

BCMC

A person is skiing on a snowy mountain slope. They are wearing a dark jacket, a red backpack, and yellow ski boots. They are holding ski poles and have tracks in the snow behind them. The background shows a vast, snow-covered mountain range under a clear blue sky.

BC Mountaineering Club Newsletter

UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm

March social RESCHEDULED

Tuesday, March 20 - Spring ski traverse from
Blackcomb to Pitt Lake via the Misty Icefield

March 2012, Vol 90, No. 3

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: Michael Lim approaching Snowcap lake, photo by Mike Thompson

Back Page Photos

Upper Photo: 2012 Ski Touring Course group on Iago ridge, with Yak Pk in the background, photo Diana Diaconu
Lower Photo: Touring through the trees, photo Ross Wightman

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
All trips are skiing unless otherwise noted**

March 2011 Trips

3	Box Canyon ice - A5	Dean Neumann	604 309-5502
4	Needle Peak, Coquihalla - B2/3	Brad Percival	
4	Needle Peak (beginner friendly) - C3	Don Montrichard	
4	Needle and Flatiron CANCELLED - B3	Randy Enomoto	604-224-6184
7	Wednesday Night Indoor Climbing - Cliffhanger Vancouver	Matt Mussallem	604-551-1670
10	Day trip in the Duffey - B2/3	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
10	Mt Rohr B-C2/3	Carl Douglas	604-873-5071
10	Metal Dome - C3	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
10-11	Marriot Basin - B2/3	Jim Vercammen	604 733-8914
10-11	Silent Hub - C2/3	Greg Stoltmann	604-926-6496
11	Mt. Harvey - North Face Ramp - C4 (Mountaineering)	Don Montrichard	
11	Day trip in the Duffey B2/3	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
14	Wednesday Night Indoor Climbing - Cliffhanger Vancouver	Matt Mussallem	604-551-1670
17	Bombtram Mountain - B3-C3	Peter Gumplinger	
17	Mt Rohr - B2/3	Michael Lim	
18	Nak Peak B3-C3	Peter Gumplinger	
24	Portia Peak - C3	Geoffrey Zenger	
24-25	Mount Jimmy Jimmy - C3	Peter Gumplinger	
28-29	Mt Garibaldi via Brohm Ridge - C3	Erin Buckoll	604-421-4865
31	Martin Pk. - D2 (Snowshoe)	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637
31-1	Annual Powder Cow Neve Traverse - C3	Justin Bennett	

March 2011 Programs and Instructional Days

3-4	Systems for Mountaineering - Anchoring Basics A5	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
6	Learn to Tele Night - A1	Alex Gibbs	604 970-1171
17-18	Systems for Mountaineering – Belay Basics	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Scott Mackenzie, Goran Babic, Shannon Cunningham, Tyler Gale, Karen Jensen, Cameron Johnston, Dennis Kasukawa, Lauren Liang, John Lord, Clayton Matthews, Ryley Mennie, Jonathan Mitchell, Laura Moyser-Carr, Colette Mueller, Edward Nelles, Trevor Norman, Eric Norton, Brian Powell, Hayden Robbins, Ty Rogers, and Jake Stubbs.

March Social Postponed By A Week

The March social has been postponed by a week due to a temporary closure of the ANZA Club. The downstairs bar was found to be over capacity twice in six months, and the Liquor Board has suspended their license for a week as a result. The social will be held on March 20 with Mike Thompson, Michael Lim, and Markus Dell presenting on their trip from Blackcomb to Pitt Lake via the Misty Icefield. The April 10 social will feature Adam Palmer presenting on his Stave Glacier Expedition.

VIMFF Wrap-up

Dave Scanlon

The VIMFF is over for another year. We had 15 volunteers, and at \$20 a ticket = a \$300 perk for the BCMC volunteers. There were 8 Centennial mountaineers sold, 1 2010 Mountaineer sold, 5 DVDs, and 15 of the Centennial sew on patches, all for a grand total of \$125. Many thanks to all those who volunteered and helped represent the BCMC.

Equipment Rental Updates

Peter Gumplinger and Francis St Pierre

The BCMC has modified its equipment rental policy to limit rental equipment to ice tools and satellite phone only; other items, such as avalanche transceivers, are no longer available to rent from the BCMC due to product obsolescence. Retailers, such as MEC, are now the best alternative for some equipment rentals.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

Garibaldi Park Management Plan Call for Public Input (Ends March 15)

BC Parks is preparing to undertake an amendment to the 1990 Garibaldi Park Management Plan. The purpose of this project is to a) provide supplemental direction, and b) confirm existing direction regarding public access in the Spearhead Range of Garibaldi Park.

