

# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Mt. Slesse and the Border Peaks from Williamson Lake  
Photo: Sabine Decamp

**Nov. 2010. Vol. 88, No. 9**

## **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. 9 Nov. - Annual General Meeting** followed by Peter Gumpinger presenting on his scrambling/hiking traverse of the South Powell Divide and other ramblings.

**Tues. 14 Dec.** Club members present on their experiences on Mt. Logan.



Approaching the 'Key' on the South Powell Divide.  
Photo: Silke Gumpinger

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**

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<b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT:</b>	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
<b>SATELLITE PHONE:</b>	PETER GUMPLINGER	604-733-8264
<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)

### November

6: Brunswick-Harvey traverse	Hiking - C2	Serguei Okountsev	
6: Mt. John Decker	Mixed - C2	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
7: GPS Practice Day	A2	Dan Carey	604-731-4048
13: Buck Mountain	Hiking - C2	Craig Speirs	604-925-3675
13: Mt. Baker (Coleman Glacier)	Skiing - B3	Jane Weller	604 988-3618

### December

4: Inkwathia Pk.	Mixed - C2	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
4: Transceiver Practice	A2	Dan Carey	604-731-4048
16: Cypress Night Skiing	A3/4	Radmila Jaksic	604-602-0468

## NEWS AND NOTICES

### New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Tara Manky, Devin Manky, Dorothy Kuk, Mike Schauch, Adrian Langford, Lisa Quattrocchi, Joel Beckman, Suzanne Krueger, Lida Vavrova.

### BCMC Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held Nov. 9th, 7:30 pm at the ANZA club. A new executive will be elected and several positions are open for the coming year. These are: climbing, membership (2), socials (programs), camps and programs, editor (journal), and vice president.

Now is a great time to join the executive and help run your club. Executive meetings (followed by goodies) are held monthly on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August. Give this some thought. We hope you will join us and bring your ideas to keep our club vibrant.

*Please contact the nominating chair, Todd Ponzini, at 604.640.3195 or [tponzini@deloitte.ca](mailto:tponzini@deloitte.ca).*

### Correction

The cost of producing the centennial video was incorrectly reported in the October Newsletter. Correct figures, taken directly from the treasurer's financial records, are: Total Revenues: \$26,165, Total Expenses: \$44,909, Cost to the Club: \$18,744. We apologize for the error.

### Spearhead Hut Committee

The website is now active: [www.spearheadhuts.org](http://www.spearheadhuts.org). Check it out!

### Congratulations :)

Todd and Lenore Ponzini welcomed the arrival of Megan Heather into their family on 24 September, a little sister for 18 month old Emily. No wonder we don't see much of Todd at Club activities anymore!

(If you would like to share your good news through the Newsletter, just send relevant information to the editor.)

## **Membership Survey - Reminder**

If you haven't contributed your opinions yet, there is still time - **until 30 November** - to fill in the BCMC Membership Survey. Its quick 'n easy and will be helpful to your executive in decision-making. Please go to: <http://bcmc.ca/survey>. Thanks.

## **BCMC Centennial Journal - Please claim your free copy**

If you were a member of the BCMC during 2007, the club's centennial year, you are eligible to receive a free copy of the club's recently-produced centennial journal. If you have not yet received a copy and wish to do so, could you please let Michael Feller know by email ([feller@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:feller@interchange.ubc.ca)).

We are trying to minimize distribution costs, so if you do wish to receive a copy, we would be grateful if you could collect a copy at a club social meeting (2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm at ANZA club, corner of 8th Ave and Ontario, Vancouver) or from one of the following people, whose contact information is given:

<b>Burnaby:</b>	Alice Purdey	(4262 Napier St., 604-293-2951)
<b>North Vancouver and downtown Vancouver:</b> or	Monika Bittel David Hughes	(3230 Connaught St., 604-983-3097) (5211 Ranger Ave., 604-980-6484)
<b>Richmond:</b>	Michael and Evelyn Feller	(7451 Montana Rd., 604-270-4050)
<b>Vancouver central:</b>	Radmila Jaksic	(44-784 Thurlow St., 604-602-0468)
<b>Vancouver westside:</b>	Brian Wood	(1844 Acadia Rd., 604-222-1541)
<b>Whiterock area:</b>	Evelyn Feller	(604-270-4050)

If you want a copy and are unable to collect it at a social meeting or from one of the people listed above, could you also let Michael know of this, and the address to which you want the journal sent. Extra copies are available at a cost of \$25 each.

