



Upcoming BCMC Social

April 8th, 2025 at the Anza Club



Presented by: Tom Zadorsky

Tom Zadorsky is an ISA Certified Arborist, Tree Risk Assessor, and industrial rope access technician with a background in structural engineering. As the founder of **Cultivara Tree Tours**, Vancouver's first guided tree climbing experience, he combines technical expertise with a passion for forests, climbing, and outdoor education. Tom wants to get everyone into trees!

Climbing trees isn't just for arborists or kids—it's an experience that offers a new way to connect with nature, challenge ourselves, and understand the trees and urban forests that surround us. In this presentation, ISA Certified Arborist, tree climbing guide, and industrial rope access technician Tom Zadorsky will quickly explore the history, techniques, and philosophy of tree climbing, and its connection to education and conservation.

and

Gear Swap

Dust off that gear that's sitting in the back of your garage or closet and see if it can find a new home. Sell to your fellow mountain lovers or donate to the BCMC gear rental program. Cash only.

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: Alex Barker – Steinbok Peak

Club Updates

Poland Lake Backcountry Access Corridor

By Paul Kubik

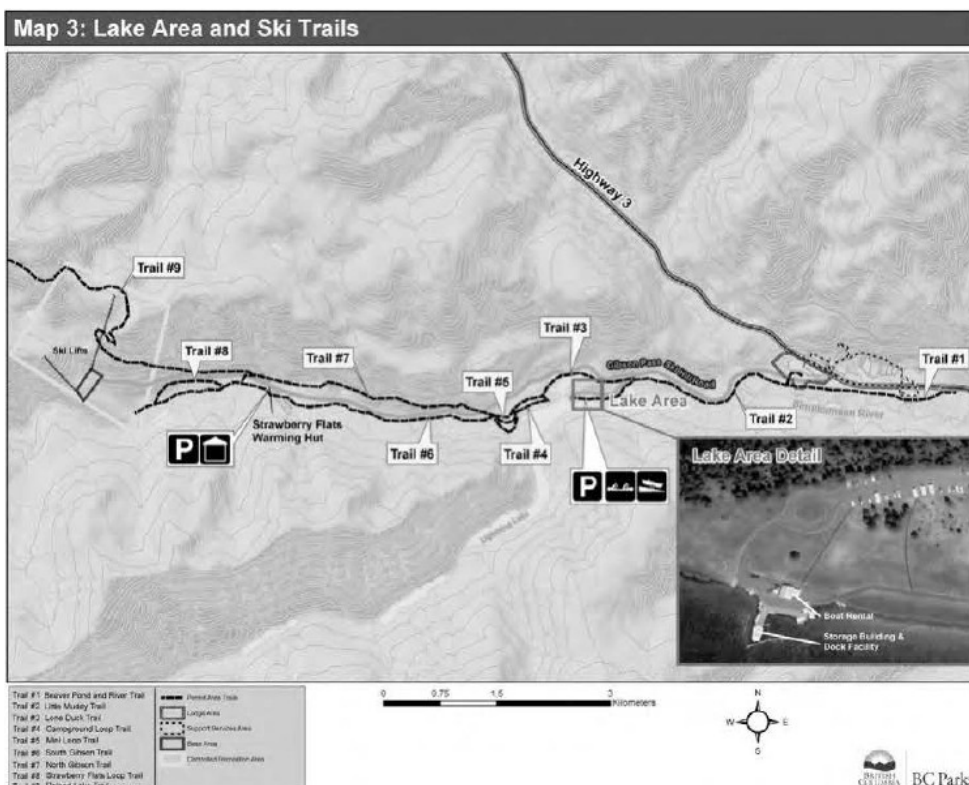
I'm told the resort has now closed the downhill area for the 24/25 season. Earlier this winter, I met with BC Parks about this long-standing issue.

This ski season, Manning Park Resort has:

1. Reinstated the one-ride lift tickets for a cost. It's not available for snowshoers.
2. Agreed to provide a free access ticket for use along the outside of the groomed ski run from the base area to the Poland Lake Trail.

The continuing problem with access is that backcountry users without a ticket are not allowed to park in the downhill area. That means parking at Strawberry Flats, but there is no longer a public trail from the flats to the base. That means walking along the road for two kilometers, which is not safe. On top of it all, the road gate closes at 5 PM so if you are still out there and parked at the base, you will be locked in for the night. There is an hourly shuttle bus from the lodge to the base, but it ends shortly after the lifts close.

BC Parks staff and Manning Park Resorts continue to investigate long term solutions for backcountry access across the controlled recreation area including from Strawberry Flats, something like Trail #8 to the base. The resort has a legal requirement as part of its permit to facilitate free public access through its downhill lease area to Poland Lake. BC Parks would welcome input from backcountry users. Dave Richmond is the Okanagan region supervisor.



