

# BCMC

A person in an orange jacket and dark pants is skiing down a snowy mountain slope. The background features jagged, snow-covered mountain peaks under a blue sky with light clouds. The skier is in the lower left quadrant of the frame, leaving a trail of snow behind them.

## BC Mountaineering Club Newsletter

*Oct 2014, Vol 92, No. 8*

### **UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL**

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, Oct 9 - BCMC member Linda  
Bily presents on her three week trip to the  
Homathko Icefield across the Coast range.

**British Columbia Mountaineering Club**  
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**HONOURARY PRESIDENTS**  
**Esther and Martin Kafer**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**

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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: Crossing the Homathko (Photo: L Bily)

**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.

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

3-6	Red River Gorge, Kentucky - C5	Adrian Burke
3	Squamish Climbing - A5	Aaron Cornes
3	Climbing at Cliffhanger Vancouver - A5	Ursula Paleczek
3	Evening Mission up and Down Grouse - A1	Peter Bruckmann
4	Beverley Creek Trail Building - B1	Scott Nelson
4	Hope Mountain Hike & Work - B2	Geoffrey Zenger
4-5	North Creek Trail Clearing - B3	Ed Zenger
5	Beverley Creek Trail Building - B1	Scott Nelson
5	Squamish Sunday Climbing B5	Carl Wikner
6	Cloudburst Mtn - B2	Christopher Barton
7	BCMC Executive Team meeting - A1	Francis St Pierre
8	Skywalk Trail Whistler - B1-C1	Nancy Henderson
8	Climbing - Cliffhanger Vancouver - A5	Anders Mjos
9	Squamish Rock (Day) - A5	Werner Grzimek
10-13	Downton Creek, Duffey Lake Road - B2-C2	Christopher Barton
11-21	Indian Creek Crack Climbing - C5	Lee Purvis
11-13	Frenchman Coulee - C5	Marlaina Rhymer
11-13	Harrison Hut & Meager hot springs - C2	Andrzej Jarzabek
16	Mount Baker Seracs - B5	Robert Nugent
18-30	Red Rock climbing camp (Las Vegas, NV) - B5	Francis St Pierre
18	Squeah NNW2 - D3	Alastair Ferries
18	Mamquam South - New Trail Work - A1	Stanislav Liarsky
18	Mount Baker Seracs - B5	Alan Trick
19	Mount Baker Seracs - B5	Robert Nugent
28	MEC Fall Club Night - A1	Cynthia Montemayor

The BCMC welcomes the following new members: Darren Johnston, Duncan Graham, Gary Kaufman, Gordon Hunt, Kyle Paisley, Meghan Anderson, Melissa VanderHouwen, Roy Zhang, Steve Yun, and William Richardson-Little.

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

This year's **BC Mountaineer**, the club's biennial journal, will be available at the BCMC October social evening – cost is \$10 to club members, and \$15 to non-club members.

A friendly reminder for those club members who joined prior to 2012, your membership renewal was due September 30, please **renew** as soon as possible.

We're looking for **new executive members** for the upcoming year starting in November. Multiple roles are available from helping with membership, to the trip schedule and courses. Contact David Scanlon, Past President for more information on the roles available.

BCMC member **Jay MacAuthor** is currently exploring options around fixing up the BCMC Trail on Grouse Mountain with support from the FMCBC and the BCMC, if you're interested in participating, reach out to Jay.

## **The BCMC Discount Deal with 'Cypress Mountain' for Members**

Radmila Bridges (former Climbing Chair) will be organizing club ski nights at Cypress Bowl coming winter season every Wednesday.

If you want to buy any kind of seasons pass – downhill or cross country- see info about group discount passes below:

- Group Discount for Cypress Passes for Winter 2014-2015
    - Early Bird deadline is October 15th at 1pm -
- Interested in skiing/snowboarding/cross-country skiing on Cypress this winter?
- Save around 20-25% off the regular price when you buy your pass with this group discount.
  - You can buy ANY of the Alpine OR Nordic season passes.
  - Prices for all passes can be found here: <http://cypressmountain.com/group-season-pass>

To buy your pass online, please follow the instructions as stated below:

1. Please visit [www.cypressmountain.com](http://www.cypressmountain.com); go to the Groups Menu then Group Season Pass Page, then click "Group Login" under Downloads & Related Links

- or use the following link:

<https://www.tixforcypressmountain.com/e-commerce/GrpLogin.aspx>

2. To access these special rates you will need the following:

- Username: jaksic

- Password: RAINBOW2015

3. You are now logged into the online sales system and will be able to purchase your passes at your discounted group rates. Please also note credit cards are the only form of payment for online purchases.

