

CLOUDBURST

40th Anniversary Edition

South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park Planning

Stein Valley Access Issues

Old Arrowsmith Trail

Cariboo Ramblings: 7 Peak Week

Lake O'Hara Summer Camp



FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC

Fall/Winter 2011

FMCBC and Cloudburst Information



The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of non-motorized hikers, climbers, and outdoor clubs throughout British Columbia.

Membership

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or club interested in non-motorized outdoor activities and access, recreational, and conservation concerns. Please see the back cover for a list of clubs that belong to the FMCBC. Membership is \$15 per annum per membership when a member of a FMCBC Club and \$25 per annum for individual members.

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Recreation and Conservation: Brian Wood & Monika Bittel
Trails: Alex Wallace and Patrick Harrison
Fundraising: Elisa Kreller
Outreach/Communications: Caroline Clapham
Insurance: Scott Webster

Cloudburst

Editors: Bill Perry & Jay MacArthur
Production: Jodi Appleton

Staff

Program and Administration Manager: Jodi Appleton
Bookkeeper: Kathy Flood

CONTACT INFO:

Website: <http://www.mountainclubs.org>
Email: admin.manager@mountainclubs.org
Office: 2nd Floor 130 West Broadway, Vancouver (call first)
Mailing address: PO Box 19673, Vancouver, BC, V5T 4E7
Telephone: 604-873-6096

Please email corrections to admin.manager@mountainclubs.org

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Cover Photo taken by Alex Gibbs

The Seracs on Mt. Baker's Coleman Headwall
Check out [page 37](#) for the story behind the photo.

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Articles

We welcome articles which inform our readers about mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues or activities in B.C. Articles should not exceed 1,000 words. Photos should be approximately 4x6 inch photos with 150—300 DPI resolution. With submitted articles please include the author. With submitted photos please include location, names of people in the photo and the name of the photographer.

Submission Deadlines: Fall/Winter - Oct 15
Spring/Summer - April 15

Email articles to: admin.manager@mountainclubs.org

Advertising: The FMCBC invites advertising or classified advertising that would be useful to our members. Rates:

\$400 back page \$300 full page
\$160 ½ page \$80 ¼ page
\$40 business card

We would like to thank Mountain Equipment Co-op for supporting the FMCBC through their generous contribution of office space from which to base our administration.



The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Working on your behalf

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC) is a democratic, grassroots organization dedicated to the conservation of and the accessibility to British Columbia's backcountry wilderness and mountain areas. As our name indicates we are a federation of outdoor clubs with a membership of approximately 3500 people from 24 clubs across the province. Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of non-motorized mountain recreationists including hikers, climbers, mountaineers, trail runners, backcountry skiers and snowshoers. The FMCBC also has several individual members who are not affiliated with any club, but share our concerns and interests.

The FMCBC recognizes backcountry hikers, mountaineers and ski-tourers to be a traditional user group of BC's wilderness and mountain areas and represents their rights province-wide to freely access and enjoy a high quality experience. As an organization, we believe that the enjoyment of these pursuits in an unspoiled environment is a vital component to the quality of life for British Columbians and by acting under the policy of "talk, understand and persuade" the FMCBC advocates for these interests.

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any club or individual who supports our vision, mission and purpose as outlined below and includes benefits such as a subscription to the FMCBC newsletter *Cloudburst*, monthly updates through the FMCBC E-News, and access to an inexpensive Third-Party Liability insurance program.

FMCBC's **vision** is that British Columbia's backcountry is shared amongst all recreational users in a way that self-propelled users have reasonable access to an enjoyable experience.

FMCBC's **mission** is to advocate for safe, self-propelled activities (such as hiking, mountaineering, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running and other backcountry activities) and the protection of BC's backcountry for current and future generations to experience.

FMCBC's **purpose** is:

- To represent clubs and the public interested in non-motorized backcountry recreation in BC, and to advise and take action on their behalf in matters which may impact their backcountry recreation experiences.
- To make recommendations to government and non-government organizations regarding the protection of and access to BC's backcountry and trails.
- To encourage self-propelled backcountry recreation, and to promote low-impact and safe practices.
- To promote the development and maintenance of a system of trails in BC.
- To promote the sound management and preservation of BC's backcountry recreation resources.

The FMCBC fulfills its purpose with a comprehensive approach to mountain recreation and conservation by:

- Participating in provincial land use decision processes
- Working to positively change government agency policies so that self-propelled outdoor recreation opportunities are recognized and protected
- Representing wilderness as a legitimate land use and a resource of identifiable value to society
- Advocating for new parks and wilderness resources, and working to maintain the integrity of existing parks and wilderness resources
- Advocating for improved access to existing recreational resources
- Supporting the building, maintaining and protecting of hiking and mountain access trails
- Promoting non-motorized and self-propelled recreation activities in BC's mountains and wilderness
- Educating its member and the public on mountain and backcountry safety issues and working with member clubs to address risk management issues
- Promoting membership within our member clubs
- Negotiating with insurance brokers to provide extensive liability insurance coverage for our members clubs

At the core of FMCBC's projects, issues and successes are the countless hours donated by dedicated volunteers from our member clubs across the province. Much of the FMCBC's work is done through committees including our Trails Committee and Recreation and Conservation Committee. With the exception of part-time assistance provided by the FMCBC's Program and Administration Manager, work on these programs is done mainly by volunteers. Without these volunteers the FMCBC would not exist and we appreciate all those who have volunteered in the past or are current volunteers and we encourage others to join us to help us reach our vision. ■

President's Report

Scott Webster (Varsity Outdoor Club)

I'd like to start this report by saying thank you for electing me to the role of President at the AGM in June. It is an honour to be able to serve the FMCBC in this way. As a brief introduction I'll mention that I'm a physics student, currently finishing my PhD at the University of British Columbia. My thesis title is "Growth and structure of yttrium sesquioxide epitaxial films." I'll let you look that up if you're interested, or ask me about it on the trail some time!

We've been fairly busy in the months since the AGM, mostly working on our strategic planning process for the next three years. Thanks to our planner, Terje Vold, the strategic planning committee, and everyone else who participated, we now have a high quality plan of action to work on. The plan is available for download on our [website](#). We've already started working on implementation by forming or re-activating several committees that should help us optimally focus our volunteer energy on important projects. There will be opportunities to help out, so keep in touch.

I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest FMCBC member club, The [Vancouver Rock Climbing Group](#).

If you are a member of an FMCBC club you should be receiving our monthly e-newsletter by email. These brief updates are one way we can let you know how we're working on your behalf throughout the year. If they haven't been getting through and you would like to sign up, contact [Jodi](#) and she will add you to the list.

Feel free to send me an [email](#) via our office if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about the FMCBC and our activities. ■



Richard So

Scott having some fun while instructing on a VOC "Intro to Backcountry Skiing" trip near Caspar Creek.

Letters and News of Interest

An Introduction to the FMCBC Insurance Policies

Scott Webster (UBC Varsity Outdoor Club)

One of the services the FMCBC provides to some of its member clubs is a group insurance policy. We have both [liability and directors and officers](#) coverage available. Hopefully this article will provide a relatively easy to understand introduction to our insurance program. Note that not all member clubs participate in the program.

The primary insurance policy we have is our liability insurance. The general idea is to protect against liabilities to third parties. An example of this type of liability is as follows. "Bob" goes on a trip with the BCMC and accidentally knocks a rock over a cliff. The rock lands on and injures a tourist below. If the tourist were to sue Bob, the BCMC, or the FMCBC, our insurer would defend us against their claim and would pay for any damages.

In the above scenario it may be true that Bob was at fault, despite his actions being accidental. However, an important aspect of our insurance is that the insurer would still provide us with legal defence even if we were not at fault. This is important because we can easily be sued by someone even when we have done nothing wrong. This last point is often the one that causes our member clubs to be interested in liability insurance in the first place. We may be willing to accept the risks that we could be hurt on trips, or even to face the consequences if we cause harm to others, but being dragged into an expensive legal battle just by being in the wrong place at the wrong time is something that many of us don't want to have to worry about. By having this insurance we hope that club members will feel more free to lead trips and participate in club functions without fear of a frivolous lawsuit.

Things get a little bit more complicated when the "injured" person is on an FMCBC club trip. The reason it is a less clear sce-

nario is because they are not an obvious third party who is entirely disconnected from the club and the FMCBC. Nevertheless, if a trip participant sues another club member, member club, or the FMCBC, we are still protected by our insurance. Some clubs are moving to include clauses in their waivers prohibiting legal action between trip participants to try to add further clarity to this situation.

Our liability coverage is similar to an industry standard *commercial general liability* policy that a typical business would purchase. Our coverage has been adapted to match our needs and in particular it covers a broad range of activities that our member clubs participate in. One current downside of our coverage is that it does not apply to activities outside of Canada. We are still negotiating with the insurer to add US coverage for the current policy year and for future years. We hope to be able to provide an update on this situation soon. Another current area of difficulty is the issue of guests. The insurer requires that guests sign waivers like any other member and that they are included in the member count used to determine the premium paid. To state it simply: we have to pay for insurance for guests. It's up to the individual club how they want to handle this. Some choose to charge guests directly, others cover the cost. Regardless of the accounting method guests do not have to pay again if they later join the club. The FMCBC recognizes that this issue places significant administrative burden on some of our member clubs and we are working on finding a solution that alleviates the problem.

It should also be noted that our CGL policy has a liquor liability exclusion clause, which means that if bodily injury or property damage arises out of the selling, serving or offering of alcohol during a club-sanctioned event, that bodily injury or property damage will not be covered under the policy.

The other type of insurance we have is directors and officers (D&O) insurance. This coverage is not quite as complicated and is far less costly than the liability insurance. D&O insurance protects the directors and officers (often called the Executive) of member clubs and the FMCBC from actions taken against them as a result of how they act in their leadership role. An example scenario would be a treasurer making a poor decision that results in a financial loss to a club. D&O coverage removes the concern that some leaders would have in making complicated decisions in areas beyond their expertise. The idea is that, while they do their utmost to act in the best interests of the club, they are not taking on any additional personal liability because of their position.

So this is what our insurance does for us, but we need to make sure to follow some procedures to ensure that it covers us if we need it. Firstly, every participant on a club-sanctioned trip, including guests and youths, **MUST** sign an approved waiver. All of the waivers submitted by our member clubs for review have been approved by our Insurer and for those clubs without their own waiver the FMCBC has supplied one from the Insurer. We are still working on a Universal Waiver for all of our clubs to eventually use, but much of this work is being done by volunteers and it will take some time still to complete. Secondly, if an incident does occur during a club sanctioned trip, an Incident Reporting Form needs to be completed. For any situation where significant first aid or a doctor or hospital visit is required, the form needs to be submitted to the FMCBC. The form can be downloaded from the insurance section on our [website](#).

Unfortunately insurance is a complicated subject and there are many more convoluted scenarios that we could contemplate. In some cases the end result might not be able to be predicted in advance and we'd only know the "real answer" after a court battle. We certainly hope to never end up in that situation. If you have any questions about our coverage and how you and your club activities fit in, feel free to [contact](#) the office and we will do our best to get your questions answered. ■

South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park Planning

Jay MacArthur (ACC-Vancouver)

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC and the South Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness Society were instrumental in having the area protected as a provincial park. Our members use the area extensively for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Our members want to ensure that the area is managed to protect values for all users and especially to protect the intrinsic wilderness values and wildlife.

From discussions with our members, the issues described in the following sections have been documented with suggestions for possible study and implementation. We would like to discuss



A shot of the South Chilcotin from Mount Dickson.

Jay MacArthur

these ideas further with BC Parks and other users to determine the best plan for the park.

Conflicts between Users

The issue that most concerns the hikers and horse-back riders is the increasing numbers of mountain bikers that want to fly into Spruce, Trigger and Lorna lakes. We recognize that hikers have also been using float planes for many years. Float planes are quite noisy and disturb wildlife and other users. They can also be a source of pollution by leaking oil and gas into lakes. Having a large number of mountain bikers be flown into various lakes increases the wear and tear on trails. More information about trail erosion is included in another section.

Some of our members have requested that flights into Lorna Lake by mountain bikers on day trips be eliminated. Our members are mostly concerned about the noise associated with the flights. We know that this might be controversial and would have to be discussed with the commercial pilots that offer flight services. We would also appreciate it if the number of flights into Spruce Lake were restricted. Our members would prefer that flights into Trigger Lake be eliminated except for emergencies.

Flying to Spruce Lake has been popular for at least 50 years. We recognize that some of the cabin owners use that as the primary method of access. However in the past 10 years an increasing number of people (especially mountain bikers) have been flying into Spruce Lake. Restricting the number of commercial flights to one or two a day would be a welcome change for wilderness users.

The information attached to the map on BC Parks website, requests that mountain bikers and hikers pass horses on the downhill side of the trail. We suggest that better etiquette is for mountain bikers to dismount and stop when approaching hikers and horses. If the bikers are travelling faster, they should ask where a safe location is to pass.

All-Terrain Vehicles and other Motorized Vehicles

On BC Parks website, there should be specific wording that explains that motorized vehicles such as ATVs and dirt bikes are not permitted within the park to protect vegetation.

Note from one of our members: When I went to Taylor Basin last year there were dirt bikers and ATVs going up the trail. Although I don't know how far they went and what the rules are. Maybe motorized traffic is allowed up to the cabin where the park starts. Proper signage is needed about the rules. ATVs have damaged the trail and the stream-bank at the largest creek crossing (they can't use the broken bridge).

Another member reports: I have seen a truck stuck in the meadows close to the park boundary in Eldorado Creek. I thought that the park boundary was supposed to be at the high point between Taylor and Eldorado Creeks but the map on the BC Parks website shows it somewhere in the meadow area in Eldorado basin. That seems like poor planning. Perhaps the boundary should be reviewed in this area.



Leckie Lake in South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park.



Jay MacArthur

Bryce Leigh above Leckie Lake in South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park.

As described in the BC Parks website, snowmobiles are permitted in Slim Creek outside of the existing park boundary. Our members would prefer that snowmobiles be excluded from most areas of the actual park. There is a history of backcountry skiing in the park. Backcountry skiing and snowmobile users cannot usually co-exist in an area.

Note from one member: Snowmobile use is also an issue in the winter time. There is some excellent backcountry skiing terrain around the cabin in Eldorado Creek which I had the opportunity to explore a couple winters ago. We did get pestered by snowmobilers one day.

Jay MacArthur

Another member reports: We also were visited one day by snowmobiles at the Eldorado Creek cabin. We think that Taylor Creek is large enough for snowmobiles. They should not need to go into Eldorado Creek.

Mountain Bikes and Trail Erosion

Another issue with mountain bikes is the erosion that they cause to trails. Hikers and horses also cause erosion to a lesser extent. (Please see the section on trail and access management.) You just have to look at photos and videos of mountain bikers to see the erosion and damage that they do to trails (if they stay on trails.) The hiking section of the website asks that hikers stay on trails, but there is no such request on the short section on mountain biking.

Note from one of our members: In the alpine there were lots of signs of mountain bikers going off trail through areas with small vegetation near the mountain tops. The high number of mountain bikers, the open terrain and the complete lack of enforcement/educational signage seems to be a big problem.

