

# BCMC



**BC Mountaineering Club**

**Newsletter**

## **2015 BCMC PHOTO CONTEST**

Submissions are accepted up until December 1st, 2015

\$40 MEC Giftcard given to winner in each category

Contest Details at [www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca) [Contests]

*Summer 2015, Vol 93, No. 6*

## TRIP SCHEDULE - Sign up, updates and details at [www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca) JUNE 2015

02	After Work Rock Outing	Rock Climbing	Adrian Lazar
02	Executive Meeting	Volunteer Meeting	BCMC Executive
04	Squamish climbing	Rock Climbing	Sebastian Venoo
05	Squamish Climbing	Rock Climbing	John Beeckler
06	Mt. Squeah NW2	Scrambling	Alastair Ferries
06	New Darling Lake (Mamquam)	Trail Clearing	Chris Ludwig
06-07	Mt Baker: Coleman-Deming	Mountaineering	Winifred Swatschek
07	Mischief on the Chief	Rock Climbing	Adrian Lazar
08-20	City of Rocks (Idaho)	Rock Climbing	Martin Conder
10	Wed night Squamish climbing	Rock Climbing	Radmila Bridges
11	After Work Granite Sessions	Rock Climbing	Adrian Lazar
12-14	Mountain Lake Plateau	Hiking	Christopher Barton
12	Grouse grind scramble	Conditioning	David Mader
12	Pinecone Burke Provincial Park	Presentation	Ben Singleton-Polster
13-14	Sport-Saturday @ ChekRock	Climbing	Zack Hrabarchuk
13	Fun in the Squamish sun	Rock Climbing	Dylan Fettes
13	Alpine 101 Climbing Steep Snow	Instructional Program	Serguei Okountsev
14	Squamish Bolted "Slab" Routes	Rock Climbing	Paul Olynek
14	Cheakamus Sport Climbing	Rock Climbing	Anthony Yan
16	Midweek Squamish Climbing	Rock Climbing	John Beeckler
17	Wed night Squamish climbing	Rock Climbing	Andrej Dobos
20	Vicuana and Guanaco	Scrambling	Andrew Brown
20	Darling Lake Trail(Mamquam)	Trail Clearing	Chris Ludwig
20	Widowmaker Arete - Crown Mt.	Rock Climbing	Stanislav Liarsky
21	Cheakamus "Centurion"	Rock Climbing	Anthony Yan
21	Easy/Moderate Slab Climbing	Rock Climbing	Paul Olynek
21	The Camel - Normal Route	Mountaineering	Serguei Okountsev
24	Wed night Squamish climbing	Rock Climbing	Radmila Bridges
26	Mt. Hanover	Mountaineering	Serguei Okountsev
27-28	Intro to Trad Leading	Instructional Program	Winifred Swatschek
27-28	Darling Lake Trail (Mamquam)	Trail Clearing	Chris Ludwig
27	Yak peak climbing weekend	Rock Climbing	Anthony Yan
27	Darling Lake (Mamquam) Bridge	Trail Clearing	Chris Ludwig
27-28	Ice Climbing at Mt. Baker	Ice Climbing	Marlaina Rhymor
27	Saturday Squamish Rock Climbing	Rock Climbing	Werner Grzimek
30	Rescue skills practice	Rock Climbing	Eva van Emden

