



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Traversing Snowcap Icefield
Photo: Bob Woodhouse

February 2010. Vol. 88, No. 2

EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, 9 February - Ten Days on the Misty Ice Fields, a ski traverse in eastern Garibaldi Park. Presenters will be one or more of the eight Club members who participated.

Tuesday, 9 March - To Be Announced



Home on the Ice
Photo: Bob Woodhouse

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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.

Trip Schedule

Please check the website for final updates. All trips are ski trips unless otherwise indicated.

February

6: North Face Ramp Mt. Harvey	B4
Serguei Okountsev	
6-7: Zupjok and beyond	C3
Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
6-7: July Mountain	B3
David Hughes	604-980-6484
6-7: Intro to Backcountry Skiing - wknd 2	B2
BCMC Programs & Camps	604-874-1114
7: Ice Climbing Whistler	WI 3/4
Margaret Hanson & Tony Knight	604-873-2276
12-28: Joshua Tree and Red Rocks	A5
Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
13: Crevasse Rescue Practice	A2
Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
13: Mt Mulligan	B2
Sabine Decamp	778-846-7735
13-14: Snow Shelter Clinic	B2
Brian Wood	604-222-1541
14: Snow Camp Mountain	C 2/3 Gerry
Kollmuss	604-946-8055
17-22: Rogers Pass	B3
Francis St Pierre	604-224-0502
20: Ptarmigan Ridge - beginners welcome	C2
Radmila Jaksic	604-602-0468
20-21: Terrain Evaluation practice	B2
Justin Bennett	604-813-4666

27: Crevasse Rescue Practice	A2
Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
27: Mt. Baldwin	D2
Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
27: Mt Price	C2
Bill Maurer	604-789-2172
27-28: Novice Ice Climbing	WI3-4
Marcus Dell	
28: Mt. Seymour or other N.Shore (Beginner's Welcome)	B2
Thomas Schroeder	604 315-3515
28: Mount Crickmer Tentative	B2
Reinhard Fabische	604-462-9638

March

6: Thar Peak	B 2/3
Denis Lalonde	1-604-793-9675
6: Vantage Peak&Mt. Duke	C2
Jeff Han	604-616-4593
6-7: Coquihalla Plateau area	C3
Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
6-7: Cayoosh Mtn to Marriot Crossover	C3
Peter Gumpfinger	604-733-8264
6-14: Red Rocks climbing	A5
Jane Weller	604 988-3618
13: Bombtram Mtn (Box Canyon Peak)	B3
Bruce Cassels	604-617-6774
13: Leaders Choice	B3
Ilze Rupners	604-222-3720
14: Mount Laughington	C3
Gerry Kollmuss	604-946-8055

Member News

New Newsletter style: An increasing number of members are opting to receive their newsletters online. In the interests of making the e-newsletter easier to read, and to facilitate dual-media newsletter production, we are moving to a standard, one-column format. The paper copy may not feel as familiar, but we'll try to keep it 'friendly'. Please let us know what you think.

New access to Newsletter editor: Please submit your trip reports etc. to the editor at: editor@bcmc.ca. And you can now upload articles, photos and maps for the Newsletter through the BCMC website. Follow the instructions at: <http://bcmc.ca/members/EditorUpload.asp>. These changes will facilitate communication between the editors and substitutes.

Olympic parking restrictions ANZA: Parking restrictions are in effect on Broadway near the ANZA club during February so please plan accordingly; the nearby Scotia Bank parking lot will be available during the evening hours.

The club welcomes the following new members: Craig Speirs, Mandana Amiri, Sergio Aquino, Andrea Arduini, Adam Arduini, Kosta Beznosov, Olga Beznosov, Tim Gage, Bala Kumar, David M. Labbe II, Michael McArthur, Irene Schmid, Steven Boorne, Thomas Walker, Patrick Dutertre, Tim Gage.

AGM Report 2009 - Climbing - Radmila Jaksic

Making sure there are enough interesting trips on the schedule is always a challenge. We had plenty of good trips last winter. However, we had a bit more problem securing trips for this summer. Lots of our regular trip organizers couldn't lead trips for various reasons: moved away, family responsibility, work, away for summer, etc. It made us realize that we have to invest some time in finding new trip organizers.

