

B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Bootpacking Homathko Main. Mt. Waddington beckons.
Photo: Steve: Mullen

Jan. 2011. Vol. 89, No. 1

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. 11 Jan. - Mix six VOCers, kayaks, ski-touring and mountaineering gear, logging roads, and bear encounters to produce a classic, old-fashioned adventure to and in the Waddington Range.

Tues. 08 Feb. - Martin and Esther Kafer present a lifetime of mountaineering around the world.



This issue of the Newsletter is dedicated to Michael Feller.

British Columbia Mountaineering Club

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

The **BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER** is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published 10 times per year (every month except July and August). All material within this newsletter is copyright © British Columbia Mountaineering Club.

Submissions - of any written, drawn, or photographic material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club are welcome. If possible, submissions should be sent to the editor by email. Please note that images should be at least 60 pixels/cm (150 pixels/inch) for successful printing. Images with a lesser resolution will probably not be printed. Deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month preceding the publication month.

Send submissions to: editor@bcmc.ca

Members may upload articles, photos etc. for the editor at: <http://bcmc.ca/members/EditorUpload.asp>

Editorial policy - All submitted written material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity, or for consistency with club policies.

Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the B.C. Mountaineering Club.

Scheduled trips

Participation on club trips is open to any person with adequate skills and experience, subject to the approval of the trip organizer. All non-member participants must sign a disclosure and waiver form relieving the club and all other participants on the trip from any liability. A trip organizer is not a certified guide. The function of the organizer is to organize the trip, ensure that it gets underway, know the access to the area, and know a route or routes on the climb. It is expected that each person on a club trip has the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment. The organizer may specify certain equipment mandatory for participation in a trip. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment may be requested to withdraw. Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking the equipment used. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer more than 1 day prior to the trip.

If you are given a ride, please remember to pay the driver your portion of the car costs. If you decide not to go on a trip for which you have previously registered, please be courteous and inform the trip organizer.

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

January 2011 ~ Trips are skiing unless otherwise noted.

2	Ice Climbing for beginners: WI 2,3	Werner Grzimek	
7-9	Ice Climbing - Lillooet (Rambles/Marble Canyon: B2	Adrian Lazar	
8	Needle Pk: B2/3	Denis Lalonde	604.793.9675
8	Tszil or Taylor/Joffre Lakes area: B3	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
9	Markhor Pk: B3	Bruce Cassels	604.617.6774
9	Rainbow Mtn West Face: C3	Alex Gibbs	604.970.1171
14-17	Ice Climbing - Lillooet:WI 3-4+	Werner Grzimek	
15	Harvey Basin: B2/3	Dan Carey	
15-16	Rainbow Lake: B2/3	Diana Diaconu	
16	Paul Ridge - beginners welcome: B2	Alena Dzujkova	
22	Ice Climbing 'The Plum/ The Plum Light': WI 3+,4+?	Darrin Fast	
22	Howe Sound Crest Trail (tentative): C3	Thomas Schroeder	
23	Cayoosh Mtn: C3	Randy Enomoto	604.224.6184
28-31	Ice climbing in the Rockies: A5	Justin Bennett	604.813.4666
28-31	Ice Climbing Duffy-Lillooet: WI 3-4+	Werner Grzimek	
29	Coleman Pinnacle via Ptarmigan Ridge: C2/3	Henry DeJong	604.574.4805
29	Snowshoe Duffy Pk: D2	Alastair Ferries	604.329.1637
30	Needle Pk or Zoa Pk: B2/3	Carol MacMillan	

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: WI3, WI4	Don Montrichard	

SKILLS, COURSES AND CAMPS

January

8	Systems for Mountaineering -Avalanche - Terrain: B1	Justin Bennett	604.813.4666
8-9	AST-1 (Avalanche Safety Training) for skiers, boarders: B2 - FULL	BCMC Camps and Programs	778.846.7735
12	Evening tele-clinic on Cypress: B2	Isabel Budke	604.224.5737
15-16	AST-1 for snowshoers: B2	Camps and Programs	778.846.7735
15-16	Systems for Mountaineering - Avalanche - Organized Avalanche Response: A1	Justin Bennett	604.813.4666

