

BCMC



BC Mountaineering Club Newsletter



Nov 2014, Vol 92, No. 9

UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL & AGM

Tuesday, Nov 18 at the ANZA Club 7:30 pm
BCMC member Ben Singleton-Polster presents on
his 10 day traverse of the Stein Divide.

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:

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.



Like: www.facebook.com/BCMmountaineeringClub
Follow: @BCMMountainClub

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.

NOVEMBER 2014 TRIP SCHEDULE ~ Sign up, updates and details at www.bcmc.ca

1	Heliotrope Ridge	Skiing - B2-C2	Angus Robb
1	Pokosha Creek	Road Repair - A1	Paul Kubik
1	Hanes Valley Loop	Hiking - B/C1	Winifred Swatschek
1	Mamquam South	New Trail Work-Stage 2 - A1	Stanislav Liarsky
1	AST-1 Seymour	Snowshoe (BMC Discount)	Robert Simzer
1	Seymour	Mountain Biking - B4	Mark Janzen
1	Mt. Howard	Scrambling - D3	Alastair Ferries
2	Grouse Mtn	Hiking - A1	Peter Bruckmann
6	The Edge (North Van)	Indoor Climbing - A4	John Gill
8	Heliotrope Ridge	Skiing - B2	Mike Hamata
11	Skyline Divide	Skiing - B2-C2	Angus Robb
12	Cliffhanger (Richmond)	Indoor climbing -	Quentin Hamilton
13-23	Joshua Tree	Climbing Camp - A5	Francis St Pierre
14-16	Wilderness First Aid	Outdoor Education	Paul Olynek
15	Mt. Bonnycastle	Skiing C3	Craig Speirs
15	Skyline Divide	Skiing B2	Mike Hamata
18	"Skiing Stein Divide"	Social Presentation	Douglas Lonsbrough
22	Windy Joe (Manning)	Snowshoe - B2	Brittany Zenger

The BCMC welcomes the following new members: Amber Brown, Bev MacDonald, Chris Koscher, Connie Wiecha, Dustin Gray, Eric MacDonald, Freya Wasteneys, Ginna Abramovitch, Hilary Schrama, Jordan Friesen, Krista Ruby, Nathaniel Booth, Nina Piggott, Paul Hannig-Kain, Philip Gibney, Slawomir Skoczylas, Susie Inkpen, and Yunn Au-Yeung

NOVEMBER 18: AGM and Executive Elections

As part of the Social evening the BCMC will hold its 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The AGM will consist of two parts:

Financials - The 2013/14 financial reports from Executive members will be submitted, followed by the presentation of the 2013/14 BCMC Financial Statement to be approved by the membership.

Executive Election - The names of club members running for executive positions will be put forward and voted on as a group. In the rare instance an election is called, voting ballots will be provided and cast. After the Executive vote, a member can move that the AGM be closed.

Club members running for BCMC Executive roles for 2014/2015:

President:	Dave Scanlon
Vice- President:	Brittany Zenger
Secretary:	Bob Woodhouse
Treasurer:	Alena Dzujkova
Membership:	Brittany Zenger
Socials:	Doug Lonsbrough
Climbing:	Marlaina Rhymer
Cabins and Trails:	Mike Hamata
Conservation:	Ben Singleton-Polster
Programs and Camps:	Rob Smizer
FMCBC:	Ben Singleton-Polster
Webmaster:	Paul Olynek
Editor Newsletter:	Steve Booth
Editor Mountaineer / Archivist:	Michael Feller

November BCMC Social Evening

Club member Ben Singleton-Polster will present on his traverse of the Stein Divide in the spring of 2014. Ben, along with three friends, approached the divide via Van Horlick Creek, and over Cherry Pip Pass. After enjoying eight days of excellent weather, seven summited peaks, and countless sweet turns, the group finished their traverse at Nahatlatch Creek.

New BCMC Discount Deals For Grippped and Rock & Ice Magazines

Rock & Ice Magazine: 40% Discount - North America's leading Rock/Ice Climbing Magazine
<http://www.rockandice.com/>

Grippped Magazine: 70% Discount - Canada's leading Climbing Magazine.
\$8.00 for 6 issues. Regularly priced at \$ 25.95!
<http://grippped.com/>

It pays to be a member of the BCMC!
Email Werner [wernergr@shaw.ca] for the promo codes.