We had couple of ideas that we tried implementing throughout the summer:

1. Ask current trip organizers for recommendations about participants from their trips that would be good at leading trips
 2. Ask members that recently became active if they are willing to organize trips
 3. Encourage members to organize trips by having a more experienced person along to help them out
 4. Post "looking for organizer" trips to give people ideas, and hope someone that is interested in doing those trips will step up to organize them.
1. I first asked a few people that joined my trips last summer if they can organize the same trips this year. This assured that we had two popular trips on the schedule: Mt Baker and Tomihoy Peak. Thank you Henry DeJong, and Peter Malacarne! Since this worked pretty well, I also approached some of the people recommended by trip leaders that didn't organize trips in the past. I think it is a great strategy, and hope we can work more on it in the future. Its only drawback is that it is very time consuming to contact all trip leaders asking for suggestions, and approaching all potential organizers. I hope we will be able to automate some of this process in the future. Kevin already added a field to the trip feedback form filled by organizers after each trip, where we ask for their help in identifying good candidates for future trip leaders. I ask all trip leaders to please spare few minutes and send us their suggestions after each trip. This will help us greatly. I also hope that one day we can automatically send emails to suggested organizers the next season and asked them to organize trips. Unfortunately, I know we're still very far from having this automated and meanwhile we will have to stick to personally contacting everyone. On a positive side, it always works better when you personally approach someone than when you send them an automated email.
 2. We also contacted some members that recently became active, and asked them to organize trips. This worked well too, but again takes a lot of time.
 3. There are lots of people that are willing to put up with coordinating all pre-trip planning (rides, meeting time/place, gear, camping/cooking partners, etc), but lack the confidence for route finding, dealing with group dynamics, and making decisions during the trip that might affect everyone in the group. Having a more experienced person along on a trip always makes things easier for new organizers. This summer we had a very successful trip to Mt Rexford that was organized by Erin Buckol, with Denis Lalonde as a mentor. From what I hear, it worked really well and I hope to see more trips like this. Along similar lines, there were some trips where trip organizers were away and couldn't answer requests from participants, but another co-organizer was found to deal with pre-trip planning. We even had a trip where I did all the pre-trip coordinating, even though I couldn't join the trip, and Dan Carey lead the group during the trip. It worked amazingly well! So if you have good organizational skills, let us know, and maybe you can help trip leaders with pre-trip planning.
 4. "Looking for Organizer" trips were another big experiment this summer. Conclusion was that it works better with trips people are familiar with and are less technical. If it is some well known destination people feel more comfortable stepping up to organize it. It is more difficult to find someone to organize a trip to some obscure peak. If you have any ideas for trips you want to see on the schedule, let us know and we will try to find organizers!

Another new thing this summer was more weekend rock climbing trips. Thanks to Werner we had a cragging trip to Squamish every Saturday. This proved that even one person can make a huge difference. Werner started

organizing Saturday trips himself and recruited people that participated in his trips to keep the ball rolling the whole summer. He is also doing a great job with organizing ice climbing trips this winter. As a result of his work, we asked him to officially become a member of the climbing committee. Many thanks to Werner for his hard work!

In addition to Saturday climbing we also had Wednesday evening climbs in Squamish, which is becoming a tradition every year. Instead of one person bearing a burden of organizing trips the whole summer we had few leaders that alternated organizing it every month. Thank you Winifred Swatschek, Iveta Janot and Michael Lim for helping out with organizing. Wednesday trips were hugely popular, the group was usually around 10-15 people, with a record of 24 people on one trip.

Big thanks to all trip leaders for stepping up to organize trips! Trips are an important part of the club, a reason why many people join BCMC. You make a huge difference!

I also want to thank all phone/email volunteers that contacted our trip organizers, and reminded them to put trips on the schedule. This is always a tremendous help. It has proven in the past that organizers need reminding, and without help from volunteers, it would be impossible for climbing chairs to do it all by ourselves.

Also big thanks to Bob Woodhouse, who shared responsibilities of a climbing chair with me the last two years. He will continue to help out with the club as a vice president this year.

This year, Dan Carey will be joining me as a climbing chair, and we hope to work together on improving our schedule even further. If there is anyone else willing to help us out, or has some more ideas about securing good trips on the schedule, please let us know. We are always looking for suggestions.

We hope that we will have more new trip organizers and exciting trips in the next year.

