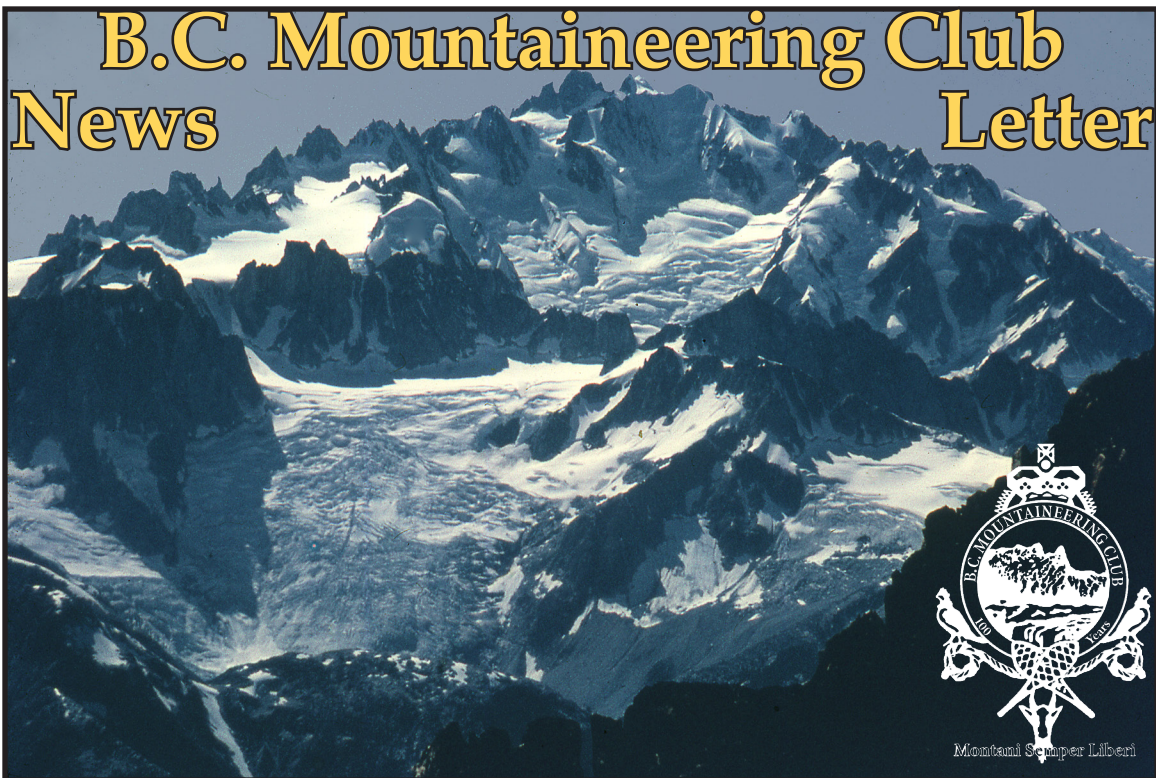


# B.C. Mountaineering Club News Letter



View SW from Camel Mtn to Waddington Range, 1967  
Photo: Martin Kafer

Feb. 2011. Vol. 89, No. 2

## 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. 08 Feb.** - "Love of Mountains: 75 Years of Seeking the High Places." Honourary Presidents Martin and Esther Kafer show pictures of their 75 years of mountaineering adventures around the world.

**Tues. 08 March** - Trekking in Ladakh: Hunting the elusive snow leopard with Ed Fischer.



Kafers on summit of Mt. Kinabalu, Borneo. 1997  
Photo: Martin Kafer collection

## British Columbia Mountaineering Club

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### HONOURARY PRESIDENTS

*Esther and Martin Kafer*

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

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

Trips are skiing unless otherwise noted.