Earlier this winter, blogger Steve Jones took issue with the resort when it tried to impose a fee to travel along the corridor. He phoned the assistant deputy minister and within about two days was informed that the resort had backtracked the fee. It was due to our earlier freedom of information request for the park use permit that he was able to determine that the setting of a fee is not permissible. The greater issue is that allowing the fee to stand would have set a precedent across the province to enable all downhill operators to charge for backcountry access.

The Chilliwack Outdoor Club is also unhappy. I had a lengthy conversation recently with Gary Baker of COC. Gary has been the point person with his club about access to Poland Lake in winter and claims the access issue has been a bugbear for his club for decades. Recently, the resort granted special permission to the COC to follow a route to the lake that goes below the blue chairlift, by prior agreement. In contrast, the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. and the BCMC agree that we don't want individual agreements. We want an agreement that suits the public and includes both snowshoers and backcountry skiers.

As Steve Jones pointed out, these unresolved issues waste immense amounts of time and money for everyone involved. Just for the meeting I had with BC Parks this winter, it had four senior parks officials in attendance. These people have salary ranges in the six digits. Realistically, a park ranger could be authorized to solve the access issue over one summer for a fraction of the cost. It took our advocacy team over a decade to solve the Spearhead Range access issue, but it was really a problem spanning thirty-two years. It's far better to solve these issues quickly and cheaply, but that would take resolve and persistence, which is in short supply. The only avenue open is for us to keep hammering at the problem.

Summer Mentorship Program

Mentor and Mentee applications are now open for the Summer 2025 Season of the BCMC Mentorship Program. Members can apply to be a Mentor or a Mentee in mountain sports such as Hiking, Scrambling, Rock Climbing (Sport/Trad), Mountaineering and Alpine Climbing. Please visit the [BCMC Mentorship Program](#) page to learn more about the program.

Applications close at 11:55 pm on April 15, 2025. Mentees (once selected) have to pay a program fee of \$50 to confirm participation in the program. If you have any questions, please sign up for the [Online Q&A Session](#) on April 7, 2025, 7-8 pm.

BCMC's Newly Acquired Norm Deacon Cabin Hollyburn Mountain

By David Scanlon

We have acquired the lease and to bring the cabin up the required standards work has to be done. This summer we expect to get an outhouse built and a stove installed. Then once that is done and we have passed inspection we may then start bookings for our members. We can drive to the cabin. 4 wheel drive only.

Here are some pictures of last year's work and some of the volunteers:





Photos in order:

1. *The new yellow cedar porch steps.*
2. *Tearing out the rotten basement floor to be replaced. Cory Tuddenham & Einar Hansen.*
3. *Getting a hole dug for the outhouse behind the cabin. Keith Halvorson from Land Luger contracting Squamish.*
4. *Working on installing the propane system. Bruce Cassels & Emanuel Porra.*
5. *This is the view from the porch.*

Op-Eds

New Guidebook – Coast Mountain High Routes

By John Baldwin

A guide to 46 summer high routes and alpine traverses in the Coast Mountains.

These are the great skyline traverses – off-trail hikes through large remote mountainous regions, continuously in the alpine, and a bit like being on a summit for an entire trip. With elements of thru-hiking, backpacking and mountaineering, you carry your camp on your back, never retrace your steps, and travel over terrain that is always new.

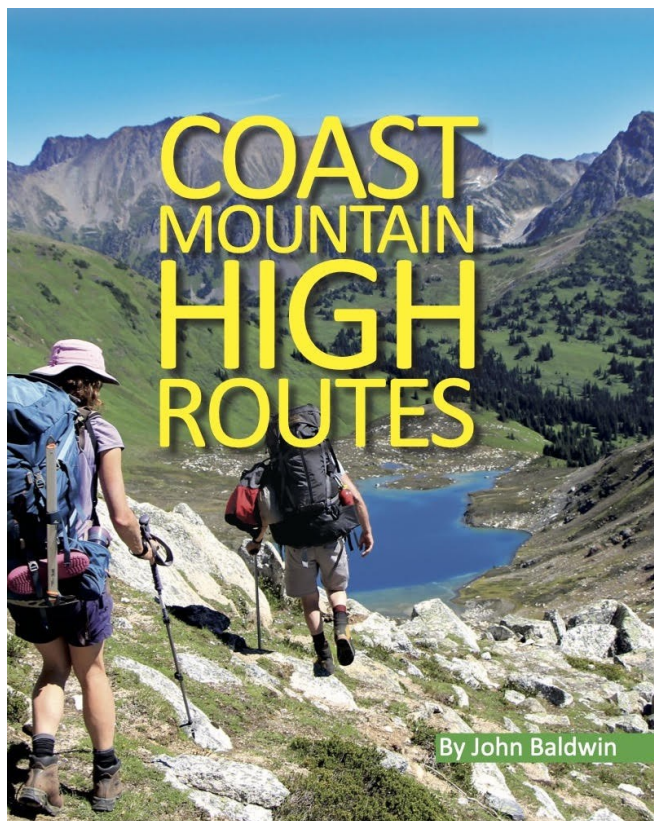
Describes routes varying from 3 days to 3 weeks and ranging from shorter trips in the Sea to Sky corridor to longer more remote trips in the high grasslands of the Chilcotin or above deep coastal inlets as far north as Bella Coola. All of the routes venture through wilderness regions.