22-23	Introduction to Winter Camping: A2	Peter Woodsworth	604.254.7076
22-23	Intro - Backcountry Skiing (wknd 1) Members Only: B2	Camps and Programs	604.731.4048
29-30	Intro - Backcountry Skiing (wknd 2) Members Only: B2	Camps and Programs	604.731.4048

February

5-6	AST-1 for skiers, boarders: B2	Camps and Programs	778.846.7735
12-13	AST-2 - wknd1: B2	Camps and Programs	778.846.7735

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Steve Curtis, Cameron Coatta, Paul Cannin, Mathieu Cadieux, Ryan Fetterly, Johnny Yip, David W Haslam, Mark Browne, Joe Bhegani, Ross Wightman, Paul Whitehead, John Koch-Schulte, Patrick Rault, David Taylor.

2010/11 Executive

There are two new members on the executive this year. We welcome Winifred Swatschek as Climbing Chair (elected at the Annual General Meeting) and Hugh Kellas as Membership Chair. Hugh volunteered after the AGM and was voted in by the executive body at the December executive meeting. For other members please see page 2.

Executive Vacancy

The Socials Chair is open and looking for a friend. This person is responsible to line up presenters for the monthly socials, thereby meeting many interesting people. Bob Woodhouse has already done most of the organizing so it will be an easy way to ease into, and participate in the management of your club. Please contact any member of the executive to volunteer.

Corrections in 2010 B.C. Mountaineer

Please note the following corrections to be made in the 2010 BC Mountaineer, for which your journal editor apologizes. On page 1 the Membership Chair for the 2009/10 executive was Silvia Bakovic, not Julia Borchardt. On page 39 the photographer of the group photo (top left) was Silvia Bakovic. All photos attributed to R. Woodsworth on pages 51 through 57 were taken by R. Woodhouse.

Heading to Callaghan Country?

Be aware that Whistler Olympic Park is charging backcountry users a \$10/ person user fee, called a Backcountry Access Pass (STBA Day Pass), even if you do not use their facilities. Get these at the ticket booth upon entry into the WOP. The good news is that parking is free! Overnight parking is not permitted and your car must be removed from the lot by closing time (5 p.m.) in order to avoid a search and rescue callout. For further details on WOP rules, see - <http://whistlerolympicpark.com/venue/Safety/tabid/216/Default.aspx#backcountry>

REMINDER:- BCMC GEAR AND BOOK SALE

This will take place at the Social Meeting Tuesday 11 January 2010, after the guest presentation.

Please bring your excess mountaineering and camping gear, and mountaineering books to sell to grateful buyers looking for bargains. Proceeds of the sale will not be for your own benefit directly, but as a donation shared equally between the BCMC and the FMCBC (Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC).

Please bring cash to purchase our members' exclusive bargains, excess books from the club library, as well as books previously owned by John Clarke and Pat Crean. There will likely be some old club tents for sale as well.

Cash sales only. For more information, contact: Brian Wood: 604-222-1541 or bjwood@telus.net.

For Sale ~ Are you ready for winter roads?

Two sets of snow chains:

- 1) Sierra Cable Link radial tire chains, used, will fit a variety of wheel sizes. \$50 negotiable.
- 2) Alpine Premier model 1525 from Canadian Tire. Never used. \$100 negotiable. Cheaper than new snow tires! Contact Carol Macmillan to confirm match of tire sizes. 604.879.2947; cmmacmill@shaw.ca

Final Goodbye

Mary Anderson recently passed away. Mary became a Life Member in 1957 and continued following her interest in the mountains through this Newsletter as long as she was able. Happy Trails, Mary.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Proposed Amendments to the Club By-laws

The Executive Committee proposes to amend sections 2(d) and 5(b) and (c) of the Club By-laws. The purpose of the proposed amendments is to clarify the qualifications for becoming an Active member, to allow all voting members to endorse applications for Active and Youth membership (currently limited to Active members), and to remove the restriction that the Executive can only approve applicants to Youth or Active status at a meeting of the Executive Committee. The proposed amendments are set out in the Notice of Special Resolution to Amend the Club By-laws.