### February

5	Ice Climbing - The Rambles: B5	Marcus Dell	604.831.4117
5-6	Mount Duke: B3	Darlene Anderson	
6	Mount Chief Pascall: B3	Marcus Dell	604.831.4117
12	Ptarmigan Ridge - beginners welcome: B2/3	Thomas Schroeder	604.315.3515
12	Mt. Rohr - beginners welcome: B2-C2/3	Jim Vercammen	604.733.8914
12-13	Cayoosh Pk. with Cayoosh-Marriott traverse: C3	Justin Bennett	604.813.4666
13	Ice Climbing - Box Canyon: W13, W14	Don Montrichard	
19	Cayoosh Mountain: C3/4	Stanislav Liarsky	604.983.4476
19	Telemagique Ridge - beginners welcome: B2	Scott Nelson	
19-20	Garibaldi Neve: C3	Dan Carey	604.731.4048
19-20	Fraser Canyon and Thompson Ice (?): W13,4,5	Don Montrichard	
26	Snowshoe - Mt. Corriveau: D2	Alastair Ferries	604.329.1637
26	Mt. Price: C2	Bill Maurer	604.789.2172
26-27	Rhododendreon Mtn.: C3	David Hughes	604.980.6484
26-27	Tetrahedron Provincial Park (tentative): B2/3	Thomas Schroeder	604.315.3515
26-27	Robie Reid winter ascent attempt: D4	Justin Bennett	604.813.4666

### March

3-6	Mini Ski Camp - N. Joffre Ck Horseshoe traverse: B3	David Scanlon	
4-6	Rainier winter ascent: D5	Justin Bennett	604.813.4666
5	James Pk. ski/snowshoe: B3	Peter Gumplinger	
11-13	Ice Climbing - The Rambles: B5	Adrian Lazar	
12	Cayoosh Mtn. : C3	Diana Diaconu	
12-13	Mt. Moe: C3	Greg Stoltmann	604.926.6496

### Skills, Courses and Camps

5-6 Feb	AST-1 for skiers, boarders: B2 - FULL	Camps and Programs	778.881.5642
12-13	AST-2- weekend 1: B2	Camps and Programs	778.881.5642
19-20	AST-2 -weekend 2: B2	Camps and Programs	778.881.5642
12-13 Mar	Snow Shelters Clinic - members only	Brian Wood	604.222.1541

### Indoor Climbing

February 2, 8, 16, 23.

Wednesday nights at the Cliffhanger in Vancouver organized by Waldemar Jonsson.

## **NEWS AND NOTICES**

### **New Members**

The club welcomes the following new members: Stefano Aondio, Jennifer Cumal, Russell Floyd, Holly Robertson, Dave Percival, Benjamin Latto, Jennifer Acton, Robert Fagan, Erica Sprague, Baz Cardinal, David Vander Ende, Rob O'Brien, Ian Hoffman, Kimberly Tholl, Gavin Tholl, Charlotte Whitney, Chris McKillican, Brenton Searle, Rick Steenweg, Steffen Lehmann, Cecile Multone, Christopher Pavsek.

### **Temporary/Alternate Newsletter Editor**

Brittany Zenger has kindly volunteered to produce the March and April issues of this newsletter. Please send your trip reports, photos and articles to Brittany at: [brittany.zenger@gmail.com](mailto:brittany.zenger@gmail.com) from now until the end of March. Alternativley, you can send or upload materials as per instructions on page 2 of this newsletter.

### **Welcome Home Alena**

Our super Camps and Programs Chairperson, and also Vice-President, Alena Dzujkova has recently returned from nine months of adventurous travels. She visited family and hiked in Slovakia, cycled the Danube bike trail from Germany to Slovakia, shopped for a carpet in Istanbul, bike-toured in Ukraine, trekked in Nepal, and rock climbed in Thailand. :-) Great stuff! Lot's of stories for the campfires there, no doubt.

### **Volunteer at the VIMFF**

Volunteers are needed to man the BCMC lobby display booth at the Vancouver International Mountaineering Film Festival from Fri. 11 Feb. to Fri. 18 Feb. This requires giving out brochures, answering questions and generally promoting the club. Volunteers work in pairs and get free admission to the show for the evening. Contact Brian Wood: 604-222-1541 or [bjwood@telus.net](mailto:bjwood@telus.net)

### **The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) is seeking a new Treasurer**

The role of the Treasurer is to manage and report on the FMCBC's finances. The FMCBC needs to fill this position on or before the next AGM in June 2011. FMCBC's current Treasurer, Martin Smith, will be available for training and would prefer that someone take on this role from him as soon as possible.

