

BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club



Newsletter

SPRING 2016, Vol 94, No. 1

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

(October 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016)

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Agnes White	David GrantDavid White	Julien Moisan	Peer-Daniel Krause
Aleksandra Nasteska	Dean Eichorn	Kara Pitman	Pei-Yin Lew
Alex Brendle	Derek Blyth	Karl Caswell	Penny Eder
Alex Macleod	Dillon Zolnierczyk	Katherine Jalbuena	Peter Allingham
Alexandre Ananou	Drew Lyness	Kathy Davies	Pierre Etienne Banville
Alistair Pimlott	Erin Love	Katrina Kalashnikova	Preet Gill
Ally Gandy	Estafan Shah Nawaz	Konstantinos Voulpiotis	Radek Capik
Andrew Demoline	Fabien Gaud	Kurt Baia	Raffael Frank
Andrius Kirdeikis	Fanny Leroy	Lance Robson	Rebecca Chaster
Anna Crauford	Filip Kilbarda	Lauren Powell	Richard Woodward
Antony Wood	Florian Fisch	Lauren Wilson	Rodrigo Herrera
Aya Anholt	Fraser Christian	Lawrence Sandford	Rodrigo Samayoa
Barbara Morelli	Frauke Seewald	Lea Jovanovic	Ronnie Jones
Benjamin Curtis	Gent Moo Khoo	Lian Von Wielligh	Rosemary Cooke
Boris Kropivnitski	Geoffrey Dosman	Lina Englund	Roy Gutteridge
Brandon Mckay	Georgina Brunette	Linda Dix-Cooper	Ruben Piñeiro
Brian Mccurdy	Grace Shaw	Lindsay Barnett	Sandy Wells
Bryan Attrell	Hana Hermanek	Lynn Wilson	Santiago Santacruz
Cam Clayton	Ian Chen	Madison Elrick	Sara Bucovaz
Cameron Macdougall	Ian Wong	Mahdi Shams	Sarah Amundrud
Cameron Reive	Ivo Mencke	Mansi Tandon	Shahdin Farsai
Carina Albrech	Jackie Muir	Manuela Hayn	Shannon Lambie
Erickson	Jacob Appleton	Mark Kurtis Trzcinski	Simone Dive
Christopher Hart	Jamal Ahmelich	Matthew Corr	Sophie Tran
Christopher Heald	James Starke	Max Gaspranov	Stacy Lee
Christy Ashton	Jamie Head	Max Grassi	Stan Proboszcz
Cian Lawlor	Jamie Keech	Megan Mccann	Stefania Evangelista
Claire Tallon	Jared Ellenor	Meredith Lewis	Stefanie Mathar
Colleen Craig	Jason Momeyer	Michael Peric	Stephen Mclean
Connie Mcginty	Jean-Christophe Pepin	Michael Sawatzky	Steve Baker
Corey Mckenelley	Jeff Christian	Michael Uhlmann	Steve Roberts
Cory Jenkins	Jenna Mcneil	Michiel Van Wessem	Steve Sidawa
Cyrus Kangarloo	Jennifer Reid	Mike Knudson	Taylor Langdon
Dan Cudlip	Jeremy Catchpoole	Mike Schmidt	Thomas Andrew
Danica Lawson	Jeremy Hale	Natacha Bagnard	Tina Nagin
Danielle Degagne	Jesse Swinimer	Nick Crag	Tony Freeman
Danielle Lewchuk	Jian Bao	Nick Hetherington	Tracie Keene
Danielle Schmidt	Johannes Nordangard	Nick Neufeld	Trevor Amundrud
Dannielle Tinker	John Sproule	Nikolay Anikevich	Trevor Short
Darren Freeman	Jordan Byng	Nikolay Kolesnikov	Vera Khramova
Dave Brown	Jordan Eichorn	Oliver Bailey	William Grimm
David Albert-Lebrun	Julia Smith	Paul Jones	Wojciech Pagacz
			Yana Bobrysheva
			Zachary Flood.

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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.

Contact bcmc.editor@gmail.com to submit material.

ABOUT SUBMISSIONS: For photos, high resolution is 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.



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CLUB EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

The club maintains ice tools, which are available for rental by members only.

Ice Tool - \$5 per day per tool

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.

Ice climbing axes are rented from Werner Grzimek.