One suggestion would be to request that mountain bikers not travel on certain trails when wet and muddy conditions exist. Perhaps some trails should be recommended for hiking and horses only.

Overuse, Wilderness and Wildlife

On some weekends the large number of park users detracts from wilderness values of the park. Does BC Parks have park rangers that keep track of how many campers are at wilderness campsites? Do you have trail counters to document the number of trail users? Does BC Parks monitor the health of vegetation adjacent to trails and campsites? Does BC Parks fund or encourage research into the effect of the large number of park users on wildlife such as Grizzly Bear. Are any wildlife population studies available?

Our members are very concerned that overuse could lead to a negative impact on wildlife. We recommend that BC Parks explore ways to work with universities to start wildlife studies and will lobby the government to increase funding to start to explore some of these issues.

Trail and Access Maintenance

The commercial guides that lead horse-packing trips have taken care of the trails for a long time. Their stewardship of the area is appreciated. We think that BC Parks needs to have some standards for volunteer trail workers. The practice of leaving initials on trees by the commercial guides should be discouraged.

Is there any inventory of trail issues? Perhaps there should be an email address where users could send photos and requests for trail maintenance. Our members may be interested in helping with some trail maintenance.

Note from one member: The road just before the Jewel Bridge parking lot was flooded in July 2011. Does BC Parks have any budget for maintenance of access roads that are on crown land just outside of the park? Does a forest licensee still maintain the Slim Creek main? ■

GLORIA Revisited

Peter Rothermel (Vancouver Island Regional Director)

Kristina Swerhun's [GLORIA](#) project, (Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments), was started about five years ago and is a UNESCO sanctioned program. See Cloudburst 2006 Fall/Winter (pp 10 & 11) for an article detailing it's inception.

This fifth year was to see a full assessment of the plots, but due to some unexpected funding shortfalls, the full assessment couldn't be done. Now we are looking to do a full assessment in the tenth year, in 2016.

In the meantime, the temperature sensors' batteries were due to run out, so it was imperative that they be replaced this year. These sensors take the temperature every hour, for five years, and cost about \$125 each. In each plot there are four sensors, one at each cardinal point of the compass, ten metres below the summit point. On each study mountain there are four summit plots, and there are two study mountains: Mt Arrowsmith and another in the Whistler area. Total cost of 32 temperature loggers is about \$4,000.



Kristina Swerhun at the Arrowsmith South Summit GLORIA plot

Peter Rothermel



Kristina Swerhun replacing one of the temperature loggers

Peter Rothermel

Kristina managed to scrape enough funding together to replace the loggers and contacted several people interested in the project to help. I went up Arrowsmith with her at the end of September to do the two highest and most weather exposed plots. September often has benign weather conditions. Not this day... it was cold, windy and socked-in. At first we weren't sure we could get it all done, but in the end all the loggers were replaced on two peaks. The next day Kristina went up the other two peaks, with a few more volunteers and replaced the rest of the temperature loggers.

So, we're good for another five years, but in 2016 we will need both funding and volunteers to complete this first stage of the research. I'll be in my mid-sixties then and Kristina, while still fairly young, will be looking for some younger people to eventually take up the torch of her research.

Hopefully, in time, we will have learned from these research projects a better way to live on earth. ■

Implementing the FMCBC's Strategic Plan-The Next Step!

Brian Wood (BC Mountaineering Club)

As many of you already know, our [Strategic Plan](#) was officially completed and approved by the Board of Directors in September. In addition, Jodi has updated our website to display a link to the plan, so that it is accessible for those who are interested. She has also updated our website [About Us](#) page with our new Vision, Mission and Purpose statements which we hope have been clarified from our older statements. On the same page is our current list of officers, directors and committee volunteers. Some of these committees have been revived after lying dormant for some time, and I hope that folks who had previously expressed interest in these once-dormant committees are now motivated to volunteer again for the revived committee, or another committee that might attract them. The plan will require much help from [volunteers](#) so please contact [Jodi](#) or the Chair of the committee that you are interested in to get involved. It should be understood that the plan is not cast in concrete and unchangeable, but is a living document, which is a guide for our future policy direction for the next three years, and should not be restrictive.

We feel this is a new chapter in the history of the FMCBC, and this change was also evident at this year's AGM, where the Board Executive now has several new Directors who are considerably younger than some of our previous Directors. This younger set gives me great hope that we can now counter some of the old criticisms that the FMCBC is an irrelevant dinosaur run by old "fuddy-duddies". We have already started to implement some of the more routine items in the plan, and we hope that we can attract additional help from our members, so that we can keep to our implementation timetable, which some folks feel is quite "tight".

In the next issue of Cloudburst I hope to report on our progress of implementing more aspects of the Strategic Plan, and we hope you can help us along the way. ■



**THE FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS
IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!**

**Please talk to your Club's FMCBC Director
to learn how to get involved
or contact Jodi at**

admin.manager@mountainclubs.org

B.C.'S NEWEST SKI AREA—IT'S FREE

Brian Hall (Bulkley Backcountry)

That's right. Free powder for everyone. Five alpine bowls, ten cut ski runs and a great cabin sitting in the sub-alpine. The newest ski area in British Columbia is unusual in many ways. No lifts, no line-ups, no costs, no condos, no greasy fries. It's all about human-powered outdoor fun. Backcountry skiers and snowshoers have been enjoying the area for two years now and the resurrection of that "old mountain culture" is growing stronger year by year.

Half way up the province and sitting on the East slope of the Coast Range near Smithers BC, the Hankin Evelyn Recreation Area is accessed on a recently re-activated and maintained logging road. Offering terrain for all abilities, this new concept is fostering a resurgence of the old human powered mountain culture. This new (old) concept is about exercise, fresh air and friendships. An inexpensive option in today's fast paced world.

The vision for this project originated with local backcountry skiers, Jay Gilden and Brian Hall. With support from Kevin Eskelin (FLNR), Northern BC's Provincial Government Recreation manager, and a bit of luck in getting some grant/tax money back into the Northern economy, Hankin-Evelyn was born. With goals of supporting the growth of the old mountain culture and working towards a healthy community, the Hankin-Evelyn project has been a success.

Located 35 minutes NW of Smithers BC, this area encompasses 3770 hectares and is managed jointly by the Provincial Government (Trails and Recreation B.C.) and the Bulkley Backcountry Ski Society. Much of the maintenance for the area is provided by volunteers through an adopt-a-trail system. Local support has been overwhelming, and last winter season saw 2000 visits from locals and travellers. Families, young and old all came out to enjoy this new facility.

Area maps, photos, access information and events schedules can be found on the [BBSS website](#). We hope this winter will find you checking out backcountry skiing at Hankin-Evelyn.

AREA BONUS: heaps of dry snow, 2500 vertical feet, cut ski runs for bad weather days all minutes away from a real mountain town loaded with amenities. While you are up here, check out Ski Smither and Shames Mountains. Ski the lifts when it's puking and head to the backcountry after the storm.

Remember: It's all about skinning, snowshoeing and earning your turns. ■



Joe Pojar & Lucas Holtzman below East Ridge

Brian Hall



Brian Hall

Christian Lehoux skiing down Hut Ridge

CLOUDBURST

Cover Photo Contest

If you have a photo that you think would make a great cover please [email](#) it to us to participate in our next cover photo contest.

Congratulations and thank you to Alex Gibbs whose great photo made the cover of our Fall/Winter 2011 Issue.

Read the story behind the photo on [page 37](#).

Please submit photos for our next issue by April 15, 2012.

Southwest BC Recreation and Conservation Committee Report

Monika Bittel and Brian Wood (Co-Chairs)

The following highlights some of the recreation and conservation issues worked on by the FMCBC's Southwest BC Recreation and Conservation Committee over the past six months. Progress has been made on some of the issues.

Callaghan Valley Backcountry Recreation and Access

Since the Whistler Sport Legacies Society (WSLS) took over from the Whistler Olympic Park (WOP) from VANOC in June 2010, access and parking have been problematic for backcountry users. Some positive progress has been made in resolving some of these problems for this coming winter season. Callaghan Country, which controls the western trails going towards Callaghan Lake, and WOP, which controls the eastern trails into the Madeley Creek valley, will operate separately for the 2011-2012 season. Separate trail passes will therefore be required. This season, WOP will allow backcountry skiers to use groomed cross-country ski trails to access the backcountry. Overnight parking will be permitted in a designated lot near the main gate. Signage for backcountry users is also being improved. A WOP backcountry access ticket will cost \$10. More details on parking, etc. at WOP, are available on our [website](#). At Callaghan Country, backcountry users must purchase a full price ski or snowshoe ticket. Part of the Callaghan Country parking lot at Alexander falls will be designated for overnight parking.

WOP is proposing to build a new Nordic trail next summer from the top of the ski jump, accessible by a lift, to Madeley Lake via Beverly Creek. The trail would cross above the biathlon range and provide better access for backcountry skiers heading to Beverley Creek or Puma South Peak. This trail would be mostly in the Rainbow Wildlands Area, designated under the Sea to Sky Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). If it is built anything like the existing cross-country ski trails at WOP, it will basically be a full-blown logging road. The FMCBC is gathering more information before taking a position on this project.

Tricouni Unresolved Area

The zoning of this area, which includes portions of Roe and Brew Creek drainages, was too contentious to be finalized when the Sea to Sky LRMP was finished, and so negotiations have continued between the snowmobiles, non-motorized and First Nations. An early proposal would have seen snowmobile use in the Seagram Lakes area. The First Nations challenged this proposal because they do not want motorized activities in their sacred areas - Seagram Lakes being one such area. If this dispute remains unresolved, it might force the snowmobiles into an area which was originally zoned for non-motorized use, as it provided a skier-friendly access to the well-established Brew Hut, owned by the Varsity Outdoor Club. Discussions involving these three stakeholders are expected to be slow to finalize. Government has a tendency to default to the status quo, mixed use in this case, which benefits the snowmobilers, thereby removing any incentive for them to negotiate a resolution in good faith.

21 Mile Creek and Rainbow Wildlands Area

This area was designated as non-motorized in the Sea to Sky LRMP. However, it is commonly over run by snowmobiles, which access Sproatt and the Rainbow Wildlands Area via the East Callaghan Forest Service Road (FSR). Last year, in an ongoing effort to get voluntary compliance, the FMCBC (helped primarily by the BCMC) constructed three large signs along the East Callaghan FSR to alert snowmobilers to the designated non-motorized area. In response to the FMCBC's efforts and continued calls for enforcement of this non-motorized zone, government spent a little bit of time to ensure voluntary compliance. The FMCBC's efforts this season are focused on getting government to step up the level of enforcement of the non-motorized area. The sign damaged last season has been replaced.

Members are encouraged to make trips into the Rainbow Wildlands Area and to Mt. Sproatt, despite the snowmobile presence. Members are asked to document and report any motorized use of the area, as well as safety issues created by snowmobiles, by posting all details, photos, etc., via the Snowmobile Infraction Database, on the [Bivouac website](#). The Snowmobile Infraction Database can be found under "Campaigns" on the index page. In addition, please report any other snowmobile encroachment that you observe in other non-motorized areas such as parks. This "hard data" is very helpful in demonstrating to government the significance of motorized/non-motorized conflict in BC's backcountry.

Spearhead Range Hut Proposal and Access

Pursuant to the requirements in the Garibaldi Park Master Plan, Stage 2 Review Studies relating to possible impacts of proposed huts in the Spearhead Range are underway. The five organizations that form the Spearhead Huts Committee have been asked to contribute additional funds to pay the helicopter costs incurred for these studies. Those conducting the studies are volunteering their services. Contribution of funds towards completing these studies does not necessarily show endorsement or approval of the project by the donor nor does it guarantee approval of the project by BC Parks and/or the First

Nations. The Committee has selected three cabin sites, which will be accessible from both the summer and winter routes. You can monitor progress on this project by visiting the committee's [website](#), where there is an opportunity to submit your input or questions.

There is an old alternative BC Parks trail, the Singing Pass trail, for accessing the southern portion of this traverse without using the lifts or ski runs at Whistler Blackcomb Resort. However, the Singing Pass trailhead is currently difficult to access because the original road access from Whistler Village has been lost due to inadequate maintenance. The FMCBC is reviewing possible options for re-opening what was once a popular hiking trail by installing a footbridge across Fitzsimmons Creek, but this approach will require agreement by many stakeholders. If the Spearhead Huts Proposal becomes a reality, the Spearhead traverse will likely see an increase in use, which in turn will likely increase public pressure to re-establish the old Singing Pass trail.

BC Parks Funding and Volunteers

As many of you know, over the last decade or two there have been considerable and continuing cutbacks on funding for BC Parks. As a result, many aspects of BC Parks, such as trail and bridge maintenance, campsite maintenance, park rangers and interpretive programs, have joined the “red-listed” endangered species or are extinct in many parks. This is a sad reflection on our government's spending priorities. It is ironic that, in the year that was meant to celebrate one hundred years of BC Parks, very little has been done to improve the current sad state of park infrastructure, which has been the subject of many critical articles in our local media.

In September this year, [Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society](#) (CPAWS), a non-profit conservation group with a long record of fighting for parks, and the Parks Elders Council, an organization of retired park rangers, hosted a well-attended meeting of interested parties to discuss how to improve this situation. The FMCBC was invited and did attend the meeting. The group considered how to raise public awareness of the funding shortfall and its long-term consequences, as well as how to raise funds from the private sector to help reduce the shortfall in public funding.

Along with the funding shortfall issue, there has been a long-standing problem relating to liability insurance when volunteers do trail maintenance in BC Parks. While there seems to be an insurance procedure in place for volunteers working on trails on public/Crown land outside parks, the procedure in parks appears more complicated and has not worked well for a decade, resulting in the discontinuation of the FMCBC's Adopt-a-Trail program in many parks. After many emails and meetings, as well as personnel changes in the senior positions of BC Parks, we understand there is now a commitment by BC Parks to address our concerns, which hopefully will simplify and clarify the procedures for volunteers to be insured while doing trail maintenance in BC Parks.

Friends of Garibaldi Park (FOGP)

Al Jenkins, a retired BC Parks ranger, is establishing a non-profit society for the express purpose of improving infrastructure in Garibaldi Park, particularly the Black Tusk Meadows trails. This trail is very popular and heavily used. Due to neglect over the years, there are several sections that are heavily braided with exposed roots and many deep puddles because of the deteriorating drainage structure. As evidenced by the work of the Friends of Strathcona Park and Friends of Cypress Provincial Park, Al Jenkins believes that having a similar group for Garibaldi Park will encourage volunteers to work on much needed trail improvements, donations for specific park repairs and improvements, and foster “park ownership” among the public. Details of this proposed society and images of the trail can be found on the [website](#).

Development of Park Master Plan for South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park

BC Parks is looking for public input to help draft a master plan for the South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park. As this area has a long history of commercial and public recreation (primarily, hiking, backcountry skiing, mountain biking and horseback riding), as well as many other land uses such as mining, forestry and grazing, it will be a challenge to draft a plan to satisfy all stakeholders. Some of this area was the subject of the Lillooet LRMP in the 1990s and there is much data available on the land uses and proposals. The FMCBC will be submitting comments to BC Parks. Anyone who is interested in contributing to this project should contact [Jay MacArthur](#).

