

BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club
Newsletter



UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm

Tuesday, May 8 - David Crerar, Ean Jackson, and Bill Maurer present on the Bagger Challenge, an informal peak-bagging contest for the North Shore mountains

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British Columbia Mountaineering Club
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Esther and Martin Kafer

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LIBRARY:	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

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.

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Back Page Photos

Illustration: Mount Sloan Climbers by Ye Chu

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**

May 2012 Trips

5-6	Mt. Garibaldi (East Face from Diamond Head) - C4	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
5-6	Skaha Climbing	Adrian Lazar	
12	Leading Peak (Anvil Island) - Grade: A/B 2	Geoffrey Zenger	778-228-7017
19-20	Fissile Peak - Northwest Face - C5	Don Montrichard	

Early June 2012 Trips

2-3	Mount Matier - C4	Serguei Okountsev	
7	After Work Multi-pitch Stint	Adrian Lazar	604-943-4364
9-10	Aussie Couloir (Joffre Peak) - C4	Serguei Okountsev	
9-10	In-SHUCK-ch Mtn. (Gunsight Pk.) - D3	Alastair Ferries	604-329-1637

May 2012 Programs and Instructional Days

2	Basic Outdoor Toproping - Evening Intro	BCMC Camps and Programs	
5	Systems for Mountaineering – Glacier Travel	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
5-6	Basic Outdoor Toproping - A5	BCMC Camps and Programs	
12-13	Systems for Mountaineering – Glacier Rescue - A5	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
23	Essential Rockclimbing - Evening Intro - A5	BCMC Camps and Programs	
26-27	Systems for Mountaineering – Rescue Basics - A5	Justin Bennett	604-813-4666
26-27	Essential Rockclimbing Grade: A5	BCMC Camps and Programs	

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Darryl Augustine, Stephen Bezruchka, John Day, Robert Durnin, Marc d'Entremont, Andrew Marshall, Michael Neill, David Payne, G. Benjamin Pierre, Betty Pietak, Craig Seasholes, Robert Simzer, Kelli Sroka, Svetlana Tkacova, Eva van Emden, and Jason Work.

Spearhead Huts project - the discussion continues

At the club's March and April socials the executive has been asking members to share their views and opinions on the proposed Spearhead huts and the club's involvement with the project. This call for member input has resulted in an active dialogue with those who attended the socials but also in follow-up submission of member articles for the newsletter and the website. We do appreciate what you have to say!

If you would like to share your thoughts on the topic, do feel welcome to attend the next social (May 8th, 2012 at ANZA club), where some of the microphone time will again be dedicated to the Spearhead Huts.

Martin Kafer aims for Mt Kilimanjaro at 85, fundraising for Alzheimer Society of BC

In September of this year, honorary club President Martin Kafer will join the 2012 Ascent for Alzheimer's team and journey to the peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise money and awareness in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. He plans to take his BCMC centennial scarf along with him on the climb. If you'd like to support Martin in his goal of raising \$10,000, please visit his Ascent BC page at: <http://my.e2rm.com/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=1357989>

A Dream of Giants: The Story of the Sunshine Coast Trail

Published in December 2011, this book features more than 150 colour images of the beautiful 180-kilometre Sunshine Coast Trail (SCT) along the Upper Sunshine Coast in BC.

It tells the story of the trail, which is the story of a community of volunteers (through the non-profit group Powell River Parks & Wilderness Society) who have been working for 20 years to make this trail a reality. This is a trail with an important purpose - it serves to raise awareness of the beautiful backcountry that exists around the small city of Powell River, and inspires people to work to save the dwindling patches of old growth forest that still exist in the area.

BCMC Summer Mountaineering Course Registration Open

The Summer Mountaineering Course is aimed at those with extensive hiking and backpacking experience who would like to learn the skills to travel beyond marked trails and on glaciated terrain. It offers a great introduction to the craft of mountaineering for both newcomers and a refresher for those whose skills are rusty.

