

B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



November, 2009. Vol. 87, No. 11

Above Ladyslipper Lake, Cathedral Park, in October, 2009. Photo: M. Feller

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 November - The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, so entertainment will be provided by your executive. In addition, Gerry Kollmuss will give a show on the Salal Ck. area.

Tuesday, 8 December - Entertainment will be a show by John Baldwin on Coast Mountain ski traverses.



Looking towards Mt. Ethelweard above the head of Salal Ck. Photo: M. Feller.

British Columbia Mountaineering Club

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HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	TODD PONZINI	604-936-9369
PAST-PRESIDENT -	DAVID HUGHES	604-980-6484
VICE-PRESIDENT -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
SECRETARY -	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
TREASURER -	CRAIG KALNIN	604-787-5396
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	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
CLIMBING -	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
	RADMILA JAKSIC	604-602-0468
CABIN/TRAILS -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
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CAMPS -	ALENA DZUJKOVA	604-708-5385
FMCBC REP -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
WEBMASTER -	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
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EDITOR - OTHER	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050

SAFETY EQUIPMENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
SATELLITE PHONE -	PETER GUMPLINGER	604-733-8264
LIBRARY -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

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.

November

6-9: North Ck.	B2
David Scanlon	604.572.5051
7: Twin Lakes Peaks	C3
Alastair Ferries	604.329.1637
7: Squamish (rock)	A5
Waldemar Jonsson	604.780.0296
29: Cypress Pk. (ski)	C3
Radmila Jaksic	604.602.0468

Wednesday evening indoor climbing

November 4, 11, 18, 25: Cliffhanger Vancouver.

Contact Radmila Jaksic at 604.602.0468.

Winter - Spring instructional programs

This winter and Spring the club will be organizing a series of instructional programs, which will include -

1. Winter Backcountry skiing: Jan 30-31 and Feb 6-7
2. Avalanche safety (avoiding): Jan 9-10
3. Avalanche response (finding & extricating).
4. Snow pit and profile assessment (one day).
5. Snow shelter construction: Feb 13-14.
6. Avalanche transceiver practice: Dec 5.
7. Ice climbing: Jan 9 (introduction), Jan 23-24 (advanced).

Further details will be announced later in the newsletter and on the club website.

VERY IMPORTANT - To receive a hard copy of the newsletter !!

To reduce printing and mailing costs of the BCMC Newsletter and the FMBCB Newsletter "Cloudburst", BCMC members who want a MAILED PAPER copy of either or both of these newsletters MUST clearly indicate that option by checking the appropriate boxes on a revised version of the yellow BCMC 2009/2010 membership form, which accompanies this newsletter. As before, you still have the option of receiving one or both paper versions of the newsletters by mail, but **if you do not check the appropriate box, you will NOT receive a mailed copy.**

December

5: Diamond Head (ski)	A1
Darlene Anderson	604.789.8020
5: Squeah Mtn. (snowshoe)	C3
Alastair Ferries	604.329.1637
5: Mt. Seymour and transceiver practice	A2
Dan Carey	604.731.4048
Beginners are welcome!	
5: Squamish (rock)	A5(W13?)
Werner Grzimek	604.737.1091
12: Heliotrope Ridge (ski)	C2-3
Thomas Schroeder	604.315.3515

November 4, 11, 18, 25, December 2,9:

Cliffhanger Coquitlam.

Contact Adrian Lazar by email.

Member News – The Rucksack

Membership fees for 2009/10 are now

due - Membership fees for 2007-2008 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, **THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE.** You should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying this newsletter, **indicating if you would like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter by mail**, read and sign the waiver on the reverse side, then send in the signed form with appropriate dues.

Membership dues are -

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

All members who supply an email address will be sent a link by email to access an electronic copy of the newsletter. In other words, an electronic copy is the non-action default, and a mailed paper copy requires action on your part. This is different to the box checking procedure used in previous years.

Note that there are separate boxes to mark for each of the BCMC and FMBCB newsletters, unlike previous years. Thus, you can choose to receive a printed copy of the BCMC newsletter, but not the FMBCB newsletter, for example.

Your executive

New executive volunteers needed: At the Annual General Meeting in November, a new executive will be voted in. We need people to assist in several areas, including cabin and trails, editor, and membership. If you are interested in these, or any other executive positions, please contact a member of the executive, or the nominating officer - our past president, David Hughes, at 604-980-6484.

Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival:

This will be held earlier this year - in January - to avoid the winter olympics, and the club will be



contributing an award of \$500 (The Macaree Award for the best film on mountain culture) as well as \$500 for the running of the film festival and \$200 for refreshments to host the BC/Canada day evening session. We need people to assist with the refreshments and manning a club display. Those who assist can be given complimentary tickets for the day on which they assist. If you are interested in helping out, please contact David Scanlon at 604-572-5051.

