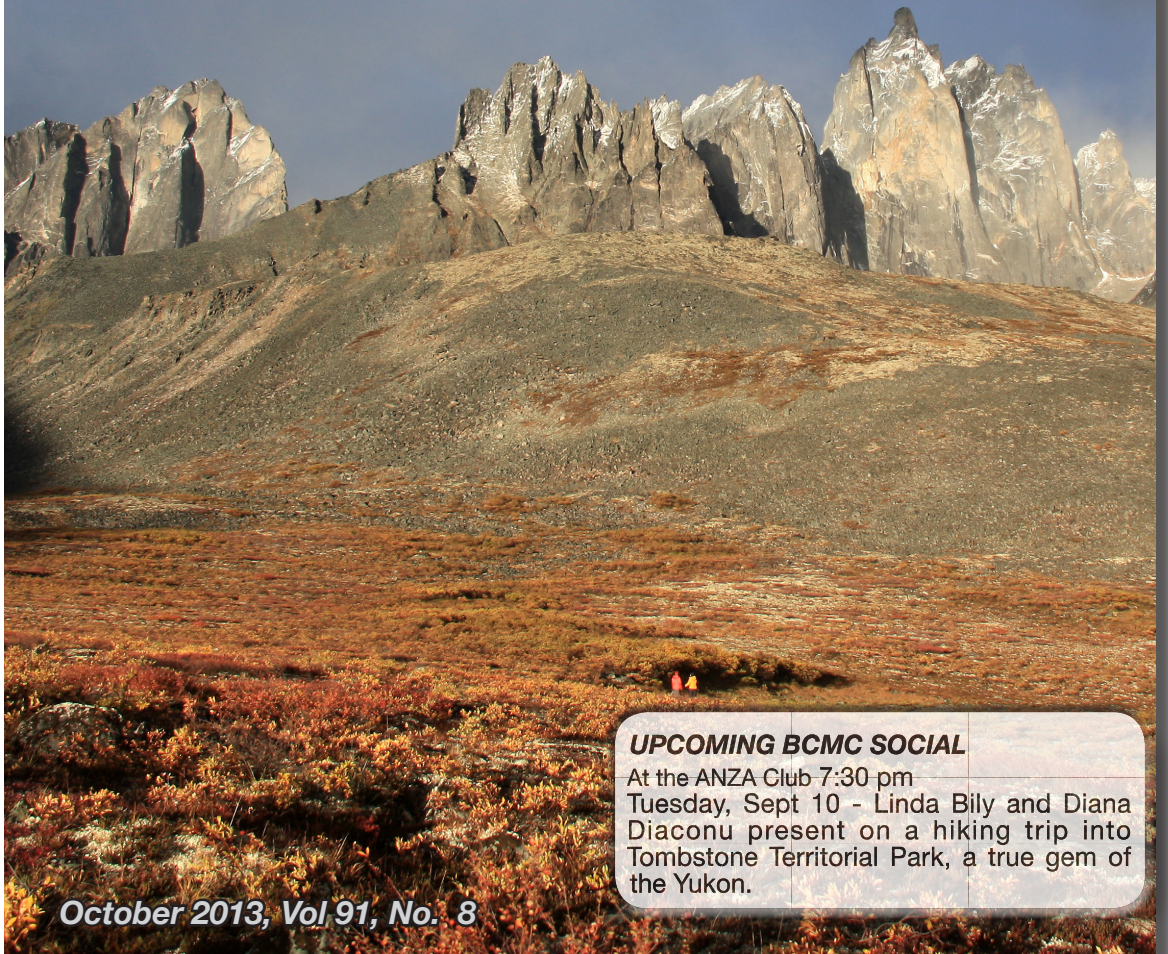


BCMC



BC Mountaineering Club Newsletter



UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL
At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm
Tuesday, Sept 10 - Linda Billy and Diana Diaconu present on a hiking trip into Tombstone Territorial Park, a true gem of the Yukon.