The FMCBC's Bookkeeper and Administrative Manager handle the bulk of the work by providing monthly cash flow reports and quarterly financial statements to the Treasurer and providing the financial reporting needed for several agencies throughout the year. The FMCBC Treasurer's main role includes preparing and monitoring the budget, ensuring the Board's financial policies are being followed, reporting to the Board and general membership on finances and preparing a final financial report and budget for the AGM.

The new Treasurer does not need to be an accountant, but experience in budgeting and/or financial management is an asset. Because the Board meets via Skype conferencing the Treasurer can reside anywhere in BC. This position is for a two year term and attendance at the June AGM is encouraged - all travel expenses to the AGM are covered.

If you are interested in this position, or would like more information, please contact Jodi at [admin.manager@mountainclubs.org](mailto:admin.manager@mountainclubs.org) or (604)873-6096.

## **Survey Results**

A big THANK YOU to all (162 of you) who participated in the recent survey. The executive will be discussing the results at the February executive meeting and circulating the results to the membership shortly thereafter.

## **Final Goodbye to Mary Wells**

Long-time club member Mary Wells passed away recently at the age of 90. She has left a bundle of equipment and books to the club which the archivist will be sorting. Thank you Mary, and Happy Trails.

## **Final Goodbye to Iva Bricel** - *submitted by Joan Ford*

Iva escaped from Yugoslavia and eventually settled in Vancouver. She joined the BCMC in 1953. Iva was active in the club for the next 15 years enjoying hiking and skiing and visits to the Grouse and Seymour cabins. Since then she remained interested in the club and often went to the evening socials.

## **BACKCOUNTRY NOTICES**

### **Backcountry skiing at Whistler and want to avoid heliskiers?**

Contact Junichi at 1-888-435-4754 or at [whistlerheliskiing@whistlerblackcomb.com](mailto:whistlerheliskiing@whistlerblackcomb.com) to let him know your route plans. He is currently managing avoidance protocol which includes attempting to avoid backcountry skiers the company might discover in an area they are flying into. Better to advise them in advance.

### **Rainbow Mountain Wildland Area**

The Rainbow Mountain Wildland Area is designated a non-motorized recreation area in the Sea-to-Sky LRMP. Ski and snowshoe access to the area is usually via the Hanging Lake route from Callaghan Valley or the 21 Mile Creek trail.

Despite the non-motorized designation, there are still many snowmobilers recreating in the area. As part of the effort to inform and educate snowmobilers about the non-motorized area, three large signs were constructed along the East Callaghan Forest Service Road (the typical snowmobile access route into the area) with a map of the Rainbow Mountain Wildland Area and a notice that snowmobiling is prohibited in 21 Mile Creek, Rainbow Lake, Gin and Tonic Lakes, north side of Mt. Sproatt and Rainbow Mountain. A pdf of the map and notice appears in the December edition of the BCMC newsletter and can be accessed via the FMC website ([mountainclubs.org/trails\\_projects/Callaghan-valley/21mile](http://mountainclubs.org/trails_projects/Callaghan-valley/21mile)).

Members are encouraged to make trips into the Rainbow Mountain Wildland Area and to document any ongoing use by snowmobilers of the area, including any conflicts with them or safety issues, as well as voluntary compliance (i.e., if there are no snowmobilers present or snowmobilers leave the area when informed about the designation). Please submit photos and reports to the Snowmobile Zoning Infraction Database, which is accessed via "Campaigns" on [www.bivouac.com](http://www.bivouac.com) or submit your reports and photos to Monika Bittel ([mbittel9@gmail.com](mailto:mbittel9@gmail.com)), Robin Tivy or Scott Nelson.

