

BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club
Newsletter



UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm
Tuesday, Jan 8 - Adrien Thevenet and
Dean Perez present their January 2012
mountaineering adventure to Ecuador's
famous volcanoes.

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British Columbia Mountaineering Club
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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: Dean Perez: Hiding from the South American sun.

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

Jan 2013 Trips

4-7	Feelin Fine on the 99 - Ice Climbing - WI3+	William Ferguson
5	Mt. Harvey - North Ramp - Mountaineering - C4	Serguei Okountsev
5-7	Ice Climbing - Lilloett - WI 3-5	Werner Grzimek
5	<i>Introduction to Backcountry Skiing - A2</i>	<i>Diana Diaconu</i>
6	Rainbow Mountain	Mike Hamata
10	Pulling on Plastic @ Cliffhanger Coquitlam - A5	Brittany Zenger
12	Brunswick Mountain - NE Couloir - Mountaineering - C4	Serguei Okountsev
12-13	Bridge River Ice Climbing - B5	Don Montrichard
12	Ice Climbing - leaders choice - WI-4	Darrin Fast
17	Pulling on Plastic @ Cliffhanger Coquitlam - A5	Brittany Zenger
19	Markhor - Needle Traverse - Mountaineering - C4	Serguei Okountsev
19-20	<i>AST-2 - Weekend 1 of 2 (Advanced Avalanche Skill Training) - B3</i>	
19-21	Ice Climbing - Beginners & Moderates - WI 2-5	Werner Grzimek
19	Black Tusk Meadows - BEGINNER FRIENDLY - B2-C2	Don Montrichard
19	Great Bear & Iago - B2	Jeff Ross
19	Williams Peak/Ridge Snowshoeing - C-M2	Brad Percival
24	Cliffhanger Coquitlam - A5 Indoor Climbing -	Brittany Zenger
25-28	European Flavours - Other	William Ferguson
26-27	<i>AST-2 - Weekend 2 of 2 (week 1: Jan 19-20) - B3</i>	<i>Waldemar Jonsson</i>
26	Porcupine Peak, Manning Park - Snowshoeing - D1	Alastair Ferries
26	<i>Introduction to Backcountry Skiing - A2</i>	<i>Thomas Schroeder</i>
26	Gin Peak - B2	Jeff Ross

Feb 2013

2-4	Ice Climbing near Lilloett - WI 3-5	Werner Grzimek
2-3	<i>AST-1 Avalanche Skills Training for Skiers & Boarders - B3 (FULL)</i>	
2-3	<i>AST-1 Avalanche Skills Training for Snowshoers - B3 (Still spots free!)</i>	
2	Three Brothers Mtn - BEGINNER FRIENDLY - B2-C2	Don Montrichard
9-10	Fraser Canyon Ice Climbing - B5	Don Montrichard
9	Climb Metal Dome in the Callaghan - C2	Jeff Ross

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Katie Stafford, Charlie Bartlett, Rhiannon Johnson, Lee Anne Belcourt, Michelle Lord, Andrei Smertin, Marc Simard, Thomas Abbott, David Puddicombe, Salome Abbott, Jasmine Freed, Markus Adler, Elia Mishkis, Mike Fraser, Magda Wierzbicka, Stephane Nicaise, Madalene Earp, Dorothy Bartoszewski, Charles Pereira Da Costa, Mohammad Dehghani Ashkezari, Colin Gilbert, Chris Ciesla,

Mike Nelson, Camille Schoebel, Tamara Mobuchon, Valerie LeBlanc, Wayne Robinson, Carolyn Cowdell, Jeahyung Kim, Brian Counihan, John Kirkbride, Austin Taylor, Connor Brown, Roham Karamiyar, Dennis Richards, Michael Rouse, Susanne Instance, Joel Lafortune, Ingrid Vloet, David Willis, Kyle Martin, Rick Bennett, Hai Fang, and Gary Hamata.

It's awesome out there!

There're tons of fun trips on the schedule: skiing, snowshoeing, and climbing. Come out with the club today and meet some new people and some old friends. If there's a type of trip you'd be interested in seeing on the schedule, why not consider adding it yourself? Trip sign-up and trip organization are easier than ever, thanks to the tireless work of the BCMC volunteer webmasters.

BCMC Archival Photos Now Online

The North Vancouver Museum and Archives, home of the BCMC archives stretching back over 100 years, has a series of archival pictures from BCMC members on their web site, the link is:

<http://www.northvanmuseum.ca/collections8.htm>

BCMC Joins Facebook

The BC Mountaineering club now has a Facebook page! Help us spread the word by liking our page. Check us out at <http://www.facebook.com/BCMMountaineeringClub>

New Trip Email Options Now Available from Website - By Paul Olynek

I added the option for members to select which category of trips they would like to get email notifications for (after those trips have been approved and registration has opened). The "sendmail" process to email members will take place about 5 am... to reduce load on the site. I hope that eventually most members will make use of this option to be informed of new trips that interest them.

