

A person wearing a red jacket, orange helmet, and green pants stands on a glacier, holding a tripod. In the background, a large, rugged mountain peak rises under a blue sky with light clouds. The glacier is a mix of white and blue ice, with rocky debris scattered around.

BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club Newsletter

Sep 2018, Vol 95, No. 1

UPCOMING BCMC SOCIAL

At the ANZA Club 7:30 pm
Tuesday, Sep 11 - David Crerar, Harry Crerar,
and Bill Maurer present their new book *The
Glorious Mountains of Vancouver's North
Shore - A Peak Bagger's Guide* -

British Columbia Mountaineering Club

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CLUB EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

The club maintains two personal locator beacons and four ice tools, which are available for rental by members only.

The rental rate is \$10 per day for each item.

Fees are non-refundable and payable in advance and a refundable deposit may be required, at the equipment manager's discretion. Instructional Programs are exempt from rental fees, all other uses are subject to the rental fees.

The equipment is stored at our storage unit near Lougheed and Rupert in Vancouver.

Contact rentals@bcmc.ca to book equipment.

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: Mt Overseer and glacier from BCMC Summer Camp (Photo: S. Marsais)

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.

The BCMC welcomes the following new members who have joined February 23, 2018 to August 22, 2018 :

Aareet Shermom	Catherine Moloney	Hilla Aharon	Mariana Cairati	Rob Stevenson
Aarohi Patel	Chris Lippmann	Ian Damerill	Martin Roos	Rock Wave
Aaron Barnett	Chris Poskitt	Jacob Quist	Mary Schwieger	Rowena Cariaga
Ada Yim	Christine Weber	James Hicks	Mateo Quist	Ryan McNamee
Adam Davidson	Connie Drewbrook	James Palframan	Matthew Cochrane	Ryan Turner
Adam Wilkie	Connor Fraleigh	Jasone Olloqui	Matthew MacIsaac	Sarah McKaye
Adrienne Peltonen	Corinne Mercier	Jayson Faulkner	Maurice Castonguay	Sarah Mooney
Alex Le	Craig McKimm	Jen Arnold	Megan O'Brien	Sarah Tranquilli-Doherty
Alexandra Donaldson	Daniel Del Vecchio	Jennifer Cheung	Megan Zhu	Sean Lowe
Ali Bahar	Daniel Inoue	Jens Ourom	Melanie Trotter	Sean Zoschke
Ali Pourrahmat	Daniel Maul	Jeremy Childs	Michael Green	Shawn Patapoff
Alison Sokalski	Daniel McRorie	Jeremy Dewick	Michael Ratzlaff	Shivakumar Melmangalam
Amy Thorogood	David Williams	Jessica Dimis	Michelle Kim	Silvia Lum
Andrew Heras	Diyah Pera	Jordan Gutierrez	Mike Arnold	Simone Schnegg
Andrew Ridsdale	Dylan Curtis	Joseph Lenz	Mike Rayner	Sonya Chan
Angelina Mak	Eddy Wu	Joshua Ford	Mike Thomas	Sophia Whang
Ankush Burman	Eileen Bistrisky	Julia Postill	Mike Upton	Spencer Treffry
Annette Muttray	Elizabeth Price	Julia Ratzlaff	Min Feng	Sterling Vanderzee
Ashley Glover	Eric Dagenais	Justin Seidl	Mohan Zhang	Steve Chamli
Bailey Wickes	Eric Green	Kara Shaw	Moira de Valence	Steve Godin
Bart Brown	Eric McGill	Kat Zambo	Monika Pal	Steven Yau
Beata Kosciolik	Erick Miyazaki	Katlyn Townson	Natasha Romero	Taylor Fleming
Ben Lucas	Esteban Guisado	Kelly Carswell	Nichole De La Cruz	Taylor Livingston
Ben Podborski	Ettore Campana	Kelly Kurtz	Nickolas Grabovac	Teige Frid
Blake Rupert	Evin Zapf-Gilje	Kevin Bellamy	Nicolas Michel	Thiago Teixeira
Brad Newton	Ewan Alderson	Kevin Nold	Nikolay Khlebalin	Thomas Levi
Brandon Everell	Fiona Dalton	Kimberly Marshall	paddy mcmanus	Thor Brandrud
Brett Norbury	Gabriel Lai	Kirby Brown	Parker Treffry	Tianlai Dong
Brock Longshore	Gabriel Viel Cote	Krista Hull	Patrick Greenway	Tom Rushton
Bryant Race	Gabrielle Burke	Kristina Waclawik	Paul Levett	Tomomi Chu
Bryce Westlund	Galina Zvereva	Lainey Mullins	Paul Rivollier	Tyson Leonard
Cameron Bond	Gina Stetsko	Lisa Demers	Pavel Udovichenko	Val Connell
Carlie Smith	Graham Roberge	Louis Arseneault	Pinar Kavak	Valtteri Rantala
Carole Lunny	Hamed Karimi	Luke Rogers	Rachel Berkowitz	Vera Zyla
Casey Rowed	Havill Leitch	Lynna Lippmann	Raquel Hunt	Wayne Dalzell
Cassandra Cheung	Helen Weiss	Marcus Engstrom	Rebecca Clarke	Yazhu Mi