**Please let Michael know by 15 December, 2010.**

## **Generous John Clarke Book Donation** - *Michael Feller*

The club has recently been given an excellent donation of most of the mountaineering books owned by John Clarke, who tragically died a few years ago. The books will provide a highly significant addition to the club library and archives. We would like to acknowledge the generosity of John's wife Annette Clarke, his sister Cathaleen Clarke, his parents Brigid and Kevin Clarke, and Lisa Baile, who organized the donation.

## **Wilderness First Aid Course Completed**

Congratulations to 12 BCMCers who completed a 16-hour Introductory Wilderness First Aid course on the weekend of Oct. 9/10. It was taught by Shelley Secord and Martin Fichti of Wilderness Medial Consultants and Canada West Mountain School. The following members now know how to put a donut (non-edible) bandage on your head wound and splint your broken arm or leg using your hiking poles: Andrew Bowker, Diana Diaconu, Francoise Thibault, Fred Douglas, Alice Purdey, Michael Stewart, Quirine Schuyff, Robin Jane Roff, Ryan Morasiewicz, Sabine Decamp, Winifred Swatschek, and Ye Chu. Some of these members also learned the latest in CPR theory and practice the previous Friday evening.



## **RECREATION AND CONSERVATION**

### **Stawamus Chief Provincial Park Expansion**

Almost ten hectares of land at Malemute Bluffs, located on the west side of Hwy 99 across from the Chief, will be acquired by the BC Government and added to the Stawamus Chief Provincial Park through legislation in 2011 following First Nation consultations, according to a Ministry of Environment News Release on 24 Sept. 2010. "The Stawamus Chief holds significant spiritual, historical and cultural values for the people of the Squamish Nation and is a rock climbing area of international significance" states the release.

### **Effects of Domestic Dogs on Wildlife and Water Bodies in the Backcountry - Michael Feller**

A recent study done near Boulder, Colorado, (B.A. Lenth, R.L. Knight, and M.E. Brennan. 2008. Natural Areas Journal, vol. 28, no. 3, p. 218) found that, by comparing areas near hiking trails where dogs were banned to those where dogs were allowed, wildlife activity was significantly impacted by dogs. In particular, mule deer, small mammal (including squirrels and rabbits), prairie dog, and bobcat activity was reduced while red fox activity was increased in areas where dogs were allowed. The authors noted that although dogs are inefficient hunters, they are avid chasers, and have been reported to chase and kill white tailed deer, including an endangered subspecies, small mammals, herpetofauna, including an endangered tortoise, and ground nesting birds.

Many breeds of dogs have been bred for hunting, with specialized traits for finding and catching prey, while others have been bred for racing or fighting, all of which are particularly dangerous to wildlife. Even without being chased, animals that are prey of wild canids (wolves, foxes, coyotes) can perceive dogs as predators and "may be subject to non-lethal, fear-based alterations in physiology, activity, and habitat use".

An earlier study in Colorado found that 90% of all dogs there carried Giardia, potentially contaminating water bodies in areas they visited. It is considered that "next to humans, dogs appear to be the greatest spreaders of Giardia" (R. Aukerman and D.L. Monzingo. 1989. Journal of Forestry, vol. 87, no. 11, p. 18), and there is usually little to prevent dogs defecating near water bodies.

There is abundant evidence that domestic dogs can have adverse effects on the natural environment that the BCMC visits. There is no environmental and little social (many people dislike encountering dogs in the backcountry) justification for allowing dogs on BCMC trips.

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **Mt. John Clarke** August 28-29, 2010 - *Peter Pare*

A climb of the newly named Mt John Clarke was made as part of a weekend-long celebration to recognize the renaming of this peak in Squamish Nation territory. The work to get the peak officially named for John was done by BCMC members Lisa Baile, John Baldwin and Glenn Woodsworth. Chief Bill Williams of the Squamish First Nation hosted the celebration and Aaron Nelson Moody conducted the naming ceremony which took place near Sims Creek [map 92 J4] close to the start of the John Clarke trail. The ceremonial site and trail head was reached by following the Squamish River road and crossing the Squamish and the Elaho at mile 37 and 44.5 respectively. The sandbar, where the non-climbers camped, is at MILE 52 at the confluence of Sims Creek and the Elaho River. It is possible to drive a 2WD vehicle along most of the logging road. However, at about MILE 51 there is a rough section of road with water-bars, rough, bumpy surface in parts, and it is somewhat

overgrown with alder. The John Clarke trail-head is 5.6 km beyond the sandbar and a few hundred meters before the bridge across Sims Creek; 110 meters down the road from a large parking pullout where the naming ceremony took place. (see: <http://www.bivouac.com/RoadxPg.asp?RoadxId=2343>)