Members can login and update their Preferences for Trip Categories notifications on this page: https://bcmc.ca/club_preferences.php

Free One Day Intro to Backcountry Ski Courses - Jan 5 and Jan 26

An introductory course for those who have never skied outside a resort but would like to pick up backcountry skiing this winter. If you are a beginner-intermediate skier who can ski most 'blue' (intermediate) runs in bounds and want to try backcountry skiing, this trip is for you.

This is not an avalanche course and no previous avalanche training is required. Your

next step after taking this course is to take the AST-1 avalanche course.

What you will learn:

- Ski gear and how to use it (bindings heel lift, boots up-down mode, extendable poles)
- Taking care of your climbing skins
- How to dress to stay comfortable
- Beacon check and basics of winter safety
- Skin up technique
- Introduction to steep skinning technique
- Basic avalanche safety considerations
- Staying found and sound
- Any other questions that you may have

Transportation: we will car-pool from the meeting location. Participants will cover the car-pooling costs.

After completing this course you should have the confidence to join us on day trips in simple terrain such as Black Tusk Meadows and Three Brothers Mtn which we specifically organize for graduates from the Introduction to Backcountry Skiing day program.

However, if you would like to take your backcountry skiing further this year, we recommend that you also take Advanced Backcountry Skiing course in February (1 weekend) and Intro to Ski Mountaineering in March – both coming up and to be announced soon.

Please note that all these courses are for members-only but we do hope that you join and enjoy many other ski trips and winter courses that our club has to offer.

BC Parks Garibaldi Park Draft Management Plan Comments Open til January 10

BC Parks recently issued a draft management plan amendment for the Spearhead area and, up until January 10, 2013, are seeking further input via their website:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/garibaldi/garibaldi_mp_amend_comments.html

John Baldwin has provided members with his own response to highlight the importance and urgency for backcountry skiers for the need to respond to the current proposal.

Commentary By John Baldwin

Submitted to PC Parks Planning Section, November 2012

Introduction

I have given comments below on the aspects of the amendment that relate to backcountry skiing. Though the comments below are my own personal opinion, I feel that they represent the backcountry ski community as a whole. I am the author of Exploring the Coast Mountains on Skis and Backcountry Whistler, which are the guidebook and map to backcountry skiing in the Spearhead area of Garibaldi Park. I am very familiar with the viewpoints and concerns of backcountry skiers in the Spearhead study area as well as the rest of Garibaldi Park and the Sea to Sky Corridor. Parks BC has done an excellent job of consulting with various stakeholder groups including the FMCBC and various clubs and organizations involved on backcountry skiing such as the BC MC, sections of the ACC, mountain guides, local outdoor businesses etc. However the majority of backcountry skiers are not affiliated with any organization. There are approximately 10,000 backcountry skiers in southwest BC, and about 15,000 in BC. There are an additional number of about 10,000 in Alberta and perhaps 15,000 in Washington State. All of these backcountry skiers are drawn to the Spearhead study area by the world-class nature of the Spearhead area. The area also draws backcountry skiers from other areas all around North America and Europe. With the proposed huts, this interest will increase significantly.

Comments

Section 6.2.4 Winter Recreation (Backcountry Huts)

a. What do you support in Section 6.2.4

I support the entire section. I feel it gives Parks a clear guidance to proceed with appropriate huts that are widely supported by the public.

b. Is there anything you do not support in Section 6.2.4

No.

c. Is there anything missing in Section 6.2.4

No.

Section 6.2.5 Commercial Recreation Services Heli-Skiing

a. What do you support in Section 6.2.5

I support “no new areas will be considered within the park for additional heli-skiing”.

I support “BC Parks will work with the heli-ski operator to add value for other park user groups”

b. Is there anything you do not support in Section 6.2.5

I do not support the guidance that “heli-skiing opportunities will continue to be a recreational service offered in the park”.

I do not support the analysis given in the amendment draft, which suggests that hut siting can be adjusted to accommodate heli-skiing.

c. Is there anything missing in Section 6.2.5

I suggest adding “To explore whether BC Parks should be phasing out heli-skiing in the park”.

Rationale

One of the key motivations for the current Amendment to the 1990 Master Plan is the tremendous growth of backcountry skiing in the Spearhead area and the proposal to build huts. There have been major changes since 1990 that need to be acknowledged and addressed. This amendment does nothing to allow Parks to address the most important issues arising from those changes that are related to heli-skiing.