## JULY 2015

01	Rexford W Ridge	Mountaineering	Mauro Perizzolo
01	Squamish Bolted "Slab" Routes	Rock Climbing	Paul Olynek
01	Mt. Brunswick	Family Hiking	Youliana Tichelova
01	Mt. Robie Reid	Mountaineering	Alastair Ferries
01	Canada Day Outing - Squamish	Rock Climbing	Anders Ourom
02	Squamish Rock Climbing	Rock Climbing	Werner Grzimek
03-05	Liberty Bell/SWest Rib/Beckey	Rock Climbing	Stanislav Liarsky
04	Single pitch climbing Squamish	Rock Climbing	Dylan Fettes
08	Climbing at Sulley's Hangout	Rock Climbing	Radmila Bridges
08	DISCOUNT SHOPPING ICEBREAKER	Discount Shopping	Werner Grzimek
09	Mt. Temple, AB - SWest Rte	Mountaineering	Serguei Okountsev
11	Cirque Pk.	Mountaineering	Alastair Ferries
11	Saturday Squamish Rock Climbing	Rock Climbing	Werner Grzimek
12-19	South Chilcotin	Hiking	David Hughes
12	Cheakamus Canyon	Rock Climbing	Martin Schwarze
15	Wed night Squamish climbing	Rock Climbing	Michael Lim
16	Sky Pilot - South Ridge	Mountaineering	Serguei Okountsev
16	Squamish Rock 5.7-10+	Rock Climbing	Werner Grzimek
17-19	Torment Forbidden Traverse	Mountaineering	William Ferguson
18-19	Essntl Skills for Rock Climbing	Instructional Program	Paul Olynek
18	Slalok Mt. (Rex's Pillar)	Scrambling	Stanislav Liarsky
18	Darling Lake Trail (Mamquam)	Trail Clearing	Chris Ludwig
18	Cheakamus Canyon	Rock Climbing	Evgeny Sorkin
19	Crown Mt. via BCMC trail	Hiking	Brad Hayes
20	Val David (Quebec)	Rock Climbing	Adrian Burke
22	Wed night Squamish climbing	Rock Climbing	Radmila Bridges
22	Squamish	Rock Climbing	Werner Grzimek
23-26	Avalanche-Sir Donald traverse	Rock Climbing	William Ferguson
24-25	Building Gear Anchors Course	Instructional Program	Winifred Swatschek

## 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.



**BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB**  
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email: [info@bcmc.ca](mailto:info@bcmc.ca)  
website: [www.bcmc.ca](http://www.bcmc.ca)

**HONOURARY PRESIDENTS: ESTHER & MARTIN KAFER**

#### **EXECUTIVE VOLUNTEERS & OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	DAVID SCANLON
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	BRITTANY ZENGER
<b>PAST-PRESIDENT:</b>	TODD PONZINI
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	BOB WOODHOUSE
<b>TREASURER:</b>	ALENA DZUJKOVA
<b>BCMC SOCIALS:</b>	DOUG LONSBROUGH
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	BRITTANY ZENGER
<b>CONSERVATION:</b>	BEN SINGLETON-POLSTER
<b>CABINS &amp; TRAILS:</b>	CHRIS LUDWIG
<b>CLIMBING CHAIR:</b>	MARLAINA RHYMER
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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.

**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.

Please contact [editor@bcmc.ca](mailto:editor@bcmc.ca) to submit material

**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](http://www.facebook.com/BCMmountaineeringClub)

**FOLLOW:** @BCMMountainClub

#### **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 Gumpfinger (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.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

**The BCMC welcomes** the following new members:

Katelyn Proctor, James Parco, Viatcheslav Chirchakov, Tim Rutledge, Christine VanDerwill, Greg Reynen, Glenn Dyck, Dominic Nero, Sonya Waitman, Alexander Will, Mechthild Kellas-Dicks, Ruth MacKellar, Bryan Burgess, Daniel Raber, Allen Pitt, Lucas Sovio, Chad Decker, Eric Xu, Lee-aye Azami, Tyler Ross, Reiko Tominaga, Anastasia Dzhikiya, Jeff Powell, Tanyse Beckett, Kristen Stankiewicz, Jason Xu, Jordan Leclair, Victor Lai, Roman Pesek, Paul Hardy, Lina Vainikeviciute, Kathy Kinakin, Zack Hrabarchuk, Dirk Brinkman, Jia Chen, James Worth, Noel Swain, Elaine Leung, Rick Eng, Anna Koochin, Kell Hansen, Robin Dean, Antonia de Haan, Lloyd Purdy, and Brian Messer.

