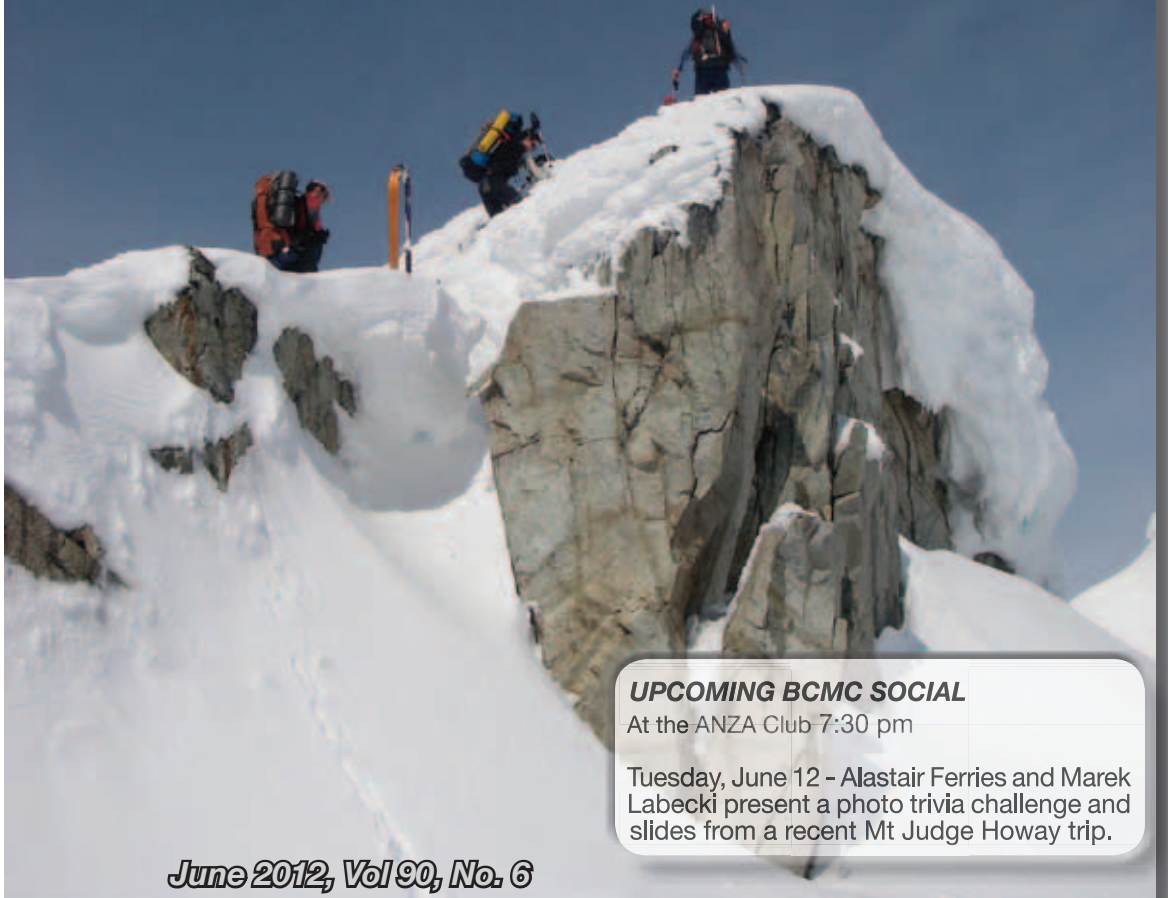


BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club Newsletter



UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL
At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm
Tuesday, June 12 - Alastair Ferries and Marek Labecki present a photo trivia challenge and slides from a recent Mt Judge Howay trip.

June 2012, Vol 90, No. 6

British Columbia Mountaineering Club
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Esther and Martin Kafer

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CLUB EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

The club maintains a satellite phone and ice tools, which are available for rental by members only.

Ice Tool - \$5 per day per tool
 Satellite Phone - \$60/week; \$10 per day + \$2 per minute used

Fees are non-refundable and payable in advance and a refundable deposit may be required, at the equipment custodian's discretion. Instructional Programs are exempt from rental fees, all other uses are subject to the rental fees.

The satellite phone is rented from Peter Gumplinger (604-733-8264), who should be contacted at least 3 weeks prior to the day it is wanted.