Notice of Special Resolution to Amend the Club By-laws

The directors of the British Columbia Mountaineering Club give notice that the monthly social of the Club, scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2011, is declared a special general meeting; and, the following revised special resolution to amend the By-laws will be considered at that meeting. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at the ANZA Club, located at 3 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

Resolved as a special resolution that the By-laws of the British Columbia Mountaineering Club be amended as follows (deleted wording is shown as struck out and new wording is underlined):

2. (d) Active Members: Those who are 19 years of age or older and have completed two scheduled Club trips, one of which must be in the Province of British Columbia, or any Club camp; or, those who are 19 years of age or older, ~~and~~ have been members of the Club in good standing for ~~two~~ twenty-four consecutive ~~fiscal years~~ months and ~~have renewed their membership for a third consecutive fiscal year~~ are members in

good standing. An Active Member in good standing has full voting rights and Club privileges.

5. (b) An application for Active or Youth Membership must be endorsed by two ~~Active-voting~~ ~~M~~members of the Club, who participated in at least one of the two scheduled club trips or in the Club camp. Endorsement of an application for Active Membership however is not required for someone who has been an Associate Mmember in good standing ~~of the Club for two-twenty-four consecutive fiscal years-months and whose membership for a third consecutive fiscal year has been renewed-is in good standing~~. The applicant must be ~~elected-approved~~ by a two-thirds majority ~~of those present at a meeting-vote~~ of the Executive Committee or by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present at a duly constituted general meeting of the Club.

(c) Applications for Associate Membership will not require the endorsement of ~~Active-voting M~~members and do not have to be approved by the Executive Committee or by a general meeting. An Associate Member will pay the same dues as an Active or Youth Member, depending on the member's age.

REPORTS ~ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Climbing – Radmila Jaksic and Dan Carey

The role of the Climbing Chairs is to make sure that we have a full trip schedule. This of course depends on having lots of motivated trip leaders, but more on that in a moment. 2010 was an extraordinarily successful year for the number of trips. A total of 375 trips went onto the schedule, up from 290 in 2009 and 216 in 2008. This doesn't mean that all of these trips actually happened, as weather, work schedules, and other things always result in some cancelations.

The mix of trips has also changed significantly over the past few years, with tremendous growth in the number of rock climbing trips. Rock climbing (including gym climbing) now makes up almost a third of our trips, followed by skiing, hiking, and mountaineering. The other area with significant growth was instructional programs, which span the range from regular trips with an instructional component to the more formal instructional programs organized by the Camps and Programs Chair. In 2010, we had 35 instructional programs on the schedule representing almost one in ten trips.

One of the major ways members can make a contribution to the club is to organize a trip. And this year, 80 of you did that. We have some extremely motivated trip leaders. In fact, half of all the trips on the 2010 schedule were organized by just ten leaders. These ten were Serguei Okountsev, Waldemar Jonsson, Werner Grzimek, Justin Bennett, Radmila Jaksic, Alastair Ferries, Adrian Lazar, Michael Lim, Stanislav Liarsky, and Erin Buckoll. In addition to all of the trip leaders, we are thankful for our webmaster, Kevin Swanson, for all his behind the scenes work on our website trip schedule. Many of his little fixes and improvements may only be noticed by the Climbing Chairs but a couple of the more visible ones deserve mention. One is the introduction of a Registration Start Date. Some trip leaders expressed frustration with members who signed up for trips months in advance only to cancel at the last minute or not show up at all, sometimes resulting in people on a wait list being denied participation on the trip. Trip leaders can now choose when to start taking calls and emails about the trip.

Another is the Trip Leader Suggestions field on the post trip form that leaders are asked to fill out. This is a simple way for trip leaders to identify other members who might have the right skills for organizing a trip. It helps the Climbing Chairs start the process of developing new leaders.