Full information provided on BC Parks website: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/garibaldi/garibaldi_mp.html

Summary of Minutes of FMCBC SW BC R&C Meeting 23 January 2012

Submitted by Brian Wood

21 Mile Creek/Rainbow Non-Motorized Area

To increase public response to the recent FMCBC survey of illegal snowmobile activity in the non-motorized zones in the Rainbow area, our members are posting additional notices in appropriate areas. To participate in the survey, please visit www.mountainclubs.org/21mile. We are also looking for photographic evidence of snowmobile activity, eg. just tracks if no machines are present, to help justify enforcement, and this evidence can be sent to www.bivouac.com, click on "Index" then "Snowmobile infractions". Members are encouraged to organize club trips to the area to increase presence of skiers and snowshoers as well as improve our surveillance of the area.

Whistler Olympic Park (WOP)

WOP is planning to construct a 15 metres wide "Nordic ski trail" from the top of the Olympic ski jump area to Madeley Lake which will pass through some presently undisturbed mature forest. The FMC Committee feels that a trail of that width is more like a road than a trail, and will therefore cause far more environmental damage than a more usual-sized Nordic ski trail that is

typically about 3 metres wide. Members who agree with the FMC are encouraged to write letters expressing their concern about this plan.

Spearhead Traverse Huts

This ambitious proposal is undergoing or has completed several initial studies as required by the current Garibaldi Park Master Plan. The proponent, the Spearhead Hut Committee, has provided some details of the proposal on their website www.spearheadhuts.org , and also on the website of the Whistler Section of the Alpine Club of Canada, namely www.accwhistler.ca/index.php/spearheadhut/conceptplan/ . Specific sections of the Garibaldi Park Master Plan, including the Spearhead Range, are undergoing a consultation process to re-evaluate the present plan, and BC Parks expects to receive comments from interested parties respecting this re-evaluation. At present, the FMC feels that it has insufficient information on the proposal to either support it or reject it as many details have not yet been finalised. For example, we are concerned about the size of the huts and how reserved and non-reserved spaces in the huts will be managed. The FMC appreciates that the huts will provide benefits such as emergency shelter and some management of human waste disposal which currently are presently unavailable on this increasingly popular traverse. Please send any comments or concerns that you might have to the Committee website above.

BC Parks and Working Volunteers' Insurance

Members of the FMC will attend the Vancouver area meeting of the BC Parks Volunteer Strategy on 16 February. Vancouver is one of several venues across the Province where this decade-old present unsatisfactory volunteer situation will be addressed. We hope to be informed of BC Park's future plans to reinstate at least liability insurance, and possibly also accident insurance, for volunteers who work on infrastructure, mainly trails, in BC Parks. After the results of this meeting have been circulated among our members, the FMC is proposing to send a letter to BC parks with our comments and any additional proposals. So please feel free to send us your concerns and suggestions about this important issue which might help to improve the present sorry state of our parks.

Grant Applications

The Province has re-instated the Gaming Grant Program for projects relating to two areas where our type of volunteer work might be appropriate, namely Sport Issues, in which the application deadline is 31 May, and Environment issues in which the deadline is 31 August. The website www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/grants/ provides details of the procedure.

Grants are also available from the Recreation Foundation of BC, in which the application deadline is 31 January and the website www.recreationfoundationbc.ca/requests/requests.htm provides details of the procedure.

Assuming the member club is a registered society, we feel it would be best if each club applies in its own name for funds for its projects. As drafting fund applications is time consuming and requires care and detailed work and cost estimates, the FMC is prepared to provide help in drafting the application. Please allow ample time, eg preferably two months, to the minutes for the FMC to assist in drafting an application so that it can be completed before the deadlines given above.

TRIP REPORTS AND ARTICLES

A New Cabin At Tenquille Lake

Karl Ricker

Last summer Whistler's newspapers reported on a volunteer initiative by Pemberton Valley's residents. They were going to work on a new cabin to replace the old worn down shelter at Tenquille Lake. The volunteer effort was organized by the Pemberton Valley Wildlife Association, led by president Al McEwen. This is an environmental group not to be confused with the Pemberton Snowmobile Club. After delays with a slow-to-melt winter snowpack, construction was scheduled for three weekends in August, which included the dismantling of the old cabin.

