



BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club
Newsletter

UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm
Tuesday, Mar 11 - Guide Martin Volken
shares stories of ski touring in Washington's
Cascade Mountains.

March 2014, Vol 92, No. 3

British Columbia Mountaineering Club
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8
EMAIL: info@bcmc.ca; NET: www.bcmc.ca

HONOURARY PRESIDENTS
Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	FRANCIS ST PIERRE	604-224-0502
PAST-PRESIDENT:	DAVE SCANLON	604-531-5025
VICE-PRESIDENT:	VACANT	
SECRETARY:	GEOFF ZENGER	778-228-7017
TREASURER:	ALENA DZUJKOVA	
MEMBERSHIP	CAROLINE BLACK	
SOCIALS:	DOUG LONSBROUGH	
CLIMBING:	VACANT	
CABIN/TRAILS:	EMANUELE PORRA	604-533-7723
CONSERVATION:	BEN SINGLETON-POLSTER	
PROGRAMS & CAMPS:	VACANT	
FMCBC REP:	BEN SINGLETON-POLSTER	
WEBMASTER:	VACANT	
EDITOR - NEWSLETTER:	BRITTANY ZENGER	778-228-2392
EDITOR - ARCHIVIST:	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
SATELLITE PHONE:	PETER GUMPLINGER	604-733-8264
LIBRARY:	WALDEMAR JONSSON	604-780-0296

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: Skiing in the Picket Range (Photo: Submitted by Martin Volken)

Back: Top: Thar Couloir (Photo: A. Trick)
 Bottom: Ski buddies (Photo: D. Perez)

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.

MARCH TRIP SCHEDULE ~ Sign up, updates and details at www.bcmc.ca

1	The Flatiron / Iago - B2	Henry DeJong
4	Dawn Patrol: My Seymour - A1	Mike Hamata
4	March Executive Meeting	BCMC Executive
5	Night skiing at Cypress - A3	Radmila Bridges
5	Wednesday Night Indoor Climbing - Cliffhanger Vancouver	Anders Mjos
7	Late Ice Climbing @ Rambles on Friday WI3,4	Werner Grzimek
8	Splitboard Saturday (and maybe Sunday) - B-C, 2-3	Andrew Brown
8	Mt Price - C3	Bill Maurer
8	Taylor Mt. - South Approach - C3	Stanislav Liarsky
8-9	Slalok Mountain (TO BE RESCHEDULED) - C4	Serguei Okountsev
12	Wednesday night skiing at Cypress - A3	Radmila Bridges
14-17	Middle Earth Ski Descents (FULL - wait list started) - C 3/4	Don Montrichard
14-16	SOM - Haul/Lead/Rescue: Instructional Program - A5	Justin Bennett
15-16	Mount Matier: climb & camp (PD+, ice) - C4	Serguei Okountsev
18	Dawn Patrol: Mt Seymour A1	Mike Hamata
19	Wednesday night skiing at Cypress - A3	Radmila Bridges
22	Intro to Ski Touring - Gin Peak - B2	Seth Baker
22	White Salmon To Hanging Glacier - Shuksan Mt. Area - C3	Stanislav Liarsky
22-23	Mount Moe - C3	Craig Speirs
22-23	Mount Garibaldi: climb & camp (PD+, ice) - C4	Serguei Okountsev
22	Saturday Squamish Rock Climbing (Beginner Friendly) - A5	Werner Grzimek
29	Mt. Morrison: Snowshoeing - D3	Alastair Ferries
29-30	Rainbow and Gin (Beginner Friendly) - B2/3	Jim Vercammen

The BCMC welcomes the following new members: Joe Bergmann, Kathy Davies, Karen Verveda, Laura Melly, Isaac Gilbert, Kotler Alex, Moira Pearson, Satpal Bhurjee, Kim Thompson, Allyson Clark, Karl Manzer, Christina Matheson, Christopher Goard, Peter Talbot, Stephen Dickin, Allison Hebert, Michael Elkan, Megan Markowski, Noelle Phillips, David Cameron, Scott Zuk, Jennifer Johnston, Josh Sobil, Jesse Brown, Robert Kirk, Terry Heger, Darek Miazek, David Murray, Jason Porter, Jean-Philippe Dery, Peter Meisl, and Martina Volfova.

Welcome to **Doug Lonsbrough**, who has joined the executive as our new Socials Chair.

VIMFF 2014 Wrap-up: The 17th annual Vancouver Mountain Film Festival wrapped up on February 15. Of note to BCMC members, the BCMC sponsored Macree Award for Best Mountain Culture Film (\$500 cash prize) was awarded to Tea or Electricity, directed by Jérôme Le Maire, (Belgium, 2012).

Did you know we're on Facebook and Twitter? Like and follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/BCMountaineeringClub> and @BCMountainClub for club updates.

Boots Resoled Lately? - Submitted by Doug Wylie

If you had a pair of Meindl Borneo hiking boots, size 8, resoled at Gold Star Shoe Rebuilders in December 2013, please check that you weren't given the wrong boots, e.i. size 9.5. My boots were returned to the wrong person. Please contact Gold Star at 604-734-7477.

