

# B.C. Mountaineering Club News Letter



May 2011. Vol. 89, No. 5

Avalanche on the west face of Chopicalqui,  
Peru (6,354m). Photo: Bill Maurer

## 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. 10 May** - Bill Maurer presents on climbing in Peru with fellow BCMCers Sabine Decamp and Andrei Smertin. This includes summiting of Pisco, Chopicalqui, Ishinca, Tocalaraju, and more without guides or mules.

**Tues. 14 June** - Devin and Tara Manky present on their ascent of Mt. Kilimanjaro, 5895m.



Spring skiing on Zubjok Pk.  
Photo: Ed Zenger

## British Columbia Mountaineering Club

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### HONOURARY PRESIDENTS

*Esther and Martin Kafer*

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### 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 (604-313-7282) 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)

### May 2011 - Trips are skiing unless otherwise noted.

7	Squamish rock climbing: A5	Michael Lim	
7-8	Diavolo and Angelo Pks (rescheduled): C3	Craig Speirs	604.925.3675
7-8	Intro to lead climbing (trad): A5	Programs & Camps	
14-15	Spring climbing weekend: gr5	Adrian Lazar	
20-22	NW face & NW couloir Fissile Pk: C5	Don Montrichard	
21-23	Mt Baker Park Glacier ski and climb: C4	Peter Gumplinger	
28	Saturday rock climb: A5	Paul Ng	604.434.3312
28	Gravell Pk - snowshoe: C2	Craig Speirs	604.925.3675
<b>June</b>			
4	Mt. Urquhart - climb: C3	Alastair Ferries	604.329.1637
4	Goat Mtn: C3	Peter Gumplinger	
4-5	NW face Mt. Matier - climb: C5	Don Montrichard	
11-12	Mt. Adams - NFNWR ski: C4	Alex Gibbs	604.970.1171
12	Mt. Killam, Gambier Island: B1	Dick Culbert	

## NEWS AND NOTICES

**Apologies and Explanation:** Your executive apologizes for the late publication of this issue of the newsletter. We held it back with the intention of including our latest thinking and proposal on changes to the fee structure for discussion at the May social. This turned out to be more complex than we anticipated and we actually held a special executive meeting before the social started. Our latest proposal is included below and we invite your comments. We plan a full discussion at the June social with voting in September.

**New Members:** The club welcomes the following new members: Crystal Martel, Rachel Busby, David Bryan, Jason White, Dylan Morgan, Don Heinrich, Alice Peng, Giovanni Ghigliotti, Dean Neumann, Lewis Peattie, Cynthia Montemayor, Joanne Lantela, Aaron Cornes, Michael Kelly.

**Congratulations** to Radmila and Sean Bridges, delighted parents of Sophia Evelyn and Adam Donald. The twins arrived March 29th, in good form and already plotting how they can get their mother to pedal in two directions at once. We wish you all the best Radmila. Your organizational experience as Climbing Chair will serve you well.

### **Active and Associate membership in the BCMC – the rationale for having the two categories**

*Michael Feller*

Since its inception the club has always had 2 main categories for membership. The initial rationale was that members new to the club would not have had much experience mountain climbing. They would become associate members. After they had been on a couple of club trips, they would have gained some experience and become more knowledgeable about the BCMC. They could then become active members who could vote at club meetings and who could lead trips. Associate membership was considered to be a type of apprenticeship.

In more recent years, with the advent of legal liability and litigation, it was considered necessary that the club demonstrate that it was taking some steps to ensure that its trips were run safely. Restricting leadership or organizing of trips to those who had had previous known mountaineering experience was considered one effective way of demonstrating that the club was trying to ensure the safety of its trips.

In the early 1980s, when the club became quite active on mountain conservation issues, voices of opposition to the club's activities lead to a concern that a relatively small group of people could become club members, effectively taking over the club and preventing it from carrying out its mission. Groups such as snowmobilers or timber-production foresters then came to mind. This reinforced the need to have a non-voting category of

membership. Voting membership would be restricted to those who had demonstrated that they were, in fact, genuine mountaineers or hikers.

### **North Creek Cabin legal status** *Dave Scanlon*

The BCMC has a cabin situated north west of Pemberton north of the Lillooet valley near North Creek. It was built in 1986 with a Licence of Occupation Agreement granted by BC Forests. This agreement expired a couple of years ago and nothing was done about it - it required payment of very expensive insurance. The club has been contacted by the provincial government recently and been told that it has to “legalize the cabin”; my words there, as it now sits on crown land in an illegal trespass situation. To rectify the situation the club has 3 choices.

