



# BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club  
Newsletter

*January 2014, Vol 92, No. 1*

**UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL**

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, Jan 14 - David Hughes will share  
photos and experiences from the 2012  
and 2013 Summer BCMC Camps in the  
Waddington Range.

**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: Grenelle Mountain (Photo: D Hughes)

Back Page: Top: Kettle Valley Railroad (Photos: E Zenger), Bottom: Dean Perez, winning Hiking photo BCMC Summer Photo Contest

**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.

JANUARY TRIP SCHEDULE ~ Sign up, updates and details at [www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca)

4-5	Diamond Head area overnight - B2	Andrzej Jarzabek
4-5	AST-1 Avalanche Skills Training - B3	BCMC Programs
4-5	Ice Technique & Fitness Session - B5	Adrian Burke
4	Introduction to Backcountry Skiing - A2	Alexis Guigue
4-5	Systems for Mountaineering Avalanche - Transceiver Skills	Justin Bennett
7	January Executive Meeting	Francis St Pierre
11-12	Ice Climbing Around Lillooet WI3,4 -	Werner Grzimek
11-12	AST-2 - "No Frills" - Weekend 1 of 2 - B3	BCMC Programs
11-12	Leaders choice ice - WI3-4	Darrin Fast
11-12	Glacier and Crevasse Rescue Course (Blackcomb Mtn) - B3	BCMC Programs
12	Introduction to Backcountry Skiing - A2	Diana Diaconu
12	Diamond Head Paul's Ridge - B2	Francis St Pierre
14	Dawn Patrol at Seymour - A1	Mike Hamata
15	Midweek Ski Tour - Gargoyles - B3	Mike Gudaitis
15	Avalanche Transceiver Practice - A1	Winifred Swatschek
18	Joffre Lakes - Beginners Welcome Snowshoe - B1/2	Marlaina Rhymer
18-19	Early Season Ice - FULL - C5	Don Montrichard
18-19	AST-1 Avalanche Skills Training - B3	BCMC Programs
18-19	Introduction to Ice Climbing - B5	Jeremy Thom
18	Introduction to Backcountry Skiing - A2	Geoffrey Zenger
18-19	AST-2 - "No Frills" - Weekend 2 of 2 - B3	BCMC Programs
18	Systems for Mountaineering Avalanche - Terrain - B1	Justin Bennett
18-19	Mt. Caspar/Vantage - C3	Greg Hamilton
19	Splitboard Sunday - B-C, 2-3	Andrew Brown
21	Dawn Patrol on Seymour - A1	Mike Hamata
21	BCMC Website Strategy Meeting - A1	Francis St Pierre
22	Avalanche Transceiver Practice - A1	Winifred Swatschek
22	Icebreaker - Shopping Night 30% Discount - A1	Werner Grzimek
24-26	Systems for Mountaineering Avalanche OAR - B2	Justin Bennett
24-26	Caspar Creek Camp - C3	Mike Hamata
25	Jorgenson Pk or Three Brothers Mtn Snowshoe - D2	Alastair Ferries
25-26	Fraser Canyon Ice Climbing - FULL - B5	Don Montrichard
25	Taylor Mt. - South Approach - C3	Stanislav Liarsky
28	Dawn Patrol on Seymour - A1	Mike Hamata
Weekly	Wednesday night skiing at Cypress - A3	Radmila Bridges

The BCMC welcomes the following new members: Alexandre Lambin, Alison McMillan, Anna Johnston, Arek Piszczek, Ben Mills, Bruce Crosby, Chad Parks, Chris Taplin, Christine Boehringer, Craig Rice, Daniel Mew, Eric Buitenhuis, Ingrid Braul, Jason Blank, John Muirhead, Judith Holm, Kaitlyn Godkin, Kat Hlivarova, Katherine Bearblock, Kay Cahill, Kim Reymond, Kirk Robinson, Kyla Sanderson, Lesley Stalker, Liza Randolph, Logan Ralph, Maine McEachern, Mary McDowell, Micah Lang, Mike Capaldo, Nic Van Eck, Oszkar Imre, Patti Dods, Paul Stevenson, Philipp Kadlec, Riley Millington, Ron Veperts, Rose Gardner, Samantha Blair, Shauna Connaughton, Solal Audibert, Spencer Crowter, Tessa Mul, Tristan Harvey, and Viera Veidner

## **Farewell to Longtime Member John Beltz (1923-2013)**

Second generation BCMC member John Beltz passed away in 2013, after a prolonged illness. His parents Edward Beltz and Phyllis Dyke were BCMC members, his mother being the namesake of Phyllis' Engine, a cluster of rock towers near Castle Mountain in Garibaldi Park. He was active in conservation, including being active in the founding of the Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society.

