



BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club
Newsletter

UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL
At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm
Tuesday, Dec 10 - Local legend John Baldwin will share tales of icefields, flowers and powder, as well as a special discount on his new Whistler area ski map and other books.

British Columbia Mountaineering Club
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HONOURARY PRESIDENTS
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: Epic Powder (Photo: J Baldwin)

Back Page: Top: Sigurd Peak and Sigurd Lake from the high point west of the lake. Bottom: Looking towards Jimmy Jimmy (Photo: P Kubik)

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

December 2013

1	Skyline Divide - B2 (Beginners Welcome)	Seth Baker
1	Needle Peak Coquihalla - B2	Greg Hamilton
3	December Executive Meeting	Francis St Pierre
6-14	Early Ice Climbing Camp/Rockies - B5	Werner Grzimek
7	Panorama Ridge Snowshoe - C3	Paul Olynek
7-9	Matier Glacier Headwall - Ice Climbing WI4-5	William Ferguson
7	Zoa Ridge - A2 (Beginners Welcome)	Stanislav Liarsky
7	Alpen Mountain - B2	Geoffrey Zenger
8	Little Diamond Head - D3 FULL (wait list started)	Don Montrichard
10	BCMC Social: John Baldwin	
11	Seymour First Peak Night Ski - A2	Bill Maurer
14-15	Systems for Mountaineering Avalanche - Transceiver Skills	Justin Bennett
14	Table Mountain and Mt. Herman - (Beginners Welcome) - C2	Stanislav Liarsky
14	Alpine Practice @ Mt Seymour - A5	Serguei Okountsev
15	Musical Bumps Tour (FULL) C/D3	Don Montrichard
15	Introduction to Backcountry Skiing - A2	Bruce Cassels
18	Wednesday night skiing at Cypress - A3	Radmila Bridges
21	Systems for Mountaineering - Anchoring Intermediate Ice	Justin Bennett
22	Iago Peak / Ottomite - B2	Greg Hamilton
22	Introduction to Backcountry Skiing - A2	Geoffrey Zenger
28	Systems for Mountaineering Avalanche - Terrain- B1	Justin Bennett
28	Crown Couloir (F, ice) - C4	Serguei Okountsev
28-29	AST-1 Avalanche Skills Training for Snowshoers - B3	BCMC
29	Introduction to Backcountry Skiing-A2	Francis St Pierre
29	Ice Technique & Fitness Session-D5	Lee Purvis

The BCMC welcomes the following new members: Adam Christian, Adam Palmlblad, Alan Magni, Alex Strote, Amelia Stegeman, Amir Jam, Angus Sperling, Anna Rohsman, Betty Pietak, Bill MacFarlane, Blair Gorrell, Brandi Blais, Brent Seal, Bryson Castillo, C. Kwon Kim, Carl Wikner, Carolyn Klassen, Chris Carnie, Chris Collacott, Chris Hill, Christine Barr, Christopher Green, Claire Kendrick, Clive Roberts, Cynthia Barabe Domingue, David Cardoso, David Jackson, David White, Derek Dunbar, Duane Spencer, Elizabeth Hughes, Elton Battersby, Erin Bros, Ernest Fuller, Ernest McEachern, Gavin Davidson, Giovanni Bitelli, Jana Civanova, Jana Kralikova, Jeff Mackey-Murdock, Jesse Tinker, Jingyi Zhang, John Blair, Jon Smith, Jonathan Boyce, Jordana Meilleur, Julia Kramer, Julie Rezler, Kamel Shogi, Keiko Yamanaka, Kelsey Lee Mackenney, Kimberly Dawe, Lilia Ivanova, Liz Conibear, Lucy Lopez, Marcelina Piotrowski, Martin Rother, Marty Gradowski, Matthew Howells, Matthew Rosales, Matthew Taylor, Mauro Perizzolo, Mike Wang, Nina Darmstaedter, Oliver Wong, Pascale Cyr, Pavel Stech, Peter Allen, Peter Scott, Philippe Creux, Quentin Hamilton, Ralph Rinke, Rebecca Lee, Sasha Walshe, Sean Carron, Shirley Rempel, Shirley Wilcott, Spencer Brand-Adams, Stephan Bernhard, Stephen Norman, Steve Hibbert, Torbjorn Axelsson, Tracy Wilkinson, Valerie Williams, Wade Bush, Wendy Montgomery, Willa-Lee Reid, William Teichroeb, Zbigniew Switkowski, and Zdenek Sychrava.

Oops! Missing Old Newsletters from 2013?

Our apologies to the handful of members who had incorrect settings in their member profile that may have caused you to not receive some of your mailed newsletters. We've now hopefully corrected the problem, and you should receive newsletters from now on. If you are a collector of BCMC newsletters looking for back issues from 2013, please contact me at editor@bcmc.ca and I'll see what I can do for you.