UPCOMING TRIPS ~ Sign up, updates and details at bcmc.ca

Aug 31-3	Lizzie Creek Cabin - B2 / C2	Brian Sheffield
Aug 31-3	Skaha Bluffs - A5	Brad Riffal
Sep 1-2	Mt Baker via Easton glacier - C3	Philippe Lambrette
Sep 1-3	Pemberton Icefield from Squamish Headwaters - C3	Christopher Barton
Sep 8-9	Mt Rohr - B2	Alice Obermajer
Sep 8	Snazy Peak - C4	Alastair Ferries
Sep 14-16	Mt Shuksan: Fisher Chimneys - C4	Wayne Pattern
Sep 15	Parker Pk & Mt McNair - C2	Alastair Ferries
Sep 23	Black Tusk - C4	Bill Maurer
Sep 28-30	Mountain Lake Hut refurbishment - A1	Joe Blakeman
Sep 29-30	Alpine Rock Climbing Course - \$319	Mountain Skills Academy
Oct 6-7	Snass Mtn - B2	Alice Obermajer
Oct 13-14	Mt John Clarke - C2	Alastair Ferries
Oct 20	LOST: Learn Outdoor Survival Tactics - \$128	Be Wild Adventures
Oct 26-28	LOST: Learn Outdoor Survival Tactics - \$425	Be Wild Adventures
Oct 27-28	Mt Frosty - B2	Alice Obermajer

Check <https://bcmc.ca/m/events> for late additions

THE NEWSLETTER IS BACK - Bill Maurer

After a 30 month hiatus the newsletter is returning on it's traditional 10 issue per year publication schedule. The club first started publishing newsletters back in March of 1923. Back then, the articles all started out being written by hand and photos were on film. The articles then had to be typed up and photos / artwork had to be pasted up on physical masters and sent off to be printed.

THAT BLOOD TEST CERTIFICATE

Members are reminded of the necessity for carrying a blood test certificate when above the intakes on Capilano, Lynn, and Seymour watersheds. (As the Capilano Timber Co. own land above Capilano intake they claim authority to stop or permit trips in that direction.)

In view of the generous arrangements being made in connection with the securing of the blood test certificate there is no excuse for any member failing to have one, and failure to have one when it is demanded might result in loss of the privileges the Club now enjoys with regard to the watersheds, and only obtained by dint of much hard work on the part of the Executive in the course of the past year.

To those not familiar with the procedure of making the blood test, it may be said that the whole thing does not amount to a pinprick, in fact, is disappointingly simple after the bold mountaineer has mustered his courage for the unknown ordeal.

As the requirements are reasonable and by no means difficult to comply with, loyalty to the Club ought to make everyone live up to what is expected of them in this respect.

The printed newsletters were then stuffed into envelopes with handwritten labels and stamps affixed to be delivered by Canada Post. The return is going to see an all digital publication which YOU can print if you so desire. All our newsletters are being archived and will soon be available on the website. We currently have 1923 to 1935 in digital format and everything from 2001 onwards.

To the left is one of the more humorous articles from that very first newsletter. Yes, we used to have to get a blood test certificate to enter the watershed of Vancouver's North Shore and we were thankful for the privilege. These days no blood test certificate is required but the watersheds are out of bounds to the public including members of this club.

I hope you enjoy it's return and if there's anyone out there who is interested in helping with the production give me a shout, editor@bcmc.ca. I'd also appreciate any feedback on the layout or styling you can provide.

Beginning in June of this year the BCMC has embarked on a new backcountry advocacy initiative. As one of the founding members of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC and with over 30 years of membership we were no longer getting value for the fees we were paying. We moved our insurance to JLT which is the same provider that the Alpine Club of Canada uses. They provide a very good policy at a comparable price.

As a very active club we feel that we need to be able to speak in a stronger and more independent voice than was possible within the federation. The fees that were being directed towards the federation are now being used to help fund our own direct initiatives.

These include:

1. The formation of an open platform which allows non-motorized backcountry recreation advocates from all across the province to work on issues they feel passionate about. The province has been divided into regions and the website defaults to your local region. There are no fees for anyone to use the site: <https://backcountrybc.ca>.
2. The creation of a facebook group open to anyone in the province to discuss issues: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BackcountryBC>.
3. Funding for FOI (freedom of information) requests when we can't get straight answers from government officials.
4. Funding for travel to out of town meetings with government / corporate officials.
5. Funding for a venue where we can hold regular meetings to discuss issues, strategy, do training, and network with other advocates.

Backcountry users in the lower mainland and Sea to Sky corridor are particularly facing a lot of issues due to population and commercial pressures. Some of the issues being worked on include:

1. Lack of parking at the Singing Pass trailhead
2. Legalization of the LRMP non-motorized zones with Section 58's
3. Potential status change to Tetrahedron park due to water district wanting to use Chapman Lake as a water source.
4. Direct winter time backcountry access to Blackcomb glacier.
5. Direct winter backcountry access to musical bumps
6. Access to Callaghan provincial park
7. Work on the Pinecone Burke master plan
8. Earlier opening of Seymour mtn road in the winter for morning backcountry access
9. Earlier opening of Cypress mtn road in the winter for morning backcountry access

We are planning to hold the first Rec & Con meeting of backcountrybc during September, in Vancouver. Watch for the meeting notice on the bcmc and backcountrybc websites and facebook pages. At the present time the BCMC is the sole funder of this initiative but we hope that other mountain clubs will join us over time.

We will likely rejoin the FMCBC as an associate member well as the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORC) as a provincial member. We continue working together with the FMCBC on many initiatives.

CYPRESS MOUNTAIN'S GROUP SEASON PASS PRICING DEADLINE is October 4, 2018.

You can buy ANY of the Alpine OR Nordic season passes. Prices for all passes can be found here: <http://www.cypressmountain.com/groupseasonpass/>

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

1. Please use the following link: <https://www.tixforcypressmountain.com/e-commerce/GrpLogin.aspx>
2. To access these special rates you will need to login in to the online sales system with the following:

Username: bridges

Password: 19SKYCHAIR

3. You are now logged into our 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Radmila Bridges at radmila.bridges@gmail.com.