New Natural Resource Roads Act

The BC Government is requesting public input to the Natural Resource Road Act Project (NRRA) to improve resource road laws and regulation for the benefit of all users. Comments are invited on a discussion paper that will help formulate a single, streamlined law that applies to the construction, maintenance, use and deactivation of all resource roads in B.C. Resource roads in B.C. are currently administered under 11 acts and associated regulations. For many years the FMC has requested consultation before resource roads, mostly Forest Service roads, are de-activated, and so this new initiative might help solve some of our long-standing problems relating to road de-activation and closures due to inadequate maintenance. Those interested can submit comments directly to government or to our committee to help the FMC formulate a reply to government by the deadline of December 15, 2011. For further information about this opportunity to help shape how we manage resource roads in BC, please visit the project [website](#). ■

Do we still have time for multi-day trips?

Brian Wood (BC Mountaineering Club)

Some of my older back country recreation friends tell me that multi-day backpacking trips, or even overnight weekend trips, are not as popular as they used to be, or perhaps as we thought they used to be. Perhaps these older folks are not going on as many multi-day trips as they used to and thus are not mixing with the multi-day trippers, and this gives them a distorted perspective. Perhaps there is an increasing number of folks who prefer to do a particular trip as a fast-paced long and strenuous day hike, rather than do the same trip as a more leisurely weekend backpack with a relaxing camp out (if you are lucky) in the alpine area. When I was younger and had the time, I usually preferred weekend trips to day trips, as I like to camp, and found that two days away gave me a real break from domestic routine. I also believed that the ratio of time spent driving versus time spent on the trip itself was more satisfying and more “efficient”, at least on a cost and time basis. In other words, on a day trip much of your time could be spent travelling to and from the trail head, as opposed to time spent on the trail.

To test this theory, I suppose I could compare trip schedules and trip reports of various clubs over the years to collect some trip participation statistics and compare them to see if there is any trend to fewer weekend trips, but I would find this research tedious and it would not provide reasons. Also, nowadays many folks do not join traditional clubs, but instead go on trips with people they located on the internet, and so perhaps they do not write up trip reports like some traditional club members, thus minimizing reliable trip data obtained from club trip reports.

I have heard that that some outdoor gear shops do not sell as many large backpacks as they used to, but this reduction in numbers of large packs sold could be due to a multitude of reasons. It might be that nowadays backpacks are made of tougher material and do not wear out as quickly as the old ones, and thus do not need to be replaced as often. It might be because backpackers do not need such big packs these days as the camping and other gear is much lighter and more compact than it used to be and thus a smaller pack is sufficient for a weekend trip. Also, it might be that the quality of many hiking trails deteriorates the farther we travel from the trailhead, e.g., check out the Howe Sound Crest Trail starting at Cypress Ski area, and this trail deterioration might discourage any trips longer than day trips.

My question is: Are folks going on one-day trips because they want to, or because they do not have time for a longer trip? Perhaps some folks have family and/or work responsibilities that take priority and thus reduce leisure time. Usually, back country activities can take a much longer time than some other leisure activities, e.g. playing a soccer match probably occupies less than half a day. I am sure these reasons ring true for many of those with young families, or those having to work at several jobs to make ends meet. On the other hand, perhaps there are some energetic folks who do not have sufficient time to spend a whole weekend on one activity because there are so many other leisure activities available to them, particularly in BC. These energetic folks may not wish to miss out on any of their favourite activities and so try to fit a whole bunch of activities into one weekend, which means that the back country hike can only last one day.

But what about the other time consumer, that eye-catching video screen that generates “screen time” for so many of us. Whether that time is spent in front of a TV, a computer or a movie screen, the data shows that many folks are spending a surprising amount of time in front of a screen, even though many folks say they do not like computers or TV's. I would never deny that a wealth of entertainment and information is available via a screen, and it can be mesmerizing and take over one's life if one is not careful. There are those of us who can remember a simpler life with fewer options, a life before the 500 channel-24 hour TV universe, and the even more seductive internet. (That includes me!) In those “olden” days, there were still lots of things to do without the need for continuous “canned entertainment” that seems to be available anytime and anywhere these days.

I am beginning to feel that there is a risk that the exciting outdoor activities shown on the screen can become an easier substitute for real activity that can be experienced out of doors. Who has not felt the excitement of watching some highly skilled climber on some amazing rock face, or a hot-dogger skiing some awesome terrain, or a kayaker battling through some scary rapids? Perhaps these scenes are so intimidating that we lose our nerve by just watching them, and then we are too scared to go out and do something of a presumably lower standard. Or perhaps we can get a sufficient adrenaline rush by just watching them, and then we do not need to go out and experience the real thing ourselves.

So, next time we say that we do not have time for a multi-day trip, perhaps we should examine how our time is spent and our real motives for saying “no” to a multi-day trip. ■



Howe Sound Crest Trail Update

Alex Wallace – Southwest BC Trails Committee Co-chair

Due to the late snowpack (remnants of which survived in Strachan Meadows all summer) it was late August before a small crew started work rebuilding the trail with a mini excavator and mini dump. This season we hoped to get substantial ledges built at the two steep debris chutes before Strachan Meadows using the recycled (2010 Olympics) lock blocks, which weigh close to 1 tonne each, and should resist the flow of material piling down onto the trail during the fall and winter months. The previous rebuild in 1998 used gravel, landscape cloth and ‘Big O’ pipe, but this was rapidly washed out. However, while rebuilding the adjacent landslide area from a decade ago, the excavator developed hydraulic problems, lost its track, got stuck against the rock face and had to be repaired on-site by Caterpillar. Despite this and the inevitable heavy rain the crew has made some progress, although not as much as we had hoped.

On the bright side, the Strachan Meadows bridges built last year survived the estimated 20 metre deep load of avalanche debris, possibly due to being well frozen into the snow before the cornices dropped. We have recently done a review of the alignment past Strachan Meadows with Larry Syroishko of BC Parks, and were able to plan out next year’s work and locate deposits of glacial material close to the trail that will hopefully provide mixed sufficient mineral soil and gravel for rebuilding the eroded and rooty trail bed without cutting any tree roots – and therefore avoiding more erosion. North Shore Hikers have assisted in already clearing of one of these areas with BC Parks rangers in a trail work hike. ■



Alex Wallace

Mid-October 2011: Trail crew rebuilding trail section destroyed in landslide twelve years ago after record 10 metre snowpack melted. First stage in 2009 was blasting unstable rock face.



Alex Wallace

Mid-October 2011 - Trail being reinforced at creek crossing. Mini-dump being used to move excavated material for trail bed.

Stein Valley Access Issues

Dave Wharton (Valley Outdoor Association)

As most readers will likely know, the Stein Valley is one of the largest wilderness Provincial Parks within a few hours drive of Greater Vancouver, protecting the entire drainage system of a relatively large river. Many will also remember the “notoriety” this same valley gained during efforts to protect it during the 1980s. All wilderness enthusiasts should be thankful that this effort was successful. The Stein Valley and surrounding alpine areas provide a world class wilderness experience for those with the required skills and experience.

Most visitors enjoy the easy access into the Stein Valley by beginning their hikes from the trailhead into the lower and mid Stein Valley, located near the village of Lytton. Visitors entering the Stein via this trailhead will enjoy a generally good trail for 30Km or more, to Cottonwood Creek and beyond.

Many committed backpackers, however, have on their “to do” list, a complete traverse of the Stein watershed, plus other drainages and alpine ridges that are required to be crossed in order to bring them to the Stein Valley.

Along with my wife and 3 friends, I completed the full traverse in late August, this year, taking a full 8 days, covering just short of 100Km. We enjoyed excellent trails, trails that were not excellent, trails that simply did not exist, encountered route finding, bush-

whacking, boulder hopping, and a little scrambling here and there. Enthusiastic hordes of mosquitoes shouted their encouragement most days! We loved it! Well, some of the time we loved it...honestly!

I must say, at this point, that the section of the Stein traverse located within Provincial Park boundaries is being actively maintained by B.C. Parks. But, given the amount of on-going trail maintenance required, backpackers can be assured of very difficult sections of trail. All bridges and cable cars are in fine shape and well maintained.

It is not my intent to write a “guide” to the Stein. Gordon White has preceded me in that regard, and has done an admirable job!

So...Access Issues...from the West.

If you are completing the full Stein traverse, you will start your walk at the beginning of the Lizzie Creek forest service road. Until sometime in 2003 this road was drivable to the Lizzie Lake forest recreation site. That changed dramatically in 2003, when the road was washed out in 4 places. The former trailhead is now about 12kms. and about 1000 metres elevation change from the current start point. It may be possible to drive about 1 km. up this road to the first washout, but it is hardly worth it. In fact, there may be disadvantages in this, in that, at the 1 km. point the hiker encounters the first washout, and I found it good to have stretched out a bit before negotiating it. This washout is the only one of the 4 that will present any problems for those with a heavy pack. If you are still a bit unbalanced with your full pack you may find this rough, steep route a bit un-nerving. Care is needed! This route will continue to deteriorate to the point of becoming impassable if upgrades are not attended to in the not too distant future.



Dave Wharton

Alpine lakes & ridges accessed from the western trailhead.

I was very surprised, given that this road was drivable as recent as 2003, by how much it has deteriorated. The amount of Slide Alder that is encroaching onto the road bed is impressive! If the removal of this Slide Alder is not undertaken within a few short years this road will be all but impassable. I should make very clear that I am not advocating re-opening this road to make it once again drivable, but maintaining it so that it is can be hiked.

Several kilometres in, one encounters a large creek. We crossed on a “make-shift bridge that I would not expect to survive the coming winter. The other alternative to this bridge is an exposed crossing of the creek, on a log, that would have reduced me to a slow crawl. A bridge at this point, if only a more viable log crossing, with railing or such, will ensure continued access to Lizzie Lake.

Once beyond Lizzie Lake the trail to alpine is littered with very large blowdown, which, though passable, required us to remove packs on many occasions.

I am submitting this piece in order to raise awareness within member clubs of the Federation and to hopefully start some discussions on what options may be available to maintaining and improving this western access to the Stein Valley, both at the club level and within the executive of the Federation.

I do firmly believe that unless some action is undertaken to address the issues I have raised, a world class wilderness traverse will be lost to most individuals. And that would be a shame! The alpine lakes and ridges accessed from the west are also a wonderful destination in their own right.

To close, I would add that all the access issues I have spoken to from the western trailhead lie outside Provincial Park boundaries. Accordingly, I would not expect B.C. Parks to be a resource in this regard; they are hard pressed to maintain those trails within their jurisdiction.

Thank-you to those who took the time to read this! ■

Old Arrowsmith Trail

Peter Rothermel (Vancouver Island Regional Director)

The Old Arrowsmith Trail is likely the oldest intact footpath on all of Vancouver Island and is a popular route to this day.

This historic route was officially created by the Canadian Pacific Railroad in 1911/12 as a recreational diversion for visitors to their train station, the Cameron Lake Chalet, located between Parksville and Port Alberni on Vancouver Island. While the route was officially recognized in 1912, other, earlier, ascents of Mt Arrowsmith were staged from this side of the mountain. Whether or not they were through this route corridor is not known, but at least one account, in 1887, sounds close to the mark.

First Nations people were, arguably, the first to ascend Mt Arrowsmith, since there is archaeological evidence of them hunting marmots in the Vancouver Island mountains as far back as from 3,000, to possibly 5,000 years ago.

In recent history we have a few written accounts of notable groups on the massif. John Macoun, in 1887, climbed Arrowsmith with his son James, native guide Qualicum Tom and his son Jim. Macoun was the Naturalist to the Geological Survey of Canada, Assistant Director and Botanist. In his time he was very well known in the scientific community.

In 1901, a group ascended Arrowsmith, led by James Fletcher (Canada's first Dominion Entomologist and Botanist), with J.R. Anderson (Deputy Minister of Agriculture), Reverend G.W. Taylor, Rob McKinley (packer) and guided by native George Clutesi. Fletcher returned two years later.

While their exact routes are not established, it is likely that they at least touched on the present Arrowsmith Trail route in either their ascents or descents.

More to the point is the fact that they had native guides to help them find their way. This alone, speaks volumes to me that First Nations people had already been up this way before the Europeans arrived in the area.

Since the formalization of the Arrowsmith Trail in 1912, other notable people have ascended the massif via this route. In 1925, Don & Phyllis Munday and Tom Ingram went up the slopes of Arrowsmith and, from a rest break, they spotted Mt Waddington when the clouds briefly parted. They then spent over a decade exploring that area, becoming the "Dean and Grand Dame" of the BC mountaineering community.

Some years ago, when Ron Dart was researching the Mundays, he contacted me and asked if anybody might know the general route that they had taken. I replied, without a doubt, that it would have been the Arrowsmith Trail, which was well trodden twelve years after its inception.

The CPR gained the lands that the Arrowsmith Trail runs through by the E&N Railroad land grant of 1884, which deeded almost two million acres of the East coast of Vancouver Island (about 10% of the Island) to the coal baron, Robert Dunsmuir, in a line running from Campbell River to Sooke. It should be noted that First Nations people were never consulted in this land transaction.

These lands have been parceled, sold and resold over the years, bringing us to the current owners of the lands that the trail runs through. The lower portion of the trail, from near Cameron Lake to where the trail divides to the "Lookout" Trail and the "CPR" trail, is owned by Timber West. The middle portion, from the trail divide to the Arrowsmith Ski Park, is owned by Island Timberlands. The upper portion of the trail runs through the defunct regional ski park.

There was a movement in the 1980s to have the lower and mid portions of the trail protected as a provincial park and a trade was set up to compensate the then owner, MacMillan Bloedel Limited, through a trade for Crown timber on the mainland. The deal fell through when BC Parks stated that they already had the required 7% of Vancouver Island as protected lands. Ironically, the east side of the Island only has about 1% of its land base protected because the majority of the land base is privately held due to the E&N grant.

Other than natural changes, such as forest fire, this trail had not seen any human made changes, since the trail was built in 1912, until the early 1980s, when the regional ski park put in an upper ski area that obliterated portions of the trail base. A few years ago, the ski park infrastructure was dismantled. The area was cleaned up and allowed to return to a wilderness state. The

vestiges of the remaining trail are slowly being linked up as the growth comes back.

Later in the 1990s, Timber West heli-logged some old growth trees on the lower portion of the trail, with the promise that they would clean up any debris from the trail and stating that the cuts would hardly be noticeable. True to their word, they did clean up, but the cuts were very noticeable, are so today, and will remain so for many years to come. The damage to the trail wasn't realized until a year or so later, when soil erosion started washing out portions of the trail. It has taken many volunteer work hours over many years to stabilize the trail bed.

Shortly after Timber West logged the lower portion, the Regional District of Nanaimo entered an agreement with Timber West and MacMillan Bloedel (now Island Timberlands) to lease the Arrowsmith Trail, renewable every five years. While this is a step in the right direction, it actually only encompasses a metre or two width of right of way.

Spring forward to August 2011 and Island Timberlands announces plans to cross the Arrowsmith Trail in two places with roads and to log nearby.

They organized two round table meetings with various stakeholders, including Regional District of Nanaimo Parks, Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve Foundation, Federation of Mountain Clubs, Alpine Club of Canada, Alberni Valley Outdoor Club and independent foresters.

