



Upcoming BCMC Social

May 13th, 2025 at the Anza Club



Presented by: Stephen Hui

We're thrilled to welcome bestselling author Stephen Hui for a special slideshow presentation and book signing event!

Stephen Hui, author of 105 Hikes In and Around Southwestern British Columbia, will join us for a slideshow presentation and book signing. He'll introduce the new edition of his bestselling guidebook (coming May 27 to bookstores) and show photos from the Owl-Tenquille Traverse and other trips.

Fully revised and updated, the 2nd edition of 105 Hikes covers trails from the North Shore to Pemberton and Victoria to Manning Park — and features 36 new hikes. A portion of the proceeds from sales of the book will go to the BCMC. A limited number of books will be available for purchase at the event.

Stephen Hui has been hiking, backpacking, and scrambling in the Coast Mountains of B.C. for more than 30 years. Hui is the author of three bestselling guidebooks — 105 Hikes In and Around Southwestern British Columbia, Destination Hikes, and Best Hikes and Nature Walks With Kids (Greystone Books). In 2022, Hui was named a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. He lives in Vancouver. Visit 105hikes.com.

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 submitted photos, high resolutions are 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.

About the BCMC Newsletter

The BCMC 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: Shashi Shanbhag

Club Updates

BCMC Wraps up Winter 2024-25 Season of Mentorship Program

By Shashi Shanbhag

Although some of our mentorship groups, especially Ski Mountaineering, will continue to do more trips, we officially wrapped up the Winter 2024-25 Season on April 29. Since the pilot program in Winter 2021-22, this is our biggest mentorship group, with 24 mentors and 87 mentees across Backcountry Skiing, Split-boarding, Ski Mountaineering and Snowshoeing.

Mentors organized 154 trips, with an average of more than 6 trips per mentor. Here are some pictures shared by our mentors from these trips –

We also received great feedback from mentees and mentors about the program. 90% of the mentees (among 30 responses) said that the program has helped them meet their developmental goals, the mentor was a good fit and created a positive and safe environment to learn new skills.



Feedback from some of the mentees -

The BCMC mentorship program was so incredibly valuable to me in my ability to learn about backcountry skiing and to start developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to join trips and to be able to find a community of people to ski with:) My mentor was so patient out in the field and encouraged us to learn the planning and execution skills needed. Thank you BCMC

I'm so glad I applied- the season would have been much lamer without this mentorship program :P My mentor was really organized, enthusiastic and supportive, so I'm definitely coming away with more confidence and touring skills. It was a really special winter! I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn alongside skiers who love an uphill suffer-fest almost as much as pow turns

I have been backcountry skiing for a few years now, but this year, with the guidance of my mentor, the whole avalanche safety knowledge really clicked in and made sense. When someone said be weary of storm slabs, or wind loaded slopes, I actually understood what they meant!

I came into the mentorship program with the two goals of meeting like-minded outdoor enthusiasts and gaining more skill and confidence in winter alpine travel. Both goals were met on some memorable snow shoeing excursions, with trips to Gin Peak, Alpen Mountain, and Cougar Mountain being the highlights. An unsuccessful attempt at Mt. Ford in an arctic outflow provided many useful lessons as well. I'm hoping we can keep our group going, even as the season technically ends!

I've been fortunate to be both a summer and a winter mentee. Not only have I gained valuable skills, I've made new friends and now feel confident to safely venture out on my own and plan my own trips. The program showed me just how much backcountry potential lies very close to the lower mainland. I've also gained knowledge about gear and now feel surrounded by like minded people who can recommend gear choices. Thanks BCMC, what an awesome program!!

The mentorship program has blown me away. It's been incredibly valuable and the knowledge and confidence I've gained has been priceless. I highly recommend this program to anyone seeking experience in the backcountry. The bcmc community has been extremely welcoming and has inspired, and instilled the confidence in me to pass my knowledge gained on to those around me.



Feedback from some of the mentors –

It is a great program that helps people to get into the backcountry in more safe way. I would 100% recommend it for future mentees and mentors – you both will learn a lot and most importantly – just get outside and have a good time!