TRIP REPORT:

SKY PILOT & A BIG CAMPFIRE

Brian Martin - August 18, 2018

What can we say group of 5 of us got together and headed up Sky Pilot. The smoke was so thick that on the summit you couldn't see Habrich never mind all the other views that should have been there. We left the top of the gondola at 9:50 and worked our way along and up. While I was the trip organizer Derek Fenton took on the job of getting us to the top. Derek is an excellent leader making sure we moved at a pace that everyone was happy with but at the same time still getting us there. The glacier was still mostly snow with a patch of ice starting to form. Since we had opted not to bring crampons we walked around the ice and up to the ridge and pink slabs. Having watched some gopro videos from the pink slabs I had hauled a rope all the way up there. However once there I learnt it goes at grade 3 (not 5.3) so personally I won't be taking a rope again. Made our way to the summit enjoyed a snack and a glimpse of Habrich through the smoke, then headed down. Thanks to Pinar Kavak, Roger Barany, Fiona Dalton, and Derek Fenton for a great day and bagging a summit I first saw 20 years ago.

Notes:

outback runners were fine, hiking poles yes, ice axe yes, crampons no,

rope 40m if you don't like down climbing (nice new rap rings on the route)

CAMP REPORT

OVERSEER SUMMER CAMP

Bill Maurer - August 4 - 12, 2018



Hanging out in basecamp. The weather was phenomenal most of the week. For the keen climbers, every day was a climbing day!

Scrambling descent from the Overseer summit. Watch out for loose rocks!



Heading up to Frozen Boot



On the summit of Frozen Boot

Creeks on ice. The glaciers are melting!



Heading back to camp from Zygo on the Overseer glacier.



Harrison Hut

Two Doctor

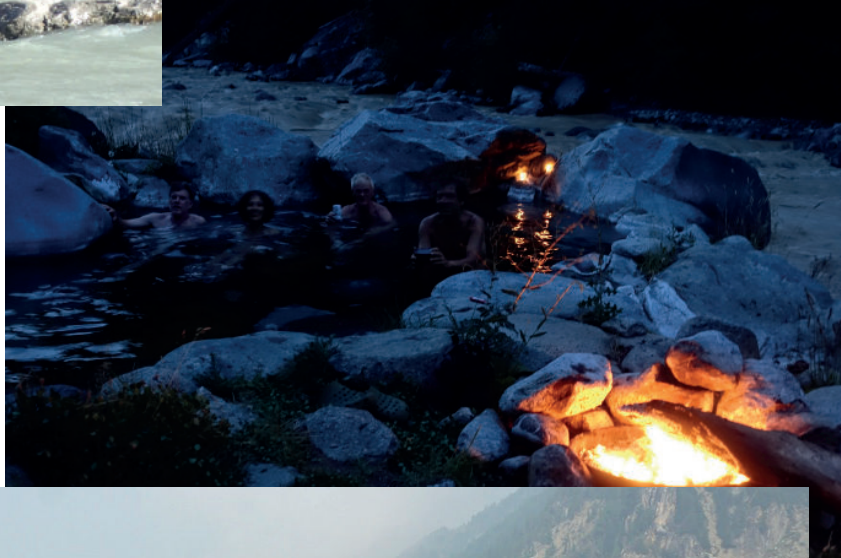


Music night in the tent



Creek crossings can be challenging, particularly in the afternoons when they're at full throttle!

Enjoying Meager Creek Hot Springs on our rest day.



The whole group



TRIP REPORT:

RAINIER VIA EMMONS

Jose Collado - July 21-22, 2018

The initial trip idea was to do Emmons-Winthrop route as seemed to me more interesting than the Disappointment Cleaver route while still keeping it moderate but recent updates from the climbing rangers speaking of several climbers falling into crevasses, disappearing snow bridges, almost no parties summiting on the previous two weeks and the possibility of the route shutting due to more open crevasses/schruns made us decide on the planning forum to do the DC route instead; the approach to first camp –Muir- is much shorter and so is the elevation gained on both days, plus the route is being maintained by commercial guides with ladders and fixed ropes. We met at the Paradise Valley center at the Rangers office, they opened the office at 7am we got there at 6am and found already a group bivying at the door. 2nd on the line but with most permits already gone would be tight, the guys in front of us get it, the ranger says that we can camp in Muir icefield ,right before the normal camp, we say yes, he looks again to book it and booooo gone (as there 5 ranger offices maybe someone booked in those 3 seconds?) DC route is off the list. We saw a few people going without permits but apart from being very poor form and illegal means that you are making already a busy climb busier and more dangerous for everyone. We could wait until 10am to see if there are no-show permits but not very

likely and if that failed would be too late to do anything.



The ranger gives us the speech about why we cannot climb DC (conservation, overcrowding...) and ask any alternative plans? Mumm well Emmons via Schurman? Looks and yes enough permits for the 5 of us, warns us about the late season conditions but seems quite positive and says that most

people turning are inexperienced, the route definitely goes to the top without major hazards and reassures us that if we have prepared for that route should be solid although tight on time...its already 7am we have to drive almost 2h to the trailhead and the way to camp Schurman is not short, everyone nods with resignation... we have a new plan: the old plan!

