

B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



June-July 2010. Vol. 88, No. 6

Shoulder of Mt. John Clarke from Bug Lake;
summit beyond. Photo: Paul Adam
Inset: John Clarke. Photo: Shel Neufeld
www.shelneufeld.com

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.

Tuesday 8 June - Kevin Swanson will take us through a few technical canyons in Utah: around Zion National park, the North Wash and the Escalante area.

Tuesday 14 Sept - To Be Announced



Kevin Swanson canyoneering
Photo: Deanpaul Russell

British Columbia Mountaineering Club

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SATELLITE PHONE:	PETER GUMPLINGER	604-733-8264
LIBRARY:	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

CLUB EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Avalanche transceivers - First day - \$5 per day for members, \$7 for non-members then \$3 per subsequent day .

Snow shovels - \$3 per day.

Avalanche probes - \$3 per day.

VHF radios - \$8 per day, \$40 per week

Satellite phone - \$60 per week or \$10 per day plus \$300 refundable deposit, all payable in advance, then \$2 per minute use.

If the phone is returned damaged, the renter will be responsible for repair costs. If the phone is lost or damaged beyond repair, the renter will be responsible for reimbursing the club the \$2000 cost of the phone. Trip organizers should request a deposit from trip participants to cover this cost.

First priority for equipment rental is club camps and trips. Equipment is rented from Kit Griffin (604-736-8462) or Peter Gumplinger (604-733-8264), who should be contacted at least 2 days prior to the day the equipment is wanted, except for the satellite phone, which should be arranged at least 2 weeks prior to the day it is wanted.

The **BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER** is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published 10 times per year (every month except July and 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 ~ Check for updates at www.bcmc.ca

June					
2	Rock Climbing	Wednesday night climbing in Squamish	A5	Iveta Janot	778-847-3492
5	Rock Climbing	Sat. Squamish Rock Climbing: Top Roping and Multi Pitching	A5	Paul Ng	604-434-3312
9	Rock Climbing	Wednesday night climbing in Squamish	A5	Iveta Janot	778-847-3492
12	Mountaineering	East Lion	C4/5	Darlene Anderson	604-789-8020
12	Hiking	Cypress Peak (members only)	C3	Neil Beattie	604-984-6345
12-13	Instructional Program	Summer Mountaineering Program - wknd 1	B2	Sabine Decamp	778-846-7735
12-13	Mountaineering	Slalok Mountain - North face (members only) *	4	Serguei Okountsev	Not available.
12-13	Mountaineering	Mt Baker *	C3	Peter Malacarne	604-525-6708
16	Rock Climbing	Wednesday night climbing in Squamish	A5	Iveta Janot	778-847-3492
19	Hiking	Mt. Sampson	D2	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
19-20	Mountaineering	Mount Wedge north face (members only) *	4	Serguei Okountsev	Not available.
19-20	Mountaineering	North & South Twins - the Sisters Range	C2/C3	Henry DeJong	604 574-4805
20	Hiking	Chipmunk Mtn.	C2	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
20-22	Mountaineering	Peru - Cordillera Blanca (1 month)	B3 - C5	Francis St Pierre & Bill Maurer	604-789-2172
23	Rock Climbing	Wednesday night climbing in Squamish	A5	Iveta Janot	778-847-3492
24	Hiking	North Twin, Washington *	C3	Erin Buckoll	Not available.
26	Mixed	Sky Pilot	D1/3	Thomas Schroeder	
26-27	Instructional Program	Outdoor Leadership Skills course	A2	BCMC Programs & Camps	
26-27	Mountaineering	Mount Tszil north couloir (members only) *	C4	Serguei Okountsev	Not available.
26-27	Instructional Program	Summer Mountaineering Program - wknd 2	B2	Sabine Decamp	778-846-7735
27	Hiking	Rainy River area	B3	Peter Feichtner	1604-886-7476
30	Rock Climbing	Wednesday night climbing in Squamish	A5	Iveta Janot	778-847-3492
30-14	Mountaineering	Grand Teton climbing	B3 - B5	Jane Weller	604 988-3618
July					
1-4	Hiking	Siwhe Mountain	C2	Greg Stoltmann	604-926-6496
1-4	Mountaineering	Mt. Vayu *	C5	Margaret Hanson & Tony Knight	604-873-2276
3-4	Instructional Program	Summer Mountaineering Program - wknd 3	B2	Sabine Decamp	778-846-7735
7	Rock Climbing	Wednesday night climbing in Squamish	A5	Michael Lim	778 997-4922
10	Rock Climbing	Rock Climbing, Squamish	A5	Stanislav Liarsky	Not available.

