

B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Negotiating icefall above Camp 3 on Mt. Logan
Photo: Gerry Kollmuss

Dec. 2010. Vol. 83, No. 10

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 Dec. - Club members will talk about the thrills and tribulations of climbing Canada's Big One - Mt. Logan.

Tues. 11 Jan. - VOCers will present on their self-propelled trip to Mt. Waddington.



And they said it was COLD up there! But Gerry's hot 'n' happy. Photo: G. Kollmuss collection

British Columbia Mountaineering Club

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674

Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8

EMAIL: info@bcmc.ca; NET: www.bcmc.ca

HONOURARY PRESIDENTS *Esther and Martin Kafer*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
PAST-PRESIDENT:	TODD PONZINI	604-936-9369
VICE-PRESIDENT:	ALENA DZUJKOVA	AWAY
SECRETARY:	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
TREASURER:	CRAIG KALNIN	604-787-5396
MEMBERSHIP:		
SOCIALS:		
CLIMBING:	WINIFRED SWATSCHKE	604-828-8541
CABIN/TRAILS:	EMANUELE PORRA	604-533-7723
CONSERVATION:	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
CAMPS:	ALENA DZUJKOVA	AWAY
FMCBC REP:	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
WEBMASTER:	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
EDITOR - NEWSLETTER:	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
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 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

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.

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Brendan Barnier, Lora Schulz, John Davies, Oudina Cherfi, Tim Dinsdale, Colleen Budzinski, Alexis Guigue, Irina Maksakova, Ian Stotesbury, Madalyn Armstrong, .and Sylvain Rubenthaler

BCMC Gear and Book Sale

At the January Social (11 January 2011) there will be an opportunity for you to sell your old hiking, mountaineering, camping, and skiing gear, plus any books on those or related subjects. Some of the books to be sold were owned by old Club members John Clarke and Pat Crean.

This sale will only work if members get over understandable separation anxiety from their faithful old gear that has served them well over the years. The term "old" includes the whole age range from antiques that might be appropriate for the club archives to last year's skis which do not go well with this year's boots. Also, this sale will only work if folks come with cash and a willingness to spend it for worthwhile causes. The money raised will be split equally between the BCMC and the FMCBC, ie the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC for the new folks or those who have forgotten.

Any gear not sold during this sale can be returned to the owner that evening, or it will finish up for sale at "Sports Junkies" on Broadway near the MEC.

For more details, contact Brian Wood at (604)222-1541 or bjwood@telus.net.

Vancouver Island Spine Trail Update

Are you following progress in establishing the trail that will run the length of Vancouver Island? Check it out at: http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=10150099727541224

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Past President: Todd Ponzini

Todd presented an informal report explaining that for family reasons (two young babies) he could not be as involved as he would have liked. He was available throughout the year to support the president when required on request. Todd described the pleasures he gained by leading and participating in club trips and strongly encouraged Active members to offer their services to the club by volunteering to organize trips.

President: David Scanlon

Things aren't always as easy as they appear to be and having to follow in the path of past presidents David Hughes and Todd Ponzini turned out to be a formidable task. Ten years ago, to be on the executive wasn't all that difficult. There was no email, no web site, no insurance issues, no Vancouver International Mountain Festival to organize volunteers for, no satellite phone, only a few courses to run and the treasurer wasn't a Certified Accountant. Now fast forward to today with instant communication with emails that seem never ending, insurance issues that seem to creep into and hamper everything we try to do, our satellite phone, and the web site that just keeps on trucking as Kevin Swanson keeps doing his magic.

The back bone of the club is it's trip schedule and courses. The trip schedule is awesome thanks to Dan Carey and Radmila Jaksic. And courses - last year there were 27 weekends with courses of some kind going on thanks to Alena Dzijkova and Sabine Decamp. We've been organizing and getting volunteers for the VIMFF for many years. There are now over 500 members of the club and the numbers are climbing with Francis

St.Pierre and Silvia Bakovic keeping up with the registration process. The club projector is coming to the end of its life span with the cost of replacing the bulb alone is over \$400 so Bob Woodhouse has researched getting another system for the club and the new year should see us with a new system for the socials. Bob has also put together a fantastic program of entertaining presentations every month. My favourite executive member has been the other socials person, my wife Donna Bailie, who gets the snacks and tea ready for the socials each month. Craig Kalnin, our treasurer, has done a great job in keeping the accounts in order. The BCMC has had a newsletter since forever with Alice Purdey being the editor for the past two years. She always reminds us of the deadlines to submit articles and corrects our spelling mistakes and grammatical errors. Alice is also the club's secretary; she is ably replaced by Jane Weller when she is away. The journal editor Michael Feller has done it again with another BC Mountaineer now out. Monika Bittel is the club's recreation and conservation rep; she attends endless meetings to negotiate backcountry access agreements between motorized and non-motorized users. She also puts a lot of effort into ensuring that our waivers are legally strong. Only by doing trail clearing does our access to areas stay relatively easy and that falls to our cabins and trails rep Emanuele Porra. Trail clearing and cabin maintenance is and always will be an ongoing activity within the club. Brian Wood is the BCMC rep to the FMCBC and also its president. He keeps us up to date on the broader scope of things going on within the province.