Ice climbing axes are rented from Werner Grzimek.

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.

Cover Photo: Mt Callaghan BCMC trip
 Photographer: Giovanni Ghigliotti
 Back Page Photos
 Right: Tracks in the snow on Mt Callaghan
 Lower Left: Small lakes from Callaghan
 Callaghan Photos: Peter Gumplinger
 Upper Left: Relaxing on Leading Pk (G Zenger)

Submit Your Content:
editor@bcmc.ca

Submissions: We want you to write for us! Any submitted news, events, trip reports, letters relevant to the BCMC will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise.

About Submissions: For photos, high resolution is much appreciated. 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 BCMC.

Scheduled trips: How they work

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 ~ Sign up, updates and details at www.bcmc.ca

June 2012 Trips

2-3	Mount Truax/Locomotive group - D2	Alexis Guigue	604-261-6151
2-3	Mount Matier - C4	Serguei Okountsev	
6	Wednesday Night Climbing in Squamish - A5	Waldemar Jonsson	604-780-0296
7	After Work Multi-pitch Stint	Adrian Lazar	
9-10	Aussie Couloir (Joffre Peak) C4	Serguei Okountsev	
9-10	In-SHUCK-ch Mtn. (Gunsight Pk.) - D3	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
9-10	Mt. Baker - North Ridge - D5	Don Montrichard	
14	Quick Multi-pitch Climb After Work	Adrian Lazar	
16-17	Slalok - North Face - C4	Serguei Okountsev	
23-24	Wedge - North Face - C4	Serguei Okountsev	
30-1	Mount Matier - East Ridge - D5	Don Montrichard	
30-2	Lost Peak - North Face - D5	Serguei Okountsev	

July 2012 Trips

7	Fun on Yak - C5	Adrian Lazar	
7	Blanshard Needle - C3	Jeff Ross	
7-8	Mount Fitzsimmons - North Face - C5	Don Montrichard	
7-15	South Chilcotins - B2	Karl Ricker	604-938-1107
11-12	Castle Towers Mountain - Northwest Face - D5	Don Montrichard	
14	Cathedral Mountain - D2	Jeff Ross	
14-15	Storm Pk and Meditation Mtn. - D3	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
14-16	SKY PILOT / LEDGE - B 3-4	David Scanlon	604-531-5025
17-19	Cathedral Park - Matriarch to Grimface Traverse - C5	Don Montrichard	
21-22	Nesakwatch Spires -C5	Adrian Lazar	
21-29	Bendor Range Camp B2-C3	David Scanlon	604-531-5025

June-July 2012 Programs and Instructional Days

16-17	Summer Mountaineering Program - Weekend 1	BCMC Camps and Programs	
23-24	Summer Mountaineering Program - Weekend 2	BCMC Camps and Programs	
23-24	Systems for Mountaineering - Anchoring Intermediate	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
7-8	Summer Mountaineering Program - Weekend 3	BCMC Camps and Programs	
14-15	Systems for Mountaineering - Rescue Intermediate	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Scott Koritz, Deon Molloy, Basia Pakerski, Brian Pegg, Tom Price, Karen Tennant, Michael Vanwerkhoven, and Guy Wigham.

June Social: Notice of Special General Meeting

A brief special general meeting will be held on June 12 at 7:30pm at the ANZA Club during the June Social to vote on the following proposed changes to the BCMC constitution.

MOTION #1: The BCMC Constitution be amended in Sections 2(d) and 5(b) to reflect a reduction in the Associate membership period from twenty-four to twelve months as presented in the supplied amended constitution, highlighted in yellow. Section 5(b) is also additionally modified to clarify the nomination process for applications to Active status.

MOTION #2: The BCMC Constitution be amended in Sections 3, 4, 5(b), 6(a), and 6(d) as presented in the supplied amended constitution, highlighted in green, to reflect a move from a fixed annual membership period to a twelve month membership effective the date a member first joins the club. Wording is additionally clarified in Sections 6(c), 9(c), 12(b), and 26 to reference meetings as general meetings.

To see the proposed changes in detail, please see the BCMC website at http://bcmc.ca/members/Restricted/Newsletters/pdf/BCMC_Constitution_bylaws_Jun2012_SGM_Proposal.pdf. For a more detailed explanation of the rationale behind these proposed changes, please see the article later in this newsletter.