Thank you to our dedicated trip leaders!

The following are the names of those who have led 2 or more trips this past year for the BCMC. They are in no particular order.

Brad Percival, Peter Malacarne, Margaret Hanson, Alastair Ferries, Jeff Ross, Seth Baker, Werner Grimzek, Serguei Okountsev, Geoffrey Zenger, Mike Hamata, Alexis Guigue, Stanislav Liarsky, Don Montrichard, James Clarke, Winifred Swatschek, Jim Vercammen, Francis St Pierre, Bill Mauer, Craig Speirs, Andrzej Jarzabek, Paul Olynek, Alena Dzujkova, Adrian Lazar, Neil Beattie, Karl Ricker, Justin Bennett and Waldemar Jonsson.

The BCMC executive has decided to award to each of you club members who have given your time and expertise to lead 2 or more trips and or be a course instructor for 2 courses during this past year. You may have your choice of either a BCMC T-shirt or club bandana. A new t-shirt order is now in and you will have 3 color choices, white, grey, honey yellow. Please see David Scanlon at a social to get your award.

Organising A Ski Trip

Article by James Clarke

As many of you know I have now organised a several ski trips and I thought it would be good to share what I have learnt to encourage those people with several trips under their belts as participants to become organisers. So here it is;

- * Decide when and where to go - pick a time when you don't have masses of other commitments (there is some work to do) and buy or borrow a copy of Exploring the Coast Mountains on Skis; or pick a destination that you have already been to. Due our glaciated mountains there are only a small number of potential venues that have simple or challenging terrain so your choices will be limited but they all need visiting;
- * Post the trip on the BCMC website there are two choices, either months in advance or a few days before so you can cash in on optimum conditions. Both will result in people wanting to join your trip surprisingly quickly;
- * Think about having some kind of prequalification (AST-1, BCMC Intro to Backcountry Skiing etc) to help filter likely participants. If you have already been out on trip with them you will likely know some of the participants and their strengths and weaknesses;
- * Use other trip organisers trip posting to help write your, the level of detail required can range from meet at the Church at 8am through to quite detailed planning;
- * Use the BCMC trip planning tools and don't be shy about asking participants questions about their skill and fitness levels;
- * Use the avalanche forecast and Avaluator, I am assuming that you have completed AST-1 or

similar training but nothing else. Sign up to regular Avalanche emails from the CAA and read them you will be able to get a general idea of what is going on with the weather and snowpack.
Making a decision;

- * Find the terrain rating for the trip;
- * Find the forecast avalanche risk for that location, terrain type and elevation the trip is at;
- * Mark the risk assessment on the Avaluator or using the trip planning tool on www.avalanche.ca

- * And if the Avaluator advises extra caution and you are not comfortable with your or the groups ability to manage the extra risk then cancel the trip or move to a different location, do not be worried about what the trip participants think, in the trips I have organised I have had only person question my decision to cancel the trip so by in large people are understanding.
- * You should now be at the meeting place waiting for the group, collect them all, sort the cars and go ski;
- * And make it home safely and reflect on a great day out and start planning your next adventure.

Have fun making the BCMC the most active mountaineering club in Canada!

The BCMC Shifting Gears!!!

President's Report - Francis St Pierre

Dear Fellow members. As many of you may have noticed, the BCMC has accomplished a lot in the past year... thanks to the consistent work from many volunteers.

The first good news is that we closed our 2013 Fiscal Year with a total of 686 members, a net increase of 125 members (22%) over the previous year, and the largest number of members ever in the BCMC's 106 years of history. There are several reasons for what fueled this growth.

First, we offer a good product! We are a very active club with well over 300 "trips" scheduled every year. We schedule interesting presentations every month, publish an informative monthly Newsletter, frequent e-News, and of course we also offer a good selection of courses. We did all these things, and many more, at least as well as in the past, and in most cases challenged and surpassed ourselves. However, what sets this year apart is the launch of a new website, and establishing relationships with many new commercial partners offering discounts of up to 30% to BCMC members. Easier trip management and money back to our members had a positive impact!

While we improved our product, we also made huge strides forward in promoting the club more widely. The BCMC is now more visible on Social Media, at events around town, at retailers in Vancouver and the Sea-to-Sky, and at popular climbing events and areas. It's surprising how many Vancouverites aren't aware of the BCMC.

The second good news is that the club remains financially very strong. Revenues, once adjusted for the change in membership accounting policy, are very healthy. In addition, the club is in a fortunate position to have an excess in liquid assets that can be invested to the benefit of the club, its members, and the outdoor community at large. In 2013, the club executive launched an embryonic effort to fund member-driven projects that support the objectives of the club. We hope

to ramp-up this program, so bring forward your projects for trail work, improving access, exploring new areas, setting new routes... The club hopes to provide some funding to many new exciting member-driven projects in the coming years.