The continued support for heli-skiing does not allow Park staff enough lee-way to deal with major changes that are and will continue to occur within the Spearhead study area. Under the current guidance Parks staff would be directed to renew the heli-ski license that expires in 2016 for a longer term. There would be no opportunity to consider any issues arising from heli-skiing in the Spearhead area. With the proposed huts system and the continued growth of backcountry skiing it is possible that conflicts with heli-skiing would be unmanageable. Parks staff need to be given a guidance which allows them to consider all possible ways of dealing with these conflicts.

The development of a hut system in the Spearhead area will elevate this area to a world-class backcountry ski destination comparable to the well-known Wapta Traverse in the Canadian Rockies or the famous Haute Route in Europe. Backcountry skiers will come from all around the world to experience the unique natural setting and beauty that this area offers. Heli-skiing in the Spearhead area will have a very significant negative effect on the quality of experience that these visitors will have. No other world-class backcountry ski destination overlaps with heli-ski tenure.

The importance of backcountry skiing on the local economy is very significant and needs to be acknowledged.

It is also essential to recognize that phasing out heli-skiing in the Spearhead area will have very little impact on the Whistler economy. Heli-skiing will continue in the enormous tenure areas outside the park. This point does not seem to have been acknowledged in the analysis behind the amendment proposal where it is implied that phasing out heli-skiing in the park will have a negative effect of the local economy. Also significant is Whistler-Blackcomb's new backcountry guiding operation which will be negatively impacting by heli-skiing.

The proposed guidance does not allow Parks to fully develop a useful hut system. It has been suggested in the analysis behind the amendment that conflict between backcountry skiers and heli-skiing could be mitigated through appropriate hut siting. A well developed hut system needs to consider a wide range of issues regarding hut location such as appropriate spacing between huts for backcountry skiers safety. I feel strongly that if Parks staff are required to relocate huts to avoid conflicts with heli-skiing that it would result in very inappropriate hut locations. The only workable way to proceed is to give Parks staff the guidance that allows them to phase out heli-skiing in certain areas or in the entire area if that is what they feel is needed.

Since the 1990 Master Plan there has been a tremendous growth in mechanized activity in all areas surrounding Garibaldi Park. Backcountry skiers are increasingly looking to Garibaldi Park as an area free from conflict with motorized recreation. It is inappropriate to continue heli-skiing in the park without addressing this issue. Any guidance to Parks in the Amendment must allow Parks to consider the bigger picture and the role of the park.

The phasing out of heli-skiing in the park was supported by the public in 1990 and continues to receive large support yet the current guidance does not allow Parks to consider this issue fully.

A Vision for a BCMC Hut at Watersprite Lake

By David Scanlon

There has been talk for some time lately about the British Columbia Mountaineering Club having, obtaining, buying, building a clubhouse in the Squamish area; whether in the town proper or nearby. This is my vision to that end.

Having any kind of clubhouse in the town proper whether it would be an actual house, or town house, or any kind of structure would require in no particular order, insurance, a mortgage, the means to build one. Then; whom would keep it up, run it, look after bookings, sign on the dotted line as the holder of a mortgage? Would you?

My answer to this is, to build a BCMC cabin at Watersprite Lake. Where you say? The club obtained a province of BC tenure on the 17th of September 2009 to build a mountaineering cabin at Watersprite Lake. It is a small lake situated 23K east of Squamish at an elevation of 4700'. Where you say again? Go to bivouac and type in the name and you will see where it is located.

It has been said that the area is too small to have a cabin, and there is little to do there. Well, here again is my vision.

So why does the area have to be big? The clubs mountain Lake Hut sees much use and is a destination for many summer hikes. It is close to the city. The clubs North Creek Cabin sees much less use as it is quite a distance away. Some say too far even though the area is fantastic for winter skiing and summer mountaineering.

The answer is? The club holds any number of courses year round and there has always been the question of where will we go to hold these courses. Why not in a cabin that belongs to the club. Avalanche courses, summer and winter mountaineering courses, rock courses, winter camping courses, Brian Woods igloo building courses. The cabin would be the base. It would be close, cutting down on the travel time giving more time for the actual instructional time. At days end there could be a discussion of the days activities in a warm heated structure. It can be accessed even in bad weather.

And here is another “why there” question. There are almost no places in the province where we as non motorized outdoor persons can go in winter or summer to pursue our passions, this is one of those few places.

