

# BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club  
Newsletter



### **UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL**

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm

Tuesday, Mar 12 - Cathy Ross presents a history of Garibaldi Park including Billy Gray, BCMC'er who first blazed a trail to Black Tusk Meadows.

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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: Cathy Ross: Garibaldi Lake

Back Page: Craig Spiers skis Sigurd NF, Sigurd NF from Zig Zag, 2011 (Photos: Paul 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](http://www.bcmc.ca)

### March 2013

2	Cypress Telemark Festival-A1	Lawrence McIntosh
3	Mt Price - C3	Bill Maurer
6	Climbing Committee Meeting - A0	Don Montrichard
9-10	Late Ice Climbing 1 or 2 Days - W13-4,5	Werner Grzimek
9=11	Garibaldi Neve Traverse - C3 -	Don Montrichard
9	Mount Rohr (Beginner Friendly) - B2-C2/3 -	Jim Vercammen
9-10	AST-2 - CANCELLED	Instructional Program
12	BCMC Social: The Garibaldi History Project	Cathy Ross
16	Hanging Lake winter trail work - B3	Scott Nelson
16	Coleman Pinnacle - C3 -	Geoffrey Zenger
16-17	AST-2 - Weekend 2 CANCELLED	Instructional Program
19	Spring & Summer Trip Leader Orientation Session	Don Montrichard
23	Nequatque Mtn. - Snowshoeing - D3	Alastair Ferries
23-24	Watersprite Lake - B2	David Scanlon
29-30	Wendy Thompson Hut (Beginner Friendly) - C2	Mike Hamata
31-7	Mt. Edziza Provincial Park Traverse - C3	Don Montrichard

### Apr 2013

5-7	Ashlu-Elaho Divide Traverse- C3 Craig Speirs	
6	Saturday Rock Climbing Squamish - A5 Werner Grzimek	
6-7	Marriot Basin/WT Hut (Beginner Friendly) - B2-C2/3 Jim Vercammen	
6	Poland Lake - Manning Park - B2 Evelyn Feller	

## NEWS AND NOTICES

### New Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Dora Vanourek, Matthew Murray, Mathew Fournier, Anton Issinski, Scott Black, Paige Morrow, David Prescott, Michael Austin, Vanessa Lee, Annette Young, Joanne Machin, Miranda Alldritt, Sierra Laflamme, Andrew Ross, Carolyn Stock, Garry Stock, David Crerar, Ken Legg, Novalla Tulloch, Mary Saugstad, Xin Liu, Mark Bondyra, My Dang, and James Jeffery

### VIMFF 2013 BCMC Award Winner Announced

Every year, the BCMC sponsors a film award at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, this year the winner of the **BCMC Award for Best Mountain Culture Film** at VIMFF was awarded to: ***Himalayan Gold Rush***, directed by Eric Valli.

### Spring & Summer Trip Leader Orientation Session

Tue Mar 19, 2013, ANZA Club at 7:00 p.m.

Interested in organizing a Club trip but unsure of what is involved? Already organizing trips for the Club but wondering how to make it more efficient and organized? Attend the Spring & Summer Trip Organizer Orientation Session on March 19, 2013, at the ANZA Club. Enjoy some free pizza

& a beer (or other beverage) while taking in some lessons and tips from prolific trip leaders. Sign up on the club website. Contact Don Montrichard for further information.

Preliminary schedule of topics:

- \* Review of the Club's guidelines for trip organizers and participants
- \* Resources available for planning trips
- \* Tips on screening potential participants
- \* Leadership (recommended procedures, skills, experience and equipment)
- \* Suggested trips (hiking, mountaineering, other)
- \* Overview of the Club Website and the Trip Schedule
- \* Question & Answer Session

Pizza and beer to be provided by the Club, but participants must commit to organizing and posting a trip that will occur prior to September 2013.

## **Upcoming Community Events**

### **Telemark BC Hosts Festival Days**

Cypress Telemark Festival - Saturday March 2

Telemark clinics, races, apres ski party, and great prizes.

