

# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Approaching West Summit of Mt Frosty  
Photo: Geoff Zenger

April 2011. Vol. 89, No. 4

## 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. 12 Apr.** - Join Chris Cooper on his epic journey around the UK by canoe touching on the following areas: The River Thames, Strait of Dover, English Channel, South Coast, Isles of Scilly, The River Clyde and Westcoast Scotland.

**Tues. 10 May.** - Bill Maurer presents on his climbing adventures in Peru.



Photo: Chris Cooper

## British Columbia Mountaineering Club

**ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 2674

Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8

**EMAIL:** [info@bcmc.ca](mailto:info@bcmc.ca); **NET:** [www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca)

### HONOURARY PRESIDENTS

*Esther and Martin Kafer*

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	DAVID SCANLON	604-531-5025
<b>PAST-PRESIDENT:</b>	TODD PONZINI	604-936-9369
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	ALENA DZUJKOVA	778-881-5642
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
<b>Alternate Secretary</b>	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
<b>TREASURER:</b>	CRAIG KALNIN	604-787-5396
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	HUGH KELLAS	604-921-8715
<b>SOCIALS:</b>	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
<b>CLIMBING:</b>	WINIFRED SWATSCHKE	604-828-8541
<b>CABIN/TRAILS:</b>	EMANUELE PORRA	604-533-7723
<b>CONSERVATION:</b>	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
<b>CAMPS:</b>	ALENA DZUJKOVA	778-881-5642
<b>FMCBC REP:</b>	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
<b>WEBMASTER:</b>	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
<b>EDITOR - NEWSLETTER:</b>	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
<b>Alternate Newsletter Ed.</b>	BRITTANY ZENGER	778-228-2392
<b>EDITOR - OTHER:</b>	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
<b>SAFETY EQUIPMENT:</b>	KIT GRIFFIN	604-313-7282
<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. For rentals, email [info@bcmc.ca](mailto:info@bcmc.ca) or contact Kit Griffin (604-313-7282) or Peter Gumpfinger (604-733-8264). At least 2 days notice should be given prior to the day the equipment is wanted, except for the satellite phone, which should be arranged at least 2 weeks in advance.

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 and details at [www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca)

### April 2011 ~ Trips are skiing unless otherwise noted.

2	Nak Peak: B3	Ed Zenger	604-434-3095
2-3	Mt. Rahm: C3/4	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
2-3	Neve Traverse: C3	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
2-3	Spearhead Traverse: C3	Michael Lim	
8-10	Spearhead Traverse: C3	David Hughes	604-980-6484
9-10	The Sphinx: C3	Philip Kubik	604-266-5873
9-10	Robie Reid: D4 (Climbing)	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
9-17	McBride Range Traverse: C3	Dan Carey	604-731-4048
16-17	Caspar Creek area: B2	Evelyn Feller	604-270-4050
16-18	Spearhead Traverse: C3 (Women Only)	Alena Dzujkova	
22-24	Mamquam Mt: C3/4 (Snowshoeing) TENTATIVE	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
22-25	Exodus Peak: C2/3	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
30	Mt. John Decker: D2	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
30-1	Diavolo and Angelo Peaks: C3	Craig Speirs	604-925-3675
30-1	Duffey Lake peaks: B3	Dan Carey	

### May

14-15	Spring Climbing Weekend: 5	Adrian Lazar	
21-22	Northwest Couloir of Fissile Peak: C5	Don Montrichard	
21-23	Mt Baker (Park Glacier): Ski and Climb C4	Peter Gumplinger	

## SKILLS, COURSES AND CAMPS

### April

9-10	Winter Leadership course	Camps and Programs	778-846-7735
16-17	Systems for Mountaineering – Anchoring Intermediate: A1	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
30-1	Systems for Mountaineering - Anchoring Basics A5	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666

## NEWS AND NOTICES

### New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Sharon Audley, Angela Meullers, Noriko Okamoto and Andrei Pipas.

### Reorganizing the BCMC Website - *Kevin Swanson*

The 2010 Survey results revealed a need for a more user-friendly BCMC website. We are taking your advice to heart. We do have an idea of what can be improved but would like to hear any specific suggestions you might have. If you would like to tell us more, please send your comments to: [info@bcmc.ca](mailto:info@bcmc.ca). Your input is appreciated!