John's trail ascends through ancient forest to Bug Lake in the sub-alpine, and the route continues along the ridge to the glaciated, rocky summit of Mount John Clarke at 7566 feet. Since John's death in 2003 Dwayne Himmelsbach has single-handedly maintained the trail and it is an impressive route. Fifteen of the approximately 50 participants in the ceremony beside Sims Creek left the river at about 3PM. Official leader Sandy Briggs, and unofficial leader John Baldwin led from the back and front of the keen bunch, respectively. The trail climbs very steeply through old growth forest with stately giant Douglas Fir, Red and Yellow Cedar and a mossy relatively clear understory. It is 2-2.5 hours of unrelenting elevation gain to reach Bug Lake at ~4,000 ft. We continued climbing and by 7:30 PM three separate camps were strewn at various levels on the ridge above Bug Lake. It was clear and crisp and the views of Sims Creek, and Mt Tinniswood to the North were stunning. Last to arrive was Jeremy Williams and Karin Burnikell. Jeremy was filming the ceremony and ascent and he and Karin were lugging 50 lb of video gear including a heavy camera and tripod.

Sunday morning dawned clear and the various groups coalesced at the top of the ridge and then divided again into a directissimo and ridge group. There is about a 200 foot descent between the ridge and the main summit massif. Some folks, following Dwayne and Sandy, went directly toward the peak by donning crampons and crossing steep frozen snow slopes to gain the summit ridge, while others, led by John Baldwin, went south and west right to the top of the ridge and descended to reach less steeply angled snow slopes. We were all soon on the peak and writing notes to put in the skookum summit register that Lisa had made out of black ABS pipe. Jeremy set up his camera to register our arrival on the peak and then did interviews of participants to capture their reflections on the significance of the naming of John's peak. The clouds scudded by enveloping us periodically and then parting to reveal the striking slabby ridges to the south and north. The windows of visibility allowed one of John Clarke's favorite activities, the spotting of distant peaks; John Baldwin won!

Around 1.30 PM we reluctantly left this magic spot for the grueling 7,000 foot descent. Chased by a few showers of rain and hail, all were back on the logging road by 6:30 PM -14,000 feet of elevation change in 27.5 hours! Need I tell you that some had sore quads for days later?

We weren't the first to climb Mt John Clarke. There was a note in the cairn and we met another party descending from the peak. It is likely that the peak will see increased activity. Despite the longish drive to the trailhead the access to tree line is remarkably rapid on Dwayne's excellent trail and there is the opportunity to traverse across the peak to descend into Princess Louisa Inlet via Loquilts Lake and Chatterbox Falls. Another horseshoe-traverse is also possible, around the headwaters of Outrigger Creek. Outrigger Peak and ridge can be gained via a logging road up Wingate Creek south west of Outrigger Creek.

(see: <http://www.bivouac.com/TripPg.asp?TripId=5157>) One can apparently drive to around 2,500 feet on this road, and Dwayne is working on clearing a trail to the alpine. Mt John Clarke can also be the jump off point for a trip to Mount Tinniswood or the starting point for the whole Stoltmann traverse to Meager Creek.

John Clarke would have loved the weekend. Sims Creek and surrounds was one of his favorite areas and in his later conservation years he frequently took parties up through the old growth and into the alpine. As he once said when he emerged from the trees and gazed north, "Ahhhh, my Coast Range!"

