

BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club
Newsletter



UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm
Tuesday, Apr 9 - Esther and Martin Kafer
present on their record breaking trip up
Kilimanjaro and a screening of "Going
Strong", a short film featuring the Kafers

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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: Kilimanjaro (Wikimedia Commons), Martin and Esther Kafer (photo supplied)

Back Page: Thar by Cormac Flynn

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

April 2013

5-7	Ashlu-Elaho Divide Traverse - C3	Craig Speirs
6-7	Marriot Basin/WT Hut (Beginner Friendly) - B2-C2/3 -	Jim Vercammen
6	Poland Lake - Manning Park - B2	Evelyn Feller
6	Saturday Rock Climbing Squamish - A5	Werner Grzimek
8	Richmond Oval Indoor Climbing - A5	Alan Trick
9	BCMC Social: The Kafers going strong - Mt Kilimanjaro	
10-14	Spearhead Ski & Traverse - C3	David Hughes
12-14	Vantage (Frenchman Coulee) USA - B5	Francis St Pierre
13-14	Skypilot Mountain - F/PD, 4th	Don Montrichard
26-28	Mount Garibaldi - East Face - PD+, ice	Don Montrichard
27	Squeah NNW2 - Snowshoeing - D2	Alastair Ferries

May 2013

4	Basic Outdoor Top-Roping - Instructional Program - B5	Kit Griffin
4	Saturday Rock Climbing Squamish - A5	Werner Grzimek

NEWS AND NOTICES

A Correction from Last Newsletter - *David Scanlon*

For the last line of the Prayer of the woods: It should read, 'harm me not'.

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Jenny Yi, Shane McDonald, Gabrielle Trépanier, Julia Horgan, Samuel Mckoy, Breanne Johnson, Mark Skrzyaniarz, Kevin Tilley, Matt Lum, Wendelin Jordan, and Anna Brancati.

Tie In and Let's Go!

The BCMC is a member driven club that has been run by volunteers from it's membership since it's creation in 1907, then known as the Vancouver Mountaineering Club. 106 years of member involvement has made what the British Columbia Mountaineering Club is today.

There are no paid positions with the BCMC, it is managed by an elected board of volunteer executive members who deal with the day to day affairs of the club. The executive members themselves cannot accomplish all needed tasks and rely on the assistance of volunteers from the ranks of the club to help with both ongoing and periodic club roles.

Currently there are three vacant executive seats which are leaving important roles that need attention to keep the club running. Additionally the vacant positions increase the burden on the existing executivemembers who have stepped forward to help the club in their specific roles.

All fourteen of the executive positions also need ongoing regular support from the membership with administrative type duties throughout the year. These positions can either be ongoing tasks

requiring an hour or two per week or periodic helping out with short term roles.

In order to further facilitate the involvement of club members the executive has initiated a new process to help fill these vacant roles. There will be a regular section in the newsletter identifying current or upcoming areas that the club needs help with. A new section has been added to the forums under BCMC Member Forums called Club Volunteer Help.

BCMC Climbing Courses Announced for May

Basic Outdoor Top-Roping is a one-day course (May 4) with Thursday evening (May 2) “prep” meeting at John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park beforehand.

The course content will be geared for those who may have done some indoor gym climbing and want to try outdoor rock climbing. Note, this course, or an equivalent, is a prerequisite for BCMC Essential Rock Climbing course offered later in the same month.

This course is being organized by two veteran BCMC members, Kit Griffin and Paul Miller. One or two students from previous Essential Rock Climbing courses are welcome to help the organizers... please contact either Kit or Paul if you're available.

There will be a \$50 per member fee for this course.

The course topics will include:

Safety, basic equipment, basic climbing skills and techniques, the elements of top-roping (tying in, belaying, lowering, ground anchors, rope management, climber's knots and so on). The program will not cover setting up top-rope anchors, rappelling, or belaying from above. Our focus will be technique on rock and the challenge it presents.

Essential Rockclimbing consists of one mid-week evening lecture/practice at John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park and two weekend days (May 25-26) in the Squamish climbing area. At the end of the course, you should be able to set up and use a simple top-rope, rappel, set basic anchors, belay and follow a lead climber.

The course is being organized again this year by two veteran BCMC members, Kit Griffin and Paul Miller. One or two students from a previous Essential Rock Climbing course may be invited to help.

There is a participant fee of \$100 for this course.