As with a lot of things in life, the club has become increasingly reliant on the internet. Our website has certainly made it easier for members to find up to date information on trips, but it does pose some interesting challenges for those who still like the printed schedule. We haven't kept records on this, but we estimate that about half

of the trips on the schedule are posted after the semi-annual schedules are printed in the newsletter. For example, using last year's numbers as a guide, we will have about 200 trips for the upcoming winter. But at the time of this report, which is a few days before the winter schedule goes to print, we have about 100 trips on the schedule. The printed schedule will have limited value if it is not complete or rapidly goes out of date. A possible solution to consider is producing more frequent printed schedules of shorter duration.

We see a few issues that need to be addressed, which all relate to ensuring that we have a large and motivated pool of trip leaders. As mentioned above, we have some extremely motivated trip leaders, but our trip schedule is more dependent than we would like on a small number of leaders. We see the need to both encourage infrequent leaders to organize more trips and to develop new leaders.

In trying to develop new leaders, our efforts have often been hindered by policy issues. In numerous cases we have had members who want to start leading trips but are not allowed to because of an executive policy that only Active members are permitted to lead trips. This is a policy set at the executive level and is separate from the requirements in our constitution and bylaws that control how members qualify for Active status for the purpose of voting, etc. It has been especially frustrating – for both the would-be trip leaders and for the Climbing Chairs – when we know these members are otherwise qualified and capable of leading trips. This is an issue that will have to be addressed by the next Climbing Chair.

It also helps to have members on a climbing committee who assist the Climbing Chair by recruiting trip leaders for a particular type of trip. Werner Grzimek has been recruiting leaders for ice climbing and weekend climbing trips to Squamish for two years, which resulted in a big increase in these types of trips. Thank you Werner! Since this has worked well, we decided to expand the climbing committee with Waldemar Jonsson and Winifred Swatschek finding organizers for indoor climbing and Wednesday evening climbing trips in the summer months. Next summer, Werner would like to focus on getting our active seniors out, and Francis St. Pierre and Waldemar Jonsson will take over recruiting weekend Squamish climbing trip organizers. While I (Dan) will not stay on the executive, I will continue to be a climbing committee member and work on the skiing and hiking/mountaineering parts of the schedule. One area that would be nice to cover better is snowshoeing. If anyone is interested in being the climbing committee member for snowshoeing trips, let us know.

While the expanded climbing committee will ensure that we have a full trip schedule, we run into some policy issues here as well. From our perspective, members of the climbing committee should have the authority to approve trips to go on the schedule, but current policy is that only executives are permitted to do this because of some liability concerns. We are unconvinced by this argument. Certainly a climbing committee member with expertise in a certain area, such as ice climbing, would be better able to exercise judgment regarding the capabilities of a leader for an ice climbing trip than either of us who have little experience in the area. This is an issue that will have to be addressed by the next Climbing Chair.

Being your Climbing Chairs has been a lot of work. We remain grateful for all of the leaders that have stepped up to make 2010 a record year for the number of trips. As we turn over the position to our new Climbing Chair, Winifred Swatschek, we look forward to the new ideas and dedication that she and the new executive will bring. See you in the mountains.

Addendum: In further communication with the editor, Dan added that it would make sense to define a different category of trips for gym climbing, rather than lumping these in with rock climbing trips. And, "As for the number of trips that didn't go, I wanted to find out but I couldn't get a very clear picture. In the past year, of the 375 trips, we have feedback for 223 trips and no feedback for 152 trips. Of the 223 where we have feedback, 192 went and 31 didn't. This seems like a good record, but my guess is that for the 223 trips for which we have no feedback, a greater proportion didn't go. One thing to consider in the future is modifying the trip feedback system to send reminder emails if no feedback is received."