## **BC government finally attempts to do something about snowmobilers ignoring snowmobiling ban in the 21 Mile Creek watershed area - by Michael Feller**

After years of agitating by the FMCBC Recreation and Conservation Committee and bringing to the government's attention of the massive ignoring of the rules by snowmobilers through the documentation on Robin Tivy's bivouac.com website, an attempt is finally being made by the BC government's Recreation Sites and Trails BC to control snowmobiling in the 21 Mile Creek area near Whistler. This attempt involves making snowmobilers pay fees to access the Sproatt Mountain area this winter.

The government has appointed Canadian Wilderness Adventures, which has a snowmobile tenure on the Callaghan valley side of Sproatt Mtn., to collect fees of \$20 per snowmobile. Recreation Sites and Trails B.C. will also place signage at the toll booth and kiosk. The kiosk to collect fees will be placed at the beginning of the 11.5 km trail that ends at Canadian Wilderness Adventures' cabin. Trespassers in the area could be fined up to \$1,000 and have their snowmobiles seized, according to the province. The government believes that if this approach doesn't work, then the entire area could be shut down to motorized vehicles, but the government would only consider closures if the fees and fines approach doesn't solve the problem and if there is multi-agency support and available resources for such an approach, according to Alistair McCrone, Recreation Officer with Recreation Sites and Trails B.C.

As part of the agreement with Canadian Wilderness Adventures, some of the fee money will go towards trail maintenance and grooming. This winter, the government will also put fees in place for snowmobilers to access the trail at Roe Creek, which it says is a culturally sensitive First Nations area.

It is therefore critically important that every club member who visits the 21 Mile Creek watershed this snow season looks for evidence of snowmobile use within it. Any such evidence, particularly if supported by photos, should be reported to the FMCBC Recreation and Conservation Committee at [fmc-rctb@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:fmc-rctb@interchange.ubc.ca)

## **BCMC Climbing Chair Report for 2012-2013 - By Don Montrichard**

Over the course of the past year, a total of 325 club trips were scheduled between October 1, 2012, and September 1, 2013. This figure demonstrates the maintenance of a nearly identical level of trips, courses and other events that were scheduled during the previous year (323 trips), but it is still down from the recent high of 375 club trips that were scheduled in 2010.

With respect to the categories of trips, rock-climbing, backcountry skiing and indoor-climbing represented more than half of the total number of trips that were scheduled during the past year. It appears that the number of rock climbing and indoor climbing trips increased slightly during the past year, while ice climbing and mountaineering trips are down slightly, and backcountry skiing trips have remained relatively constant. Brand new categories of trips, including cross-country mountain biking and mountain-running have also made their way onto the trip schedule.

Breakdown by category of trips posted between October 1, 2012, and September 30, 2013: Rock Climbing (20.0%), Backcountry Skiing (19.1%), Indoor Climbing (14.5%), Mountaineering (10.2%), Instructional Programs (6.2%), Hiking (5.2%), Scrambling (4.9%), Ice Climbing (4.6%), Trail Work, (3.4%), Downhill Skiing (3.1%), Snowshoeing (3.1%), Mountain Running (1.8%), Mountain Biking (1.5%), Discount Shopping (0.9%), Backpacking (0.6%), Training (0.6%), and Multi-Sport (0.3%). Interestingly, July is the busiest month, with 50 scheduled trips, but in second place is January with 44 trips.

In the meantime, the overall schedule continues to grow in a healthy manner, with a total of 445 trips having been posted to the trip schedule since October 1, 2012, and with 120 trips currently scheduled between the date of this report and May 2014.