The course content covers:

Weekend 1 - June 16-17

- Theory session on Wednesday, June 13th (to be confirmed)
- Overview of mountaineering equipment: ice axe, crampons, pickets, ice screws
- Use of ice axe - self arrest, glissading, up-/down-climbing steep ice
- Use of crampons, travel on snow, self arrest with crampons on
- Overview of basic knots - prussik, figure eight
- Snow anchors
- Preparing the rope for glacier travel
- How to tie in to a rope

Weekend 2 - June 23-24

- Theory session on Wednesday, June 20th
- How to tie in to a rope - review
- Travel in a roped team, arresting a fall
- Review of snow anchors
- Running belays
- Crevasse rescue
- Glacier route-planning and assessment

Weekend 3 - July 7-8

- Putting it all together
- Planning a trip - sources of information, route planning
- A weekend outing with an objective to summit one of the prominent peaks around Vancouver/Whistler/Pemberton
- Review and practice of the learned concepts

For more information or to register, email organizer (link on Trips page).

Cost: \$325. Spots will be allocated in the order payment is received, either by PayPal or cheque.

Discards from BCMC Library - *Michael Feller*

Are you interested in obtaining any books and journals to be discarded from the BCMC library?

Our club library currently has around 1500 individual books and journals. It has been kept in Joan Ford's house in recent years, but sale of the house has necessitated a move - it will be moved to Waldemar Jonsson's house later this year. To prepare for this move we would like to reduce its volume by discarding some of our older materials which have not been used for many years. These are listed below. If anyone is interested in obtaining any of them, please contact Michael Feller at michael.feller@ubc.ca or 604-270-4050

Proposed discards are:

1. Alberta Wilderness Association Newsletter (1972-76)
2. Appalachia (1915-1980)
3. Appalachian Mtn. Club Bulletin (1924-1932)
4. Canadian Environmental Network Bulletin (1993)
5. Go guide (Seattle Mountaineers 1999, 2000)
6. Golden guide to guns (1951)
7. Harvard Mountaineering (1951-1984)
8. Information packet, BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Res.
9. Mazama (1917-1988)
10. Pack and Paddle (1992-2002)
11. Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Bulletin (1962)
12. SARscene (1992-2008)
13. Sierra Club Bulletin (1907-2006)
14. Tararua story
15. Tararua Trampler (1940-2006)
16. West Coast Environmental Law - Public Interest Environmental Law (2002)

Sign Up Open for BCMC 'Partner List' Summer-Fall 2012

The Executive has decided to organize the Summer Partner List 2012 again for the coming seasons to help club members find partners for private trips.

Past partner lists have had:

- Over 60 members who were seeking partners
- Over 100 specified routes – in the Coast Mountains - across N. America - in Africa - in the Himalayas
- 25 vacation and road trips where members were searching for partners
- On 38 days had privately organized trips - on average about on 3 days each week

What the Partner List does:

- It is a very successful tool to bring climbing partners together for their private trips.
- This helps particularly NEW MEMBERS to find partners quickly when they need them.
- Please be aware - resulting private trips are not BCMC-sanctioned trips. Neither the participants nor the organizers are covered by the BCMC Liability Insurance.

On our 'Summer-Fall Partner List 2012' you will find other Club Members who are searching for:

Rock Climbers

Sport Climbers

Boulderers

Aid Climbers

Alpine Climbers for all difficulties

Week Day Climbers & Weekend Warriors

Hikers for day trips or multi day traverses

Scramblers

Families climbing or hiking with Kids or Teens

Outdoor Seniors Climbers or Hikers with dogs Kayakers Mountain Bikers Grouse Grinders

...and all are members of the BCMC.

Our Partner List also has an attached Calendar where any Member can advertise their private trip – one, two days in advance or 3 months down the road.

On the list you can fill in, change or delete your info and partner search at any time yourself. You can access the list via our web page –on the Blog and on the Trip List. If you have problems with the list, contact the coordinator Werner via wernergr@shaw.ca

COMMENTARY AND ARTICLES

Spearhead Huts: It's your vision, your time - *Comment by Paul Kubik*

I was conservation chair and wrote the submission for the club to the 1990 Garibaldi Management Plan.

The question of hut building in the Spearhead was not really on the table for discussion at the time. Rather the discussion was deferred with a note in the management plan to that effect. What was discussed peripherally though was the bid by Blackcomb Mountain to remove a chunk of park land in order to “rationalize” their ski area boundary. At that time, there was a fair bit of goodwill in the mountaineering community towards the mountain and the bid was not strongly opposed by the club. In retrospect, perhaps it should have been.