New honorary member: Pat Crean *Article by Michael Feller*

At the April executive meeting **Pat Crean** was elected as the club's latest honorary member. Pat, originally from Ireland, joined the club in 1968, and became a life member. He was the club's first "hiking chair" in 1973. He also served as cabin chair for 7 years from 1984 to 1990, and was the person who actively organized and lead the construction and initial maintenance of the North Ck. cabin. He has done much to assist the club's trail maintenance efforts and has also lead many trips, including many spring ski camps, for the club. He has written many articles about these trips and other issues for club publications, and over the years has given the club exceptional service. He has also recently donated all his photos to the club archives.

Michael Feller named ACC Honourary Member

During the May social, in a surprise presentation by Rob Brusse, Chair of ACC-Vancouver Section, Michael Feller, was awarded Honourary Membership in the ACC.

From Rob Brusse's presentation:

The Alpine Club has an awards program & committee that annually accepts nominations to acknowledge a range of volunteer contributions to and within the ACC Club context. The Club also has a very special award to acknowledge extra ordinary contributions by volunteers (whether Alpine Club members or not) that benefit the Canadian Mountaineering Community & Society at large.

Our awards process is rigorous, it requires not only nomination but also vetting by the Awards

committee followed by a vote of the entire National Board and in the case of Honorary Membership one that requires a ¾ majority in favor.



This year the Board unanimously approved two nominees for ACC Honourary Membership. One is Barry Blanshard of whom many of you may be aware and the other is Mike Feller.

I'd like to share a little from the nomination citation circulated within our club.

Michael Feller has been a member of the Vancouver Section of the ACC since 1981. Over the last 50 years, Mike has made outstanding and significant contributions to the Canadian mountaineering community in the following ways:

Michael Feller (left) with Rob Brusse
a) Not only is he a dedicated and active backcountry recreationist (leading trips, camps and expeditions Devils Tongue, Chutine, Howson), he is also one who likes to share his experiences and knowledge through courses (mountaineering through FMC), workshops (Glacier Travel through VOC back in the day) and his writings (CAJ & BCMC Newsletters & Journal).

b) As an author, editor, publisher and archivist for the BCMC, Michael has contributed greatly to the production and preservation of important club documents. His work with the North Shore Historical Society has also ensured public access to these documents. Over the years he has contributed many articles to the BC Mountaineer and the CAJ. For over 20 years Michael was the editor of the BCMC newsletter. In addition to publishing the BCMC's journal for many years, he chaired the Editorial Committee of the 100 year anniversary of the BC Mountaineer.

c) As a Professor of Forestry at UBC, Michael Feller introduced the concept of integrating a wider range of user values (backcountry users, skiers, hikers, canoeists) into the Forest Resource and Land Use planning process in BC. As a scientist and backcountry recreationist he conducted and reported on numerous scientific investigations of the alpine environment.

d) As a conservationist and environmentalist he has relentlessly advocated for the preservation of the alpine environment. He has also been an outspoken advocate for the responsible and respectful planning and use of wilderness resources. Michael was the first chair of the BCMC Conservation Committee. In the 1970's, his Conservation Committee, along with the Vancouver Section of the ACC and the North Shore Hikers, presented a brief to BC Parks (Squamish – Lillooet region) identifying outstanding recreation values and calling for wilderness legislation. He views his work on the establishment of Tantalus Provincial Park (of which the ACC has been a singular beneficiary), Pinecone-Burke Provincial Park and the Sea-to-Sky Land Use zoning forum as his

most rewarding projects.

The plaque and pin presented to Michael are tokens of my and the ACC's deep respect, acknowledgement and appreciation of your extra ordinary commitment, and achievements to the benefit of our Canadian Mountaineering Community.

A Summer Hiking Camp - July 21-29

The **Bendor Range** is located east of Goldbridge BC. The highest peak being Mt Truax at 9,450'. See the write up in the 2002 BC Mountaineer, and in Fairleys Climbing and hiking guidebook for more information on the area. Day 1 is the drive up to the trail head and then the hike in to our first base camp. I've used the trip type as "mixed" because you may only do the hiking routes, or, take harder more challenging scrambling routes. That will be your choice. Days 2-3-4 will have day hikes from camp. Day 5 we will hike back past the cars (where we can restock food and fuel), to base camp #2. Days 6-7-8 will have more day hikes. Day 9 we will hike out and home. The only gear suggested to bring will be an ice axe, and that is not mandatory. BCMC members only. No pets.

