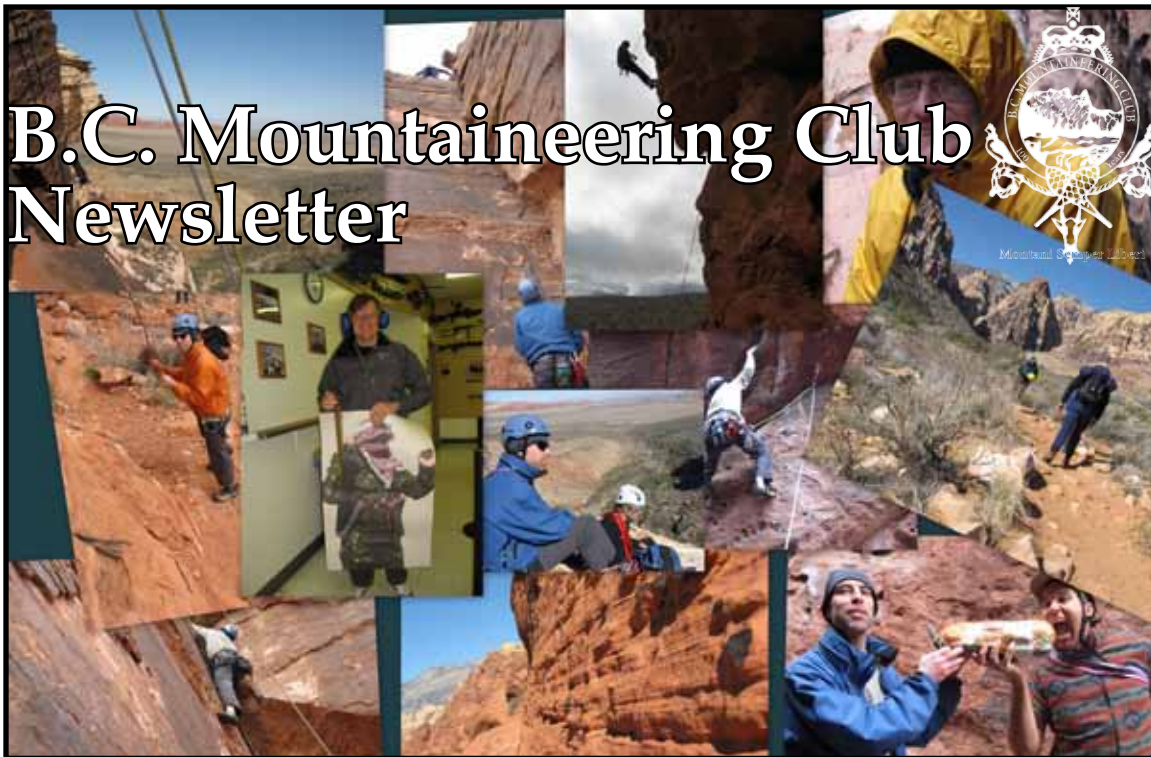


# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Spring climbing at Red Rocks, Nevada  
Photo: Jane Weller

**Aug. - Sept. 2010. Vol. 83, No. 7**

## **EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS**

Evening socials are held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario St., Vancouver) from 7:30 pm. Cookies, tea and coffee are provided.

**Tues. 14 Sept.** A recent trip up Mt. Sloan and Peak 8380 found that the summit registers had disintegrated. Is there a "best" container for these records? A short discussion on registers will be followed by three climbing videos.

**Tuesday 12 Oct.** - To Be Announced



"The Chief": A premier destination for rock climbers  
Photo: Anders Ourom

**British Columbia Mountaineering Club**  
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*Esther and Martin Kafer*

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<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 August). 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. 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: [editor@bcmc.ca](mailto:editor@bcmc.ca)

Members may upload articles, photos etc. for the editor at: <http://bcmc.ca/members/EditorUpload.asp>

**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. 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 ~ Check for updates at [www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca)

