



# Winter 2023/4 Newsletter

VOLUME 100, ISSUE 3  
BCMC NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2023/4

# Introduction

Ashley Sherlow, Newsletter Editor

---

Hello BCMC Members!

Now that the winter season is undeniably upon us, I'm sure many of you have pulled the touring setup out of storage, dusted off the snowshoes, and swapped your runners for boots and crampons. Hopefully, you've gotten a few trips in in the past few months.

In this edition of the BCMC Newsletter: Glenn Woodsworth shares his 2023 Annual President's Report, Mentorship Program Co-chair Marie Amante shares her journey to becoming a trip leader and mentor, and an update about a new BCMC cabin.

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

Enjoy the snow!



# Table of Contents

---

**04** Club Updates

---

**05** 2023 Annual President &  
Directors Report

---

**08** Building a Community on Skis

---

**11** Norm Deacon Cabin Update

---

**12** BCMC on Mt. Kilimanjaro

---

**13** From the Archives: Crown  
Mountain, 1930

---

**14** From the Archives:  
Waddington, 1935

---

**15** About the BCMC Membership

---

# 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](mailto:contact@bcmc.ca).

# BCMC 2023 Annual President & Directors Report

Glenn Woodsworth and other directors (where credited)

---

This was a tough year personally for a few of the directors, including me. But it was a good year for the BCMC, particularly following the COVID years of 2020 and 2021.

**This club is 100% run by volunteers.** Most of the work that makes the club successful is done by the elected directors and unelected volunteers (most of them not named in this report). A grateful “thank you” to all of you. Many of the chief activities of the club are summarized below:

**The club finances are in good shape** (see financial report tabled by Bill Maurer), largely because of income from membership dues and from the Watersprite Lake cabin. I note that the Watersprite Lake rec site does bring in income, but it does not go to the BCMC.

**The club had a total of 625 trips last year;** that’s nearly two a day! Backcountry skiing was by far the most popular activity, followed by rock climbing in all its variants. Hiking outranks classical mountaineering and scrambling. Ice climbing hardly registers, but we are not in the best climate for ice.

**The Mentorship Program, started and run by Shashi**, is to me one of the best and most innovative programs that the club offers. For inexperienced people, it is tough to get experience and informal training; this program helps fill this gap. (I strongly believe that meetup groups are not the answer. A major challenge is that there are always too many mentee applicants and not enough mentors. If you have some experience and want to become a mentor, talk to Shashi. I know from personal experience that teaching and passing on your knowledge to others is the best way to improve your own skills.

**Membership is about 1360**, a number that reflects a gradual and sustainable growth in the last couple of years. We have an active social media presence (thanks, Hanna Byström) with 1044 members on the club Facebook page.

**The four BCMC-owned cabins are in good shape**, but of course need ongoing maintenance (firewood, propane, outhouses, access trails, etc.). Bookings for Watersprite Lake cabin outnumber the combined bookings for the other cabins, and tent site rentals at the Watersprite Lake rec site outnumber them all. The Watersprite Lake area may have reached the saturation point for visitors, and this is something we must be aware of in the future.

There is much else that the club does and offers to the mountain community. Some of this is covered below, but I will mention a few things not mentioned there. The club continues to support VIMFF (thanks, Dave), the Spearhead Huts Society (thanks, Chris), and the ongoing discussions regarding the Smoke Bluffs rock climbing area at Squamish (thanks, Philip and Dave). The club continues to be active in trail clearing and building (thanks, Paul, Chris, Brian, and all the volunteers). Thanks to Kathleen, Melissa, and Katrinam, we have a new club logo that is now on a new line of apparel, coffee cups, etc.

**I will close with a few personal notes.** I am now in my eighties and have been in this club for 64 years. The BCMC has been one of the things that has shaped the course of my life in many ways. This last year I have come to accept that my serious mountaineering and rock climbing days are about done, but not (I hope) hiking and back-country camping in some form. And there are still a few things I want to do for the BCMC community in 2023-2024, including getting the long-delayed Mountaineer published, developing guidelines for desirable behavior on trips, and establishing a code of conduct for club members that will include policies on diversity and equity.

