

# BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club  
Newsletter



Aug-Sept 2014, Vol 92, No. 7

### UPCOMING BC MC SOCIAL

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, Sept 9 - BC MC member Ravil  
Chamgoulov presents on his trip to Mt  
Everest, completing the Seven Summits.

MON

**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: BCMC Climber Ravil Chamgoulov on top of Everest (Photo: R Chamgoulov)

Back: Photos from Watersprite Lake (G Zenger)

**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.

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

1	Squamish Trad Leader Day - B5	Lee Purvis
3-23	Extended Backpack on PCT - B1	Brian J Wood
4	Squamish Climbing - Smoke Bluffs - A5	John Beeckler
5	Squamish Climbing - Smoke Bluffs - A5	Francisco Roy
6-7	Washington Pass Climbing - C5	Michael McMinn
6	Tomyhoi Peak Hike and Scramble - B2-C2	Andrew Brown
6-7	Black Tusk - B2	Brad Riffal
6-8	Garibaldi Park Trail Work - B1	Jason White
6	Alcoholic Traverse - Mountain Running - B4	Dean Perez
6	Squamish 5.11 trad - Krmo Gold - B5	Lee Purvis
7	Slalok Mt. (Rex's Pillar) - C/D3	Stanislav Liarsky
11	Squamish Climbing - Smoke Bluffs - A5	John Beeckler
11	Thursday Night Climbing in the Valley - A5	Alan Trick
13-14	Snoqualmie Pass Climbing - C5	Michael McMinn
13	Mesahchie Peak - Cancelled - C3	Paul Kubik
13	Stoyoma Mtn - B2	Geoffrey Zenger
13	Squamish Climbing - C5	Michael McMinn
13-14	Phyllis Engine in Garibaldi Park - 5.8	Brad Riffal
13-14	Castle Towers - West Face - C4	Stanislav Liarsky
14	Itchin' for Multipitchin' (Sunday Squamish) - B5	Robert Simzer
16-18	Garibaldi Park Trail Work - B1	Jason White
19-21	Ashlu Mountain - B2	Christopher Barton
20	Stonerabbit Pk plus - D3	Alastair Ferries
23-28	Yosemite FaceLift 2014 - A1	Anders Ourom
26-1	Sigurd trail work party - B1	Paul Kubik
27-28	Coquihalla - Sutter's Brother - B2	Karl Ricker
27-28	Baby Munday & Mt. Stewart - C4	Margaret Hanson
28	Tricouni North Arete - C4-5	Mauro Perizzolo

The BCMC welcomes the following new members: Aili Rauk, Alison Henderson, Ben Parsons, Blair Esson, Brandon Fox, Bryce Behrhorst, Caleb Jamieson, Charity Rhoda, Chris Henry, Christophe Lacour, Corey Crawford, Dane Moreau, Daniel Oleksiuk, David Mader, Dylan Fettes, Erin Fitzpatrick, Garth Stewart, Gloria Lam, Guillaume Robert, Ian Kerr, Jason McEwan, Jeff Heater, Jenny West, Jia Li, Jin-Si Pao, Julian Mocanu, Katherine Baumann, Kathryn King, Kayden Rupp, Ken Saunders, Kenneth McDonald, Kimberly Meyer, Kristopher Carter, Kyle Rhoda, Lancelot Rudelsheim, Laure Lejeune, Lee Touat, Linda Kowalski, Lisa Lee, Mark Baillie, McKay Savage, Meghan Stewart, Melanie Begalka, Michael McMinn, Michelle Hussein, Nadia McCullough, Nadine Baumann, Norman Wexler, Oliver de Wolf, Pal Randhawa, Philip Austin, Philip Shuttleworth, Rachel Fouladi, Reza Sahraei, Robert Deane, Robert Hawk, Roland Winkler, Roxanne Nicole Rustad, Sara Price, Simon Donner, Simone Abt, Stella Vong, Stephen Busch, Steven P Booth, Teresa Yau, Thomas Lum, Tim Lee, Todd Powell, Tyler Wilson and Walter Homewood.

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.

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 or Francis St Pierre, President for more information on the roles available.

