

B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



December 2011. Vol. 89, No. 10

EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

Evening socials are held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario St., Vancouver) from 7:30 pm. Cookies, tea and coffee are provided.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN MUG

Tues. 13 Dec. - John Scurlock present s aerial images from the great mountains and icefields of the Coast Range of British Columbia, from the Lillooet to the Stikine and Waddington.

Tues. 10 Jan - TBA

Photo: Waddington Summit Tower, View NW
John Scurlock ©



Photo: Alpha, East Face
John Scurlock ©

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Esther and Martin Kafer

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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. For rentals, email 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

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.

NOTICE: 2011/12 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW PAST DUE.

The new fee is \$40 per member, with \$10 more if you want a printed subscription to the Newsletter and bi-annual Mountaineer. For Senior and Junior members, the fee is \$20, with the printed subscription \$5 more. Renew online at www.bcmc.com, at the monthly social, or by mail using the membership form available on the website. If you have not yet renewed, this will be the last newsletter you receive.

TRIP SCHEDULE ~ Check for updates and details at www.bcmc.ca

December 2011

3	Sugarloaf Mtn (D2/3)	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
3	Zoa Ridge - Beginners Welcome (B2)	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
3	Paul Ridge (B2)	Alena Dzujkova	778-881-5642
3	Paul Ridge (FULL) (B2)	Thomas Schroeder	
3	Ptarmigan Ridge, Mt Baker (B3 -C2)	Henry DeJong	604-574-4805
3	Brunswick Mountain : North East Couloir (PD+)	Serguei Okountsev	
4	Mount Seymour (B3)	James Clarke	604-202-7761
7	Gym Climbing Wednesday Night at The Edge	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
8-15	Early 'Ice Climbing Camp' Rockies(WI 3-5)	Werner Grzimek	604-737-1091
10	Mount Harvey - North Ramp - FULL (C4)	Don Montrichard	604-785-5214
10	Flatiron Peak (via Needle) (C3)	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
14	Alpine Practice (members only) (B5)	Serguei Okountsev	
14	Gym Climbing: Wednesday Night at The Edge	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
15	Thursday Evening Skiing at Cypress (B1/2)	Paul Olynek	604-928-3355
17	Mt Sproatt (B2)	Magnus Byne	604-771-5305
18	Mt Chief Pascall (B3)	Geoffrey Zenger	
21	Gym Climbing : Wednesday Night at The Edge	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
24	Tszil or Taylor/Joffre Lakes area (C3)	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
28	The Flatiron (via Needle Peak) (B3-C2)	Henry DeJong	604 574-4805

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Michael Brown, Katherine Chong, Jennifer Epp, Tony Espeut, Ken Evans, Cormac Flynn, Michael Hamata, Andrew Jeffs, Steven Knight, Christine Moric, Erin Palmer, Tony Pickard, and Christopher Yuchym.

New BCMC Executive Voted In - *Alena Dzujkova*

On November 8th, 2011, BCMC members voted in a new executive committee. As we are gradually preparing for our first executive meeting in December I would like to introduce our team (can also be viewed at <http://bcmc.ca/about.asp>):

Alena Dzujkova, President
David Scanlon, Past President
Dan Carey, Climbing Committee
Emanuele Porra, Cabins and Trails
Jeff Ross, Treasurer
Paul Olynek, Website
Waldemar Jonsson, Programs and Camps

Francis St Pierre, Vice-president
Brittany Zenger, Newsletter Editor
Don Montrichard, Membership
Geoff Zenger, Secretary
Michael Feller, Journal Editor and Archivist
Peter Gumplinger, Socials
Werner Grzimek, Membership

Our common denominator is lots of enthusiasm and many good ideas. Our goal is to continue improving our club and making it valuable to its members. We are determined to stay in touch with the club members and seek their input on the matters that affect them. We are hoping that you can also stay in touch with us as it is ultimately the engaged membership that keeps the club going.