Tim Jones SHREDDER Golden Ale Release November 15, 2014

Lets raise a glass for Tim!
Deep Cove Brewers & Distillers in partnership with North Shore Rescue have proudly announced the release of **SHREDDER Golden Ale**: a special beer whose entire proceeds will go to the North Shore Rescue Tim Jones Legacy Fund. The fund was set up to make Tim's dream of sustainable and predictable funding for North Shore Rescue a reality.
Look purchase locations at deepcovecraft.com/

VOC Fundraiser for Avalanche Canada

The VOC will be showing the Teton Gravity ski movie *Almost Ablaze* in the Norm theater (in the old UBC SUB) at on **November 17, 2014**.
Awarded Film Of The Year at the 2014 International Freeski Film Festival, TGR's *Almost Ablaze* is a global odyssey combining state-of-the-art cinematography and the most progressive riding on The Planet.

Doors at 7pm/ Curtain at 8pm (Raffle at 7:40pm)
Tickets: \$10 before Nov 17/\$15 at the door

All profits will be donated to Avalanche Canada.

VIMFF FALL SERIES 2014, November 12-15, 2014

With rates as low as only \$12 per show, the VIMFF 3-show pass and 2-show pass make it easy on the wallet to enjoy the excellent programming at the VIMFF 2014 Fall Series.

Rio Theatre - 1660 East Broadway, Vancouver (ages 19+ only)

Wednesday, Nov 12

REEL ROCK 9: *Valley Uprising*
7:30pm (doors 6:30pm)

A special presentation of the highly-anticipated feature-length film *Valley Uprising*

Thursday, Nov 13

Ski-Mountaineering Night with Ptor Spriceniaks
7:30pm (doors 6:30pm)
Legendary ski mountaineer Ptor Spriceniaks will bring a live presentation about his life in the mountains followed by his new film *Dreamline*

Centennial Theatre - 2300 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver

Friday, Nov 14

Mountain Bike Show
7:30pm (doors 6:30pm)
Featuring an exclusive presentation of *Won't Back Down*, followed by a few short mountain bike flicks, including the NSMBA contest winners.

Saturday, Nov 15

REEL ROCK 9: *Valley Uprising*
7:30pm (doors 6:30pm)

MEC Vancouver Annual Snowfest: Saturday, November 22, 2014

Events at this year's festival:

Snow Swap (10am-3pm) on our roof is a great opportunity for anyone looking to pick up winter sports gear for fair prices.

If you are looking to sell your previously-loved gear there will be consignment options and table rentals available. Consignment and rental rates can be found online at: <http://events.mec.ca/event/32441/mec-vancouver-snow-swap>

Free clinics on topics including avalanche safety, ski repair/maintenance, ski touring and more. Clinic signups will be offered on our Snowfest event page.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to win a number of **great prizes**: i.e. Intuition boot liners, AST- 1 courses, touring poles, and more!

Kickstarter Campaign for Rogers Pass: *Uptracks, Bootpacks & Bushwhacks*

Douglas Sproul has written a fantastic new guide to ski touring in Rogers Pass. This is an incredible guide loaded with detailed maps and photos written by a local who knows Rogers Pass like the back of his hand.

Doug is raising the money to print the book by pre-selling copies on Kickstarter.

Please consider ordering a book.

If the Kickstarter campaign doesn't reach its goal, Doug will not be able to publish the book. So, if think you will ever go ski touring at Rogers Pass now is the time to support Doug.

For all the details on this amazing publication head to <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/geobackcountry/geobackcountry-rogers-pass-backcountry-skiing-guid>

Campaign deadline is **November 26, 2014**

2014/15 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour December 5 & 6, 2014

Hosted by the ACC - Vancouver section, the 2014/15 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour brings films from the 39th annual Banff Mountain Film Festival to about 400 communities in 40 countries around the world.

Ignite your passion for adventure, action, and travel with amazing big-screen stories; journey to exotic locations, paddle the wildest waters, and climb the highest peaks.

There are two different playbills A & B - you can go both nights to see them all!

Program A; Friday, Dec. 5 at the **Centennial Theatre** (2300 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver)
Doors at 6:30pm, Show at 7:30pm

Program B; Saturday, Dec. 6 at the **Centre Theatre** (777 Homer St., Vancouver)
Doors at 6:00pm, Show at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$20 and can be purchased at accvancouver.ca/bmff-world-tour and at the **Centennial Theatre**.

The shows have sold out in the past years so get your tickets early!

Mountain Light: Photos from the BCMC Collection

Along with ice axes, crampons, and skis, the camera has been a vital piece of mountaineering equipment. **Mountain Light** presents a selection of the best images taken by some of the most outstanding photographers from the British Columbia Mountaineering Club (BCMC) since its foundation in 1907. These images were taken for various reasons: to record shared experience and achievement, to survey and map, to educate, or to depict the natural beauty of the land.