## Proposed Transfer of BCMC Archives to North Vancouver Museum and Archives

The BCMC has a very valuable archive, consisting of rare film footage, historical photographs, articles, journals, and other records, which record the Club's exploration, mountaineering and conservation over the past 100 years. Many members and the public had their first glimpse of some of the archival records when the North Vancouver Museum and Archives, in partnership with the BCMC, mounted the highly successful centenary exhibit, Peak Performance 100 Years of BC Mountaineering. The exhibit featured rare film footage, historical photographs and antique equipment (see description of the exhibit in the BCMC Newsletter, October 2007, p. 4). Other archival material is also featured in the virtual museum exhibit, Climbing to the Clouds, A People's History of BC Mountaineering. The virtual museum exhibit can be accessed via the BCMC website, under Links. Since the Club's centennial celebrations in 2007, the BCMC archives have grown significantly, with valuable contributions from long time members and former members of the Club.

Given the accessibility of the North Vancouver Museum and Archives facility (3203 Institute Road, N. Vancouver, B.C.), the value of the collection to the general public and the vulnerability of much of the archival material, the Executive investigated the possibility of transferring the BCMC archives to the North Vancouver Museum and Archives, where it can be preserved, catalogued and accessed by the members, as well as the public. A draft donor agreement has been negotiated with the North Museum and Archives. The Executive has approved the agreement in principle and is looking for feedback and comment from the membership. The draft agreement can be accessed on the BCMC website, under the membership section. Members can also request a copy of the draft agreement from Monika Bittel. Members will be asked to approve the transfer, pursuant to the terms of the agreement, at the May or June social.

If you have questions, concerns or comments, please provide them to Monika Bittel (604-983-3097; mbittel9@gmail.com) by April 10, 2011.

## Membership Fees Review – Hugh Kellas, Membership Chair

The Executive Committee has been discussing changes to membership fees to respond to the evolution of the Club and the results of the recent Membership Survey. While about 40% of Club members currently receive a printed copy of the Newsletter, an increasing number of members rely on electronic communication. Nearly three-quarters of those responding to the Survey felt there should be a difference in membership fees between those who get printed material and those who do not. The table presents a possible fee structure under discussion by the Executive Committee.

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>BCMC Fee</b>	<b>Liability</b>	<b>FMCBC Member Fee</b>	<b>Total Basic Fee</b>	<b>Printed Material</b>	<b>Total With Printed Material</b>
Active or Associate Individual	\$15	\$8	\$15	\$38	\$10	\$48
Active or Associate Couple - Family 18 & under	\$30	\$16 \$8	\$15	\$61	\$10	\$71
Senior Individual	\$7	\$8	\$15	\$30	\$5	\$35
Senior Couple	\$14	\$16	\$15	\$45	\$5	\$50
Youth, VOC/SFU/etc 1st Year	\$7	\$8	\$15	\$30	\$10	\$40
Life, Joint Life 150%						\$800

The most significant possible change to the current fee structure is to establish printed material as an optional add-on to the basic membership fee. The basic fee would have three components:

- A BCMC fee: This covers the Club's operating costs such as socials, cabins, publications and projects which promote the Club's objectives.
- A liability insurance fee: This provides insurance, obtained jointly with other Clubs through a policy administered by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, to protect the Club's assets and those acting on the Club's behalf such as the Executive, trip organizers and participants on Club sanctioned trips, and instructors of Club programs in the event the Club was sued.
- A Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC membership fee: The members of BCMC and more than 20 other clubs throughout the province fund the FMCBC to promote the interests of mountaineering and outdoor clubs. The proposal would alter the current policy of paying the FMCBC one fee per paying member to one per household.

Nearly 90% of the Club's 475 members are either Active or Associate individual or couple members. The basic individual membership fees in this proposal would decline to \$38 from the current \$45 and couples membership would decline to \$61 from \$68. The basic Senior membership fee, however, would increase from \$23 to \$30. The Club's Constitution provides for a senior rate at half the individual rate but the proposal does not apply this factor to the liability insurance and FMCBC membership charges which are set external to the Club.