### **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 1st 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.

On September 15/16, the BCMC reached **\*900\* active member accounts**. A big "Thank You" to all renewing and new members!

### **David Scanlon Made Honourary BCMC Member**

Dave joined the club in 1995 and has served on the club executive for the last 13 years, starting as camp chair, then cabin/trails chair, followed by president and currently past president. He has lead numerous trips, particularly extended ones, and has organized many successful camps. He has thrown himself into each executive position he has occupied with considerable enthusiasm, revitalizing our huts, particularly the Plummer and Mountain Lake huts which benefitted greatly from renovations instigated by Dave. A new route for the North Creek trail and an entirely new trail to Mountain Lake cabin from Furry Creek are some of his trail legacies. He has worked tirelessly on the North creek cabin lease and on finding locations for a new cabin, leading many trips to potential locations. He chaired the club's centennial committee, ensuring that the club's centennial

was celebrated in many ways which will never be forgotten. This was a massive undertaking.

He has clearly distinguished himself in service to the club, meeting the requirement for honorary membership.

### **Honnold Conquers U Wall, Car to Car in 2 Hours**

University Wall, one of the iconic routes up the Chief has been free soloed for the first time by none other than Alex Honnold. Originally climbed by Tim Auger, Hamish Mutch, Dan Tate and Glenn Woodsworth, the 1965-1966 first ascent went with unabashed siege tactics wedged in between exams.

### **Kinder Morgan Transmountain Proposal Comment Period Open**

Kinder Morgan as part of its Trans Mountain Pipeline proposal are applying to dramatically change the boundaries of four B.C. parks. Kinder Morgan is requesting amendments to Finn Creek Park, North Thompson River Park, Lac Du Bois Grasslands Protected Area and Bridal Veil Falls Park in order to build their proposed Trans Mountain pipeline from Alberta to Burnaby. The new pipeline proposal would bring an estimated 890,000 barrels per day over land. The proposed pipeline would send over 400 tankers a year across the Salish Sea, carrying tar sands crude to international markets in the U.S. and Asia, putting B.C.'s coast and salmon rivers at risk of oil spills.

The comment period is now open for this application and we encourage you to have your say.

Through the protected area boundary adjustment process, through sensitive protected areas.

You can submit comments until Oct 12, 2014 directly to B.C. Parks on their website. Click the privacy statement agreement button on their webpage to open the comment area.

B.C. parks are under threat from range of proposed industrial activities, thanks in large part to the Park Amendment Act. This piece of legislation was rammed through in early 2014 with no public input or First Nations consultation and essentially makes it possible for our parks to be sliced and diced for industrial interests.

Logging and pipeline companies can now do industrial "research" in parks and then apply to remove land from parks under the Park Boundary Adjustment policy, as Kinder Morgan is now attempting. Around the province, citizens have responded to the new legislation with outrage and disbelief. A petition with 167,000 signatures (the largest park-related petition in Canadian history) was presented to the Environment Minister in May, demanding they repeal of this destructive Act.

Add your voice. Take action now and send a letter to Premier Christy Clark and Environment Minister Mary Polak demanding they repeal the Park Amendment Act and protect B.C. Parks.

### **Mt Sampson - Submitted by Gordon Esplin**

This was a joint trip with participants from the BCMC, North Shore Hikers and the Vancouver Hikers and Trail Runners. The old logging road leading up to Mt. Sampson is now severely overgrown with

alder, resulting in hours of unpleasant bushwhacking. (Matt Gunn says to take a mountain bike!!). We set up camp in a high basin with running water, at the foot of the pocket glacier, after 7-1/2 hours of hiking (14.1 km and 974 m. elevation gain). Next day we contoured around, more or less following Gunn's route, but some of us went up the mountain too soon and a couple were uncomfortable with climbing steep snow/rock so we dropped back down and found the gulley Matt talks about. It is a fairly straight forward scree scramble. We spent a lot of time at the summit - weather was perfect - and made a decision not to do Delilah, as it would have got us back to camp too late. So we headed back and enjoyed an early dinner and libations. (11.2 km and 1079 m. vertical, 9-1/2 hours). Next morning we had a late start (waited for the sun to rise over Face mountain) then saddled up and headed back down. We made the mistake of waiting too late to climb up onto the lateral moraine that avoids the forest below, so we had some horrible bush-thrashing and some tempers were frayed. But it all turned out good as we had a cooler of cold ones waiting back at the train head!! (14.4 km, 7 hours).