News & Notices

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Afshin Ardalan, Dale D, Devon Haag, Doug Janzen, Willy Nelson, Les Pitt, Paul Richard, Paul Towne, Ben Vanderlei.

Cheap second hand books and journals!

The club library is being reorganized. This means that duplicate copies of mountaineering books and some journal series are being thrown out. These will be available for purchase (\$1 per book or journal series) at the June social. Give yourself some summer reading! *Please bring appropriate small change.*

Correction: Please correct Dick Culbert's phone number on your Membership list to: 1-604-886-0919.

Note: The author of the article *Coast Mountain Names: The Sky Pilot Area*, published in the May issue of this newsletter, was Glenn Woodsworth. My apologies for omitting the byline (ed.).

Membership Survey: There has been discussion recently regarding surveying the membership for input re club fees, green initiatives and possibly other issues. The executive plans to act on this in the Fall.

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Volunteers Sought

We need volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee, specifically, in the positions of Vice-President and Secretary. Previous experience in these types of positions or familiarity with the FMCBC is not required. It would be great if volunteers could run for these positions at the upcoming AGM on 5 June 2010, even if they could not attend the AGM. We could also use extra help in our committees relating to Recreation and Conservation, Trails and Fundraising. For further information please contact Brian Wood at 604-222-1541 or bjwood@telus.net.

A Cost and Benefit Review of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Prepared by Monika Bittel, with help from Peter Rothermel and Brian Wood. March/April 2010.

This review was triggered by concerns raised by some members questioning membership fees.

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMC) is a federation of approximately 20 clubs engaged in non-motorized or self-propelled backcountry recreation, including but not limited to hiking, rock climbing, mountaineering and backcountry skiing and snowshoeing. The clubs are scattered throughout BC with an annually variable total of approximately 3500 individual members. With one exception, members of each club pay an annual membership fee of \$15 to the FMC. The one exception is university-based clubs, such as UBC's Varsity Outdoors Club and SFU's Outdoors Club, whose members pay \$10.

After some recent financial restructuring, the membership fee now finances electronic publication and limited distribution of paper copies of the Cloudburst (a semi-annual newsletter), the salaries of a part-time book-keeper and a part-time administrative manager, who are the only paid employees of the FMC, and other office costs such as telephone, computers etc. All other FMC work is done by volunteers. The Mountain Equipment Cooperative (MEC) kindly provides free office space and internet connection.

The FMC has also secured liability insurance available to member clubs at the current rate of \$6 annually per member (may rise to \$7) and directors' and officers' liability insurance at \$200 annually per club. For the benefit of member clubs, the FMC will be retaining a lawyer to address issues that are common to several clubs, such as liability waivers, liability insurance and youth members.

The FMC is recognized by all levels of government as a legitimate and reputable representative of the public, non-motorized, wilderness recreation sector. The FMC's advocacy work covers mountain access issues relating to resource roads and hiking trails, protection and maintenance of non-motorized trails and wilderness recreation areas, resolving conflicts or potential conflicts between incompatible user groups, promotion of non-motorized wilderness recreation, and participation in the development of land and resource management plans (LRMP's) and park management plans. Brief summaries for the many projects we are dealing with can be found on the FMC website:- www.mountainclubs.org.