## **Snowmobile Plan in California Challenged to Protect Wildlife, Quiet Recreation**

*Summarized from a Jan 19th press release, Center for Biological Diversity. [www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org)*

The California Department of Parks and Recreation recently approved a ten-year plan and funding to clear trails for snowmobilers through eleven national forests. This is being challenged in court by a consortium of environmental groups who claim that the plan did not adequately address environmental concerns or conflicts with quiet winter recreation and would enable motorized access into areas currently inaccessible except to self-propelled backcountry users. The group addresses the interpretation of 'multiple use'.

"The national forest lands are intended to be multiple-use. However, multiple-use does not mean all uses in all places. Indeed, it means the opposite. It means that low-impact uses such as skiing and snowshoeing are protected and insulated from higher-impact uses such as snowmobiling. This concept of multiple-use is well established, and it is disingenuous when the snowmobile community asserts otherwise. Multiple-use does not mean all areas open to all uses, it means reasonable use is made available to everyone."

Sound familiar??

### **Avalanche transceivers - an update** *Comment by M. Feller*

Avalanche transceiver technology has recently been changing rapidly. Reviews of transceivers and their use last appeared in our November, 2007, and January, 2008, newsletters after 3 antenna transceivers had appeared. These were considered to be superior to the older single antenna transceivers. A greater variety of 3-antenna transceivers is now available and their use has become more common. Consequently, it is worth providing an update.

Detailed reviews and comparisons of a large number of transceivers are available at <http://beaconreviews.com>, an independent site run by a Utah skier. These, together with comments and a study available at the Canadian Avalanche Association's website ([www.avalanche.ca](http://www.avalanche.ca)) form the basis for the following comments:

Beacon reviews rated transceivers according to a variety of use and performance criteria and concluded that there was no avalanche transceiver that is best for everyone. The best transceivers were all 3 antenna ones : ARVA evo 3, ARVA 3 axes, Barryvox pulse, BCA Tracker 2, Ortovox 3+, Ortovox S1, Pieps DSP, and Pieps DSP advanced. Beacon reviews stated that the avalanche transceiver you select should be based on what you can afford, how you prioritize its features, and how you plan to use it. If you won't spend much time practising with your transceiver, choose a unit with minimal features and options. If you are weaning yourself from many years with an analog transceiver, consider a unit that can quickly toggle between digital and analog.

Many other transceivers were still acceptable, but they had difficulty handling multiple burials, were more difficult to use, or had some design problems. The transceivers – Barryvox VS2000 pro, and Ortovox D3 – were ranked lowest of those in production today.

One study of the 5 major transceivers used in B.C. (Ortovox S1, Ortovox d3, Mammut pulse, Tracker DTS, and Pieps DSP), by F.M. Swangard, B. Sayer, and F. Gunderson in 2009, found that experienced ski guides who had long used older Ortovox F1 transceivers, located burials most rapidly using the Ortovox d3 and least rapidly using the Ortovox F1- the unit with which they were most familiar. Inexperienced users located burials most rapidly with the Ortovox S1, then Ortovox d3, units. Only 40% of these inexperienced users could locate burials within the study's time limits using the older Ortovox F1 units. The study concluded that the newer 3-antenna transceivers were much better than the older transceivers in the hands of less experienced people or people who used the units only irregularly.

Lessons from all of this are that if you are still using an older single antenna transceiver, replace it, based on the following: Three antennae digital beacons generally won't find single antenna (analog) beacons as well as digital units. That means if two people are buried close together, the one with the digital beacon is likely to be found first. Bad news if it's you under the snow wearing the old analog beacon! In a multi-burial scenario, signal overlap can be a significantly bigger issue if old beacons are present. Modern digital beacons are slowed down and again, if it's you under the snow, you will pay the price. Old analog beacons send out fewer but longer signals. That means in any given period of time there is less information available to process. This slows down a digital beacon. Consequently search speed slows down.