Bill Perry and I were asked to attend as representatives of the FMCBC. I couldn't attend the first meeting because of my work schedule. The second meeting was scheduled for a time that I could make and I thank the Island Timberlands people for working after 6:00 on a Friday to accommodate my schedule.

Timberlands gave a presentation on how they would mitigate the impact of their operation, including temporary bridging over the trail. I expressed that I thought Timberlands had a fiduciary duty to protect and even maintain the trail, since it had about ninety years of existence before the company bought the land it runs through. I also said that if McBey Creek were bridged and roads crossed the trail, then it would introduce ATVs in summer and snow machines in winter, and that would in effect be the end of this trail as it has been known for a hundred years.

Timberlands seemed pretty adamant about their plans and I left ready to say good-bye to this trail. Yet a week later, at an Island Timberlands West Island Woodlands Advisory Committee meeting, they announced that they had changed their plans, weren't going to cross the trail and were going by a more expensive route to reach the timber they want to harvest. I commend Island Timberlands on their decision and it shows that they listen to local concerns.

Special thanks go to Alberni Valley Outdoor Club members, Judy & Harold Carlson, VI ACC member Barb Baker and Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Coordinator, Karen Hunter, for their excellent points of discussion.

What is in the future for this trail? It has great importance historically, culturally and recreationally. Only 1% of East Vancouver Island is protected and, while the Regional District of Nanaimo has been the foremost District on Vancouver Island for acquiring private lands for parks, the cost of this trail corridor would be beyond their means. I believe it is time for the Federal and Provincial governments to step up to the plate and fix some of the wrongs created by the 1884 land give away that their respective governments made. ■



McBey Creek bridge in about 1930. Survey party on bridge.



McBey Creek bridge 2004. Ron Dart on Bridge.

BC Archives

Peter Rothermel

The Ups and Down on the Duffey

Alena Dzujkova and David Scanlon (BC Mountaineering Club)

March 3 2011 came the knee injury, then 4 months of inactivity, then came July 8 and the surgery, then finally came the time when; “I am going out for a hike no matter what”! The knee will either work or not! So I decided to hike the ridge north of Duffey Lake from Mount Rohr going east to its end, ending up at an old mining road for my exit -- a 5-day trip. Ok, decided. I decide on a date and get ready to go. A few days later a friend and I were talking about stuff and this trip of mine came up. She indicated that she had always wanted to do the same thing, but she had an exam on the Wednesday and could she come, and could we please leave on the Thursday instead of my planned Wednesday departure. I said yes, so I now had someone to go with. One of those spur of the moment things that somehow just happens. 4 months of idleness really gets you unfit fast, so this trip sure wouldn’t set any speed records. Aaaaand we’re off. The pick up at 7:30am, the drive, the start at 11:00am, and the plod begins.



The weather forecast is perfect and first day is great, and we hike up (the first up) the regular trail to Rohr Lake, stopping for lunch at the lake. Having been there before, I was looking forward to seeing if the trout were still in the lake from last time. I wasn’t to be disappointed. There were trout everywhere. They were still there and seemed to be in a playful mood. That is the only way I could describe what they were doing. They seemed to be chasing each other around and around really fast, sometimes breaking the surface. What fun to watch, and they weren’t afraid to see us watching them either, as most fish would be, disappearing upon seeing any movement. After lunch we carried on up and over the north shoulder of Mt Rohr to camp by one of the lakes there. We camped on the snow as it was the flattest place there was. This was an interesting place, in that the map showed a glacier on Rohr’s north side, but all we saw was one bit of left-over ice far up the north wall. I guess, like most older maps, many glaciers that are shown are now smaller or gone altogether. The lake we were beside will not become ice free this year, as there is way too much there to melt away.

Good intentions sometimes get lost, and our day 2 start was no exception to this. The alarm went off at 6AM. We arose at...? Well, lets just say it was much later than 6AM. Not your early alpine start for sure! The good thing about the later start was that the snow was soft enough to kick step into where we had to go, as we didn’t bring our crampons.

But finally start we did, and now here is where the real up and down begins as we go up to the next 1000’ to the first 7500” summit on the ridge. Ridge hiking is great, as you have views all around and if there is any breeze at all, you will surely get it. And again, the views. We were seeing mountains from a direction that few ever get to see.

Marriott, Matier, Duke, Caspar, Wedge, and far to the north the Bendor Range and Truax Mountain. Then there was the 3000’ look down to the south to Duffey Lake and the ants that were the cars on the Duffey Lake road. We waved but nobody waved back. Don’t know why!

Now ridge walking/hiking is fine until it is time to camp because there isn’t any water up there. Remembering that water flows down eh! So in the next valley we dropped down about 600’ to where there was a small stream coming from a snowfield. This was the headwaters of Common Johnny Creek. It was a fine meadow to camp in except for the noise of the marmots because they were singing all over.

We never encountered that before, as they usually just whistle once as a warning and then stop, run and hide. Maybe mom and dad were teaching them how to do it. One of them was fun to listen to, though, because its voice must have been getting tired, and his whistles were changing to more squeaks than whistles. We laughed. This was also a good place to view the route for the next day. It appeared that there were going to be some places that were going to be a challenge, as parts of the ridge looked very imposing from this angle. We discussed alternatives for the morrow and none looked good.

The next day we did get up to the alarm as planned and started out at 7:30AM. From what we could see, this was going to be a much more challenging day, so we wanted to get at it. It was to be our most technical day. So we went back up the 600’ to the ridge to carry on. It turned out that we had help with our route finding, and we will be ever grateful. We had found that there



Dave and Alena with Duffey Lake Road on the lower left and peaks Mt Howard, Matier and Joffre in the background.

was a goat path that was getting progressively more sustained as we went along and we followed this for most of the rest of the next 2 days. The goats absolutely went the best way. Except once!

There was this one rocky outcrop that we couldn't climb over, so we had to go around it. That was where we had to traverse a very steep, grassy side hill. We didn't know where the goats went, but we did pick up their trail again on the other side. This was one of those places where you have to get your ice axe out and be ready to self arrest if you slip. It would have been a long, long grassy slide. Those goats! Oh to have been able to be a quadruped at times instead of a biped. There were some class 3 scrambles to do after this and a couple were exciting to get through. There were some airy gaps, some steep down climbing, and some places where we didn't think we could pass but there always appeared a way through.



Alena Dzujkova

At a high spot we had an early lunch and, as usual, out came the binoculars to look around while we ate. I was looking for grizzly bears and looking down into the valley where we had camped. There he was! Yeah! A grizzly! It is always fun to find and see a grizzly anywhere, but to see one in the basin we had just vacated made us realize that it was a good idea to have our bear protection with us. The bear was slowly working it's way up to where we had camped. Now that would have been quite a wake up call if he had woken us up! Alena was saying that he wasn't very big. And I'm thinking, well, a small grizzly is still bigger than our local black bears and to have seen one was still a real treat. And to have met him at our tent would have again been quite an eye opener. Speaking of wildlife, we never did see that goat although we saw his tracks for the rest of the trip.

So we saw a grizzly, did some class 3 scrambling, traversed a steep hillside, had our second lunch, and then came out to a large, open meadow about half a kilometre across, leading up to the last 7500' summit we had to get over. It was here, as we were walking, that we came to a small run-off from a snowfield. This was a welcome relief for me, as my water was getting to be in short supply and it was hot. I usually don't carry much water. Because my theory is that water is heavy and I usually carry less than everyone else because of that. So we replenished our water supply, then the one last slog up and we topped out. At the top appeared a small cairn and an old mining post with some dates and initials carved into it. We again left our names in a small container.

The satellite pictures of the area showed many old mining roads in the next basin as did the back roads map book of the area. It also showed that the bridge at the valley bottom was still intact, without which the crossing of the Cayoosh River would have been--how to say this--a major problem. We could now see all the old mining roads as well as a few ponds and lots of running streams from the remaining snow patches. There were many places to camp. Working our way down into the basin, we came to one of the roads, followed it down, and stopped to camp for the night. We dumped our gear and then went for a wander around the area and came across an old burnt down cabin. And nearby was an outhouse. A mystery here about the whole area was that there were roads all over, but absolutely no sign of any mining happening at all. No shafts, no piles of diggings, no old equipment, nothing. Just the roads, and they were going up some of the steepest side-hills and just ending. If anyone knows of what happened here, please let us know. And the outhouse looked to be fairly recently built. We couldn't figure it out. We thought, "ATVs?" We thought, "snow machines?" But nothing made sense to us. So one last night.

We got up the next morning to an overcast sky and wondered if it would rain on us on our last day. We packed up and left, so far to a dry day. As we went lower down into the valley we saw bear scat. And more scat. "Guess we aren't alone here," we say to each other. Also, as we went down, the vegetation became thicker and thicker, to the point where you were going for hundreds of meters without seeing your feet.

Ok, now work with me on this, OK? You are to make noise in bear country right? So we did. I am banging my hiking poles together and singing (I can't sing)! And Alena is singing too. I really can't say if she was any good or not, as she was singing in Slovakian. She was yelling also. So here we are thrashing through this horrendous vegetation, banging away, singing, making noise, and we couldn't see 2 meters any which way. Fun? I guess you had to have been there. It did work though, as we saw no bears! They may have seen us, though, but, upon hearing the racket, wisely left for quieter pastures.

We did work our way down, though, coming to a few open places here and there and then eureka; we could see and hear the road traffic! The end is in sight! Then we come across an old abandoned yellow pick-up truck that was totally trashed. For some silly reason we took our pictures in it even with all of the mouse dirt. Remember that, Alena? Down we go, crossing a stream where the bridge was taken out, and then the road! What a relief. Now for the hitchhike back the 25K to where the car is. Any one of you picked up a hitch hiker lately? Yes? No?

Remembering that many mass murders in the movies are hitch hikers I know I haven't, so I was expecting a long wait before we caught a ride. Here comes vehicle number one so out with the thumb. And they stopped! A couple in an old beater of a pickup. And they stopped! Yahoo! Alena gets the cab and I crawl into the back and off we go. We didn't get murdered but were let off at our car. Yeah!

So-- into the car, change, lunch in Pemberton, and home. All done.

A fun trip to do and it could be done in 3, maybe even 2 days by the really fit and fast. A fun trip to do made more so by having a friend along to share it with. ■

My Everest at Kakwa Nowell Senior (Caledonia Ramblers)

I didn't know that the first three ridge-hikes from our camp at "Moon Valley" at Kakwa Provincial Park were warm-ups for an attempt at the summit of Netim Mountain. Each of these three ridges provoked my Nemesis to follow me in the form of Vertigo. Steep slopes, sliding rocks, narrow ridge-spines, and high elevations combine to overcome me. It's a mystery to me that others appear indifferent to the gaping jaws of oblivion waiting down below. Once through a particularly harrowing obstacle on the way up a ridge, I then worried about overcoming it on the way down.

Anyway, I managed these ridges, reaping rewards in the magnificent mountains, ice-fields, valleys, streams, lakes and forests that beamed out from everywhere around us.

Then, we moved camp north-west across Jarvis Lakes, and up through Moonias Pass to Moonias Lake. Here, it was pointed out to me that our last hike would be up to the summit of Netim Mountain. Looking up to what seemed to me to be Mount Everest complete with the Hillary Hump, Bump, or whatever it's called - terror began his insidious work upon me.

Although next morning I told my fellow campers I'd slept like a log, I hadn't slept at all. I lay awake wondering what I'd do on Netim Mountain: I'd go one step at a time; I would, under no circumstances look down; when my throat constricted I'd sip water; when rapid-breathing kicked in, I'd take deep breaths; when the nausea began, I'd pop in the Tums; when the inevitable feeling of doom descended upon me, I'd think of my favourite jokes; when guilt for past sins surfaced, I'd rationalize with the good I'd tried to do; when the demons of fear taunted and jeered at my feeble attempts to push them away, I'd keep on pushing them anyway. Above all, I must remind myself that I had come to Kakwa to have a good time, and being paralyzed with fear did not necessarily mean I was having a bad time - did it?

Anyhow, the long night finally came to an end, Netim Mountain beckoned, and up we went. David walked beside me in the danger-zones, and after some soul-searching moments, I reached Hillary's Whatever-the-Heck-You-Call-It. I reached up, gripped the ledge, froze, and felt like I was hanging by my finger-tips peering over the Abyss. I could go no further. I slunk down along the wall to allow others to pass. Hilary easily pulled herself over her namesake's hump/bump whatever. I tried to re-group myself, but there seemed to be a perverse, inverted relationship between my throat and bowels; as one shrinks and dries-up, the other expands and opens-up!

Nevertheless, I inched toward a ledge feeling alone and somewhat lost, but praise the gods wherever they be - Little Gail appeared and joined me. We decided to stay where we were and have lunch while we waited for the others to return. My last reserves of energy trickled out through my toes, and I had to eat to renew them (my reserves of energy – not my toes). If I was ever to make it back down I had to eat. Down! My God! How could I face that 50,000-foot sheer drop? Don't think about it. Look at Gail. Please keep talking Gail. Don't look down. Look at Gail. Eat in spite of the nausea. Enjoy yourself.

The others came back from the summit, and with help I began my descent. Mitch was in front of me, Bruce behind me, and David beside me. A sort of system began, and evolved into a new kind of dance. Mitch calls, "come"; Bruce says "go", and David points to, "step right there". So, "come-go-step-right-there"; "step - step - cha - cha - cha", and "step - step - cha - cha - cha".

In a way I did sort of dance down that mountain, but the demons danced too. Like I told Bruce later, I usually face my demons of fear about twelve times a year, but I had felt like I'd met them all at once on this day. Thanks to Bruce, Mitch and David, I managed to cha-cha-past the demons up and down my personal Everest that day on Netim Mountain. ■



David Scanlon

Alena reminding us why you should always lock your vehi-

Cariboo Ramblings: 7 Peak Week

Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)

August 14-19, 2011

The North Cariboo region of BC offers a rich treasure of hiking possibilities of which few people -- both inside or outside the area—are aware. Yet there is a terrific legacy of trails from the Cariboo Gold Rush with scenery that is often superb.

~*Hiking the Cariboo Goldfields* (p.5)

Most who make the trip to the Bowron Lakes area either do the lakes circuit, visit the historic bumper crop gold mining town, Barkerville, or take courses at the Mountain Arts Centre in Wells. There are few who take the time to ramble to the many peaks to see the sights. My wife (Karin) was doing a week long harp camp in Wells at the Island Mountain Arts Centre, so I purchased a copy of *Hiking the Cariboo Goldfields* and decided a 7 peak week might be in order. I was not to be disappointed.

Those who do the Bowron Lakes circuit see the encircling range of mountains from below. The 'Two Sisters Trail' is certainly not arduous, but the trailhead is near the launching point for Bowron Lake. The Two Sisters has a fine lookout cabin on the north peak, but both peaks can be done in a day. Those who trek to the lookout have a far-reaching view of five lakes of the Bowron circuit: Bowron, Kibbee, Indianpoint, Swan and Sandy---certainly a 2 peak day worth doing.

Mount Murray was the second mountain worth the ramble. The road taken to the trailhead is the one taken to Bowron Lakes also. The hike through the dense forest eventually opened to the most exquisite alpine flower bouquet that stretched on for acres and acres. The tarn at the base of Murray is a beauty, and from Murray's long ridge summit, many a snow packed ridge can be seen. The trek from Mount to Ridge Mountain makes for a lovely 2 peak day.