Trip Reports

Cypress Peak - 2083m. Squamish Valley. October 4, 2009

It was our first wintry climb this season. The conditions were not ideal with a foot of powder snow covering gaps between boulders and offering no protection from ankle breaking post-holing. Fortunately for us, we had an excellent trip organizer. Stas decided not to follow the standard route through the boulder field and led us south through the easier but deeper snow field. However, when Stas sank to his knees, I sank to my waist. As we reached the ridge, it became colder and windy with air temperature hovering at 6 C.

As we marched west on the ridge, Stas and Dan yelled down to say that the first crux was not doable due to ice and icicles. Stas suggested we go further north, to the exposed side of the ridge. Marek led the way, but the huge icy boulders seemed impossible to negotiate. Stas, like a mountain goat, hopped down to us out of nowhere and suggested we go even further to the northwest. This time Alex took the lead and steered us to an icy ramp. At this point, one of the young climbers said, "I am young and I would like to climb for many years to come. Let's go home". The ramp had icy foot holds, no hand holds, and exposure. However, stubbornness and teamwork kept us going. Mountain goat Stas came bounding down again to show us the way.

After the ramp crux, we soon found more difficult terrain to climb. Stas led by kicking off snow to expose good hand and foot holds for us. He did a super job for those who live in the 'land of giants'. I looked at his 1.2 m high steps and asked if someone could give me a push. Plunk! Stas dropped his ice ax and he belayed me up.

The ice ax was our best friend. Everyone used it to find holds to pull themselves up over the icy boulders. After four hours, we summited at 1:30 p.m. Looking at the summit participants, I can see why some members say



BCMC stands for British Columbia Men's Club.



Florian, Ye, Dan, Stas, Alex, Sylvain

While eating lunch, there was discussion about not going down the same way we came up. The only other option was the glacier. We could see that the glacier had many crevasses and we did not have rope or harnesses. However, it was quickly agreed that the crevasse field seemed safer than down climbing the slippery slope. For some, this option was a welcome relief.

Leading, Stas used his ice ax as a probe stick. It was reassuring to see Stas bent over, plunging in his ice ax in front of each step. We followed behind him carefully. One heavy set fellow thought he would fall in a crevasse. I was thinking the same thing. We could see the outline of thin snow bridges as we leaped over them.

We left the glacier and went up to the ridge to retrieve our walking poles. Dan suggested we follow the ridge east as he thought it would be easier. However, the ridge was no better as it too had a thin layer of powder snow on icy boulders.

Half way down the intense descent, we encountered a diversion: a giant snow cave. A few intrepid men went in and reported back that it was more than 70 metres deep. I didn't dare go in for fear that it might collapse.

I was very much a visible minority today –female, Asian and short! The first two I can easily cope with, but the latter was difficult because I felt like a 'second growth' in a 'first growth forest'. The men were all at least 30 to 45 cm taller than me!

The eight hour climb was tricky, but entertaining. There was discussion on how far we would fall if we slipped. One fellow suggested it was better to fall 100m than 30m, meaning better to die than to be alive and paralyzed. I was taken back by these comments and tried to put these thoughts out of my head.

In the end, we all made it safely back to the cars. Many thanks to Stas for his great leadership, his ice ax belays through the 'too-many-to-count' cruxes and his solid probing through the glacier.

Participants: Alex Hudson, Dan 'hiking' Lord, Florian Abbet, Marek Labecki, Sylvain Martel, Stas Liarsky (organizer), and Ye Chu (trip reporter and photographer)



Sylvain, Dan

A Superbly Bad Day in the Coast Mountains: Mt Metaldome – Dec 19th, 2009

I squint at the black ridges and the plastered white summits on the Sea to Sky Highway. There is no doubt in my mind that this upper white mantle is deep fresh powder.

Year 2009 is almost over; however, winter this year is a strange one: we've had boundless snow in November – the kind that makes falling in the stuff a disappearing act – to warm rain high in the alpine. The Roman god, Janus, who gave his name to January, might just as well have been a December god too. Janus is typically depicted as being two faced - two extremes - fickle. Weather has lately been just that.

Optimistically, with visions of powder turns, we park just below the sign that announces, "WARNING, STAY OUT." Never exactly sure exactly what signs really mean, we ski on up, keeping right, then right again to a right hairpin turn and to the end of the road. From here we dive into the forest and drop into a steep sided creek. The route to tree line now is gentle and pleasant, although conditions are awful: crusty, icy, with annoying frozen zit-like lumps. In the open we chew on the ubiquitous cheese sandwich. I glance at the group. They all look uninspired. Unashamedly, someone suggests we turn around to face the fairly challenging descent.