(Specifically, see: <http://www.avalanche.ca/cac/gear/reviews/Transceiver-test.pdf> and <http://www.avalanche.ca/cac/gear/obsolete>)

## **ANNUAL REPORT: Cabins and Trails 2010**

When I first took on this position I was hoping to carry on in the spirit and with the momentum that Dave Scanlon had developed as the previous Cabins and Trails chairperson. He had accomplished a considerable amount and also finally secured a location and tenure for the club's proposed new cabin at Watersprite Lake. I previously served on the club's executive committee as climbing co-chair but had stepped down after several years due to work and family commitments. After being away for a couple of years, I felt the need to get involved in some capacity. I considered the vacant Cabins and Trails position. Dave's words to me (not exactly), the hard work was done and things should not be too onerous. Even so, I was in for a bit of a surprise as the year unfolded.

The year started with Watersprite Lake cabin committee meetings, graciously chaired and hosted by JP Shason. Considerable progress was made in the design, planning and logistics for the proposed new cabin. JP even brought in an architect at no cost to the club to help out with the cabin design. On behalf of the club I would like to extend a big "Thank You" to JP for all his help. In early April we finally had a plan and cost (approx. \$30k) for building the new cabin. We had hoped to commence construction in September with the cabin being substantially completed before the first snow started to fall. In order for us to commence in September, the club would need to have a special general meeting in June to vote on and approve the funds for the cabin. To accomplish this, a notice would need to have been posted in the May newsletter. However, around this time, a new initiative was also starting to get off the ground. This new initiative is the Spearhead Huts project, in which the club is to be involved to some extent. We were hoping to get approval to move forward at the April executive meeting. However, not knowing what the club's involvement in the Spearhead Huts would be from a financial perspective, the very short time line for having the special meeting, and the need for more information on the Watersprite Lake cabin, the executive could not support moving forward with the cabin proposal. It was concluded that once more information is available about the cabin proposal, and the extent of the club's involvement in the Spearhead Huts is clearer, a presentation should be published in the newsletter. Hopefully then, a decision to move forward could be made.

The membership should know that it was about eight years ago when Dave had envisioned and began work in locating a site, securing a tenure to build a cabin to commemorate the club's Centennial. During that time a lot of time and effort was put forward trying to achieve this goal. Eight years later, he finally achieved one part of the goal (a site and tenure), but now it appears that trying to attain the last part (constructing the cabin) may be difficult, as it seems that support for this cabin is waning. Personally, I would like to see the club proceed with this project and bring Dave's vision to fruition but on a smaller scale.

With respect to the Spearhead huts Initiative, David Hughes has been faithfully representing the club. I have attended a few of these meetings and hope to participate in more of them as my schedule allows. One thing is known for sure, and that is this project will move forward with or without the club's involvement. Given the

club's long history and role in the creation of Garibaldi Provincial Park, I believe that it is imperative that club be involved and more importantly its' views be represented on this project. I thank David for his involvement to date and encourage him to carry on.

As for the club's existing cabins and trails, there is some news to report. The Mountain Lake cabin continues to see regular use. Oddly, most people who use it are club members doing private trips or non members. At present access via the logging roads is unimpeded except for the snow. A trail clearing trip will be planned for sometime in 2011.

The North Creek cabin also continues to see regular use, both by members and non members. This past spring Marcus Dell and a small group were up at the cabin for a spring ski trip. While staying at the cabin, Marcus discovered a significant problem with glue laminated beams. The beams were splitting vertically with the splits originating where the bolts for the loft beams connected. This problem, in his opinion, could have a detrimental impact on the cabin's ability to make it through the winter. With that known, I had asked Marcus what would need to be done to correct the problem. Being a structural engineer, he had already formulated a plan long before I asked the question. Hel enlisted long time member Mike Thompson to assist him. They were going to make plywood gussets for which Mike donated the plywood. Then on the Thanksgiving weekend, Marcus, Mike, Ian McGillivray, and Michael Lim went to the cabin to perform the required repairs. The plan had been to fly the materials and packs in with Blackcomb Helicopters, but because of the poor weather, the group was forced to carry in. As a result, they were not able to complete as much of the work as planned. However, they did get a significant amount completed and get it to the point where the winter worthiness of the cabin was no longer a concern. They also managed to do additional work and flagging on the new trail. On behalf of the club, I would like to extend a hearty "Thanks" to the group, especially Marcus and Mike. As Marcus said before, the cabin is a great place to stay and provides great access to many objectives, especially for ski trips. I would encourage members to utilize this cabin more often and take advantage of the numerous camps and trips that go into North Creek.

