

# BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club  
Newsletter



## **UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL**

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, Sept 10 - Geoff Mumford presents  
on a twenty day trek to Everest base camp  
along the original Nepalese approach.

*Aug-Sept 2013, Vol 91, No. 7*

**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: Geoff Mumford in front of Everest

Back Page: Summit Shot from Baker Summer Solstice Trip (top)

Summit Shot from Sedgwick (bottom)

**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](http://www.bcmc.ca)

### Sept 2013

3	September Executive Meeting	Francis St Pierre
6-7	Mt. Athelstan Scrambling - D3	Jeff Han
7	Saturday Squamish Rock Climbing - A5	Werner Grzimek
8	Corteo Peak C3/4	Paul Kubik
10-12	Trail Work in Garibaldi Park - A1	Brad Percival
13-15	Mount Samson North Face - AD+, ice	Don Montrichard
14-15	Longspur Pk. - D2	Alastair Ferries
15	Rock Mentorship Program - Completion B-C 5	Francis St Pierre
20-22	Mount Weart North Face - AD+, ice - C5	Don Montrichard
21-23	Trail Work in Garibaldi Park - A1	Brad Percival
21	Mt. Sheer and Mountain Lake Hut - B 2/3	Geoffrey Zenger
21	Bastion Peak - D4	Craig Speirs
22	Cypress Peak (Date Changed) - B 2/3	Geoffrey Zenger
24-26	Trail Work in Garibaldi Park	Brad Percival
24-29	Yosemite FaceLift 2013	Anders Ourom
27-29	Mount Sloan Northeast Ridge - AD-, low-5th	Don Montrichard
28-29	Coquihalla - Sutter's Brother - B2	Karl Ricker

### Oct 2013

5-6	Mt. Barbour hike and fish - D2	Alastair Ferries
5	Saturday Squamish Rock Climbing	Werner Grzimek

## NEWS AND NOTICES

**The BCMC welcomes the following new members:** Alasdair Ross, Mark Jenkins, Jordan Uittenbogaard, Dan Chalmers, Siegfried Rohdewald, Kevin Mueller, Kitty Brodie, Larry Stroh, Minoru Tsumori, Connor Fries, Ian Gray, Christian Molgat, Heidi Kilham, Mike Mattinson, Trent Newkirk, Sean Park, Todd Pettit, Clare Lappin, Rebecca Eames, Herre Wiersma, Georgee Low, Jude Morin, Areli Aguilar Osnaya, Chris Jackel, Dean Smith, Allan Linde, Karen Bond, Brian Shannon, Gary Young, Carine Cali Vindeirinho, Darrell Harrington, Elizabeth Morrison, Peter Lauritzen, Jenette Ziegler, Adrian Forsyth, Yoel Guttmann, Tim Beals, Colin Schmidt, Tiffany Picard, Sara, Peter Hanzely, Jen Dobell, Liam Levesque, Brian Martin, Jean Lambert, Louise Marion, Al Fortune, Jason Doull, Garreth Granger, Dorothy Filpula, Josiah Koenig, Balpreet Nijjar, and Carson McQuarrie

**Submit your photos for the BCMC Spring/Summer Photo contest** until September 30, 2013. There are three separate categories: hiking/scrambling, climbing, and mountaineering, members can submit a maximum of one photo per category, photos should have been taken during Spring and Summer, i.e. Mar 20 to Sept 21, from any year. Contest voting results will be confirmed at the October 2013 BCMC Executive Meeting. Winners will receive a \$25 MEC Gift Certificate. Enter your photos on the BCMC website today and vote for your favourites!

## Renewal Notice For Club Year 2013-2014

Please help our Membership Volunteers to spread out their work and renew your membership  
\*Today\* - IN SEPTEMBER!

Please be advised that - if you entered the BCMC before October 1st, 2012  
your 'BCMC Membership' ends September 30th and is due for renewal on October 1st.

If most members wait till end September – our volunteers will not be able to handle 300 - 400  
renewals within a few days. Please help – RENEW TODAY!

- a) Fill in the attached Renewal Form and mail it in together with your cheque. –OR-  
b) Renew via this link on the web page <http://bcmc.ca/memberrenew.asp>

Please remember our changed renewal rules - there is no more grace period after October 1st.  
Those who have not renewed by October 1st lose their status as a 'member in good standing',  
receive no more News Letter, cannot sign up for trips nor access the complete Webpage.