## **UPCOMING FALL SOCIAL SNEAK PEEK**

Social chair Doug Lonsbrough has been working hard all summer to line up a high quality roster of presenters for the fall season.

**October:** BCMC Member Ravil Chamgoulov will present his successful climb of Mt. Gunnbjorn (3,694m) in Greenland. Ravil has now accomplished his goal of climbing the 7 Summits and the highest peak in the Arctic.

**November:** Leigh and Spring McClurg of Squamish via Ireland will present highlights of their climbing and skiing in BC and the Rockies since their move to Canada. Follow the McClurg's adventures at [www.pebbleshoo.com](http://www.pebbleshoo.com)

**December:** John Baldwin and Linda Biley will present their new book, *Soul of Wilderness*, a lavish volume of photos and essays featuring the wild beauty of western British Columbia and Alaska (book available October 2015).

Everyone is welcome...visitors, members, and guests. Meetings are held at the Vancouver ANZA Club main floor (W. 8th Avenue & Ontario) every second Tuesday of the month (Sept - June). Entrance doors open at 7:00pm and the meeting begins at 7:30 pm

## 15% OFF SEA TO SKY GONDOLA TICKETS FOR BCMC MEMBERS

Present your BCMC membership card at the Sea To Sky Guest Service Counter (not the Ticket Window) and save you 15% on all Gondola Tickets while you zoom up to their Summit Lodge at 885m elevation.

- Drink in sweeping views of Howe Sound Fjord from their beautiful Summit Lodge
- Enjoy great Hiking / Trail Running / Alpine & Rock Climbing / Back Country Skiing / Snow Shoeing around Mt. Habrich, Sky Pilot, Co-Pilot, & Goat Ridge.
- For Climbers and Scramblers: Climb alpine rock routes on Mt. Habrich 5.7-10b plus alpine climbs and scrambles on Sky Pilot (all levels).
- For Skiers: The Shannon Creek watershed offers in 4 alpine bowls 1300 Hectares (+3000 acres) of new terrain, up to 1100m vertical.
- New rock routes around and below the Summit Lodge.

**\*Note discount is not valid for “downloading only” trips.**



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## FRIENDS OF GARIBALDI PARK SOCIETY



FOGPS are off to a slow start this season, but hopefully the hot weather and fires will subside and allow for a couple of work parties. They are aiming for later this summer and early in autumn.

Revised dates are September 15, 16, and 17 for the first, and October 2, 3, and 4 for the second.

Duties include building boardwalk, trail maintenance, trail re-vegetation, invasive species control, campsite maintenance, and other related park volunteering. Fire risk will certainly dictate tasks this year.

For more info please contact [info.fogps@gmail.com](mailto:info.fogps@gmail.com)

Special thanks goes to graphic artist, Jobey Greenwood, for his generous time and efforts designing a new and beautiful FOGPS logo. With a little luck, you should see this on tee shirts and ball caps soon.

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## TRIP COORDINATORS NEEDED

**Want more trips on the schedule?** The BCMC Executive is looking for volunteers to help encourage trip organizers to post more trips. We're looking in particular for the following coordinators for the upcoming season: mountaineering, skiing, rock climbing, hiking, and scrambling. We're also open to any members who would like to work on getting more mountain biking or mountain running trips up, or would like to volunteer for winter sports positions (e.g. ice climbing, snowshoeing).

### **What is involved in being a trip coordinator?**

- All you have to do is help encourage current or potential trip organizers to post trips on the schedule. This can be by word of mouth while you're on trips, by email, by phone, or whatever creative medium you can think of. You can expect to spend a few hours a month (all of which can be done while attending BCMC trips if you like) volunteering.