As for the Plummer Hut, there is really nothing to report. Given it's location in the Waddington Range, sadly, it does not see much use by club members. At this point, I can only assume that the hut is in good condition, as I am sure Mike King of White Saddle Air or others would have passed on information with concerns to the state of the hut.

2011 will be an interesting year, as we will see how the Spearhead Hut initiative evolves and the proposed IPP for North Creek progresses. With respect to the Watersprite Lake Cabin proposal, I am hoping to revisit this and will try to have some information in an upcoming newsletter.

## **MEMBER RECOGNITION**

A club's activities, management and attraction to others are a reflection of its members' participation. There are many BCMC members who quietly and unassumingly donate time, effort, expertise and good will to keep the club dynamic, relevant and fun. Below are two articles recognizing some of these members. Kit Griffin, who has himself been organizing the rock climbing courses for 13 years with Paul Miller, summarizes last year's activities. And Jane Weller writes about Pat Crean who became a life member in 1968 and now avidly follows happenings through the newsletter.

If there is someone whose contributions you would like to see recognized and acknowledged in the newsletter, please submit an article (it doesn't have to be fancy) to the editor.

## **Introduction to climbing: Paul Miller and Kit Griffin - Climbing Program Coordinators**

I (Kit) am pleased to report The BC Mountaineering Club's climbing programs were well attended, generated some good funds for the club and brought in some new members.

Before I continue with the details, my first thanks must go to Monica Durigon who has been working behind the scenes sorting out the applications for all the climbing programs and assisting on the practical days when time allowed. This she "dovetailed in" while studying, passing exams and, juggling a busy home life as mother and wife. Monica is now stepping down as our coordinator; our warmest thanks for a job well done over many, many years. It has been a privilege to work with you.

Day one for the Basic Program (April 17th) was organised by Paul and Kim Talbot with Ian Wilson assisting. The participants enjoyed some good climbing and experienced some of Squamish's liquid sunshine but, from all accounts, took it in their stride. Our thanks to the organisers; we could not do this without you. Thanks to the participants: Brittany Zenger, Geoff Zenger, Shirry insole, Ben Vanderlei and Ye Chu.

The second part of the schedule was the Essential Rock, a two-day (top-rope) program. Paul Miller and I have been running this for some years now with several BCMC members assisting when possible. Our thanks this time to Dave Morriss and Jason Wheeler. One other to thank is MC Kropinski who attended the BCMC Lead Program last year. Our thanks to the participants: Brittany Zenger, Geoff Zenger, Nathan Rehorick, Jeff Ross, Bala Kumarevelu, Isabelle Desmarais, Anders Mjos, Eric Ashworth and Shirry Insole.

The final part of The BC Mountaineering Club's climbing program is the Introduction to Leading. Of late, we decided to accept only active BCMC members. The thought behind this was we were simply coaching people who did not necessarily renew their membership or assist in the mentor process in following programs, which is an integral part of the Lead Program.

The Lead program lasted from April the 27th to June 13th as we lost one weekend to the weather known as rain. We were lucky this time losing only one weekend; back in 2006, the Lead Program lasted from April to August.

Paul and I would like to thank Dave Morriss and Jason Wheeler for assisting and the participants: Paul Ng, Waldemar Jonsson, Peter Malacarne, Michael Waters and David Labbe.

Another successful season of programs concludes generating new members and working with current. Paul and I look forward to seeing everyone arranging trips and contributing to The BC Mountaineering Club.