MEC Vancouver Snowfest - Saturday, November 22nd - 10am-3pm o

Gearswap event on offer, check out for more details: <http://events.mec.ca/event/32441/mec-vancouver-snow-swap>

MEC Snowfest Vancouver will also be home to a number of free clinics on topics including avalanche safety, ski repair/maintenance, ski touring and more. Clinic signups will be offered on our Snowfest event page.

**Varsity Outdoor Club** is organizing its fall gear swap where people can sell or buy used outdoor gear from others.

Time: Wednesday, Oct. 22nd, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Location: IBLC 261 (Irving K Barber Learning Centre on the UBC Vancouver campus)

(<https://ssc.adm.ubc.ca/classroomservices/function/viewlocation?userEvent=ShowLocation&buildingID=IBLC&roomID=261>)

More information: <http://www.ubc-voc.com/tripagenda/details.php?tripid=799>

The **MEC Fall Club Night** event will take place at the MEC Vancouver store location, at 1130 West Broadway, on Tuesday, October 28th, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

BCMC Members will receive 10% off on all regularly priced items purchased that evening - including bikes and boats! Please note that all items must be in stock and purchased through the tills in order to be eligible for the discount. This means the club night discount will not apply to items ordered or purchased on line. Also note this discount does not extend to items that are on clearance or are a part of a packaged discount.

All participants must be members of Mountain Equipment Co-op. If you are not yet an MEC member, you are welcome to sign up and purchase a membership (\$5.00) that evening. You also must be a current BCMC member to attend the event. For members planning to take part, please login, find the Club Night trip listing and RVSP to the Participant List using the "Join this Trip" button.

### **Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival - Film Submission Now Open**

The 18th annual Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival will commence in February 2015 - join for a celebration of mountain culture, film and sports. VIMFF is now accepting all films with a mountain theme (climbing, mountaineering, mountain biking, trail running, environmental, ski, snowboard, paragliding, kayaking, etc) and films of all durations will be considered. This year the submission process is entirely electronic - the online entry form and regulations can be found here. The deadline for film submissions is November 15th 2014. All film submissions are subject to an entry fee of \$30 CAN. If you have any questions, please contact [films@vimff.org](mailto:films@vimff.org).

### **Canadian Avalanche Centre is Now Avalanche Canada and Funding Announcement**

After ten years of serving as Canada's national public avalanche safety organization, the Canadian Avalanche Centre has announced its new name and unveiled a new logo.

"Avalanche Canada will continue to provide the same award - winning and internationally recognized programs that have been developed over the past decade," said Executive Director Gilles Valade. "As we look forward to our next ten years, we wanted to create a brand identity that is separate from the Canadian Avalanche Association, the organization that serves and supports professional avalanche workers in Canada.

"Avalanche Canada will continue to use [avalanche.ca](http://avalanche.ca) as its website address, so there will be no change to where users go for avalanche safety information. Avalanche Canada will also continue the strong tradition of collaborating with public and private partners to fund its programs, which are designed for recreational winter backcountry users of all types.

Attending launch were representatives from the Alberta Government and the Government of BC, both of whom announced continued commitments to public avalanche safety. British Columbia will support in Avalanche Canada in 2014/15 with \$450,000.

## Box Canyon - Canyoneering Explorations - Submitted By David Black

This summer I discovered another beautiful part of BC- its canyons! After doing some guided and unguided canyoneering in Utah and Martinique earlier this year, I took my brother (12 years old) with me to explore some local canyons. After descending picturesque Cypress Creek a couple times, we headed to Goldie Creek and Mosquito Creek, all three of which basically lie within Translink connection from my house! Then, on a rainy, nasty day on which my friend and I had actually planned on getting on some Squamish rock, we headed off instead across the Squamish River. Stepping out of our inflatable toy boat, we disappeared into dense forest beside Monmouth Creek and entered a new world of raging streams, carved granite and huge basalt cliffs, hung with a curtain ferns. We descended Box Creek, which was simply spectacular. The next week I took my dad and brother up to do it again, this time with a camera on a sunny day.