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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: Tombstone Territorial Park

Back Page: Photos from Cutthroat Peak (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

October 2013

1	BCMC Executive Meeting	Lee Purvis
2	Wednesday Night Indoor Climbing - Cliffhanger Vancouver-A5	Anders Mjos
4	Squamish Rock Friday during the day-A5	Werner Grzimek
5	Mount Brew (Sea-to-Sky) B2/3	Geoffrey Zenger
5	Mt. Barbour hike and fish-D2	Alastair Ferries
5	Hanging Lake Trail Building-B1	Scott Nelson
5	Saturday Squamish Rock Climbing-A5	Werner Grzimek
6	Hanging Lake Trail Building-B1	Scott Nelson
6	Baden Powell trail maintenance-B1	Paul Kubik
9	Crossover Peak-C3	Stanislav Liarsky
8	BCMC Social: Tombstone Territorial Park	BCMC
12-14	Frenchman Coulee AKA Vantage and Leavenworth-A5	Stanislav Liarsky
18-20	Owl - Tenquille Traverse C/D2	Don Montrichard
19	Gotha/Coburg Peak-B2-C2	Alexis Guigue
19	Saturday Squamish Rock Climbing-A5	Werner Grzimek
19	Beverley Creek Trail Building	Scott Nelson
20	Beverley Creek Trail Building	Scott Nelson
22	MEC Autumn Club Night-A0	Cynthia Montemayor
26	Saturday Squamish Rock - SEASON's FINALE!?-A5	Werner Grzimek

NEWS AND NOTICES

Please **renew now** for the 2014 year, to continue to enjoy the ever expanding benefits of being a BCMC members. If you joined prior to October 1, 2012, your membership expires October 1, 2013 and there is no longer a grace period for lapsed membership.

Past President David Scanlon is currently **recruiting new executive members** for the 2013/2014 year, email him at david.hiker@gmail.com for more information.

The BCMC welcomes the following new members: Amy Roy, Brett Classen, Declan Kelly, Natalia Mulekova, Daniel Domanski, Miguel Coron, Jon Hunwick, Liam Skarlicki, Wayne Lefebvre, Stephanie Nicholls, Robyn Kosugi, Fraser Howatson, Mark Myhre, Alan Katowitz, Bob Grey, Mark Corbett, Yuri Miljevic-Laroche, Jean-Christophe Rodrigue, Victoria Alfred, Nick Tyler, Ron Eckert, Andrew McKeachie, Elysia Rotaru, Natasha Moore, Alexandre Babeanu, Stirling Noyes, Bill Lakeland, Nicola Dunne, Frances Sharpe, Richard Smith, Rob Szpak, Ben Singleton-Polster, Hamish Todd, Tiffany Lloyd, Luke Doyle, Colin Campbell, Richard Double, Gary Robbins, Endo Cui, Christopher Barton, Pau Rocher Castellano, Patrick Grundle, Beth Bentley, Bruce Hendren and Corey Grobe

A BCMC First - Everest on the Trip Schedule - April 2014

Experienced BCMC mountaineer Ravil Chamgoulov is aiming to summit Mt Everest in April 2014. He already holds the Snow Leopard designation for climbing the 5 7000m peaks in the

former USSR and has an extensive climbing resume. He is welcoming interested parties to participate in the adventure.

Let Ravil know if you want to come along, you can contact him via the Trip schedule. This is a great cultural and climbing adventure.

The trip goes from Kathmandu - Lhasa - Xigatse - Xegar - Base Camp - Advanced Base Camp - North Col - Summit - Dzangmu to Kathmandu.

There are various options offered for trekkers/climbers who don't want to summit, but still want to be a part of an Everest expedition. - A cultural and climbing adventure of a life time:

- a) Traveling/Trekking option to Base Camp - 15 days and less
- b) Trekking/Climbing to Advanced Base Camp - 1 month and less
- c) Climbing up to the North Col - 30 days

BCMC Photo Contest Winners Awarded

The BCMC spring summer photo contest has now concluded. The winners are: Dean Perez (Hiking/Scrambling category), Paul Olynek (Mountaineering), and Francis St Pierre (Climbing). Each prize winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate for MEC. Watch for details on upcoming contests, which will hopefully be held twice a year (summer and winter).