We would like to thank you for your votes and for your support. We would like to encourage the club members to give us a continuous feedback on how we are doing in representing your interests. Your comments are welcome by email at: exec@bcmc.ca or in person at any of the monthly socials.

Also, we would like to remind you that our monthly executive meetings are also open to the club members to attend as a guest. If you wish to attend a meeting, please contact geoff.zenger@gmail.com for details on the time and location.

Thank you and I hope to see you at the December social!

VIMFF Contact/Coordinator needed (Feb 10-18, 2012)

A volunteer is also needed to be the main contact person between the BCMC and Alan Formanek, the director of the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival (VIMFF). You would be responsible for the BCMC display at the festival, for co-ordinating BCMC member volunteers to attend the Festival, and scheduling people to staff the club's display table. To volunteer and to have help in the transition, or to get more information of what would be required, please call David Scanlon at 604-531-5025.

Articles and photos wanted for the next edition of the BC Mountaineer

Every 2 years the club publishes a glossy journal devoted to club activities during the preceding 2 years. The next journal will be published in 2012. Articles about longer or more interesting trips, mountain science, or conservation, etc., together with photos, are required. If you have any items, please submit them to Michael Feller (michael.feller@ubc.ca) by the end of 2011.

Club Library needs a new home *Michael Feller*

The BCMC library is probably the best mountaineering library in B.C. It contains around 1000 books and journals and has been kindly kept in Joan Ford's house in recent years. We owe Joan much gratitude for doing this. She will soon be moving out of her house, however, so the library needs a new home. It comes with its own bookcases, so all that is required is space. It occupies 8 bookcases and one filing cabinet, although the filing cabinet can probably be discarded. The bookcases have the following widths (with the number of shelves given in brackets): 73 cm (5), 73 cm (5), 84 cm (4), 84 cm (4), 80 cm (3), 92 cm (3), 122 cm (6), 124 cm (5).

If you have space in your house for this collection and don't live too far away from Vancouver and you are willing to house the library, please contact Michael Feller at michael.feller@ubc.ca. You can see the library if you need to, by contacting Joan Ford at 604-876-4255.

Recreation and Conservation Update

We have an opening for a Recreation and Conservation executive with the BCMC. If you have a passion for conservation and would be interested in volunteering, please contact your executive for further details.

Summary of FMCBC Recreation and Conservation Meeting Minutes 17 Oct 2011 - Brian Wood *21 Mile Creek*

As there has been no real response or commitment to deal with our request to restrict motorized activities per the LRMP designation, the committee will draft letters to local politicians and media to bring this unresolved

matter to the public's attention.

Whistler Olympic Park

Good news is that for \$10 per person skiers can use WOP trails for backcountry access and more signs will be installed to clarify access. Overnight parking is now available and much easier to buy by going on line. Bad news is that Callaghan Country trails are not accessible with a WOP ticket, and use of CC trails by back country skiers is indeterminate at present.

Garibaldi Park

- a) We are attempting to get conditions for the recent 5 year renewal of WB Heli-ski license in the Spearhead Range, which is permitted under the present GP plan.
- b) The Spearhead Hut project is initiating various studies to determine environmental, safety, etc, aspects relating to three proposed cabin sites which are accessible from both the proposed winter and summer routes.
- c) We are investigating the various "stakeholders" who would be involved with our plans to have a bridge installed across the Fitzsimmons Creek to facilitate access to the old Singing Pass Trail which would become more important if the Spearhead huts are built.
- d) Friends of Garibaldi Park will be having their inaugural meeting in the near future so that they can become a registered society and be in a better position for fund raising..

BC Parks Funding

Scott Webster and Al Jenkins reported on the recent meeting organised by CPAWS and the Parks Elders relating to funding and other parks issues. We will be monitoring progress of the select "Steering Committee" or core group and will help wherever possible.