Participants: Gordon Esplin (organizer and reporter), David Robertson, Michelle Hyun, Clayton Dunham, Sylvia Berryman & Brian Muske.

### **Shadow Creek Explorations - Submitted by Todd Ponzini**

I have been interested in Shadow Creek as a possible access route to the Ashlu-Elaho divide for some time. Parties have ascended Carol Creek to the south and Limelight Creek to the north, but I have not seen any reports of people approaching via Shadow Creek. This may be due to the impressive glacier at the head of the creek, which apparently featured a steep icefall until sometime in the 90's. It may also be due to the very rugged nature of this valley, as it is subject to avalanche hazard for most of its length. Or maybe, just maybe, nobody has ever tried it, and it just might be the route of the future!

A friend joined me for an exploratory trip. We car camped at the bridge across the Elaho at mile 40, and were hiking by 6:30am. We hiked spur E-206, which climbs to about 1,500' with some interesting and aggressive road construction. From the end of the spur we traversed through steep but reasonable forest on a route to intersect the creek, as Google Earth hinted that the streambed may offer open travel up the valley.

We crossed two slide paths without much trouble, and were able to reach the creekbed at about 1,800' in only 90 min from the car. Things looked promising! However, after 500m of boulder hopping up the creekbed, the creek pinched up hard against our bank and there was no possibility to cross to the other side. So we took to the forest and found decent travel in a mix of timber and ancient debris flows (or perhaps moraines) with a few messy slide paths thrown in for laughs.

Just when things seemed a bit too easy, we broke out into a vast ocean of alder. We bashed down to the creek and found it still pinched hard against our bank. Spirits were sagging a bit, so we climbed up a battered hemlock for a better view and saw a wall glimpse of glacier.

At this point we were at about 2,300' and the alder seemed to stretch forever. There were no trees over 15' high in the rest of the valley, as it is completely avalanche swept, and reaching the

headwall below the glacier looked like a long and painful alder show. However, directly above us was a steep gully that lead to the ridge to the north. It seemed worth a look, and turned out to offer a clear line toward the ridge. It looked LONG and the map confirmed that it was about 3,000' of vertical to the ridge. The first 2,000' were fairly easy hiking, but the upper 1,000' was steep, narrow and intimidating. Not a ski route! The top of the gully abruptly ended in a wall of bush that had to be negotiated to get to the ridge.

Once on top of the ridge we had a nice break as we were both tired from the long hot climb. It didn't look appealing to go higher up the ridge and time was getting on, so we hiked around the ridge for a bit looking off the various sides.

The descent of the gully was long but was now in shade. As we reached the alder bowl we stayed high and strung some rockslides together to avoid most of the alder, and found a decent route back to the logging spur, arriving at the car at 6:30pm for a 12 hour trip.

In summary I don't think I can recommend Shadow Creek as a summer route. There are lines you could take up the headwall that would avoid the seracs, but they looked pretty slabby and awkward. And of course you would have to push through the alder to get to the base of the headwall in the first place.

However, it has potential as a ski route. One would need VERY settled avalanche conditions as the approach to the headwall is threatened from both sides. The ascent of the headwall itself is steep, also avalanche threatened, and would be bold on skis – however, a reasonable route might be found on the climber's right. This could make Amicus a long day trip on skis, although the right conditions to make this happen may only occur a few days each winter.



The tantalizing view of the Amicus headwall from the Shadow Creek approach. Possible winter ascent route, not recommended for the summer unless you love bush.



Above: The view of Watersprite Tower from the edge of Watersprite Lake, where the BCMC holds a tenure to build a hut.



Left: David Scanlon working on one of two bridges he has singlehandedly constructed on the flagged access route into Watersprite Lake.

Approach including some light trail work took 4.5 hours. Splendid scrambles in the mountains surrounding the lake, including Dreadnought, Martin and an almost summit of Watersprite Tower (60 meter rope recommended).