If possible, please renew for 2 or more years – as this helps to cut our volunteer's work in half or  
even less, and you don't have to deal with another renewal again in 12 or 24 months.

Some services the BCMC offers its fully paid 'members in good standing':

- Sign-up at over 350 Club Trips per year
- Stay informed via our webpage, e-news, etc.
- Sign-up for courses & instructional trips
- Receive our Newsletter and Mountaineer
- Find always Partners via our Partner List
- Stay connected with 650+ BCMC Members

Our extended Discount Program gives \*money back\* to all our paid-up members:

- Olympic Oval -20%
- Cliffhanger Gyms -10%
- The Hive Bolder Gym -10%
- Canada West Mt. School (mostly) -20%
- Zipcar and Car2go (up to)-32%
- Icebreaker (up to 50%) -30%
- MEC-10%
- Baully Specialty Foods -30%
- Mt. Hardwear\* (via Strub) -20%
- Merrell\* -20%
- Kuehl\* -20%
- Columbia\* -20%
- Deuter\*-20%
- Arcteryx\*-20%
- Yakima (#via Rack Attack) -10%
- Thule# -10%

\*Above discounts alone easily pay for much more than your membership fee of \$ 40 or \$ 50!\*

Again – please help our volunteers and renew your membership today via mail/cheque or via our  
webpage link <http://bcmc.ca/memberrenew.asp>

Thank you very much for your continued support.

## Peter Almerling - In Memoriam

*By Brittany Zenger*

Peter Almerling joined the BCMC in 2012, joining the ACC around the same time, he quickly became involved in club activities, participating in club trips and organizing outings. He was a doting father to three kids and dedicated in his professional life as a successful businessman and accountant. His goals in joining the BCMC included plans to climb Denali.



He made an impression on any club member who met him, with his positive, calm demeanor. One member recounts meeting Peter and his daughter at the Richmond Oval Climbing wall. Peter was at ease, happy to just belay and foster his daughter's love of climbing. Referring to children, he quipped that with "three children you may as well have five, that regular cars can't hold 5 people and that could only mean one thing: minivan!"

Another club member recounts meeting Peter, "I first met Peter at an outdoor basic climbing course with the BCMC in June. His enthusiasm, passion and zeal for the outdoors shone through from the moment you met him. He was also a great teacher. I learned so much from Peter in those few trips I spent with him. From food to gear and back to olive oil." Another person noted, "... one thing I saw in him is he had the ability to bring people in. He was very tolerant and patient and forgiving. I think those are really special qualities and even though I barely knew him, it was very clear he possessed them."

His professional background shined through in his preparation: "[Peter] mentioned he was an accountant, a numbers and logic guy and I noticed how this translated into his preparation for the trip (meticulous gear packing)."

Peter frequently left an impression on the people that met him, one member recounts: "A week before [the trip], I organized a night ski 'get together' for participants. Peter and one other member showed up and we did a couple of laps up Seymour. We talked about everything... skiing, kids, business, and mutual acquaintances. Since Peter was a successful businessman and entrepreneur, I found our conversation especially interesting. After the ski, we had a beer together. We talked mostly about mountains and stuff. Peter wanted to climb Denali next year and was going to do some training. When Peter left, the two of us that stayed turned to each other and said simultaneously "what a nice guy"."



On the weekend ski trip that was Peter's last, he summited Mt Rainier. One fellow trip participant noted, "he was really happy to be on the trip and boy was he happy to have gotten to the summit". On the ski descent, Peter caught an edge, and

was unable to arrest. Valiant rescue efforts were made by fellow BCMC members and climbing rangers were able to air lift him off the mountain the same day. Peter never woke up from the traumatic injuries suffered in his fall. He went on to save other lives as an organ donor. He will be remembered within the mountaineering community for his friendliness, warmth and passion.

Peter is survived by his wife, Estelle and three children Alyssa, 11, Sofia, 9, and Aidan, 3.

Deon Molloy, a joint ACC-BCMC member, has setup a “Donations Account” at TD for people wishing making an anonymous donation to Peter’s family. Anyone can now make a donation at any TD Canada Trust branch, so feel free to pass the information on and get other people to contribute. As Deon says, “our community, as small as we may seem, is capable of big things, more selfless than our personal objectives”.