The BCMC Huts Survey was conducted over the summer to a stunning success of more than 300 responses from members. The most salient result is the strong 79% support for the concept of building more BCMC cabins. A note on interpretation, the first section of demographic questions were mandatory, but all later questions were optional, note the counts in brackets to see the raw numbers of approval for each question. Thank you for your participation, the summary of results is below:

### What is your gender?

Male	(230)	73%
Female	(85)	27%

### What is your age group?

Under 20	(2)	1%
20-29	(47)	15%
30-39	(83)	26%
40-49	(61)	19%
50-59	(65)	21%
Over 60	(57)	18%

### How many days per year are you active in the backcountry?

5 or less	(19)	6%
6-10	(29)	9%
11-20	(62)	20%
21-30	(57)	18%
Over 30	(148)	47%

### How many years have you been a BCMC member?

1-2	(102)	32%
3-5	(72)	23%
6-10	(38)	12%
11-20	(31)	10%
Over 20	(46)	15%
Not currently a member	(26)	8%

### How often, on average, do you use a BCMC Hut/

### Cabin in a typical year?

10+ nights	(1)	0%
5+ nights	(11)	3%
2 or 3 nights	(50)	16%
1 night	(78)	25%
Never	(175)	56%

### How often do you use any hut/cabin in North America in a typical year (BCMC, ACC, other)?

20+ nights	(4)	1%
10-20 nights	(27)	9%
5-10 nights	(79)	25%
1 to 4 nights	(125)	40%
Only use a hut on day trips	(21)	7%
Never	(59)	19%

### BCMC Hut/Cabin Construction Guidelines

#### Should the BCMC build more cabins or huts?

Yes	(248)	79%
No and not interested in hut policy	(24)	8%
No, but interested in hut policy	(43)	14%

### Hut Policy Details

Should the BCMC change its policy and be open to building a hut or cabin in an area which is popular at present but does not already have a cabin?

Yes	(148)	47%
No	(138)	44%

Should the BCMC change its policy and be open to building a hut or cabin for purposes of wilderness education?

Yes, open to all	(26)	8%
Yes, but only not to commercial	(82)	26%
Yes, open to all, fee if commercial	(104)	33%
No	(76)	24%

Should the BCMC change its policy and be open to building a hut or cabin primarily for summer use?

Yes	(113)	36%
No	(169)	54%

Should the BCMC change its policy and be open to building a shelter with three walls and a roof?

Yes	(84)	27%
No	(200)	63%

Should the BCMC change its policy and be open to building a hut or cabin primarily to attract people to the mountains?

Yes	(109)	35%
No	(175)	56%

Should the BCMC consider building a hut or cabin in areas likely to be accessible by snowmobile?

No, if any chance of sled access	(81)	26%
No, unless sled access is rare	(185)	59%
Yes, sled access is acceptable	(21)	7%
Other	(3)	1%

What is the closest a BCMC cabin should be allowed to be built from the nearest road access?

Car-accessible	(9)	3%
15 min by foot	(6)	2%
1-2 hours by foot	(32)	10%
3-4 hours by foot	(139)	44%
5-8 hours by foot	(78)	25%
Over 8 hours by foot	(20)	6%
Multi-day (or access by heli)	(5)	2%

How difficult should access to a BCMC cabin be?

Beginner-friendly trail	(116)	37%
Rough trail or significant hazard	(155)	49%
Bushwhack and/or scrambling	(10)	3%
Access by helicopter	(5)	2%

How much consultation from the Membership at large should the Club Executive seek in its decision-

making for a cabin?

Little to no involvement: Executive decides based on a cabin committee recommendation; Members at large approve funding at a General Meeting if funds from the Literary Fund are required. (28) 9%

Minimal involvement: Members at large are consulted for final approval of plans and any significant use of club funds (125) 40%

Key steps involvement: Members at large are consulted at key steps of the process for approval (for example: site selection, cabin and facilities design, construction plans, funds approval) (135) 43%

### Input on Potential Cabin

If the BCMC were to build a new cabin, what activities would likely attract you to using the cabin?

Overnight stop for ski touring	(221)	70%
Basecamp for backcountry skiing	(232)	74%
Snowshoeing	(88)	28%
Hiking	(193)	61%
Mountain Biking	(49)	16%
Climbing	(185)	59%
Hanging out in the cabin	(31)	10%

If the BCMC were to build a new cabin, what single activity would MOST attract you in using the cabin?