### September

2-6	Mountaineering	Manatee Peak via Polychrome Ridge or Athelney Pass area	D3	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
3-6	Rock Climbing	Vertical Life @ Skaha	A5	Adrian Lazar	Not available.
4-6	Hiking	Far Out Mountain	B2	Karl Ricker	604-938-1107
4-8	Mountaineering	Five Fingers Area	C3	Margaret Hanson & Tony Knight	604-873-2276
7-23	Hiking	Summer Camp - Mt.Rainier Circuit Wonderland Trail	B/C2	Brian J. Wood	604-222-1541
11	Hiking	Crown Mountain (members only)	C4	Neil Beattie	604-984-6345
11-12	Mountaineering	Mt. Clarke & Recourse (Chehalis group)	D3	Jeff Han	604-616-4593
11-12	Hiking	Black Tusk & Price Mountain	C2/3	Andrzej Jarzabek	604-419-4492
12	Hiking	Capilano Mtn.	C2	Philip Kubik	604-266-5873
18-19	Mountaineering	Gemse & Reh Peaks	C3	Ed Zenger	604-434-3095
18-19	Hiking	Railroad Pass area	B 2/3	Evelyn Feller	604-270-4050
18-19	Mountaineering	Mt Rexford Cancelled	B4	Denis Lalonde	Not available.
19	Hiking	Lady Peak & Cheam Peak	B/C2	Andrzej Jarzabek	604-419-4492
25	Rock Climbing	Sat. Squamish Rock Climbing: Top Roping and Multi Pitching	A5	Paul Ng	604-434-3312
25-26	Hiking	Ridges near Mountain Lake Hut	B2-C2	Jim Vercammen	604 733-8914
25-26	Hiking	Longspur Peak area	D3	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
26	Hiking	Hanes Valley - Grouse Mtn. loop	B/C2	Andrzej Jarzabek	Not available.
		<b>October</b>			
2	Hiking	Helm Cr/Black Tusk/Rubble Ck crossover	B/C2	Brian Ellis	604-734-3737
2-3	Hiking	Grant's Pond Peak	B2	Karl Ricker	604-938-1107
9-10	Instructional Program	Introductory Wilderness First Aid Course (20 hours) Members only	A1	Sabine Decamp	778-846-7735
16	Hiking	Peak(s) at the head of Downton Ck	D3	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
23-24	Hiking	Madeley Lake	B2	Michael Feller	604-270-4050
30-31	Instructional Program	Outdoor Leadership Skills course	A2	BCMC Programs & Camps	

## NEWS AND NOTICES

### New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Andy Braacx, Brian Glover, Javier Garcia Fernandez, Jim Weatherall, Cameron Norton, Andrei Smertin, Cathaleen Clarke, Michael Peterman, Paul Raymond, Christian Champagne, Chloe Tergiman, Ria Zheng, Timothy Pirie, John Doe, Maurice Lyttle, Carl Reilly.

## **Sat Phone Rentals**

Club sat phone not available? Need one for your expedition? You can rent one quickly and inexpensively through [www.roadpost.com](http://www.roadpost.com).

## **Navigating by GPS may not be that efficient** - *Michael Feller*

An article by T. Ishikawa et al. (Wayfinding with a GPS-based mobile navigation system: A comparison with maps and direct experience. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, Volume 28, March 2008, Pages 74-82) described a study in Japan, comparing navigation by GPS to navigation using paper maps to navigation based on previous visitation to an area (“direct experience”). The study found that GPS users traveled longer distances and made more stops during the walk than map users and direct-experience participants. Also, GPS users traveled more slowly, made larger direction errors, drew less accurate topological sketch maps, and rated wayfinding tasks as more difficult than direct-experience participants. Characteristics of navigation with these three methods were discussed and it was considered that the ineffectiveness of the GPS-based navigation system could be due to the small screen map display or to users greater lack of familiarity with GPS navigation than with map navigation.

## **Lost Lake Outhouse Project** – *John Harvey, builder and caretaker*

The boys from Porteau used to call it Lost Lake. It’s really just a pond at the headwaters of Kalahnee Creek so the name is appropriate – just don’t mix it up with Lost Lake, Whistler.