Course prerequisite:

Successful completion of the Basic Outdoor Top-roping course or equivalent, i.e. it is essential that you are able to:

- tie-in to a climbing harness & belay without prompting,
- understand basic rope management, how to coil a rope and the climber's knots,
- figure of eight, clove-hitch, münster-hitch, fisherman's knots,
- able to explain “SERENE or ERNEST Anchors” and ABCD's of checking the belayer,

- understand climber's communication used outside a gym, e.g. ready to climb, on-belay, off-belay, climbing, ready to lower, etc.

Participants will be expected to bring:

- climber's harness, rock shoes & helmet (climber's preferred, cycling will suffice),
- 4 locking carabiners, 1 large pear/Münter-biner, & a belay device (no figure 8s),
- 2 slings of 7mm "static cord" -- one of 1.5 metres & one of 5 metres in length.

Program mentors and the BCMC will provide other needed equipment.

ICE SCREW SHARPENING - 10% DISCOUNT

BCMC has found a Canadian climber/machinist (Charles Pechousek) that offers ice screw sharpening: <http://www.icescrewsharpening.com/>. All ice screws are sharpened using a CNC milling machine. This resulting precision teeth that are sharper than new. Sharpening only removes about 1mm. So sharpening a screw 10 times changes a 17cm into a 16cm. The CNC machining process is cooled so no heat is generated that could damage the heat treatment of the screw. In addition, Charles can apply an aggressive tooth profile to any generation of Black Diamond Express or BD Turbo Ice screw. Also, Petzl, Grivel, DMM and Omega ice screws can be sharpened to an aggressive tooth profile. To keep the price competitive, Charles collects all the ice screws by a deadline and machines them in one batch. The deadline for Spring 2013 is Friday April 19, 2013. All screws must be received by this date.

Pricing is \$10 per screw, but BCMC members get a 10% discount. Please provide proof of BCMC membership when you ship your screws. Payment info, etc., can all be found here: <http://www.icescrewsharpening.com/>. Note that it is very IMPORTANT to make a self addressed return label. That way Charles won't misspell the address. Payment to Charles Pechousek. Personal cheques are good or PayPal to icescrewsharpening@gmail.com. For shipping please include in the cheque/PayPal or send stamps to cover postage and insurance if needed. Amount is the same as shipping here to me.

Ship to:

V.J. Screw Machine
Atten: Ice Screw Sharpening
2715 rue Louis-A.-Amos,
Lachine, Quebec
H8T 1C3

Olympic Oval Climbing Wall offers 30% Discount to BCMC - Werner Grimzek

The 'Richmond Olympic Oval Climbing Wall' offers all adult BCMC Members a 30% Discount on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm – 10pm.

- All adult BCMC members will pay the 'Young Adult' Daily Admission Rate of only \$11.50/Drop-In including tax. (Regular Adult is \$16.50. Vancouver Gyms charge us \$18.14!). The \$10 one time climbing registration fee is waived. Youth below 19 years pay the youth rate of currently \$9.25.

- This deal starts coming Monday, April 1st.

- Until we have our self-printable membership card on the computer (planned for end May) just tell the cashier you are from the BCMC.- Please check the Oval Drop-In Track Schedule for any wall closures.

<http://richmondoval.ca/participate/the-facility/climbing-wall/default.htm>

- Plus: This very low Drop-In rate gives BCMC members access to all regular Oval facilities during above mentioned time. If you don't climb there, use their Fitness Mezzanine, Track, Courts, Ice Zone.

- This discounted Drop-In rate is currently one of the lowest climbing rates around Vancouver for BCMC'ers! Their Drop-In is 37% cheaper than in Vancouver and if you go 6 times per month for 3 month you still save 21% or \$54 and you don't have to commit to buy a pass!

Icefield Discovery Camp with the Yukon ACC

This camp is adjacent to Mt Logan. The Yukon Alpine Club is running the camp from May 27 to June 9. People can fly up for as long as they want and use the camp for a total cost of \$140 per person. They will also need permits from parks. The only real costs are for flying into and out of camp which is around \$600.00 per trip.

For more camp information and contact information contact the YUKON ACC.

In the news

Manning Park Ski Resort has closed permanently April 1 after failing to find a buyer. The commercial operation has been in receivership since 2009, it is expected that the closure will adversely affect winter access to Lightning Lakes.