My plan is to have many trips to the area in the coming months giving you, the members, the opportunity to get to and see and evaluate the area for a proposed cabin. I'll have maps and cabin plans to show you the members at a later time as well to have a cost factor ready to show you. Then to have a membership vote in the spring at either a May or June social for approval to proceed with the construction of a cabin at Watersprite Lake. My long term plan would be to build in September.

If this does not get the go ahead, what then.? There would be no cabin at Watersprite Lake. The tenure that the club has is good for 10 years and at the end of that time period it would come to an end.

This is my dream. Are you interested? Would you want to help, be a part of this project? Watch the trip schedule in the new year for trips to the area.

In Memoriam: Jen King, 1922-2012

By Glenn Woodsworth

Club members who flew into the Waddington, Pantheon, or Niut ranges in the last few decades will probably remember Jen King of White Saddle Air Services, but few will know that she was a life member of the BCMC.

The first time I arrived at Bluff Lake to do some flying, about 1979, I drove down the airstrip past a little log cabin to a modern aircraft hangar. Jen greeted me and invited me into her log cabin, which was the administrative centre of the helicopter operation. Then she served tea and coffee, and cookies with homemade jam, all in fine china and with lace doilies. We discussed books, work, our families, and current affairs. Then we went out and inspected her vegetable and flower garden, including the tallest monkshoods I had ever seen. I don't remember what I had been expecting in this remote helicopter base, but tea and gardens weren't it.

Jen was born in Edmonton in 1922 into a coal-mining family. She loved music and dance and performed with a Ukrainian dance group. After the war, she moved to Vancouver and in 1948 married Harry King, who had been a pilot in the air force during the war. Jen worked as a bookkeeper in Harry's business in sales and also continued to dance with various groups.

Eventually the Kings and their young family moved to Victoria. In 1963 Jen and Harry made their first trip to the Chilcotin; in 1969 they bought land at Bluff Lake, about half an hour drive on gravel south of Tatla Lake (“Tatla City” as Jen sometimes called it). Over the next few years, they built the hangar and airstrip so they could commute to and from their home in Victoria. They generated their own electric power from a creek behind their

house: they were indeed well “off the grid” and still are to this day.

In 1974, Harry bought a Bell 47 helicopter. The family moved permanently to Bluff Lake in 1977, and White Saddle Air Services soon began business. But on August 1, 1978, Harry and his helicopter disappeared over Bute Inlet on a routine maintenance flight to Vancouver Island. Jen was devastated but, rather than retreating to Victoria, she carried on with the help of son Dave and his wife, Lori. The following year, son Mike arrived to carry on the helicopter business, and it is Mike who has flown many, many climbers into the Coast Mountains.

Jen continued to manage the administrative side of the business for many years, and collectively the family made the company a solid financial success. Jen gradually handed the business over to son Mike and his wife, Audrey. But even in later years when she was no longer involved with the business, she lived in her little house and continued to offer hospitality to visiting clients: tea and cookies, lively discussion, and tours of the garden. One of my last memories of her is of her and Fred Beckey talking, loudly: she was the only person I know who could talk Fred to a standstill.

Jen joined the BCMC and the Alpine Club in 1988, not for the trips but as a gesture of support and to keep in touch with the mountaineering scene. For years she kept a climbers’ log book, which became an invaluable source of new route information and was fascinating reading.

Jen died in Williams Lake in November at the age of 90. She will be missed by many. For me, whenever the monkshoods are in bloom in our Vancouver garden, I think of Jen. (But our monkshoods are never as tall or graceful as hers.) More importantly, few people appreciate that without Jen’s determination after the death of her husband, White Saddle Air Services probably would not have survived. Access to the Waddington, Niut, Pantheon, Queen Bess, and other areas would probably have been far more difficult than it is today. In that respect, she made a major contribution to mountaineering in the Coast Mountains.

I appreciate the help of Joe Cortese of Tatla Lake, who provided some of the biographical details for this note.



Remembering Pat
(John Patrick Crean January 1925-December 2012)
By Lorna Hawes

An honorary life-member, Patrick worked hard for the BCMC. He was in charge of the North Creek cabin construction and organized many ski camps. He particularly enjoyed ski-touring and hiking in the west coast mountains.

In contrast to his electrical engineer training in the UK, in Canada he became a businessman and mining prospector, tirelessly searching new and old claims both in BC and, more recently, in Nevada.

At his Lynn Valley home, he assiduously cultivated fruit trees and a large vegetable garden, whose produce he then preserved through bottling and freezing. Never a shortage of food in his house!

In later years, Parkinson's disease took hold. He managed well until September 2009, when yet another fall necessitated selling his house and moving into an assisted-living facility. Further complications became apparent after hospital visits.

Pat, leaves no family but this quiet, honourable and competent man leaves many good friends.

