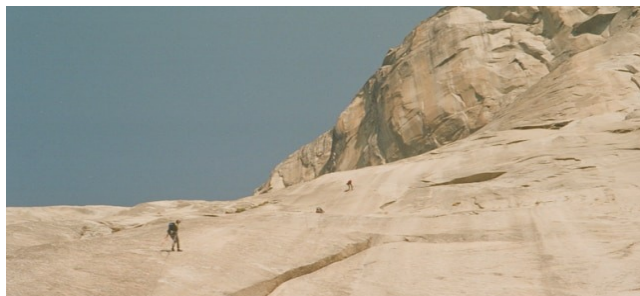




Upcoming BCMC Social



Capitan Climbing Coup

January 13th, 2025 at the Anza Club

The January 13th social will feature the climbing escapades of Peder Ourom who scaled the big wall of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park in the 1970s. Peder has been connected to the club through his parents who joined in the club 1963, and his family was known to explore local trails with other prominent mountaineering families including the Kafers, the Apps and the Waddingtons.

BCMC Executive

exec@bcmc.ca

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At Large	Winifred Swatschek
At Large	Elaine Fisher

Submit Your Content

editor@bcmc.ca

Submissions: We want you to write to 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: Scott Ledingham on the sharp end on his attempt of In-Shuck-Ch with climbing partner John

Club Updates

Attention Snowshoers! AST-1 Courses Now Offered

By Ian Harris

We've partnered with Canada West Mountain School to offer a discounted AST-1 course just for you. Please see our trips page for multiple offerings of this snowshoers-only course from now until the end of March. And remember there are lots of snowshoers in the club, so if you have an idea for a trip please don't be shy about posting it!

Happy trails from the Courses Director.

From the Community

The Information Divide

By Francis Bailey

I was born in 1993. A part of the internet era. With the exception of school projects, virtually all of my information gathering has been done through the internet. By the time I discovered hiking and mountaineering in my mid-20's sites like AllTrails, SummitPost, MountainProject and others were already prolific resources. The concept of a paper map was foreign to me and I didn't pick one up until 4 years into this mountaineering journey. Digital maps were all I've really known or needed.

That's probably not a surprise when much of the world's information is available on the internet. The modern mountaineer might be right to think that it's the best place to find information about the Coast Mountains and other local objectives. But, try for example to find information on Mount Thiassi. You'll find a few posts *asking* about the summit, but scant details of the peak itself. Who climbed it first? When? How? Those with an interest in the history might eventually find themselves a bit further along the path when they discover bivouac.com. An entry on Thiassi shows: First Ascent 1965 Dick Culbert & Alice Purdey. If you're lucky you might also see a mention to a page in an out of print version of CAJ, but where does one find that?

If you started your mountaineering journey before the internet era then you might well be aware of the flurry of Thiassi trips documented in the BCMC Journals and VOC Journals in the 80's and 90's... or perhaps the source of the first ascent... Dick Culbert himself in his Guide to the Coast Mountains. For those ascents that weren't documented, you might have heard about them through word of mouth or a presentation at a social.

But if you're born in the internet era, you may be unaware of these fine resources. Dick Culbert's guidebook has been out of print for many years now. Bruce Fairley's guide has followed a similar fate and more contemporary works like Matt Gunn's Scramble guidebook are also out of print (*although a new version is on its way*). As time passes, I awareness of guidebooks like that of Bruce Fairley's or Dick Culbert's guidebooks stands to fade away in the paper form. As for the

older journals? Those are generally locked away on shelves with no meaningful way to access them.

The books only tell part of the story when it comes to the mountains though. Much of the knowledge of those books came from first hand accounts described by people that are no longer around. Take for instance some of the original surveyors, exploratory geologists, prospectors and First Nations that might have explored these areas before us. A map might reveal a horizontal control point near a summit or a GSC survey photo may give a clue about whose been where and when. However, this type of knowledge is often passed on by first hand account or tucked away in hard to find paper documents.

So why does it all matter anyways? Well... it might matter to different people for different reasons... but, in the context of the BCMC I think this information fosters a feeling of being a part of something bigger. A lineage of exploration. A recognition of the feats our predecessors achieved with less refined tools and less refined resources. It's a reminder of what can be done with fewer things. It's an inspiration to explore the less known areas and an opportunity to find where those are.

Many BCMC members have worked hard over the years to surface historic ascents, explorations and more to the community. Those efforts should not go in vain. I feel that finding a way to bridge the information divide can help bring new members into the fold and preserve the amazing history of the BCMC.

To that end, some work has been done to remedy the situation. A number of BCMC Journals have been digitized. The CAJ may soon bring their archive system back online and Dick Culbert's Guidebook has been made available online as well. Spanning this gap requires a continuous effort though. Many paper works still remain on shelves and need to be found and digitized. Many first hand accounts may still go untold. All generations have a role to play in closing this gap. Whether it's bringing curiosity, sharing historic accounts or finding your own way to connect with the club's history.