VOC Community Events

On November 5th, the VOC will show the new skiing movie, "Into the Mind" by Sherpas Cinema. Start at 8pm, doors at 7:30pm, in the Norm theatre in the Student Union Building at UBC. Tickets will soon be available from our clubroom during gear hours, from the Outpost student store in the Student Union Building and from Valhalla Pure Outfitters. Tickets are \$12, or \$15 at the door and *all* profits will be donated to the Canadian Avalanche Centre. A similar fundraiser last year was extremely successful and we hope to repeat it this year.

Please find all the relevant information on the VOC website,
<http://tinyurl.com/intothemindcac>

The VOC Gearswap on Wednesday, Oct. 23rd, 6:00 pm is an outdoor gear buy and sell event. If you have some extra gear that you no longer need, come sell it. If you are looking to buy used/new outdoor gear for reasonable prices, come on out. Actual swapping of gear is encouraged as well. There will also be a "free table" - if you have items that could still be used by others but are not fit for selling, or you'd just like to give them away, please consider putting them in the free pile (no junk please). Location: IBLC 261 at UBC

Although the focus is on outdoor gear, other gear that has a loose connection to the outdoors will be accepted too (downhill/snowboard gear, for example). This event is open to non-members as well, and is absolutely free - bring your friends!

Oral History Project: Help Wanted

We would like assistance with interviews and one or more people to run a program of interviewing people, primarily but not exclusively, BCMC members, to obtain oral history information.

Direct recording of oral history is an important way of documenting the history of an organization, and the interviews can also provide entertainment, if done appropriately. Your executive believes that a number of people should be interviewed and is seeking volunteers to do the interviews and/or run the interviewing program. This would include developing a list of material to be covered in interviews, finding interviewees (an initial list is being compiled), and collating and producing transcripts of interviews. Reporting would be to the BCMC History Committee.

If interested, please contact Michael Feller at michael.feller@ubc.ca

Could the person who spoke to Michael about this at the September social evening, please email him as your email address has been lost!

New Waiver for BCMC Members

For the past few years, the BCMC has subscribed to the Liability Insurance Policy available to all member clubs of the Federation. At the request of the insurer and with the help of Michael Kennedy, a prominent Vancouver lawyer in liability claims, the FMCBC Insurance Committee has designed a new Waiver of Liability form that must now be used by all clubs subscribing to the Policy. It is the Insurer's requirement that all members of the BCMC must agree to this waiver.

As a result, the BCMC will be implementing the new Waiver, effective on Sunday September 15, meaning that in the club's Membership Database the Waiver Status for all members of the club will be set to "not current" on Sunday September 15, 2013 at 10am. Specifically:

Going on BCMC trips: members going on a BCMC trip after this time will be required to agree to the new Waiver prior to participating on the trip. Access: Members without a current waiver and logging-in to their BCMC account will be given the option to proceed to the e-Waiver.

Joining & Renewing Memberships:

Electronic: Members renewing their membership on-line (or new members joining on-line) will be required to agree to the e-Waiver as part of their renewal process – this doesn't take long and is easy to do.

Paper: Members renewing their membership (or new members purchasing a membership) at a Social or through the mail will be asked to submit a signed and witnessed copy of the new waiver. Paper waiver: available at socials or you can read or print your own copy from here: https://bcmc.ca/bcmc_waiver_read.php

As in the past, once you have agreed to this waiver, you will not be required to sign a waiver again until a new version of the waiver is required – typically several years from now.