The fee to attend will be \$10 each. The topo map for the area is 92 J 15. There will be no limit to the camp number at this time.

Call for questions. Dave Scanlon at 604 531 5025

Sky Pilot and Ledge Weekend - July 14-16

A 3 day mountaineering trip that is close to home with class 3/4 scrambling to 2 classic summits and more. Day 1 hike in to camp and then for the really fit, onwards to climb the Ledgeing. Day 2 up Sky Pilot and or Ledge. Day 3 hike out climbing Mt Sheer on the way.

No pets. Limit is 12. BCMC members only.

Call for questions. Dave Scanlon at 604 531 5025

109 Walks in B.C.'s Lower Mainland - an update on its revision - Alice Purdey

Club members Mary and David Macaree (now deceased) initiated the 103 Hikes and the 109 Walks series in the 1970s and generously donated some of the royalties received to the BCMC. When Mary passed away in 2008, she bequeathed ongoing royalties for 109 Walks to the club. Club members Alice Purdey, John Halliday and Paul Adam are currently doing revisions for the seventh edition; about half of the walks have been updated so far and certain of these could benefit from a re-walk to check for clarity and accuracy of directions and descriptions. Most of them require only a half-day commitment. Regionally, the walks range from Squamish, throughout the Lower Mainland to Abbotsford. You'd be happily surprised at some of the attractive little patches of nature hidden within, or close by, the city that those of us who normally wander farther afield tend to ignore.

Please contact Alice (alicep.fred@gmail.com) if you are interested in doing some of the re-walks. And if you have ideas for walks that you think should be included, but currently are not, we'd like to hear about those, too.



Looking towards Downton Lake and Gold Bridge
Drawing by Ye Chu

COMMENTARY AND ARTICLES

Rationale for Proposed BCMC Constitution Changes

- *Werner Grimzek and Francis St. Pierre*

Your BCMC executive has been working away at several small changes to membership.

The first proposed amendment will only affect new members who join after October 1, 2012, but will institute a twelve month membership period where their renewal date is the date that they join, rather than a fixed date of September 30.

The second proposed amendment will modify the automatic transition for newer members from Associate to Active, reducing the waiting period from 24 months to 12 months.

To implement these membership system changes, your executive team will seek membership

approval to some minor changes to the constitution. A formal notice of a Special General Meeting for the social of June 12 will be made soon to all members, to formally approve the proposed changes in the amended constitution.

Rationale behind rolling membership: Improving the club membership system

As you may be aware, Paul Olynek, our Webmaster, has been working on a new website for the club. The website engine that Paul is using supports a new system for membership that the executive believes will be better for the club. This new membership system is based on a membership period of 12 months from the date of joining the club, as opposed to the current system where a membership always expires on September 30th, our fiscal year-end. The new 12 month membership system will be more fair to new members, as all new members will be paying the same fee and benefit from the club for 12 months, regardless of when they join the club.

Our membership volunteers look forward to this change as the current system with a pro-rated fee for members joining after January 1 has led to complaints in the past from new members. Clearly, for example, new members joining the club in August or September have not been happy in paying a slightly discounted rate of \$31 instead of the regular \$40, when their membership will be expiring on September 30th only a month, or so, later. This new system is expected to be introduced on October 1, and will only affect new members joining the club after October 1 – there is essentially no change for existing members of the club, as their membership will remain on the same 12 month schedule running from October 1 to September 30th.

Rationale behind reducing Associate Membership from 24 months to 12 months:

1. We have currently over 50% of our Members (growing every month via new members) in the Associate category that has no voting rights.
2. The 'BC Society Act' states under "Voting 7 (2): ...A Society may have none voting members but their number must not exceed the number of voting members..."
3. The change to a 12 month period for 'Associated Membership' will bring down the number of non-voting members to below 50% and we will be in-line again with the law - coming from the BC Society Act.
4. It will also make the club look more inclusive and more welcoming for newcomers as they get full voting rights after being with the club for one year – an incentive to renew membership.

The main reason to keep the 'Associate' Membership category is to protect the club's assets' so that a group acting in coordination does not sign up a bunch of new members in September and then at November Annual General Meeting vote in unison for their hand-picked board of directors which will subsequently siphon off club's funds to another entity.