To spur things on, a long over due upload of previously digitized BCMC Newsletters is being uploaded to the BCMC website. This set of documents contains newsletters spanning from 1979 to 2000 which were previously only available in paper form. Thanks to Glenn Woodsworth for loaning his copies for the scanning effort and helping spearhead the initiative. You can see the first five uploads here with more being uploaded in the coming weeks:

- <https://bcmc.ca/m/docs/categories/Newsletters+1979>
- <https://bcmc.ca/m/docs/categories/Newsletters+1980>

Trip Reports

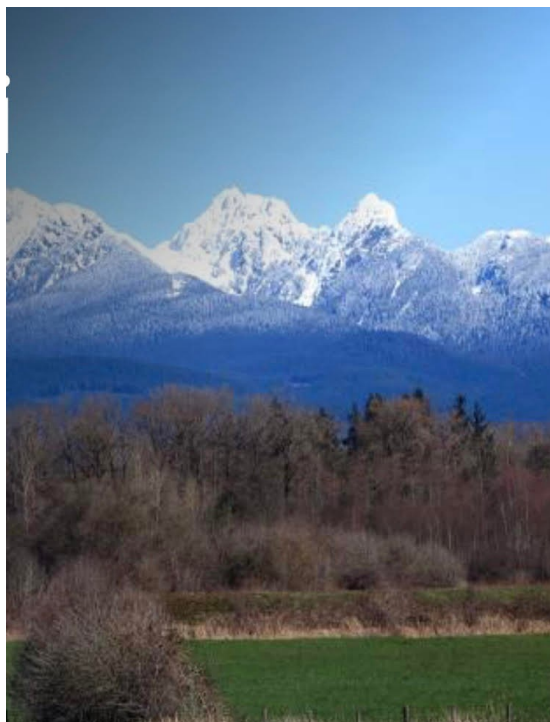
The editor is in need of more trip reports for future newsletters! Have an old trip you never got around to writing? We want to see it! Submit your reports to editor@bcmc.ca.

Edge Peak, Blanchard Needle Traverse – June 2000

By Mo Lamothe

Phone calls came in regarding the trip and I was trying to be cautious to screen out anyone who didn't have enough mountain experience or fitness (in my opinion) as I thought the traverse committing, with unfamiliar partners....I'd never done or knew anyone who had done it although I'd read about it in Fairley's guide...I tried to scare people with the technical challenges....like suggesting it unlikely a rope would be used on the class 3-4 white dyke.

In the end we were four...all men...two Russians and a guy who had never been to Golden Ears park before. My first memory was by the meadow / creek you break into on the trail to Golden Ears peak...you can see Edge with lots of rock walls, including the white dyke, from there. The plan was to ascend the valley to the white dyke then up this to easier slabs below the final summit section of Edge... but there were large blobs of snow on these easy smooth slabs, and the route was directly below...the objective hazard was obvious. So we continued up the trail towards Golden Ears.



Now let me address my thoughts ...the dyke is a lovely rock line we left behind, (I'm not sure if it will ever be in condition and have the descent gully snowed in). Golden Ears hike is a strenuous objective in itself for many, there is no easy way to get to Edge from higher up (on previous trips up the white dyke, a rappel from above on descent down a ridgeline) but I once took another way around in steep snow...if it existed. The snow was still there although somewhat broken. The Russians did this lead. From there it was on to the top of Edge ...class 3 pleasant rock.

After a short break we carried forward along a ridge towards the steep bushy backside of Blanchard... there was a tricky part on the ridge... rope? ...snow may have helped, and the backside slope was pleasant...perhaps snowy, but firm and stable. The top of Blanchard Peak is lovely...and I knew the way home from there...I was now relaxed... a little

Down rock, trail to a short rappel (or down climb) at the base of the rock, then down Fly's gully... it needs snow here or it is horrid/ dangerous... it's a straight shot down ... boot glissading when possible...I've dreamed of skiing it and tried once on 1m skis (not a typo) on sun cups...not fun... beautiful walls of rock and heather everywhere. In the lower part where the snow ends and water

flows, a trail gets picked up along the creek which took us back almost directly to the start ...a really nice loop...



In-shuck-Ch Attempt – Nov 29th, 30th

By Scott Ledingham

A spontaneous but bold last-minute trip to explore a peak that's been on my radar for a while. This mountain has only been summited a handful of times in recent years due to its remote and technical nature. All of the successful attempts were in early spring, so trying it in late November with early-season conditions was always going to be a challenge.

Me and John set off around 2 p.m. on Saturday after driving up from Vancouver and made the long plod to where we planned to spend the night. At 1200 m we reached a large opening full of snow-covered alder that looked almost impossible to pass through. It was getting dark fast, but we decided to push through which was miserable at first until we reached the beginning of a small creek where the alder thinned out. Following this up under moonlight for about an hour or two in knee-deep snow was exhausting but also strangely peaceful until we reach the alpine.

At 1800 m we found a large rock that looked like it would offer some shelter, so we spent another hour digging out a trench and compacting snow. Thankfully doing this kept us warm despite



temperatures dropping to around -12°C . Once we were in the winter tent and sleeping bags things were great and we both ended up having one of the best nights sleep in a tent in a long time.

At 7 a.m. the next morning we continued our bootpack up the deep but supportive snow and finally got eyes on the gully that had been successfully climbed by the previous party two years before. We continued up to the base of the climb and roped up. The initial ascent was on steep snow, followed by a few mixed steps on frozen choss, which went without too much difficulty—just a bit of exposure. Then the problems began.

Instead of the ice we were hoping for, we were greeted by deep snow plastered against the left wall, which would've taken hours to tunnel through. The alternative on the right was a steep slab with only a thin layer of snow and nowhere to place protection. Later in the season I imagine this would be filled in with ice, making it far more climbable. As an ice climber, that



would've been a delight, but the thought of dry-tooling up a rocky, snow-covered slab felt... unappealing to both of us.

With no ice to be found—something that had been key to previous ascents—we decided to downclimb back to the plateau and return to camp to chill in the sun before heading home. A super fun exploratory climb in a beautiful area. I'll definitely be back in better conditions.



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 discounted 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.