The account is:

Branch # 91940

Account # 5242657

Name - Peter Almerling Fundraiser

## Trip Reports

### Summer Solstice Baker Summit

On the previous weekend, a BCMC group went a little more than halfway up the Easton Glacier route, not intending to summit, but making good time. We realized that the conditions were perfect for an alpine style ski to the summit in a single day. The stage was set for an attempt the following weekend, which happened to be Summer Solstice.

Participants: Mike Hamata, Cameron Norton, Andrew Brown, Dominik Schaefer, Magda Wierzbicka, Angus Robb.

Date: June 22, 2013.



We slept in the cars, and were “skinning” up the Park Butte trail by 4:45.

The snow was intermittent up to the foot of the moraine on the summer route, and we boot packed most of the way up the creek. We were stopped by fog for 45 minutes at the toe of the Easton Glacier.

When the fog broke by around 6:15, the skies opened, and it looked like we had lucked out and indeed picked the perfect day. Blue skies, firm snow, and the longest day of the year.

We got to Sandy Camp at 8 a.m., and were a

little surprised to see some of the lazier mountaineering groups in their tents still. It was getting warm, and they had a long day of post-holing ahead of them.

After passing camp, we swung to climber's right, and headed straight up the mellow glacier, still totally filled in, rather than ascend up the more crevassed rolling hills on the climbers left of the route, favoured by the mountaineering groups.

My 5 year old skins weren't happy with the warming snow, but a little duct tape courtesy of Magda and Andrew kept them on for the rest of the day. We roped up at about 7500 feet, and continued to push upwards. We got to the crater by about 1:00.

After a quick break, started up the still very snow covered Roman Wall, with Andrew Brown setting the world record for most aggressive skin track set by a splitboarder.

We gained the summit by 2:30, exchanged views on the merits of the older style DPS Wailers with another group on the summit (including a lady skier who stole poor Cam's heart), who had also come up from the cars that morning, via the Squak Glacier. We took our summit shot and proceeded to ski back down to the cars in heavy and wet snow.

We were on the lawn of the Brew Pub on State Road 20 by 5:30. A nice little Saturday.

## **Mt Sedgwick**

Trip Date: July 13-14, 2013

Participants: Thomas Bissig, Ed Fischer, Helen Habgood, Darrell Harrington, David Overall, Ilze Rupners, Pavel Sorokin, Christina Williams, Brittany Zenger, Geoff Zenger (organizer and reporter)

Report: I've stared at Mt. Sedgwick from highway 99 countless times over pretty much my entire life, but I never took advantage of the easy access to Woodfibre prior to the closure of the mill and ferry in early 2006. Access today involves obtaining permission to dock at Woodfibre from its owners as well as arranging for a water taxi to take you over and pick you up, which can be costly. Luckily for me, there are many others in the same situation and I was able to round up a group of 10 BCMC and ACC members to split the cost of the water taxi and head over for a long two days to the now rarely visited peak.

We began by catching a water taxi from Squamish at 9am on the Saturday that got us over to Woodfibre where we were met by one of the on-site weekend staff members (the site is still used for electricity generation) who took our contact info, showed us which road to start walking up, and sent us on our way. The road behind the town switchbacks up steeply for just over 3km (ignore all new logging spurs) to a water intake facility, where the correct route takes the right hand branch just prior to the facility. From here, it continues up Woodfibre creek for another 3km or so before reaching a footbridge over the creek and the start of the trail up to Henriette Lake. Note that while the bridge is somewhat damaged it is still easy to cross and the creek is small enough anyways

that it would be easy to cross without a bridge.

Across the bridge, the trail up to Henriette Lake is pleasant and in very good condition and we were up at the lake at noon, just 2.5 hours from when we started. The hut is still in decent condition, albeit mouse infested. The helipad at the lake made a great platform to relax and eat lunch before we headed off to see if the trail up to the ridge above Sylvia Lake was still in passable condition (which was considered perhaps the biggest unknown of the trip a priori). Well... the trail is still followable (just continue on the obvious path past the helipad), and still well marked (some flagging, many markers on trees), but is badly overgrown in many places leading up to the ridge (my guess is that in another 5 years it will be getting hard to follow in places). Nonetheless, everyone whacked through the bush in good spirits and we made our way up to the point on the ridge directly above Sylvia Lake.