The BCMC mentorship program is a great way to create a strong relationship with the mentees and get them to progress in their backcountry skiing skills throughout a whole winter.

I really enjoyed working with my mentees and watching their skills progress throughout the season

The program is by no means perfect and has its own challenges. Here is some of the feedback from the mentor on their **biggest challenges** -

A big spread between mentee ability and fitness level. I think some form of test trip prior to groups being “finalized” would be helpful (but challenging to facilitate)

One of my mentees had an extremely restricted schedule. This made it very difficult to move trips due to weather. I also had one mentee that never showed up.

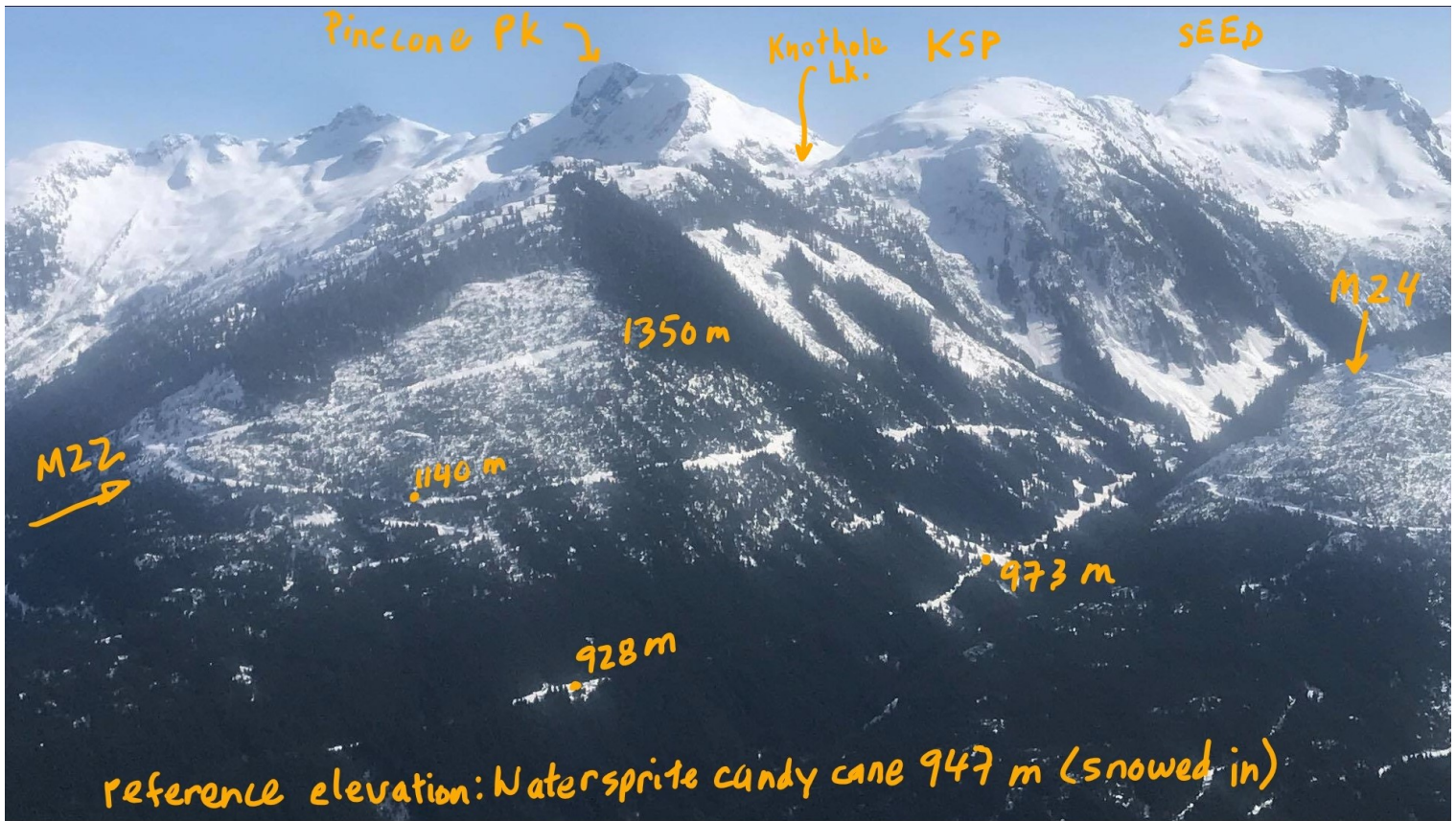
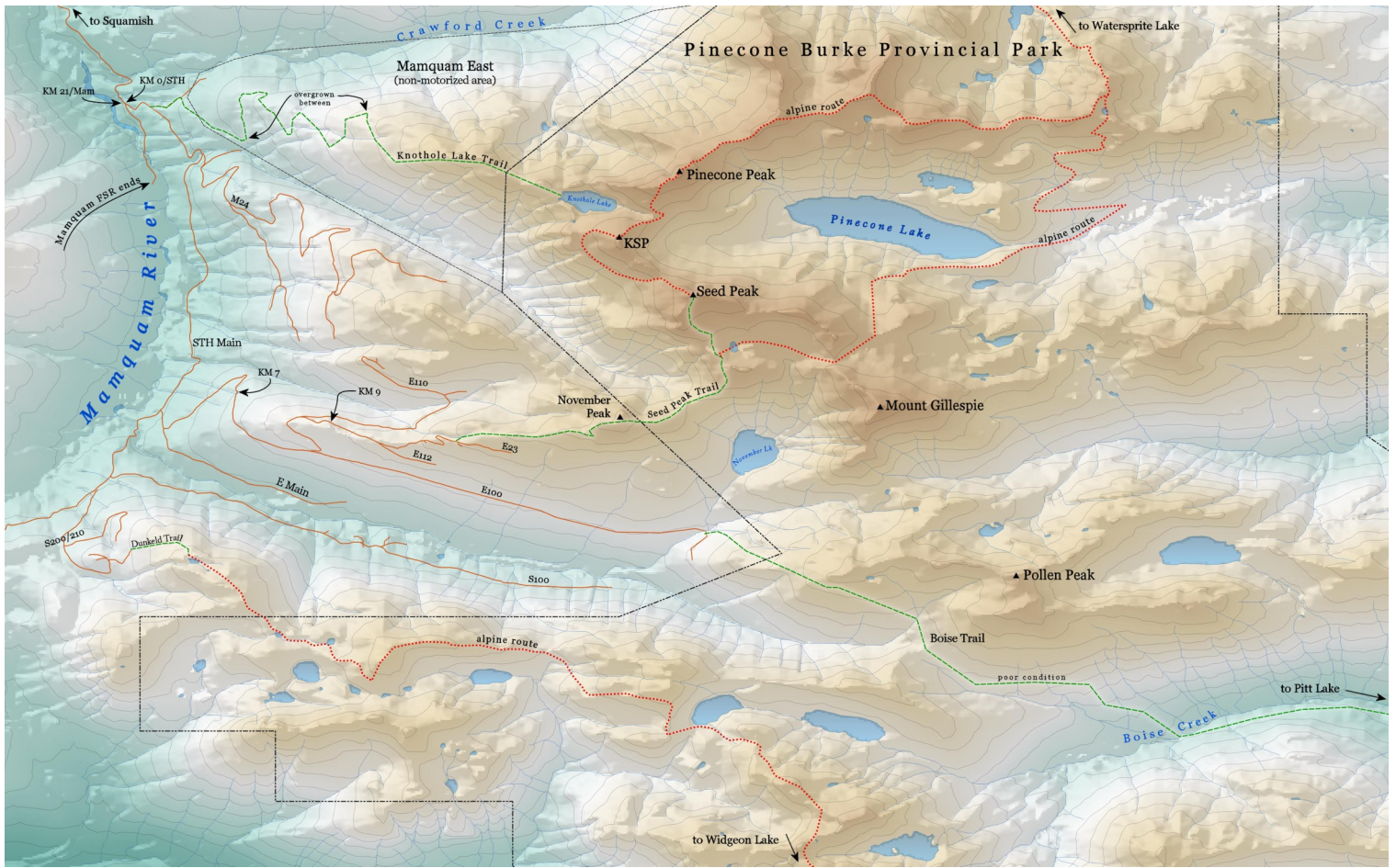
We will continue to work on making improvements to the program and provide a good experience for our mentors as well as mentees. If you are an experienced BCMC member and are willing to share your love for any mountain sport with other members, please consider signing up to be a mentor for the next season of the mentorship program. Applications for the Winter 2025-26 Season open October 1, 2025.