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HOSTED BY BCMC

The BCMC is hosting this year's FMCBC AGM over the weekend of May 27-29, 2016. We are looking for volunteers to help arrange and transport food/drinks for the Friday evening Meet and Greet, as well as for breakfast and lunch for the Saturday all-day meeting at UBC.

The M&G will be held at Locarno Beach. The Locarno Beach event will be a liquor-free. If the weather is bad we will meet at Brian Wood's house in UBC (we'll make the call on Wednesday evening and notify attendees). Some FMC directors having driven a long way will be tired and need feeding; there is a BCMC budget item for this.

For the M&G, the BCMC will provide a potluck evening meal, plus snacks and drinks. Brian will provide a table, a BBQ stove and twin burner stove for cooking, a pot of chilli. **We will also need:** bread rolls, burgers, hot dogs, salads, fresh and perhaps cooked vegetables, and drinks such as coffee, tea, pop etc. If you have useful picnic stuff, e.g. tables, chairs, BBQ stove, cooking stuff, cups, plates, KFS, etc., please bring them to help folks relax and enjoy themselves and to reduce use of disposables.

For Saturday breakfast **we need volunteers to buy from the local stores trays of snacks**, fruit and muffins to deliver to UBC before 9:00 a.m. (Save-on-Foods on campus or IGA near 4th and Alma). Coffee and tea will be needed. A kitchen adjacent the meeting room (AMS OLD SUB Party Room) will help facilitate this. For lunch **we need volunteers** to make or buy sandwiches, cut up fruit and vegetables, cakes, muffins etc. for delivery to UBC by noon.

Also, we are still short of billets for Friday and Saturday night!

To volunteer, please contact Ben (778-322-8052) or Brian (604 -222-1541). We are the largest club in the FMCBC and so should be able to field ample volunteers to make hosting the AGM a success. The more volunteers, the more we can spread the work around.

Everyone is welcome to attend the M&G and we hope to see you there. Please let us know if you want to attend the AGM itself, and also the evening panel discussion on Commercial Activities in BC Parks.

The Watersprite Lake Cabin Project has become a touchstone issue for the BCMC in the past year, fuelling debates ranging from degrees of member consultation on capital projects, to whether the club should be building in the backcountry at all. Whether you have a strong opinion regarding the Watersprite Lake Cabin Building project or no opinion at all, please bear in mind:

There are no perfect projects; No site will be perfect for everyone. The Watersprite Lake Cabin Building Committee has tried to address all concerns raised by members and has, to the best of their abilities, adapted the project to conform with all suggestions proposed by the club.

This is not the last project; The WSL Cabin is the first capital project undertaken by the BCMC in over a generation. As a result, it is not surprising, that there were some aspects of the project that could have been improved upon. It is imperative that we, as a club, learn from the challenges faced by this first project in order to ensure success for the ones down the trail.

This has been a volunteer project; This club runs on the efforts of volunteers. This project is no different. The Watersprite Lake Cabin Building Committee is proud of this project. It is a cumulation of well over a year of planning, budgeting, adapting plans, fundraising, presenting, failing and succeeding. The WSL project is poised to break ground this summer, and they look forward to sharing the results of their time and effort with the club early Autumn 2016.



REGARDING THE WATERSPRITE LAKE CABIN BUILDING PROCESS

The following is a letter from former BCMC President Francis St. Pierre that was received by the Newsletter Editor earlier this year. It has been published in its entirety. It is important to note that the Newsletter is a voice for the club members and that all viewpoints will be published provided they are respectful of all members, constructive, and can be the basis for open dialogue.

******* Important note: the former Web Administrator has requested that members take into account that, although he is referred to in the letter below, the views expressed in the letter are those of the author alone, and that members should not imply that the former Web Adminsiter supports the author's current views on the Watersprite Lake Project.**

Letter to the BCMC Newsletter Editor

Submitted on January 31, 2016

The trouble with Watersprite Lake Cabin...

On January 12, 2016, the Watersprite Lake Cabin (WLC) was approved by the BCMC membership for construction in 2016, at a cost of up to \$30,000 to the club, or up to approximately one third of the BCMC's discretionary funds.