Membership - Francis St. Pierre and Silvia Bakovic

The club had a good year, with total membership increasing from 457 members in 2009 to 517 members this year – one of the better years since 1985 (see graph for membership figures from 1985 to 2010). 2010 was our first year where members could renew online, and 53% of members chose to renew that way. Not bad for a first year, and we anticipate an even higher percentage in the future (it's already around 80% so far for 2011). New members could also join the club online starting in August 2010, with approximately 80% of new members so far choosing the electronic route. This increased use of the internet for delivery of membership services has cut down turn-around time from 4 to 6 weeks (by mail) to less than a day, and total labour time by membership volunteers from 50+ hours to less than 10 hours. Perhaps the increased convenience of internet renewal also explains the sudden drop in membership turnover in 2010: turnover (number of members not renewing in a year) was down to 69 members from approximately 100 members in the past. So, all in all, a pretty good year for the club. Looking ahead at 2011, changes to the membership structure may be in order, based in part on the results of the membership survey put in place in the fall 2010. See graph of membership trends on back page.

Recreation and Conservation - Monika Bittel

The BCMC is actively represented in the Southwest Region Recreation & Conservation Committee ("Rec & Con Committee") of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. ("FMC"). Other BCMC members engage on recreation and conservation issues via the FMC Rec & Con listserv. BCMC members are also involved with trail issues through the FMC's Trail Committee (Southwest BC). The FMC is recognized by government and various interest groups as an advocate for non-motorized backcountry and wilderness access and recreation, specifically mountaineering, climbing, hiking, backcountry skiing, snowboarding and snow-shoeing.

The following highlights some of the recreation and conservation work over the past year:

1. Garibaldi at Squamish (GAS): This is the proposed all season resort (25 ski lifts, 2 golf courses and 5,739 housing units) at Brohm Ridge, adjacent to Garibaldi Provincial Park. Our primary concern with GAS is its impact on Garibaldi Provincial Park, potential expansion of the resort into the Park, and displacement of the Black Tusk Snowmobile Club, located on Brohm Ridge for the past 10-20 years.

In May 2010, the Environmental Assessment Office referred its final report to Environment Minister Barry Penner and Tourism Minister Kevin Krueger. The Ministers had 45 days to make a decision on whether or not the resort project will proceed. The FMCBC sent a letter to the Ministers, urging them not to allow the resort project to proceed because of its significant negative impacts on the environment, Garibaldi Provincial Park and backcountry recreation. In June 2010, the government announced that the proposed project was not eligible to be considered for an environmental assessment certificate because more information was required to assess the potential for adverse environmental effects on water supply and hydrology, fish and fish habitat, wildlife and wildlife habitat, vegetation and water reservoirs and dams. In essence, the proponent failed to provide enough information to earn the project a passing grade but was given the opportunity to provide more information.

2. Upper Lillooet IPPs: Three independent run-of-the-river power projects (IPPs) are proposed for North Creek, Boulder (Pebble) Creek and Lillooet River in the Upper Lillooet valley. In October, the Rec & Con Committee met with proponents to discuss the proposed IPPs. The primary concerns for backcountry recreation were identified as impact on the hot springs, access to North Creek and BCMC's cabin, to potential of opening up snowmobile access to areas (Miller Creek and North Creek) currently non-motorized, and potential parking for the Pebble/Boulder Creek cabin. The company representative seemed to be amenable to working with the FMC to ensure a positive impact on recreation in the area. Further meetings will likely occur with the proponent as the project moves through the environmental process.

3. Callaghan Backcountry Access: In 2007, pursuant to a section 58 designation under the Forest

and Range Practices Act, Callaghan Valley is closed to winter motorized recreation from November 1 to May 15 each year. The designation was purportedly made to protect recreation resources and non-motorized recreation experiences, specifically self-propelled sporting activities such as cross-country skiing, ski touring, mountaineering and snowshoeing. Parking and access needs of the backcountry skiers, mountaineers and snowshoers however were not well considered. It became apparent the real beneficiaries of the section 58 designation were Nordic skiers and Whistler Olympic Park (“WOP”). The FMC and local clubs engaged VANOC to resolve the access and parking issues and reasonable solutions were found which provided backcountry access.

In June 2010, Whistler 2010 Sports Legacies took over operation of WOP from VANOC. In August, we learnt that Sports Legacies would not permit backcountry access through WOP or overnight parking. Sports Legacies however modified their position after the issue was raised with the provincial government. While Sports Legacies will still not permit overnight parking, it permits backcountry access but with a \$10 per person fee. Sports Legacies policies are unsatisfactory and too restrictive.