Back in the car driving to White River trail head, a quick coffee and breakfast and we are moving at 9am on a long beautiful slog up the valley trail, which follows the river side and is quite popular with day hikers. The views of Rainier with Little Tahoma are spectacular and a few marmots greet us as we enter the alpine meadows. We arrive to the talus where the Inter Glacier starts, we stash our approach shoes and time to get to business. The next two hours is slow consistent 25/30degrees straight up the glacier being baked by the sun, we take a direct line straight up, there are a few crevasses towards on top and we decide to rope up although probably wouldn't be necessary. We are making great time and moving fast, we don't really take any long breaks just 1min breaks to drink/eat as necessary. Once at camp Curtis the route drops from the shoulder of the Steamboat into the Emmons Glacier...



the huge longitudinal crevasses undulating up Emmons and the view of the entire climbing route of the next day is completely amazing. From there magnitude of the mountain is obvious we have been sweating for awhile up the Inter glacier and we haven't made it even to the base of one of the flanks. Its going to be a long second day. 40 mins more up the Emmons glacier and we are in camp Schurman around 3/4pm. The climbing ranger briefed us on weather, camp etiquette, and what the other groups are up to. Seems like everyone is starting that night from 10pm onwards, we said we would start and midnight, he mentions that it is early enough for a turn around time of 8/9am as with sunny days they don't like people stuck up route as lots of serac and bridges to cross, also warns us we will be trailing a few groups

but that it is part of the Rainier experience but with such a great weather window everyone should have fun!

Everyone is in high spirits setting up the tent and prepping dinner/lunch whatever that was. Bad news Mike tells us that he was super tired hiking to camp and the altitude isn't helping so it's not feeling like starting tomorrow, we try to convince him as that is just because he had the bigger pack of the group (bringing a 300page novel was a bit of a heavy luxury) and the next day with daypacks he should feel better but he seems pretty convinced and set on resting up. Everyone is in bed by 6.30pm with alarms at 10.45pm... for me one of the longest nights of my life as I did not close my eyes for one second, there are lots of groups arriving on three days attempts arriving until 8pm and then the alarms and people waking up to climb so the chatting is non-stop and the acoustics of the place should be studied for future generations to improve on theaters...doulby-surround systems are nothing compared to how people chatting about how beautiful the sunset is a few hundred meters from you seem to be whispering it at your ear... Apparently Rich and Louis managed to sleep a couple of hours, I couldn't at all and made it very hard to Pav, that was sharing tent with me, as I was trying to stay still but couldn't help but moving from time to time. At 9.30 I had had enough and just sat outside the tent to soak-in the views and wait for the wakeup time, was pretty cool to see the first groups start ascending with headlamps but still some daylight.

A few minutes past midnight we start moving (Mike decided to stay in bed and "sleep" a bit more) the first groups are completely out of sight and close to the summit, we think naively, and there maybe 6/7 groups ahead of us the closest maybe 400mtrs ahead. Pav leads the group crossing/jumping crevasses very smoothly. We are going

pretty fast, any faster we would need to take breaks to rest but everyone is moving efficiently and holding the pace well. From leaving the camp you have to jump a couple of huge crevasses (maybe the biggest on route) to get to the Emmons flat, then up an easy snow slope to then traverse left into “the corridor” which is a smooth line that separates the Emmons and Winthrop glaciers, that is the normal route but now is heavily crevassed and can only be followed half way up before becomes impracticable. This area is spectacular in the dark as you can only guess the huge crevasses and seracs you are navigating through. We start passing a few groups here. This feature



that looks like just a few hundred meters from camp seems to go forever I think in two hours from camp we were mid/high-corridor where becomes impassable. We made winding traverse left into the “garbage disposal” (not sure if called like this because anything you drop is definitely gone for good into crevasses down below or because in late summer those huge iceblocks fall down...) a steeper left traverse between ice cliffs, this area must get up to 40 degrees, the snow conditions were superb with icy snow that the crampons were biting perfectly. Here we passed a few groups and suddenly we saw the

girls group, they had been the first to start climbing and were moving fast and decisively so I was surprised to catchup to them. Here was the main problem of the day, once arriving to the top of the garbage disposal there is a loong almost 1km right traverse under the schrund but just over the seracs of the top of the corridor, until it the schrund becomes passable. Here we saw some groups trying to go straight climbers right but we had the feeling the we still needed to keep going up and left further before starting the traverse. On complete darkness and in such a big mountain is pretty difficult to measure at which point of the never ending series of seracs and faces and crevasses you are and with the choice of taking an easy right traverse into the corridor or hopefully just above it or keep going on to steepening terrain traversing left into what looks a wall of seracs...we were not very sure. We paused to discuss and the next group caught up to us. The leader group of the girls seemed to think initially that we had gained enough elevation and was time to start the right traverse but after discussing it ended up agreeing with us on the left path, their headlamp was much stronger than ours and they glimpsed what maybe was a steep ramp between two seracs way up. We let them pass and moved together with the girls group up the left traverse until we finally found the ramp that goes right between two huge blocks, this ramp is hidden at night by a serac so its definitely the route finding crux. At night with icy snow and steep terrain this final left traverse felt to me a serious no fall zone (on the way down with light seemed not that steep with plenty of room to self arrest and no reason whatsoever to fall so much so that would've been happy to almost run downhill, crazy how just a bit of light, softer snow and the confidence of knowing where you are going completely changes the risk perception, also I think we probably chose the worst line across this at night going straight up at first and then parallel and even losing altitude left rather than the normal leftwards and up from the start) and together with the route finding issues probably the zone where other groups turned around. As we found some old tracks we were reassured that we were on the right way, saw headlamps of the groups from the right turning around and coming to the left path,

we were on route. Atop of this ramp the girls group stopped to rest, we thanked them as we passed them again between the two groups we had managed to pass the crux and now the summit seemed within reach. It was still 4am and completely dark, so we knew had plleeenty of time. We kept moving right on a long traverse sometimes gaining elevations sometimes losing it, this is easy terrain but you are traversing on a 40degree snow patch with narrow foot placements so despite being "easy" its important to keep focused as it entirely a no fall zone as if anyone fell with the icy-snow conditions and only 20meters before the seracs drop into the Emmons/Winthrop glacier I don't like the odds of self-arresting any fall. Pav continued on his mission of keeping a steady pace and in no time we were by the schrund and the technical crux of the day. This is a 70 degree slope VERY THIN 10 meters wall like feature to gain the final snow patch, we set up a few snow pikets as running belay that seemed pretty solid and continued climbing, that wall has some obvious steps so despite its steepness and definitely needing



