



Summer 2023 Newsletter

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BCMC NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2023

Introduction

Ashley Sherlow, Newsletter Editor

Hello BCMCers!

It's that time of year! We can (almost officially) trade in the skis and snowshoes for boots and rock shoes. With the summer season comes longer days, bigger traverses, exciting expeditions, more climbing trips, and a new season of the BCMC mentorship program.

In this issue you'll find a recent BCMC trip report for Mount Sampson, an update on the mentorship program, and some other noteworthy news in the community.

If you have a story to share or advice to give in an upcoming newsletter, send it our way at editor@bcmc.ca or send me a message through the [BCMC website](#).



Club Updates

Call for Volunteers

The BCMC is maintained and improved by the generous volunteer help provided by many of our members. Consider donating some of your free time to help our club improve and find fulfillment in a community with shared interests. **If you're interested in sharing your time and skills with the BCMC, please contact us** with the volunteer areas that interest you, such as helping with trail work, memberships, or our monthly socials.

Contact Us

Have questions or suggestions about any of our programs?
Visit <https://bcmc.ca/contact.php> or email contact@bcmc.ca.

Club Updates

NEW BCMC Merch!

Represent your favourite outdoor club with our new BCMC Merch. Grab a mug, shirt, or hoodie featuring our new logo.

Plus for the next two days, take 20% off everything!

Explore the store at
<https://bcmcswag.myspreadshop.com/>

*"YOU DON'T QUIT HIKING
BECAUSE YOU GET OLD, YOU GET
OLD BECAUSE YOU QUIT HIKING."*

- Dave Scanlon, BCMC Board Member



Recap: The BCMC Family-Friendly Summer Camp!



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The BCMC Family-Friendly Summer Camp recently wrapped up on July 30th.

This year's summer camp was at Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park. There were a total of 16 participants, including 3 families. Ages ranged from 11 to 60. Over the course of the week, participants hiked over 220 kilometers of distance with over 13,000 m of cumulative elevation gain. Participants summited 5 different peaks with a combined total of 33 person-summits. Members swam, scrambled, hiked, painted, photographed, sewed, scrabbled, dined and laughed, a lot.

Participants arrived at the park via Cathedral Lakes Lodge shuttle service, which allowed a quasi car camping experience at 2000 m. There are 5 main lakes and club members swam in at least 4 of them. Weather was generally outstanding, with one cold and windy day (with a high of 11C at camp, with near freezing conditions on the rim trail) and one afternoon of thunderstorms. Wildlife: Goats, Pikas, Marmots, Squirrels, Chipmunks, Birds, and Fish.

Participants included Greg Hamilton, Shashi and Kavya Shanbhag (+1 minor), Lorena Duncan (+1 Minor), Keith Sizeland and Celeste (+1 Minor), Cheryl Steele, Alison McKend, Vanessa Wiebel, Alope and Margaret Surin, and Chris and Alice Barton

BCMC Mentorship Program

Shashi Shanbhag

BCMC launched its Pilot Mentorship Program for Winter 2021-2022 season. The Pilot Program was well received, and based on the response, we have continued to run the program every Summer and Winter season.

For the Winter 2022-23 Season, we received 102 Mentee and 16 Mentor applications across Backcountry Skiing, Snowshoeing and Ice Climbing. Unfortunately, we didn't receive any Ice Climbing Mentor applications. So we created a WhatsApp Group for all those interested in Ice Climbing, and Farbod generously offered to organize some trips for this group.

Mentee selection is a "blind selection" process wherein each Mentee is assigned a unique code, and all other identifying information like name, email and phone number is removed. In the application, Mentees share information about their motivation, goals, skills, experience, expectations, etc., which is then shared with all the Mentors.

For Backcountry Skiing and Snowshoeing, Mentors reviewed the Mentee applications online and selected Mentees who would be a good fit for their group. After the preliminary selection, we had all Mentors and Mentees get together at the ANZA Club for a meetup.

The primary reason for this meetup is for the program participants to meet their group face to face, discuss goals and plans for summer and ensure it is a right fit. We had some changes to the group after the meetup. Finally, we had about 60 Mentees paired with 16 Mentors - our biggest group since we started the program.

From December to May, the Mentors organized over 90 outdoor trips - again a record for the Mentorship Program. In addition, the Mentors organized four online sessions on different topics like Trip Planning, Avalanche Safety, etc.