Our Lost Lake sits in the watershed north of Deeks Peak, an extension to the Howe Sound Crest Trail. Access is left off the Deeks Lake Trail just where the trail (road) levels off – about a fifteen minute hike up from the highway. From here, the trail is 2.5 – 3 hours hiking time to the shelter.

Porteau Camp was a Residential Wilderness Program for Young Offenders that operated on the shores of Howe Sound during the 80’s and 90’s. I took a group of ten Porteau boys (with an assistant instructor) and built this “emergency shelter” in an area we frequented regularly.

It was made possible with two sling loads of roofing and lumber lifted by helicopter. Using dead and down timbers we fabricated a simple A-frame, then strapped and roofed it.



It has held up well considering it’s been twenty years since we built it. But the ol’ outhouse was caving in under heavy snow loads, so I had to come up with a creative solution.

Thanks to a Mountain Equipment Coop ‘Access’ grant and an endorsement from the BCMC we’ve just rebuilt the outhouse. Bill Tubbs (from BCMC) helped me over the Canada Day weekend to remove the old one and put in a new one. Prefab’ed in my backyard, the new outhouse comes with a door this time and two windows!

We’ve breathed some new life into the place for sure. The trail is overgrown and needs work ... but that’s another project eh!

## **Search and Rescue Update** - Dave Scanlon

Did you know that your search and rescue call is treated the same way as a 911 call? To explain. On a recent trip the Whistler RCMP was called to start the rescue/ evacuation of a club member. I was right away put through to BC ambulance. Why? To evaluate the situation and get information on the injured person. For example: age, what are the injuries, when did it occur, is there internal bleeding, bleeding from the mouth, ears, broken bones, conscious or not, coherent? There was a certain amount of frustration setting in as we were wondering why this was all taking so long - lets get things started. Right?

What we did not know was that as soon as the call for help is made the whole process starts. The SAR guys are being called, the helicopter company is called, things are going on behind the scenes. I was on an immediate conference call with BC ambulance, SAR, and the RCMP all at once, each of them taking down all of the information they needed. The level of the response is determined by the answers to the BC ambulance questions. For example, if the injured person was, say, unconscious, had multiple broken bones, bleeding from his mouth, convulsing, the injury has just happened, the response would have been immediate and paramedics would have been sent. As it was, the injury had happened the day before, the person could walk, but had no use of his arms and was 2 days from getting out of the area. The possibility of more injuries happening if the person was to try to ski without use of his arms was very real.

BC Ambulance has its own helicopters with paramedics; we see these at times attending accident scenes on our highways. They don't like sending paramedics into the back country unless it is necessary because they are not equipped to stay overnight if they get caught up by bad weather. It has happened! That would only make a bad situation worse. In our case, the person could walk but had no use of his arms so only the SAR guys attended to help the injured person get into and out of the helicopter. They even took the injured person's gear to a club member's house for him.

So if you do have to call, be patient, these people are professionals and do a great job for us. And also - take note - *you can not call 911 with a satellite phone!* Be sure to have all the necessary phone numbers with you.

## **CONSERVATION and LAND USE**

### **Sea-to-Sky LRMP Implementation – Progress Report** *Comment by M. Feller*

Early this summer the Integrated Land management Bureau of the BC government released a report describing progress on implementing the land use recommendations of the Sea-to-Sky Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP). An Implementation Committee was established in April, 2008, to address the implementation. This committee consists of representatives from government land use agencies and different user groups. Non-motorized recreation representatives are Bryce Leigh and myself as the alternate.

The report describes an increase from 2009 to 2010 in the degree of implementation of the 22 projects, 14 tasks, and 104 legal practices needed to be implemented. However, despite being told by user group representatives that the highest priority for implementation was sorting out the backcountry recreation mess (caused by motorized and commercial recreation), absolutely no progress has been made on implementing the relevant LRMP recommendations in more than 2 years. The report discusses those issues for which progress in implementation has been made, but ignores those issues, such as outdoor recreation, for which no progress has been made. Consequently, we have no idea why there has been no progress in implementing the outdoor recreation recommendations, so we can only speculate. Was there political direction from above as a result of the active and vociferous snowmobiler lobbying? Do the government departments think it is just too difficult to address the more contentious implementation issues?