With visions of powder somewhere I half heartedly suggest we continue "up to the shoulder." The mountain sits ostentatious and leering. Phil's skis scrape the side slope, making hardly any indentation. Graham and I follow. Perhaps there'll be fresh powder soon. The sun is graying like some muddied wheel hub. The sky has turned dark opaque silver. No wind. 2 pm. December days are short. In another two hours it will be dark.

It's funny how a mountain shoulder leads you to a ridge, then the ridge to a col, then the col to the summit. At each point we plan to turn around, yet the lure of the summit seems much too attractive. By 2:50 pm we are on top. Darkness is at 4 pm today.

Instead of following our more gentle descent route, we ski – guided by Graham's GPS – a more diretissima route. We scrape and slide, speed between tight hemlocks, ram the breakable crust, sometimes winning, sometimes losing and sometimes going headfirst into holes. We smash and shamelessly snowplow back to the car. A more wretchedly miserable ski from summit to base I've rarely had.

In some perverted way we are gloating. Why not? I may have been wrong about the deep powder, but the company was worth every shuddering survival turn.

Post script: With a group any weaker we definitely would not have gone to the summit, given the short day and the margin of safety.

Participants: Chris Kubinski, Graham Doer, Lawrence McIntosh, Phil Kubic, Ian McGillivray and Jane Weller (organizer and reporter)



What is this?

Hint ---->

guiding rope for rappelling in the 1900s through and around it; it was used on oval steel dinner. The rope is threaded. This is a steel prusik bar. It fits onto an

Mt. Breakenridge - 2395m. April 25-26, 2009

Although this trip was originally scheduled for March 21-22, it was cancelled due to unpredictable weather in the forecast. I let people know that I wanted to reschedule it and would try to contact them. When the April 25-26 weekend came along with a good forecast I managed to snag two of the three people who had called.

On the Saturday morning I caught Natasha walking up the Boundary Road hill towards the meeting spot and got her loaded into the vehicle promptly. Then it was out to Langley to meet Edouard for 7:30. Then we were

off on the fairly long drive out to Breakenridge. Basically, one has to get to Harrison Hot Springs and take the Grayez Road up the east side of Harrison Lake until it leaves the lake completely. After this point there is a very wide stretch of road which is an emergency airstrip, but one must travel several more kilometres looking for the first bridge across the river to the left. Once crossed, the first two rights are ignored and at a junction signed as East and West English Main, east, or right, is taken. The mistake on this road was pushing past the “road deactivated” sign and getting stuck on a cross ditch hump for 45 minutes. Traction pads and a jack were required to get the vehicle out of this mess. After parking we managed a 12:50 start from about a 1500’



elevation. Shortly after starting we passed a point that no passenger car could pass through and shortly after that took a steepish, filled-in, left-hand fork up.

After 45 minutes of travel on foot we switched to skins. About 15 minutes later a prominent left fork was ignored and our road began to swing left. Lunch was at 2:50 well up this large clearcut. The forest was entered at around 4:00 and basically one wants to aim for a low dent in the forest’s horizon formed by a creek that exits from a 4800’ lake. Initially we were side hilling in the forest with the slope dropping to the right. Eventually we angled into where the creek is and it became more semi-open. At 5:40 we reached the lake and set up camp. The weather had been cloudy all day.

On Sunday morning it was up at 5:30 to still cloudy skies. By 7:30 we were underway and basically angled up and along the lake’s right side and out of its basin. Now we were entering sub alpine terrain. As we began to see the alpine the sky started to clear miraculously. Heading into the alpine it seemed that a fantastic corn snow descent might be in store for us. After some 25 deg. gully-like slopes we moved onto the shallow glacier on the summit’s southwest side. After this we had to put our skis on our packs for the final icy boot-step to the summit ridge. The peak was reached at 11:45 and lunch was had on the summit ridge. Looking around I noted how we seemed to be in a clear hole with many of the other peaks being clouded in. The descent began with a brief 30-35 deg. icy descent off the summit ridge. Once this utility skiing was done it was on to the good stuff. As predicted and anticipated we had beautiful corn snow for most of the alpine descent. It got a little sloppy lower down but certainly nothing to complain about. We had a brief uphill out of the lake at the base of the alpine and then easy skiing back to camp which we reached at 2:10. By 2:53 we were packed up and on our way again with amazingly forgiving ski conditions through the forest and on the logging road as well. The vehicle was reached at 4:46. All in all this was a truly excellent weekend ski mountaineering trip.