The management plan that was adopted in 1990 should have been assurance that traditional recreational use and conservation of the Spearhead range would continue in perpetuity. In fact, there has been a steady erosion of protection and use. Additional to the Blackcomb exclusion, there was an expansion by Whistler into the Musical Bumps, the relocation of Singing Pass trailhead to W-B parking lot and the conversion of the access road to a playground for guided ATVs, harassment of hikers heading up Singing Pass on bikes to the park boundary and ongoing harassment when using traditional access routes such as the mining road to the base of Green Chair. The expansion of Whistler to the Musical Bumps turned the Singing Pass trail into a high-speed descent route for downhill skiers, the glazing of the trail into an icy sidehill and the conversion of Russet Lake hut into a party place.

Actually, partying at Russet Lake is nothing new. The likeable owner of the original Coast Mountain Sports, Randy Hooper, cultivated the persona of a bearded hippy on telemark skis. He ran the original store on 4th Avenue in the 1980s before he sold it to the current owners. There weren't any plastics boots for telemarking. It was all leather and laces meant for long distances rather than mechanized-assisted technical descents that are popular today. Randy, however, was not averse to flying into Russet Lake for a weekend of partying and shredding. And make no mistake about it, the proposed huts are going to cater to those accustomed to mechanized access, by the lifts in this case.

So that's where it stands today. If someone had said in 1990 that twenty-two years later that's what the management plan would result in I would have said it would be the most pessimistic of outcomes.

What we have on the table today is three huts being proposed for 35 to 40 people. Estimated cost per hut is \$300,000, give or take \$100K. So, we're looking in the neighbourhood of \$1 million. For \$1 million, we don't even get another trail or improved access. That is to be funded from hut revenue. Time will tell. The huts are high elevation huts intended to be accessed from the top of Whistler and Blackcomb lift systems. The huts have a large number of backers in the business community in Squamish and Whistler hoping for spin-off benefits. There is widespread support in the slackcountry skier community. But that really puzzles me. I'm constantly hearing from hut supporters that there's so many people in the Spearhead already. Why would anyone want to increase the numbers by another 120? But there you have it.

The number of three huts arises apparently because four huts were wanted in order to make travel between huts easy for the average. One hut was dropped for some reason. Anyway, the number three is just sitting out there in order to make it easy for the average person. Then why not just one hut with the option to fly in? There's already a precedent for it in Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park.

Why are the only huts proposed high elevation huts? Would it not also be an option to have one large backcountry hut below tree line at the head of Fitzsimmons Creek with a low elevation access trail? You could also ski from a high point down to the hut at the end of a day and then climb back up in the morning when you're refreshed?

There is any number of alternatives and one of them is do absolutely nothing. However, we are visualizing the future so everything should be on the table. Yet, there is only one vision coming out of the proposal. Three large huts and three locations have been determined. Who is making the decision? Already it seems a fait d'accomplis? Shouldn't we be first examining alternatives rather than voting on a completed proposal? Because I don't get the impression we're really being consulted. Our club's name is being used to indicate approval and widespread support.

We're very short on details. Costs per hut are \$300,000 plus or minus \$100,000. That is a wide range but doesn't give me confidence. There are many missing details. How much does it cost to maintain the hut per year. How much per night does it cost? What is the expected occupancy? How much revenue per year will be available to build trails? What trail and access improvements are planned? A single bridge and access road across Fitzsimmons Creek might cost as much as a hut or more and that's without any trail being built. How much is our discount? Will there be beer gardens and cappuccino bars, as I've heard rumors of?

Is there a formal and binding legal agreement on how the huts will be managed, revenues disbursed? This is ultimately extremely important. What's to stop a well intentioned understanding from being derailed by market forces and land managers as we have seen the 1990 management plan go off the rails? What will it look like in twenty years? There's a lot of people looking one or two years into the future when really they should be looking 20 or 30 years ahead. What if hut fees climb from say \$20/night to \$100 or \$200 per night? And why wouldn't they? That money could be used to pay for all sorts of things. Anything is possible but at the expense of the park!

What's your vision for the Spearhead? In twenty or thirty years it could feel like an extension of Whistler Blackcomb. Will there be any wildness left?

It's your vision, your time.