Regardless of the reason(s), the lack of progress in implementing the LRMP backcountry recreation recommendations is deplorable and is something of which the government should be ashamed. They will be condemned by future generations as much as they are condemned by the present group of those concerned with protection of backcountry recreation and conservation values. They have allowed the problem (of land use conflicts -ed) to fester and to grow worse.

Don't forget to record all your observations of motorized recreationists not abiding by land use recommendations or doing environmentally destructive things. [Do this on the bivouac.com web page](http://www.bivouac.com/web_page) - [www.bivouac.com/PgxPg.asp?PgId=2165](http://www.bivouac.com/PgxPg.asp?PgId=2165)

We must continue to document and quantify our concerns so that we can hold our atrocious government land managers to account. The weight of evidence will eventually shame them into action. The complete report can be found at <http://www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/surrey/s2s/plan/lrmp.html>

### **Contest by CPAWS to Celebrate Parks**

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is holding a contest to celebrate 125 years of national parks in Canada. Contestants are to make a video (under two minutes) about a park of their choice and it does not have to be shot on site. There are weekly draws and a grand prize of a trip down the South Nahanni River. Deadline is Oct 12th. See details at <http://celebrateparks.ca>

### **Proposals for a new Club Hut and several huts on the Spearhead Traverse near Whistler. - Brian Wood**

A number of backcountry enthusiasts are tentatively investigating a proposal to build a "chain" of basic mountain huts (3-4 huts) along the Spearhead Traverse. According to John Baldwin's 2009 guidebook, "Exploring the Coast Mountains on Skis", this traverse is considered to be among the 50 best backcountry ski trips in North America. Nowadays most folks use the ski lifts that provide easy access to high elevations on Blackcomb and/or Whistler Mountains, which are the termini of the horseshoe-shaped alpine traverse around Fitzsimmons Creek. Compared with 9 days taken for the first trip in 1964, which was before the ski lifts, in good spring conditions hot shot skiers can complete this traverse in a day! This traverse is becoming increasingly popular as it is so easy to access, with some days seeing several parties starting on the route, and so even now is well used. Doubtless, this use will increase if these huts are built, and there will likely be a corresponding increase in the number of parties encountering problems. Clearly, the huts could serve as refuges for parties in trouble as well as rescue bases for search and rescue teams, and thus could save lives that might otherwise be lost.

There are five distinct groups involved with this relatively ambitious community hut proposal which includes three local clubs namely; Alpine Club of Canada, Whistler Section; Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Section; and the BC Mountaineering Club, and two memorial hut societies (MHS), namely the Brett Carlson MHS, and the Kees and Claire MHS. It is expected that a newly formed non-profit organization would manage the supply and maintenance of the huts, as well as a reservation system to handle the expected 12 -20 persons maximum per hut. The huts would be located along the traverse primarily for winter recreation (with modern gas-fired heating units!) but would also accommodate summer recreation. As the traverse is located within Garibaldi Provincial Park, the hut use would be limited to non-motorized or self-propelled users except that helicopters would be used for building, maintenance, shipping supplies and waste disposal. For many years, BC Parks has contemplated plans to build a string of huts along the traverse, and so this is an idea that BC Parks may endorse if the details are acceptable to them. Presently, heli-skiing is permitted in the northern portion of the traverse, but it is hoped that the expected increase in non-motorized activity in this area resulting from the huts would decrease the heli-activities considerably, which eventually may be totally eliminated.

