



Upcoming BCMC Social

June 10th, 2025 at the Anza Club



Tonight, we will be shining a spotlight on Trevor Marc Hughes' book, *Capturing the Summit: Hamilton Mack Laing and the Mount Logan Expedition of 1925*. This is the only book written about Albert MacCarthy and Co.'s historic 1925 first ascent of Canada's tallest mountain, Mount Logan. Additionally, we will present a short excerpt of the film *The Conquest of Mt. Logan*, which was filmed during the 1925 expedition.

We will also screen an excerpt of The Society's latest film: *Chaos Glacier Country*, which details our attempt to summit Mount Waddington, to show audiences what the upcoming Mount Logan expedition and film aims to do.

Admission by donation (recommended \$5 - \$10)

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: Calum Macdonald and Garrick Byers ascending Clandestine Peak with Classified Peak in the background – Francis Bailey

Club Updates

Ape Lake Summer Camp – Reminder

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 Library & Archives

The club maintains a library with an extensive collection of books, photographs and mountaineering related periodicals. It is open for use by members. Details about the collection and its use can be found on the club's website: <https://bcmc.ca/modules/?r=book/home/>.

The club archives, spanning well over 100 years of mountaineering history, may be the largest set of mountaineering archives in B.C. The collection is available for viewing at the North Vancouver Museum and Archives, 3202 Institute Road, North Vancouver. On Mondays, drop in between 1230 and 430. You'll need to make an appointment if you wish to visit Tuesday to Friday. You can make an appointment here: <https://monova.ca/archives/>. The club makes an annual donation to MONOVA to ensure that the careful stewardship of the records is ongoing. We continue to add to the collection as club records age.

Plummer Hut Conditions

A guided party was up at the Plummer Hut during the month of May and kindly documented the current state of affairs. Here's a quick look if you're curious:



From the Community

Honorary Member P.L. Tait

By Glenn Woodsworth

Preston ("PL") Tait was born in 1880 in Ontario. According to whichever source you favour, he trained as a dentist, or a chiropractor. But for most of his life he worked as a watch-repairer. From 1937 to about 1941 he worked at a lodge in Strathcona Park. He joined the BCMC in 1925.

PL was a strong mountaineer and made the first recorded ascents of Sun God Mountain, Mount Samson and Mount Weart in the 1930s. His main love, though, wasn't climbing peaks, but photography and just being in the mountains. In later years, when he could no longer go on trips, he continued to attend BCMC monthly meetings on a regular basis. He was a long-time member of the ACC and the Vancouver Natural History Society. He went on summer camps to the Rockies and Selkirks and helped to organize several Natural History Society summer camps. He was editor of the BCMC newsletter in 1929 and again in 1937. Even into the early 1960s he hiked in to the BCMC cabin on Grouse Mountain, where he enjoyed fixing and improving the wooden furniture.

There can be few BCMC members left who remember PL. Former BCMC member Arnold Shives and I remember that in the early 1960s he had a small "curiosity shop" on Alma at 10th Avenue that we, and particularly Arnold, would visit on occasion. It contained items as varied as old, expired film (which Arnold and I both bought), old watches and jewelry, ancient, tired-looking boots, and an old ice-axe, probably his own (which a friend of ours bought and used). We remember him as a friendly, good natured old gentleman (we were very young at the time).

PL never married. A health food enthusiast, he believed very sincerely in the special curative properties of gooseberries and currants. He was made an Honorary Member of the BCMC in 1960 and died in 1970 at the age of 89.

Mount Tait in the Lillooet Icefield area is named after him.



P.L. Tait when he was in the graduating class of the Canadian Chiropractic College: Toronto, in 1923. BCMC photo 49-001



Mount Tait in the Lillooet Icefield. Photo by Michael Feller (BCMC collection)

Winter Comes

By Chris Ludwig

*On the meekest of knolls
the first of them sprung out
yellow
with tiny balls of corn snow*

*sea of white pulls away
petals shake and quiver
quickly in celebration
by the touch of winds that come and go*

*broken skies of clouds
billow and streak
night and day*

*moonlit night meets pond
where the shadowy images
of the flowers dance*

*but all things
eventual slow
the reflections and the music must fade
until even flowers
can no longer recognize themselves*

*there is loneliness
in this endless ocean
of wildflowers, lakes and
shadows*

*where grasses, sedges
forbs and mosses
can't stave off the coming winter*

*for each is
and will always be
alone*



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.