Richmond Olympic Oval Climbing Discount Now 20%

The Olympic Oval informed us that they will change their discount for all their 'Climbing Industry Partners' - including the BCMC - to 20% discount – starting October 1st.

a) Young Adults 19-25 years will pay the regular price of \$11.50 incl. tax (30% less than Adults 26-64y)

b) Adults 26 years and over will pay \$13.25 incl. tax (this price includes 20% discount)

If you compare those prices with our Vancouver Climbing gyms (\$18.14 incl. tax) you will see that for most climbers (unless you have a 6 month pass and if you go up to 6 times a month) it is cheaper to climb in Richmond paying the daily rate than having a 'pass' in Vancouver - and you don't have to make a financial commitment in advance.

Whistler-Blackcomb management planning – future expansion into Garibaldi Park and the Spearheads – an update

Comment by Michael Feller

BC Parks began developing a revised master plan for the Spearhead Range some time ago, and solicited public input last year. However, release of the proposed plan has been held up for almost 6 months even though it was apparently written in March of this year. No reason has been given for the delay, but it is rumoured that the new plan will limit some of the heliskiing and perhaps put restrictions on motorised use and downhill ski development within the Spearhead area. It is believed that release of the plan is being held up by Whistler-Blackcomb (WB) lobbying in Victoria as they are currently trying to get their own management plan approved and this plan wants to maintain opportunities for WB to expand further into Garibaldi Park over the Spearheads. This was indicated by a recent comment of Dave Brownlie of WB to Bryce Leigh of the FMCBC. Bryce asked Brownlie point blank why WB wouldn't commit to further intrusions into the park. His answer was that they may need more area in the future but they wouldn't ask for another expansion into the park in the next 20 years. Bryce responded that WB uses the park as their private land bank to be called upon when WB deems necessary.

The fact that WB refuses to commit to further intrusions into Garibaldi Park comes from the management plan that they are currently developing. This plan was sent out to other BC government agencies for comment in February, 2011, then WB responded to the comments from the government agencies. The WB comments, recently made available to the FMCBC, suggest that they intend expanding into parkland at both ends of the Spearhead traverse. When they initially got approval for expansion into the Flute area, then in Garibaldi Park, at the Whistler end of the Spearhead traverse, they always downplayed their interest to build lifts beyond those in the Symphony area, but now they are proposing a lift to Flute Pk. They are also proposing lifts for Blackcomb Glacier Park – originally part of Garibaldi Park – at the Blackcomb end of the Spearhead traverse. The Spearhead Huts advocates believe that WB's proposal for a new lodge at Lakeside bowl, and their tacit desire to expand their lift system into the park, suggest that WB sees the proposed Spearhead hut system as a threat to their medium and long term goals to expand into the park with lifts and motorised service.

On the subject of continued heliskiing in the Spearheads, WB has stated that if they are not allowed to continue heliskiing in the Spearheads, they will pull their first responder support for the area. This is interesting considering that they appear to have been rescuing only their own unprepared downhill skiers heading out of bounds – an activity that they have marketed themselves. Members of the Spearhead Huts Association believe that WB has “waged a campaign against the hut system for the last three years on several levels. They are demanding continued heliskiing unfettered; they are demanding expansion of lifts into the park with greater access for their skiers; and they have reneged on previous commitments regarding the park access for hikers, skiers and the general public”.

On the latter subject of access into Garibaldi Park, WB had committed to improving access to the Singing Pass trail. This is not happening or is happening at the pace at which most glaciers used to move – nothing discernible within the last 12 months. WB’s response to government agency comments on their proposed management plan states “we are fully committed to providing the most practical FREE public access possible to the park.” Dave Brownlie, of WB, in response to questions from Bryce Leigh of the FMCBC put forward numerous arguments against action that are so easily dismissed it appears that WB just doesn’t want to do anything. For example, Brownlie listed many obstacles to the public driving to the IPP site on Fitzsimmons Creek (which could provide good access to the start of the Singing Pass trail). “It is a steep mountain road”. Bryce’s response: “if the road to Cheakamus Lake or Callaghan Lake was that good we would all be thrilled”. Brownlie: “The WB bone yard is located there”. Bryce: “true but it contains used steel towers, cable, and old heavy parts not new laptops or I phones that are easy to steal”. Brownlie: “Having the public go through the sliding centre is a big concern”. Bryce: maybe, but anyone with grade 3 math could figure out it isn’t going to be running long as it is sucking the legacy funds dry”. Arthur DeJong, environmental planner for WB and strong proponent of summer hiking and improved Singing Pass access, thinks the WB decision makers need to see a business case that supports improving the access.