I believe one reason the BC Mountaineering Club was invited to join this group is because the Club has long standing connections with Garibaldi Park. In 1920 the BC Government passed an Order in Council creating Garibaldi Park Reserve in an area originally proposed by the BCMC which, in several years, attained full park status. In the 1960's and '70's the BCMC built two public huts within the park which were eventually donated to the park for their management and maintenance. The BCMC has a long history of building huts, commencing soon after the club's establishment in 1907. In contrast to the many huts you will find in the local backcountry, I believe all the huts built by the BCMC have been legal, which means jumping through many bureaucratic hoops, and even paying property taxes in some situations. The Club has been through long debates about the pros and cons of backcountry huts and these, among other reasons, resulted in the Club building only one hut in the last forty (almost) years. To break this pattern, the Club had planned to build a hut in 2007 to celebrate the Club's Centenary, but after several years of planning and obtaining government approvals a local aboriginal band put a stop to this idea. Another cabin site was found and approved, and 2011 probably would be the year to build the first new BCMC cabin since the North Creek cabin was built above the Upper Lillooet valley in 1986. The new Club hut would be funded from a special account which presently has sufficient funds, but this expenditure would need to be approved by our membership at a special meeting.

There are two recent estimates of costs (inclusive of helicopter shipping costs) for the proposed BCMC 2011 hut. For a 10 person hut the cost is about \$27,000 and for a 15 person hut the cost is about \$35,000. We believe the five member organizations of the group are expected to assist in financing the Spearhead proposal, but at the moment we have no estimate of what the final cost would be. I anticipate it will take some time to resolve the expected wide range of opinions relating to the locations and the designs of the huts.

So, if the Club membership approves the new 2011 Club hut budget, we can expect to proceed in the foreseeable future with a modest isolated hut which is a fairly safe bet because the Club will be in control. From our previous experience, apart from materials and shipping costs, we know that our hut would involve short term heavy use of volunteers for construction, plus some long term planning and financing for maintenance. On the other hand, the Spearhead proposal is a fairly ambitious community project in which our club is merely one of the participants, and in which there are very many unknowns. In the second century of our Club's existence, we plan to be an active participant involved with a project that will change the nature of our closest and best high alpine traverse. As planning continues on the Spearhead proposal more information will become available.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Zupjok Peak December 5, 2009 - *Evelyn Feller*



Memories of the great views of the Anderson River peaks on a previous ascent of Zupjok inspired me to lead this trip. I was even hopeful we could tour along the ridge towards Llama if conditions were good.

As we headed to the Zopkios Ridge rest area, I began to wonder whether we would have enough snow. After lots of early season snow we were in a cold dry spell. After being blasted by icy winds at the start, we headed up the road to the col between Ottomite and Zupjok. Conditions skiing along the road were good. However once we started through the forest to ascend Zupjok, icy conditions prevailed and those who had ski crampons were grateful. Unfortunately, on the summit ridge the icy winds again prevented us lurching in the sun.

The ski down Zupjok ridge was messy because the ridge is densely forested with few good turning places. Dennis also had to deal with the additional challenge of a broken binding. Because the avalanche risk was low the obvious open slopes on the southern side provided good skiing and conditions on the road led to a quick return to the cars.



The purpose of the trip was to explore other options for skiing, particularly because of the February closures in the Sea to Sky corridor. The Zupjok-lago-Ottomite area definitely provides another option to the Needle-Zoa destinations although this is not the greatest ascent route on Zupjok.

Participants: Ehleen, Eric and Jennifer Hinze, Diana Diaconu, Sebastian Vignoud, Wade Lander, Dennis Lalonde, Michael Feller, and Evelyn Feller (Organizer and reporter).

### **Spring Climbing at Red Rocks, Nevada, March 6-12, 2010.** - Jane Weller

I'm finding as one ages one does not necessarily slow down. A person kind of "ripens" perhaps, more like fine wine. But then there's that accumulated memory of near slips and actual slips and badly broken bones that results in cowardliness. Then climbing goes sour and the excuses why NOT to rock climb begin.

I suppose this is why I put Red Rock climbing on the BCMC schedule – I could "get back on the horse" as it were – and get over this cowardliness. Anyway, March school break is, without fail, abysmal weather-wise. Nevada's desert could only be an improvement.

The four of us met (for the very first time) at Vancouver Airport "pat down" area – the latest security item since the underwear bomber made the most of his knickers. The officious women guards scowled at me as I was patted like dough in a pie shell.

