mountain guide for the fledgling Alpine Club of Canada (founded in 1906).

So, Kain arrived in Banff in 1909, and his initial job was to assist in the building of the Alpine Clubhouse on Sulphur Mountain in Banff. Kain became the lead guide at the annual Alpine Club's summer camp in the summer of 1909 at Lake O'Hara. Many a peak was scaled, and Kain's reputation was in the ascendant.

The mountaineering community is celebrating this year the hundredth anniversary of Kain's arrival in Canada. Kain established himself, within a few years of being in BC, as one of the foremost mountaineers and mountain guides. He initiated the first ski hill and jump in Banff in 1911, and he was the first to climb the highest peak in the BC Rockies (Mt. Robson) in 1913. The Northeast face of Robson is called Kain Face. Kain did many of the first ascents in BC, and his climbing record has rarely been matched or equaled. Kain had a fondness for the Bugaboo Group in the

Purcell Range, and he did most of the first ascents of the spires in the area.

The life of a mountain guide in the early decades of the 20th century was a precarious one. When the mountaineering season was over, guides often had to find other sources of income. Kain became a trapper and hunter to top up his meager income. He would often spend many a winter night under the stars, living off roasted squirrel, whisky-jack or soup made from the carcass of a discarded marten. It was not uncommon for Kain to trek 40-50 KL a day as a trapper and hunter. But, his real passion was climbing the peaks in BC and guiding others to such paradise places.

Kain had become such a legend and icon in the BC mountaineering community by the 1920s-1930s that many of his climbing clients wanted to know more about their trusted guide. Kain's biography, *Where The Clouds Can Go*, was initially published in 1935. It was republished again in 1954 and 1979. The biography is a solid keeper and charmer. The tale told opens up British Columbia outdoor history in an appealing and alluring manner. It's hard to put the book down. Much is evoked in the reading.

Kain spent his final and waning years in Wilmer, British Columbia. The depression years were hard on many, and Kain knew the demands of the time well. He was aging, and his strength was not what it once was. His wife, Hetta, died in 1933, and Kain followed her in 1934 at the early age of 50 years of age.

2009 is an important year for those that see Conrad Kain as a model, mentor and mountaineering icon of BC. The Alpine Club of Canada is doing a special Kain week that will retrace and climb many of the peaks that Kain ascended. Many are the pilgrimages planned to Kain Hut to soak in the memory of a BC mountaineering pioneer. Mount Conrad in the Purcells celebrates Kain's many climbing accomplishments as did Earle Birney's well crafted poem, 'Conrad Kain' (1949). Kain's significance is well recounted in Phil Dowling's *The Mountaineers: Famous Climbers in Canada* (1979).

BC outdoor history would be leaner and thinner were it not for Conrad Kain, and many is the momento that remains to remind those that turn to the mountains that some of the early mountaineers in BC were pure gold. The Conrad Kain Climbing Wall at J.A. Laird School in Invermere/BC has recently been constructed to

honour the life and many climbs of Kain.

There is no doubt that Conrad Kain is a BC mountaineering legend and icon, and 2009 is a fitting year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his coming to Canada and BC.

Trip Reports

Zoa Peak Jan. 31, 2009

The lack of fresh snow over the previous few weeks must have made people very anxious to get out and I had a large number of calls and emails before this trip. I cut off the number at 15.

I was expecting a few inches of fresh snow on a hard base. It wasn't until we started up the Coquihalla and the snow was falling in earnest that I realized that we were in for more than that. The driving was ugly with blowing snow and fog, but all four vehicles arrived safely. We geared up and headed for the ridge following shortly behind another large group of skiers who were breaking trail. Good timing there. The area seemed to have its own little microclimate and it snowed heavily for most of the day.



The expected few inches of snow turned out to be more like 18 albeit still on the hard base buried below. As we huddled for lunch in the trees below the high point the temperature was - 7C.

Once at the first summit no one wanted to risk the avalanche hazard and ski the steeper north facing slopes. We skied down the shallower ridge line and found some open glades among the southeast facing slopes. The snow was deep and light, prompting some people to climb back up for a second round.

Back at the road my car was severely snowed in as a result of the snowplow at work. It took considerably shoveling and then the help of everybody around (including several young snowmobilers) to get it onto the cleared roadway. The day finished with dinner at the Wildcat in Rosedale.