### **Who can be a trip coordinator?**

- Ideally, a coordinator someone who frequently attends or organizes trips, so they're in contact with other club members often. Perhaps you're an avid hiker or skier, or would like to get more beginner mountaineering trips on the schedule. Perhaps you'd like to develop mountain biking or trail running as a

activity. Perhaps you don't go on too many trips, but you're just enthusiastic and have some extra time to send emails or make calls. You don't have to be an expert in your activity of choice; anyone with the right attitude and a little enthusiasm can be a trip coordinator!

**What's in it for me?**

- Well, other than having more trips on the schedule to pick from, giving back to the club, and getting to know other mountain and outdoor enthusiasts like yourself, you can get a free BCMC t-shirt! All you have to do is encourage three new trips on the schedule.

**How can I get more information?**

- The easiest way is to contact Marlaina Rhymer (BCMC Climbing Chair) at [bcmc.trips@gmail.com](mailto:bcmc.trips@gmail.com). You can also talk to her, or any one of the other Executive members at an upcoming Social event.

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**TRIP REPORT: WATERSPRITE LAKE**

Monday, August 8, 2015

Participants- Barbara Durant, Jim and Nancy Paul, and Liz Watts

After being inspired by the photos and trip report on WaterspriteLake in the BCMC newsletter, a group of us decided it was most certainly worth the effort of a day hike into this picturesque mountain lake. As the article noted the access was a route and not really a trail, we adjusted our expectations and allowed more time to do the hike. The hike starts steeply from the large parking area on an old de-commissioned logging road- easy going for about 45 minutes with occasional glimpses through the trees of MamquamPeaks and Garibaldi.

The trail leads off to the left from the road and can be easily missed. There needs to be more tape and/or a sign placed at this point to clearly mark the point of departure onto the trail. Luckily a mountain biker missed it the day before and had stretched a bright coloured tape across the road. Once on the trail it was clearly marked by tape and defined by an obvious footpath. However, there are many roots and rocks on it as it skirts around an open boggy field so be aware while walking. After a pleasant flat section the route angles upwards across a talus field so we had to be more observant for tape and small cairns. Beyond a forested section, there is another talus area after which the route steepens sharply until it levels at a gap between two rock cliff faces. It's rather like a portal into a different world when we were confronted almost immediately by a spectacular view of the turquoise lake. With Watersprite Spire as a backdrop, it resembled a sublime Chinese watercolour!

Regrettably, the length of the hike (approximately 3-3/4 hours) allowed us only about an hour for lunch so we did not have the time to explore some of the high points surrounding the lake, but we will most certainly return sometime soon to this amazing scenic alpine area.

The trip back took less time and we regained the road relatively quickly after which we increased our pace down the road. There is a cautionary tale here- we relaxed maybe a little too much. Just half an hour from the car, one of the members tripped on the steep slippery gravel of the road, but instead of sliding backwards, she pitched forward on to her face and ended up with a broken nose. After all the loose talus and roots and rocks, the accident happened when it was least expected, and as we had become somewhat spread out along the road, only one person was available to render immediate assistance....so be cautious to the very end of a hike and stay together as a group no matter how easy the route appears to be-

Rick Sheppard

## TRIP REPORT: MOUNTAINEERING PHYLLIS'S ENGINE

August 1-3, 2015

Trip Organizer: Steve Pollak

Participants: David Black, Brad Riffal

This amazing area got my attention a year ago. Looking over from Castle Towers last September, there was this absolutely stunning view of Phyllis Engine and the Sphinx Glacier under a clear blue sky. I put that image on my screen saver on the first day back, and it was a daily reminder to eventually fulfill my goal of climbing Phyllis.

