



Upcoming BCMC Social



Glaciers — Climate's "Canaries in the Coal Mine"

March 10th, 2026 at the Anza Club

John Clague is Emeritus Professor at Simon Fraser University. He worked as a Research Scientist with the Geological Survey of Canada from 1975 until 1998. In 1998 he accepted a faculty position in Department of Earth Sciences at Simon Fraser University. Clague is a leading authority in environmental earth sciences, natural hazards, and climate change. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, former President of the Geological Association of Canada, Past-President of the International Union for Quaternary Research, and Past-President of the Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC).

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Submit Your Content

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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: Sunrise over the "Blunt" group in the Babines by Francis Bailey

Club Updates

New Cabin Reservation System

Chris Ludwig has been very hard at work bringing our new cabin booking system online and we are pleased to announce that it's now live! This was multi-month effort starting with a trial out of several competing solutions, running training for member's administering the bookings and integrating with our existing membership system. The new booking software obviates the need for promo codes and provides automatic integration with our BCMC memberships. A huge thanks to Chris for putting this together!

If you experience any issues, please reach out to: cabinstrails@bcmc.ca.

Norm Deacon Hut Now Open for Bookings

We are thrilled to announce that the British Columbia Mountaineering Club is officially opening the **Norm Deacon Hut** for reservations! We will be welcoming our first guests starting **May 1, 2026**.

A Seven-Year Journey

This achievement marks the culmination of a dedicated **seven-year effort led by Dave Scanlon**. It has been a long road to reach this milestone, involving:

- **4+ years** of persistence to move from the initial concept to the final lease execution with the **District of West Vancouver**.
- **A further 2 years** of rigorous work to inspect, repair, and re-certify the hut to ensure it is safe and ready for occupancy.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Dave and the club volunteers who put in the "boots on the ground" work to create this new space for the club.

Hut Details & Amenities

The Norm Deacon Hut is a family-friendly destination located just a short walk, ski, or snowshoe from the nearest road.

- **Capacity:** Sleeps up to **6** (4 of which have a designated bed, cot, or couch).
- **Heating:** Stay warm with an efficient **wood stove**.
- **Kitchen:** Fully equipped with **propane, pots, pans, cutlery, and flatware** for your cooking needs.
- **House Rules:** To preserve the environment and the facility, there is **no smoking, no dogs, and no outside fires** permitted.
- **Parking:** Space at Hollyburn is limited. Please **restrict your group to one vehicle only** at the trailhead(s).

Booking Information

- **Opening Date:** May 1, 2026
- **Rate: \$50 per night**
- **Eligibility:** Exclusive to BCMC members in good standing.

Reserve your stay here:

https://online.rezexpert.com/book?business_code=400357&type_id=85975

or visit our main cabin booking site at: <https://recsites.bcmc.ca/>

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.

Pelion-Ossa Traverse – July 5th/6th 2003

By Mo Lamothe

I first went to Pelion on another club trip in spring ...everyone was skiing except me (snowshoes) and when the group pushed on to the summit from camp I couldn't keep up ...so I returned to enjoy the late afternoon solo ...my tent mate Greg rejoined me well after dark... they had encountered breakable crust when the sun went down making for a very unpleasant return to camp ...it would be an incredible 1000 m ski in good conditions I think. So I had to go back.

Approach is an arduous 5-6 hr hike to camp in beautiful cirque N below Ossa Mtn up Sigurd trail. Thanks mostly to Sev Heiberg and Paul Kubik for their trail building to make this route possible.

In the early morning I remember drooling over the Russian breakfast ...hard boiled eggs, potatoes... as I made hot water to mix in my multiple packs of instant oatmeal. They were 3 men that joined together in tent and food... very nice

We climbed up & left to Pelion via steep glacier right of rock ridge, up very steep snow to knife edge snow ridge...I was nervously alert as a roped team on the glacier ...a fall by one could be hard to stop on crampon hard north side. Sun mushy on south side. Short rock scramble to summit.