In September 2010, a survey of backcountry users of Callaghan Valley provided some good data with which to challenge Sports Legacies policies. While the survey results have not yet swayed Sports Legacies, we continue our efforts to improve the situation for backcountry skiers and snowshoers. Scott Nelson wrote an article detailing the developments in Callaghan Valley and the current status, titled “Olympic Legacy in the Callaghan Valley”, which appears in FMC’s Fall/Winter 2010 edition of Cloudburst.

5. 21 Mile Creek watershed: This area is designated a non-motorized recreation area in the Sea-to-Sky LRMP. Despite the designation, this area has become over run by snowmobiles, which gain access to the area primarily from Callaghan Valley. The FMC and local clubs have expended a fair amount of time and effort to get government to enforce the non-motorized designation but to no avail.

Efforts to get government to grant a section 58 closure of the 21 Mile Creek watershed area have been unsuccessful to date. We have been advised that Victoria considers this a watershed issue, not a recreation issue, and section 58 closures cannot be used to restrict access to watersheds. This view that this is a watershed issue is apparently not shared by local provincial officials, so we will continue to push for a section 58 closure.

Over the past couple of months, with help primarily from BCMC volunteers, the FMC constructed three large signs along the East Callaghan Forest Service Road to make snowmobilers aware of the non-motorized areas. (See back page.) The East Callaghan FSR is the main access route used by snowmobiles. While the effectiveness of these signs may be debatable, we need to take every opportunity to inform and educate snowmobilers about the non-motorized area. Right now, there is nothing to alert snowmobilers to the non-motorized area. Since government has limited resources to expend on education and enforcement, the task falls on us.

Members are encouraged to continue to document motorized/non-motorized conflict in the 21 Mile Creek watershed area and other non-motorized areas, along with safety issues created by the snowmobiles via the Snowmobile Infraction Database. The Database is accessed via “Campaigns” on www.bivouac.com or submit the information and photos to Monika Bittel or Robin Tivy.

6. Smoke Bluffs Park: The FMC continues to work with the Squamish Access Society to ensure climbers’ access to and climbing activities in the Smoke Bluffs is protected in perpetuity. While the FMC lands do not include the climbing crags, the FMC lands do provide access. The FMC lands are valuable to the District of Squamish because they are appropriate for general use purposes, such as hiking trails, picnic tables, potential campsites and viewing area. There has been no further progress to date on having the Smoke Bluffs formally designated a park through municipal park designation by-laws. Helen Habgood is the FMC representative on the Smoke Bluffs Park Advisory Committee and devoted many, many volunteer hours this past year to Park

issues. She was instrumental in creating the map for the park kiosks, which show the location of the FMC lands in relation to the climbing crags and their relevance to the Smoke Bluffs Park.

Thank you to all members who attend the FMC Rec & Con meetings, participate on the FMC list serve, provide input, draft letters and submissions and provide comments. Anyone interested in participating in the FMC Rec & Con Committee or anyone with any recreation and conservation concerns should contact Monika Bittel (E-mail: mbittel9@gmail.com; Tel: 604-983-3097).

TRIBUTE to MICHAEL FELLER

Michael joined the BCMC in 1970 upon immigrating from Australia where he was also active in mountaineering. He was made an honorary member in 1988 in recognition of his dedication to advancing the goals of the Club. The following articles expand upon some of Michael's contributions.

By Monika Bittel

When I was asked to write an article for the newsletter that would capture Michael Feller's contributions to the Club for well over 30 years, I was happy to oblige but felt somewhat daunted by the task. Certainly for all the years that I have been involved with the Recreation and Conservation Committee, starting sometime around 1994, Michael has been an integral part of the Committee. Over those years, the Committee focused on the preservation of BC's wilderness and mountains for their recreational value, management of wilderness parks, development of guidelines for the construction and maintenance of trails and huts, and most recently the resolution and management of conflicts between non-motorized recreation, heli-skiers, snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles. Michael's extensive exploration of BC's wilderness and mountains, his forestry background and knowledge of scientific studies, research and literature proved invaluable in developing positions and drafting submissions on behalf of the Club and the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC.