Participants: Lesley Bohm, Erin Buckoll, Doug Fleming, Ehleen Hinze, Erich Hinze, Andrezej Jarzabek, Murray Lashmar, Anne Leatham, Beth McDonald, Paul Ng, Trudy Rey, Dave Robertson and Carol MacMillan (organizer and reporter.)

The Cathedrals Oct. 11-13, 2008 Joint BCMC / ACC

This (almost) annual trip to the Cathedral was almost shelved because in early September I found out that the Lodge was going to close down the week before Thanksgiving. This was a disappointment, as I have depended on the trucks to get us up to the lakes in the past. Needless to say, the numbers of folk who were interested in a trek up or even something different, immediately dropped off.



However, 10 intrepid BCMC'er's and ACC'er's agreed to a reconnaissance trip. The plan was to head up to the Wall Creek access and set up a base camp. From there we would explore both the Centennial Trail heading west up Easy Gong Creek and the following day check out route into the Cathedrals via the Wall Creek trail.

Ross Wyborn and Pieter De Visser and son had set up camp near the creek below the Centennial Trail when the rest of us arrived late Saturday morning. We explored the rough road running south, but soon found our cars bottoming out. We found the Easy Going Creek trail wiped out by recent logging and decided, instead, to follow the logging road up and see how close to Border Lake we could go. The 2006 forest fire had destroyed a large area. We found a hiking sign but soon ran out of trail. With the GPS set on Border Lake we bushwacked through easy terrain for about an hour before coming to the lightly frozen lake. The return trail and final trailhead signage was easy to see although the forest fire had definitely scoured the area.

Rain and light snow during the night cancelled the 7:00am start. This was a bad call on my part as leader as it cleared in the afternoon and we could have salvaged more time to get up onto the ridge. Instead, we called it quits before reaching the rim and returned to our basecamp by 5:30pm with daylight to cook dinner and relax around a campfire.

We breakfasted in leisurely style and then drove to the Ewart Creek turnoff. We hiked for an hour or so up that trail before heading back to the cars and the long weekend traffic back to Vancouver.

Perhaps next year there will be some people interested in a crossover trip between Ewart Creek, past Haystack Lakes, over Box Car and down into the Cathedral Lakes then up and over the Rim and down Wall Creek. If there are enough people we could exchange keys and cars.

We were: Ev and Mike Feller, Carol MacMillan, Natasha Suvorova, Anne Lavergne, Jack Bryceland, Pieter and Andrew deVisser, Ross Wyborn, Ellen Woodd (leader and reporter)

Notice:

Twenty-five members have joined the ski section and if the weather keeps up as at present they will soon be starting to ski. Roy Howard has arranged for Dick Shaich, an expert Swiss skier, to conduct a series of lectures throughout the winter. The first will be on November 16th in the "Sports Room" of the Vancouver Daily Province, at 8 pm. This evening will be in the form of an organization meeting of the Ski Section. During the lecture, Dick Shaich will give advice as to the best types of skis, harness and general equipment to use. All members are cordially invited to attend.

(Puzzled? Note from *BC Mountaineer N9 V8 1931*)

Introduction to Backcountry Skiing January 2009 - Todd Ponzini

This is the sixth year that I've run this instructional program for the Club, and I've become wise enough to realize that the 1600m freezing level and 40-50mm of precipitation that was forecast for the first weekend on Mt. Seymour would not make for a pleasant experience. So on the Friday before the first weekend, I hastily called everyone and we re-routed to Zoa Peak, where the weather was forecast to be much more civilized.

Saturday morning saw us slowly skiing up the access road under light snow, and it didn't take long for people to get strung out as they dealt with equipment issues, blisters, and started to realize the joy of skiing with an overnight pack. A note to any prospective boot purchasers: *if you're planning to use your boots while*

wearing a full pack, then make sure you wear a pack when trying the boots on in the store, as boots can feel very different with and without a pack.