Those who visit Barkerville can pick up a trail at the far end of town that meanders to Groundhog Lake (where there is a fine cabin), and from the Lake a short huffer up to Mount Agnes. The views from Agnes are stunning, and from the peak it's more than worth the trip to Bald Mountain. The Cariboo Mountains do strut their stuff from such perches.

The final two peaks worthy of the ramble are Mount Magnus and Mount Patchett. Magnus is the Grouse Grind of the Cariboo range and Patchett displays her hidden charms to those who take the time to visit such an inviting summit.

I had a lovely chat at the Bear's Paw, when in Wells, with the guide of WHITEGOLD ADVENTURES, and he filled me in on how to do a hut to hut winter ski tour of the Bowron Lakes---indeed, a variety of year round possibilities abound in the Cariboo lake and mountain region.

It was a lovely 7 Peak Week (Two Sisters, Murray-Slide, Agnes-Bald, Magnus-Patchett), the scenery was superb, the rambles rewarding and the silence a feast. ■

A Walk on the Wild Side

Al Jenkins (Friends of Garibaldi Park)

Sept 11-16, 2011

How about a walk across the South Chilcotin Mts... six days and sixty five kilometres? Over sub alpine slopes and meadows, game trails, and horse trails. All four, (Denis Rogers, Al Jenkins, George Gibb and Ian Thomas) from Sechelt, B.C.

This amazing journey took us from the Bridge River north fork, up and onto the Griswold plateau, down into the Taeseke drainage, up the Powell Creek valley, and over to The Tosh Valley to the drier Big Creek and Relay Creeks. Possibly a first, if you consider the overall trip, but we know there are native routes here between coastal and interior bands.

Truly extraordinary scenery underlined this spiritual experience. So here we go, four old farts, if you include a fifty year old, heading out prepared for seven to nine days. Every kilometer providing a new adventure.



George Gibb

Up the big Powell Creek meadow



George Gibb

Crossing Griswold plateau

Timing and a fair dose of luck meant everything. Weather, runoff, and temperature each affected conditions of trails, creeks, and swamps. Preparation is quite similar to a mountain climbing expedition. Right food, shelter, clothing, safety preparation, routing, and conditioning all get factored in.

All four carried packs nearing 45 lbs. Could we have cut this back? By teaming up better there is little doubt. We each pretty much did our own thing. If we had paired up with dinners this would have saved on fuel.

Denis preferred his tried and tested formulas and super efficient stove. While George and Ian shared, I stubbornly made use of a recently purchased MSR Featherlight stove. I overestimated white gas required, but extra fuel would have been an asset in any delay. Dr. Rogers never sipped untreated water. If any suspect source appeared, we followed his example.

For shelter, tents with flies kept out bugs, heavy dew, and frost. Duct tape came in handy on the ridge pole of one tent. Creek crossings posed the single most challenging aspect of the trek. George always led the way, but his way mostly did not work for the rest. George spent most of his work career on log booms...need I say more?

With Denis, (an ex RCAF navigator) we plodded along, always on track. At day three, by the big Taesekeo swamp, we tried in vain to locate an old mine track. No go. So don't always believe what you read on maps. Besides staying on course, we were always on the alert for bears. We kept fairly close together, and in areas of greater risk, such as dense willow, we made an extra effort to make our presence known. Heavy duty bear spray and bear bangers were on the ready. In the end we saw no bears, but some fresh sign were observed.

On the fourth day at dinner we noticed fairly fresh diggings in a bank, so we decided sleep would be better at another camp site. At this point we had lost the trail, but it turned out our camp on the ridge above was only a few meters off the trail.

At this point Powell Pass was within reach, so we broke camp at dawn with a few snowflakes in the air. The pressure was falling, so moving on became the priority. This fifth day provided a memorable long walk up and over Powell Pass and down the magnificent Tosh Creek Valley, a valley that holds a massive rock slide and numerous beaver communes.

Getting pretty tired, and with wet feet from fording Tosh and Big Creeks, a good shower found us. Lucky again, we were almost at the Graveyard Creek cabin, where a wood stove helped dry us out.

Next morning found us on the final leg to Paradise Creek and our other vehicle at Relay Creek.

While definitely, not a trip for ill prepared, this magnificent journey across the South Coast Mountains will be a highlight in each of our lives.

Re. South Chilcotin / Big Creek Parks Management Planning process.

Previous trips to other areas of the South Chilcotin Mountains over the past four years and this one, have given us some insight. Here is one beautiful wild part of our Province which deserves protection from man's ravages. Some conflicts exist between horsemen/outfitters and bikers. Snowmobilers have cut unsightly trails and left fuel caches at very sensitive locations. But I think one of the most important points to make here is the disturbance to the game trails. This is the home to bear, elk, moose, deer, wolves and beaver. Everything possible needs to be done to limit impacts to their environment.

Access roads can be dangerous. Of note is the sloughing along the Relay Ck. road. Maintenance issues should be dealt with in the new provincial resource road strategy. For more info and photos see www.bivouac.com. ■



Al Jenkins

A beef dip and a beer at Goldbridge rounded out our trip. Ian, George, Denis, and Al.

Glacier-Yoho National Parks 125th Anniversary 1886-2011

Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)



Banff National Park was established in 1885 (the 1st in Canada), and Glacier-Yoho National Parks (the 1st in British Columbia) were established in 1886. There is much celebration by Parks Canada this year. It's the 100th anniversary of Parks Canada being formed (1911-2011), and 125 years since Glacier-Yoho set new standards for Canada and British Columbia. Canada, in the late 19th century, was at the forefront of the infant environmental movement, and National Parks were the flagships that demonstrated such commitments. There was no Alpine Club of Canada (ACC), British Columbia Mountaineering Club (BCMC) or Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) in 1885 or 1886. Gratefully so, ACC and BCMC existed before Parks Canada, and ACC-BCMC have played significant roles in the Parks Tradition in Canada. The Parks Canada Tradition has faced many a financial challenge in the last few years, and although there are celebrations aplenty in 2011 by Parks Canada, there are many worrisome questions that need to be addressed.

The leading role Canada once played in setting global standards for Parks that could not be tampered with by miners, loggers, trappers and hunters is under attack, but more of this later.

Glacier and Yoho National Parks have some of the finest mountain terrain, glaciers, lakes, wildlife, huts and trails in British Columbia. I have been fortunate to trek to many of the rock and ice titans in both National Parks, and this short article will light but not land long on some of the trips.

Yoho National Park

I: Wapta Traverse

The classic haute route Rockies trip is the Wapta Traverse. The four huts (Peyto, Bow, Balfour & Scott Duncan) and the many snow clad summits (Rhondda, Gordon, Olive, St. Nicholas and others) make this a gem of an extended seven days trip. This is Yoho at its high terrain best—white towers, miles of glaciers, pathways between peaks on all sides, and nonstop photo ops.

II. Stanley Mitchell Hut

Stanley Mitchell Hut is the perfect place to call home for a variety of peaks to summit. Each day offers new glaciers to climb, rocks to scramble and perches to stand on, from which mountain ranges stretch on for miles and miles. Mt. Kerr, Isolated Peak, Mt. Pollinger, President, Vice President and Mt. McArthur are just a few of the rock giants that beckon the curious and eager.

III. Elizabeth Parker/Abbot Hut/Lake O'Hara

This trip is a multilayered one that can be as simple as a stroll round the magic of Lake O'Hara, to high Alpine rambles, to enticing lakes and more demanding peaks such as Lefroy and Victoria. Abbot Hut offers splendid views of a wide range of snow dressed titans, and weeks can be spent in this part of Yoho with still much more to see and climb.

Glacier National Park

I: Balu Pass and Nakimu Caves

Many are the tourists who stop at Rogers Pass, visit the Parks information building but never venture further. The trailhead at Rogers Pass walks the keener up to Balu Pass and many a charmer of a peak. But, the other side of Balu Pass into Cougar Valley is more than worth the descent—the Nakimu Caves (3rd largest in Canada) make for an underground tour that should be done at least once—some will be drawn to go deeper and further into the narrow caverns, others will be more than grateful to see the blue sky and breath fresh air again.

II. Wheeler-Asulkan Huts

The uphill trudge to Asulkan Hut makes for a journey from forest to retreating glaciers. The history of Canadian mountaineering is well told in this area, and from Asulkan Hut, upper glacier climbs in the Jupiter Range reveal splendid sights. Selwyn, Hasler, Feuz and Michael peaks can be seen with the sharpest clarity from Asulkan Ridge—ice rivers inch down their flanks.

III. Hermit Trail

This is a fine trail worthy of a day trek. There was once a cabin on the upper plateau, but time and winter weather have done its predictable deed—the cabin is no more, but gazing down from the high loft, the valley below opens up in all its generous fullness

There are, obviously, many more treks to do in Yoho and Glacier National Parks, but there are ominous signs afoot. The publication of Rick Searle's *Phantom Parks: The Struggle to Save Canada's National Parks* (2000) was published more than decade ago, but Searle, in

meticulous detail, made it abundantly clear that the vision, energy and organizational finesse that brought the National Parks into being is being undermined year by year. Searle refuses to flinch from asking the hard questions. What would James Harkin, founder of Parks Canada in 1911, think of the way the captains of industry are redefining and remaking our National Parks today? *Phantom Parks* is a canary in the shaft must-read that anticipated many of the worrisome positions being taken today in regards to both National and Provincial Parks.

We are celebrating in 2011 the origins and history of National Parks. Parks Canada was formed in 1911 (and some fine stamps and post cards were printed and sold by Canada Post to celebrate the 100th birthday—do purchase them as historic mementos). Yoho and Glacier National Parks are celebrating their 125th birthdays. But, back of all the cheerleading, hard questions need to be asked about the drift and direction of the National Parks. If this is not done, we betray the hard work of those who have gone before us, and we forfeit a fuller wilderness future for those who will come after us. I have been most fortunate to walk, hike and climb in Yoho and Glacier many times because those who have gone before had a vision and put in the solid work to implement such a vision at an institutional level. Our challenge is to carry the torch of those who once dared to live a dream and not to genuflect to those who reduce what National Parks can yet be to a mediocre realism.

Berg Heil ■

?? To Dog or Not to Dog ?? The KMC Question - Yippee-ay-oh!!

Peter Oostlander (Kootenay Mountaineering Club)

For the 2010 KMC AGM, three unidentified and not overly experienced individuals hastily organized a special musical presentation. They called themselves the “Doggone” Trio.

They attempted to give a rendition of a song that became the highest-selling single of the 2000s *not* to reach #1. Rolling Stone Magazine ranked it third amongst the 20 *most annoying* songs. It was also ranked first of "Top 20 Worst Songs Ever".

*Club trips were once fun, then the dogs came a-jumpin
And they ran amuck all over the trails
They stressed all the bears, and the deer went a-hoppin
Where will it end everyone wailed.*

Chorus: Who let the dogs out , woof, woof, woof, woof

*If we let this one slide, then the next thing for sure
It's a camp full of kids with fingers up their nose
Moms will nurse babies everywhere you turn
And all us old farts with nowhere to go*

Chorus: Who let the dogs out , woof, woof, woof, woof

*The old days were great here in the Kootenay
No rules, no regs, to think about
Life was real simple, so footloose and fancy
Why did it all change, we yell and shout*

Chorus: Who let the dogs out , woof, woof, woof, woof

*The hills are the same, a million years counting
And they'll always be, after we're gone
Why such a fuss, get the club rolling
Get the gang out and just have some fun*

Chorus: Who let the dogs out , woof, woof, woof, woof

*Club trips were once great, then my dog came a-jumpin
And too many members were seeing red
He stressed out the staff, emails were a-flying
Maybe I'll leave him at home instead. Ah-Whoooo*

Chorus: Who let the dogs out , woof, woof, woof, woof



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ACC VI's Summer Camp at Athelney Pass

Rick Hudson (ACC-Vancouver Island)
July 23 to August 13

The Vancouver Island section of the Alpine Club of Canada has in recent years started to run an un-hut summer camp as well as a hut one. The obvious benefit of an un-hut camp is there are no restrictions on where to go – any flat spot will do. Further, the section has, with the help of Brad Harrison, acquired two large dome tents (6m in diameter), which provide cooking/dining and drying/storage facilities, so camping is not as tough as you might think.

This year's camp was built on last year's experience at the north of Vancouver Island, with one or two key differences. True, there were 3 weeks again, with 14 participants per week, flown in by helicopter, but this year we were in a flower-filled meadow in the Coast Range, and we shared the camp with members of the ACC's Vancouver section.

Athelney Pass is a broad, recently glaciated valley that links the Pemberton Valley on the west with the Bridge River Valley on the east. Being on the east side of the Coast Mountains, it experiences drier conditions than Squamish or Whistler, and at 1,850m elevation, it's at tree line. To the south the summits are sharp and glaciated, providing classic alpine climbing, while those to the north side are rolling and gentle – making for grand hiking. The peaks top out around 2,700m, so pre-dawn starts aren't necessary, and days are seldom more than 6 hours long.

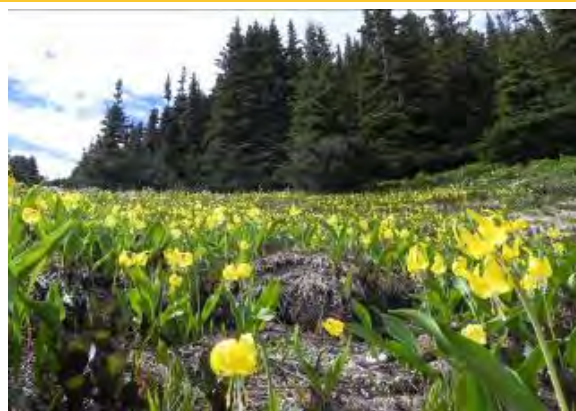
The Week 1 crew had been well briefed, and, in half a day, built the camp – the dome tents set up (not trivial, with 15 poles of different lengths), two fine biffies assembled over deeply dug holes, a shower area put together, and a food hanger erected (as the pass is a grizzly corridor).

Three of the high summits were climbed a number of times – Icemaker (2,745m), Guthrum (2,695m) and Ochre (2,543m), but the rugged Ethelweard (2,819m) repelled all attempts despite being described as “a class 4 scramble”. In Week 3 (early August), some brought skis which extended their range and provided some fine runs on late spring snow. The weather was kind after a wet spring, and, apart from a 12-hour rainstorm at the start of Week 2, the days were generally sunny.

While the peaks offered fine views of peaks and icefields disappearing into the distance, the valley provided equal interest. Few trees and carpets of flowers meant constant photo stops. The log book noted sightings of a lone wolf, marmots (there was a family right next to camp), pikas, ground squirrel, white-tailed ptarmigan, sandpipers, yellowlegs, pipits, savannah sparrows, rough-legged and sharp-shinned hawks, and Clarke's nutcrackers.

There was one accident: on the final day of Week 1, a lady in her 60s fell on a steep grass slope above camp in the late afternoon, and was unable to put weight on her right ankle. The leg was immobilized and she was then carried 300m downhill to camp, where she was kept warm until a helicopter could medevac her to the Pemberton Clinic. X-rays revealed she had multiple fractures of both tibia and fibula.