Red Rocks is a fabulous corner of the world: a jumble of solidified red sand dunes frozen in time. It looks like something Harrison Ford would struggle to negotiate in an adventure movie. The ranger, who was vastly older than my grandfather, somberly warned us, "You should NOT climb for a few days – the rock gets dangerously friable. Have a nice day." We went climbing anyway.

"Sure I'll lead this one," volunteered Arnie with gravity. Of course Arnie made it look easy as I struggled to follow. Not a great start for me.

The next day it snowed. In the desert. So we hiked as the snow storm swirled and whirled around us. As Gord said, one could always go shooting in Vegas. And why not? Thus Dave and Gord rented machine guns, and grinning from ear to ear, took 40 target shots each. We were definitely in the heart of America. It's a lame and obvious conclusion to make, but the contiguous USA truly does exist on a unique scale.

We stayed at Motel 6 on the infamous Strip. We took two rooms with two double beds each, and the ubiquitous TV, along with the usual 60 useless channels. Nice and clean with hot showers and 400 other units that were split images of each other. It was sparten yet spotless and a great deal at \$27 /night. Gord was determined to complete his itinerary: dining at Hooters and a Cirque du Soleil show at night complete with lots of bare skin. Of course.

As the week progressed the weather improved – still cool - yet definitely more heartening. "Cat in the Hat" is a five pitch fun day of low 5th leads. The red rock sits like a red toque on the gray base. Dave and Arnie chilled

out on another muti pitch, "Through the Tunnel". By the last day, as the sun de frosted our bones, I was starting to have fun. Calico Hill is a warm and friendly bolted affair. Tourists increased in numbers with the warmth, like flies onto a barbeque. They eyed us with curious and flummonoxed, dead-end expressions. Then they hopped back into their large size Buick and drove off.

I enjoyed the week - despite some quibble and doubt - in a way I never expected when I first arrived. I'll never be as courageous as I once was climbing, yet I am always grateful for another year of experiences, learning and climbing.

Thank you Arnie Wilson, Dave Henderson and Gord Esplin.

## **Mt. McConnell March 27, 2010 - *Alastair Ferries***

One motivation for doing this trip was the possibility that it was the last unclimbed named mountain close to Vancouver. The reasons for thinking it unclimbed were that there are no suggested routes in the guides; it is nondescript sub-peak; and all but the south side seem to be blocked by cliffs. And to climb it from the south side would be a multi day bushwack from the Sunshine village ski hill and why would anyone subject themselves to this to ascend a lower and further away sub-peak of the more prominent Marmot Mtn. -- itself virtually never climbed?

Last year I discovered a gap in the cliffs and that travel through it and then along Laforgue Creek was surprisingly good. Also there seemed to be a line of trees up the west side of the mountain leading to its gentler north ridge that was bluff free. I put it on the schedule. It would be an unrecced adventure; and a possible first ascent.

8:00am saw five us at the Sumallo River opposite Laforgue Creek. We had an inflatable dinghy, and climbing ropes, but the Sumallo River didn't look much more than knee deep. Mark Burgoyne stripped to his shorts and went first with his gear in two large plastic bags. Jeff Han went next in 'flying fisherman' hip waders. Marek Labecki wore a skin diving suit bottom, and neoprene booties. Stephanie Li wore gore tex pants, and sneakers. And I wore rolled up long underwear and neoprene socks in running shoes. The fording was no problem.