Michael's active participation in Club affairs however predates my membership in the Club by almost 20 years, hence my concern that I would not fully capture and acknowledge Michael's volunteerism and contributions. For well over 30 years, Michael has volunteered his time and energy to the Club in many capacities, as Club's archivist, editor of the BCMC newsletter and Club journal, and organizer and leader of Club trips and camps. In all these endeavours, it was evident that his passion for BC's wilderness and mountains and the ability to pursue non-motorized recreation in these unique environments was the driving force behind his efforts.

One of the first BCMC camps that I participated in was Michael's camp in 1994 to Monkman Park in the northern Rockies. Other camps and trips followed. As a beginner, I was welcomed on his trips and camps. The friends I made and the skills I honed on those trips opened climbing opportunities for me that have taken me all over BC and the world.

As Club archivist, Michael spearheaded the organization and preservation of the Club's archives. The archives are not only valuable as a historical record of the Club but also because they record the contributions of the Club and its members to the province and society at large through their exploration, study of natural history, preservation of the natural environment and the promotion of active enjoyment of BC's wilderness and mountains. Michael's drive to digitize the Club's old photographs led directly to the production of the Centennial Video in 2007.

As editor of the Club newsletter, Michael informed Club members about land-use issues and government policies and urged members to write letters and become involved. As editor of the Club newsletter and journal, Michael provided members the opportunity to share their exploits with others, expose their literary and artistic talents and created an enduring and entertaining record of the activities of the Club and its members.

The BCMC and its members have benefited from Michael's energy, passion and efforts for well over 30 years – a volunteer record that will be very difficult to surpass.

By Brian Wood

My first memories of Mike were on a weekend trip to the Wedgemont Lake area in the early 1970's. We arrived at the lake after a rainy hike-in, and our party crowded into the hut and started warming drinks and food. A quiet young man was sitting on a bench near me eating bread and slices of dubious-looking sausage, which I learned were bought at an infamous "second-hand" salami shop. Having just finished brewing my tea, as the young man did not seem to have a stove, I offered him mine to which he replied that he did not have anything to cook. He looked cold and wet in his soaked black "Japara" (oiled cotton) anorak, with his soggy-looking, faded green "Mountain Mule" backpack dripping onto his well-used soaking boots. This picture of dejected humanity tore at my soul, so I offered him a cup of tea which he accepted with alacrity. His name was Mike, and he explained in his quiet and refined Australian accent that this was his usual food for hikes as he was working on his Ph. D. in Forestry and his finances were limited.

Shortly after that introduction to Mike, I wanted to test my brand new ridge tent recently bought from Eatons for \$35-wow those were the days! This was my first ever nylon tent and as was common in those days it was sold without a flysheet and the seams were not sealed or taped. As I did not trust the waterproofness of the seams I devised an experiment to test them. At home I rubbed a common wax candle over the seams on one side of the tent, but not on the other side which would serve as the control. Mike was on my next trip and agreed to share my tent on its test run. I warned him of my experiment with the seams and that he would be sleeping on the un-waxed seam side of the tent, but I assume even my tent was better than no tent. Needless to say, that night it rained a lot and poor Mike woke up to many drips on his sleeping bag, while my side of the tent was dry. I do not remember his comments when he woke up so I cannot say that this incident was responsible for the inauguration of his now trademark comment relating to all things wet, cold or otherwise unpleasant- "Dismal".

Over the next 30 or so years I found that Mike had amazing energy and passion for protecting the wilderness and the interests of non-motorized backcountry travelers. This passion started in Australia where he had fought for an alpine national park, and this fighting spirit continued into BC where he fought for wilderness protection in many government land use planning processes. He attended numerous meetings with bureaucrats and many diverse interest groups where his knowledge of the wilderness environment and the local backcountry were invaluable. Even with a heavy workload from his university job, he was the Editor of the Club Newsletter and Journal which he worked on for over thirty years, and these publications also reflected his passion for environmental protection. Somehow he also managed to attend meetings of the Recreation and Conservation Committee of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC and was often the driving force to write numerous letters on behalf of the Club and Federation. Often he would follow up the politely restrained Club and Federation letters with his personal letters on the same issues where he was not afraid to express his less polite comments to bureaucrats.