## **A Tribute: Pat Crean** *by Jane Weller*

*"Yes, to dance beneath the diamond sky with one hand waving free"* (Bob Dylan)

"The fat bellied yellow Pilatus Porter trundled down the airport runway, and with a noticeable tremor of its wing tips, lifted off the ground and over alders crowding in at the end of the tarmac. Over the meanders of the river between the steeply wooded hillsides with their cascading waterfalls, we slowly gained altitude on our way north...to the Stanley Smith Glacier." (P. Crean, BC Mountaineer May 1984 p 55)

This is the sort of thing Pat loves. Every BC Mountaineer in my bookcase has a Pat Crean trip report about some far flung ski camp adventure. Every spring, Pat spent hours researching areas, pouring over maps and photographs. Gerard Clement, Marilyn Cram, Brian Wood, Jack Bryceland, Howard Rhodes were among the regular BCMC participants at the P. Crean Ski Camp, while others came as far away as Cape Breton (The BC Mountaineer 1988 p 77).

An explorer and an adventurer, Pat based his ski camps in little travelled areas: the South Edmond, the Stanley Smith, Meager, Lillooet and Warner Pass. The North Creek cabin was instigated by Pat. In those days, Pat's world were not only the mountains as well as time well spent with like minded people who, like him, ache for a day or a week to go wild in crazy beautiful parts of the world.

Winter 2002. Another Pat Crean organized weekend ski to Mt Saxifrage; Pat's pack is massive, making him look very small. (Born in 1925, Pat is now 77 years of age.) I offer to carry some of Pat's gear. He reluctantly relinquishes his pride and hands me some of his heavier weight. I ski through awkward frozen alder, waiting intermittently for Pat. His high energy has evidently been replaced by something quieter. Age is creeping gently, settling in the wrinkles of his face while blue eyes twinkle ever intensely.

Then, in soft grey tones of twilight, we reach the road and Pat's old Ford pick up; brittle snow crunches like deep gravel. Pat grins then throws his arms through full circles to get warmth back in his hands. Elongated shadows stretch from Pat's feet and lose themselves in his stretch to the moon. Life has indeed been rich.

Pat's ski adventuring may have come to a close yet another stage of life has arrived. Now there are the memories, rich and often poignant: memories of that pause in the heat of the day to watch seracs crumble and bridges fall; the revelation of the danger; the good fortune of timing; those many times when everything was dropped and he's raced to the summit of some obscure peak with friends, then danced in the setting sun. A life well lived. The BCMC is richer because of you, Pat.

Midnight January 1st 2011 At some point a rainbow is captured in my glass of champagne. I raise a glass to Pat. A bubble bursts. The pieces become these words on this page.

Hey Pat, would 'you "*Take me on a trip upon your magic swirlin' ship  
My senses have been stripped, my hands can't feel to grip  
My toes too numb to step  
Wait only for my boot heels to be wanderin'  
I'm ready to go anywhere, I'm ready for to fade  
Into my own parade, cast your dancing spell my way  
I promise to go under it.*"  
(Bob Dylan)

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Brigade Trail Contingent to Triple Bagger on Davis Massif** Oct. 2-3, 2010 *by Karl Ricker*

Well, after five consecutive weekends of rain, snow, or both, I was overdue for a sunny weekend for our annual Coquihalla quest. And the Brigade Trail between the Sowaqua and Tulameen basins certainly owed us one after three snow years. The weather forecast was very promising, and I did not hear the word "dismal" from the usual soothsayer in our membership. The massif of Mt. Davis, at a phenomenal elevation of 2012 metres, sits on the Brigade Trail, the fur trade porters using it from 1849 to 1860. Some of their more ambitious trekkers may have ascended the mountain, or at least its north summit (1974 m), during that era. The north summit saw our presence in 2007, new wet snow stymieing a serious assault on the highest peak. A year later, however, the highest was climbed in desperate weather, finding to our surprise no cairn on its summit. Surely, someone over the previous 150 years would have built one! The plan for that 2008 venture was to climb all remaining summits to the south-east and east, but again that darn weather killed the initiative.

So, where is "Grant's Pond Peak"? Well, it rises 180 metres above Grant Pond (who was Grant?), two kilometres south-east of Mt. Davis, obscured by scruffy alpine trees at 1934 m. The plan was to camp on the trail at Conglomerate Flats, below Mt. Davis, on the following day ascend to its south col, as done in 2008, and then traverse the south-east ridge to the objective, followed by a descent to Grant Pond, and then traverse below the ridge back to camp. Fourteen showed up for the plan, all acknowledging that the previous few days had been very wet. And some arrived with the latest weather forecast. The sunny Saturday drive on the lengthy Tulameen river road was to be followed by a cloudy and showery Sunday on the Brigade Trail. Reaching the car park near the trailhead at Jacobson Lake democracy said camp there, we want a dry camp. Ziff promptly hauled in some firewood to ensure a drying atmosphere.