Nearly two hours later we were at 3,200 ft., and ready to cross Laforgue Creek. The line of trees heading east up to the north ridge looked steep and possibly bluffy. Soon we entered a matchstick jungle – trees 6 inches in diameter two feet apart. This lasted for over 1,000 feet but it was bluff free. At 4,000 ft we entered old growth with rock hard snow, and we put on crampons. A cliff forced us northwards. At 4,500 feet we were into small conifers and powder and we put on snowshoes. The cliff kept continuing and blocked our way south to the peak. Finally just before the ridge crest there was a bit of a break in the cliff. It worked and we gained the north ridge above the cliff band. It was 12:30; we were at 5,000 ft., and we only had 1,200 ft to gain. Our problems were about to begin. The fairly gradual north ridge didn't turn out to be easy. There were a number of 20 foot high vertical steps. To the east were sheer drops of 1000 ft. and to the west it was bluffy above sheer drops of 1,000 ft. It was a bit hairy but we managed to find circuitous routes on the bluffs to the west around the steps. By 3:50 we were on the summit. It was neat thinking that we were perhaps the first people to visit this spot. The sun was out and the views were great. It would have been really nice to have a nap. However we still had to get back -- it had taken us over 7 hrs to gain 4,200 ft. and to go 5.2 km. By 4:10 we were off. Following our tracks was much easier and by 6:50 we were at Laforgue Creek. Twenty minutes later it was dark; we had our headlights on; and we were trying to find the game trail through a ravine. There were cliffs below me. A gps track said the trail was higher so that is what I tried. Three hundred feet higher I managed to cross the ravine but I found myself above cliffs on the other side. My headlight didn't seem capable of shining more than 20 feet and even that was hampered by bush. Mark managed to cross about 150 feet below me and with a recently purchased headlight with a really long beam, he was able to make out a route down the cliff. Jeff and Stephanie followed me, while Marek followed Mark. Finally we made it past the ravine. It had taken us 1 hr to go 300 feet. And it still remained pretty difficult for the rest of the hike out. Small cliffs which

had been nothing to find a scramble route up now didn't have bottoms to them in the darkness. Should we go left to skirt around it, or right? I had no idea. Marek's and Jeff's gps's provided valuable assistance and saved a lot of time (and energy), as did Mark's headlight. The descent along Laforgue that would have taken 1 hour in daylight ended up taking us nearly 4 hours. Back at the vehicles just before 11:00pm we had done 15 hours of just about every kind of hiking. It was an extremely satisfying day with excellent company.

The next day responses to Marek's trip report on clubread revealed that the peak was ascended in 1984 by the McConnell's to put a cross on it in memory of their relative 'Toby' McConnell who was killed in action in the Second World War and who the mountain had been named in honour of. Like us, according to a posted newspaper article, they wondered if they were the first to ascend it. They also found it a challenge; trained for it all summer; and it was their second attempt. (A number of peaks east of Vancouver were named after servicemen killed in the Second World War and later there was a project to have relatives climb them and place memorial crosses on them.)

### **Mt. Moe March 20-21, 2010 - Greg Stoltman**

Our party gathered at 7 o'clock at St. David's in West Vancouver then reconnected at the Wedgemount parking lot. We proceeded up the spur through drivable snow but had concerns about the snow really softening on the road tomorrow so we left the gear higher then drove the vehicles down a ways.

The start from the packs was 10:20 and just prior to the Wedgemount lot we took a very shallow lefthand spur. This was followed to Wedgemount Ck which was low but a bit tricky due to ice-covered rocks. A short way past the creek we switched from skis to foot and began walking up the frozen snow in the clearcut. We chose foot travel as there wasn't quite enough snow for efficient ski travel. We continued up a rockslide on foot and then cut left to position ourselves above the SE corner of an old clearcut to the north. We continued up through the forest trending slightly left until the skis were put on at about 3500'. Soon we reached a cliff band with an open boulder field bench below it, following it the the left while angling upwards. This took us to another bench which we followed on the same trend. When the cliff petered away we had lunch on an open bluff-like feature at about 1:00.

My plan had been to camp at a very tiny lake at 5700' by the treeline with easy access to the upper valley north of Mt. Cook. Our course now became much more eastward through moderately steep forest. Graham's and Chris's GPSs guided us there very nicely. There is a partial cliff band prior to the lake which we were lucky to find a quick way through. Above this were some tight, small trees and micro bluffs and then suddenly the lake bench at around 3:50. I can't actually say that I saw a lake though. Maybe it was half dried up and too small to allow a flat surface to show in the snow.

Since the weather forecast was reversed against us we decided to cache gear and see how high we could go tonight. We were moving by 4:30ish and managed to get to a big glacial flat at 7800' about 40 minutes from the Weart-Moe col. It was around 6:30 and we decided to head down. The snow was wind-affected and consisted of wind-pack and breakable crust. Scott did, however, find some nice powder turns below. Back at camp at 7:30 and the usual camp activities.