- 5.) The proposed changes also streamline our administration as Associate Members can be approved as 'Active Members' by the Membership Chair. This change reduces unproductive administrative work within the executive.

Tidbits from the BCMC Constitution: A Reflection - *Dave Scanlon*

I have recently come by the BCMC's constitution. All of it, including all of the changes over the years, from its incorporation on November 25, 1912. It is a very interesting read and I wanted to share a couple of what I think are interesting things in it. Over 100 years of volunteers running, guiding the BCMC, still carrying on up to and including today. Is there something you could do to help?

November 25, 1912: This was the day and year that the British Columbia Mountaineering Club was incorporated as a society under the provisions of the "Benevolent Societies Act" Certificate no. 330. There were 4 membership categories. Active, Honorary, graduating, associate. The entrance fees and dues were: active, graduating and associate members \$2. Active and graduating members, on election were required to pay an additional \$3. The executive at the time consisted of a president, 2 vice presidents, secretary treasurer, assistant secretary, editor, librarian, director, and a committee of 5 members. An interesting read from an extraordinary meeting held October 24, 1924 dealing with amendments to the clubs bylaws, "the use of intoxicating liquors on the club premises is prohibited."

Update on the Proposed Spearhead Hut System - *David Hughes*

In the summer of 2009, the BCMC was asked to join a group to investigate the practicality of building and operating a series of backcountry huts on the Spearhead Traverse in Garibaldi Park. This group is called the Spearhead Hut Committee (SHC) and it is comprised of the following members:

- * A Whistler group that has come together under the Whistler Section of the Alpine Club
- * The BCMC
- * The Vancouver Section of the Alpine Club
- * The Kees and Claire Memorial Hut Society (for Cornelius 'Kees' Brenninkmeyer and Claire Dixon)
- * The Brent Carlson Memorial Group

The SHC subsequently reached an agreement to prepare a concept plan, to investigate possible hut locations and to search out funding sources for several huts to be located in the high alpine on the traverse from Blackcomb Mountain to Whistler Mountain.

The Garibaldi Park Master Plan includes a reference to the potential for a hut system on the Spearhead Traverse and Park officials have been interested in a Spearhead huts idea for a long time. The SHC submitted an initial Concept Plan to BC Parks in June 2010, and this initial concept received Parks approval to proceed to more detailed planning stage. The SHC is planning to submit a detailed proposal and an Environmental Assessment documents to BC Parks in early June.

Why BCMC agreed to investigate the concept

The BCMC and its members have been leaders in the backcountry skiing in the British Columbia. The BCMC was a major player in getting the Garibaldi Park established as a Provincial Park. The Club built the Himmelsbach hut at Russet Lake and the Wedgemount Lake hut in Garibaldi Park. The Russet Lake hut may be either superseded or replaced as a result of the expanded hut system.

The BCMC has supported huts to help our members and the general public to gain access to and use

of the backcountry. The Club has actively participated in forums to help preserve territory for non-motorized use and the Club has been a leader in helping to protect important and environmentally sensitive areas. Huts have helped to concentrate use to appropriate locations that can adequately handle wastewater, protect alpine landscapes and deal with other concerns.

Why the Spearhead

The Spearhead Traverse is a very popular backcountry ski area. Area visitor numbers in the late winter and spring are now estimated to be in the thousands. Summer hiking usage is also increasing significantly with the recent trail building by Whistler Blackcomb. The BCMC needs to be involved with the Spearhead program if it is to continue an active role with the backcountry skiing and hiking community.

The Spearhead proposal is not a commercial venture. The huts, which are likely to hold 20 – 30 people, will be operated and maintained by the Whistler Alpine Club. Hut custodians are being planned for the busy periods. Members of the founding committee clubs/groups will be offered a large discount on any overnight fees. The huts will have proper water and wastewater systems and they will have heat. The huts will also help to provide emergency shelter as this above treeline high alpine route is subject to severe weather conditions.

The financing of the huts will be largely come from donations and fundraising events. The SHC has now held three fundraising events and response has been encouraging. At this point no significant financial contributions from the BCMC are anticipated. If the Executive decides at a later date to make a large financial contribution, they will seek approval from the membership.