It has been an extremely busy year and my own personal learning curve has been steep. I have a very strong yearning to do more and better for the BCMC this upcoming year. Thanks to all of my fellow executive members from this past year. AND TO THE OTHERS. To all of the club trip leaders, course volunteers, helpers, instructors, volunteers, committee members - everyone who helped behind the scenes, without which the BCMC wouldn't be what it is today. Thank you.

Editor - Journal: Michael Feller

During the year we produced our largest BC Mountaineer ever (excluding the previous special centennial journal issue) at 151 pages. It was also in full colour and under budget, now that this editor has retired and no longer requires assistance. I am a strong believer in the value of printed material. I am unaware of any reputable mountaineering club that does not produce printed material and I hope the club continues to do so.

In addition a considerable amount of material, much resulting from our centennial efforts, was catalogued and placed into the club archives. This included 550 photos which were also scanned and placed into our electronic photo archives. These photos came from sources previously acknowledged. We are hoping that our archives will be moved to the North Vancouver Museum and Archives in the coming year. There they should be well looked after.

Following work by Mary Macaree and Marilyn Dutton, the club library was cleaned up, with some extra material recycled or sold, new material added, and some valuable old books removed and placed into the club archives. A recent large donation of John Clarke's books from his family (wife Annette, sister Kathaleen, and parents Bridgid and Kevin) via Lisa Baile has yet to be sorted, but it will add further to both the library and archives.

Editor - Newsletter: Alice Purdey

BCMC is in a period of transition: we have made a significant move into the electronic age with both membership sign-up and newsletter distribution over the past year. Detailed records of newsletter mailouts are not archived, but we do know that in 2003, when Kit Griffin became the rock solid printer of newsletter envelope labels, he was printing about 400 per month. Of course there was no electronic version then. As of this November, although the membership has grown, we are mailing out just over 200 paper copies and sending out over 430 electronic copies per month. The exact number fluctuates monthly and there are aberrations like one member of a couple preferring an electronic version while the other prefers paper. Since October 2010, the electronic option has been the default for new and renewing members. This saves paper, money, time and effort.

This past year again, ten issues of the newsletter were produced, thanks in part to Diana Diaconu who generously filled in as backup editor when I was away. Diana is unable to fulfill this role in the coming year, so we are looking for another backup to avoid possible gaps when I'm away again. The Club now has InDesign software available for such a purpose.

This past year a total of 108 pages were published, down from 120 last year. Copy also includes four annual inserts: two trip schedules, one membership contact list and a renewal form with waiver. Newsletter content is highly dependent on what you, the members, submit to the editor. This can be trip reports, preferably including photos, and other articles of interest to BCMCers that you might come across in your professional or other reading. I have found that some members prefer to post their trip reports elsewhere, for example on Club Tread, and may or may not acknowledge the trip as having been organized by the BCMC. We recognize that electronic reporting likely reaches a broader audience, is easier and is more instantly satisfying, however, we urge you to also submit a report to the newsletter so your trip can be shared with other members and become part of the Club's archived history.

For your information, the newsletter pages must be printed in multiples of four. This means juggling the copy to fit. As a result, some copy may be deferred to a future edition. Or, if there is insufficient copy, we could be left with a blank page or two. So please, send in your articles and they will be printed, sooner or later.

FMCBC Brian Wood

Since 2009 our Club has participated in the Liability Insurance Program administered by the FMCBC which, in general layman's terms, is designed to cover expenses associated with a member(s) being sued as a result of a person(s) on a club-sanctioned trip being injured, and is NOT for general medical expenses. It was recently reported that some members had serious concerns about the Warranties or conditions relating to our current Commercial General Liability Insurance policy for the year 2010/2011, which is the first year we have been covered by this policy. The previous policy for 2009/2010 could not be renewed, and the current policy was a "last minute" substitute to provide continuous coverage during the change of policies. The Warranties of the current policy contain some safety precautions which are not practical, and/or are too onerous for many of our activities, plus there were other ambiguities. We are therefore attempting to re-negotiate the unacceptable wording and in addition draft a "risk management plan" which would be acceptable to the insurance company and to our members. The premium for the current policy cannot be refunded and this insurance will automatically expire in May 2011 unless we decide to renew it with more acceptable wording. From our own experience there are only a few insurance companies that provide this sort of insurance, and finding a good substitute company can take a long time so we do not have many options. Nevertheless, in the meantime our broker and our committee will try to investigate other companies with less onerous conditions for participants.