Natural Resource Roads Act Project

This recent government initiative is being reviewed so that the FMC can make a submission before the deadline of 15 December 2011. Please review the project at the website is <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/nrra/index.htm> and in particular note references to road de-activation and gating which will severely effect our back country access.

2012 Backcountry Skiing Programs Announced - Dan Carey

For 2012, we are offering a new, free, Introduction to Backcountry Skiing program which will be offered twice. The intent of this one day program is to give participants a chance to try backcountry skiing before committing to spend money on gear and formal avalanche instruction. Your next step after taking the program is to take the AST-1 avalanche course. If you are an intermediate skier who can confidently ski 'blue' (intermediate) runs in bounds and want to try backcountry skiing, this program is for you.

We are continuing to offer our overnight, two weekend backcountry ski program, which has been renamed Overnight Backcountry Ski Touring. This program is designed for backcountry day skiers who want to develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence required to safely participate in overnight backcountry ski trips. Completion of Avalanche Skills Training (AST-1) or equivalent experience is required. Previous summer or winter backcountry camping experience is required.

For dates and further details on both of these programs, see the Programs and Camps page at www.bcmc.ca.

Newsletter Redesign - *Brittany Zenger*

We're currently in the process of redesigning the newsletter, including a discussion of what content should be published in the newsletter. Particularly for those of you who rely on the hard copy version of the newsletter for your BCMC updates, we would like to hear from you during the redesign process. Please submit your thoughts and comments to editor@bcmc.ca or phone 778-228-2392 and leave a message.

November Newsletter Corrections

The article The 'True' Story of the North Creek Sleeping Bag Incident was submitted via Dave Scanlon, however the author wishes to remain anonymous. The November issue was labelled as Issue 11, when in fact it was Issue 9, as we do not publish over the summer months.

President's Annual Report- *David Scanlon*

And another challenging year has come and gone and enough cannot be said for your executive this past year. There were extra meetings held in February and May along with the regular monthly meetings. People have stepped up to help when asked and needed. Thanks to Dan Carey, Hugh Kellas. Brittany Zenger has stepped up to help as newsletter editor when Alice was away, Geoff Zenger has stepped in to help as secretary when Alice was away. Others have done double duty by holding down 2 executive positions. Your executive put forward to the membership at a Special General Meeting to change a couple of the constitutional sections under membership to expedite the moving up of associate members to the active, now called voting category.

The executive also considered all of the suggestions put forward by you in the membership survey regarding the BCMC membership dues; as well as all of the financial implications of any changes. Taking all of that into account the changes were put forward and endorsed by you the membership at another Special General Meeting. Both were passed.

This month is my 10 year anniversary of being on the BCMC executive and I wonder where those years have gone. Starting in 2001 in the camps position, 2003 into the cabins and trails position, 2007 into the vice-president position, 2009 to the presidents position for the past 2 years.

It is now time for me to move on. I now have this to say. In informal speech, the word dinosaur is used to describe things that are impractically large, obsolete, or bound for extinction. Well as you can see, I'm not really large. But the 2 other descriptions, obsolete, and bound for extinction may well fit myself. I will in all probably be the last computer challenged president of the club. From now on, all of your executive members will all be very competent in their computer skills. They will have to be in this day and age of instant communication. My lack of computer skills were a very real hardship for myself, and probably trying for the other executive members as well these past 2 years, but after the first year as president I felt that there were things that I still wanted to get done and to be a part of, so I wanted to persevere and do a second term. That year is now over and I am very pleased as to what this executive has accomplished this past year.

What is a president? A president is a person who is appointed or elected to preside over an organized group of people. Preside is the working word here. The people on this executive did the work, the research, the phone calls. They at times politely and respectfully correct me on a point or two, or three. Thanks to all of you for your help. Thanks to you for listening and giving your advice when I called and asked it of you.