A subscription to printed material would be a \$10 add-on, or in the case of Senior members \$5. Included would be the newsletter which is published and mailed 10 times a year and the bi-annual Mountaineer which is distributed primarily through Club socials. The Mountaineer would also be available separately. Publishing information on exploration, routes, conservation and natural history for not only Club members but also the wider community has been a Club objective since its founding.

The Executive Committee will be developing this proposal further and is interested in your views. Email comments to [membership@bcmc.ca](mailto:membership@bcmc.ca) or call Hugh Kellas, Membership Chair, at 604-209-4744. Under the Club's Constitution, any membership fee changes require confirmation by three-quarters of the Club members present at a general meeting.

## **Call For Newsletter Content**

We're always interested in BCMC-related news, notices, book or film reviews, short trip reports, photos, and other content for this newsletter. Please submit your content to [editor@bcmc.ca](mailto:editor@bcmc.ca), your input is most appreciated.

## **Crater Slabs: Late Season Scrambling on the North Shore**

Trip Date: Oct 2, 2011

Participants: Max Bitel, David Carne, Jeff Ross, Geoff Zenger (reporter)

Max and I had talked about climbing the Crater Slabs route on Crown for at least a year prior to our ascent, but each time we had planned on climbing it the weather turned and our trip had to be cancelled. Lucky for us, after a miserable September, early October brought a few days of sun to dry out the slabs so we quickly arranged to attempt the route.

I awoke Saturday morning to a grey sky of low overcast and a call from David to inform me that my ride to the base of Grouse would be late. David, Max, and I ended up not arriving at the base of the grind until nearly 8:30, by which point Jeff had been waiting for us for a full half hour. We were unsure of whether it would be better to approach the crater slabs from Lynn / Hanes valley or from Grouse, but we decided on the Grouse approach after a friend told us that a couple weeks earlier he had some difficulties crossing Lynn creek. Another concern was that although the day was forecast to be dry and it had been dry all week in the city, online satellite precipitation maps showed that it had been raining lightly during the night in the vicinity of Crown mountain. It

would turn out that there is little foliage in the couloir or on the slabs, and so although the forest was wet, by mid-day the rock was bone dry.

Upon seeing the crowds at the base of the grind and the BCBC trail and figuring that we had no reason to rush, we started up the grind and headed for one of the trails that leads directly up to Dam mountain in order to avoid the crowds. We reached the peak of Dam around 11:15 and took a break to eat lunch. Soon after beginning the descent from Dam to Crown pass, we encountered a group of German hikers who thought that there were bears on the ridge to Goat, and we were advised to not proceed. Not seeing any signs of bears, we ignored their advice and proceeded down to Crown pass and into Hanes valley. As we began the descent, the clouds finally cleared and gave way to sun, leaving us with perfect scrambling conditions.

While descending into Hanes valley it looked like it might be possible to avoid descending all the way down until the talus slope that descends from Crown pass intersects the one coming down the valley from the summit of Crown by traversing the slopes at the base of the rock wall on the left. Not sure of whether the traverse was feasible or not, Jeff, Max, and I sat down as David went on a scouting mission to investigate. Some ten minutes later we could hear the words "go down" echo through the valley and we got up to head down to where the two talus slopes intersected. Not knowing what happened to David and apparently no longer in vocal communication range with him, we waited at the bottom for him, and were finally ready to begin our ascent of Crown from deep in Hanes valley at about 1:30.

To reach the Crater Slabs, you ascend the slope from Hanes valley leading towards the summit of Crown, always following the left-hand wall. After 20 or so minutes of ascending from the valley bottom, we reached the beginning of the Crater Slabs route proper, where the route starts up a narrow rock gully with a small creek running through it. Until this point, the route is a straightforward hike, but from this point onwards the route steepens significantly, and although the gully is mostly 3rd class, there are a number of class 4 sections that many people would be uncomfortable ascending without a belay (especially when wet). The rock is generally of good quality, although friable in places. The most difficult step of the gully is right at its end, where there is a short near-vertical wall that needs to be ascended to reach the main slabs. Once the slabs are reached, downclimbing the route to retreat would be significantly more difficult than continuing upwards.