Knothole Lake “Trail”

By Paul Kubik

Thank you to Brittany Zenger for bringing to my attention the forest stewardship plan for Mamquam and Indian rivers areas. The plan was advertised in the March 13th edition of Squamish Chief newspaper. I reviewed the plan and referral letter. There is little impact on our activities from the plan itself. What's remarkable is that there are so few established trails recognized in the plan. That's partly because there has been no update to the management plan for Garibaldi Park and no plan for Pinecone Burke Park. What the forest plan does recognize are the Watersprite Lake Trail and Recreation Site. These are entirely due to the efforts of the club working with the province to establish them.

One obvious shortcoming from our wider community is that there continues to be no access to Pinecone Lake from Mamquam River. Re-establishing Knothole Lake trail upon the existing deactivated roads through the designated Mamquam East non-motorized zone should be in everyone's interest. Alas, nothing has been done to provide hiking access to an exceptional area. Perhaps it is something that the BCMC should consider. Have a look at the map and photos.



Anyone able to step up and take this on?



Ape Lake Summer Camp

By Ian Harris

I'm pleased to announce to the club membership that this year's summer camp will be held at Ape Lake, north of the Monarch Icefield in the Coast Range of British Columbia. The BCMC summer camp is a tradition that dates back over one hundred years to the early days of the club, the first of which was held at the base of Round Mountain in 1910 and included a failed attempt to summit Mt. Garibaldi (I highly recommend reading the trip report in the BC Mountaineer centennial edition!). The camp is an opportunity for experienced mountaineers to enjoy an unguided exploration of the area from a shared basecamp on an alpine lake. The camp will take place from **August 15th to 24th**, access will be via helicopter from Bella Coola.

See the trip posting here for more details: <https://bcmc.ca/m/events/view/1743397160>. For more information on the area, refer to Earle Whipple's guidebook: The Northern Coastal Ranges of British Columbia, A Climber's Guide. The area hasn't seen a lot of climbing in recent years, but the Whipple guide includes a compilation of routes described in old editions of the Canadian Alpine Journal and BC Mountaineer. You can find it here on the BCMC website: <https://bcmc.ca/m/docs/view/Guide-to-the-northern-Coast-Mtns-Whipple>.

BCMC Expedition Grant – Reminder

By Greg Hamilton

Thinking of doing a big trip this summer? The BCMC can help offset your expenses! The BCMC subsidizes expeditions, up to a maximum of **\$2,000.00**, that promote exploration, the sport of mountaineering and rock climbing, as well as provides a promotional value to the BCMC.

Criteria

1. The expedition/trip must be posted on the BCMC trip list, for BCMC Members only, mountain and/or outdoor related, remote and/ or difficult and/or unique in nature, primarily self-propelled (motorized access is okay), an expedition (typically long in duration by nature) and require participants to be extensively prepared in their training and logistics
2. Guided trips, organized events or races, and charity events do not qualify.
3. Recipients are expected to make a presentation of their trip/expedition upon their return at an upcoming BCMC social event, and in the form of a written report for a BCMC publication.