This time promised to be another good one with just a few clouds above us and a good forecast for the remainder of the long weekend. There were only a handful of vehicles in the Cheakamus parking lot on Saturday morning, and later on we encountered just one other group of three with the same objective as us. Starting from the trailhead at 7:30 am, we made rapid progress trying out the newly constructed lower section of the Helm Creek trail. We were wondering how much higher the trail will be re-built, and we thought that the remainder of the old trail seemed to be pretty good already. Helm glacier was down to bare ice almost to the top, and crevasses were exposed and easy to avoid or jump over, so we decided not to rope up. We probably could have gone without crampons as well because the ice was a bit crunchy, but we put them on anyway. About halfway up Polemonium Ridge we decided to take advantage of a local patch of snow for water and camped at 3:30 pm.

On Sunday we started out at 6:30 am. The other group had camped at the top of Helm Glacier and were already an hour ahead of us that day, saying hi as they passed us on the way up. But then we passed them when they missed the hidden scramble section and tried to descend off the steep south side of Polemonium ridge. We didn't know at that point if there was another way down or not, so we didn't say anything to them. They seemed to be stalled on the ridge for a while, maybe they intended to rappel to the talus slope. By the time we saw there was no easy way down for them on that side, we were too far away to advise them. We watched them below us as we traversed up the snowfields and rock outcrops towards Sphinx glacier. They hiked back up the ridge, and then we lost sight of them.

Coming around the base of Castle Towers, the regular way is to go straight up the farthest lobe of the Sphinx glacier and traverse right. We roped up and opted to stay low, crossing a mix of small snowfields and exposed rock before ascending the glacier. It may have been faster to go the regular route and get on the glacier right away, but the upper portion was not visible to us and we were not sure about how it would go. En route, a couple of pickets helped us on the steeper sections of snow, but the rock didn't require any protection. The glacier had some bare ice with big open crevasses and occasional snow filled slots. We had four ice screws to protect the lower steeper section, so we could avoid the thinner snow and go around some of the wider crevasses which we couldn't jump across. Running belays and occasional hip belays got us safely to the base of the Phyllis tower, where we took a short break around 10:30 am.

The Phyllis Engine tower was just a lot of fun! We did it in three short pitches, taking turns leading on my 60 m half rope doubled up, alternating clips. We kept my other half rope as a spare. That turned out to be useful because the climbing rope end knots got stuck when we tried to retrieve it after the first rappel. Although the existing anchor cordelles and quick links looked pretty good, we backed them up with some webbing for the ascent. We generally felt it was safe enough to re-use all the existing stuff for the rappels.

Mine was the first pitch on the rock, a corner followed by a nice hand-sized splitter crack which ate up medium sized nuts and cams. David dispatched the second pitch with ease, negotiating a short traverse then a corner crack followed by a wide unprotectable chimney to reach the belay. Actually the rope was a bit short, and he had to set up an intermediate belay with his remaining gear using a couple of cracks a few metres away from the existing belay station. After we belayed each other over there, Brad got the glorious final pitch, with a couple of exposed steep cracks to test his willpower. We had the rock all to ourselves and summited at 1:40 pm.

The descent was straightforward. When the rope got stuck, we used the second rope to get down to the knots from an intermediate anchor station that we found at the base of the chimney. Instead of taking the exposed ice section of Sphinx we found it was faster to skirt around more to the south and stay on the snow. Below the glacier Brad spotted a lone pure white goat which had come over to check us out, that was cool. We were back at camp by 7:30 pm. On Monday we were on our way down at 6:45 am and reached the truck at 12:30 pm.



I would like to speak for the group and say that this was such a rewarding trip! I would highly recommend it for reasonably experienced mountaineers, especially around this time of year when conditions are optimal. I believe the Phyllis Engine route offers a nice mix of hiking, scrambling, glacier travel and rock climbing. Three days provided adequate time for us to enjoy ourselves thoroughly while we ascended and descended safely. We used most of our gear and were able to test our mountaineering skills in a beautiful setting.

Steve Pollak



Left: *Mission Accomplished*  
by Steve Pollak

Bottom: *Roping up (Polemonium  
Ridge)*  
by Steve Pollak