Overnight stop for ski touring	(39)	12%
Basecamp for backcountry skiing	(136)	43%
Snowshoeing	(8)	3%
Hiking	(51)	16%
Mountain Biking	(5)	2%
Climbing	(44)	14%
Hanging out in the cabin	(1)	0%

If the BCMC were to build a new cabin, what level of comfort should it provide?

Open shelter (3 walls and a roof)	(2)	1%
Closed shelter: (4 walls and a roof, no heat, no cooking area)	(8)	3%
Rustic hut (poor insulation, wood stove, minimal cooking area)	(37)	12%
Basic cabin (simple design, insulated, wood stove, kitchen with stove and pots & pans)	(134)	43%
High-end cabin (architectural design, heating, lighting, kitchen with oven, etc)	(8)	3%
All above options are acceptable, depending on location and purpose	(86)	27%
Other	(15)	5%

Where would you prefer to see a new BCMC cabin located if one was to be built?

North Shore mountains	(46)	15%
Sea-to-sky region (inc Whistler)	(148)	47%
Pemberton and Duffey Lake region	(176)	56%
Coquihalla region	(141)	45%
Remote in Coast Mountains	(157)	50%
Other	(20)	6%

What ONE LOCATION would you prefer to see a new BCMC cabin located if one was to be built?

North Shore mountains	(8)	3%
Sea-to-sky region (inc Whistler)	(56)	18%
Pemberton and Duffey Lake region	(75)	24%
Coquihalla region	(55)	17%
Remote in Coast mountains	(72)	23%
Other	(12)	4%

### Spearhead Huts Committee Involvement

The BCMC is a founding member of the Spearhead Hut Committee (SHC). What is your level of support in the continued involvement of the BCMC towards the eventual building of the hut system as described in the SHC proposal to BC Parks?

Super keen: I would like to volunteer to help make the project a reality

(48)	15%
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Strong support, but only as user

(115)	37%
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Mild support, don't know will use

(95)	30%
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Not supportive of the SHC

(29)	9%
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What should be the primary form of financial support by the BCMC to the SHC?

Donate from BCMC assets	(39)	12%
Participate in SHC fundraising	(131)	42%
Organize BCMC's own fundraising	(16)	5%
All of the above	(75)	24%
Other	(17)	5%

### Potential Watersprite Lake Cabin

Would you support the BCMC building a cabin at Watersprite lake in the Mamquam valley near Squamish, where the club has held a tenure since 2007?

Yes	(136)	43%
No	(29)	9%
Don't know, need full proposal	(79)	25%
Don't know, I need to visit site	(43)	14%

If so, what type of hut or cabin would you favor at Watersprite Lake?

Open shelter (3 walls and a roof)	(2)	1%
Closed shelter: (4 walls and a roof, no cooking area, emergency beds)	(10)	3%
Rustic hut (poor insulation, wood stove, minimal cooking area, hard bed surfaces)	(66)	21%
Basic cabin (simple design, insulated, wood stove, kitchen with stove and some pots & pans, sleeping area)	(146)	46%
High-end cabin (architectural design, heating, lighting, kitchen with oven, etc)	(9)	3%
Other	(12)	4%

If so, what size of cabin would you favor at Watersprite Lake?

Tiny – 4-6 people for day use or emergency overnight	(7)	2%
Small – 4-6 people overnight	(65)	21%
Mid-size – 10-15 people overnight	(142)	45%
Large – 20+ people overnight	(28)	9%

### Potential Cabin Concept in Coquihalla

Would you be interested in the BCMC looking into the possibility of building a cabin in (or near) the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area?

Yes	(143)	45%
No	(37)	12%
Don't know, I need full proposal	(78)	25%
Don't know, I need to visit site	(29)	9%

If so, which of the following cabin concepts would interest you?

Rustic hut 1-2 hours from road in a designated non-mechanized area; free to Members	(29)	9%
Rustic hut 3-4 hours from road in a designated non-mechanized area; free to Members	(164)	52%
Rustic hut 3-4 hours from road which may be visited by snowmobilers; free to Members	(11)	3%
Larger cabin 15 min or less from road, with custodian some of the time; fee to Members	(30)	10%
Other	(11)	3%

### General Feedback

Would you recommend that the BCMC adopt the FMBCB Cabin policy as its guideline for hut construction?

Yes	(100)	32%
No	(23)	7%
No Opinion	(164)	52%
Other	(18)	6%