While wins or gains of the FMC are often few and far between, this is not a reflection of the volunteers' efforts, rather it is a reflection of what the FMC is up against. Without the infrastructure of the FMC, particularly the highly varied experience and knowledge of its membership base, and the multi-way communication facilitated by the FMC, many of the wins and gains would not have been accomplished. Through the efforts of the FMC, the non-motorized wilderness recreation sector at least has a broad-based unified voice. Without the FMC, member clubs would revert back to being many small groups fighting for local access and the preservation of wilderness and the ability to enjoy it.

Since the advocacy work is done by volunteers, some members question why the administrative manager and bookkeeper are also not volunteers. Over the years, the FMC has found that its membership is best served if scarce volunteer resources are used for advocacy (in which their knowledge and passion can be best used) rather than in day-to-day office work. A membership base of approximately 3500 members scattered throughout BC demands consistent and regular administration, which is not accomplished effectively and reliably with volunteers.

For the first time in several years the FMC finances are currently healthy as a result of reducing expenses, including the hiring of a part-time administrative manager instead of an executive director(ED). While the administrative manager has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the FMC office, the lack of an ED has placed a greater burden on the volunteers who carry out the advocacy work for the FMC. For example, meetings with government representatives and bureaucrats often occur during the day, in which case volunteers either miss the meetings or have to take time off work to attend such meetings. A part-time ED would permit the FMC to have a greater and more consistent voice in government, but the current budget does not permit the hiring of such a person or another person who might provide some lobbying help. Some members feel an ED is essential for our lobbying capability, and alternative options in this regard are being investigated. Also, Individual clubs or the FMC could try raising funds by putting on a hikathon etc which could raise funds to help finance an ED or the club as well as publicize the club and/or the FMC, especially in view of the recent publicity promoting walking as a healthy exercise to reduce health care costs.

The recent recovery of the FMC finances has led some members to suggest a reduction in FMC fees in an attempt to reduce loss of members experienced by some member clubs. Is there any evidence to suggest that the FMC's fees are so high that they are discouraging members from joining clubs, especially when there is a relatively wide range of basic club membership fees? Surely it is what the club offers its members that encourages members to join the club. Any thought of reducing the FMC 's fee should be considered carefully, especially since more can and should be done to support the FMC volunteers and improve FMC services. Once fees are reduced, it might be very unpalatable to increase them when needed. The FMC, like many other non-profit organizations in BC, has recently lost access to provincial gaming grants which were used to fund Cloudburst and trail projects. As a result, the FMC will rely more heavily than ever on membership fees and the occasional project-specific grant received from MEC. The FMC's annual membership fee contrasts with the membership fees of other recreation groups, particularly the motorized recreation sector whose members pay substantially greater club and/or federation fees. Many of the motorized recreation sector organizations are also supported financially by manufacturers and retailers of motorized off- road vehicles which, with higher membership fees, permits funding of professional lobbyists. This is one group that competes quite successfully with the non-motorized sector for our scarce and valuable wilderness resource.

Furthermore, many of FMC's volunteers contribute well beyond the \$15 membership fee in carrying out the advocacy work on behalf of the FMC and its members. They pay for their own transportation, long distance telephone calls, printing costs, AGM costs, and on occasion take time off work to attend meetings. In most cases, they do not seek reimbursement from their clubs or the FMC, recognizing the limited finances of the FMC and/or their club. Now that the FMC's finances are healthier, many directors feel that reimbursement of volunteers' expenses should take priority over reduction of membership fees. After all, an annual FMC membership fees

is less than attendance at the “Best of Banff”, the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival or a week’s supply of Starbuck’s lattes.