WB needs to provide to the government certain commitments for their Master Development Agreement. The Master Development Agreement is the contract between the Provincial Government and the resort that allows them to operate the resort and carry out recreational activities on Crown land. This contract outlines the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the operator and the Province.

If you have any questions or require more information, or wish to comment on what has transpired to date please contact, as soon as possible, Tori Meeks, Land Officer, Mountain Resorts Branch, with the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations at 510 - 175 2nd Ave, Kamloops, BC V2C 5W1, or phone: 250-371-3943 , or email: Tori.Meeks@gov.bc.ca

Accidents in North American Mountaineering, 2013

Review by Michael Feller

Given the spate of mountaineering accidents this year, it is worth drawing people’s attention to the annual publication of the American Alpine Club, and sometimes the Canadian Alpine Club – Accidents in North American Mountaineering. This describes and critically assesses all reported

mountaineering accidents, fatal or otherwise, in the U.S. and Canada for the year preceding the publication year (this year's 2013 volume deals with the accidents of 2012). Beginning in 1951 for the U.S. and 1959 for Canada, it provides an informative and educational read, complete with detailed statistics and useful articles on safe mountaineering technique. The 2013 issue has an article entitled "Know the ropes: lowering. Fundamentals to save your life" which describes belaying, anchoring, and lowering techniques, what can go wrong, and how to do it all safely.

Originally published by the American Alpine Club, then jointly by both the American and Canadian Alpine clubs until 2005 when the Canadian Alpine Club pulled out, it is pleasing to see that in 2013 the Canadian Alpine Club has again participated in its publication so Canadian accidents appear again for 2012 after a 7 year absence.

In 2012 there were 13 reported accidents for Alberta and 2 for B.C. involving 1 fatality in each province. This compares to 35 accidents in California (2 deaths) and 18 accidents in each of Colorado (41 deaths) and the U.S. Atlantic north (1 death). Most accidents have been on rock (100 in the U.S. and 11 in Canada vs. 38/3 on snow in the U.S./Canada, consistent with the long-term numbers (rock – 66% of all accidents in the U.S., 60% in Canada).

For both countries combined, most accidents have occurred on the ascent (73%) and are evenly distributed according to mountaineering experience level (23% involving people with little or no experience, 21% moderate experience, 28% experienced, and 28% unknown). September is the biggest month for accidents in the U.S. (25% of all accidents), while July is the biggest in Canada (15% of all accidents). Just under 50% of all accidents in both countries involve people 30 years old or younger, but people under 15 years old have been involved in 11% of all accidents in the U.S., but only 1% of all accidents in Canada.

The most important immediate causes of accidents have been fall or slip on rock and slip on snow or ice. Falling rock, ice, or other objects has been the 3rd most important cause, followed by exceeding abilities. Avalanches and falling into a crevasse/moat have been significantly more important factors in Canada than in the U.S. Ascending too fast has been a cause in the U.S. but not in Canada. For 2012 in Canada, fall or slip on rock and failure to follow route were the 2 most important causes.

The two most important contributing factors to the accidents have been climbing unroped and exceeding abilities, followed by placed no/inadequate protection then inadequate equipment/clothing. Weather, climbing alone, and no hard hat were next; equipment failure was last while other factors, such as inadequate belay, poor position, failed to follow directions, etc. were in between. Failure to test holds has been a significantly more important factor in Canada than in the U.S. These statistics, while interesting, are not as informative as the detailed reports of each accident. These reports appear in the section called "Accidents and analyses. Learn from others' mistakes". We should learn. The publication is available in the club library.