I do today challenge you the membership. There are events that this club should be a part of. This club is the largest mountaineering club in the province of British Columbia, over 100 years old, and it became that way with volunteers. I hereby challenge you, BCMC members, to volunteer when asked and needed. Your

executive has set up a BCMC MEC night giving you the members 10% off of your purchases. Someone has to set this up, organize it, to be at the door on that night. A volunteer is needed.

There is an upcoming "Vancouver snowfest" day coming up later this month again at the MEC dealing with everything to do with winter sports having dealers, demonstrations, talks, with all of the local clubs in attendance. We, the biggest and best mountaineering club in the province should be in attendance at that event. Again, a volunteer is needed. Next February the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival is again coming. A 9 day event. The BCMC has been a part of this since it's beginning but once again volunteers are needed.

The above events are things that I have been volunteering in for these past many years. I am stepping down from these positions and you, the members, will have to step up and take over. I will help you with the transition, give you all of the contact information, show you the ropes so to speak.

Alena is going to be your next president and I expect you to all help her as best you can as you have helped me. I will still officially be on your executive as the "past president" so will still be around.

I wish her and the new next executive all the best.

It has been an honor to have served you all. Thanks

David Scanlon

FMCBC Annual Report - *Brian Wood*

Insurance (This is probably the most important item of this report-that is why it is the first item.)

For the financial year 2011-12 the FMCBC signed on to a new Commercial General Liability (CGL) Insurance policy, which was obtained through a new insurance broker, Integro Insurance Brokers. The FMCBC maintained the same Director and Officers (D&O) policy as the previous year. With the assistance of Integro, some initial concerns with respect to the current liability policy were addressed, however some concerns remain. **Currently, we do NOT have coverage for club-sanctioned trips in the USA.**

Insurance is complex and it is not easy to simplify our specific coverage and the procedures that should be followed to maintain that coverage; however, the FMCBC Insurance Committee is working on producing a document that will clarify coverage, risk management and procedures. In the meantime the following risk management items require particular attention:

a) Waivers.

Every participant on a club-sanctioned trip, including guests and youths, **MUST** sign an approved, current waiver. If the BCMC membership list indicates that a member's waiver is not current, that member is required to submit a signed current waiver to the trip organizer. The trip organizer should return all waivers (those of guests and those of members without current waivers), along with the completed Trip Participants Form to the Climbing Chair (or a BCMC executive member). The Trip Participants Form should list all trip participants and identify whether the participant is a member or guest.

b) Guests

A guest is required to sign a current waiver and identify himself or herself as a guest. The insurance company requires that an additional \$6 per guest be paid to provide coverage for the guest's participation on that club trip and all future trips to the end of the policy period. To avoid requiring trip organizers having to collect \$6 from a guest, the club will keep a record of all guests on club trips and submit the guest fees as a lump sum before the end of the policy period. This is why all waivers and Trip Participants Forms must be returned to the Climbing Chair (or a BCMC executive member) as specified above.

c) Liquor Liability Exclusion:

The CGL insurance policy has a liquor liability exclusion clause, which means that if bodily injury or property damage arises out of the selling, serving or offering of alcohol by the Named Insured or anyone falling under the category “Who is an Insured” (i.e., FMCBC, BCMC, other member clubs which have opted for the insurance, trip organizer and participants of a club-sanctioned event), that bodily injury or property damage will not be covered under the policy. This exclusion is meant to deal with what is more commonly referred to as “Host Liquor Liability”: a host (person or entity) that provides alcohol to someone can be found liable for that person’s actions, if those actions cause injury or property damage. The CGL insurance policy excludes coverage for such liability.

d) Incident Reporting Forms (For reporting “accidents”)

If someone gets hurt on or as a result of a club-sanctioned trip (i.e., a non-participant may be injured by a participant on a club trip), the insurance company requires that details of the incident be reported to it by submitting an Incident Reporting Form. Accordingly, any time someone is injured while on or as a result of a club-sanctioned trip, the trip organizer should report the incident to the Climbing Chair, who will ensure that the required information is obtained from the trip organizer and trip participants. Consultation with Integro will determine whether the incident needs to be reported to the insurance company, if there is any doubt.