My thanks to all participants (without whom none of this would have happened), but special thanks to Weeks 1 and 3 for setting up and breaking down the camp, to the leaders who volunteered their time to take less experienced people into areas they would not otherwise have visited, to those who taught climbing skills, those who assisted in the rescue on Week 1, and the camp managers Russ, Martin and Christine for making it all work so smoothly. ■



Phee Hudson

Glacier lilies carpet the valley floor near camp in Athelney Pass in August.



Ronan O'Sullivan

Panorama of Athelney Pass from the north side of the valley. Ethelweard (left), Icemaker (snow-covered centre-behind) and Guthrum (centre-right).

Slot Canyons, Canyoneering and Desert Dunes

Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)

May 2- May 21, 2011



John Mclellan

Gerry, Jacquie, Marilyn, Ron, Wayne, Judy, Christine, Deanna at Capitol Reef National Park in Utah

The Chilliwack Outdoor Club (COC) often does an annual trip, let by John Mclellan, to the unique, graphic and colour laden rock formations of southern Utah---this year was no exception. There is a longing to leave, after months of a leaden sky, the wet and cool west coast and bask in the warmth, light and evocative beauty of desert arches and rock sights we do not see in British Columbia. Needless to say, '127 Hours' was very much in our worrisome sights.

My wife (Karin) and I left a week before the COC, did the two day drive to Zion National Park, (May 2-3) and hunkered down for a week of rambling on the many trails in Zion NP. The heat and blue canopy did not disappoint either---we had to be out by dawn each day and back by early afternoon to avoid being cooked by day star.

Our initial trips up into Zion (by a free bus) took us to all the major trailheads in the park. The bus carved up the canyon, and on May 4th we did Riverside Walk (the entry point to the Canyon Narrows trek), Emerald Pools (such a sight to see) and Weeping Rock. Canyon Narrows trek is a full day must-do journey when the Virgin River is lower. Each of these leg stretcher trails were just what the body needed after two long days in the vehicle. May 5 we did the much longer Observation Point hike (rather steep drop-offs alongside the narrow path but superb views of the canyon). May 6th was Angels Landing (with the bolted-in rock chains) to the fine perch summit. May 7th was a rest day. The weather had treated us well.

We headed north from Zion NP on May 8th to join COC for a week trekking in Capitol Reef National Park. We heard the weather was about to change, but we were scarcely prepared for the dramatic shift in temperature. May 9th we headed for Navajo Knobs with a brief side trip to Hickman Bridge (a fine arch indeed). The Valley below opened up in spacious splendour when we reached Rim Overlook, but ink black clouds dominated the sky---rain and snow began to fall intensely, so no Navajo Knobs. We scampered down the rock trail, clouds parted and a warm blue canopy day joined us. The afternoon we did the Grand Wash with its road trail between massive canyon walls on both sides (doing our best to be wary of flash floods that could turn the wash into a surging river). The weather was wet, cold and nasty on May 10th, so no treks, but May 11th was much better. So, off to Sheets Gulch we headed. We were soon in narrow slot canyons inching our way upwards over boulders and water pools. It was quite easy to understand how the tragedy and drama of '127 Hours' could occur in such a place. May 12th we were up early, in the vehicles and off to the trailhead in Capitol Reef for the Upper Muley Twist trek (and what a twisty trek it was). The desert-like conditions and startling rock formations, arches and narrow scrambles (with deep drops to narrow canyons), meagre cairns and excessive heat made for an exhausting day (plenty of water had to be carried into such a place).



Sue Witt

Ron and Karin Dart at Slot Canyons



Wayne Henderson

Sue Witt, John Mclellan, Judy Pasemko, Ron Dart and Jacquie Bird on Upper Ridge of Death Valley Sand Dunes

We were up early on May 13th, finished the final upward swing to the Waterpocket Fold Ridge (with superb views of the Henry Mountains to the east), hiked the long rock ridge as the sun was rising, then slipped down a narrow trail to the canyon wash floor again. The day became hotter as we hiked down into Lower Muley Twist---it was the longest and most demanding day of the trips in Capitol Reef NP, but the sheer rock fortresses and imposing canyon walls are a sight not to miss. May 14th was much cooler, rain threatened, and we hastened up Lower Muley Twist to the vehicles again, bodies weary and hydration an issue.

The drive from Capitol Reef NP through Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument on May 14th is a drive from one rock cathedral to another---the temples of time have been built well, and eyes and souls feasted on such beauties. We continued to drive west and set up camp at Kodachrome Basin State Park---all sorts of towering sandstone chim-



John Mclellan

Sue, Christine, and Ron at Slot Canyon

Bishop to soak in the fine mountain photography of Galen Rowell (rare has been the mountaineer that has combined such photographic and climbing skills) at Mountain Light Gallery and dine at the sumptuous Erick Schat's Bakery. We woke on May 20th at Mono Vista with a thin layer of frost on the tents. It was back in the Fraser Valley again on May 21st, a superb 3 weeks of slot canyons, canyoneering and Death Valley dunes stored well in our memories. ■

neys, pink tinged spires and slick rock to keep the eager eyes and legs busy for many a day. Kodachrome Basin State Park is quite close to Bryce Canyon NP, so after a near freezing night on May 14th, we spent the day at Bryce on May 15th doing the Fairy Land Loop---again such magical sights to see---statuesque outcroppings and rock turrets of pink and orange hues. Bryce stands about 8,000 feet, so it tends to be cooler, but we had a generous day offered us on the trail, so no complaints. Bryce is much more compact and contained than Zion, Capitol Reef and Grand Staircase, so the NP can be seen quicker. May 16th was a down day, and May 17th, we were on the road again. Snow was falling at Bryce NP, and we pressed onto to Zion (fond memories), Las Vegas (such a contrast to where we had been), then to Death Valley. We hoped to outrun the wet and cold weather by turning to the heat of Death Valley (largest park in CA).

Death Valley is a must see place. We slipped by the busier Furnace Creek Visitor Centre and camped at the quieter and more deserted Mesquite Spring Campsite---a dry barrenness defines the place. May 18th began with a round the rim trek of Ubehebe Crater (with a trudge by some down into the crater floor), then a touristy trek to Scotty's Castle (hard to believe such a sprawling mansion would be built in such an area). Death Valley was unseasonably cool when we were there (usually 90F---about 80F for us). May 19th started early, and we were on the expansive and mountainous sand dunes as the sun rose (much too hot to be on by mid-day). The undulating sea of sand and minor sand avalanches were wonders to behold. The sand dune ridge walk was a fine way to begin the day. We were gone from Death Valley by noon on the 19th, drove by Lone Pine (the gateway to Mount Whitney), then stopped in

Rees Ridge Ramble

John Young (Island Mountain Ramblers)

July 1-7, 2011

Imagine. 7500 meters total elevation gain in one week, and no, we were not climbing in the Andes or the Himalaya, but in Strathcona Park. I had known there was going to be lots of ups and downs, but I never imagined we'd be climbing over seven kilometres.

We started off on July 1st at the Henshaw/Shepherd Creek trailhead on the Buttle Lake Roadway, about 2.3 km. south of the Ralph River Campsite. The trailhead was unmarked and we poked around for half an hour or so looking for something obvious, before we just decided to head up into the bush. It was bushy for 20 minutes or so, but then only periodically bushy after that. We followed a faint trail up through the forest with some light precipitation, and then, when we broke out of the trees at about 1500 meters elevation, the sun broke out and we had great views of Buttle Lake, far below the snow covered slopes of Shepherd Ridge. After about six hours of hiking, we set our tents up on the snow and melted snow for water.

Saturday morning we awoke to cloud, and initially there was a high ceiling, but it fogged in later on and drizzled lightly. Route finding was tricky, what with the fog and the rugged ridge. At times, we were contouring and I used my altimeter to keep us at the right elevation. Getting up and down off Shepherd Peak, our first six thousand footer on the route, was laborious and time-taking, with a little third class scrambling. We set up camp at six thirty, just shy of Shepherd Horn, on a windswept flat spot, whose saving grace was a pool of water. The thermometer read two degrees, and we all went to bed early.

It rained overnight, and Sunday morning we awoke in the fog. We made our way up Shepherd Horn, still in the fog, and put a few more waypoints into the GPS, but just then the fog lifted and we could see our route. Wow! The Red Pillar, Argus, Harmston, and Tzela all tantalized us, and the route looked straightforward. We easily descended the north side of Shepherd Horn, before swinging back to the south and then west above Tzela Lake, which was just melting out around the shore. Below Tzela Mtn. we passed through avalanche debris, and then up to the col between Harmston and Tzela. We had lunch, set up camp, and then headed for Harmston. Ryan took a precarious and precipitous route down to the Cliffe Glacier, with the rest of us taking a much longer, slower route. We gained the moraine leading up to Harmston, and travelled on snow all the way to the top gully, which, surprisingly, was bare. We finally reached the summit about 6:30, revelled in the view. and basked in the sun for a while, before trying to spy out a route up Tzela, our objective to the next morning. We returned to camp in beautiful evening sunlight and had a late dinner, before heading to sleep at sundown.

Monday morning, Ryan, and Matt and I headed up Tzela, with Charles and Janelle catching up on their sleep. We weren't sure of the route, as there didn't appear to be a south-east ridge, just an east one, and the guide book refers to a SE ridge. We scrambled up and over some precipitous rocks, before coming out to a steep snow slope, with a very steep looking snow gully up ahead that led up towards the

main summit. By then, though, we'd already been gone an hour and a half, and since we had a long ways to go that day, we decided to return to camp.

We packed up our gear, and headed down to Henshaw Creek, 500 meters below. We then had 800 meters to climb back up to Iceberg Peak, on steep, soggy snow, in the hot sunshine. The view from Iceberg was worth it, though. Great views of the west side of the Comox Glacier and Harmston. We then continued on to Celeste, and Ryan, Matt, Janelle, and I scampered up to the top, before returning to set up camp in a glorious spot with views of Georgia Strait and the mainland mountains.

Tuesday morning we awoke once again to clear skies, and set out for Siocum, just a short distance away, with little elevation gain or loss. We did have an interesting traverse around a bump, with a "goat trail" leading around the west side of a bump. Matt, Janelle and I then headed up and unnamed bump, built a cairn, and christened it "Sisyphus Peak," which, according to the GPS, was 1937 meters, making it another six thousand footer. We reached Siocum, and then camped on the north shoulder at about 1800 meters, with great views of Georgia Strait, Celeste, the Golden Hinde, et al.

Wednesday morning, Matt, Ryan and I set out early to try to get to 1909, 1920, George V and back. It all proved to be straightforward, the snow affording a direct route up 1909. On the return, though, we contoured around the west side of 1920 at about the 1800 meter mark, and it proved to be "grippy," with some loose rock, steep snow, and a sharp, long drop off. It didn't save any time, either, but we won't forget it! The rest of the return to camp proved uneventful, except for Matt having to run back a couple km to retrieve his jacket that had fallen off his pack. Ryan and I became cold in the wind and fog while we waited for him. We descended the steep, soggy snow off 1909, and then had the long, steep climb back up to our camp on Siocum. Another fabulous sunset, and then to bed.

Thursday morning started out foggy, and our descent down the Ralph River Route would have been difficult without Charles's GPS. We made good time, however, and the route was even flagged from the tree line down. It was bushy in places, but not difficult going downhill. We crossed the log jam at the bottom, and we were done! A magnificent week in the mountains of Strathcona. ■

Lake O'Hara Summer Camp ACC Vancouver Island Section

Cedric Zala, Chair and Camp Organizer
July 23-31, 2011

Lake O'Hara is a region of breathtaking beauty in the Canadian Rockies, just on the BC side of the renowned Lake Louise. In contrast to Lake Louise, however, access is strictly limited, with the result that instead of the many thousands of people you may find milling about in Lake Louise, there may be a couple of hundred in the entire Lake O'Hara area. With the availability of a well-equipped mountain hut (named after ACC founder Elizabeth Parker), a stay at this mountain paradise combines opportunities for hiking, scrambling, and serious climbing with cozy and congenial hut accommodation.

You have to get there first, though. At our last camp at O'Hara in 2008, a mudslide on the highway near Field on the Saturday night had forced most of us to take a huge detour via Radium to get to the meeting place. And the exact same thing happened this year! An even larger slide near the Spiral Tunnels blocked the road for several days, forcing the same detour.

Despite this early setback, all 20 of us managed to meet up in Lake Louise late on Saturday, then bussed in to O'Hara on the Sunday morning, all ready to spend a highly active week there. It had been a heavy snow winter, and up to a week before our stay, there were still avalanche warnings posted for some of the ledge routes. We soon got busy exploring the area and racking up the vertical meters.

Some of the highlights of the week were:

- A snow school day
- Many traverses of the classic ledge routes (Huber, Yukness and All Souls Ledges).
- Ascents of Mt Huber and Mt Lefroy.
- Near-ascents of Mt Victoria and Mt Hungabee.
- Ascents of Yukness Mountain and Mt Schaeffer.
- Many hikes to the Opabin Plateau, Cathedral Lakes, Lake MacArthur, Lake Oesa, and Odaray Prospect.



Cedric Zala

Glacier Peak, Ringrose, Hungabee and Yukness Mountains from Huber Ledges.

Several groups also went up to Abbot Pass. The heavy snow year turned out to be a real blessing here, as there were great continuous snow fields much of the way up. So the typical ascent experience of struggling against some of the loosest, nastiest scree in the Rockies was transformed instead into straightforward kick-stepping on the way up and gung-ho plunge-stepping down.

Despite the mix of weather – three of the seven days were wet – pretty well everyone got out every day. And the first and last days were fabulous – clear and warm. Marmots and ground squirrels were plentiful, and pikas peeped unseen from the rock piles. One group even saw mountain goats on the slopes below Odayay Prospect.

And as always, there was the camaraderie. One of the pleasures of these camps is that people get to know their fellow members, both on the day trips and during the evening meals and socializing times. Several of the evenings were musical, too, with accordion and guitar and even singing.

Another great ACC summer camp in the mountains! ■

Mount Moriarty, October 1, 2011

Dean Williams (Island Mountain Ramblers)

October 1, 2011

Our Island Mt. Rambler hike to Mt Moriarty on October 1st went well in spite of the weather forecast. Moriarty is a popular peak at the head of the Cameron river valley, above Labour day lake. On a clear day the views from the top are great, from Mt Baker and the Olympic Peninsula south of the border to the peaks of Strathcona Park, the Coast Range and of course Georgia Strait.

We started off in a very light rain, which stopped by the time we got to Labour day lake, and we set off up hill to a chorus of chain saws from across the lake, falling some more of our last old growth. We then got into some heavy Scotch mist which lasted all the way to the summit, but the ever optimistic Charles said "the sun will shine". I agreed that it would probably shine one day but not today. But.... on the way down the sun broke out and we had the views that we missed on the way up. We decided to ramble out onto the east ridge and enjoyed that as well, but no swim when we got back to the lake. Maybe next time. A leisurely six hour trip. Thanks to Rod Szasz for the photos!