BCMC centennial journal is available for pickup

The club's large centennial journal, containing articles, poems, and photos from the first 100 years of the club's existence, as well as previously unpublished material, dating from 2007 back to 1906, has been available since June. As it is quite expensive to mail, we are trying to distribute as many copies as possible by hand. If you were a

club member in 2007, you are entitled to a free copy. You can collect your copy at any club monthly social meeting, or from one of the following people and locations:

Burnaby

Alice Purdey (4262 Napier St., 604-293-2951)

North Vancouver

Monika Bittel (3230 Connaught St., 604-983-3097)

David Hughes (5211 Ranger Ave., 604-980-6484)

Richmond

Michael Feller (7451 Montana Rd., 604-270-4050)

Vancouver central

Radmila Jaksic (44-784 Thurlow St., 604-602-0468)

Vancouver westside

Brian Wood (1844 Acadia Rd., 604-222-1541).

Copies can be purchased for \$35 if you can collect them, or \$40 if you wish them posted somewhere within Canada. Purchases can be made at the monthly social meetings or by contacting Michael Feller.

If you are eligible for a free copy but cannot collect one at a monthly social or at one of the locations given above, please contact Michael Feller.

An unsolicited review of the journal follows.

The B.C. Mountaineer: 100 Years of mountaineering 1907-2007

The BCMC celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2007 (1907-2007). Eyes were eager and minds poised to read the tale and drama of a century of BCMC life. Most were accustomed to the fine and predictable publication of *The B.C. Mountaineer* every couple of years. The wait was longer for the anniversary tome, but the wait was rewarded by a splendid book that is already a collector's item.

Michael Feller and other able and gifted assistants have done a superb job of bringing a variety of mountaineering essays together to tell the fascinating history of BCMC. The large book, replete with A++ essays and excellent photographs from different decades, is divided into fourteen sections: 1) The B.C. Mountaineering Club: Beginnings, 2) The South Coast Mountains, 3) Mountains North of Vancouver, 4) Vancouver

Island, 5) Poetry and Songs, 6) The Central Coast Mountains, 7) The Northern Coast Mountains, 8) The Cascade Mountains, 9) Thinker and Philosopher, 10) The Columbia Mountains, 11) The Rocky Mountains, 12) The North, 13) Outside Canada and Alaska and 14) Perspectives on the BC Mountaineering Club.

There is little doubt that *The B.C. Mountaineer: 100 Years of mountaineering 1907-2007* is a well rounded, relatively comprehensive and balanced presentation of climbing events and the more political and reflective aspects of mountaineering. Most of the photographs in the large and weighty volume are real keepers and visual delights that will inspire and encourage one and all to take to the rock guardians of old, frigid glaciers and white towers. The history of BCMC and mountaineering in BC is generously covered, but the many trips by BCMC members that have turned to challenging peaks outside Canada are also touched on. Those who slowly take the time to read and reread *The B.C. Mountaineer* cannot but be taken by all that members from BCMC have done between 1907-2007. Those in the future will have reason to look back on the initial century of BCMC life as a golden and energetic phase of the club's life.

The section in which a great deal of attention was focused on was 'The Central Coast Mountains'. It is in this glacier thick region that the reigning peak of BC is located: Mt. Waddington. There are nine articles on Mt. Waddington that begin with Don Munday's 'Mystery Mountain' and conclude with Brian Gavin's 'Mt. Waddington-a dream fulfilled'. Feller and team were right to linger longer on Mt. Waddington and the Central Coast Mountains than on other specific mountains and ranges. There is so much about this alluring and spacious fortress that holds mind, body and imagination. It is, in a sense, the Himalayas of BC. Many a hope fulfilled and tragic experience has been lived through in this demanding and unforgiving mountain citadel and cathedral.

The shorter sections on 'Poetry and Songs', 'Thinker and Philosopher' and 'Perspectives on BC Mountaineering' are thoughtfully placed in the broader text of *The B.C. Mountaineer*. It might have enriched the book if these sections were longer. The front cover is framed well. The climber nearing the summit, ice axe in the snow,

knapsack on back, cinched into rope, barren rock patches and ice/snow beneath and towering rock ridges behind tells the tale well that most know in their blood and bones.

The B.C. Mountaineer: 100 Years of mountaineering 1907-2007 is a tome that each and all who are interested in mountaineering in BC should have.

Many a time this book will call forth a read and each read will enrich the understanding of how BCMC has lived, moved and had their mountaineering being in BC and beyond from 1907-2007. Much gratefulness should be offered to those that put in countless hours to make this historic document a keeper for generations to come.

Ron Dart

Canadian maps free from the internet

Two types of maps of interest to mountaineers are available free from the internet. The advantage is that they cost nothing, but the disadvantage is that you need a good colour printer capable of printing large sheets to make the most of the maps.