On the surface, all appears normal. However the January vote marked the end of a 14 month rocky process characterized by controversy and the absence of formal consultation. As may be expected in a mostly one-way sales effort, the project's final proposal is still viewed as questionable by many of the more experienced and active members of the club. Concerns over location and usage as a winter cabin persist and have never been seriously reviewed and analyzed. This includes: 1) lack of safer ski terrain alternatives (the site consists primarily of ATES Complex alpine terrain: "Exposure to multiple overlapping avalanche paths or large expanses of steep, open terrain; multiple avalanche starting zones and terrain traps below"), 2) too large a hut for such a "small" area, 3) absence of mountaineering and/or climbing objectives, 4) low elevation hut in prox-

imity to Howe Sound doesn't provide good winter activity value, and 5) likely difficult winter access due to unplowed logging roads used for access. As was pointed out on the BCMC Forum, "The BCMC has too many huts that are not visited", so why are we considering building another one in a potentially poor winter location? Why hasn't a detailed analysis been published to determine whether the site is appropriate? My conclusion is that WLC has not been properly analyzed to determine its suitability as a winter cabin location despite numerous concerns having been expressed, and ignored, since the spring 2015 or even longer.

A second important issue lies around the approval process. 2 votes have been held the old-fashioned way at General Meetings; the first in November 2015 (unsuccessful) and the latest in January 2016 (successful). However, while the BCMC Board of Directors (BOD) was focused on meeting possible BCMC Constitutional requirements, it appears they have failed to comply with their own Policy. The Project Approval Policy (Policy 22) requires that all members of the club (not only "voting" members) must be consulted and supportive of a project, with the level of consultation and support required to be proportional to the size of funding being sought. Policy 22 requirements have not been met so far since 1) only "voting" members (contrary to Policy 22) were consulted for approval in November and January, and 2) the amount of funding being sought is large at around 1/3 of the club's discretionary funds but fewer than 7% of the Club Members have expressed their support for the WLC Project Proposal at the January vote. The irony is that according to the BCMC Constitution, the decision in January did not in fact require the archaic voting system to be used. Instead, a club-wide electronic poll could have been used for the BOD to support its decision – a known option as the webmaster proposed in the Spring 2015 on the Forum such an electronic poll. My conclusion is that a decision at this point to proceed with the WLC Project Proposal with less than 7% of member support is flawed and raises issues around a lack of legitimacy.

These are relatively easy problems to solve. A reasonable path forward would be to first perform a comprehensive site assessment (hire an independent ACMG guide, if necessary, to obtain an unbiased view) to analyze the suitability of the site. Equipped with that assessment as part of the WLC Proposal, the BOD should then hold an electronic poll on the BCMC website for all members to participate as proposed by our former Webmaster. We can realistically expect up to 400 members to participate (up to 60% of members) or perhaps even more if the question is well publicized. A poll showing clear club-wide support (as required by Policy 22) could then be followed by the traditional vote at a General Meeting, if desired and for the sake of tradition. It is my opinion that such a process would provide a fair, informed and credible answer regarding the level of support for the WLC Project Proposal – one that all members can then accept as legitimate, which isn't currently the case.

Francis St-Pierre
Former BCMC President

The BCMC Board of Directors would like to thank Francis St. Pierre for his observations regarding the Watersprite Lake cabin. The view of the BCMC's Board of Directors is that this project does meet the criteria of the Project Approval Policy. The Board has taken the vote that took place on January 12th as evidence of approval for the project, and as a result no further polls or votes concerning the Watersprite Lake cabin are being considered. Feedback from this process is appreciated as a way to potentially improve the process to be followed on future projects.

TRIP REPORT:

WATERSPRITE CREEK SKI TOUR

Approach from Watersprite winter route, ascent of Crawford west ridge, descent by proposed Watersprite Lake summer route



Paul Kubik - February 2016

A killer work week left me too drained to organize a trip. So Saturday morning I headed out from Vancouver at 8:30 AM - destination Watersprite Lake. With an avalanche rating of considerable in the alpine I was not sure I wanted to ski Martin Peak solo.



The road was plowed to the Skookum generating plant. Above that, the south-facing slopes leading to Watersprite Lake winter route were bare of snow. I drove to 800 meters and parked about 300 meters short of the trailhead proper. There was enough snow on the road above that to discourage any adventurous 4WD maneuvers. It was just after 10 AM. Skins on, I was able to ski tour from where I parked.