hands&iceaxe to get up it we didn't have any troubles. Here Louis informed us that his GPS was telling him that we were just 200meters of elevation short of the summit. The red light from the sunrise started illuminating Baker and Glacier mt in the horizon and the spirits couldn't be any higher, from here the trail is obvious and keeps going right and up, the crevasses on the left side if that's the appropriate word look like holds in the mountain where you could easily fit apartment buildings, in no time we made it close to the

first patch of rocks and a few mins later to the summit, the sun had just risen and was still low and red. From the top the view of Hood, St Helens, Adams...absolutely breathtaking, conditions on the summit were superb with almost no wind so we stopped for breakfast, water, pics, I think Pav even took a short nap. We summited just before 6am, and to our surprise we were completely alone, no one from the DC route onsight, almost 45min/1h later when we were going to start heading down, still no one from that side of the crater going up, we were very surprised as we knew for a fact that all the camps there were full (muir, muir snowfield and Ingraham flats) and that's...lots of people.

As we were going to start going down two groups of two people came from our side (Emmons) and just before leaving the crater the group of girls appeared, pretty happy that everyone was making it to the top we started descending. On the way down we stopped to take some pics and both groups of two passed us. Surprisingly, or not, the other groups seemed to have turn around at some point before. As we were going down surprise, on the long traverse to the right we see a guy on a thermal/fire blanked, seating on a snow ledge attach secured to a snowpicket (non-locking biner of course, as I think Rich noted later). I really thought that was it, now we are going to stop for 5/6h until the rangers/heli appears we will be lucky if we arrive to the car with light left, the group of

two that just passed us descending had stopped there as well and...well as it happens that guy was from a group of three started to feel bad (altitude) and the other two guys decided to continue climbing. I want to think that he just had a mild headache and was tired and just wanted to stop and was comfortable with being left alone there because if not... even with that, very questionable decision making in my opinion, as we were all thinking that just a few hours before the ranger mentioned not leaving anyone behind in the mountain and seemed so obvious that we even joked about it, well not so obvious after all. We stopped and chatted with them for a bit, everyone even the injured climber seemed in good humor and joking. Very funny moment because we didn't know if the two guys assisting him were part of his initial climbing group, or if we was a solo climber or...pav asked, "do you have any friends you are waiting for?" (To assess the situation) and the other two guys looked at each other..."Yes, us. Although given that we left him here, maybe no or at least he needs better ones?" If it wasn't cause we were on a ledge mid traverse with what appeared to be an injured climber I would've thrown myself to the floor to laugh. The guy alone had a GPS InReach type device so he always had the chance to contact rescue services and was capable of descending on his own, so we decided to let the group go down first with us trailing behind in case they had any problems. A few hundred meters the injured guy said that was feeling much better and asked us to pass ahead. The snow conditions could've not been any better, icy-snow that the crampons bited in the morning, and slightly slushier on the way down for a fast descent. On the way down you get to appreciate how obvious the route was (and shocks how hard was to find at night) also it felt much easier and secure going down despite appreciating the exposure on the traverse and the crevasses and how menacing those



house-size seracs you pass by are. Here we felt it was too hot, tired, sleepy and Louis picked up the pace in front to comfortable speedwalk so we ended passing the other duo.

Here we saw a group trying to still go up (obviously too late and turned safely around soon after) and the two climbing rangers flying up, at the time we thought they were just assessing the route but we were informed when we arrived to camp that a party had been seen lost off route and they had gone to retrieve them. I think the only way to get lost so high on

the route might have been, just before the 70degree schrund there is a obvious bootpack that winds climbers right so I guess on the way up if you feel the schrund is hard and think the route continues traversing right or on the way down if you don't remember where you came...we assumed that was the trail from old Emmons route as would go down to "the corridor" now a fully inaccessible by crevasses. Anyhow! We went fast down and were happy to see Mike in high spirits as well, after a late morning start he had been reading his book (a good idea bringing it after all), we spoke with a few nervous climbers that were ready for trying to summit the next day as we were the first group to get down to successfully summit so they wanted to know if the route

was still “open”, had a quick sandwich and headed down.

The way down was...long the Inter Glacier was super fun though, after passing the crevasses Louis had eyed on the way up a glissade that would take him without a single step direct to our stashed shoes on probably 400m elevation descent in just 2mins...he prepared and flew down, I don't really like glissading much but... my knee was hurting a bit and...so I went second...if it wasn't cause he had just climbed Rainier would've been a highlight of the trip and almost worth doing on its own, long with curves (bobsleigh style)...definitely worthed the cold ass. Rich and Pav followed after and Mike couldn't resist to try it neither. The next two hours I can barely remember what happened, I think was trying to stay awake talking to Mike but finally we made it to the cars.

Everyone was tired and Friday afternoon wait on the border was almost sure so we carpoled and parted ways.

Overall great climbing, we were discussing on the way down that the Emmons route despite being an “easy route” the rangers do well in advice that in late summer conditions is definitely a different animal. Not hard at all but very unforgiving if you were to make any mistake, so not really a great beginner climb. The first half is heavily crevassed then what we felt an intermediate route finding problem as route changes you cannot trust bootpacks from previous days I think at some point we didn't have any and that part of the route is always tackled in the darkness. Followed by a long easy traverse but I feel was “no-fall area” finally a steep short schrund and only from there the route can be considered easy glacier moving. Very fun day.