Down class 2/3 rock to steep hard snow to col of Ossa. We had been dealing with mushy snow as well so when one of the guys jumped off the rock onto the snow he didn't anticipate the hardness... and fell sliding by me and down a long distance on snow... I got down to him ...and realizing he was "ok" proceeded to lecture him on carelessness! I believe he had some cuts, but we did not consider this an issue with continuing. After a break here, and a lot of discussion on the route description from Fairleys guide, which seemed desperate, Andrei came running back from a ramble down the south facing slope we were on to say he saw something that would go to get us on the ridge to Ossa...wrong side of the mountain according to Fairley but otherwise looked correct. Class 3 gully (just left of sub peak) leading to ridge crest.

One steep step on ridge, pleasant rock to notch just before true summit, hard down to notch, rope to top maybe one pitch. Oss !

Followed west side down ridges, cairns then right at last corner, doubling back down large snow slope to meet NW ridge and down (messy) to camp

Maybe 15 hours on summit day back to car. Andrei Smertin, Sergei Sorokin, Michael Tsiroulnikov ("Misha") and myself Mo Lamothe.

The first ascent party, which I believe climbed Ossa the way we did but from Zenith lake, included Howard Rode. Culbert wrote up the description correctly in his original book, but not the next. I didn't own any of his books at the time...we used to give Howie a ride to some BCMC meetings maybe 10 years ago... he lived down the block from me ... he lived to be over 100 years old, skiing Whistler into his nineties... for free I believe...(season pass pricing gets good after 75) ...it would have been fun discussing some climbs with him, unfortunately I never did.

Nine Mile Mountain

By Francis Bailey

Nine Mile Mountain is a 1700m peak located above The Hazeltons in the Bulkley Valley. An old mining road runs from town all the way to the summit and it appears to be a regular snowmobile destination. The broad summit offers no real challenge but it's centrally located among a host of aesthetic pointed peaks. If not for that, Andrea and I would likely have looked elsewhere for a safe summit with the snowpack we had. We had higher ambitions for more interesting peaks, but snow and weather always had the final say. Regardless, the views promised to be worth it and we decided to make a weekend of it by hauling up the tent to catch a sunrise and maybe sunset.

The big mystery, to us, was what any given approach would look like around Bulkley Valley. We had no sense of what's plowed or not and sleds rule the lands here. Not possessing a tracked chariot for ourselves, we were relegated to what could be reasonably skied up in one or two days. Nine Mile Mountain was on the upper end of tolerable road walking, but with plans to camp over night we could break up the journey across two days. As a big plus, returning by skies is usually a speedy affair and makes the road approach all the worthwhile on return.

We had a relaxed start on Friday morning and reached Hazelton after sunrise. To our surprise, the road was plowed further than expected and we eliminated a few kilometres of extra road walking. The road ended at a private property and forked off to a tracked out road. We setup skis here and started the walk down the road. For the first few kilometers it was an easy plod on continuous snow, but as we gained elevation above two mile creek, the snow quickly dwindled down to rock. We kicked off the skis and walked on foot until hitting the new snow line around 800m. From here we had an easy ascent all the way to treeline.

Golden hour was near and we elected to save the summits for the following morning. The next step was finding the best camp spot to catch sunset. Quadrants were consulted, angles were calculated and viewpoints were surveyed. Through a thorough vetting process we found the best spot we could, perched equidistant between Nine Mile and Peak 1615. Not only did we have phenomenal views of the area, we had an inversion layer covering the entire valley. There are few views better than an inversion forming a sea of peaks.