The winter route was in good shape. Some additional clearing of alder in the first kilometer would be of benefit but generally the route was covered and did not require any acrobatics to ascend. Of interest was that there was no evidence of mechanized activity beyond the trailhead. At 1000 meters, the snow depth was approximately one and a half meters of very dense snow. The previous week brought about 30 cm of powder which became denser near the top. It was not ideal for trail breaking but neither was it impossible. It took about 40 minutes to climb to 1000 meters from the parking at 800 meters. The next 70 meters took about 30 minutes as the winter route essentially traverses towards Watersprite Creek.

As I approached the creek on the logging road I got a good view of the west ridge of Crawford Peak, which is above the notorious Watersprite Creek swamp on its north side. As my intention was to ski down the proposed Watersprite Lake summer route to the Darling Lake trailhead, it was more in keeping with my general aim than continuing up to the lake. Still, the trailbreaking up to the ridge promised to be a challenge but it is what I came for.

I dropped off the logging road before the trail branched off to the swamp. It was a short descent of about 20 meters vertical to reach the creek. There was no crossing so I took off the skis and hopped across on rocks. A stiff climb away from the creek brought me up to the first of the logging roads on the north side. The road is the planned summer trail to the lake. I followed it downstream a short distance before I saw a promising line up to the ridge crest. A bit of steep climbing on skins brought me to the higher road. I crossed it and kept going higher up the ridge. I was now just over three hours from the vehicle and at over 1400 meters when I stopped for lunch.

The terrain was quite amenable for skiing. It resembled the south face of Mount Harvery in pitch

and terrain features. In other words, very good for tree skiing. I saw multiple possible ski lines ranging from 15 degrees up to around 40 degrees (maybe). The vertical extent was quite impressive. I would say up to 400 meters or even more depending on how high off the ridge the line was taken. There is also the opportunity of skiing old growth timber down the west side as the park boundary passes along the ridge. If snow conditions were good and the party was adventurous there would be sufficient terrain to keep a hut-based party fully occupied during bad weather days for at least three or four days. The existing logging roads would be used to access the ridge and put in a skin up-track. Access from the hut would require skiing down from the hut and then climbing back up again at the end of the day. I did not see the terrain as being suitable for mountain goats as the snow was too deep. I don't believe there would be a negative impact on goats from ski touring.

After lunch, I proceeded down the west ridge in a westerly direction towards the Darling Lake trailhead. Unfortunately, when I dropped two meters down the cut bank above the road, a ski binding broke. I was able to rig a strap onto the ski brake and clip it to a boot buckle and continue skiing.

The descent to the Darling Lake trailhead required crossing a couple of major creeks where skis had to be removed. It was more than annoying because of the jury-rigged ski. When I intersected the old S Line road, the snow was insufficient to cover the alder. I was forced to detour down Stas' shortcut route to the IPP road. The top part was just open enough to ski but then the trail entered the deep second growth. I was forced to walk and the post holing at times was brutal. It was entirely expected so I was not disappointed in any way.

Once down to the Darling Lake trailhead I was able to follow the ATV tracks back to the vehicle along the IPP road. Again, I was pleasantly surprised to see that there were no visible incursions by snowmobiles into the Skookum RA1 non-motorized zone. It took one hour to ski back along the IPP road to my parked vehicle. I reached it just before 4 PM giving a round trip time of just under six hours.

TRIP REPORT:

BURTON HUT AT GARIBALDI

Sharon Roeder - February 2016

The trip was amazing. Conditions were sunny on the day in and light snow on return trip back. Snowshoeing across the lake was further than we thought. It is approximately 6km. The hut is quaint. Another group of 3 were there as well. The hut was cold. There is no woodstove and the small heater would not work, even though we brought up lots of white gas. In the night it was -8 in the hut and all our shoes and clothing was frozen in the morning. Despite that we had a great time! it was full moon and the views were spectacular. The trail was hard pack and so we didn't need to use snowshoes that much. Beautiful trip, I just need a warmer sleeping bag!

➤ *RAINER: INGRAHAM DIRECT - SERGUEI OKOUNTSEV*



T
EL DORADO CABIN, SOUTH CHILCOTIN
MICHELLE HYUN ←



➤ *PANORAMA RIDGE - PHILIP BLENKIRON*