The FMC is open to suggestions and is interested in hearing members’ views regarding the annual membership fees or any other concerns or matters of interest to members. With our improved website and committee listservers there is now far more information available to club members than there used to be, but it seems that this information is not being accessed by the members. This lack of information about the activities of the FMC has been an ongoing problem and we are addressing this problem. The FMC has produced a comprehensive survey document that will be circulated by the member clubs’ FMC directors to the executive committees of the clubs for their detailed input. We are anticipating that a shortened survey will be available for all club members to complete. In addition, members can provide their own input or feedback by contacting their club’s director, or by emailing Jodi, our Administrative Manager, at FMCBC@mountainclubs.org, or even by snail mail:- PO Box 19673, Vancouver, BC. V5T 4E7.

Editor’s Note: Michael Feller comments on two issues of great interest and concern to non-motorized users of the back country, both of which have been strongly opposed by the FMC. These provide only two examples of many that consume a great deal of FMC volunteer time as they advocate to protect the “wilderness” from prolific, mechanized invasion.

Echo Lake Proposal - Comment by M. Feller

Black Tusk Helicopters has recently proposed building a backcountry cabin and heli-recreation staging area at Echo Lake, at the southern end of the Tantalus Range, close to Squamish. The proposal would accommodate around 80 clients per year, with one or two flights per month, in a building with a composting toilet and grey water system located 82 metres from the lake.

The area is zoned by the Sea-to-Sky LRMP as having no commercial lodges, but the proponents have requested a change in zoning to accommodate their “small” lodge which would have accommodation for no more than 12 people. They applied to the Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD), which decided to defer a decision for two months until late May, in light of public opposition in Squamish and concern from the Squamish First Nation. If the change in zoning is allowed, this would set a dangerous precedent as it would mean that a commercial operator could overturn many years of effort to try and give all users of the Sea-to-Sky area (i.e. us) a fair go.

If you wish to express concern, you could contact John Turner, the SLRD board member in whose jurisdiction Echo Lake falls, at - johnturner@telus.net

<http://www.squamishchief.com/article/20100402/SQUAMISH0101/304029968/echo-lake-cabin-decision-deferred>

GAS Proposal - Comment by M. Feller

Squamish Council unanimously opposes the Garibaldi at Squamish land development / ski resort proposal. In late April, the District of Squamish council unanimously and strongly voted against the Garibaldi at Squamish (GAS) project this week, requesting that the Ministry of Environment deny the project the environmental certificate it needs to proceed. The council did not believe that the project was compatible with their vision of a sustainable and smart growth based community. The council’s decision was based on an analysis of a 100-plus page draft EAO report, which was not released to the public. The Squamish council letter to the EAO was concerned with the “speculative nature of the socio-economic materials provided for this project,” calling the applicants assumptions extremely optimistic. The letter also provided several specific concerns over potentially detrimental environmental effects on water supply, fish and fish habitat, wildlife and wildlife habitat and vegetation. The

council considered that although the project received community support in the 1990s, the size, scope and scale of the current proposal went well beyond the original proposal. It was also considered that the current proponents did not do enough to solicit community input. The council's letter stated that "The report clearly implies that despite having been provided ample opportunity, the proponent has not met the expectations, or perhaps even the requirements, of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process."

The frequently delayed Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) report on the proposal has recently been given to Environment Minister Barry Penner and Tourism Minister Kevin Krueger. As the EAO rarely, if ever, rejects a project, those not wanting a massive all season resort gobbling up most of Brohm Ridge and nearby areas are expecting the usual worst.

Programs

Summer Mountaineering Program

The Summer Mountaineering Program is open to 12 participants with previous hiking, backpacking and scrambling experience, who would like to take their skills to the next level. Previous basic rope and rock experience will be a plus.

The program instructors are active mountaineers and club members who have a wealth of experience to pass on.

This program is for members only. If you are a new member joining to take the course, you will be required to prepay two years of the club membership.

Dates: June 9, 2010 - evening session: Meet the instructors, gear talk, getting organized for the overnight weekends. First weekend is June 12-13.

June 23 – evening session: Meet the instructors, practice evening on crevasse rescue, knots, etc.. Second weekend is June 26-27.

July 3-4 – third weekend with a summit day!

Location: To be determined. Some of the popular locations we have gone in the past include Cerise Ck., North Shore mountains, Mt. Baker. The evening sessions will take place in Vancouver.