Features: Large Format 8" X 10", 296 pages, 525 colour photographs, includes trip planning information and difficulty ratings, describes 2700km and 421 days of routes.

Available late April. Retail price is \$59.00

For more information see:

<https://www.johnbaldwin.ca/coast-mountain-high-routes.asp>



Little Bit of You

By Phillipa Wall

*There's a little bit of you in everything
Exquisitely painful
Alarmingly beautiful.*

*In the diamond sparkle of the Ashnola
Coursing to embrace the Similkameen
The gold cymbals of the aspen*

*Heralding a bright autumn day
The cottontail darting from the lilac hedge
A glimpse of perfect softness.*

*In a robin's egg, incomparable blue
A regal pose on the Skagit
Motionless and watching
The dense green hemlocks
Hugging persistently
The velvet sky above the Snowy
Stars glinting, squinting in recognition.*

*And nothing left for you to do
But feel the warmth of the earth, like cocoa
As you turn it
And search for elusive grubs.*

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.

A Spring Foray into the Anderson River Group

By Francis Bailey

Alex had been dreaming about a winter or spring ascent up Chamois Peak and Anderson River Mountain for some time now. This cirque of granitic fins and domes west of the Coquihalla, used to be a hot spot for climbers and hikers. As loggers pulled out of the area, the roads deteriorated gradually, but did not stop visitors from driving up. It wasn't until 2021 during the major floods that a key bridge washed out and reduced access to those with a 4x4 and penchant for long road walks. Nonetheless, people have still trickled into the area over the years. Climbers often go to ascend up Les Cornes and Geoff and I were there in 2023 to climb the SE ridge of Ibex.

Finally this winter, the weather and snow conditions would finally align for Alex's plans to come to fruition. Trevor was originally going to join us as well, but in the eleventh hour had to pull out when he was feeling too sick.

I drove Alex from Vancouver around 4:30am and we were crawling up the precarious cliff-side road to the Anderson River area as the sun was rising. We hit snow about 3.5km shy of the bridge washout and opted to hike in from there. When we reached the bridge, the old log that used to cover the gap had slid part way down the embankment and looked too sketchy to use. Thankfully, just 50m downstream a natural log bridge offered a way across.



The area feels distinctly abandoned

Once on the other side we walked for a short ways down Anderson South and then bushwhacked up through an old cut block. We hit unlogged forest around 1000m and then reached the NW ridge line at 1200m. The ridge had numerous steep sections and made for some challenging snow shoeing. We finally hit some more open terrain at 1600m and then out of the trees just above that.

It was a pleasant ascent up to the summit from there, although I was feeling terribly out of shape. We paused for a long lunch on the summit and soaked in the blue bird sunny conditions. Once we felt satiated it was time to head for Chamois Peak next.



Alex crossing Anderson River



Views from the upper NW Ridge of Anderson River Mountain



Chamois Peak and Ibex Peak from Anderson River Mountain

Chamois is generally a gentle sloped summit save for the steep north face, but there is one cruxy section between Anderson River Mountain and Chamois that must be overcome. The rock is generally quite loose in the col and steep on both sides. For these reasons, Alex came prepared with a rad line. As we descended off of Anderson River, it became clear we'd be putting the line to use. A short section of snow covered choss rock stood between us and the col. I briefly tested the waters, but the rock was loose enough to not warrant the risk. Alex setup a hand line and we were down without issue. We opted to leave it for the return and headed down the final slope to the col.

From the col we climbed a brief short section of steep snow and then we were onto the tame west ridge of Chamois. It was an easy hike up to the top on low angle snow. I think the views from Chamois were the best of the day and Steinbok's North Face always captures my imagination. By 1PM, it was time to get going and we descended easily to the col. Alex hauled himself up the hand line first and then I followed. We climbed up one more section of steepish snow and then we were back on the ridge of Anderson River Mountain.

The descent back to the road was long, but uneventful and we were back at the truck with plenty of daylight to spare!



The views from Chamois Peak

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.