Other BCMC initiatives

The BCMC has considered building a hut at Watersprite Lake next to the southwest corner of Garibaldi Park. There also has been a suggestion that the Club could build a clubhouse at Squamish. These proposals would be strictly BCMC projects and these proposals are completely independent of the Spearhead huts and need not be dependent or influenced by the development of the Spearhead Hut Traverse System.

If you have any questions, comments or if you would like to be involved, please contact me.

David Hughes
BCMC Committee Member

2012.05.15

Spearhead Huts: Current Proposal Flawed - Paul Kubik

There wasn't enough time at the May social to fully explore some of the questions raised about the Spearhead huts proposal and to respond to some of the information that came out during the open mike.

I have now heard from at least one speaker at the April social and one blogger on the BCMC conservation forum that it's necessary for the club to participate on the hut committee in order to guide how the proposal is developed. I would like to thank Dave Hughes and Dave Scanlon who are the club's representatives for their participation. The concern I expressed at the May social is

that what we have on the table at present is not a good fit with our club's objectives. The proposal currently is for three huts of forty people each. The hut locations were selected to make it easy for an average person to ski from hut to hut. At the moment, there seems to be no consensus on what constitutes the average person. My personal viewpoint is that club members on the whole are better than average fitness, whereas other club members disagree. I feel the club has as its members exceptional mountaineers plus some beginners, many of whom will exceed the average given time and experience. There are also senior members many of whom are still exceptionally fit. So, perhaps defining what constitutes the average is pointless.

A major concern is that there is a single proposal on the table and I think that it can be taken for granted it is a significant development project in a currently minimally developed mountain range in the park. At present, the only significant developments are Singing Pass trail and Russet Lake hut and trail. Russet Lake hut does not comfortably sleep more than about eight people. The proposal will increase the number overall by 1500 percent. That is a huge increase. So, in what manner is the club guiding the proposal? Have we succeeded in reducing the number of beds or bunks? The number of huts and beds indicate no.

It was my earlier presumption that the committee represents Whistler interests and the BCMC is being used to lend legitimacy to the proposal. But at the open mike we learned that as yet unidentified elements in BC Parks are guiding the proposal. We heard it from our own hut committee representative. It is why I am now grateful for our participation on the committee because the truth is now slowly emerging. It fits neatly with what we've come to expect in the dying days of the Liberal administration running BC Parks. There is a willingness to sell off our natural assets that were supposedly safeguarded in provincial parks in order to create jobs, economic opportunities and increase the profitability of business operating in and near parkland. It is hand-in-glove with the aspirations of tourism officials in Whistler.

Indeed, there is something in the proposal for recreational users, many of whom are club members. However, the current proposal for three huts would fail our own hut building guidelines. Unless it changed recently, a club guideline stated that a hut should be no closer than one days travel with an overnight pack from the point of embarkation. And I would assume, that huts should be no closer spaced than that. It's obvious to me that the three-hut proposal fails this important test. The point of embarkation in this case is the top of the lifts and the first hut on either end about two or three hours away.

The question of public safety was raised as a justification for hut building. I don't see how it is related. I assume the principal threat to public safety arises from the presence of humans in avalanche terrain and crevasse fields. Apparently, it is a concern of BC Parks but no amount of hut construction will reduce the risk. There is also the question of trail construction and improved access for traditional users. Again, neither presupposes huts.

I have heard it many times now and from various quarters that the number of users justifies the building of sanitary facilities in the Spearhead. I won't argue. But can someone explain to me why huts are a prerequisite for sanitary facilities? A figure was provided when Dave Hughes was at the open mike that 400 people were counted on the Spearhead on a particular day. I assume that figure

is counting all people outside the ski area boundary rather than 400 people doing the Spearhead traverse. These are people using the lifts to access the backcountry, a phenomena known as slack country skiing. Sanitary facilities should be built by the lift companies as it is their clients requiring them. The facilities should be closely spaced nearer the ski area boundary because that is the slack country where the skiers are. An outhouse constructed two or three hours away is not going to help them. The U.S. Forest Service has placed two open pit toilets on the Sulphide Glacier route to Mount Shuksan. Why can't the same be done on the Spearhead at a fraction of the cost of building three huts for \$1,000,000?