Sunday morning saw us in no hurry for anything. A trip out for toiletries at 7:30 revealed dense fog so back into the bag. Most of us got up at close to 9:00 although the visibility was at times in and out and at times fog. Most of the party went for a ski up slopes to the north. Lunch was had before breaking camp shortly after noon.

We skied down more to skier's left of our up-track and then had to correct lower down. The vehicles were reached at around 3:30. Some of the party stopped for a meal in Squamish.

Party: Scott Nelson, Sandra Nicol, Ramsay Dyer, Graham Doerr, Greg Stoltmann (organizer and reporter)

## **Mt. Elphinstone July 10, 2010 - Dick Culbert**

Hikers from the mainland took the early ferry as foot-passengers, arriving a Langdale at 8 AM for the inauguration of the new trail to the summit of Mt. Elphinstone (1266 m.). There were enough local participants with cars to whisk everyone to the trailhead, avoiding the ignominy of a 3 km hike up the highway, and all sixteen were on their way by 8:30.



The trip went smoothly, in fact there are few anecdotes to report. A deer tagged along for a while about half way up, but had to be turned back as she had not signed a waiver. There were short but welcome stops at the first and last (of four) stream crossings, and again at a pond where the trail reaches the summit ridge. Above this came the crux move, class one-point-seven, and then the vistas started to open up.

By 12.30, all were on the open summit. An old helicopter landing platform, used for a long-abandoned communications relay tower, was a welcome place to spread out, and for both hikers and mosquitoes alike to have lunch.



With a 360 degree view, the ancient game to trying to identify distant peaks ensued. All too soon it was time to test out the down-hill muscles, and all city-folk were down in time to catch the 4:30 ferry back. I didn't hear anyone swear "never again". Participants were: Paul Adam, Fred Douglas, Gordon Dunham, Bonnie Dunham, Allison Ette, Jenny Faulkner, Peter Feichtner, Andrzej Jarzabek, Gary Johncox, Elisa Kreller, Sarah L'Estrange, Alice Purdey, Julien Renard, John Sapac, Paul Starr and Dick Culbert (leader).

## **Summer Mountaineering Course 2010 - Ye Chu**

Twelve BCMC members participated in this year's Summer Mountaineering Course. It was a wonderfully prepared and instructed course. Big thanks to the volunteer instructors and the organizer for sharing their enthusiasm and passion for the mountains – it was certainly contagious.

Participants: Arman Sharif, Brittany Zenger, Evan Blasko, Geoff Zenger, Isabelle Desmarais; James Clarke, Jeff Ross, Michael Stewart, Murray Lashmar, Nathan Rehorick; Shirry Insole and Ye Chu (photographer and reporter)

Volunteer Instructors:

weekend #1: David Hughes and Monika Bittel

weekend #2: Marcus Dell and Michael Lim

weekend # 3: Emanuele Porra, Bruce Cassel and Jos van der Burg

Organizer: Sabine Decamp



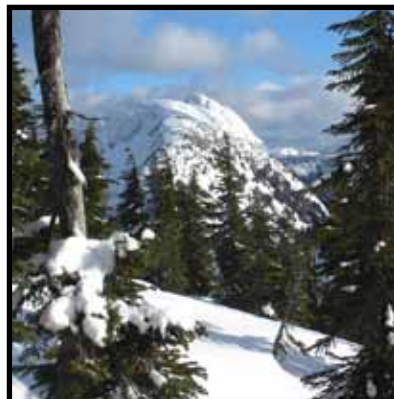
**BCMC Mountaineering Course Participants, Spring 2010**

Back, L - R: Murray, Geoff, Arman, James, Michael, Monika\*, Evan, Jeff  
Front, L - R: Nathan, David\*, Brittany, Isabelle, Shirry, Ye (\* instructor)

Photo: Ye Chu



Vista from Mt. Zupjok  
Photo: M. Feller



Yak Pk from ridge on Mt. Zupjok  
Photo: M. Feller