Participants were Marg and Brian Ellis, John Baldwin, Linda Bily, Sandy Briggs, Lisa Baile, Dwayne Himmelsbach, Mark Milner, Jeremy Williams, Karin Burnikell, Bridget McClarty, Peter Wood, Marina Dodis, Dave Robertson and Peter Paré (reporter)

## **Snowed Out, White Out Towards “Far Out”** September 4/5, 2010 - Karl Ricker

Early October has been a problem for all of our past visits to Upper Spius Creek basin. Snowfall on three previous trips has limited the distance travelled from car to peaks, with “Far Out” not reached on two attempts. So “we” reasoned, schedule “Far Out” (1897 m) a month earlier with a full day to climb it in dry conditions. Mark Madryga promised everyone a sunny Labour Day weekend; and so optimism for the time-revised project was excessively high, initially, but as the weekend approached the weather forecast waffling began – maybe showers on Monday. Yet, it looked to be okay for our Sunday romp on the 3 kilometre-long ridge traverse from “Spius Mtn.” (1943 m) to “Far Out”.

Access to Spius Creek headwaters from Boston Bar provided the usual annoying traverse on cross-ditched logging roads. At least 100 ditches, said Doug, but his estimate was excessive. Some, however, are bumper clangers, and the creek crossing, which is missing a culvert or bridge, remains as a white-knuckle challenge to the drivers, except for “no-sweat-Erich”. Farther along, Tony groaned as he pushed through the alder brush that was etching his shiny red Forerunner, which could have been avoided if we waited to early October to do the trip. Brush cutters began work on the road on the following day!

As we parked our vehicles at Spius Pass (1426 m), a parade of quads and Suzuki jeeps passed by on their way to Merritt; soon we followed on the old mine access road, reaching the trailhead two kilometres from the pass. It was a quick climb from there to lake level (1500 m) but consensus said bypass their shores and go for drier terrain at the nearby cabin site. It had taken less than an hour to reach the cabin area, much to Ehleen’s delight. Obviously, maintenance had not taken place on the cabin since our last visit — the roof was badly cracked on one side and another winter’s snow pack would surely split it open. By six-ish the camp was set up; the odd drop of rain began to splash from the sky; Ed set up a dining fly to deflect any onset of serious rain. By 8:00 p.m., as darkness set in, the skies opened to suddenly send all into tents, and the storm arrived minutes later. The Spius hex struck again! Hail and snow pounded the fabrics for three hours, and suddenly, it stopped. A celestial display of stars appeared, with dazzling brightness for a few hours, but by 6:00 a.m. low cloud and fog moved in to smother the landscape.

Trip aspirants at breakfast had a mixed view of the weather. Was there to be a sunny day as promised by the forecast, or had two low pressure systems merged together ahead of schedule? Yep, some sucker holes in the clouds brought optimism and away we set to the nearby lakeshore edge and the adjacent slopes of “Spius Mtn.”, which had to be ascended to its knobby summit in order to pick up the ridge to “Far Out”. Despite the deepening snow, the ascent was no problem, finding a bush-free, open but steep, slope that led to the col between “Spius” and “Rough”. However, we were now in the cloud with no sign of opening skies. The hike up a broad ridge to the summits, and there are several on Spius, finished the day’s effort – 15 to 20 cm of snow, no visibility and wet and cold lower appendages dictated a quick stop for lunch followed by retreat. On the steep, open slope below the col the footing was greasy to slow the tempo. Back at camp the snow had already melted away. After a quick dismantling of the tents, the pack out to the vehicles was in dry conditions, the swirling and lowering cloud deck indicated that it was a justifiable and honourable retreat. On the road out, a brush cutting crew was at work, preparing a wider right-of-way for the winter snow-mobiling season! Lunch at Boston Bar, at the restaurant on the south edge of town, was a welcomed and pleasant change from our usual meeting place near the gas stations – I can’t name the latter in print for fear of a legal noose being tossed my way. Lunch concluded with the suggestion that “Far Out” be re-scheduled for a mid-summer date in order to avoid any further conflicts with snowfall. Maybe.

Party: Ed Zenger and Edward Frey of the Swiss Team, Ehleen and Erich Hinze, Margaret and Tony Knight, Doug Wylie and Karl Ricker of Team Weasel Workers.



## The Fortunate

Lisa Baile and Bridget McClarty on top (left) and Lisa with Peter Pare below (right) Mt. John Clarke. Photos: Lisa Baile and Peter Pare collection



Robin Jane Roff suffers two broken arms, Andrew Bowker feels his head wound, Fred Douglas contemplates a stretcher made of jackets (Photos: Sabine Decamp) and Shelley Secord tends to Sabine's broken leg (Photo: Alice Purdey)

Do BCMCers have fun? ~ or what!