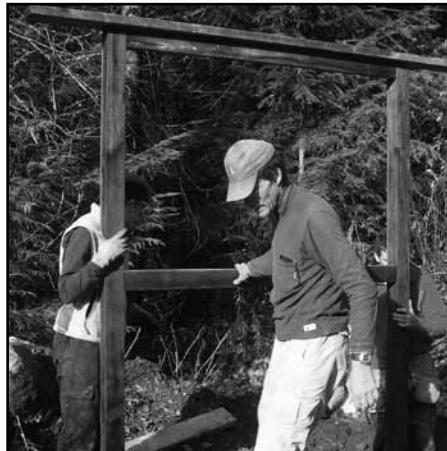
Risk management also includes liability waivers which our Monika Bittel has been upgrading for us for many years. Most insurance companies require that a liability waiver supplied by them is signed by all insured members who participate on club-sanctioned trips. As we feel that the BCMC Waiver is "better" (my choice of words) than the waiver supplied by the insurance company, we are attempting to have the BCMC waiver (and its later versions) adopted as the FMCBC "recommended" waiver as a substitute for the insurance company's waiver. Francis St. Pierre has identified which of our members have not signed the latest version of our waiver and these members have been asked to sign current waivers so as to obtain the best protection available from Monika's latest version. It is added that we are seeking legal help with our waivers to ensure that we are current with the latest legal test cases. Risk management can include safety practices such as proper safety equipment and when and how it is to be used. This can be particularly tricky to put into words as there are many different opinions about which precaution are reasonable and appropriate, and in which circumstances. Typical safe practices include wearing PFD's in water paddling sports, and wearing helmets for cycling and roped rock climbing. The Warranties are important because failure to comply with them would result in loss of insurance coverage.

Many of our club members have requested that there is more communication from the FMCBC, and that two issues a year of Cloudburst are insufficient to keep them informed of what the FMCBC does. Consequently we plan to send to those members who have requested electronic versions of Cloudburst our new "E-News" about every month or so, generally similarly to the BCMC "enews" that many BCMC members currently receive. As with Cloudburst, we hope that our members will provide much of the content of this publication by sending us articles that FMCBC members may find interesting or useful. Time sensitive news items would be appropriate for this type of frequent publication, whereas such items would probably be too late for the bi-annual Cloudburst. Some ideas for articles include: links to news articles or upcoming events of interest in your area; short reports on Trails, Recreation and Conservation Committee meetings, backcountry recreation conflicts etc. So, please remember to email Jodi at admin.manager@mountainclubs.org with suitable articles (with images if appropriate) that might interest our members. Particularly significant articles which merit a wider distribution might also be published in Cloudburst.

We are trying to raise our profile in the public's eyes as well as in our members' eyes, and to help with this we are in preliminary stages of negotiation with the Mountain Equipment Cooperative (MEC) to form a Community Partnership. Over the years MEC has supported many of the short term projects of the FMCBC and its member clubs, and it is well known that MEC contributes 1% of all sales to community projects and organizations to help protect nature and promote active lifestyles. What is perhaps less well known is that 40% of MEC's community investment is focused on supporting self-propelled outdoor activity, and we hope that the FMCBC can use some of these funds to support long term projects to help reduce some current backcountry recreation problems. Some problems relate to our members regularly encountering motorized recreationists and the noise, smell and sometimes danger associated with this group. Lack of wildlife and disturbances to the vegetation in areas frequented by motorized recreationists are often very obvious.

Some manufacturers and retailers of motorized recreation equipment provide funding to help motorized groups to lobby governments in land use negotiations and to improve recreation infrastructure such as motorized trails. Resource extraction industries and the electrical power generation industries, particularly "run-of-river" hydro projects which are becoming more widespread, can severely impact our recreation activities and these industries also have powerful lobby groups. It should be noted that while motorized recreation and resource extraction are restricted in many of our provincial parks, there is constant pressure on BC Parks to change park master plans to permit these activities within or closely adjacent to parks. Supporting BC Parks to resist this pressure and to negotiate with government requires long term access to resources which the FMCBC, by itself, does not have. We are hoping that our future relationship with MEC could assist us in providing advice and some funding to improve our effectiveness as a voice for non-motorized backcountry recreation when dealing with government and these other backcountry user groups.