In exchange for permission to dock at Woodfibre, we had agreed to help out the owners by taking photos of the outlet of Sylvia Lake, and Thomas, Ed, and myself went down to find the outlet. Going down to the lake took only a few minutes, but it didn't take long heading around the lake to find a small cliff blocking our progress around the lake. Stubbornly refusing to walk back the way we went down and take the easy way around the cliff, Thomas led us straight up through the bush. 60 degree bush, occasionally wet, this was most definitely the crux of the trip for us, our struggles completely unbeknownst to the rest of our party who were sunbathing and waiting back on the ridge. From here it was straightforward down to the outlet of the lake where photos were taken and we hustled back to meet everyone else and continue our way towards Mt. Roderick.

The ridge has some substantial up and down as it contours around Woodfibre Lake, but the footbed was well defined and the trail easy to follow at least 90% of the time. The ridge is open enough that whenever we lost the trail it was always quickly stumbled upon again, and just as we started to tire we found ourselves at a beautiful camping spot on the ridge, approximately 1km SW of the summit of Mt. Roderick, a bit over 13km from where we started hiking. The weather and views were incredible all evening, and a great time relaxing was had by all.

The next morning we woke up at 5am, with the goal of getting moving by 6. The route from here to the summit of Mt. Sedgwick was straightforward, but long (still over 5km to go), and not always quick (some lower parts bushy, some higher parts bouldery), but everyone was on the summit of Mt. Sedgwick by 9:45. Success at last!

On the summit we enjoyed great views of the Tantalus range to the north, of the Sky Pilot area to the east, and the rarely visited areas around Phantom Mountain and Tzoonie Mountain to the west. Of course, we also filled our names into the summit register, and brought down an old summit register (including humorous complaints about awful weather dating back to the 1940s) to be donated to the BCMC or ACC archives. Shortly after 10 we departed, knowing that we still had over 18km of walking ahead of us to make it back to Woodfibre.

We were back in camp before 1, and on the trail again with our packs fully loaded shortly after 1:30. From here the going was easy as we knew the route from before and made it down to Henriette Lake at about 4 o'clock for a much needed break. Some of us rested on the helipad, others swam

in the lake, and others explored the cabin, but half an hour later it was time to make a call to the water taxi (there is cell reception near the dam) to arrange to be picked up, and we started on our way down. The road was agony, the worst part of the trip, but it eventually ended, and everyone was down and waiting by the dock by the time the boat came to pick us up at 7:00. Sitting in the water taxi and gazing back at Mt. Sedgwick as we headed back to Squamish I was exhausted, but filled with the satisfaction of having conquered the peak at last with a fantastic group of people. Thank you everyone for the great weekend!

### **Full Moon Frenzy - Stein in 28 Hours**

Participants: Alexis Guigue (reporter), Dean Perez, Alex Gibbs and Maxim Aleksandrov

First, a bit of history. Alex introduced the idea of Full Moon Frenzy runs last year. The basic concept is quite simple: take advantage of the full moon to hike/run longer. This year, we did not use this advantage too much as we were mostly trashing in the bushes. And haha! The other concept behind these runs is to make them longer every year with the idea that we should, like the wine, bonify with the age so that we should be able to tackle longer distances.

Last year, it was just Alex and I. We had an exhilarating 70K-80K hike/run in the South Chilcotins. This year, 2 extra participants joined us, Dean and Max.

It was kind of at the last minute that we decided to do the Stein. As a result, we did not really know how long it was. We only had a rough idea. Now, I know. To be fair, it is heavily dependent on your bush route finding skills. From Lilloet to Lytton, Max finally recorded 98.5K and 4592m of ascent, Dean had 93K and 4378m of ascent. We completed the distance in 28H non stop, much longer than I had anticipated. I thought that we could get to the suspension bridge by dusk and from there that it would be an easy 12K in the dark. I was strongly hoping for that as I knew that the bridge had been damaged and I could not get a 100% confirmation that it could be crossed. It turned out it was, which was a good thing as the river there is not precisely an invitation for wading!