PS: I just found out on the climbing rangers blog the reason why were alone at the summit. A few expeditions from the DC didn't summit because one of the early parties turned around saying that an essential bridge had fallen. The rangers had since confirmed that the bridge is still “alive” but fragile and that could be used although if it broke on the way down...would be a very long detour (<http://mountrainierclimbing.blogspot.com/.../dc-route-flicker...>).

As I finish writing I read the new update from the rangers on the Emmons routes, must be the from the rangers that we encountered on our way down (<http://mountrainierclimbing.blogspot.com/.../emmons-winthrop-...>) and happy to see that they confirm what we were thinking and im not just a chicken about the traverse being a narrow “no-fall area” and needing to be independent not just following old bootpacks in these conditions. The pic from the schrund where we climbed it...was so THIN, its scary to think that we climbed that as seen on the image but we had placed a few pickets to probably would've fine even if it broke although VERY glad it didn't. Looks like they decided to avoid the schrund and keep traversing further right and probably will be the route from now until the end of the season.

The trip participants were Jose Collado, Pawel Wypych, Louis Otis, Mike Knudson, and Rich Carmona.

TRIP REPORT:

HABRICH AND SKY PILOT

Jose Collado - July 14-15, 2018

Part 1 Habrich/Escape Velocity

After bad weather two weeks ago we were able to re-schedule the trip. Met at the church at 10ish took the Gondola a bit late and started hiking right the way, once the trail branches out of the Valley Trail...it's straight up an alpine version of the Grouse Grind while carrying climbing gear.

When we got to the climb oh oh, two parties ahead, they probably came on the first gondola and beat us to the start. The follower on the first rope struggled a bit on the 5.9 with some hanging, yelling (PS:so funny that this person a complete stranger at the time is someone I just climbed Rainier with and happens to be a very cool BCMC member that I am so glad I met, Rich)...everyone was kind off tense as with 6 more pitches and behind two parties could be a loooong day, the leader of the second rope (a british couple) launched to pass them before Rich got to the belay I guess linking P2/P3 and did so. That was the last time we saw either party climbing, the british couple when up at lightspeed and we ended up sharing a belay as they were rapping. I shared the anchor atop of P2 with Rich but as they went on to link their pitches onwards and we had decided to let pass Tim/Pav... we didn't see them again until the top. All smooth sailing and super enjoyable.

I was going to do a pitch by pitch breakdown but I don't think this climb needs it, the topo is a clear as they come and with plenty of bolts and bolted belays getting loss would be admirable. The "first pitch" is literally two moves with two bolts to gain the ledge to belay the second one...we didn't link them cause there was a party ahead so we decided to "climb it" and watch them tackle P2 while snacking (on the way down Pav and me didn't even rap it, just down climbed it using the PAS to clip on the bolts aid style). The 5.9 pitch has a bit of an awkward corner crack/chimney type move but it's just a couple of moves with all the gear you could possibly want so very fun and by far the best pitch, maybe the only interesting one. Being not a strong 5.9 trad leader and seeing one party struggle I was a bit nervous but I lead it pretty smoothly to my surprise. I'd say from there is all the same until the last pitch, short sections of 5.6/7 face/slab with lots of bolts and gear possibilities between ledges, all the pitches can be linked and there is a fair bit of scrambling between these sections of walls. The last pitch don't think can be linked as there are a few meters of walking to move the belay and finishes on a 5.6/7 crack on perfect granite, Smoke Bluffs style, the ledge is so big that you don't really feel climbing to the summit, but the climbing is great.

Strategy: As there were a few parties on it, Fernando and me climbed the first pitch (P2 of the topo) and linked the rest. Pav and Tim, as the stronger party, waited for us to finish P2 in case I had any trouble with the 5.9 and linked with it P3..so basically we were overtaking and been overtaken by each other all the time so it was quite a chatty enjoyable climb. The climbing was super fast, especially compared with the steep approach, so Tim and Pav decided that still had some climbing in them and would try to climb something in bluffs after Tim's first trad lead on the last pitch. We decided to have a quick bite and start rappelling quickly. There was a large party on the raps bellow us that were taking some time and super kindly decided to let use their ropes and link their two raps, that plus the fact that we had 2 60m ropes meant that we were at the base in no time. I was surprised on both how busy it was the climb and also on how that didn't really make any difference in

terms of going faster/slower other than delaying a bit the start.

All and all a good moderate but with so many bolts covering easy moves, climbing parties and bolted anchors couldn't quite say that it was an alpine climb, more of a good "entry level" multipitch with an alpine set up. Surprisingly the next morning Sunday as we were coming back from Sky Pilot noticed how no parties were on their way to Habrich, maybe just bad luck with crowds on a glorious Saturday morning but either way I don't think it made a difference other than the first few mins of nervousness when you see people ahead of you.

Part 2 - Sky Pilot Scramble

We got down quickly to the main fork, Tim and Pav decided to get back to the gondola to go down to Squamish and climb a bit more and Fernando and me recovered our overnight packs. Our wives had been hiking during the morning and left us the sign that after doing Al Habrich trail, had already been on the fork and continued walking uphill towards Sky Pilot.

We cached them as they were resting/napping on their sleeping pads in a cairn before crossing the river, took a break, ate and continued walking uphill the last section of forest. We all were pretty tired so as the forest thins out and the first patches of snow are melting we found a perfect bivvy spot, right over a small waterfall with still by the forest to pick dead wood, the river a couple of meters, Habrich behind and a first glimpse of the east shoulder of Sky Pilot above us.

Carrying heavy packs has a few advantages; weight training and good dinner! We shared a flask full of whisky, sausages over the campfire until got dark, almost midnight, with Fernando taking some great shots with his camera. Luckily this was just before the start of the campfire ban so we had a nice fire to cook the sausages, scare the mosquitoes and provide a beautiful light into the glacier mountains around us.