The trip organizers who put together and lead trips, courses and other events on behalf of the BCMC truly are (in my view) the core of club, and I wish to express my genuine appreciation to each of you who lead a trip during the past year. Apart from myself, 74 members organized at least one club trip, course or event during the past 12 months, and there are 30 or so members who led two (and, often, many more) events. In no particular order, the members who were trip organizers during the past year were:

Alastair Ferries, Stanislav Liarsky, Mike Hamata, Geoff Zenger, Paul Olynek, James Clarke, Anders Mjos, Werner Grzimek, Scott Nelson, Paul Kubik, John Beeckler, Gordon Esplin, Chloe Tergiman, Cynthia Montemayor, Alan Trick, Alexis Guigue, Ed Zenger, William Ferguson, Brad Percival, Margaret Hanson, Andrzej Jarzabek, Craig Speirs, Anders Ourom, Karl Ricker, Adrian Lazar, Andrew Brown, Neil Beattie, Serguei Okountsev, Evgeny Sorkin, Michael Waters, Alena Dzujkova, Francis St. Pierre, Adrian Burke, Jeff Ross, Joseph Wong, Winifred Swatschek, Jane Hnik, Ravil Chamgoulov, Andrew Brown, Radmila Bridges, Justin Bennett, David Hughes, Michael Lim, Jeff Han, Carl Douglas, Peter Almerling, Peter Gumlinger, Seth Baker, Silvia Bakovic, Kit Griffin, Todd Ponzini, Paul Ng, Basia Pajerski, Peter Woodsworth, Evelyn Feller, Bill Maurer, Diana Diaconu, Jim Vercammen, Dave Scanlon, Eric Ashworth, Bruce Cassels, Jason White, Waldemar Jonsson, Brittany Zenger, Louise Hooley, Brian Wood, Peter Malacarne, Darrin Fast, Lisa Quattrocchi, Joe Blakeman, Giovanni Ghigliotti, Jeremy Thom, Thomas Schroeder and Craig Beaumier.

(My genuine apologies if I have neglectfully omitted any organizer from this list)

Over the past year I have also had some much-appreciated assistance from members of the Climbing Committee; thank you (again, in no particular order) to: Justin Bennett, Werner Grzimek, Paul Olynek, Chloe Tergiman, Joseph Wong and Geoff Zenger.

In addition, I would be totally remiss if I did not extend a HUGE “thank you” to the club’s volunteer webmaster, Paul Olynek. His assistance with the online Trip Schedule has been

essential, and was always delivered in a patient and graceful manner.

In March 2013, the club hosted a Trip Leader Orientation Session, wherein 13 members partook in free beer and pizza, and a series of discussions and presentations with respect to the challenges and rewards of organizing and leading trips on behalf of the club. In return, those members committed to organizing a couple of club trips within the following six months; in that regard, there was an approximate success rate of 50%. Thank you to Margaret Hanson and Paul Olynek for their assistance with this event.

Unfortunately, there were three serious accidents that occurred on club trips during the prior twelve months: a rock climbing accident at the Smoke Bluffs in Squamish in May 2013, a fatality while backcountry skiing on Mount Rainier in July 2013, and a climbing fall and helicopter evacuation from Sierra Peak in the Waddington Range in August 2013. As the club's Climbing Chair, it was my responsibility to deal with the club's insurer in regard to these incidents, and (to a lesser extent) to deal with inquiries from members of the media. However, in each of these incidents, despite the traumatizing circumstances, the first-aid and emergency responses of the other club members who were nearby was either essential to alerting the appropriate authorities and/or critical to the ultimate well-being of the victims. Hats off to you!