1. Remove the cabin.
2. Have the cabin’s status be made into an official government recreation site. It would then be open to the public and show on all government maps. The club would, in effect, be giving the cabin to the government BUT the club would still be required to maintain the cabin and trail. The cabin would also have to be painted the official government brown color at some time. The government would be responsible for insurance costs.
3. Go through the process of getting a tenure for the cabin. This involves paying a \$1000 deposit to the government, refundable at such time that the cabin is taken down, paying a tenure application fee of \$262.50, and paying the cost of a newspaper ad (approximately \$330) to notify all area stakeholders. The club would be responsible for annual insurance costs. Currently, our liability insurance covers the cabin, but this is subject to annual review and possible policy changes. The club would maintain full control over the cabin eg., charge user fees, keep it locked.

The idea of doing nothing was also mentioned but was discarded in light of the club’s long and respected relationship with government agencies.

### **MEMBERSHIP FEES REVIEW** *Hugh Kellas, Membership Chair*

The Executive Committee is nearing completion of its membership fee review. The Committee’s key objectives in revising the fee have been to increase the fairness in payment among members, to reduce the complexity of the fees to the extent possible, and to ensure that there are adequate funds to maintain the Club’s activities. An initial proposal was presented in March and comments solicited through the socials, Newsletter and eNews. As outlined in a previous Newsletter, the membership fee has to cover three expenditures: the Club’s operational expenses for socials, cabins, publishing and other activities; liability insurance that protects the assets of the Club and those acting on its behalf; and membership in the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC.

The Executive Committee has considered the comments received on the initial proposal and further discussed the options. The Committee’s current view is that the individual member fee should be \$40 for electronic communication and \$50 with printed material. This is a slight decrease from the current \$45 for those who communicate with the Club electronically, and a slight increase for those who receive printed material. A strict interpretation of the Club’s Constitution, which sets out that the senior fee should be 50% of the individual fee, drives a “concession fee” for the senior category (a member for 25 continuous years aged 65 and over) and the youth category (under age 19) rate of \$20 for electronic communication and \$25 for printed material.

Much of the Executive Committee discussion has been about the “couples” category, which currently includes about 130 members. Under the present fee structure, the couple fee of \$68 is significantly lower than twice the individual fee. The lower fee was used to encourage family participation and, since it dates from a time when everyone got a mailed newsletter, reflects the lower cost of only one mailing to a couple. Today, with many members opting for electronic communication, the single mailing reason is no longer valid and the Executive Committee has been considering whether there is a basis for having a couples fee category. The initial proposal provided a difference between the individual and couple categories based upon how the Club pays

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC fees, with both individuals and couples having one FMCBC membership, but this would lower the overall funds going to the Federation. An alternative is to provide a couples fee that is 10%-20% lower than twice the individual fee in order to encourage family participation and possibly increased membership, but, while family participation is good for the Club, this means that members would not be contributing equally to its activities. A third option is to eliminate the couples category entirely so that all members are on an individual basis and contribute equally to the Club, but this means a fee increase for couples. This matter was discussed at the May social and a number of couple members commented that elimination of the couples category was the fairest option. The Executive Committee will continue to consider this matter and would welcome your comments on what option would be best for the Club over the longer term.

In addition, the Executive Committee has settled on a number of directions including:

The Club will introduce the ability to pay fees for one, two or three years at multiples of the annual fee for the convenience of members. It has been suggested that there be a discount for two and three year payments but the portion of the fees available for the Club's operation is too small to afford any discounts.

The subscription to printed material will include the printed and mailed Newsletter and the biannual Mountaineer. Those who want just the Mountaineer can either subscribe to the printed material but opt out of the mailed newsletter or simply purchase a copy at a Club social when it is published.

The Executive Committee will consider introducing an "Affiliated Member" subscription fee for printed material for those who are not active on trips but wish to retain their Club membership and receive the publications.

The Executive Committee will consider a policy which enables it to include, on occasion, very long term senior members in the "senior non-paying" category so they may retain contact with the Club.

The Life membership fee of \$800 and the Joint Life membership at 150%, which have been in effect for some time, are unchanged.

The fees for new members joining late in the year will continue to be discounted at the current rate of \$3 per quarter.