Everyone was very tired and didn't want to continue uphill the next day, just enjoy the day and get down, so I promised I would wake up early summit and be back for breakfast time. I set the alarm at 4.30 but slept through it until 5, got the crampons, trekking pole, candybar, water and a couple of layers in case anything went wrong and started moving by 5.30am. The first part is already a scree talus (there are snow patches on the left but decided to go through the scree and delay putting on crampons until the end) and only "needed" them once I got to the upper bowl/cirque of the stadium glacier. There is still lots of snow to get to the ridge so went straight to it, the snow is very soft so even on the steepest part to gain the ridge could probably be done without crampons by kicking steps but with them on and using the trekking pole instead of an ice axe felt super safe (a fall here is completely inconsequential with this level of snow as you would just glide down to center of the bowl where the angle eases, in fact lots of glissade tracks). Kept moving fast and passed a group of still sleepy people bivying on the col before the pink slabs and went for it. Having heard about it I was a bit nervous but definitely just 4th class and if starting right and traversing left not even that much exposure. Followed the cairns that loop around to the south side and from here all went downhill...

I kept following recent tracks traversing south-east (not gaining any elevation) until got to a rotten red rock area of very crumbly ledges with a steep fall on the south side despite what would be better judgement I continued moving on these precarious and exposed ledges with unsecure footing, kept traversing and traversing...after awhile the quality of the rock was a bit better but quite narrow...def not for the faint hearted, kept going until the system of ledges I was following started trending down the south face, definitely I was too east and I had to gain elevation not lose it...every path up looked 4th class maybe low 5th but nothing obvious that would continue to the top and didn't want to down climb into those narrow ledges so stopped to assess

the situation as I had been sort of on autopilot until then. I was a bit shaken, this was wayyyy more technical and exposed than the pink slabs, although I was completely safe I didn't feel comfortable with exploring this side of the mountain by myself with no one else around, whether this was the scrambling route or not I felt like turning around, so I did. After getting back in solid ground and still shaken by the red scree area decided to stop drink water and have a sandwich. I browsed through the printouts of the guide book (why I didn't check them before I still don't understand, but as I said was sort of in autopilot until then) and boom im such an idiot, the new McLane&Boyd has lots of pictures of this route, there is lots of flagging and cairns but focused on moving fast followed footsteps to the nice rest were I was and where the red scree starts rather than moving up through a chimney a few meters before (with flagging within sight I should say, adding to my stupidity). Feeling like an absolute idiot followed the obvious trail/cairns to a ridge(west shoulder as per route description)that then goes down with a few exposed moves but nothing as loose and exposed as the terrain I had been before and a couple of mins later I was in the summit. So cool to have the entire mountain for myself in a blue sky morning, cool temps and a bit of an adventure that ended well!

I didn't feel like glissading as the ratio of terrain that would save me to descent to frozen ass wasn't quiet there but ran downhill until the snow disappears and then back to camp. Fernando and Lu had just woken up and were making coffee. Best timing ever, arrive to camp as coffee is being served! Waited for Renee to wake up and we all had a nice breakfast and an easy morning walking around and finally back to the Gondola as the Sunday morning hordes came to scramble the route.

Checking the timestamps of the pics: started moving just before 5.30am, not running but quite fast to the start of steep snow that gains the col at 6am, summit 6:55am back to the forest/camp 7:50am.

Also looks like there is a route going through the red scree (see 2min26sec onwards of this video <https://youtu.be/oInBHPNIP-A?t=146>) but that route looks like goes up were I kept traversing south-east, anyway the route described in McLane&Boyd is definitely the way to go!

TRIP REPORT:

WASHINGTON PASS / MAZAMA

Jose Collado - June 30 - July 2, 2018

The bad weather looming over Vancouver for the long weekend meant I had to change plans. Last minute on Saturday decided to instead go to Washington (US) as the closest place with a good forecast.

After a few stopovers and a late start we made it to the parking lot of the Washington Pass trailhead around 2pm, the lot was almost completely full with lots of car parked on the side of the road. It was late for an alpine climb but we thought that we could do something like the Beckey route or Rapple Grapple reasonably fast, on the way we crossed a party coming down that told us they had spent the entire day waiting and not climbed anything as too many people on Beckey... ok, we are definitely going to be the last people on the route and hopefully people are way ahead of us so we can move quickly, around 3.30ish we arrive to the gully and the sight is not pretty. Never seen so many people on a climb, let alone alpine, the traffic jam made look Diedre on a Sunday morning empty. There is no way the people on the back are making it down with light... lots of parties of 3 and what look as new leaders moving extremely slow, the traffic jams on the belay ledges being full didn't speed thing up. Noone in any other route on the Liberty or Concord tower though! We considered alternatives to the Beckey route but most of them share a few pitches with it and the prospect of being stuck behind parties that have been waiting the entire day to climb on the way up and then on the rappels didn't seem too attractive.

I had scouted the North Face of the Concord Tower as an alternative... and absolutely no one in the entire mountain, so we decided to do this route:

P1: maybe a few 5.6 moves up the crack that starts in the same notch as Beckey route, then left through an easy foot railing (good gear and solid rock) but we were freezing so felt quite uneasy, and arrive to the ledge, instead of using slings around a tree that are used to the rappel I kept climbing up and right to the start of the next pitch to avoid drag for David in the next pitch. Anchored using a sling around a boulder (light case of screaming barfies in my hands as we moved on to the sun)

P2: David started climbing up the crag, here you can go up and left up some crags and face or straight up for the "directissimo route", the later look pretty wide and we didn't have enough gear for that 60m wide pitch so decided to move left, up some hidden 'huecos' that look intimidating when moving on to the face but quite juggy. Here I had read about a gear belay in a cave looking crack (we found a sling and a broken cam fixed) but just two meters left there is the two bolt and chain rap anchor...this must be new cause it is on route and very close so cannot imagine why anyone would suggest a gear anchor two meter short of a belay ledge with chains.