Topics Covered: Use of crampons; ice axe self arrest and descending techniques; snow anchors and belay systems; rope management, knots and prussiks, travel in a roped team; glacier and snow travel; reading the terrain, assessing hazards, route planning, navigation; crevasse rescue. Part of the last weekend includes ascent of a peak, conditions permitting.

Gear Required: In addition to being equipped for overnight camping, you will be required to provide your own helmet, crampons (that fit your boots!), a general mountaineering ice axe, a harness, belay device and a handful of carabiners (locking and non-locking), and prussiks.

The BCMC provides ropes if needed, two prussiks for each participant and some text material.

Cost: \$325.

Registration: Please email enibas@gmail.com. You will be provided with further instructions and asked to answer a few questions about your previous experience.

Organizer: Sabine Decamp. 778.846.7735

Outdoor Leadership Skills

"Leadership is about liberating people to do what is needed in the best possible way. Leadership is the capacity

to move others towards goals shared with you, with a focus and a competency they would not achieve on their own. Leadership is about building and sustaining exceptional relationships.”

Be part of this two-day, one-evening session facilitated by Bruce Wilson of Wildwhisper Consulting and Guide Services. Further develop, refine and explore ways to elevate your ability to communicate with clarity and conciseness to your group, how to make no/go decisions and how to facilitate an exceptional experience for your party, even without standing on the summit of a mountain.

Bruce Wilson has been working with BCMC for more than 2 years now. He is a mountain guide who makes his living guiding people in the outdoors and teaching outdoor leadership at Capilano College.

Course content includes: one evening session (Tues. June 22nd), an overnight field trip; a Rite-in-the-Rain log book; and handouts – Scenarios and Simulations, and New Tools and Techniques for your Decision-making Tool Box.

Cost: \$250.

Discount for Trip Leaders: Please note that if you have led at least 2 club trips in the past 12 months and have another trip on the current (summer 2010) schedule, the cost is only \$200. This is one of the ways by which BCMC would like to encourage its members to continue to develop their skills.

Registration: email: enibasd@gmail.com

Coast Mountain Names. Mt. John Clarke, formerly Sun Peak *By Glenn Woodsworth*

In April 2010, the provincial government announced that the attractive peak at the head of Princess Louisa Inlet had been officially and deservedly named **Mount John Clarke**. This mountain was the summit of John’s “classroom” where, under the Witness Project, he introduced many young people to the wilderness. But this article is not about John—much is available about this extraordinary and community-minded individual—but about the former, informal name for the mountain, **Sun Peak**.

In 1953, the American-based, Christian organization Young Life bought the old Malibu Club lodge in Princess Louisa Inlet. They used this as a base for summer camps for young people, drawn mainly from Washington and the Vancouver area. In 1970, as part of their “Beyond Malibu” wilderness program (not unlike John’s Witness Project), they began taking trips into the nearby mountains. On one of the earliest trips, 1971 or 1972, the group followed a trail from Princess Louisa Inlet to a camp on the ridge to the north. Weather had been rainy, but finally the sun broke through on a peak to the east, probably the southwestern summit of Mount John Clarke. One of the teens said, “Let’s call that mountain Sun Peak!” and the name stuck.

Another Young Life name for Mount John Clarke, still seen on occasion, was **Mount J-J or Jay Jay**. This name arose about 1970 in memory of a Young-Life staffer from Vancouver, Janice Johnston, who was killed in a car crash in 1969 at the age of 25.

Of several other Young Life names in the area, one has a BCMC connection. On one trip in the early 1970s the group was crossing a patch of snow just above two tiny, attractive lakes about 2 km west of Mount John Clarke. One of the guides took a slight slip and lost a contact lens in the snow: the lakes just had to be named **Contact Lakes**, and so they are called today. The guide? Marilyn Starr, former BCMC member and wife of past president Paul Starr.



John’s Boots
Photo: Shel Neufeld