I was curious, after hearing enthusiastic reports about the first weekend of construction, and decided to hike up to the lake on the following weekend. Upon arrival, I saw 40 workers on site, several being professional tradespeople and a contingent of ladies making sure that all were well fed. The old cabin was now a pile of firewood and the new one was already at the roofing and siding stage of construction. It was a very impressive and happy scene, leading me to ponder several questions. Why was the BCMC having so much reluctance about doing a similar endeavour? And if our club could not mobilize a similar effort, perhaps we could instead be a contributor to the scene being witnessed? The latter is not a far fetched musing. BCMC, historically had several trips to Tenquille, the most notable being two led by P.L. Tait in the 1930s. making the first ascents of Sun God Mountain and Mt Samson.

The above suggests that the history behind the first cabin will reveal why locals decided to replace it. The area was heavily prospected in the early 1900s with several cabins and associated mining structures being built and trails were constructed to Tenquille, direct from Lilloett River, where there was a ferry, and from the Birkenhead Valley to the east. At that time, there were no roads to Pemberton, and it was not until 1914 when the railroad reached the valley from Squamish. The area was isolated and the local farming community used the Tenquille trail and miners facilities for their annual summer holidays. In 1925, they replaced a small prospector's cabin with their own larger log structure for summer holiday use. This made summer camps more enjoyable, providing shelter in inclement weather. In 1957, the railway provided more efficient access to the outside world when the Squamish to Vancouver link was completed, and in 1960, the Squamish Highway was completed, providing rough powerline road access through to Pemberton. Highway extension in the mid 1960s gave the locals much more ease of travel and summer holidays at Tenquille ended, with slow deterioration of the cabin in the wake of disinterest for long visits to the lake. And in the last few decades the condition of the cabin reached the stage of use only if desperate!

But slowly over the last few years locals realized that a new cabin would be useful for their summer excursions as well as for winter-spring ski touring. Hence the Wildlife Association's plans to replace it began to be organized. A retired community leader, Al McEwan, quietly led the task force: securing government permits, canvassing for donations, design, procurement, etc. Permission to rebuild at the site did not come easily from the various provincial authorities.

It was a hassle; First Nations raising objections. The Lil'wat said it was their traditional hunting and berry picking grounds! A stand off - they versus local use by miners and summer vacationers over the last 100 years! Finally the government ordered an archaeological survey to settle the argument on whether there was historical First Nations use. This would be an additional expense over and above the funds raised to build the cabin.

To reduce the survey cost, the PVWA dug the required test pits, which were examined by the professional archaeologists. The examination of the pits did not reveal a First Nation presence at the cabin site, although an alignment of large nearby pass was defined to be a possible hunting blind for goat hunters. A controversial arrowhead was found in the meadow between the cabin site and lake shore. Nervous bureaucrats reluctantly granted permission to rebuild with two conditions: (1) the cabin door could not be locked and (2) there would be no charge for use. The archeological survey and report cost \$8000, over and above the \$35000 collected to buy construction materials and helicopter time. The chopper lifted 22 heavy loads to the construction site!

Another headache in the organization of reconstruction was the designated land use for the area. The LMRP discussion gave it as motorized access, which did not enthrall the PVWA. The designation could not be changed, but as the locals were mainly interested in summer use they could live with it. The snowmobile crowd was there in late winter-spring, and they were not likely to use the cabin except in the case of emergency. The conflict would be rare and summer hikers worries are mainly with mountain bikers who descend the access trails quickly with little awareness of their presence.

The BCMC was asked to help pay for the \$8000 archeological bill. Two thousand was a suggested donation, the Pemberton Snowmobile Club had provided \$6000, which I gather did not sit well with last year's executive. The two grand was found from another local source.

However, funding benevolence aside, it should be recognized that this is not a snowmobile initiative, and they are not likely to use it overnight. The Pemberton Valley Wildlife Association is the warden of the cabin; they are an environmental organization, slanted to valley farmer outlook and to the local salmon run preservation. They are also involved in local bird studies and organize the Christmas Bird Count. Yes they have a rifle range; farmers have stock-predator problems; especially with coyotes in calving season.

So far there are no booking procedures for cabin use, and the fine tuning of its amenities will be finalized this summer. The summer access is mainly by way of trail that leads off the Hurley River-Railroad Pass road - about a 2 hour hike. In winter this road is closed, and the alternate and longer trail from the Lillooet River bridge will likely be used, possibly having to carry skis or snowshoes for the first one or two kilometers to reach snow. A heli-assisted ski camp for a few day stay would be more efficient, and so far our club has not banned or despised their use for this purpose. Regardless of the access vagaries; the cabin is there; lets use it and help take care of it. Kudos to the locals who built it!!