### **Marketing Coordinator Report for 2012-13 - by Werner Grzimek**

For the Fiscal Club Year 2012-13 the new position of a 'Marketing Coordinator' for the BCMC was created and these were the results:

1. A professional Discount Program was established where BCMC Members get discounts of 10% to 30% at 15 stores and brands. Our discount program became a significant tool to a) attract new members and b) keep existing member in the club – reducing significantly our drop-out rate.
2. Developed a new, attractive Promotion Table which we used at 8 PR events on 21 days. This produced 89 new members who signed up directly at the PR table and an estimated 22 new members who signed up from home. – After these events there was usually a 'bulge' -up to 3 times normal- of new member sign-ups for about a week. This creates significant financial rewards for the club – as the average member renews 11 times.
3. Developed and advertised with our new Posters and Mini Flyers at 9 promotion points across Metro-Vancouver and at 6 promotion points around Squamish. We distributed 1800 micro flyers to cars parked around MEC Vancouver on 14 days in summer and fall. A total of 4500 micro flyers were distributed in 2013.
4. Set up 'Canada West Mountain School' as our 'Partner in Education': We have for the coming winter season a record 23 courses on our trip schedule. These very affordable courses are just another major contributor to our growth in membership. In addition – all members get 20% discount on most CW-Mountain-School courses.

## **Biking Instead of Hiking on the Annual Coquihalla Trip - by Karl Ricker**

The anticipation was nearly record-setting; eighteen had signed up, but the result was – anticlimactic (a pun). The last weekend of September was the predicted record rainfall, except on the Coqu a big dump of snow instead. The forecast storm arrived on time with a vengeance.

On Friday night there was no doubt it was a real bomber. I phoned the participants; “Sutters Brother” will be postponed to the first weekend in October, hoping the snow would melt away and our long trek on alpine heather could then proceed. During the ensuing week, however, the snowline at my Whistler home descended with each night’s precipitation. Checking the webcam at the Coquihalla Lakes site also showed the snowline unusually close to the highway. That did it. There was no way I could justify a lengthy back road drive in the Tulameen watershed and then encounter snow on the Treasure Mtn. mine road – the final access to begin the jaunt onto Mt. Sutter and environs. The trip was to become a cycling venture on the little used portion of the Kettle Valley rail bed – a day trip. Most of the potential participants had already anticipated a change of venue, cancelling out as I went through last week’s list. So 18 dwindled down to four of us, but Norm Hansen at Merritt, and a Coquihalla participant of years gone by, decided it was time to test his trail repair work on the Kettle Valley. So five of us met at the Britton Creek rest stop on a very sunny Sunday with autumn colours near their prime. Classic Coquihalla air!

We drove north to the Juliet interchange, unloaded our bikes where the Kettle Valley rail route crossed the highway to its west side; then passed through the gated fence, and pedalled to the first obstacle, a mega wash-out of the rail bed, by an aggressive Coldwater River. This obstacle and the next wash-out to the north had all but killed any cycling on the rail route between Coquihalla Lakes and Larson Hill, that is, the rail bed between the whistle stops, Juliet and Brodie respectively. Through Norm’s ingenuity, and dogged work, coercing others to help him over the last two years, a narrow trail has been carved out of the steep embankment (a slide path) with the assist of an installed ladder at the south end.

About one kilometre ahead the next wash-out was met. It is a considerably wider slide path with Norm’s up and down trail now cut through it. The bikes were pushed along it and then the long, gentle descent to Brodie was accomplished in good time. Brodie was an important junction on the rail route. The main line from Princeton splits here, one branch going north to Merritt and the other south to Hope. We continued north into the scenic Coldwater Canyon and its five bridged crossings. Each bridge warranted a photo stop! The canyon fades out before meeting the elevated highway that crosses the valley. Our rail route goes under it, but slightly above the expansive farm lands to the north. The Kingsvale, whistle stop a few k’s ahead, was the end of our trip going north, and was the lunch stop. Twenty-one kilometres of cycling in about 2 hours plus a side trip at Brodie to inspect the “wye” junction ended at the old shanties at Kingsvale. The cycling back to the cars was in the heat of the mid-day sun on a consistent uphill grade of 1.5 to 2%. Each bridge registered a rest stop and the wash-outs thereafter were a welcomed walk with the bikes, the cars being reached at 3:00 pm. All agreed it was a great day of welcomed biking instead of through the snow hiking. We were Ed Zenger, Emily and Heinz Berger, the leader and writer, with a nod to feathered friends seen along the way: 2 American dippers, 12 Hooded Mergansers and one Belted Kingfisher; no ghosts of the past were encountered.