Participants: Kurtis Felker, Christine Rivers, Charles Turner, Rod Szasz, Dean Williams ■



Rod Szasz

Mt Moriarty from the S.E. ridge



Rod Szasz

Charles, Christine, Kurtis and Dean at Labour Day Lake

2011 Vancouver Island Spine Trail Series

Andrew Pape-Salmon (VISTA)

The 2011 Vancouver Island Spine Trail Series is almost complete, with over 800 participants taking part in 18 outdoor events! The Series is an annual conglomeration of multiple events to raise awareness of the proposed Vancouver Island Spine wilderness trail that will be 700 km long - linking communities all along Vancouver Island, from Victoria to Cape Scott. The success of the Series is largely due to partnerships with local mountaineering, hiking, running, ski and other outdoor clubs. Over a dozen outdoor sports clubs from across Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland have endorsed the concept of the proposed Vancouver Island Spine Trail. For more information, see www.vispine.ca



Andrew Pape-Salmon

Cowichan River Footpath Run, June 2011

The 2011 VI Spine Series included:

- Mountaineering – Mountaineering with Kids
- Hiking – Alberni Inlet CNPR Rail Grade Trail hike; Strathcona Park Reese Ridge Ramble
- Backcountry skiing – Mount Becher; Mount Albert Edward
- Mountain running – Gutbuster Mount Washington; Kusam Klimb (cancelled due to snow)
- Trail running – Cowichan River Footpath Run; Log Train Trail Marathon; Perseverance Trail Run
- Cycling – rides from Woss to Port Hardy; Victoria to Royal Roads University
- Adventure racing – Mind Over Mountain Adventure Racing (MOMAR) Cumberland

These diverse events all use wilderness trails. They were held between February and November, 2011 on trails that are on or near the proposed VI Spine Trail. The trail, targeted for completion in 2016, will follow historical routes and pass through or near several communities, yet retain a wilderness character. Parts of the trail are already constructed (e.g., North Coast Trail); about two thirds remain to be built.

The Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA) recently completed a strategic plan to “promote, work with, and coordinate the stakeholders to design, build and maintain the VI Spine Trail”. You can see a copy of the plan on the website: http://vispine.ca/media_alert/vistas-board-issues-its-six-year-strategic-plan



Andrew Pape-Salmon

Mount Albert Edward Ski Tour, April 2011

Stakeholders who need to be involved in the development of the trail include outdoor clubs (many who are members of FMCBC), private land owners, regional districts, municipalities and first nations. Once completed, the VI Spine Trail will serve local recreational users. It will also be a world class tourist destination similar in significance to the Spanish Camino Trails and the Pacific Crest Trail in the United States. The trail will follow existing trails wherever possible, and promises to open up new trails along Lake Cowichan and through the Beaufort Mountains and the north island.

The final VI Spine Series event will be a bike ride on the Galloping Goose Trail on Sunday, November 6th. A community celebration will be held in downtown Victoria at the Lido Restaurant in the inner harbour between 11am and noon. Refreshments and snacks will be served and prizes will be awarded for Series participants. If you wish to participate, please contact: series@vispine.ca ■

Friends of Strathcona Park Update

Matthius Lettington (FOSP)

In late August this year, Vancouver Islanders finally found themselves enjoying a much yearned-for bout of good weather after a particularly wet and disappointing July. It was perfect for the celebration organized by the Friends of Strathcona Park (FOSP). August 20th, was a day celebrated by more than 100 participants at a festival held in Strathcona Park. The day included canoeing, kayaking, short and long hikes as well as booths and food presented by members of various Vancouver Island clubs and other organizations. The event also hosted several speeches by long-time members and activists who spoke of the history of Strathcona Park and the challenges the friends faced and personal sacrifices made in order to preserve the park.

The Friends of Strathcona Park is a group dedicated to the preservation of the park for the intended use under the original master plan. Members of the FOSP have been instrumental in the long term preservation of the park and the fight to prevent the abuse of the park by government and private industry. As well as legal challenges, one of the key ways that the FOSP insure the preservation of the park is by promoting its use.

The Bedwell Centennial Trail was constructed by the FOSP in 1992. It traverses 34km of Vancouver Island between Bedwell Lake and Bedwell Inlet on the west coast. The trail is a labour of love by the FOSP. For ten years the trail had seen moderate use, but was beginning to show its age. There were numerous windfalls and erosion that necessitated the need for maintenance of the light impact trail. Additionally, some sections of the trail needed to be rerouted as engineers have indicated that the *Living Bridge* that crosses the Bedwell River is no longer safe to traverse as there are several stringers dangling from the bottom. For the past two consecutive years, the FOSP have obtained work permits to do trail maintenance in the Bedwell Valley to reroute some sections and clear others.

In 2010, FOSP brought a small work party in to start trail maintenance on the west end of the trail, from Clayoquot Wilderness Resort in Bedwell Bay to Sam Craig Creek. At this time the trail was rerouted so that the Living Bridge is no longer required to complete the hike. In 2010, the Friends cut the trail clear up to Sam Craig Creek.

In 2011, the Friends received another permit allowing them to cut from Bedwell Lake to You Creek. The work was completed by 30 eager volunteers over three days. Cutting was quick, as the trail is well traversed.

As a member of the work party, I had the choice to continue on past You Creek, crossing the Spine of Vancouver Island and leave via Bedwell Basin by water Taxi to Tofino. I jumped at chance to cross Vancouver Island by foot! The highest point of the trail is Baby Bedwell Lake. From this point, the remainder of the trail is primarily downhill, which is often following overgrown logging roads and the Bedwell River. A particular highlight of this trail is walking through a preserved section of the Bedwell Valley filled with old growth cedar and rich flora. For some unknown reason this section was never logged at the time that the Valley was removed from the park.

The Bedwell Centennial Trail is 34 km long from the trailhead on the Jim Mitchell Lake Road near the south end of Buttle Lake to the head of Bedwell Inlet. Prior arrangements need to be made with a water taxi to get to Tofino. The trip is best done in July through September when stream levels are low. Allow 3 to 4 days one way, and travel only when good weather is predicted. Heavy rains can quickly make dry streams impassable, but they soon recover in a day or two. Though the trail is of moderate difficulty, there are a few sections that provide short challenges, like logs crossing rushing water.

Between the work completed in 2010 and 2011, there remains only one short section of the trail uncut, about 4 km. Even this section is easily traversable and is well marked with ribbons hanging every ten to fifteen feet. Even with this short section not built, the trail is one of the most beautiful and enjoyable hikes I have done on Vancouver Island. It takes the hiker from the alpine to the ocean and crosses through sections of the park that have not had regular visitors in over 60 years.

FOSP continues to advocate for light trail use and the continued exclusion of horses in the Park. Clayoquot Wilderness Resort, a private company that caters to affluent adventure seekers, is currently seeking permits that will allow them to bring their clients into the park by horse. This remains a big concern for FOSP as the original master plan does not allow for horses to be used within this area of the park. It is the belief of FOSP that the completion of the Bedwell Centennial Trail will show that there is already an established trail and this will prevent future applications by CWR from gaining a foothold. It is also the belief of the friends that the interests of private companies remain the primary reason why the FOSP cannot obtain a permit to cut the final 4 Km of trail between You Creek and Sam Craig Creek.

For more information about the FOSP and a full route description of the Bedwell Centennial Trail visit our [website](#). ■

Kootenay Mountaineering Club Social

Peter Oostlander (KMC)
September 30, 2011

Over 40 KMC members turned out for the annual fall slide-show evening at the Resker hall in Castlegar. KMC president, Dave Grant kicked off the show with photos of the David Thompson Columbia River canoe brigade.

They recreated history by paddling voyageur canoes 1800 kilometres along David Thompson's historic route from present day Invermere, British Columbia, to Astoria, Oregon over a six week period this past Summer.

This was followed by Sandra McGuiness' "testosterone free" musical slide show of a number of amazing mountain peaks, climbed and skied. Ross Scott then took the stage with his beautiful 2011 KMC Summer camp photo and video show, also accompanied by musical arrangements. These presentations were tough acts to follow!

At the intermission, we nibbled on a wide variety of delicious appetizers and desserts prepared by Ingrid Enns with contributions by Sandra McGuiness and Holly Ridenour.

Bill McNally showed photos by Vicky Hart of a KMC trip to Mt Presley (including one shot of a scary exposed section, capably executed by the group!) and an entertaining presentation by Peter Oostlander on a family kayak trip in the broken island group. We finished off the evening with a very interesting arrangement of photos by Jocelyne Martin of a 200km long kayak trip in Desolation sound.

Ross won the "People's Choice Award" [see photo on back cover] and took home a gift certificate by Revolution cycle. There were two gear swap tables with some great deals: Sandra McGuiness even gave away a number of items! Graham scored a free historic piton hammer *with* an attached piton! Special thanks must go out to Bryan Reid for providing for and operating the computer and projector.

A successful evening with great mountaineering friends! It was nice to see lots of new faces as well. ■



Sandra McGuiness

Dave Toews and Terry Huxter arrive on Mount Geigerich at sunset



Dave Grant

The David Thompson brigade on the Kootenay river, approaching the US border



Vicky Hart

Ascending the East Peak of Mt. Prestley over 3rd class rock and snow



Jocelyne Martin

Kayaking in Desolation Sound

Friends of Garibaldi Park Update

Al Jenkins (FOGP)

(Reprinted from FOGP's Fall 2011 Newsletter)

The quest continues to launch "[Friends of Garibaldi Park](#)". The contact list currently at 63, is awesome. And thanks to all of you who have offered your support to achieve our inaugural goal to upgrade the Black Tusk Meadows trail. Of course you are wondering what is happening! Several opportunities for us to meet are available. This is a bit awkward with everyone "strung" out over such a distance but we will make it work.

With snow already on the slopes many are preparing for snow sports, but that was a very short hiking season in the sub-alpine. And maybe this is good for the Black Tusk Meadows Trail. An updated Black Tusk Meadows Trail YouTube video with help from Glen Dickinson, is uploaded. I can provide a link as soon as it is posted. You will find from the video how important it is for us to move forward.

At Alice Lake Park on September 08, I met with Chris Platz, Garibaldi Park Area Supervisor. Also a chance meeting with Brandin Schultz, the new BC Parks, South Coast Region Manager, Manager, Brandin provided encouraging news re volunteering.

Keep in mind we need to think outside the box to uncover new options. We can utilize the long term healthy benefits of recreation and extend ideas towards tax benefits and reduced healthcare spending. Ideas to redirect tax dollars from governments so money can go directly to benefit Parks should be considered.

I am seeking a meeting with Brandin to hopefully provide Parks updates at a FMCBC Rec and Con meeting. Brandin, as an ex Resource Officer at the past Garibaldi Sunshine Coast District, is very familiar to resource issues.

Back to the meeting with Platz.....there is every likelihood of a reduced budget next year, so he has taken the opportunity to fly some stockpiled boardwalk lumber to the meadows. Chris remains very supportive as he sees the value of our group.

Planning for our organization has become a reality. We need short and long term goals closely linked to a Mission Statement. And of course we need to set up a Society to achieve integral recognition.

Assistance from Jason White helped prepare a draft project plan. This plan will help clarify the project and prepare a budget.

While trying to write this trail project proposal I encountered several challenges.

An offer to develop a "FOGP" logo is coming closer. More to follow on this soon. Kirsten Reinholz is following this to help with fundraising. We will soon require a means to support our group.

To reiterate on the existing fund raising process, a general fund under the Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act. known as a 'Park Enhancement Fund', is set up for our Black Tusk Trail.

So to each of you I ask, please work your network for ideas and possible opportunities.

I attended the FMCBC AGM in May to discover some important realities. None the least is a Strategic Planning Strategy in progress, that will most certainly guide this fine organization towards continued effective goals. This group deserves a big thank you for all the support offered to the fledging "Friends of Garibaldi Park."

First we need to organize to official "Society" status to be recognized by sponsors and fundraising initiatives. Time may be running short for the web hosting from Apple currently used. By next spring Apple is getting out of the web hosting business. So we will have to find a new host and probably software. Anyone interested in helping out?

And last but not least we need to formalize a team. That accomplished we are positioned to apply for grants and accept donations. Seems like a simple task but we need at least half a dozen committed folks

To everyone I have made contact and those who have provided contact info, a big thank you. I get more inspired with every conversation. It is my hope you have not been too discouraged by my inadequate communication. I look forward to more meetings and getting to know each of you. ■

Phantom Parks: The Struggle to Save Canada's National Parks

By Rick Searle 2000

Toronto: New Porter Books

Review by Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)

Parks Canada is celebrating in 2011 the 100th anniversary of its existence. There is much to be proud of in the Parks Canada tradition, but there are probing questions to be asked about the state of Parks Canada at the present time. Rick Searle dedicated *Phantom Parks* to his grandfather 'Who instilled in me a deep and abiding passion for all things wild, and who, more than anyone, set my course in life'. Searle also dedicated *Phantom Parks* to 'Parks Canada employees across the country and at every level of the organization who remain committed to J.B. Harkin's vision of the national parks sacred places wherein ecological integrity and wildness are to be protected and the re-creation of the human spirit is made possible'. The dedications speak to high standards that Searle will argue have been dimmed in the last few decades. What has occurred in Parks Canada between the founding vision of Harkin and the present reality of Parks Canada? *Phantom Parks* attempts, in a probing and suggestive way, to diagnose the problem, then offers a prognosis for a return to what Parks Canada can yet become if there is but the vision and political will.

Phantom Parks is divided into fifteen compact, readable and compelling chapters that clearly articulate the problems before Parks Canada: 1) Preface, 2) Death by a Thousand Cuts, 3) The Battle Never Won, 4) The Loons of Keji, 6) Parks Canada, 6) Office Politics, 8) Walking the Talk, 9) Oh, Canada, 10) Love is All There is, 11) The Big Picture, 12) Re-creation, 13) Crisis of Spirit, 14) Afterword and 15) Appendix: Parks and Environmental Organizations.

Phantom Parks left the publishing tarmac in 2000, but the bulk of the research and personal experience that went into the book was done in the slow slide of Parks Canada in the 1980s-1990s. Needless to say, the thinning of the vision that was already at work in the 1980s-1990s has accelerated in the last decade. Parks in Canada are even more phantom-like than when Searle read the writing on the wall more than a decade ago.

The 'Foreword' to *Phantom Parks* by Pierre Berton summarizes in a succinct and sound manner the larger concerns that Searle has so well delved into and analysed. There is no doubt that *Phantom Parks* is a prophetic call to return to a higher vision of why the parks in Canada exist and to maintain such a vision before those that would weaken and compromise Harkin's dream for Parks Canada do so. This book, in short, is a must read for those concerned about 'all things wild', 'ecological integrity', 'sacred places' and the 're-creation of the human spirit'. ■

Measure of the Earth: The Enlightenment Expedition That Reshaped Our World

By Larrie Ferreiro , 2011

New York

Review by Mike Nash (Caledonia Ramblers)



Rarely does a book come along that is as surprising in its content as it is well researched and interesting as *Measure of the Earth* by Larrie Ferreiro. Set in the early eighteenth century, it has exploration, adventure, mountaineering, astronomy, surveying, geography, geology, botany, history, and old and new world geopolitics. I was astonished that I had never heard of the events and characters related in the book, but then hardly anybody in the twentieth century was familiar with the world's first international scientific expedition. The 1735 Geodesic Mission to the Equator was partly a victim of its own success because of the eclipsing events that it helped to inspire; but it was not always so obscure. It was, "...by any measure, one of the most famous and widely published tales of science, travel, and adventure during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The names of the principle characters, Pierre Bouguer, Charles Marie de La Condamine, Jorge Juan, and Antonio de Ulloa, were recognized by every educated person in Europe and the Americas."