What I find most amazing is that this could all be achieved through volunteer efforts. So I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all our volunteers, including our trip leaders and instructors, who make all this good stuff possible. My Dream? Get ready for more... all this could just be the first step towards making the BCMC one of the top clubs in North America!!! We have the perfect location and setting.

Want to become more involved? Contact me! I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Treasurer's Report - Jeff Ross

The end of the 2012/13 fiscal year finds the BCMC in healthy financial condition. Cash in the bank could cover about a year's expenses. Continued membership growth and program offerings will likely put the club in an enviable position compared to other clubs. The club continues to spend the majority of its revenue on supporting the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, insurance, communication (website, newsletter, Mountaineer), and social activities.

Significant financial statement highlights this year include:

- A large increase in the deferred revenue liability due to the new 12-month rolling membership.
- Amortization expense doubled as the new website was launch and costs associated with its development began to be expensed over time.
- Along with amortization, ongoing website operating expenses increased because of more sophisticated hosting services required by the new site.
- Marketing expenses increased dramatically in the year and it is expected that this spending contributed to our record number of members at year-end.

It is quite obvious from looking at the club's balance sheet that there is about \$82k of investments in the General and Literary & Reserve funds. This balance has remained unchanged for several years. It has been noted by several club members that these funds would be better spent on club activities rather than sit in the bank. Thus, there is a real opportunity for members to submit proposals for projects that would benefit the club. This opportunity also comes with the risk that the funds are mis-managed. The executive addresses this issue by developing a set of guidelines for approving project funding requests. I encourage all members to review these guidelines and start thinking of ways we can use the funds to further the club's objectives.

One significant project that is expected to be completed in 2013/14 is the release of the latest edition of the 109 Walks book. The club has spent its \$3,500 advance in researching the latest edition. Costs remaining to get the book to market include map production and some additional research. These costs are expected to be \$1,500 - \$3,000 and the executive has agreed to pay these costs in anticipation of future royalties from book sales.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Treasurer for the past two years. I have had the opportunity to work with some very talented and dedicated volunteers and I leave the executive as such knowing that the club is as strong as ever.

Trip Report: Pokosha-Sigurd Inaugural Trip - October 27, 2013

Participants: Peter Gumplinger, Paul Kubik (reporter), Doug Lonsbrough, Peter Malacarne

The club is applying to manage a new hiking and ski mountaineering trail up Pokosha Creek with the destination of Sigurd Lake. It will eventually provide a horseshoe-shaped traverse around the headwaters of Sigurd Creek by connecting with the existing Sigurd Creek Trail, which the club manages.

I contacted a few people that have worked with me in the past both on Pokosha and Sigurd routes. We needed to get a GPS track for the proposal. The weather was almost ideal for the trip. The only downside was the forecast high winds in the alpine but at least it would blow the fog out of the valleys and clear the Salish Sea.

We set off up the brushed out Pokosha Creek road. At the road end a marked and improved trail crosses the major avalanche track off Pokosha Peak's south side. There is also a convenient canyon that effectively blocks motorized access to the area. Across the canyon, the route continues through slide alder to old growth forest. There is some difficult terrain to cross on a steep sidehill before the valley opens up into a broad U-shaped valley. Recent brush clearing makes for a fast climb to the head of the creek.

At the valley head a couple of major creeks (and avalanche tracks) combine to form Pokosha Creek. A final steep climbing traverse of 100 meters brought us to the pass about 2 hours from the vehicle parking. We now had to determine the best route to the lake. Previous forays up the ridge were on skis. It's a different story on foot. We set off up a ridge escarpment but ran into several steep rocky steps. It was not an ideal route for a trail.

We gained the subalpine and continued to the summit high point overlooking the lake. The winds were high with gusts almost knocking you over. A brief summit stop out of the wind was taken and then we started down around 1:40 PM.

We chose a different route down that brought us into Sigurd headwaters. We were about one kilometer south of our up track but the terrain was a lot better for hiking. We lost a couple hundred meters of elevation from the summit before climbing back to the north to get around a cliff and rock slide above the pass area. There is a landmark rock that I recognized from previous traverses on snow. It is pretty much on the conservancy boundary. From the rock we traversed north to gain open timber. There was a decent route down over benched terrain that was not obvious on skis. We flagged the route down from the landmark rock to the pass and then retraced the route home.

A couple of days later I received a nice surprise. I got some photos from Peter Gumplinger from an overflight he and Silke took on the Monday after our hike. The photos showed the terrain we had traversed and highlighted a couple more options for connecting with Sigurd Trail that we will probably explore next summer.