e) Risk Management Plan

A good waiver is just one element, although an integral element, of a risk management plan but there are others. For example, for certain activities (i.e., glacier travel, backcountry skiing, rock climbing, ice climbing) there is a list of recommended safety equipment that every participant should have to participate on a trip. For backcountry skiing for example, at a minimum, every participant should have an avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe. Safety programs and skill development courses, such as the refresher skills courses offered to members at various times during the year, are all part of a good risk management plan. Efforts are being made by the FMCBC to create a guide for clubs to develop their own risk management plans for the various activities offered by the club. This is in addition to the development of a universal waiver form for use by clubs participating in the FMCBC insurance program.

Any club member who has experience in the insurance industry, or is interested in learning more about our insurance coverage, is welcome to join the FMC Insurance Committee as we are all trying to learn as much as we can about this complex and ever changing subject.

Strategic Plan

As many of you already know, after many months of work (during which some of you may have been contacted for input) the FMC’s Strategic Plan was officially completed and approved in September, and the final version can be found at our website:- www.mountainclubs.org. The website now reflects our new Vision, Mission and Values (as amended in the Strategic Plan) which we hope are more focussed and clearer than the older statements. In the revised “About us” section of the website, our current officers and directors are listed, as well as the directors and members who have volunteered for our committees. While we would not change the plan without good reason, it is a living document which is a guide for our future policy direction for the next three years, and should not be restrictive. The plan is quite ambitious and will require more help from volunteers, and so if you are interested in volunteering to help on a committee, please contact Jodi or the Chair of the appropriate committee. Please note while previous experience is helpful, it is not required as we are looking for those persons who want to help support the FMC in promoting the interests of non-motorized or self-propelled backcountry recreation. We have already started to implement some of the non-contentious items in the plan to help us keep to our implementation timetable which some folks feel is quite “tight”. It is added that we have several new directors who are considerably younger than some of the previous directors, and we hope this will encourage new and younger members to take an active role in the FMC.

Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) Community Partnership

As some of you know, our Strategic Plan is a direct result of working with the MEC so that the FMC can improve its ability to represent the interests of the non-motorized or self-propelled back country recreation community. Our committee will be meeting with the MEC very shortly to enable them to monitor our progress and to give us their input.

FMC Dues

The amount of the fee or dues that member clubs pay to the Federation for each paying club member, that is the nominal \$15 per person per year, has been questioned for some time, particularly by those clubs who feel that the addition of the FMC dues to their club's membership fees discourages members from joining their club. Some clubs have requested that the \$15 per person per year is reduced to, for example, \$10 per year. As we are about to implement some of the changes recited in the Strategic Plan, we feel we cannot decrease the dues at this time, at least not until we have a better idea of what our operating budget will be. As a compromise, in view of our present budget surplus, at the last AGM the Directors agreed to give to each club a one-time refund or rebate of FMC fees in the amount of \$5 per person for whom the \$15 was paid in the year 2010/11. If a club requests the rebate, the \$5 per person will be returned to the club for the club to spend as it wishes. Alternatively, the club can decide not to claim the rebate but instead to leave it in the Federation's account as a donation. As a point of interest I understand that the FMC dues per person were \$10 per year many years ago, but that was when we received relatively large Government operating grants which have since been discontinued.

Membership Annual Report - *Hugh Kellas*

Membership policy and administration in 2011 were handled by Steve Tate, Kevin Swanson, Silvia Bakovic and Hugh Kellas. A major focus this year was updating the membership categories and fees to respond to the Club's evolution and concerns expressed in the 2010 Membership Survey. The objectives were to increase fairness in payment among members, reduce the complexity of the fee structure, and provide adequate funds to maintain the Club's activities. Two models were developed and presented to the membership for comment, one based on the many membership fee categories used in recent years and a second based on just the membership categories set out in the Constitution. In June, the Executive Committee approved the latter, which included four membership fee categories for individuals, seniors, youth and life and a separate fee for printed/mailed Club publications. The Committee's decision was endorsed by the membership at a general meeting in September.