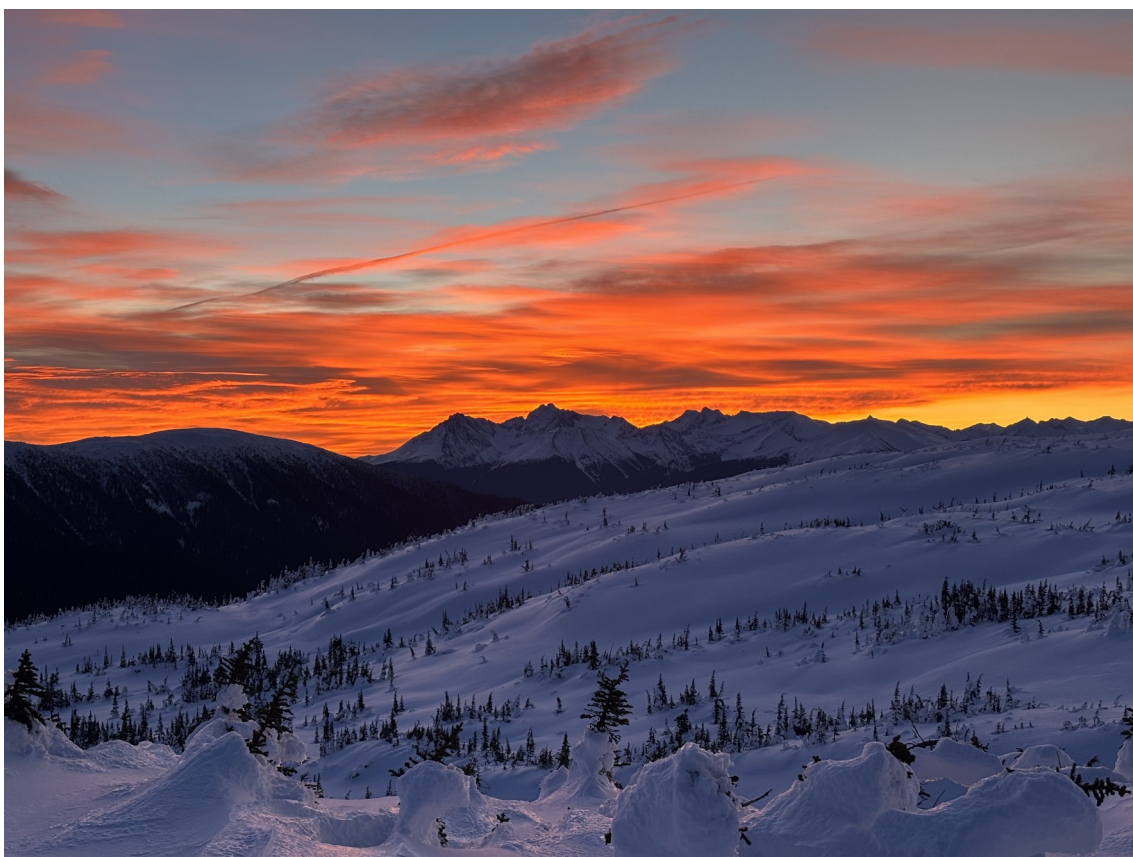
Andrea looking at the Seven Sisters during sunset

After setting up camp we settled in to watch the sunset and make some dinner. Andrea threw out the idea of an early-ish start to catch sunrise and I couldn't say no. We set alarms for 7am and woke up to a sunlight dance across the valley. Dozens of photo breaks later we eventually found ourselves part way up the board summit ridge to Nine Mile. It was an easy skin up and we found the summit marked with several radio repeaters.

We rested for a little while and then skied down the ridge into the meadow basin below. Here Andrea and I split off where I went for an undulating traverse of Peak 1615 and Andrea opted to head towards camp. The traverse was none too interesting but I enjoyed the extra time spent out in the alpine. The Rocher de Boule range off my right side captured my imagination. A lifetimes worth of summits were laid out across the valley. I reached the summit soon after where another group of radio repeaters resided and then attempted to ski back. It was a trying affair as there were far too many bumps to glide back to camp. I reached Andrea after some huffing and puffing over the numerous rolls where she had just about finished packing up the tent.

The final trial of the trip was the road on the return. The snowmobile tracks had turned to rock hard ice and our legs cried in agony as we tried to slow our velocity down the mercilessly steep

mining road. Eventually the snow ran out and we walked the remainder of the road to the creek where more continuous snow allowed us to skin back.



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.