Application

Applicants for the BCMC Expedition Subsidy are required to submit the following information exec@bcmc.ca:

- An introduction to the expedition organizer and/or participants including their relevant background, qualifications, and experience
- A trip summary (one paragraph) including the trip title, an overview of the objective, the expected start and end dates, and location
- A detailed trip description including more detail on each of the trip summary items, an overview of your itinerary, and an explanation of why your trip is interesting or unique
- A description of known risks and how your team is committed to a safe expedition
- Your anticipated budget for the expedition
- Your plans to present your trip to the club upon your return; it is expected, at a minimum, that this will include a photo essay-style trip report or video blog and a presentation at an upcoming social event; however, if you have another creative medium to communicate with and inspire the club membership then please feel free to suggest. Your creativity on this item could win some major "points" with the selection committee.

Selection & Deadlines

Approval and selection for the Expedition Subsidy Program is to be made by the BCMC Board of Directors with a majority vote. The successful expedition will be made based on the information

presented in the Application package with a focus on the nature of the trip and what you can provide to the club upon your return.

Applications are accepted on an open basis.

Remembering Those Who Have Left Us

By David Scanlon

Brian Wood

Michael Feller

Tony Taccone

Jack Bryceland

Hana McGiverin

Keen Lau

Op-Eds

Whistler – Spring 2018

By David Scanlon



Driving up Whistler in the spring of 2018 with a group to dig out the K@C foundation so the construction workers could get an early yearly start on work. Whistler gave us permission to drive up early and we were led by a person with radio contact to be in contact with other workers on the mountain. We would not want to meet someone coming down half way up!

Did you Know? Origin of the Name "Watersprite Lake"

By Glenn Woodsworth with thanks to Rick Price and Ken Maczenzie

Watersprite Lake got its name from ACC member Pat Guilbride, who hiked in there in the 1970s with his young son. Pat was watching his son drying himself in the sun on a rock after a swim in the lake. He thought he looked a bit like a sprite, a mythical being that is common in European folklore, and so it seemed that "Watersprite Lake" would be a good name. And it stuck.

Pat was probably also the one who named Knothole Lake (about 2 km west of Pinecone Lake. He named it for his shape and because on this approach to Pinecone Lake you have to go around this lake and through a narrow pass at its head.

Pat Guibrice (1926-2005) and his wife Elizabeth lived on Vancouver Island for many years. He and Elizabeth were both active in the Alpine Club and, In 1968, Pat and two others made the much coveted first ascent of Warden Peak just north of Victoria Peak in central Vancouver Island. In 1985 Pat and his family moved to West Vancouver, and he and Pat continued hiking and climbing in southwest B.C.



Photo by Winifred Swatschek, 2024

Trip Reports

The editor is in need of more trip reports for future newsletters! Have an old trip you never got around to writing? We want to see it! Submit your reports to editor@bcmc.ca.

Mount Rohr – April 5th, 2025

By Anton Perepelytsia

Group: 5 total – 2 mentees, 3 Ukrainians (including me)

We had one of those near-perfect spring ski touring days on Mt Rohr—sunshine, solid snow, and great energy from the group. Our team of five set out on the standard route via Rohr Lake, aiming to make the summit and enjoy some well-earned turns on the descent.

The weather delivered: clear skies and calm conditions made for smooth travel and enjoyable skiing. Snow conditions were surprisingly good up high, with buttery turns near the summit and classic spring skiing through the trees on the way down.



Avalanche risk was low overall, though we did hear one unexpected *whomp* in a low-consequence area on the way up. It served as a good reminder to stay vigilant. Our biggest concern was cornice failure with rising temperatures, so we made sure to steer well clear of any exposure and kept our terrain choices conservative.

There was one small moment of confusion on the final push—we looped around what looked like a summit from below, only to see the true summit reveal itself just beyond. Spirits stayed

high and we kept moving, with the women (shoutout to one of our mentees and my wife) setting the pace and pushing the group forward. The boys had their doubts about timing, but the girls proved them wrong and led us all the way to the top.



No wildlife sightings this time, but the group energy made up for it—everyone stayed strong, motivated, and worked together the whole way. As a mentor, it was rewarding to see how solid the team was, both in fitness and decision-making.

An unforgettable first time on Mt Rohr, shared with an incredible crew.

Join the BCMC!

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.