**Glenn Woodsworth**  
BCMC President

For the rest of the report, including Trip, Cabin, and Membership Statistics, Mentorship Program updates, and more, **[visit the BCMC website.](#)**

# Building a Community on Skis

---

## *Marie Amante Reflects on Her Trips With the BCMC*

For many of us, the outdoors plays a central role in our own community of friends and family, but first breaking into the sport and finding the people you want to explore with isn't an easy or comfortable path. BCMC Mentorship Program Co-chair and previous Trips Co-chair Marie Amante's initial encounter with BCMC arose from a desire to connect with like-minded individuals in the pursuit of outdoor adventures. Marie shares her own trajectory beginning with her joining BCMC, learning to lead her own backcountry ski trips, and finding her community along the way.

## **Building Community Through Backcountry Skiing**

Marie Amante discovered the true essence of backcountry skiing when she first joined BCMC in 2018, but admits that joining trips – never mind leading them – was intimidating. After finally joining a BCMC trip (a ski tour of the Musical Bumps), Marie decided it was time to transition from a hesitant participant to a trip leader. This meant overcoming self-imposed barriers driven by the fear that she wasn't qualified to lead a group of strangers she'd never met before. She overcame her initial doubts about her ability to host her own trips by shadowing experienced leaders and gradually assuming responsibilities, finally developing her own style. For Marie, leading trips was, in many ways, about organizing a team experience.

After learning the basics of what it meant to lead a trip from instructional posts and this first-hand experience, Marie has now led countless ski tours as part of her goal of 50-60 days in the field each season. Marie emphasized the parallels between mentorship and trip planning, highlighting the importance of personalized goals.

Marie's advice to you:

"If you're thinking about leading a trip, start by reaching out to some other BCMC members. If anyone reached out to me and said, 'Hey, could I co-lead a trip with you?' My answer would be 'Absolutely.'" If co-leading seems like too much of a responsibility, consider attending a trip and asking to be an assistant and just observe. Personally, I'd be happy to take somebody multiple times until they felt comfortable. From there, you can gradually increase your responsibilities until you feel ready to lead your own trips in the backcountry."

Marie also recommends starting with familiar terrain for novice backcountry skiers to alleviate stress. Guided trips also became invaluable for Marie's mountain navigation education, akin to learning to drive—practice leads to comfort.

Reflecting on mentorship trips, Marie recalls some of the most valuable lessons learned were to embrace uncertainty and find immense growth in adapting to new situations.

## A Sense of Community and Growth

BCMC became more than a club for Marie; it has been the source of lifelong relationships. Beyond her own personal backcountry touring pursuits, Marie focused on fostering a community; ultimately, volunteering with the BCMC expanded (and continues to expand) Marie's network while nurturing her passion for backcountry skiing. Close friendships and meaningful connections emerged from shared backcountry experiences, fostering relationships deeper than mere skiing companions. As co-chair of BCMC's Trips program, Marie witnesses the transformative power of such relationships firsthand.

The transformative nature of BCMC extended beyond outdoor adventures. The club became a catalyst for building deep and meaningful relationships, going far beyond the boundaries of acquaintanceship, fostering a sense of family within the community. Looking ahead, Marie is now actively engaged as a co-chair for BCMC's Trips program, aiming to create more opportunities for individuals to form strong connections and grow within the community. Marie's journey is an example of what can happen when you embrace discomfort, overcome your fears, and finding fulfillment in personal growth, all nurtured through her experiences as a BCMC member.

# Norm Deacon Cabin Coming to BCMC!

Dave Scanlon

---

After a journey marked by dedication and patience, the British Columbia Mountaineering Club is on the verge of bringing a new hut to members.

On May 19th, a meeting took place between the BCMC and the District of West Vancouver regarding the acquisition of the coveted Norm Deacon Cabin, a pivotal step amidst numerous phone calls, cabin tours, countless emails, and, sadly, the passing of the previous Chairperson of the Hollyburn Ridge Association. Finally, it was during a meeting with Corinne Ambor from the district that the fantastic news was revealed: the City Council had passed a motion granting the BCMC the lease for the cabin! Happy days!

The BCMC promptly began conducting a thorough cabin inspection and arranging the necessary insurance coverage. While there's still work ahead, the BCMC is thrilled to announce that they're gearing up for the exciting phase of preparing the cabin for their club members' use. They anticipate reaching out for helping hands next spring, shortly thereafter the club hopes to have the cabin ready and set for their members to enjoy.