Participants: Natasha Suverova, Edouard Bron, Greg Stoltmann (organizer and reporter)

Conservation Issues

Garibaldi at Squamish (GAS) - Brohm Ridge resort update

From Catherine Jackson, president of Squamish Environmental Conservation Society (SECS)

Garibaldi at Squamish, the proposed all-season ski resort, is to comprise 5,800 housing units, 22,000 bed units, 100km of new roads and 2 golf courses on Brohm Ridge, 15 km north of Squamish.

In an Oct 1st letter, the Environmental Assessment Officer (EAO) handling the file strongly criticised the confusing and conflicting information on the water supply plan which was issued by the projects consultants – Urban Systems. The main concern was that the planned reservoirs could only hold 10% of predicted potable water

supply demands. (Water must be stored to accommodate needs for the whole year as withdrawal is only allowed to take place in May/June due to Brohm Creek being a highly productive Steelhead stream). Conflicting statements from GAS made it difficult to determine where water would be stored and the EAO had grave misgivings about the integrity of the plan as well as the fact that the Brohm Creek water supply model for the next twenty years was based on only one year of data collection.

In December 2009, the GAS developers responded by submitting plans for two more reservoirs for potable water supply. Both of these new dam proposals would create 50 meter high dams and be located in areas previously deemed too hazardous by the developers' own consultants. Four out of the five proposed dams would be in areas prone to debris slides and floods. Two reservoirs are above planned commercial and residential developments.

Environmental assessments on old growth forest and riparian areas in flood zones have not been done. This is an important point because the above changes to the GAS plan alter the scope of the project and have not undergone the same rigorous assessment as the original plan. More importantly, there will be no opportunity for public comment and scrutiny of these significant changes.

The GAS developers are pressing the Environmental Assessment Officer to forward the recommendations to the Minister of Environment and Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts as soon as possible. SECS, and many other organizations making up the Save Garibaldi Coalition, have recently been contacted by GAS representative Janice Grimes (Scott). As has been the case with most groups, SECS has declined to meet with GAS to discuss latest submissions.

The SECS position remains the same; the size, scope, location and environmental impact of this proposal offers no areas for compromise. The loss of current wild space and community assets/land and lake use would be a huge environmental, social and economic cost. The Cat and Brohm Lake areas draw thousands of users every summer. Brohm Ridge and Garibaldi Provincial Park bring many visitors to Squamish and represent dollars coming into the local economy through eco-tourism and associated businesses. Brohm Ridge is suitable habitat for 17 blue and red listed at-risk species and Brohm River provides specialised habitat for a unique and prolific Steelhead population. The GAS plan relies on real estate sales targeting the second home market which is not a reliable financial driver. The ski hill has been criticised for bad aspect and lack of good snow and appropriate terrain and its financial feasibility has not been proven. The plan flies in the face of Squamish's Smart Growth commitments. GAS is not Squamish's only choice for economic revitalization. Eco-tourism is emerging as a leading, cost-effective, sustainable driver in the local economy. Many smaller developments are in the works and the Oceanfront master-planned project downtown promises to supply short term construction jobs for the next twenty years and long term jobs once completed.

For further information, contact Catherine Jackson, SES President (catherinejoanjackson@gmail.com 604.849.0072)

To read original correspondence from Graeme McLaren:

http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/documents/p286/1261155103153_cfcda5e12113dfd93fb-56a83c972e8fee811508c26655bc36fe4e5c4040452bf.pdf

To read original reports and submissions from GAS:

http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/html/deploy/epic_project_doc_list_286_r_app.html

http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/html/deploy/epic_project_doc_list_286_r_pro.html

Bute Inlet and Independent Power Project – GOOD NEWS

Western Canada Wilderness Committee reports that General Electric and their partner Plutonic Power have decided to postpone for at least 12 months their bid to control 17 rivers which feed into Bute Inlet. If this IPP

project had proceeded (and it still may proceed) it would have resulted in one of the largest “run of the river” projects in BC with massive power lines and access road developments in this pristine area.