The Club had a good year, with membership rising from 517 in 2010 to 540, the second highest number of members in the Club's history. About 85% of Active members renewed, while 42% of Associate members renewed. The Club's membership was sustained by 190 new members, of which about 20% had been members at some time prior to 2010. The turnover of Associate members is a concern and it will be important to have a well-developed schedule of trips, camps and training programs in order to retain current members and continue to attract new members.

The Club's website has become an increasingly important tool for membership development and administration. 69% of members chose to renew electronically in 2011, up from 53% in 2010 which was the first year this facility was available. 87% of new members joined electronically, up from 80% the previous year.

Climbing Annual Report – *Dan Carey*

I was asked to fill in as climbing chair mid-year when the elected chair was not able to continue. Because of this unforeseen changeover we got a slow start on the summer schedule, but we were able to assemble a climbing committee to help out and get the job done – thanks to Radmila (Jaksic) Bridges, Werner Grzimek,

Francis St. Pierre, and Waldemar Jonsson.

Despite the slow start on the summer schedule, 2011 was still a fairly successful year for the number of trips. A total of 296 trips went onto the schedule, down from 375 in 2010, but still above the 290 trips in 2009 and 216 in 2008. Of course not all of these trips actually happened due to weather and other things. 2011 was the first year that we collected accurate statistics on this. In case you are curious, only about 75% of trips that go on the schedule actually happen and the highest rate of cancelation is for mountaineering trips. The mix of trips continues to change over the years. The number of hiking, rock climbing and gym climbing trips were down significantly compared to the previous year, while ice climbing and skiing trips showed modest gains.

One of the major ways members can make a contribution to the club is to organize a trip. And this year, 73 of you did that, down from 80 the year before. We have some extremely motivated trip leaders. In fact, half of all the trips on the 2011 schedule were organized by just twelve leaders. These twelve were Stanislav Liarsky, Justin Bennett, Waldemar Jonsson, Werner Grzimek, Alastair Ferries, Michael Lim, Don Montrichard, Dan Carey, Francis St. Pierre, Serguei Okountsev, Adrian Lazar, and Arman Sharif. In addition to all of the trip leaders, I am thankful for our webmaster, Kevin Swanson, for all of his behind the scenes work that makes our website trip schedule possible.

See you in the mountains.
Dan Carey

Newsletter Editor's Report – Alice Purdey

Out transition to electronic distribution of the Newsletter continues; paper mailings have dropped below 200 copies per month despite a rise in membership. There continues to be a strong need for paper copies, however, to serve the long-time members who are not comfortable with electronic media and also for archival purposes.

Ten issues were published this year, with Brittany Zenger admirably standing in as editor when I was away ~ many thanks Brittany. Once again, the number of pages published has declined, down to 76 this year compared to 108 last year and 120 the previous year. Part of the reason for this may be that there are fewer trip reports; trip leaders either don't write them or they submit them elsewhere, either on the club's website or other websites. This is something that should be looked into because trip reports are an important component of our archival history. This year, unfortunately, we missed publishing the spring and summer climbing schedule due to unexpected changes within the climbing committee. A full and dynamic schedule was, however, maintained on the website.

E-News, formerly put together by Kevin Swanson and latterly by Mary Hearnden, provides information to members in a more timely way than is possible with the newsletter. The incoming executive will have to look at the purpose of each and how to achieve a balance between them.