While we have a hard working core group of volunteers on our committees, we are always looking for new volunteers to "learn the trade" from the experienced members. No experience is necessary, and you can help us in your chosen area which could include fund-raising, visiting clubs to raise the profile of the FMCBC to encourage the club to join the FMCBC, being active in our Recreation and Conservation committee, and/or our Trails committees, writing letters to government etc. Do not forget that volunteering looks good on your resume!



Monika, Francis and Gerry (find him) construct signposts for motorized and non-motorized access in the Callaghan Valley.

TRIP REPORTS

July Mountain 2125 M, 6973 ft. February 6 – 7, 2010

With the Winter Olympics, mountain security and possible road closures, I decided a trip to the Coquihalla might be a better objective than the Sea to Sky area. The Club doesn't run many winter trips to this area partially because of less open alpine areas and the predominance of snowmobiles. A search of potential areas for ski touring trips came up with July Mountain located 7 km northwest of the former tollbooth.

July Mountain can be approached from the southwest or from the northeast. The Mine Creek Road, exit 231 to the July Creek FSR is used for the southern approach. The northern approach uses exit 240 and the Juliet Creek Valley and a well-traveled FSR that leads to a proposed new ski area. The Juliet FSR is followed for 4.0 – 4.5 km to where it crosses Juliet Creek. The route then goes left and circles around to the south to enter the North July Creek Valley. The logging road ends at about 9.0 km, but a snowmobile track proceeds further into this sub valley.

After about three hours, we camped at the end of the logging area at an elevation of 5500 ft. (1676m). An alternative would be to head through the forest and south to a lake in the other side of the forest. This lake is at 6200 ft. (1890m) and is in open moraine basin without any forest coverage. This basin is surrounded by a steep cirque centered around July Mountain and offers a number of relatively short but steep ski runs. The basin is popular with snowmobilers, but we found the snowmobilers, who were day-trippers, were friendly and they provided an excellent avalanche testing service on the steep slopes in the basin.



Photo: D. Hughes

A relatively short trip through the forest (with the west side being the best) leads to the basin. A number of routes can be used to reach the top of the cirque, which is then followed to the peak. There are no intermediate easy slopes on this side of July Mountain, but if one is a relatively accomplished skier the chutes and faces on the north side offer better snow conditions and slopes than the southwest ridge of July Mountain.

We skied two chutes on either side of the peak and both provided good skiing. The logging road and snowmobile tracks provided a relatively easy ski out to the cars. The trip could be completed as a long day trip from Vancouver later in the spring, although given the drive and the nice camp location I would recommend a two day trip.

On the trip: Pat Crocket, Waldemar Jonsson, Larry Kost, Pascal Roussel, Ilze Rupners, Chilko and David Hughes leader/organizer.

NOTICE

Run-Of-River Power Generation Project On North Creek

As most of you know, the BCMC has a cabin in the forested area of the upper reaches of the North Creek drainage. Innergex, through its local company Creek Power Inc, is proposing to build an IPP on North Creek and on several other creeks in the upper Lillooet Valley.

The Rec and Con Committee of the FMCBC has written to and met with Creek Power Inc. to discuss our concerns which they claim will be considered. So far we are not too concerned about North Creek itself as this specific project will involve minimal new road building and everything will be below the Cabin site, but we are monitoring the situation as we know that plans can change (they often do!).

For more information, on November 30 there will be an Open House on the Upper Lillooet Hydro Project, as part of the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) process. This Open House will be in Pemberton at the Cottonwood Community Centre from 4 to 8 pm, and the advertisement will be in this week's Whistler Question and Pique Newsmagazine papers. The purpose of the Open House is to introduce the public to the

BC environmental assessment process, the project and the draft Application Information Requirements (dAIR) which will be available for public comment from November 25 to January 9. The dAIR will be available on line from the EAO website and hard copies will be available in our Project office and at the library next week.

If you cannot make the open house you can contact the FMCBC R&C Committee for more information. Also, please feel free to join the R&C Committee to help deal this with project and other projects that can severely effect your backcountry experiences.



July Mtn Shiers: Waldemar Jonsson, Larry Kost, Pascal Roussel, Ilze Rupners, Patrice Crochet.
Photo: David Hughes



Loganeers back to balmy weather (even the rabbit is out of the hat). L-R: Gerry Kollmuss, Dave Scanlon, Donjek Upton (pilot), Dan Carey, Diana Diaconu, Radmila Jaksic, and Pepe, pictured to the left. Missing: Bob Woodhouse. Photo: Gerry Kollmuss



Dan Carey adds colour in passing King Peak. Photo: Diana Diaconu



Four small people, one HUGE mountain. Loganeers en route from Base Camp to Camp 1.
Photo: Diana Diaconu

King Peak from Camp 3, 4700m.
Photo: Gerry Kollmuss