1. National 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 topographic maps - are available from www.geogratis.gc.ca/geogratis/en/product/search.do?id=10119

All you need to do is enter the mapsheet no. (e.g. 92G01) in the dataset box. If you don't know the mapsheet no., you can obtain it from zooming in on the map displayed beneath the dataset box. Mapsheet nos. are also available from index maps at <http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/topo/map>

2. B.C. maps down to 1:20,000 based on the provincial databases - are available from iMapBC at <http://webmaps.gov.bc.ca/imfx/imf.jsp?site=imapbc>

This site allows you to create your own map, so your area of interest does not have to be at the edge of a mapsheet. You can add contours and various other features, but place names are sparse. Road information is generally more up to date than that given on the federal NTS

mapsheets. You can also import GPS waypoint data and mark locations on your map.

Another BC map site which is far better for place names but which doesn't offer as many possibilities for computer geeks (less information can be added, although contours and roads can still be added), but which contains recreation site data, is

<http://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/recst/>

Although maps from this site are claimed to contain trails, many, if not most, of our hiking trails do not appear.

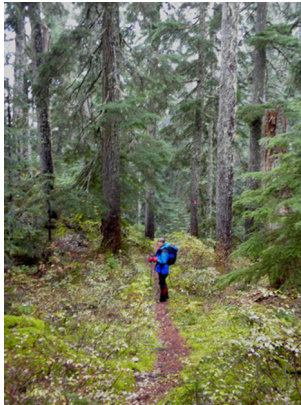
Trip reports

Hanging Lake, 18 Oct, 2009, *Michael Feller*

An adverse weather forecast may have deterred the masses, but only one person expressed interest in my weekend hike along the 21 Mile Ck. - Madely trail, and she wisely decided that Saturday looked hopeless and opted for a local trip on Sunday. That left Evelyn and myself to hike the Madely Ck. - Hanging Lake section in the mixture of sun and cloud forecast for Sunday. The weatherman was up to his usual standard of (in)competence as we had less than 2 minutes of sunshine and less than 15 minutes when it was not raining in 5.5 hours of travel.

The trail is one of the newest ones around and was one I had not traversed. The area has become the focus of an intense motorized vs non-motorized debate following the Olympics-caused land use debacle in the Callaghan valley, so it was an area that I had to see.

The trail definitely needs some work, with many very muddy sections, becoming a stream bed in a couple of areas and the bed of a pond in another. Blueberry bushes, alder, salmonberry, and an occasional clump of devil's club are all encroaching. Clumps of soil, forming steps on steep smooth slabs, will not last long, and fording of a couple of creeks would be tricky with high runoff. It also has a couple of "North Ck. trail - type sections" up talus. However, the trail took a very picturesque and interesting route to Hanging Lake, passing a couple of beautiful small lakes,



traversing around cliffs and mossy talus slopes, passing through some nice old-growth, with one beautiful 2m diameter hemlock tree right beside the trail. Berries would be abundant at the appropriate time, as indicated by the abundance of blueberry and black huckleberry bushes and the content of fairly recent bear droppings.

Hanging Lake had a nice campsite complete with toilet. Bears love it (the area). Unfortunately it is in a subalpine parkland where firewood is not abundant, but that hasn't deterred

people from lighting fires. A few signs at the campsite would help. I subsequently found out that the Hanging Lake campsite has been delisted as a recreation site and that the trail was



no longer being maintained, due to uncertainty over the area's future after the Olympics - yet another casualty of this tragically stupid event.

The trail and Hanging Lake. Photos: M. Feller.

You are more likely to contribute to nature conservation

A recent study (P.A. Zaradic et al. The impact of nature experience on willingness to support conservation, published in PLoS one, Vol. 4, October, 2009) found that people in the U.S. who have hiked or backpacked are likely to contribute to nature conservation a number of years later. In contrast, those who go sight-seeing or fishing, or even car camping in forests and parks, are much less likely to contribute.

The authors argue that participation in hiking and backpacking in the U.S. has declined since 2000, which suggests less future financial support for nature conservation. This decline in active nature recreation in the U.S. was found by the authors in 2008 to be strongly correlated with an increase in playing video games, surfing the internet, and watching movies - a trend they called "videophilia".

“Far Out” snowed out – “Mt. Ainslie” in consolation, 3-4 October, 2009

Karl Ricker

Bias in Spius, for our 3rd trip to this subalpine basin east of Boston Bar, the snow gods again reared their heads, but this time with a vengeance after a hot and dry summer. In fact, on 30th September it was still unusually warm. October arrived on a different track. Snow crept down to mid-station level at Whistler overnight and refused to melt away during daylight on Thursday; it melted upslope a bit on Friday, but despite the weatherman’s assurances of a dry weekend, the snowline was back down to mid-station on Saturday morning. How far east did the storm go? I caught up with it at the east end of Duffey Lake, while hurriedly driving in a 4WD pickup borrowed from my daughter to meet the other 10 participants at Boston Bar. The drive from Lillooet to Boston Bar provided the reality check: it was to be a snow romp for our 37th annual Coldcoqu trip – one not unlike the millennium-ending trek to Maka-Murray in shin-deep snow covering the still-blooming alpine flowers.