BCMC Reaches 800 Members! - Submitted by Werner Grimzek

Our PR Volunteers Astrid St.Pierre, Bala Kumar, Rob Szpak, Michelle Hyun, Dave Robertson and Francis signed up 14 new members at our PR table at the VIMFF – North Vancouver.

Their successful work pushed our 'active membership accounts' over the 800 barrier during the VIMFF on Feb.15th

'Thank You Very Much' for helping make the BCMC one of the leading Mountaineering Clubs in BC and in Canada.

Next steps: We need more trip organizers who organize more trips for all those new members!

• Yes – we are talking to YOU • Don't be shy – please help - apply via email info@bcmc.ca to become a trip organizer!

Trip Organizer Policy Changes: Now You're A Trip Organizer

At the March executive meeting, changes to the trip organizer policy were passed that will simplify the process to becoming a trip organizer for the club. With the new website, there have been three categories: non-trip organizers, reviewed trip organizers who can propose trips for the trip schedule that are reviewed before being published, and trusted trip organizers whose trips are immediately visible. The previous process to become a trip organizer involved emailing the climbing chair with two nominations from members who participated in club trips with the potential organizer. Feedback from new members was that this process was intimidating, and hard to find out about. The policy change deletes the "non-trip organizer" category, so that effectively, all club members have the ability to propose a trip for the club schedule. These proposed trips then enter a queue where they will be reviewed before becoming publicly available. These changes will be implemented in the coming weeks and will be described in further detail in upcoming emails.

Garibaldi Management Plan Amendment Released - Approval for Spearhead Huts

Article by Jayson Faulkner, SHC Media Chair

The much-anticipated release of the Management Plan Amendment for the Spearhead Area of Garibaldi Park brought relief to the Spearhead Huts Committee (SHC) on Monday, March 3rd, 2014. The SHC had been waiting since 2012 for approval of their proposed three-hut system along the popular 40-kilometre Spearhead Traverse in Garibaldi Park's Spearhead Range. They were thrilled to discover that huts along the range had been included in the plan. "Given widespread indications of support for the hut concept, the plan amendment provides clear direction to allow huts," the plan states.

"We are extremely pleased to see the report finally released and its clear endorsement of our project that we have been working on for 4 years now," says SHC's chair Jayson Faulkner. "We have always been empowered to have such broad support from the public, the backcountry community and the various levels of government on this initiative which is non-profit, and a low cost for a wide group of users. We are now looking forward to seeing this move to the next stage of the process with BC Parks."

SHC's proposed hut system will comprise of three huts, spread at intervals along the 40-kilometre Spearhead circuit between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains. The huts will provide summer and winter shelter with overnight accommodation, heat, water, toilets and self-serve cooking facilities. The hut system will allow winter and summer backcountry travelers to experience the remarkable Spearhead environment relatively unencumbered by equipment and heavy packs. Establishment of the hut system will also mitigate and control the current random user/uncontrolled camping impacts that are occurring throughout this area. The huts will also broaden the potential user base of the Spearhead range to include both younger and older people.

Release of the plan couldn't be more timely. The SHC, in conjunction with Mountain Life Magazine, will host an annual fundraiser for the project during the World Ski and Snowboard Festival on Sunday, April 13th, 2014, at 7pm at the Whistler Conference Centre. Details of the event, called Multiplicity, were announced yesterday. The SHC is also in discussion with the Resort Municipality of Whistler to secure support for the project.

The full Management Plan Amendment for the Spearhead Area of Garibaldi Park can be found online at http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/garibaldi/garibaldi_mp_amendment_approved_feb2014.pdf

Who is the SHC and what's the story behind the hut proposal?

The Spearhead Huts Committee (SHC) is a working group comprised of representatives from the Alpine Club of Canada Whistler Section (ACCW), The Alpine Club of Canada Vancouver Section (ACCV), The British Columbia Mountaineering Club (BCMC), memorial groups (the Kees and Claire Memorial Hut Society and the Brett Carlson Memorial Group) and other interested parties who envision a three-hut system along the 40-kilometre Spearhead Traverse in the Spearhead Range. This coalition of support represents a broad base of non-profit, non-motorized backcountry user groups, committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship. The group first met in 2009.

Course Discounts for Active Trip Organizers

The first pieces of an exciting new BCMC Recognition Program have been passed at the February Executive meeting. Stay tuned for more details, including exclusive Pro Deals, cumulative trip awards, and other goodies in the works.

Fast Track Course Discounts for Active Trip Organizers

This is an automatic discount program for active trip organizers that offers an additional 25% off of regularly scheduled BCMC offerings of select courses: AST-1, Rope Rescue, Crevasse Rescue, and Wilderness First Aid (20h). To qualify, you must have organized at least 4 trips in a year. Volunteer instructors will receive a deeper discount of 50%. The details and exact structure of this program will be set out within the next month as we formalize a program to recognize the importance of all volunteers within our club.