Please take a few minutes to enjoy these reminders of the BCMC's proud history.

Visit: nvma.ca/virtual-exhibits/mountain-light

In Praise of Alice Purdey and John Halliday

by Paul Adam

In May 2014, the new edition of *109 Walks* was published. The front cover lists Alice Purdey, John Halliday and Mary and David Macaree, and “Revised & updated seventh edition.” On the back cover, you will see “Current authors Alice Purdey and John Halliday are active members of the club.”

Unfortunately, these words fail to bestow anywhere near the recognition John and Alice deserve for the work they put into this edition. As it notes on the back cover, Mary and David are deceased and this edition is a continuation of the work they started close to 40 years ago.

For the first edition, the Macarees put in a lot of time and effort to find, do and write up 109 walks. In succeeding editions, trips were added and deleted as things changed. David died 1998, just after the publication of the fifth edition, while Mary died 2008 as the sixth edition was being finished.

Because of the Macarees age and health, the last couple of editions had not been as thoroughly revised and updated as the earlier ones so a major overhaul was needed. It soon became apparent to John and Alice, while technically it is was going to be a revised and updated edition; the reality was that a complete rewrite of the book was needed.

Initially, John and Alice were not totally aware of all work and difficulties the Macarees had faced in writing the first edition of the book. As they embarked on this rewrite, their admiration for the Macarees accomplishment rose.

The first problem they encountered was that all 109 walks in the existing book had to be re-walked to see if they should be retained. At minimum, this meant it was going to take 109 days to complete the walking.

Not surprisingly, not every walk was retained. Having done the 109 existing walks, John and Alice decided 26 needed either a substantial revision or replacement. That meant another 26 days of walking, not to mention days spent doing trips which one reason or another were found to be wanting in some way and so exclude from the book. By this time, they had completed 109 walks worthy of inclusion; they had spent nearly 150 days walking. Obviously, this was not done in a year. In fact, just walking trails and paths took over two years. By that time some of the first trips they did had to be redone because of changes that occurred.

With the walking done, the hard work began. The easiest and quickest part of the hard work was selecting the

photographs, reworking the maps, and filling in the tombstone data. Writing the descriptions was a major challenge. To write 500 words, no more and not much less, that clearly described the route was challenging and time consuming. Five hundred words doesn't sound like much, but it all takes time to make it accurate and clear. Because numerous people read and proofed each walk and each person had their own ideas, John and Alice faced what seemed like an endless number of rewrites before nearly everyone was satisfied. In the end, each of those 500 word paragraphs was substantially rewritten at least five times.

It is safe to assume that the initial writing each five hundred word paragraph required well over two hours of hard work. If you multiply that by 109, you are looking at about 300 hours of writing, or close to 40 eight-hour days. And this is before the revisions and rewrites.

In other words, between time spent doing walks and writing them up, Alice and John put in something approaching 250 full days of work, just for the walks. And then there was time spent on the introduction, tables and all the other little things needed to make a good guidebook.

“Revised & Updated Seventh Edition,” while technically true in the sense that the book looks like the previous editions, fails to recognise that there are few words left from any of those editions. In fact, about the only similarity between this edition and previous editions is the layout (over which Alice and John, and BCMC had little control), and even there changes were made. This is essentially a brand-new book.

On the back cover, the short write-up about the authors is essentially a rewrite of the blurb on previous editions where the Macarees were the only authors. After six and a half lines on the Macarees, the contribution of Alice and John is acknowledged with the following short sentence: “Current authors, Alice Purdey and John Halliday are active members of the club.”

Knowing both Alice and John well, I know neither took on this project looking for accolades and seeking recognition, especially public praise. They may not seek it, but having worked with them on parts of this project, I know they deserve much more than the publisher's inadequate words on the cover indicate.

So, on behalf of the members of the BCMC and the walkers of the Lower Mainland I would like to thank and applaud John and Alice for the three hundred days of effort they put into rewriting a classic work of the BC outdoors.

Sigurd Trail Improvements & Extension Fall, 2014

The BCMC builds and maintains the Sigurd Trail in the northern Tantalus Range in the Coast Range of British Columbia just north of Squamish. The trail rises from Squamish River through the old growth, heavily forested Este-tiwih/Sigurd Creek Conservancy and enters Tantalus Provincial Park. The trail is popular with mountaineers climbing Pelion and Ossa Mountains and traversing the Tantalus Range. Each year, people attempt to get to Sigurd Lake and most fail.