WCWC credits this postponement to effective letter writing and other protests, so please feel free to write your letter to try to lay this project to rest once and for all. Details can be found on WCWC’s website: www.wildernesscommittee.org

BC Parks produces draft management plan for Sigurd Creek valley

Comment by M. Feller

The Sigurd Ck. valley was designated as the Esté-tiwilh/Sigurd Creek Conservancy following the Sea-to-Sky LRMP process. It lies sandwiched between Tantalus provincial park and the Ashlu valley Wild Spirit Place, called Esté-tiwilh Wild Spirit Place within the Squamish valley Tree Farm Licence, now managed by the Squamish First nation. BC Parks and the Squamish First Nation have jointly produced a draft management plan for the area, which was released for public comment in December, 2009.

The plan generally calls for retention and protection of the status quo. Thus, the primary objectives for the conservancy are stated as “protection and maintenance of the biological diversity and natural environments, including wildlife habitat values, the preservation and maintenance of social, ceremonial and cultural uses by the Squamish First Nation, and the protection and enhancement of any cultural and heritage resources”. Industrial logging, mining, hydro-electric development, new roads, and commercial development in the area are to be prohibited. Snowmobiling, commercial heli-skiing and hiking, backcountry huts, aircraft access, mountain biking, and horse use are all not allowed. The existing heli-hiking tenure is to be revoked when it comes up for renewal. The hiking trail, which BCMC members have devoted much effort to maintaining, is to be maintained and possibly improved, with future trails to Sigurd Lake and Pokosha Ck. to be considered.

While these management guidelines are generally to our liking, it must be pointed out that “social, ceremonial, and cultural uses” are not well defined, and the plan allows for continuation of Squamish First Nation cultural uses and traditional resource harvesting activities (including hunting, trapping, cutting selected trees, and construction and use of shelters, such as camps and longhouses). This could well cause conflicts with biodiversity protection and outdoor recreational values.

The plan is available at www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/active_mgmt_process.html where you can also learn how to provide comments. Public comment can be made until 28 February.

LRMP Wildlands - a new category of land

The Squamish LRMP has finally produced maps showing the wildland boundaries (see back page). Wildlands are a new category of land defined by the Sea-to-Sky LRMP process. They are areas to be managed primarily for wildlife, ecological conservation and natural back-country/wilderness characteristics, and to provide for public recreation and the development of tourism opportunities where appropriate. In wildlands no further logging will occur and new roads can be built only with considerable restrictions, but mineral, oil and gas, and geothermal power exploration, and transmission line construction, hunting, fishing, and aerial access are allowed, as described below in the management direction for these zones. Different parts of the wildland zones have a different management emphasis. Commercial tourist lodge development is only allowed in certain portions of the zone (areas with a tourism emphasis). Accompanying this is the map for the North Ck. area, which has a recreation emphasis (emphasis can be cultural, tourism, recreation, or wildlife). There is no wildland zone near Watersprite Lake. The maps may be accessed at [ftp://ftpsry.env.gov.bc.ca/pub/outgoing/s2slrmp/wildlands/maps](http://ftpsry.env.gov.bc.ca/pub/outgoing/s2slrmp/wildlands/maps)

Management Direction

A) Wildlands should remain free from roads and industrial development, with exceptions for the development of mining, oil and gas, and geothermal resources, although these areas will remain free of quarrying operations for removal of dimensional stone, ornamental stone and aggregates.

B) Exploration for minerals, oil and gas and geo-thermal power is permitted, but must use low impact methods such as foot and aerial access during early stages of exploration. Roads and trails will not generally be acceptable except during the late exploration phase.

C) Within the Wildlands any established roads (mining, oil and gas, and geothermal resources) must have access controls which restrict access to maintain the unroaded character of the Wildland

D) Mineral, geothermal, and oil and gas development and its associated infrastructure (including an access road) must minimize/mitigate its impact on the environment and the overall character of the Wildland. After the completion of the resource development, the road access is to be rehabilitated (including recontouring). Any other development sites are to be remediated and reclaimed.