Ha-Iltzuk Expedition – May 10th to 19th, 2025

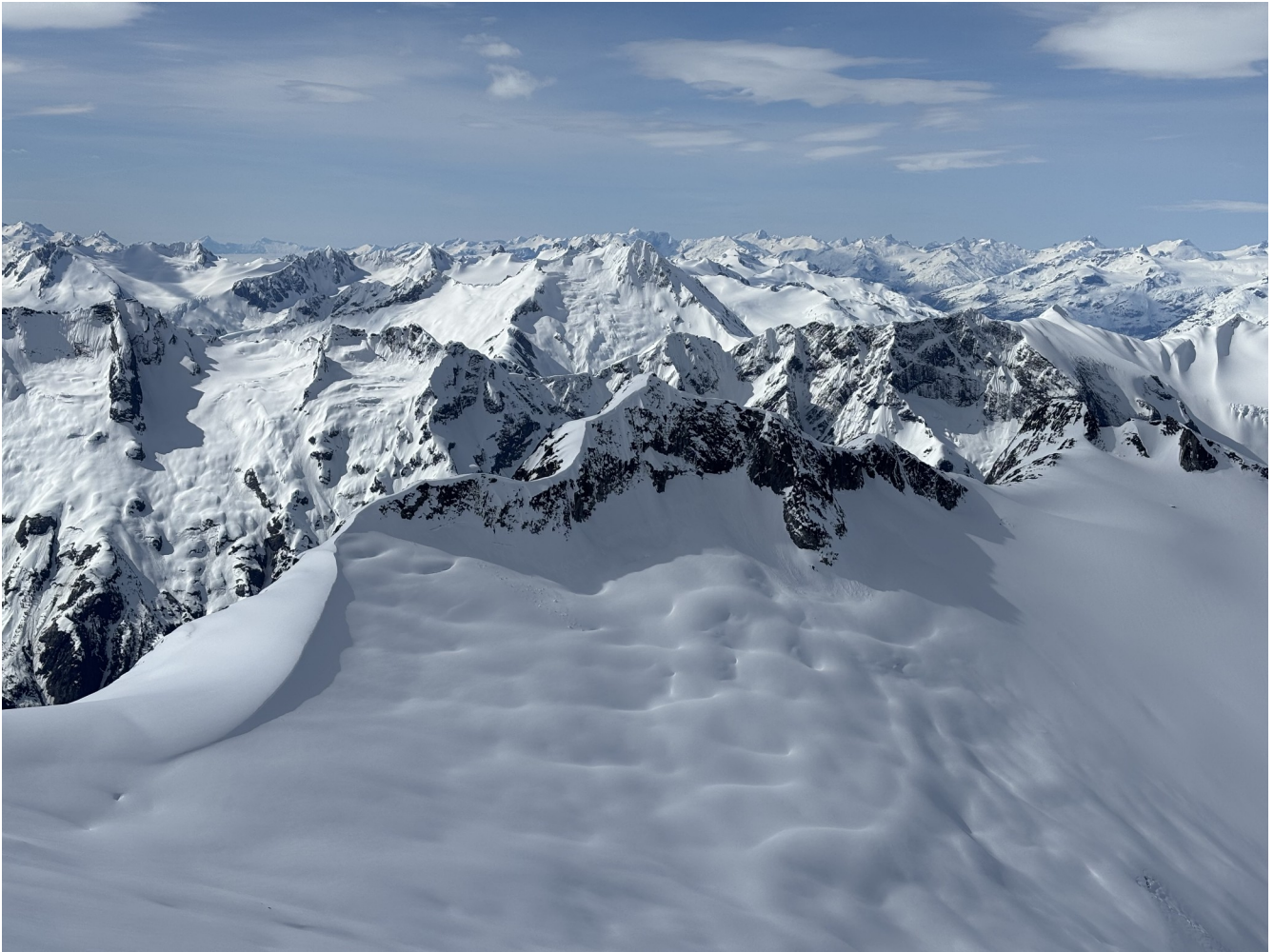
By Francis Bailey

After Andrea and I's foray into the Pantheons last year, I vowed to explore more of the coast mountains beyond SWBC. This year in particular I wanted to visit one of the main icefields and I was torn between the Homathko and Ha-Iltzuk. I finally settled on the Ha-Iltzuk when I identified a corner in the north eastern end that looked to be unclimbed. A tuning fork shaped ridge system that borders at the confluence of the North Klinaklini and Klinaklini Rivers. I carefully mapped out all documented traverses in the area and could find none that cut through this zone. Now, the area is not *completely* unexplored as Bella Coola Heli Skiing has several established ski runs nearby, but high paying clients are likely more concerned with catching powder than adding hours to the day climbing up peaks.