A lot of work on the Sigurd Trail was accomplished in 2014. The crowning achievement was a five day camp with Peter Malacarne, and Paul Kubik. The club funded helicopter flights for the work party, who then extended the trail about one kilometer into "Moraine Camp" at 1200 meters elevation in the glacial outwash plain below the Pelion-Ossa Glacier; the route to Ossa Camp on the west ridge of Ossa Mountain was also flagged at this time. A latrine was prefabricated in Vancouver and assembled on site.

The BCMC wishes to thank Peter, Paul, and all members who volunteered with trail maintenance this year for their efforts and hard work.

Turtlehead Mountain (Nevada) Oct 21, 2014

by Geoff Zenger

Report: This report contains the story of the first BCMC expedition to Turtlehead Mountain, Nevada. After a few training days climbing routes in Red Rocks such as Cat in the Hat (all the way to the top of Mescalito), Geronimo, and Physical Graffiti, Peter [Woodsworth] and I left the rest of our party down in the valley and ventured forth on an unguided, unassisted, siege-style expedition to conquer Turtlehead Mountain. No fixed ropes were used. The morning of the ascent, we had an anti-alpine start, and weren't at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot until around 10 o'clock when the solar effect on conditions was already considerable, but as experienced mountaineers we elected to make the ascent regardless. The route wound its way upwards through cliff bands and desert creek washes, and soon we found our way in the large valley/gully leading up to a col just west of the summit. Unfortunately, due to congestion on the route due to the hordes travelling downhill, our party became separated and although Peter continued upwards to the col via the standard class 1/2 route, I was sucked offroute into a steep gully, which ascended to the ridgeline above the col. In places it may have approached class 3.

Just past noon we found ourselves on the summit where we celebrated with Gatorade, wraps, and a family sized bag of Sun Chips. Gazing down the route to the valley and Sin City below we reminisced on our accomplishment and an hour or so later began our way down. The rest of our crew had made it up Birdland today, which I must admit looks fairly impressive from below, but has nothing on the altitude gained on our expedition to Turtlehead Mountain.

Participants: Geoff Zenger, Peter Woodsworth

Difficulty: 1/2 (if on route), 2/3 (route taken)

Skywalk Trail North (Whistler) Oct 8, 2014

by Nancy Henderson

Nine of us joined up to explore the northern branch of this new trail.

Four years in the making, the trail was finished this summer by Whistler Alpine Club volunteers with the help and support of the Municipality of Whistler and the Recreational Sites and Trails BC.

The new trail is linked to the to the north end of the Flank Trail, accessed from the Rick's Roost trailhead at the top of Alpine Way in Alpine Meadows. After a steep hike up to the Flank for about 90 minutes, a freshly built connector, known as 'Escape Route' forks off the Flank shortly after the bridge over 19 Mile Creek. The Escape Route gently climbs to the top of the tree line and connects with Skywalk once you're in full view of the alpine zone of Rainbow Mountain. From here there's a choice to go North (which takes you to Iceberg Lake and then climbs up and over numerous ridges before dropping down to Screaming Cat Lake - which we did) or the more southerly branch which eventually leads to Rainbow Lake.

"Recommended" was the universal agreement among all of us at the end of a long but satisfying day.

Time: 9.45 hours (7.13 moving time)

Distance: 25.1 km

Elevation Gain: 4497 feet (total)

High Point: 5903 feet (above Iceberg Lake)

Trail Conditions & Route Finding: good, however the current skywalk trail map only depicts the new trail and not the trails which provide access and exit this alpine trail.

Parking: limited street parking at the Top of Alpine Way in Alpine Meadows (north of Whistler Village)

Highlights: the new "Escape Route" Trail that follows Upper 19 mile Creek, Iceberg Lake and Rainbow Glacier, the alpine ridges and many tarns... and the fungi

Fungi Identified: king boleta, oyster, cauliflower, russula, aminita muscaria, mycena.....

Participants: Zdenek Sychrava, Alice Purdey, Fred Douglas, Carol MacMillan, David Hughes, Adrian Hughes, Paul Stevenson, Jackie Stevenson, Dogs: Chilko, Mac & Murphy

Organiser & Trip Reporter: Nancy Henderson



left:
Skywalk Trail; lunch spot (Carol)
bottom left:
Above Iceberg Lake (Znedek)
below
Iceberg Lake (Carol)
bottom right
Sigurd Creek Trail improvement;
Paul Kubik