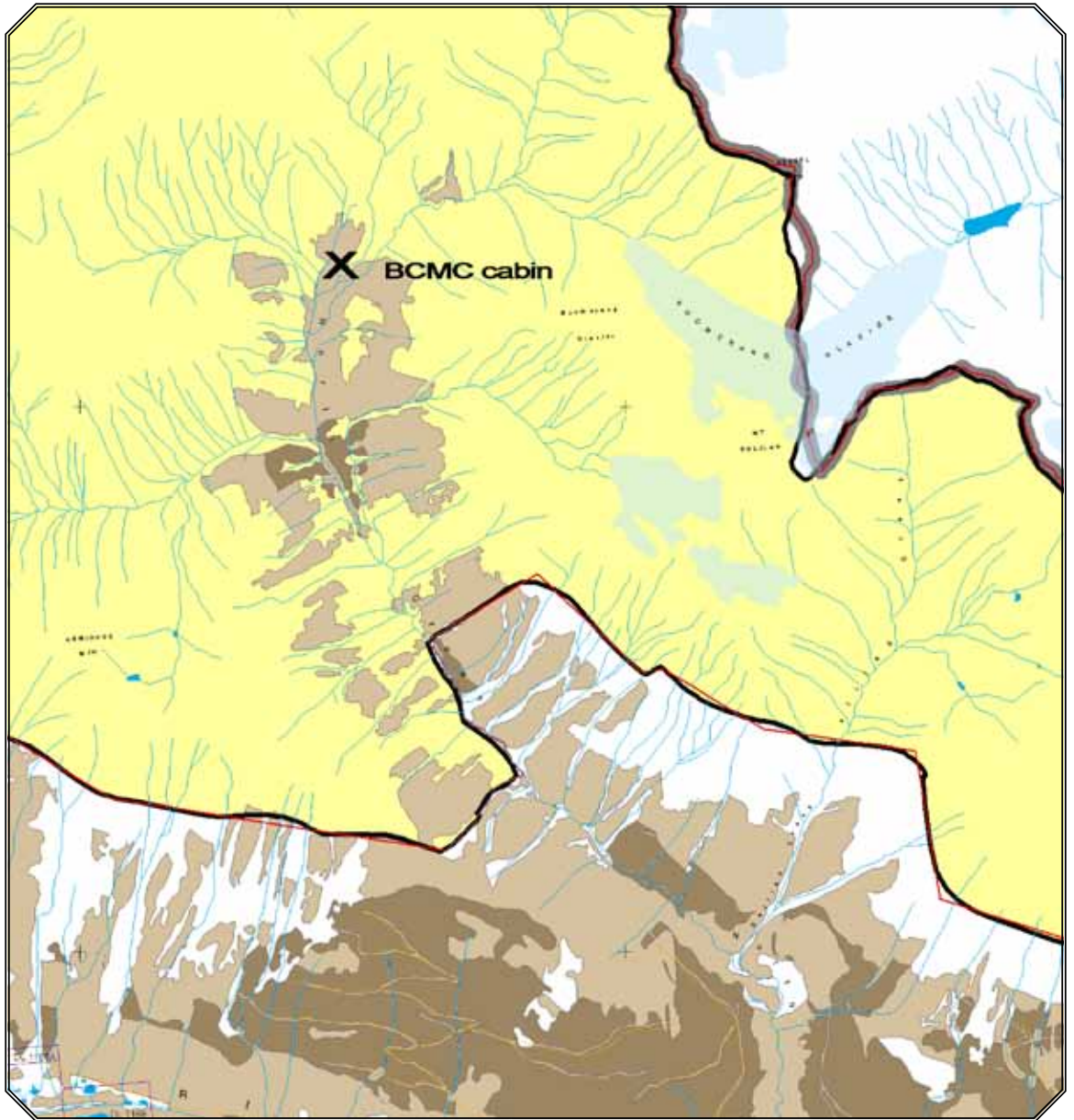
E) Wildland Management Plans [WMP] are required prior to any new commercial development within a Wildland. These plans would vary in level of detail [as agreed in part in the subzoning between sectors]. The plans would be developed with assistance from an independent wildlife biologist, and be acceptable to a multi-stakeholder group.



This is a steel brake (cross) bar. It fits onto an oval, steel 'biner. The rope is threaded through and around it; it was used on goldline rope for rapelling in the 1960s. The sample here shows sling rope. In 1960 the bar cost 39 cents and the 'biner \$1.29.



Ye Chu in the Land of Giants: Dan Lord, Florian Abbet and Sylvain Martel.



This map shows the Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) wildland boundaries for the North Creek area. Wildlands are areas in which new road construction will face considerable restrictions; while no further logging will be allowed other resource extraction may continue. The North Creek area has a recreation emphasis, which may be on culture, recreation, tourism and/or wildlife. The LRMP wildlands are shown in yellow. The brown represents harvestable forest. See the related article for a link to further information. (There is no wildland zone near Watersprite Lake.)