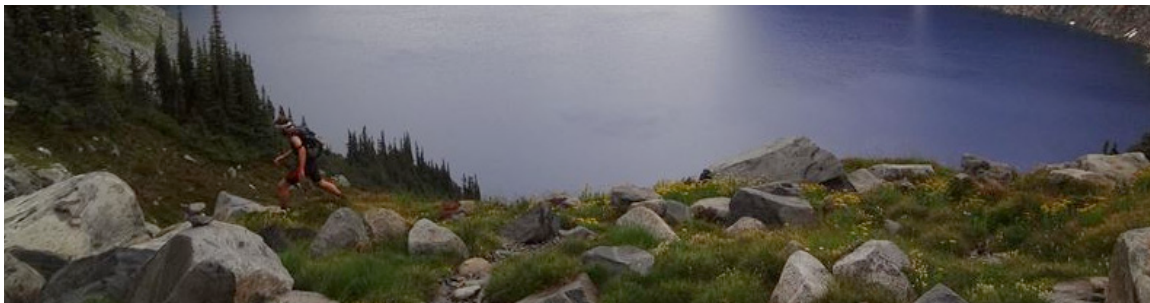
We started our journey in Vancouver at 2H30AM. We started to run at 5H40AM.

2 years ago, I did a trip in the area to bag some peaks so I knew quite well the route almost all the way to Cherry Pip Pass. Despite that, we got a bit lost in the Alpine beyond the cabin but it did not cost us too much time. At Cherry Pip Pass, it was quite overcast, limit white out and we had to do quite some route finding.

At this point, we were making quite good time. We were mostly running and we were feeling quite good. Soon, we came to Caltha Lake, where we had our first quick break.

The break was short as it started to rain a bit so we did not want to get cold. Over a little ridge and here Tundra Lake was below us. Amazing color.

The traverse along the lake was quite slow as it is just a boulder field. We made it through slowly and started to go up at the end of lake to reach the long ridge above Stein Lake. This was supposed to be the highest point of the traverse and from there it would be mostly downhill.



The run along the ridge above Stein Lake was quite exhilarating with superb views. At the end of the ridge, the trail dropped down 1200m all the way to the lake. It was steep, but the trail was in good condition and definitely runnable. We were happy and very convinced that we would get out as expected.

From there all the way to the second cable car crossing, it was very good running in the forest. This continued for a while on the other side of the river and then the trail started to become bushier and bushier, more and more often.

We started to move at a crawling pace. Our hope of getting to the suspension bridge changed to getting to Cottonwood. These hopes were themselves slowly but surely destroyed by the bushes. It got dark and we were still quite a ways from the third cable car crossing. Now, even when there were no bushes, we were still crawling as the trail bead was not easy to follow. But thanks to the



tenacity and energy of Max, we managed to never lose the trail. It was quite late, easily passed midnight when we got to Cottonwood.

At Cottonwood, the worst happened. We completely lost the trail, we tried to find it but could not, so now we had the perspective of a 9K walk in the forest to Ponderosa. We were a bit discouraged as the forest would change from quite open to heavy bushes. We kept going though using compass and GPS. Fortunately, thanks a genial intuition from Max, after 4K, we managed to cross the

trail. We were all so tired, but it was good news. Now, the trail seemed to be good, well at least better and easier to follow. We continued for a little bit and agreed for a 5min power nap. I do not

know how my companions were doing, but I could not really walk straight at this point. I was not too tired physically but so sleepy. Like zombies, we finally got to Ponderosa. Only 20K to go! I requested another power nap.

From there, trail was easy to follow. Soon, the sky started to clear which kind of energized my body. I was able to walk better. We were going quite slow, but we made it to the suspension bridge. It was clear now. We made it by day light as expected, just 10H later than scheduled :). Park kind of fixed a board so it was easy but not too safe to get on the bridge.

On the other side of the bridge, I called for a true break. 1min of rest there would equal to 20min less of walking, no doubt. So we crashed for 30min. Because of the exertion, I was quite quite cold and would not have been able to rest more actually.

When we woke up, we were quite energized. There was 12K to go, mostly downhill on an excellent trail. We started to run again, faster and faster. We were going hard at some point. I believe that we made it to the TH is 1H20 maybe. On our way, we met Alex's girlfriend.

At the TH, we were greeted by the two loveliest creatures, Max's daughters. The best greetings you could ever imagine.

A few comments to conclude:

- Thanks to the support crew, Alex's girlfriend and Max's family
- Thanks to Dean for the pics. Unfair for you, my friend, you are never in the pics
- This is actually a race :). The jury (Alex and I) decided to award to winning title to Max and the King of the Mountain title (i.e., the strongest climber) to Dean. Well done guys
- If interested, I could give the detail of what we packed. We went very light. Alex had his spot with tracking on so I could also give some precise time
- This is a superb area, and IF THE TRAIL IS MAINTAINED, this could become a classic mountain run (and be done only in daylight :))
- You are welcome to join Full Moon Frenzy 3 next year