Once I had honed in on this area I decided to carve out 15 days to explore it and the main ice field itself. Given the remote nature of this area, I planned for a heli drop off at a high camp where the nearby summits could be ascended and then traverse onto the icefield proper. The next order of business was recruiting a group interested in potentially long days tent bound by storms and enough time to make it worthwhile. I put out a trip on the BCMC and was lucky enough to recruit Calum, Gabe and Garrick to the cause. The BCMC also graciously gave us an expedition grant to help offset the costs of the helicopter and this trip would not be possible without their support both in terms of expertise and ease in finding people to do such trips.

Our starting date was for May 10th, but Whitesaddle was on contract fighting fires and so we delayed one day, arriving the night of the 10th to fly out as soon as weather would allow. After two days of pouring rain and mixed clouds we took flight on the morning of the 13th. The forecast did not look promising, but there was at least two days of good weather ahead and so we took the chance. We dropped a food cache at the north end of the main icefield and then flew to the col of two nearby summits to setup a high camp.

We didn't bother setting up any tents and immediately went for the summit just north west of our camp and (barring survey inaccuracies) the tallest in this local group. It was a straight forward skin up the eastern glacier and then a short 3rd class scramble up south side of the summit block. We dug around for a cairn and found none, but further down the ridge heli skiing stakes made it clear we certainly weren't the first ones in the vicinity. After descending the summit we traversed northwards along the ridge dropping a ways down to the col of next peak just north of us. We bypassed two small gendarmes easily on tame terrain on the west side and a short scrambled took us to the top. Here there was no snow and no cairn so we built one and left a small summit register. From there we returned south and back up to the first peak for a long run down to the glacier on the eastern slopes.



Our final summit for the day was a 2400m summit just a few kilometers north east of camp. We opted to take the long south-north ridge line to reach it and this proved to be less than efficient due to a tricky gendarme that required a rappel. Had the snow on the east side been more stable we could have easily bypassed it, but it was late in the day and we easily triggered wet slides with minor rock fall. After the notch it was an easy ridge walk to the summit. On return Garrick and I ascended the rope we left at the gendarme and then I belayed Calum and Gabe up while they tested their mixed climbing skills. By ~5pm we were back at camp and set up tents and snow walls for the several days we'd be out there.



On the following morning we left for the eastern most ridge system from camp to tackle 3 separate summits. We skied a long run down to the col from the 2400m summit we climbed yesterday and the small 2350m peak directly east. Here we left skis and ascended the summit without any technical difficulties. We descended the other side and continued north east to the 2459m peak ahead. Again there was only some scrambling and a bit of snow ascent required to reach the summit.

Our plan now was to reach the end of the ridge system north to climb the tallest peak east of camp at ~2500m. Cornices and a steep headwall appeared to block our progress to the tame connecting ridge system below. Gabe went on belay to scope out the edge of the ridge and found one section with no cornice and a small ramp to reach the ridge beyond. It looked feasible so we geared up to make the descent. Garrick opted to stay behind at this point so Gabe, Calum and myself headed down and only had to dispatch with one tiny section of 60 degree sugary snow to gain better ground. Finally we had an easy ridge walk all the way up to the last summit with a small section of 3rd or 4th class made much simpler with a pair of climbing shoes.