### **Outdoor Adventure Show** - Save \$4 with the BCMC - This Weekend - March 2-3

See the website News section for the coupon and more details about the show, being held at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

### **FEAT Canada Talks** - Rio Theatre - Friday March 8

Fascinating Expedition & Adventure Talks features 9 presenters for 7 minutes each, including Paul Gleeson, Lena Rowat and Aimee Dunn among others. Use the discount code VIMFF2013 to save on your tickets today. More details at <http://www.featcanada.ca/>

### **Incite: Stories of Climbing Everest** - Central VPL - Wednesday, March 27 - 7:30pm

Pat Morrow and Sharon Wood share their gripping stories of climbing Everest and reaching the summit in distinctly different ways. Free event, pre-registration encouraged.

### **North Vancouver Museum & Archives Receives Heritage Advocacy Award**

Letter of Thanks from Shirley Sutherland, Assistant Director NVMA

Thanks to North Vancouver Museum & Archives' 2006 exhibition on mountaineering and thanks to the ongoing support of the BC Mountaineering Club members, the NVMA is well on its way to being identified as an organization that wishes to actively preserve and promote an interest in mountaineering history. The District of North Vancouver last week awarded the NVMA a Heritage Advocacy award in recognition of the many initiatives undertaken under the banner of the Preservation of Mountaineering History and Lore. This includes projects undertaken with the support of the BCMC.

The project formally includes the in-gallery exhibition: Peak Performance: 100 Years of Mountaineering in BC (2006); the virtual exhibits Climbing to the Clouds: A Peoples History of BC Mountaineering (2010) and Mountain Light (2012); the Lynn Canyon Park interpretation program, The Mountaineer Pals; the Climbing to the Clouds School Program; the creation of a mountaineering artifact collection and most notably the acquisition and care of the BC Mountaineering Club Archives.

Had it not been for the request made by Hugh Kellas, on behalf of the BCMC, and the ongoing support of BCMC archivist Michael Feller as well as many BCMC members and mountaineer enthusiasts, this mountaineering focus would not have developed. The formal recognition is wonderful as is the knowledge that the NVMA is becoming a 'go to' place in the lower mainland for many mountaineer researchers and enthusiasts. Until now, shipbuilding and community history were the NVMA's primary themes; it is particularly rewarding to know that this new endeavour is appreciated and is reflected in our growing collections, programs, and website items.

We thank all of you for helping to make this happen and look forward to building further upon this very solid foundation.

### **In The News: Backcountry Ski Sales Up**

A story by Evan Mitsui and Manmeet Ahluwalia for CBC News states that "MEC reports that sales of backcountry ski equipment are up 40 per cent at the start of the 2012-13 season.

Canadians aren't the only ones with a growing interest in backcountry skiing. In the U.S., online gear-seller Backcountry.com reported a similar spike in sales as MEC, with a 43 per cent bump in categories such as touring bindings, boots and avalanche beacon."

### **What to do when you see snowmobiles in a BC Park**

There were snowmobiles seen on Garibaldi Lake on February 11, 2013. In the ensuing communications with BC Parks, the following steps were outlined by Kendra Wood, the Senior Park Ranger for Garibaldi Park.

BC Parks takes infractions seriously and often coordinates with other Government agencies for enforcement actions. Please keep the following information in mind:

1. Immediate reporting helps (or as soon as possible). Often this allows BC Parks staff time to get more detailed information needed for laying charges. I realize this is often difficult as backcountry Parks are often remote and usually have very limited cell service.

If possible call the Ministry of Environment, BC Conservation Officers Report Line, immediately at 1-877-952-7277 (24hrs) AND also report this to BC Parks via my email: Kendra.Wood@gov.bc.ca ASAP

2. Recording and reporting as many details as possible gives Parks better information and a better case. Try to document the 5 W's (what, when, where, who, and how. )

3. Try to get photos if possible. Photos assist documenting the information. Photos of sled tracks would be one thing; whereas it would be ideal to get photos of the riders and the particular sled make.

**Sigurd Peak North Face Ski Descent** - *Paul Kubik - Submitted to the BCMC Forum*  
Ski trip up Rose Trail to Sigurd Peak and descent of the virgin north face.