BCMC Course Reimbursement Fund

This provides instructors and active trip organizers the opportunity to be partially reimbursed for further mountaineering related courses taught by professionals. These are approved on a case-by-

case basis by the Executive. These courses are funded by the revenues generated by the BCMC Programs taught by volunteer instructors. The guidelines as approved follow:

Guidelines for the BCMC Course Reimbursement Fund [hereafter referred to as CRF]:

The annual budget (Oct 1st to Sept 30th) for the CRF will be set to 50% of the net income from the previous year's "Programs Revenue".

Only mountaineering-related instructional [hereafter referred to as MRI] courses will be considered for reimbursement using the CRF.

Only current BCMC members who have volunteered as a Course Instructor or Trip Organizer at some point during the previous year may apply.

Application screening will be based on type of trips and number of trips/courses organized, with preference given to those organizing:

- 12 full days worth of BCMC trips during the previous 12 months, with a total of 12 or more unique club members participating.

- two full-days of BCMC course instruction, with a total of six or more unique club members participating.

Applications must be received by the BCMC Programs Chairperson within three months of the MRI course start date.

Applications may be submitted and approved either before or after the MRI course is scheduled to start. An approved application will be specific to both the applicant and the MRI course applied for and cannot be transferred. Applications will be rejected if the total fee charged for the MRI course is less than \$50 CAD. Any reimbursement awarded should cover at least 10% of the MRI course fee or \$25 CAD, whichever is greater. An approved CRF award will be dispersed if and when the MRI course has been successfully completed. The Executive Committee may delay disbursement until the applicant provides reasonable proof of successful completion.

New UIAA Standard for Dry Treated Ropes

The UIAA has come up with a new certification standard for dry treatment on ropes that should bring better truth in advertising for dry treated ropes. Under the new standard, a lightly abraded rope that is soaked in water according to a strict guideline cannot retain more than 5% water by weight, for comparison, a non-treated rope can retain up to 50%. Here's hoping the new standard means better dry ropes for ice and snow.

Thar North Face Couloir - Right Variation - Cold, cold, cold- *Submitted by Alan Trick*

On February 8, me, Julio Velandia (my climbing partner), and Jason Porter climbed the North Face Couloir of Thar. It is an excellent line, and I don't think it gets anywhere near the attention it deserves.

The climb starts up a very obvious gully from the far end of Falls Lake. The start is not particularly difficult. Somewhere between 35 and 45 degree snow. As you climb higher the slope gradually steepens and leads to a fork. Other trip reports I've seen have gone to the left. We took the right which goes somewhat steeper (maybe 55 degrees). It contained a rather surprising moat and even a little grade 2 ice at one point. We simulclimbed about 150 meters, and topped out in glorious sunlight.

It's not too often when the weather on the coast here is as miserable enough to make you want

plastic boots. Yesterday was one of those days. I think it was about -20 degrees. A friend of mine reported -25 down by the highway that evening. Keeping warm was quite difficult and fortunately we never had to stop for more than about 10-15 minutes, even at belays. Still, Julio suffered from a bit of frostnip on his toes, partly due to having his laces too tight.

Someone else has suggested a grade of AD. I'd probably suggest AD-.

Note: This was Jason's first BCMC trip. He was an excellent guy to climb with.

Greifswald Peak And Snowspider Mountain - March 1-2, 2014 - by *Dean Perez*

Alexis proposed to ski Snowspider Mountain via Caspar Creek approach and hoping to bag Greifswald Peak and Konsengarten Peak along the way, then rather going back up on the same way, he wanted to ski out via VanHorlick FSR. This is quite an interesting loop, covering a lot of distance and elevation in 2 days. The weather wasn't that great over the week-end. We didn't witness any avalanche activity, but we've crossed several old avalanche debris.

We parked our car off Duffy road, at the gate of Caspar Creek FSR. 7km of skinning at the end of logging road and another 4km to the col of Greifswald and Konsengarten. It was windy and cold once we reached the col, after bagging Greifswald Peak, without any hesitation and discussion to push to go up Konsengarten Peak, everyone decided to ski down to Snowspider hut. I was very cold and my fingers were screaming in pain.

We skied down the South side of Greifswald, which brought us directly to the hut. The terrain was steep and what it made more challenging to ski was crossing some avalanche debris and skiing through corn snow. Everyone managed to get down safe but my thigh and back was burning going down.

By 3PM, we found ourselves in a cozy hut. The hut was partially buried in the snow with only the door sticking out.

The weather hasn't improved in the morning when we woke up, it was overcast and some light snow falling but the visibility was good enough to give Snowspider a try. We set off at 7:15am, following the prominent gully towards the shoulder to the NE ridge of Snowspider. Much more direct route if you ascend from the bowl on the north side of the ridge. We boot pack the last 200m steep section to the summit. Low vis at the summit. From the NE ridge, we skied off the bowl and retraced our tracks back to the hut. We were back at the hut by noon. We left the hut 12:45 and started a long slog back to the car via VanHorlick FSR. We were back to the car by 4:00.

The crux of this trip was driving back to the city. The road was quite treacherous to drive with the new snow on the road, we've seen a lot of cars in the ditch. It took me 6 hours of driving to get home. Another great outing with friends.