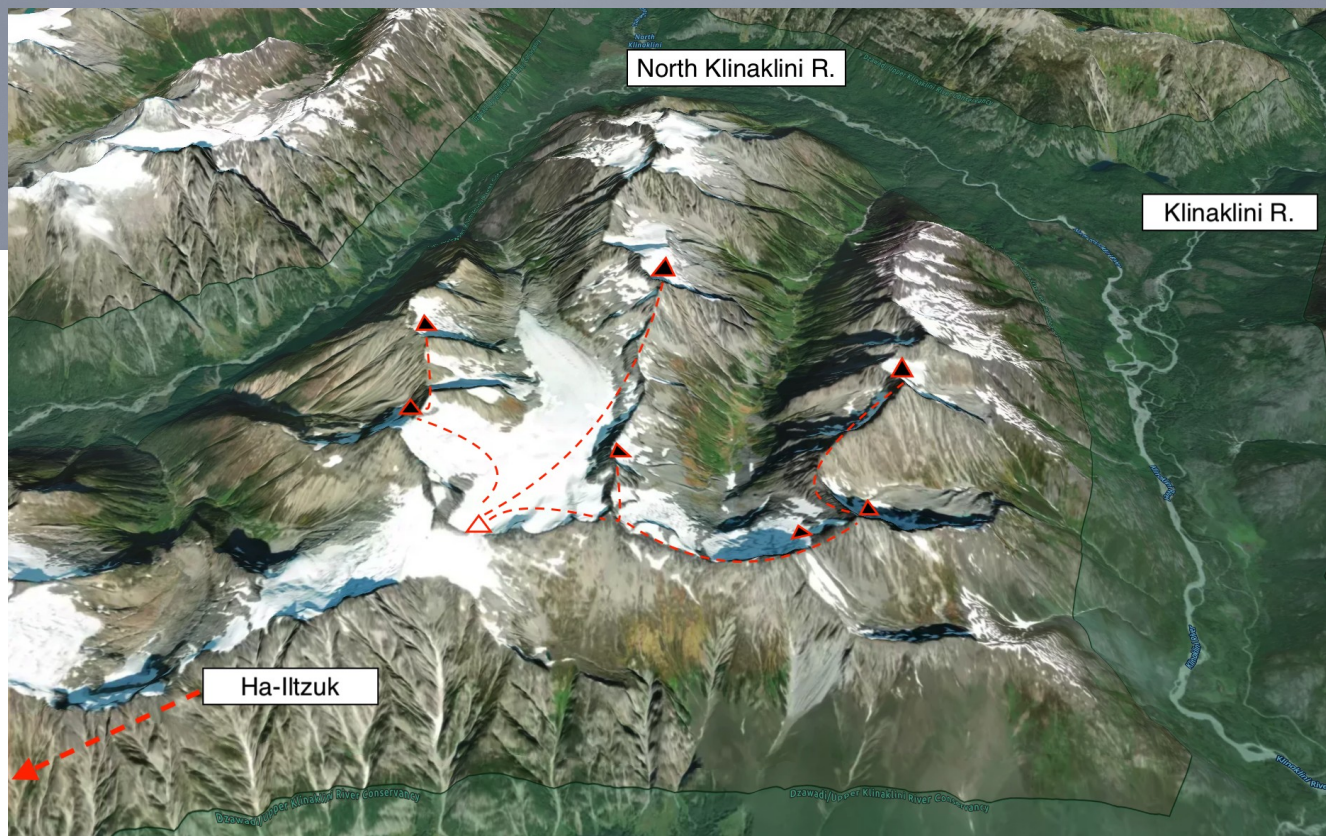




The return was a tad long as we had to re-ascend every summit along the way and in hind sight we should have brought skis so that we could bypass these peaks along the northern glacier at the foot of the 2350m peak. This concluded our last sunny day for awhile and the weather promptly closed in on us for three days straight. John Clarke famously spent 3 weeks in a tent on the Klinaklini glacier so I dare not lament our short amount of down time!

After the weather cleared we had some concerns about snow stability. Another system was due to crash into us on the following day and we had around 3-4 days food left. We went out to test the waters near the start of the traversing ridge system and found up to 40cm of new snow in

spots which easily released on a recent sun crust. The next system was calling for another 18-20cm and strong winds which would likely create wind slabs on much of our proposed route. Having the food cache on the other end of the traverse was appearing to be a bit of dilemma now. The ridge was not overly complicated looking but required travel through numerous big slide zones and so a tough pill was swallowed and we decided the safest course was to bail early and get one more day of sunshine in.



For our final summit we headed to the second peak from the north of our camp which was about 2480m tall. We opted to gain the south ridge via a moderately steep bowl on the west side of the summit and then scrambled and ascended easy snow all the way to the summit. A nearby boulder appeared to be close in height so Gabe and I climbed up and confirmed it was in fact shorter. For the return Gabe, Calum and Garrick skied down a sweet looking couloir on the south west side. Meanwhile my ski skills were not up to the task and so I returned along our ascent path and skied the bowl we had used to gain the ridge. Once we reached camp we tore everything down and Mike King retrieved us and our food cache an hour later.

It was a bitter sweet end to what was intended to be an extended journey in the mountains. If I were to do things over, I would probably have kept even more food on hand and just dealt with an overburdened pack. 15 days, was perhaps surprisingly not enough time to outbid the weather. As a first extended ski trip into this zone there was a lot of great learnings though and I'll be back for a proper visit in near time. There remains much to do, albeit the peaks in our immediate vicinity offered little of interest for a mountaineering challenge. Further south things start to look more promising. To the north west Monarch Mountain also calls.