The \$20 discount for members of VOC during their first year of BCMC membership will be dropped since the provision is not being used and the proposed new electronic individual fee is quite low.

The Executive Committee will continue to work on a new fee schedule and would welcome comments at [membership@bcmc.ca](mailto:membership@bcmc.ca) or Hugh Kellas, Membership Chair, 604-209-4744. The Club's Constitution requires that a fee schedule set by the Executive Committee must be confirmed by the membership at a general meeting. The Executive Committee will continue to consult on this matter, with a full discussion at the June 14th social, and a general meeting vote on 2011/12 fees at the September 13th social.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT - AGM 2010** *Craig Kalnin*

Another year has come and gone in the accounts of the Club, and much like last year, it was "business as usual", for the club at least, if not for its Treasurer. There was little activity in the Funds of the Club outside of the General fund, but a few new quirks arose this year; the Club benefited financially from the immense efforts of Mr. Feller in completing the Centennial Journal, sales of which brought in some extra funds for the club. Also, with the very generous willing of royalty revenues from "109 Walks in British Columbia" by the Macarees to the Club saw an unexpected boost in our other revenues.

In our general fund, membership revenue was again up slightly over the prior year, as membership numbers remained healthy and continue to grow a bit. In conjunction with this, both FMCBC dues and Insurance costs increased over budget, as these costs are directly linked our membership numbers. We'd budgeted for a loss again in 2010 with the carry forward from 2009 of planned expenditures for website redevelopment, but this project has, to this stage, been largely worked on through volunteer efforts. Interest revenue from the club's investments was down, which should come as no surprise given the significant turmoil in the global economy

and the decline of interest rates over the last few years. Newsletter expenses continue to gradually decline as the shift from paper to electronic distribution progresses. In an effort to reduce potentially significant cost, executive members volunteered to be local “hot spots” for distribution of the Centennial Journal, though we still saw a slight increase in postage expenses over budget with the mail-out of copies to some of our more far-flung members. The rest of our expenses were kept within budget, but as a result, the general fund recorded a somewhat unexpected gain.

We have continued to earn significant revenue from our summer and winter instructional programs. Our exec team did a great job of putting together and promoting an excellent schedule of both summer and winter courses, which allowed us to earn healthy dollars to go towards covering the club’s expenses this year. Along with membership, the courses are a critical source of funds to keep our club vibrant and financially healthy, so get out and join up! No Treasurer’s comments would be complete without an enormous “Thank you!” to all our volunteers for donating their time to run these courses; we couldn’t do them without you, plain and simple. “Thank you” to those new and current members who participated, learned, enjoyed and make everyone’s efforts so worthwhile!

This has been by far the most challenging year for me as Treasurer, not because of what’s been going on in the club, but what has been going on in my life. During the year I made a major change in jobs, which has led to a significant reduction in my available time; combined with planning a wedding and trying to get a side business off the ground, it’s been challenging for me personally. But, as I settle into my new role and wedding plans get finalized, I look forward to having more time to devote to the club, and supporting the exec’s financial decision making for the 2011 year.

### **The Spearhead hut system proposal and the Garibaldi Park Management Plan** *Michael Feller*

The proposal to build a system of huts in the Spearhead Range within Garibaldi Park has emerged from its early days of secrecy and is currently being debated by a variety of people and groups. Probably the most significant aspect of the proposal is that it is to occur within “the BCMC’s provincial park” – Garibaldi Park – which has a management plan in place which gives direction to use of the Spearhead Range.

This management plan states:

1. “There are no facilities provided in the Spearhead Range” (p. 27)
2. Concerning a proposed hut system and Spearhead loop trail, the plan talks about the tradeoffs between increased use and loss of wilderness values then states “The Spearhead route will be studied in detail to determine the best option for development” (Public comment summary/analysis p. 10)

Nowhere does the existing plan recommend any developments in the Spearheads. The zoning of the Spearheads area as Natural Environment does not exclude hut construction, but the plan doesn’t recommend it. It merely states that the area will be studied, and a hut system may be constructed if the studies demonstrate that a hut system is “the best option for development”.

A number of questions about the proposal have been raised in FMCBC Recreation and Conservation committee meetings. These questions include the following:

- 1) What are the locations of winter and summer routes and huts?
- 2) How many huts will be constructed?
- 3) What will be the type and size of huts?
- 4) What will be the hut amenities and how will they be serviced?
- 5) What will the user fees be?
- 6) How will the hut accommodations be managed?
- 7) What will be the policy towards motorized access?