Three Canadian Climbers in Crevasse Fall on Rainier: Accident and Rescue

Submitted via forum by Alan Trick

There were varying news reports but the crevasse they fell into was about 40m deep, but they bounced off one side onto a small ledge onto the other side 20m down. At least that's how I had it described to me.

Essentially what happened was that one guy tripped and was unable to arrest his fall and the other two on his team were unable to stop him either. One guy is pretty much fine, just bruised. Another one has a few bruises to his brain and no recollection of the entire trip, but is otherwise fine. The third guy has a broken collarbone/dislocated shoulder, broken ribs, some minor head trauma, was suffering from bad hypothermia, and maybe a few other things. Apart from lost memories, I'm hopeful they'll all have a full recovery.

Warning, long (slightly abridged) story below:

Some friends and I were climbing the Emmons route with them, but we were in a separate party. They were friends of ours as well (or friends of friends). The last time we saw them we were coming off the summit and they seemed to be in good spirits. I had been a little concerned by how late they were up there, but two of the people in the team were strong, experienced mountaineers so I figured everything was good.

We headed off the mountain and tried to set an obvious path on the way down so that they wouldn't have difficulty on the way down. There was one point on the way down where we had an exposed traverse about 10m over a large crevasse and the snow quality was pretty shitty (thin crust + 6cm of powder on top of ice). I remember thinking that it would be a really bad place to fall, but it wasn't that steep so I didn't really think too much of it. The tiny snow bridges elsewhere on the mountain seemed a lot more terrifying.

It wasn't until we got near to camp, about 5pm, that we spotted our friends again. They were much further up the mountain than they should have been (about 2/3rd of the way). We got back to camp and started eating dinner and boiling water and keeping a watch on them. They made slow, but steady progress down. We would lose sight of them every now and then as they moved behind a serac or some such feature. Around 7:30 we lost sight of them again, just above that traverse. After about 1 hour we started to get worried. We began looking at our options and preparing to climb back up and look for them. The ranger who was supposed to be at the camp wasn't there, and no one was listening on the emergency radio. We called 911 and they connected us to the parks staff who said there was a ranger over on the other side of the mountain who would come over as soon as possible.

About 10pm we were all suited up again with some emergency gear and left camp. A couple other guys who had climbed Rainier that day stayed back to keep an eye on us (they were more tired and we didn't want to endanger too many people). We got up to about 100m short of where these guys were and one of the guys on our team completely ran out of energy. I remember being

really frustrated and wishing I could continue on my own, but obviously that's not how it works. We ended up having to short-rope him down back to camp.

On our way down, at 1am, we ran into a party climbing the mountain. We told them about the accident and where the group was. They continued up and found the party at around 4am. They sent out a 911 call, but were unable to reach the group because they were on the other side of the crevasse. This time, 911 notified search & rescue.

Around the same time, a ranger gets into camp. I woke up and talked to him shortly, but told him our group had already been up the mountain 1 1/2 times and were probably still too tired to reach them. About 6am, another party starts going up, and the ranger began to build a helipad. The second party got there around 9, and one of them was able to be lowered into the crevasse and bring them some extra jackets and water.

Slowly, but surely, the rescue effort was organized and at about 1pm they started long-lining our friends out of the crevasse. We waited in camp as the ranger had instructed us, finally, about 5pm after everyone had come off the mountain, we were told we could leave and took off with our friend's camping gear strapped to our packs. We reached the car about 9pm and then visited our friends in the hospital. We got back to Vancouver about 7am this morning, having had about 6 hours of sleep in the last few days.

Cutthroat Peak - South Buttress

Saturday, September 14, 2013

Participants: Nicolas Jimenez, Paul Kubik (reporter)

Nicolas drove down on Friday evening from Vancouver to join me in Mazama for an early morning start. We started off at 5 AM for the 20 minute drive to the trailhead about 3 miles west of Washington Pass. There was already a car with Oregon plates parked at the TH so we had no trouble finding the large cairn that marks the start of the trail. Using headlamps for the first hour, we climbed into the basin below the south buttress on the climber's trail - a steep beaten path with loose rock.