So, in short, this proposal is beginning to stink. There are myriad justifications being bandied about to support the need for huts. But it comes down to this: there are only two - the pursuit of profit and self-interest. You know, I get it. Some people do not want to carry a tent on the Spearhead traverse. They would like a cabin. Of all the arguments for huts it is the only one I can sympathize with. Others stand to profit by the huts through increased business opportunities, job prospects and job protection. I get that, too but I don't agree with it because it's at the expense of the park. Let's not obfuscate the issue by saying we're building huts because all of a sudden we've developed a social welfare complex and need to start improving the public safety and sanitary requirements of slack country skier enthusiasts. It's a worthy goal but the last time I checked, it is not one of the club's objects in our constitution. Let's stick to doing what works for the club and leave profit making and social welfare alone.

I've been accused by mechanized access luminaries such as Dave Norona that I'm overly negative. Actually, I'm for improved traditional (non-mechanized) access, new trail construction, sanitary facilities and self-propelled (as opposed to downhill) mountain bike trails in the Spearhead. I'm against the three hut proposal but if a good case could be made for a single hut below tree line at the head of Fitzsimmons Creek I might be persuaded to accept it. I find myself deeply distrustful of the process being followed by the hut committee. Critical information is slow to come out. There are far too many unanswered questions about the project. (See my comments on the subject in the April newsletter.) There appear to be business interests on the committee that would stand to profit from the huts. Elements in BC Parks seem to be operating in the background defining the proposal, yet there is no public acknowledgement of their intention. A business-friendly and at-all-costs Liberal government is appearing to rubber stamp the Squamish gondola proposal through a Class A provincial park without an impartial public dialogue. It is not unrealistic to see their hand pushing BC Parks in the same direction with the Spearhead huts proposal. It meshes nicely with Tourism BC's vision for Whistler and an arc of profit-making business opportunities around Fitzsimmons Creek.

Let's keep the discussion going. The current proposal is seriously flawed. I don't think it should be approved by the club.

Mt. Callaghan, April 28-29, 2012

Trip Participants: Giovanni Ghigliotti, Caroline Le Bouteiller, Diana Diaconu, Alexis Guigue, and Peter Gumplinger (organizer and reporter).

This was a trip originally scheduled for Mt. Shuksan. I changed it to a less demanding climb of Mt. Callaghan because of the questionable weather forecast, heavy rain throughout the previous week, and expected considerable wet avalanche activity.



We parked at the Callaghan Lodge base area where a security attendant directed us to where we were to park exactly. No parking or trail fees were required. The ski into Callaghan Lake along the forest service road was uneventful. We crossed the lake after a short lunch and climbed up a drainage from near the far end of the lake. The route was through reasonably open timber but various side drainages made it a bit confusing to stay on route to a low pass at the head of the main creek. We crossed several times under

some precarious cornices overhanging minor bluffs and over debris as a result of cornice collapse. We turned up a sharp 90 degrees at the pass through an area of many small lakes and elected to camp near one of the higher elevation lakes. After the tents had been set up next to a last clumps of trees, the visibility had deteriorated to the point that it felt like living on an island in the fog. We retired to bed very early. It was my birthday.

But Sunday dawned beautifully, with low clouds in the valleys, and views of mountains from an unusual angle. The valley clouds made it difficult for me to explain just what peaks I was seeing. We decided to pack up and attempt a traverse of the summit. This proved to be a good decision in that our approach was now over very undulated terrain and a ski down the way we came would have involved many ups. We came across a set of interesting tracks left by some creature earlier that same morning. The paw imprints were relatively large, at least the size of my palm, but there were no claw marks. The animal also seemed to follow, or rather travel in revers of some other fresh but much smaller paw tracks. I concluded it had to be cat, possibly a lynx I thought.

The low laying clouds had begun to rise and started to engulf us as we were topping out above a steep section at the head of a glacier. We would have been forced to boot pack this slope had it been any steeper. Skinning up it without Harscheisen was possible given the softening snow