By Ehleen Hinze

Erich and I first met Michael at Tenquille Lake in the late 70's. Since that time we have shared countless adventures from our travels in Peru to climb Mt. Huascarán in 1980 to rafting the Tatshinshini this past July. I can honestly say that sharing the outdoors with Mike has always been a pleasure. Even when conditions were grim it was clear that there was nowhere else Michael would rather have been. Of course you had to filter through the liberal sprinklings of *dismals* and *desperadoes* with the occasional *chunderous* thrown in for good measure to realize what a great time Mike was having. Mike has made innumerable contributions to the club. He has spent countless hours writing, editing, archiving and scanning old pictures so that all members could enjoy wonderful newsletters and his penultimate achievement, the Centennial Journal. He cares deeply about the outdoors and the environment and no effort is too great when supporting the causes he believes in. Erich and I are proud to call Michael Feller our friend. I would like to include the following verse from one of Lord Byron's narrative poems with the hope that Mike will find a special pleasure in these words.

He Who Ascends to Mountain-Tops

He who ascends to mountain-tops shall find
 The loftiest peaks most wrapt in clouds and snow;
 He who surpasses or subdues mankind,
 Must look down on the hate of those below.
 Though high above the sun of glory glow,
 And far beneath the earth and ocean spread,
 Round him are icy rocks, and loudly blow
 Contending tempests on his naked head.
 And thus rewards the toils which to those summits led.

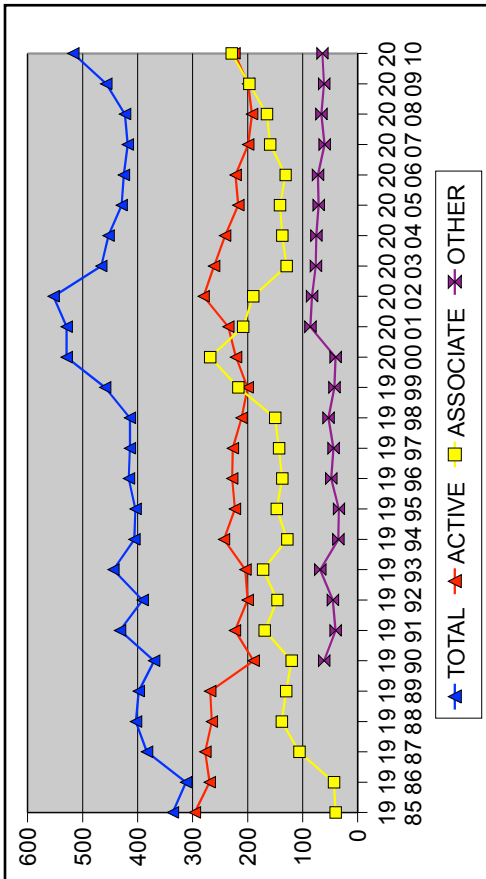
from *Childe Harold, Canto iii, Verse 45*
 Lord Byron, (George Gordon)



Michael in Peru 1969
 Photo: Ross Wyborn

Membership Trends 1985-2010

Graph by Francis St. Pierre



21-Mile Creek Signage

Constructed and erected by
 FMC and BCBC volunteers.

Non-motorized Zone
 Snowmobiling is prohibited in the following areas:

- Twentyone Mile Creek
- Rainbow Lake
- Gin and Tonic Lakes
- North side of Mount Spratt
- Rainbow Mountain

The non-motorized zone is shown on the map. The boundary is not signed or roped. Knowing your location and the boundary is your responsibility.

Beware of Avalanche Terrain

- You are responsible for your own safety!
- Have you told a responsible person your trip plans?
- Is everyone in your group properly dressed and equipped with a transceiver, probe and shovel?
- Do you have the necessary knowledge or available avalanche training?
- CAC avalanche forecast: 1-800-987-1105, press 1151 for South Coast.

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