At the top of the trail, we needed to choose between the left hand and right hand gully approaches to the climb. The two climbers from Oregon were just getting ready to leave from their bivy and after discussion with them we all decided to go up the right hand gully together to minimize rockfall hazard. The RH gully is less loose but requires a 30 foot rappel to gain the notch above the LH gully.

From the top of the RH gully it is a short walk to the notch. While setting up for the rappel, Nicolas discovered he'd left his belay and rappel device at home. Fortunately, one of the Oregon climbers remembered he had a spare and lent it to Nicolas. We rappled into the notch, which is the start of Pitch 1 in the SuperTopo guide. We heard a couple of voices below, which turned out to be a couple more climbers from Seattle who came up the LH gully. We now had representatives from all areas of the so-called Cascadia region - British Columbia, Washington and Oregon.

The pitch numbers align with the SuperTopo Washington Pass Climbing guidebook by Ian Nicolson (published 2012). Pitch 1 begins with a 5.7 move to get out of the notch. Then the rest of the pitch and pretty much all of Pitches 2, 3 and 4 are Class 2, 3 and 4, which we simul-climbed without belay. After that, most of the climbing was up short steep steps and abundant gravelly ledges. After a while, I sort of lost count which pitch we were on in relation to the SuperTopo. I was surprised when Nicolas thought we were already on Pitch 8 and the first crux was just ahead. It was only around 8:30 AM. Nicolas made short work of all the leads with me bringing up the rear.

Pitch 12 is the hard crux. SuperTopo refers to it as a box chimney with a right hand exit. Nicolas climbed the chimney about halfway before exiting onto the right hand wall in what he termed a “committing move”. When I followed him up, I found the committing move to be not too hard (I wasn’t leading!) but had difficulty continuing higher to exit the chimney onto the right hand face. Try as I might, the exit just wouldn’t go. It felt to me to be 5.9 or 5.10. I peeled off but then found I could angle away from the line and found a much easier exit around 5.6. A bit of easy face climbing took me above the cam I fell on and was able to lean down and work it out of the crack. A bit more face climbing took me to the level of the top of the chimney. The exit from the face seemed a bit off camber. You can sort of embrace the rock, smear onto it and make a long stretch to reach easy ground or take a short step down and do a mantle with the rope at a diagonal before stepping easily off the face. I think the latter is a bit easier and the method I preferred because I was climbing in shorts.

Pitch 12 brings you to the Two Humps, which are a couple of false summits. From the top of the box chimney, a scramble on sand brings you to another notch separating the summit from the Humps. We downclimbed into the notch (Class 4). Pitch 13 is another 5.7+ exit from the notch. Again, once you commit to the one move it is over pretty quickly after that. Pitch 14 I don’t recall although SuperTopo says it is 5.0. Pitch 15 is the last climbing pitch and requires a 5.7 layback for about 3 meters. Pitch 16 is just a walk up onto the summit. It took us about 3 1/2 hours to reach the summit from the top of the RH gully approach.

The Seattle climbers had overtaken the Portland climbers and were now at the top of Pitch 12. Nicolas was for going down the West Ridge route but after discussion with the Seattle climbers it seemed it was best to rap the south buttress although it requires 14 mostly short rappels. The west ridge is decried as being loose and exposed and is typically shunned.

There are well-defined rap stations already in place the entire length of the south buttress. I think the rappelling took almost as much time as the climbing. By the time Nicolas and I had reached the base of the climb at the lower notch (top of the LH gully) the Seattle climbers were right behind us. We all decided to rap the LH gully together which proved to be a good thing as there is loose rock in it and a lot more than the RH gully.

Altogether the south buttress is a good climb. The major criticism is the loose and sandy rock in places. The pluses are the great approach (short and sweet), great belay and rap stations, good climbing in the 5.8 range but not so hugely sustained that it is overwhelming for casual rock climbers like myself. But better climbers like Nicolas might be left wanting more.