condition. Our visibility altered from white-out to tantalizing views of the rock summit pinnacle as we approached the summit area. The final climb was easy enough and we savored our accomplishment, albeit there were virtually no views. But we saw enough to know that just behind the summit, to the West, there was a great looking open gully leading down to Ring Lake (called White Bolder Gully on bivouac.com). We waited for some 30 minutes in the hope that the flat light will again give way to sunshine, but in vain, so we ended up skiing the gully in less than perfect light. Initially, the snow was quite good however. Mindful that cliffs may prevent us from further fall line skiing, when we could, we traversed West almost into the valley where our Callaghan Recreation Map showed the uphill ski route from Ring Lake. Now, looking back it seemed that we could just side-hill the whole face above Ring Lake. It worked out but it wasn't pretty as we crossed numerous avalanche debris and skied through increasingly mushy and wet snow. I had not counted on this being the south facing side of the mountain. We arrived at the valley floor and the Callaghan Lodge xc-ski trails in Ring Valley down an avalanche swath that had slid on one side. We also encountering serious recent avalanche debris right through mature timber. We stopped outside the lodge for a long break then headed out the 13km back to the car via the Wild Spirit trail. The last part of this trail, after the bridge across Callaghan Creek, is mostly uphill in the direction we were traveling, but due to the dirty snow we could ski shuffle the whole distance without putting skins back on. Prime rib Sunday special at the Shady Tree Pub in Squamish rounded out a good day. We figured we skied some 40km in total - a back country/xc-country outing for the most part. We saw no snow mobile tracks in the back country and only around the lodge. As a bonus, we never heard any over Brandywine direction either.

Leading Peak on Anvil Island: May 12, 2012

Participants: Geoff Zenger (organizer and reporter) and a party of 12 BCMC members and guests
Difficulty: 2

For years I've been looking out the window on the drive to and from Squamish and gazing at the peak on Anvil Island. This spring I decided to do something about it, contacted the bible camp on Anvil Island to find a good weekend to land on their property, chartered a water taxi, and posted a trip on the BCMC schedule. In the end, 12 people signed up for the trip.

To save on parking costs in Horseshoe Bay, we met at St. David's at 8am, dropped off most of our vehicles, and quickly made our way down to Horseshoe Bay where we caught a chartered water taxi operated by Mercury Launch. Without any hassle we loaded onto the water taxi and promptly set off for Anvil Island at 9am, arriving there at 9:30. The water taxi has quite a racket going, with a minimum fee, but no discount per person, and at \$25/person each way, they reaped \$650 from us for 2 hours of work. At least it's still cheaper than buying our own boat... Once at the bible camp, we had little difficulty finding the caretaker to pay the \$25 fee to use their dock and drop off our signed waivers to cross their property, and set out on the trail proper around 9:45.

The trail up to Leading peak is generally in very good condition, is well marked, and the terrain varied. On the way up we stopped at the "white spot" (some sort of navigational aid?) viewpoint to take photos and then again at a little lake for lunch. There are a couple short scrambling steps

near the summit, but without any exposure, and these were quickly navigated. Despite our relaxed pace on the ascent, the last of our party reached the summit just past 12:30 (with the first people reaching the summit perhaps 45 minutes earlier).

Our party spread itself wide on the summit rocks and the heli-pad, and we took our time to lounge about in the hot sun. The views were excellent, with Garibaldi, Sky Pilot, Ledge, the other Howe Sound islands, and the western-most North Shore mountains all visible. As we had a hard deadline to return to the camp to catch our return water taxi, we couldn't sleep all day on the summit however, and started making our way down a bit before 1:30.

The descent was straightforward and uneventful, and everyone made it back to the docks by 3:42, just in time to catch the water taxi, which was scheduled to leave at 3:45. The weather remained fantastic and most of the party lazed on the back of the water taxi as it carried us back to Horseshoe Bay, enjoying the great views all around.

Climbing Leading peak requires more effort than heading to the summits on Bowen or Gambier Island, but the effort is rewarded with a more interesting trail, a nicer summit, and better views. I think that all of us would agree that was an excellent destination for a sunny spring day.



Thanks to everyone who signed up and came out. It was an excellent day all around!

Marek Labecki shows off fine balance skills on top of Leading Peak with Mt Garibaldi in the background.
Photo: G Zenger

Where did the club directory go? - Brittany Zenger

Much like the now discontinued semi-annual trip schedule, the club directory now resides online only. With the current website, it is possible to see the same information by logging onto the club website and checking out the following page: <http://bcmc.ca/members/CurrentMembers.asp>. The change both saves mailing and printing costs as well as ensures that everyone has access to up-to-date information. If you still would like a paper copy, it is possible to print this webpage, you will then have the same content as would have been published in the newsletter.