Stay tuned for further updates as the BCMC continues its journey towards bringing the Norm Deacon Cabin to the public!

# BCMC on Mt. Kilimanjaro

Featuring BCMC Member and Mentorship Co-Chair

Over the last 15 years, a number of BCMC members have climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa. Congratulations to the latest, Shashi Shanbhag, his wife Kasturi, and daughter Kavya (9 years old), who summited the mountain in December 2023. Thanks for representing the club on the top of an incredible summit.

If you're curious about the trip, Shashi has a detailed account of this trip on his [blog here](#) and he will be presenting slides of the climb at a BCMC social in 2024.



# From the Archives: Crown Mountain, 1930

[Check out the original publication here.](#)

---

Members assembled at the cabin on Saturday night and as we wanted to get away early in the morning everyone went to bed shortly after ten. The “Baby Ben” did its stuff at 5.00 a.m. and after a hearty breakfast we started out at seven o’clock. The moon was still high in the heavens and numerous stars could be seen twinkling overhead. Everything pointed to a real day for the trip and we were certainly not disappointed.

We followed a well beaten trail over Grouse and Dam and on approaching Goat Ridge were met by an icy wind which cause some of the party considerable discomfort. We made fast time down to Crown Pass and then picked up our own route through the bush to the base of the rock slide. Here snow conditions changed and we had to cut a few steps across this exposed face. Just below the upper meadows we stopped for lunch and after everybody was feeling happy again we started on for the peak. The summit arete was coated with hard wind-blown snow and here the rope was used. There were fourteen in the party who made the peak and all were greatly pleased with the magnificent view. The mountains to the north and east were clad in a beautiful white mantle of snow and the sun reflected from the snowfields and glaciers, was a sight well worth climbing to see. After taking a few pictures we left shortly after 1.00 p.m. and took our time going back to the cabin. The snow levels to date on the various mountains are as follows. Grouse 4 feet, Dam 7 feet, Crown about 9 feet.

The following is a list of those who took part in the climb: Misses F. Riddock, H. Thompson, L. Smith; Messrs. D. McKee, J. Mckenzie, J. Horan, H. Somerville, D. Baker, W. Gordon, J. Irving, S. Knowles, J. White, L. Ford, endman and Brick Spouse, leader.

RESERVE		
AMOUNT	ARTICLE	WEIGHT
1 gal	Kerosene & can	7½
1 pt	Alcohol	1½
1	Tent (light 2½ man)	3
6	Extra batteries	1
80 lbs	Reserve food (¾ lb p.m.d. 20 m.d. - 8 men)	80
		<u>93</u>

1935 EQUIPMENT - PERSONAL

WEAR	CARRY	WEIGHT
Light underwear to Cavalier Pt.	2 light wool sweaters	2.5
2 pr Wool socks	pr windproof mittens	.5
Pair tin pants	pr wool mittens	.3
Parka	4 pr wool socks	1.
Handkerchief	1 pr long wool underwear	1.2
Dark glasses	crepe climbing shoes	1.5
Mentholatum	extra dark glasses in steel case	.2
Pocket knife	Mosquito head net	.1
Compass and map	Pocket chess set	.1
Ericouni shoes	Toothbrush & paste	.2
Ingersoll watch	spoon	.1
Ice axe	3 handkerchiefs	.3
Cup	face grease	.6
Notebook & pencil	notebook & several pencils	.2
	garden gloves, leather faced	.2
	emergency kit	1.2
<u>IN CAR TO VANCOUVER</u>	2 extra emergency flashes	.2
white shirt	wool knitted helmet	.4
brown shirt		<u>9.7</u>
records		

# From the Archives: Waddington, 1935

BCMC Vice President, Greg Hamilton, shared an interesting find: an equipment list from a 1935 expedition to Mt. Waddington. Crepe climbing shoes? Face grease?!

If this is particularly interesting to you, I'd recommend checking out the [BCMC archives online](#) and at the **North Vancouver Museum and Archives (NVMA)**! These archives provide a wealth of interesting information about the ecological and social changes in our area. In the last few years, the archives have contributed to a book written by Kathryn Bridge about Phyllis Munday, 3 university graduate theses and several published papers written on such diverse topics as effects of climate change on vegetation and glaciers, risk taking by people and contribution to society by mountain climbers.

# 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.