Richard Lowe, last survivor of first successful Everest Expedition died March 20, aged 90.

Rainbow Mountain Traverse, March 9, 2013 - Paul Kubik via BCMC Forum

A traverse of Rainbow Mountain beginning at Whistler Olympic Park and ending at Alpine Way in Whistler. The route up was via Hanging Lake and the southwest approach to the mountain. The descent was via the east glacier and Nineteen Mile Creek road.

Participants: Nicolas Jimenez, Paul Kubik (reporter), Bill Maurer

We've been taking advantage of the moderate avalanche conditions this year to knock off a few projects. The descent of the east glacier of Rainbow Mountain has beckoned for about twenty years so it rose to the top of the list. During the winter season the last couple of years, the avalanche risk was typically in the Considerable range. This year the hazard is largely in the Moderate range. We found the hazard Low to Moderate on the approach and descent. I don't think I'd want to descend the east glacier with a Considerable rating. There are steep pitches with cliff bands and ice fall. There is lots of hangfire on the walls above. Near the top there is possible windloading. Good visibility is also necessary. As mentioned in Baldwin's guide, there is a cliff band at 1800 metres that can only be passed on skiers right. Inviting slopes entice you

above the cliffs so a good altimeter reading should be made before descending. If a slide took you here, you would be carried over cliff bands.

On this day, we had good snow stability and clear weather with no wind except in the high col and summit. The altimeter was accurate. Snow conditions for skiing were reasonable but not optimal. There was recent snow but the near surface conditions were highly variable. There was some blower powder, wind buffed powder and lots of sections of near surface layers possibly due to high freezing levels the previous week. There was one wind loaded section on the upper plateau that released when cut but this was the only instability we encountered. We found that following the tracks of a guided party of a day earlier was a good strategy on the descent. Everytime we tried to deviate from the line we found terrain obstacles that forced us to backtrack to the guide's line. If there is one thing to be said in the negative for the route it's that you cannot ski a clean line straight off the subsummit of Rainbow that is at the head of the east glacier. You must descend from the high col (2250 m) on Rainbow to the north and on the plateau wrap back around to the east to get back to the fall line

Late Ice Climbing at Lillooet, March 9,10/2013 - Werner Grimzek

Participants: Bala K, Hash G, Oudi C, Colin C, Werner (Organizer)

Left at 6am on Saturday, had coffee at Starbucks-Squamish, ran into Jeff R.(Treasurer) and Peter G. at Gas Station at Pemberton - they went somewhere for skiing (They haven't discovered ice climbing yet). There was only ONE other car at the Rambles parking lot. Huffed and puffed up the steep approach to Rambles Center

Met another BCMC group of 4 or 5 ice climbers with Dean P. as their leader - this guy is unstoppable :-). Climbed all day on totally good ice all the way up to the 3rd pitch. Felt very much like spring - on a lot of perfect and dry ice so late in the season! Stayed at the Retasket Lodge/Lillooet, 4 guys in one room for \$25 each including tax and breakfast.

Next day/Sunday more climbing at the Rambles Center - felt like 'a day at the beach' - ideal conditions - great ice, no water running, straight sun shine after high noon, 2-3 degrees C. perfect ice climbing at the West Coast. So much better than at -20C at the Rockies.

- We were a great crew so typical for Vancouver: Hash the ice climber from Sri Lanka, Bala the ice man from South India, Oudi an ice climber from France-Algeria-Germany, Werner/Germany and Colin - I did not ask him but Colin, you seemed to be (the lonely?) Canadian???...are you??...I just loved that MIX!!!!

Great 'Late Ice' - Great Climbing - Great Company!! Thank you guys for coming out and having a great trip which felt to me like 'Ice Climbing on the Beach'.

Thar Peak Snow Couloir - Cormac Flynn via BCMC Forum

An easily accessible straightforward snow couloir. Took advantage of an improved forecast and headed to Falls Lake today (March 11). Went up a narrow couloir on Thar Peak (marked with red dots in the photo on the last page). Quite pleasant in current conditions and longer than expected. No steeper than 45 degrees. The snow was so good it almost squeaked. Crampons and single axe sufficed. Went over the summit and descended the wide couloir, which exits at the western end of Falls Lake. This is also in straightforward nick. The narrow ascent couloir offers the better atmosphere, I think. Early or late season may offer some short sections with climbing interest. It's like a long version of Brunswick NE couloir without the long dull approach.