Finally, we had a get-together at the ANZA Club to wrap up the season, where we recognized Mentors with a Thank you card, BCMC lapel pin and BCMC stickers.

For the Summer 2023 Season, we received 122 Mentee and 19 Mentor Applications. Unfortunately, a couple of Mentors had to drop off due to injury, and we finally have about 35 Mentees paired with 14 Mentors. The program is off to a great start, with more than 35 trips organized in May and June.

To wrap up, I thank all the Mentors from Winter 2022-23 and Summer 2023 Seasons.

Winter 2022-23 Mentors

Anthony Yan
Anton Perepelytsia
David Freeman
Eileen Bistrisky
Greg Hamilton
Holly Edwards
Jack Casey
Jim Nosella
Kevin Poskitt
Manouane Deschenes
Marie Amante
Miranda Alldritt
Paul Schrimpf
Tom Zadorsky
Trevor Short
Tye Pellichero

Summer 2023 Mentors

Adam Wilkie
Anthony Yan
Chris Slade
Jack Nixon
Jack Tsai
Jaime McDonagh
Jeff Long
Jessica Jansen
Martin Schwarze
Nina Horvath
Raj Rai
Roxy Bauer
Shaina Gleicher
Shannon Healy

Applications for Winter 2023-24 Season will be open in October. It will be announced on BCMC social media and through an email to all members. If you have any questions about the program, please contact me at shashiraj8@gmail.com

BCMC Trip Report: Mount Sampson (2811m)

By Jonathan Lloyd

Elevation Gain 1710m

Distance 18.5km

Car to car 14:45:00

Date: May 27-28th, 2023

Mount Sampson grabbed my attention while climbing with another BCMC member, Alastair, on Scutt Peak in the winter; it was a prominent and majestic looking mountain and I knew it had to be on my bucket list. It seemed this peak didn't garner much attention lately - this was yet another reason to climb it.

Climbing this peak required some planning, patience (bushwacking), physical endurance, some boot-packing and scrambling skill sets. Overall this is a fantastic weekend filled with lots of remote alpine fun! My only regret was not climbing nearby Zorah Peak or Trapeze Peak. If you finish early, grab a drink in the Pemberton meadows brewery, it's a great way to finish a hard day's climb.

Summer Get Together & Blessing of the Ice Axes

A BCMC Social

Where: John Hendry Park (Trout Lake), by Lakewood Avenue and East 19th Avenue entrance

When: Tuesday, Aug 15th, 2023 at 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

RSVP by Aug 7th

More details at bcmc.ca/club_socials.php

Come enjoy an evening with other fellow BCMC Members!

Given the prevailing religious attitudes of the original guides of the Chamonix valley, there was a long-standing tradition (since 1821) that local priests would bless the equipment before guides attempted Mont Blanc. The ceremony remains part of the annual Fete des Guides each year in August.

(Rabbi) Philip Gibbs, BCMC Board Director, a duly ordained member of the clergy, will lead a blessing of equipment at the Get Together. While our ritual will be short and simpler than those of our 18th-century predecessors, it will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments from the past year, our goals for next year, and the many uncontrollable factors we face when we go into the mountains.

Bring any mountaineering equipment you want to be blessed. As it's 2023, and we're still doing it for the 'gram, please think about what will lead to the funniest photos.

Justin David Simpson Memorial

July 23, 1995 - April 3, 2023

Greg McKenzie

Following a similar path like many fellow outdoor enthusiasts from Vancouver and its extended Metropolitan area, Justin was introduced to the outdoors by ticking off the local classic hikes within a days drive from the city, spanning from the iconic Garibaldi Provincial Park to the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area.

Once he gained more experience and fitness, Justin's passion for the outdoors and his adventurous spirit grew where he then progressed to steeper scrambling, mountaineering and completing his first roped pitches at Lighthouse Park in West Vancouver.



After sampling a handful of disciplines that the outdoors had to offer, Justin took a particular interest in Trad climbing where he dreamed in awe and his imagination flurried on the thoughts of where his double-rack could take him. Over the course of his climbing career, Justin kept the grades relatively moderate but where he truly excelled was his technical knowledge and calculated decision making.