Although it has been suggested that BC Parks is fully behind the project, public comments by BC Parks do not support that suggestion. According to the BC Parks planning officer for the region, Vicki Haberl:

"BC Parks has received the proposal from the Spearhead Huts Committee and we are reviewing it. It would be incorrect to say BC Parks supports the project as that has not yet been determined. .... the 1990 Master Plan does not answer the question of huts in the Spearhead, and directs that the concept would need to be explored further. We are currently scoping out what kind of review process is required, and how to facilitate public comment. First Nations consultation would also be an important requirement. BC Parks has met with the proponent to better understand the proposal. And we are considering what studies may be required (wildlife surveys, impact assessments, etc.) It is early stages so there is nothing to provide to you at this time. A timeframe has not yet been determined." [email of 9 November, 2010]

This was further elaborated in a subsequent email by Vicki [23 February, 2011]

"Here are some points that reflect BC Parks' position regarding this proposal:

- The Spearhead hut system is contemplated in the 1990 Master Plan but does not provide direction on whether or not it should be approved. It calls for it to be studied in detail. (Garibaldi Master Plan (P. 21) - Winter Recreation - Actions - Study in detail the high route trail in the Spearhead Range linking the Blackcomb ski area and the Whistler ski area as a possible ski tour route supported by a hut system. Included in the study will be an assessment of impact on mountain goats.)

- Given that the Spearhead Hut Committee has come forward with this proposal, BC Parks will review and adjudicate it. There have been "discussions" with interested parties about huts in the Spearhead in the past, but none as serious or credible as this proposal. BC Parks views this proposal as an opportunity to follow the direction of the Master Plan and to study the opportunity in detail.

- There will be a public consultation process. There will be a First Nations consultation process. We are still determining how to conduct the consultation processes.

- There will be a detailed assessment of potential impacts. This assessment will go far beyond the recommendations of the Master Plan, and will consider much more than impacts to mountain goats. Our preliminary list contains many similar questions as those you have raised [FMCBC Rec and Con questions above], and more. I suspect the issue of impact to "wilderness recreation opportunities" will be one of the key issues debated in the public consultation process.

- BC Parks will work with the Hut Committee to guide them in terms of the assessments that they will be required to complete, and to determine what aspects BC Parks will be responsible for.

- The issue of Garibaldi Park's role in providing "opportunities for true non-motorized winter backcountry recreation in the Squamish-Pemberton region" is precisely the reason BC Parks wishes to review this hut system proposal, and to confirm the long-term direction regarding the Whistler Heli Ski tenure for the Spearhead Range.

## **TRIP REPORT**

### **Zupjok Pk.** 1830m April 3rd, 2011

On Thursday the weather forecast for Sunday had been very promising, but on Saturday it changed for the worse. On Sunday, April 3rd, 2011 we left Vancouver at 6:30 and drove through some rather nasty rain showers, arriving at the Needle Pk rest stop on the Coquihalla highway after an almost 200 km drive. Around 9 AM we started skiing, first on the road towards Ottomite Mtn, then through the forest up to the SW ridge of Zupjok Pk and along this ridge all the way to the peak. There was about 25 cm of new snow and we took turns breaking trail. Marion was the chief trail breaker, followed by Natasha, Ed and Michael; all I could do was keep up – I had not done any back country skiing for some time. We had lunch in the fog on Zupjok Peak behind some totally snow covered trees. It was -6 Deg.C and windy. We had an occasional view through holes in the clouds. Lunch was spiced up by Marion's wine she shared with everyone, and by Natasha's delicious beer cake! We cancelled our original plan to ski down the south slope and climb Great Bear Pk because of the fog and skied

down the way we climbed up. The ski down in deep powder was fun and we arrived back at the cars by 2:15 and back in Vancouver by 4:30. In all it was a great trip - we stayed dry and only our cars got wet! Upon my return home I was totally exhausted, going to bed at 8:30 and slept till 6:15.

*Participants:* Natasha Suvorova, Marion Carpent, Michael Peterman, Ed Zenger (our fearless leader) and George Malburg (reporter).



George Malburg, Michael Peterman,  
Marion Carpent and Natasha Suvorova  
are ... cool

... cooler

Scenes from skiing on Zupjok Peak  
Photos: Ed Zenger



and coolest.