I am now stepping down from the executive to concentrate on revising 109 Walks, the royalties from which come to the club thanks to a bequest from Mary Macaree. My job as editor was made easier by support from members, technical support from Peter Stange, Kit Griffin's management and timely printing of the envelope labels, Michael Feller's numerous articles, and Fred Douglass's domestic support.

I offer my very best wishes to the incoming newsletter editor and to the incoming executive for a successful year in addressing the challenges ahead.

BCMC Programs Annual Report - Alena Dzukova

In 2011 BCMC offered two courses which have become a staple of our instructional programs: Backcountry Skiing and Summer Mountaineering Course. Both of these saw 8 participants each which is a noticeable decline from prior years when 12 persons participated.

One of the possible reasons for this reduction in numbers is that there is a strong demand for entry-level ski touring while our backcountry ski program skips a level and introduces skiers to touring with a backpack and enduring winter camping. It is therefore recommended that a complete beginner 1-day ski program to Diamond Head or similar is offered to those who are trying the sport for the first time. A more advanced Overnight Ski Touring would be a follow-up to these introductory courses. A ski touring program that would take it a notch higher and introduce glacier travel and ski mountaineering has also been demanded by those who have taken the overnight ski touring course.

Avalanche Safety programs were a huge hit in the winter of 2010/11 and attracted many non-members to sign up with the club (all course and programs are members-only). This is also thanks to an ongoing partnership with Canada West Mountain School where we were able to get a preferred pricing for the past few years.

Summer Mountaineering program had a slow start with only a few signups but in the end did go with eight participants. One possible cause of the uncertain start is that the programs chair was struggling to secure the instructors and the convenient dates for this 3-weekend program. As a result the announcement about the course was not posted on the website until 4 weeks before the program start date. This underlines the importance of starting to plan for this program at least 2 months before the intended start date.

No First Aid or Navigation courses were offered this year although an interest in the navigation one at least would have been guaranteed. The double duty of a vice-president and programs chair certainly contributed to the less attention and time dedicated to organizing more programs.

As a closing note I would like to stress that through various surveys and talking to numerous club members it is obvious that BCMC Programs carry a very significant importance in attracting new members but also in retaining them. One of the components that complement the programs is a trip schedule. It is a task for Programs and Climbing Chairs to work together so that the instructional programs schedule ties to what is offered on the trips schedule. In order for these fresh graduates from BCMC programs (who often also are first-time club members) to stay with the club long-term is to offer them a choice of easier club trips lead by an understanding trip organizer soon after they complete a program.

Socials Annual Report - David Scanlon

December 2010 - A presentation on an attempt on Canada's highest Mountain by BCMC club members.
January 2011 - A VOC self propelled trip to Mt Waddington
Feb 2011 - Honorary Presidents Martin and Esther Kaefer's presentation on 75 years of mountaineering around the world.
March 2011 - Trekking in Ladakh by Ed Fischer. Searching for the elusive snow leopard.
April 2011 - Canoeing around Great Britain by Chris Cooper
May 2011 - Bill Maurer on climbing in Peru with Sabine DeCamp and Andrei Smertin
May 31, 2011 - The BCMC MEC 10% discount night.
June 2011 - Devin and Tara Manky on their climb of Mt Kilimanjaro
August 2011 - Kevin Swansons annual BCMC summer BBQ.
September 2011 - Hiking and Scrambling in the Pyramees from France to Spain by Michael Feller
October 2011 - Canyoneering in Utah and locally by Kevin Swanson
November 2011 - A winter ski camp in the Nivalis area of Garibaldi Park by David Scanlon

And a thank you to Donna Scanlon for serving the snacks for all of the club socials during this past year. This is her 10th year doing this function. This past year she was not on the executive, just volunteering her services.



Tusk Mountain, North Face, Canadian Rockies
Photo: John Scurlock ©

If you would like to see more of John's work, check out his first book, to be published this fall: **Snow and Spire: Flights to Winter in the North Cascade Range.**

Snowpatch Spire
Photo: John Scurlock ©