P3: We were a bit confused, since only had a vague idea of how the route went as this was just a back up I had faintly considered, and not having built the anchor exactly on the same spot confused us, where we too left too low... looks like wide easy crags to the (climbers)right to gain the ridge line or left going up some crags to a slab that traverses left to gain the summit on some steep finger crack that moves again right, we settled on the latter as not knowing the grade of anything it seemed more easily protectable even if a more vertical finish. Doing some research now, we followed the correct line and the one moving right just connects with the 'directissimo' finish up easy terrain as well. SUMMIT

Raps are very straight forward summit to anchor of P2 (26m)and to the ledge where P1(30m rope stretch just lands you there, TIE KNOTS at the end) and a 18m rap to the starting notch so no need to bring up shoes or anything. We got our rope stuck on first rap, as they wind blew the ropes to the wrong gully (Patriot cracks route I think) and as I was rapping down and tried to retrieve them the knot got stuck in a crag, right at the bottom, so as 3Pitches of climbing was not enough had to go down unstuck the rope (I needed the nut tool, bomber knot placement for sure) and climb the rope back up for a 4th pitch. The climbing was on solid rock, the moves and jams of great quality, the views spectacular and with a lot of exposure, rapping is fast, only caveat is that it's too short, would've loved 3 more pitches of the same!! (No idea how this is just a 3 star climb on mountain project or in the guidebook)

6pm back at the notch, considered at least doing some pitches in Liberty but...the group that we left starting P2...was still at the top of P2 belaying the leader on P3 and the line of rappels was super busy so decided to spend 30mins taking pics of the goats as they seem as interested on the start of the Beckey route as climbers and back to the car in time to go and set camp in Mazama with some daylight left.

DAY2

We set camp on a free campground with pit toilet close to the start of Goat Creek Road (National Forest land I believe) got up early (not enough I guess) and we were at the parking lot of the Goat Wall by 6.45am. 6 cars already there, as we get ready someone tells us that 'Flyboys' the 18P 5.9 sport route is were all those parties are so, another traffic jam on the making. They mention another route 5.9 sport, 12 pitches close by called 'Prime Rib', I had read something online but we had prepared for flyboys...looks like another day of changing plans. We go towards prime rib and luckily there is a couple ahead of us that points us the start of the route. We let them a few pitches of distance while having breakfast and we had the route for us! As we started climbing a few parties came behind but we must have been climbing pretty fast as we didn't see them again (while climbing P4 Dave told me that there were lots of parties waiting to start, so def be early for Prime rib, super early for Flyboys). The climb is very well bolted and impossible to get lost even for a clueless party like us, mostly 5.7 climbing with a few 5.9 very cool moves, lots of bolts so the crux moves are almost in top rope and easily aided if need be, we skipped a few bolts here and there as we were not sure how many quickdraws were needed and how long the pitches were. I think we only linked a slabby pitch that has a short 5.4 traverse to the

right (maybe pitches 9&10?) but the 60m wasn't long enough so had to simul maybe 10 meters? (very easy terrain but lots of rope drag, extend everything if you are going to do that) also looking at the Mountain Project (<https://www.mountainproject.com/route/107730934/prime-rib-of-goat>) description we must have linked pitch 6&7 although we didn't see the anchor in between and def no more than 50m so they might have changed the climb to combine those(?). The climbing is excellent, great views of the valley, great bolting and some very cool moves past overhangs and chimneys very unlikely for the grade but always a jug nearby makes it easy enough to be a fully enjoyable no worries climb! Loved it!!!

We were at the top at 12.30pm...little we knew that was just half way. In flyboys we have thought of rapping the entire route since raps go parallel to the climb, but in Prime Rib the rap chains are the climbing anchors. There is lots of loose rock and boulders on the ledges (only caveat of the route if parties ahead of you are careless with walking on ledges or moving the rope) and with lots of parties coming behind we though would be a dick/dangerous move to drop ropes on all of them (we found out that the party behind us decided to rap anyway) a quick shower convinced us against rapping. 16miles to the car and we hadn't stashed a bike or arrange a drive out... we caught the couple that started ahead of us at the end of the climb and as they had bikes at the top, they very kindly agreed to take my car keys and move the car from the parking lot (2xkm away)to the bottom of the FSR (only 13km away), so I could run down the 13km of FSR to the main road pick the car and drive back to pick Dave. Bad plan, I charged down running and got to the main road in about 1h I waited there another 30mins hoping that they would come back with my car to find that I must have passed them on the way down and they were behind me (didn't ask too much, because they were trying to help so no place for complaining here, but must have a mechanical or stop for lunch or something cause despite running pretty fast it's a very easy downhill road for a bike so no way I can outrun them even less put over half an hour on them) got the keys back hitchhiked back to the car (I got before them cycling)and drove back to the summit to pick up Dave...around 4pm. Completely destroyed and happy from the climb/downhill run combo we headed back to Vancouver. Maybe going on Canada day long weekend and 4th of July week in the States made it a bit overcrowded but with good start times should be easily avoidable, and so much better than top roping wet stuff in Squamish. Awesome two routes! Discovered that Mazama is full of climbing not just the famous two long multipitches that see all the traffic but single pitch stuff (the local climbing shop sells a booklet for it) so it's a great home-base to explore the Washington Pass for alpine climbing and then chill doing some sport climbing. To be repeated soon for sure!!