Eventually we reached the highpoint of the pipeline road and angled up into the forest. We chose to camp in the first open meadow that we saw, as conditions were a bit blustery up high. Everyone set up their tents and leaned about the finer points of snow camping, and then it was time to go find a practice slope for some pit digging. We skied about 45 minutes above camp and found some nice little rolls to dig some pits, and learned all about persistent weak layers. It was interesting to trigger the PWL with a rutschblock test, as it only took a moderate jump to break almost the entire snowpack into a clean slab that slid into the pit on a weak layer of sugary snow about 10cm above the ground.



We wrapped up the snow pit lessons and skied back to camp as dusk fell. Due to the indistinct ridge, the fading daylight and the large number of different up-tracks, we missed our route to camp and found ourselves in thick forest, seemingly below camp. People had lots of opinions on which way to go, and we briefly thought camp was to the left; however, my senses started to tingle and I brought out the map & compass, which confirmed that camp was right. After a bit of a traverse, we found our up-track and had to skin up about 2-3 minutes to get back to camp. A lesson learned for the participants: *When you're stuck in the woods in the dark, a map and compass with a good headlamp is a necessity.*

It was snowing just enough to be annoying, so jaded types like Ramsay and I had dinner in the tent, while the more enthusiastic participants had dinner out in the snow. Later I showed them an old *trick of laying skis across your vestibule footwell to cook in your tent in comfort and style.*

We were up and off Sunday morning, and had a decent run off the north side of Zoa's sub peak. The rest

of the day was spent doing a variety of drills to get everyone familiar with the use of their transceivers. The main lesson learned was: *Just because you went to MEC and rented a transceiver does not mean you can use it effectively!* With practice, however, everyone became proficient with their transceivers and the "victims" were all deemed to have survived their "burials". After these drills, we skied back to camp, packed up, and skied down the road to the cars through increasingly wet snow.

I chose Needle Peak for weekend #2, as it has a short approach to camp and lots of accessible skiing. As we skied up through the forest the snow resembled a skating rink, but by taking a leisurely route we made it up onto the ridge and our camping area without too much trouble. We used the rest of the day to get some ski-

ing in, and made between one and four runs (depending on fitness level) in the small NE facing bowl to the north of the peak. The snow was sort of crusty but still quite skiable, and in fact was much better than I thought it would be. We found a short little chute with a small cornice at the top, which provided lots of entertainment, a few thrills and a few spills (look for the highlight reel video in the online forum). Back at camp, people burned through their memory cards as the sun set and the local peaks were bathed in a beautiful alpenglow.

The second weekend is really meant to get some skiing mileage in, with lots of little mini-seminars along the way. I spent some time on skiing technique, as powder (or crust) skiing is not easy. By far the quickest route to becoming a better skier is to get in the habit of doing pole plants at every turn, and bending your knees to lower your centre of gravity. Pole plants force your hands forward, which squares your shoulders to the fall line, and everything kind of builds from there. Zaid showed us how to drop a cornice onto a flat, hard landing.....nobody lined up to repeat his line!

The temperatures were very warm as there was a strong inversion, so we headed to the back bowl to get some runs in. We skied up to the small summit on the far side of the little lake, and had a nice long run down to the head of Needle Creek. Zaid, Colin and Ian made first tracks off a small bump with a steep face, and everyone enjoyed the wide-open alpine slopes. Again, depending on fitness level, we made between one and four runs in the back bowl, and as long as you kept in the sunshine, the snow was quite good.



Like many trips, the crux was the ski out from camp. The majority of the group chose to hike down the snowshoe trail, which was well packed out, and this went fairly well. Myself, Ramsay and a

few other intrepid skiers chose to ski down on snow that resembled white talus due to the large amount of snow chunks that had fallen off the trees and then re-frozen. We all made it down in one piece, and the hikers and skiers took almost exactly the same amount of time to get down. We headed for home by way of the Wildcat Grill in Rosedale, another successful class complete.

I'd like to thank my co-instructors, Ramsay Dyer and Peter Malacarne, and all of the participants: Mazy Baker, Colin Ellis, Ariel Goldenberg, Leif Marmolejo, Zaid Maiter, David McVea, Elaine Naisby, Andrea Ouchi, Tom Price, Kerry Wannell, and Ian Whitehead.



Photos: Needle Peak Camp (above), studying snow layers in pit (left), skiing Needle Pk back bowl (previous page.)

Photos by Todd Ponzini