Justin was a relentless student of the craft and his thirst for information was insatiable where he had multiple read throughs of titles such as *The Freedom of the Hills*, Andy Kirkpatrick's *Down - The Complete Descent Manual for Climbers, Alpinists, and Mountaineers* and the yearly published *Accidents In North American Climbing* by the American Alpine Club. It was not uncommon to find the streaks of a highlighter scrawled over key points within his library and wrinkled sticky notes peering out from pages of particular interest.

The skills he learned from his arsenal of books proved to be invaluable as Justin successfully tackled a handful of local alpine climbs within South-Western BC, conquered the steep sandstone walls of Nevada's Red Rock Canyon, and ventured to the formidable spires of the Bugaboos. Justin accumulated a large bag of tricks; he was like a Swiss army knife. He had an answer for any hurdle that you're bound to encounter on a committing alpine climb or multi-pitch endeavour. He was calculated in his approach, and graceful if in retreat.

On a more personal note, Justin was a truly special person. Whether you were his most frequented climbing partner or just lucky enough to find yourself caught in a brief chit-chat with him at a trailhead, he made you feel like you were the most important person in the room; he made you feel special. His smile was unforgettable and his enthusiastic attitude was truly infectious.

Justin was a proven leader, mentor and friend. He was so passionate and always willing to share his plethora of knowledge amongst his friends and always pushed them to pursue their goals. As a friend of his, once any goal was achieved - whether it was climbing related or not - it was commonly celebrated by Justin with a warm pat on the shoulder, followed by his memorable smile and him softly saying "I'm really proud of you."

Justin was an inspiration to all who was close with him. He unfortunately left this world all too soon and far too young due to his ongoing battles with mental health. Let this be a reminder to us all on what mental health can look like; a beaming smile ear-to-ear, always full of unwavering enthusiasm and loved by so many. Let this be a reminder to check up on the ones who you value most and to reach out if you are struggling. Let this be a reminder that you are not alone.

May Justin's adventurous spirit and influence live on within those who were fortunate enough to be graced by his presence. He will be missed dearly.

Nikita Marwah Memorial 2000 - July 21, 2023

Raphael Smith

Nothing brought Nikita pure joy and happiness like the time she spent in the alpine. With her excitement, kindness, positivity, and thirst for adventure, Nikita made a lot of friends here and was a sought after trip partner. Nikita was always talking to her friends about different peaks and planning her next half dozen adventures at a time. Nikita was willing to work as hard as she needed to to achieve her goals and set many ambitious targets. She was an ambitious peak bagger and climber who had the potential to become a world class mountaineer. Nikita had the love, support, and respect of everyone in this community and she will be sorely missed.



I had the pleasure of travelling to Hawaii and Arizona with Nikita on a couple peak bagging vacations. These exotic vacations involved camping, midnight wake up calls, crawling under barbed wire fences in the dark, and spending the whole night hiking up a mountain. They also involved exposed scrambling, bushwhacking, getting pricked by cacti, desert heat, thin air, sloshing around in a muddy jungle, chasing sunrise or sunset, and competing to see who could turn that red dot green first. While Nikita loved those trips nothing got her more excited than a steep snow climb closer to home in BC or WA with snowshoes, crampons, and an ice axe or two. Nikita lived for these adventures and truly came alive in the mountains.

Nikita's family is holding a fundraiser accepting donations to help cover costs associated with the funeral service. Please consider donating if you are able to.

For more information, visit her [GoFundMe page.](#)

If You're Not a Member...

Get on board with the BC Mountaineering Club! For many, getting outside isn't just about the objective - along the way, you meet incredible folks who share your passion for adventure, challenge, and incredible spaces. If you aren't yet a member of the BCMC, find your community, take part in trips, and even learn new skills by joining today. Head to the [BCMC website](#) for more details and instructions to sign up.

Membership Benefits

- Gain access to over 550 Club Trips and Courses per year
- Learn how to hike, climb, and ski with us
- Find hiking, skiing, or climbing partners via our Partner List
- Meet new friends with similar interests
- Save with free bookings for BCMC cabins
- Join other members for the club's monthly socials
- connect on the many website forums
- Stay current through the club's e-news and newsletters
- Become a part of the club's future

If you're interested in a membership with the BCMC, [visit our website](#) for full details and a link to sign up.