Finally I have to give a huge thanks again to the BCMC, this trip wouldn't be possible without this awesome organization and its community. Also a big thanks to the awesome team with Garrick, Gabe and Calum. Despite our short time out there it was a great experience and only leaves me yearning for more.

Participants: Francis Bailey (Trip Organizer), Calum Macdonald, Gabriel Robinson-Leith, Garrick Byers

First Ascents:

(We went with an espionage theme)

- Classified Peak – 51.70696, -125.73303
- Clandestine Peak – 51.72191, -125.72970
- Wiretap Peak – 51.70289, -125.69447
- Subterfuge Peak – 51.69089, -125.66630
- Defector Peak – 51.69542, -125.65446
- Provocateur Peak – 51.71747, -125.64368
- Cypher Peak – 51.73400, -125.68381

Rainbow Ramblers Hit the Trail! A Sparkling Debut in Deep Cove

By Kai Scott

The BC Mountaineering Club's newest affinity group, the Rainbow Ramblers, made a fabulous first foray into the wild on May 24th—and what better way to launch than with sunshine, new friends, and sweeping views from Quarry Rock?

Eight keen hikers (including a few fresh faces to the BCMC) met up at Deep Cove's Café Orso to kick things off with caffeine and community building. Over croissants and conversation, Colin shared the heart behind Rainbow Ramblers—a space where 2SLGBTQIA+ folks and allies can connect beyond the usual bar scene and into the backcountry.

The group dove into a creative whiteboard brainstorm, tackling big questions like: How can we create a welcoming space for queer and trans outdoor lovers? What kinds of trips light us up? Who else can we invite along for the ride? The vibes were warm and the ideas flowed freely.

Post-brainstorm, the group set out on the classic Quarry Rock hike—an approachable, forested 4 km loop with a view worth every step. Spirits were high and chatter constant, with enough trail time for everyone to get to know each other. A sunny snack break at the top offered a chance for laughter, selfies, and one very wholesome group photo.



There was enthusiasm for future outings, especially beginner-friendly adventures that make room for skill-building and community connection. Hiking, kayaking, biking, climbing, and backcountry skiing were floated as future fun, with Manning Park topping the wishlist.

With a new WhatsApp group buzzing, the Rainbow Ramblers are just getting started—and all BCMC members are invited to follow along and cheer them on. Because let's be real: the mountains are better with a little more colour. 🌈🏔️

If you would like to know about upcoming Rainbow Rambler trips, join our WhatsApp group - here is the link to be added:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DuilG7ElkVw70QKdqGCVjd>

— Rainbow Rambler Organizers: Colin, Danielle, Alice, and Kai

THE WAVE

By Rick Sheppard

A journey back in time to April 2013 and a stunning hike into and on THE WAVE- an amazing slick rock formation located in the canyon country near the Utah/Arizona state line, It's probably one of the most sought-after natural feature in the world- a permit to visit it is required to control the hordes to prevent it from being annihilated by millions of boots! It's a lottery and you get two

chances at it so plan early and cross your fingers- check it out if you like at <https://www.thewave.info/CoyoteButtesNorthCode/Permits.html>.....or.....pay for a tour but it won't be cheap- for example, Grand Circle Tours offers exciting and safe small group hiking and photography tours to the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument area, including 'The Wave, Buckskin Gulch, Coyote Buttes North, Coyote Buttes South, White Pocket, The TeePees, and all the best destinations in Southwest Utah & Northern Arizona'!.....and will cost at least \$200 USD/person'. and there's probably other tours as well.

Now Back to April 2013.....we usually travelled south every year to hike in the canyon lands in late April to avoid the hordes as well as the scorching heat that ramps up in May.....but of course now because of Global Heating I'd guess near the end of March would be wise. So Barb, my wife, a friend Kreg Sky and I ventured south to do some exploring and have shot at winning the lottery for the Wave. We camped that night high up in a National Forest near Flagstaff, however fate decided that it would snow a lot that night so the next morning we retreated down to Page but stopped on the way for a short hike to the Big Bend Viewpoint of the Colorado River-for a little effort one gains a stunning view of Colorado river canyon!. The next day we drove to the local BLM station for the lottery where, because of the weather the day before only +/- 8 people had shown up so the odds started to look pretty good.....so the ranger rotated the basket.....and we won!!

Permits and direction maps in hand, off we went to the Coyote Buttes and the Wave.....the striated buttes on the way provided a preview of what was to come but were nothing in comparison to the actual Wave- it was like walking in a stunning slick rock CGI fantasyland! No reason to talk further- take a look at the photos!





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.