In fact, the snow was down to logging cutblock level in our push to ascend “Third Ck.” basin in deteriorating road and weather conditions. One ugly washout with steep banks to drive down and up was successfully negotiated by all 5 vehicles – with ease in Ziff’s Suzuki Sidekick, a drag with Maëlle’s overly extended crew cab, with a popped-out low range in Dave’s jeep, a near stall with Mike’s Subaru, and “no sweat” for Erich’s black Pathfinder. If the procession had been forced to stop there, it would have been a helluva long walk to Spius Pass! However, the pass was as far as we could go before a gulch crossed the logging road, preventing further driving onto the old miner’s road. We had previously used this miner’s road to access the trailhead about 1.6km further on.

I had not fully anticipated this blockade. With snow lightly falling, 3 options were presented: camp here in the snow on a logging landing, hike to the trailhead and camp there, as in the past, or go ahead with plan “A” and hike up to camp at Spius Lakes at the trail end. The informal vote amidst uncoordinated discussion dictated a camp at the cars, with tents rising fast while Ziff chainsawed some sound dry firewood from a nearby slash

pile. The super efficient effort provided half an afternoon to kill.

A walk to the trailhead resulted in a trip up the trail, diverting to the snow- and bush-obscured “trail” leading to the cabin discovered on our visit in 2002. Built on a shaky foundation, it was amazing to see it still standing, thanks to a taut cable attached between roof rafters and a nearby anchoring tree. Inside was declared by the ladies as unfit for their use, but the men rated it passable in a pinch. Its oldest date of use went back to 1995, but who built it remains a mystery.

Returning to camp with soggy clothes and wet boots, we were greeted by a roaring fire thanks to John who had remained there. Snowfall resumed and dinners were prepared under nearby tree or tent cover by all except Erich and John. Standing by the campfire later that evening, the consensus was to abandon camp with a quick vehicle retreat in the morning if snow continued to fall all night. Surprise! The cool (-4 °C) morning dawned CAVU in air controller parlance. John had the fire going at 7am, but it still dragged out to an 8.30am departure back to the cabin. The bushes along the trail were again snow-loaded to guarantee more wet clothing. Mike cunningly remained as a tailender to the procession. Snow at the cabin was ankle- to shin-deep, increasing as we thrashed through the bush on ever-steepening slopes to reach the pass on the east side of “Spius Mtn.” (the area’s highest mtn.). The snow conditions removed any further interest in ascending it and continuing from it on a 3km long ridge crest ramble to “Far Out”, relabeled by the ladies as “Way Far Out”.

Instead, the attention fell to “Mt. Ainslie” at the head of Ainslie Ck. basin, which had an impressive array of logging cutblocks to the north. Ainslie was a Scot of some renown, but not in my historical repertoire. A ridge striking due east lead to the peak, and the slog in almost knee deep snow along its crest was actually quite enjoyable with only one awkward step to negotiate before reaching the final 200m ascent to the 1922m peak. This was lead most efficiently by Dave and his dog “Chilko”. There was no cairn, so we built one and left a record, noting the median age of the participants was 64. Views were outstanding in all directions with snow down to below treeline levels to highlight the vistas.

The descent back to the cabin was lead by Fred under GPS control in a much improved direction and nearly bush-free, in contrast to the ascent. Mike still noted it as dismal and desperate – a sure sign of onsetting senility.

Camp was reached mid-afternoon and by 4pm we photographically witnessed the vehicle by vehicle plunge through the mega washout on the road. I again dragged the rear end, resulting in a \$510 repair bill to the damaged power assembly for a trailer. Spius bias had struck once more before the scattered dispersal of the participants at Boston Bar. As for “Far Out” – perhaps on a dry Labour Day weekend.

Ascent (first recorded): ‘Mt. Ainslie’ (1922m), NAD 27 UTM 622700E by 5530250 N (formerly climbed by hunters or prospectors?)

Participants: Dave and Chilko Hughes, Michael and Evelyn Feller, Erich and Ehleen (as cheerful as ever) Hinze, Ziff House, Jenny Faulkner, John Sapac, Alice Purdey, Fred Douglas, and Karl Ricker (Organizer and reporter).



Ascending Mt. Ainslie (left); Karl on the summit and “Far Out and “Way Far Out” (above); and descending the trail (below). Photos: M. Feller.