Participants: Alexis Guigue, Paul Kubik, Craig Speirs

The weather forecast was for sunny breaks but it was gently raining as we left West Vancouver. We set off from the Sigurd trailhead on Ashlu Main around 8 AM. One hour of hiking brought us to the valley above Crooked Falls and continuous snow. It was a short distance from the skin up point to the Rose Trail, which is the shortest route to Sigurd Peak. The trail has not been cleared recently for skiing so what with the low snowpack this year there was a lot of dancing on skis over and around obstacles. There was only about one metre of snow at the junction of Sigurd and Rose trails.

It was a steep haul up Rose Trail. In a couple of places doing switchbacks on skis I wiped out on water ice, once sliding down into a tree. It must have been quite warm below 1200 metres earlier in the week and then freeze hard. Craig resorted to ski crampons but broke one completely and bent the other out of shape. Around 1100 metres we broke out onto the east ridge proper of Sigurd. The angle eased and the snow conditions improved. Briefly there was Styrofoam snow and then around 1300 metres we transited onto nice cohesive snow for trail breaking. Unfortunately, we climbed the unnecessary bump on the ridge at 1400 metres and had to drop back down, losing 100 metres. Normally, the trail skirts the bump on its south side but we missed the markers entirely.

The ridge climb was pleasant. The clouds showed no sign of clearing but there was no wind and we had good visibility across the adjacent valleys but not to the higher peaks. Still time was pressing on and it was 3 PM before we were directly below the summit with still 200 metres to go. I stopped to change out of soaking wet clothes and Alexis pressed on, bootpacking a steep narrow section of ridgeline. Massive cornices hung menacingly close by on the right and steep gullies on the left. We were losing visibility rapidly. Some time was spent debating whether to go to the summit and which route we were going to take on the way out. In the end, we continued to the summit because one option was to continue west over the summit and descend via Sigurd Lake to Pokosha Creek. In the end, Craig said we should stick to the plan to ski the north face as it was shorter. No one wanted to ski back the way we came up. The other option was to ski the south face. So the choice was between two unknown routes.

Fortunately, while I was waiting for Alexis and Craig I had spied a way through the formidable cornice defenses of the north face. We backtracked down the east ridge, losing 80 metres of elevation. A break in the slope put us onto the north face beside a cleaver and an intimidating 20 metre high cornice. We had to ski below it to enter the route. Our visibility was now completely failing. In addition to the cloud ceiling dropping down and rising from below, it was now

approaching twilight. We had one hour maximum to effect the descent of the unknown north face, a vertical drop of 1300 metres. Immediately below the cornice we entered into a whiteout but good powder on about 35 degree slopes. The slope funnels into a toilet bowl but a shallow saddle on the south provides the safest way down. At the bottom of the bowl a U-shaped exit leads to a narrow chute of waterfalls that was fortunately mostly snow covered. The waterfall section was filled with avalanche debris and crusted over isothermal sugar snow. This was not the easiest skiing. It spilled us out into another basin in which there was a lot more thrashing on skis in open terrain.

Our goal was to gain timber on the true left side of the gully at 950 metres. We crossed the gully and entered the forest. All of a sudden it was wonderful skiing again. Twilight was deep in the trees but it was no problem. The trees were large and wide-spaced. The snow was deep, solid and smooth. Nicely executed jump turns for 300 metres brought us to the edge of the clearcut above Ashlu road A604. We skirted the clearcut on its south side in an adjacent band of timber next to the creek gully we had descended higher up. Just at dark we hit the road. With headlamps on, we skied the overgrown A604 until we hit a welcome snowmobile track. Then it was mostly skate skiing and gliding down Ashlu A600 and A-Main back to the parked vehicle and the Sigurd trailhead. We finished it just before 8 PM.

The snow ran out down at the bottom of Ashlu Canyon. This made it a 1900 metre ski descent of Sigurd Peak north face - a first descent.

**Prayer of the Woods** - *Submitted by David Scanlon - Author Anonymous*

"I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights,  
the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun,  
and my fruits are refreshing draughts  
quenching your thirsts as you journey on.  
I am the beam that holds your house.  
The board of your table, the bed on which you lie,  
and the timber that builds your boat.  
I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead,  
the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin.  
I am the bread of your kindness and the flower of beauty.  
Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer: hear me not."