One hour on the soggy trail put us at a surprisingly dry Conglomerate Flats the following morning. Suddenly, we were engulfed in clouds; the weather hex had arrived, but without any sign of moisture, yet. The Mt. Davis col was reached, and the ridge traverse began. A first summit along the way was unexpectedly higher than the objective, “Little Mary Mountain” (1944 m) proclaimed with a cairn, so named by the ladies of our merry group, after Mary Warburton who had been lost for several weeks in this region decades ago, and eventually found alive by Podunk Davis. Another “k” along the ridge brought us to “Grant’s Pond Peak”, although thick cloud below us obscured the view of the pond. There were no clouds above us, however, and it was not yet lunch time. Rising 800 metres to the east was a higher hump (1962 m) and Ed led the charge to bag it. In sunshine and with views of Tulameen Mtn. above the cloud deck below us we arrived on the broad summit slightly late for lunch. A triple bagger was accomplished and Mike was salivating over the points accrued, with Ehleen sarcastically retorting that the exercise was nice, but pointless. All agreed, however, that the highest was “Brigade Mtn.”, for after all, it was a brigade of trekkers who were now on its summit!

The sprawling Mt. Davis massif had now been fully ransacked of all possible summits, and for good measure “Grant’s Pond Peak” was re-ascended on the way back hoping to see the pond below it. Some discussion on where to descend to find the pond in the murk precipitated the re-ascent and an overdue cairn built on it in the second arrival. The pond had to be below the saddle connecting to “Little Mary Mtn.”. Much to everyone’s surprise Ziff stumbled upon a trail leading up to the col, which had to be no more than 100 metres above Grant Pond. Again, clouds obscured the view of the tarn and the trail led not to it but in the opposite direction to Conglomerate Flats, and thus a speedy descent back to Jacobson lake. The trail is not shown in any guide including Shew-chuck’s recently published “Coquihalla Trips and Trails”. Possibly the trail was built by outfitters to connect to “Rice Trail” that runs south from Podunk Valley to the Sowaqua on the east side of the Davis massif. Whatever, we still do not know the significance of Grant – – historic figurehead, outfitter or trail builder of recent?

Trip Participants: Ziff House, Ed Zenger, John Halliday, John Sapic, Jenny Faulkner, Paul Stevenson, Evelyn and Mike Feller, Bert Parke, Dave, Adrienne and Chilko Hughes, Ehleen and Erich Hinze, and Karl Ricker (organizer and reporter).

## **North Creek Cabin Rehabilitation** *by Ian McGillivray*

The gothic arch North Creek Cabin had suffered some serious structural damage over the years due to huge snow loads that had built up on the roof top. The main arches had split in the middle, mostly at the glue joints.

Last Thanksgiving weekend, Mike Thompson, Marcus Dell, Michael Lim and myself hiked in with tools and materials to repair the arches. Despite heavy packs, we did a fair amount of trail clearing and some flagging. Sunday we spent hours cutting, drilling, gluing, and screwing plywood gussets and blocking to reinforce the arches and floor beams.

Having developed a significant headache – probably due to the glue – I headed out for some serious logging. Trees at the edge of the old slide swath, just beyond the heli pad, had grown to forty feet or more in height. About a dozen of these were cut to minimize the hazards while landing a helicopter.

Our work probably added ten years or more to the life of the hut; the trail, though, could use a couple of days of trail clearing with a chain saw.

This cabin is in a good location with a decent trail; and can comfortably accommodate ten people. Club members should use it more for ski, snowshoe and summer trips.



Split arches in the North Creek cabin caused by excessive snow load were recently repaired.  
Photos: Emanuele Porra



North Creek cabin activities.  
Photos: Ian McGillivray and Jane Weller