Our original intent had been to follow the main couloir most of the way up, and to traverse right out of the couloir onto a bushy ledge, and to ascend from there straight up to the summit of Crown. However, we missed our turn off from the main couloir, and ascended it all the way to the top, where it connects with the regular Crown hiking trail about a hundred feet below the summit. This is fairly easy, although near the top there is a lot of loose rock, including some larger boulders. Our only scare of the day happened when a large boulder was sent down the couloir and sent an avalanche of rocks down the gully between where Max and I were climbing. Another feasible option would be to traverse out of the main couloir to the lower angle slabs below the Camel and to approach the summit of Crown from the base of the Camel. All of these variations are quite similar in exposure and angle, and any one will provide for a great day of scrambling. From the base of the gully at the top of Hanes Valley to the summit of Crown via the Crater Slabs took about an hour and a half.

We reached the top of Crown sometime between 3:15 and 3:30, where we found sizeable crowd of hikers eager to learn about the route that they had watched us ascend. We left the summit around 4:30 and hiked down to the gondola in beautiful light and cool, crisp autumn air, arriving at the chalet just as the sun set, a bit before 7pm. With its long line of enjoyable scrambling and its proximity to the city, this route is highly recommended.

## **Club Night at MEC - May 31**

Tuesday, May 31st, from 7 to 9pm is the new date for the members only evening at the Mountain Equipment Co-op. Come in and gear up for all your summer activities, and get 10% off your purchases. A great perk for all of us club members, arranged by your club executive and the MEC. Don't miss it!

## **Did You Know? Tidbits from the BC Geographical Names Register**

**Howe Sound** was named by Captain Vancouver after Admiral Richard Scrope, Earl Howe (1726-1799), the hero of what has since been known in the annals of the British navy as the “Glorious First of June” (1794). Mount Harvey is named after Captain John Harvey (1740 - 1794), captain of the HMS Brunswick (the namesake of **Brunswick Mountain**), who was gravely wounded in the same battle as Earl Howe. **Mount Strachan**, known to most for being host to part of the Cypress Mountain ski area, is also named after a Royal Naval officer, Admiral Sir Richard John Strachan (1760 - 1828). When “Mount” precedes the name, it usually indicates that the feature is named after a person. Other mountains in the area have been given descriptive names, such as **Hat Mountain** because it is a “conspicuous flat-topped peak, shaped like a coolie hat, when viewed from Horseshoe Bay”. The other mountain in the Cypress Mountain ski area, is **Black Mountain**, named in 1860, when the mountain had been recently ravaged by a forest fire, leaving many charred stumps and giving it a black appearance. Interestingly, the closest **Cypress Mountain** to the ski area is a minor peak in Coquitlam, between Buntzen and Coquitlam Lakes.

**St Marks Summit**, a minor summit northwest of Mount Strachan, was named in association with Camp Agwatilah down in Lions Bay, operated for many years by St. Mark’s Anglican Church. The name “Mount St. Marks” was originally applied to the next peak north (what is now known as Unnecessary Mountain).

### **SOLITUDE - Lord Byron**

To sit on rocks, to muse o’er flood and fell,  
To slowly trace the forest’s shady scene,  
Where things that own not man’s dominion dwell,  
And mortal foot hath ne’er or rarely been;  
To climb the trackless mountain all unseen,  
With the wild flock that never needs a fold;  
Alone o’er steeps and foaming falls to lean;  
This is not solitude, ‘tis but to hold  
Converse with Nature’s charms, and view her stores unrolled.

But midst the crowd, the hurry, the shock of men,  
To hear, to see, to feel and to possess,  
And roam alone, the world’s tired denizen,  
With none who bless us, none whom we can bless;  
Minions of splendour shrinking from distress!  
None that, with kindred consciousness endued,  
If we were not, would seem to smile the less  
Of all the flattered, followed, sought and sued;  
This is to be alone; this, this is solitude!



Top: View down from  
summit of Crown Mtn  
Left and Right: Scrambling  
up the Crater Slabs



Bottom: Evening sun on  
Goat and Crown Mtns

Photos: Max Bitel