Sponsored by the French Academy of Sciences and facilitated through a new alliance with Spain, the expedition was expected to take just two years when it set off in 1735. However, it was fully ten years, in 1774, before the first returning member, Pierre Bouguer, arrived in Paris with the results. It was an astonishing 38 years for the last member, Jean-Baptiste Godin des Odonais, to return with his wife, Isabel Godin, in 1773 after Isabel's amazing solo adventure across the continent and down the Amazon. Some members of the cash-strapped venture weren't so fortunate, being left to their own resources in South America and never getting back to Europe, while others died or were killed.

The ultimate purpose of the grand enterprise was to determine just one number, the length of a degree of latitude, adjusted for sea level, at the equator. Combining this with a similar measurement already made in France by the famous astronomer Cassini, and yet another that would be made in the arctic, the astronomers proposed to accurately measure not just the size of the Earth, but its shape. This would give added accuracy to the increasingly important science of marine navigation, and settle a dispute between Newton's theory of gravita-

tion that the Earth was flattened at the poles and Descartes' theory of planetary vortices that it was elongated at the poles. As the English were simultaneously working on the longitude problem through a prize to develop the first accurate sea-going chronometer, the French proposed to solve the shape problem. Thus two grand English-French contests, Newton versus Descartes and the accuracy of marine navigation, were rolled into one expedition. Tied to this were the emerging national science societies and academies of England and France, and later Peru, Spain and Germany, some of which arose through the involvement of members of the expedition.

The story is laced with intrigue, conflict, alliances and adventures, both among expedition members and with the peoples and societies they encountered and with whom they lived and worked. The soon-to-be-ostracized official leader of the expedition, Louis Godin, spent most the expedition's funds on a diamond ring for a prostitute in the Caribbean long before they even reached their destination, and he was so disgraced by the end of the expedition that he decided not to return to France. Yet he contributed significant detailed work to the project, and years later he designed a new quake-proof city of Lima that is still in evidence today after an 8.5-size earthquake and tsunami flattened the old city during his time there. Godin did eventually return to France after a further sojourn in Spain, finally reconciling with his wife and with the French Academy.

Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions were a regular occurrence throughout the nearly ten years of the expedition, complicating their work. Their chosen base, the city of Quito in what is now Ecuador, is situated on the side of a volcano, being a naturally defensive site used by the Incas. This is also a place where the convergence of trade winds from the north and south hemispheres coupled with intense convection of moist tropical air rendered both surveying and astronomical observations impossible for weeks or months on end, partly accounting for the drawn out time frame.

Two competing teams within the expedition first set out to separately measure a nearly 8-mile baseline over many months, arriving at amazingly similar results that differed by less than three inches. This baseline was then used to measure three degrees of latitude (just over 200 miles) along the spine of the Andes by triangulation, a surveying method still used in the 20th Century. After ten years of incredible perseverance and detailed work in very difficult circumstances, their final calculation of the length of a degree of latitude at the equator was accurate to within an astonishing 50 yards, or less than 1 part in 2,400.

They employed what were then state-of-the-art instruments such as large iron quadrants that, by today's standards, were heavy and primitive. They took their own instrument maker with them to make innumerable repairs and recalibrations and even to build several new instruments from scratch. Critical as his work was to the success of the expedition, he, unfortunately, did not rate a return ticket to France at the end. They established survey stations on the summits of high mountains, occupying them for weeks and months at a time waiting for a few seconds of clearing to get the required measurements. Ironically, although they were working at the equator, snow, cold, wind, frostbite, and altitude sickness were some of the main physical challenges faced by members of the expedition. While on the highest peak that they climbed, Sinasaguán, in late April 1739, they suffered through several days of intense storms, hurricane force winds, hail, snow, and lightning that ripped tents and killed horses. Then on May 7, the weather suddenly cleared and they managed to get all of their observations. On that summit, expedition member La Condamine was amused to read letters from France expressing concern that he would be labouring in equatorial heat.

Their first high-altitude peak, 15,000-foot Mount Pichincha, was as tall as Europe's highest mountain, Mont Blanc, which would not be climbed for another 50 years; and higher Andean peaks would follow. Bouguer, who was France's leading teacher of naval navigation, strangely spent his spare time on these high mountains writing a game-changing manual on designing warships using physics instead of rule of thumb. Bouguer also used the waiting time to attempt another first, determining Earth's gravity by measuring the deflection of a pendulum by a large volcano. The resulting inaccuracy in his measurement resulted from his lack of knowledge of the varying density of the Earth and the volcano, but this error gave his name to posterity in the '*Bouguer Anomaly*,' a term used by modern oil, gas and minerals geologists in relation to gravity anomalies.

Other side-achievements included the surveying and mapping of local cities and towns; establishing exact longitudes before the days of sea-going chronometers by later comparing the timing of lunar eclipses with similar observations in France; and accurately determining the degree of tilt of the Earth's axis by means of very difficult solstice measurements of stars at the equator. The expedition made the first use of spherical geometry in geodesy, and much original botanical work was done.

On the political side, the expedition's impact on the future history of South America was similarly large: one of the more colourful and adventurous astronomers, La Condamine, returned to France via the Amazon and later inspired Humboldt in his journey down that river. Both La Condamine and Humboldt in turn inspired Simón Bolívar as he led the final war for the independence of South America a hundred years later. The expedition also helped to stimulate future international scientific expeditions such as Darwin's voyage on the *Beagle* to the nearby Galapagos.

This book was a great find and a delight to read on many levels, not the least being its little-known mountaineering and surveying aspects.

Measure of the Earth: The Enlightenment Expedition That Reshaped Our World by Larrie D. Ferreiro; New York, 2011; ISBN: 978-0-465-01723-2. ■

Dick Culbert Coastal Mountain Pioneer Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)



Arnold Shives

Ron Dart visiting with Dick Culbert at his home on the Sunshine Coast

Bruce Fairley, in his historic and informed tome, *The Canadian Mountaineering Anthology* (1994), rightly so, suggested that 1960-1975 was 'The Culbert Era in the Coast Mountains (p.273)'. Most of the Coast Mountains had not been climbed, and there was no guide book at the time that pointed out paths and routes to take to challenging rock and glacier path summits. The earlier book by Phil Dowling, *The Mountaineers: Famous Climbers in Canada* (1979), had a fine biographical article on Culbert in it as one of the top ten climbers at the time. The Culbert Era had ended by 1979, but the legend lived on to inspire a new generation of climbers, poets and guide book aficionados.

Culbert cut his climbing teeth as a young man on the North Shore and Coastal Mountains in the late 1950s-early 1960s, and he was active with the Varsity Outdoor Club (being a student at UBC), Alpine Club of Canada and British Columbia Mountaineering Club. The fact that he was funded by the government in 1962 to do grubstaking (prospecting) meant that he and 3 good friends (Glenn Woodsworth, Ashlyn Armour-Brown and Arnold Shives) had a

mountain honeymoon of sorts---peak after peak was bagged in the Smithers area. The summer of 1962 inspired and reinforced the longing to take to yet more rock spires and snowfields. The pioneering trench work in the field meant that Dick carefully recorded all he was seeing and doing. The meticulous research was to birth the first guide book for the Coastal Mountains.

Phil Dowling had these poignant observations to offer about Culbert's first mountaineering book that was published in 1965. 'After three years of research and two-finger manuscript typing, *A Climber's Guide to the Coastal Ranges of British Columbia* was published. It described approximately two thirds of the Coast Mountains, from the International Boundary in the south to the Nass River in the north. Culbert, age twenty-five, became a notable figure in Canadian mountaineering almost overnight (p.235)'. Arnold Shives did some of the art work in *A Climber's Guide*, and Glenn Woodsworth is singled out as Culbert's friend to whom 'this guidebook owes its very existence'. The blue covered hard bound edition was so popular it went into a second edition in the late 1960s. The book remained such a West Coast mountaineering classic that it was published yet again in an updated and more colourful edition as *ALPINE GUIDE to SOUTHWESTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA* in 1974.

Dick Culbert had a distinctive literary bent to his soul with a philosophical edge to it, and many were the poems that flowed from his creative pen. Glenn Woodsworth collected some of Culbert's best poetry a few years ago and published the missive as *The Coast Mountain Trilogy: Mountain Poems: 1957-1971* (2009). Arnold Shives did the Illustrations for the compact and evocative poetry. The Culbert Era continues to live via the poetry and guide books of Dick Culbert. Mountaineering books about the West Coast mountains have proliferated since the 1960s, but it was Dick Culbert who pioneered the genre, and Glenn Woodsworth and Arnold Shives have been his editorial and artistic left and right hand in the process. ■

British Columbia's Magnificent Parks: The First 100 Years

By James D. Anderson, 2011

Madeira Park: Harbour Publishing, 2011

Review by Ron Dart (ACC-Vancouver)

Back in 1810 when the poet William Wordsworth described England's Lake District as a 'sort of national property in which every man has a right and interest', he was expressing a radical concept: in a country where property ownership was traditionally restricted to the wealthy and titled, he was suggesting that ordinary working people should share in the ownership of this beautiful and romantic part of the Cumbrian countryside with its lakes and bogs and mountain crags. In effect, he was advocating a national park.

~James Anderson (p.28)

There are moments in history when events (and sometimes crises) of significance to us are evocatively articulated and aptly summarized in a finely crafted book—such is the beauty and informed insights of *British Columbia's Magnificent Parks: The First Hundred Years*.

Anderson has more than done his homework and research well, and it is fitting that he gives the nod to both William Wordsworth (and his burgeoning vision of parks as ‘National Property’) and the ‘Elders and the Builders’ of BC Parks. There are reasons that BC Parks are taking a beating in funding and support these days, but there have been many women and men who have worked for Parks BC (and activists who have not) in the past who have faced daunting ecological odds and overcome them. *British Columbia’s Magnificent Parks* is a testament to those that dared to enter the environmental fray of their time, and, as a result, offered us public ‘National Property’ to pass onto those that follow us.

2011 has been a significant year for both Park bashing and Park hagiography. Parks Canada has done all sorts of cheerleading for its 100th anniversary (1911-2011), and Glacier and Yoho National Parks (being the first national parks in BC) are celebrating their 125th anniversary (1886-2011). The birth of the BC provincial Park system (beginning with Strathcona) must not be missed in this parade of National and Provincial Park euphoria. BC Parks is celebrating its 100th anniversary, also—such an auspicious year cannot be missed.

British Columbia’s Magnificent Parks: The First 100 Years is a must read for a variety of reasons. First, Anderson has, again and again, highlighted the oft forgotten fact that the history of BC’s extensive Park system has been an ongoing struggle. Second, for those that want a succinct, compact yet most informed and informative overview of the history of BC provincial parks, this is the book. Third, the photographs are artistically presented and woven well into the written text—this seamless threading draws the reader into the larger drama and tale in a most compelling way. Fourth, Anderson writes as an insider and actor in the drama of BC Parks, so there is much insight offered.

British Columbia’s Magnificent Parks is divided into 15 sections:

- 1) Introduction (a general overview of the book),
- 2) Origins and Early Days (Europeans, Americans and Canadians)
- 3) Developing the BC Parks System, 1913-1944 (a motherlode of information)
- 4) Parks in the Post-War Years, 1945 to 1957 (the expansion of the BC Parks accelerates)
- 5) Development Versus Conservatism, 1957 to 1969 (the unresolved and simmering tensions of decades begin to erupt)
- 6) Growth Years, 1969 to 1975 (the outdoors phenomena demanded much of BC Parks and a response was in the offing)
- 7) Parks Branch Restructuring and the Resource Wars, 1976 to 1983 (tensions mount within BC Parks and new paths taken we all live with today)
- 8) Changing Government and Policy Shifts, 1983 to 1991 (politics and parks is a heady mix, and BC Parks often becomes the plaything of ideology politics)
- 9) The 12 Percent Solution, 1991 to 2001 (is this the answer and way forward?)
- 10) Approaching the Centennial, 2001 to 2011 (some hard decisions to be made)
- 11) Postscript (insightful but needing more commentary)
- 12) Acknowledgements (a tip of the hat to the elders of the BC Parks vision)
- 13) Appendices (some good hard facts to know and ponder)
- 14) A Note on Sources (well worth the read)
- 15) Foreword (Stephen Hume’s historic tale told of the trek to feel out the possibilities of the first park in BC)

Anderson has wisely arranged the book to read in a chronological way, and each phase of the unfolding drama has its own unique tensions and crises points. It is probably appropriate to read each chapter at a slower speed, let the meticulous information sink slowly into the mind and imagination, allow the superb photographs to speak to the soul, ponder how we are where we are because of historic decisions, and become part of the journey into the future.

There are incisive and probing issues to ponder in *British Columbia’s Magnificent Parks*, and the factual and descriptive overview should be deftly internalized by those concerned with the future of BC Parks.

Anderson is more than alert to the perennial tensions between conservationists-preservationists, ‘preserve and protest versus wise use’, recreational wilderness and wildness views, and he is no Henny Penny sky is falling in ideologue nor a Pollyanna optimist. Anderson, as a Parks BC employee, is more than aware that ecological commitments mean hard work involved to bring into being a vision of what BC Parks can be beyond merely ecological protest and advocacy politics.

An author must decide, at the outset, how breadth and depth will be balanced. There is no doubt *British Columbia’s Magnificent Parks* tilts in the direction of breadth and tends to be thinner on depth. Each of the chapters and sections in each chapter could easily be a book in itself. But, this is merely a secondary quibble in a moderlode of a book that one and all should have if concerned about BC Parks past, present and into the future.

Stephen Hume summed up the dilemma well in his ‘Forward’, and the review will end with his comments: ‘In 1910 the entire population of British Columbia numbered only 370,000.....Most of the province was uninhabited wilderness. It took a special kind of visionary to foresee the need for parks a century in the future as it will take another kind of visionary to foresee the parkland demands a hundred years from now’. ■

Maddy's turns on Mt. Baker

Alex Gibbs (BC Mountaineering Club)

The early summer's unsettled conditions forced us to cancel a BCMC trip to ski Mt. Adams NFNWR (North Face of the North West Ridge), but (for this particular weekend) the weather looked much more optimistic in northern Washington, so Maddy Armstrong and I put out the offer to the trip participants to ski Mt. Baker instead. Alexis Guigue and Richard Wiens were the only two to take up our offer, so the plan was set. We picked Richard up at 3:00am in Abbotsford and got the regular "You can't ski in June" interrogation at the border. The snowline was still about a mile down the road from the Heliotrope Ridge parking lot, which had a meter of snow at it still. By 6:00am we were skinning up the road and through the avalanche gully onto the icy slopes above Grouse Creek. A short, icy traverse later and we were on the Coleman glacier, weaving our way through the crevasses to get to the base of the headwall. I led over the bergschrund on a nicely placed, but rather thin snow bridge, and climbed a short ways up to set an anchor for the rest to follow. I realized that Maddy had all of the slings, cordalettes, and carabiners, so some funky rope work and an ice axe in a T-slot would have to do. To avoid the second 'schrund we did a rising traverse left and climbed a narrow, icy choke with somewhat friable ice. There was nowhere for an anchor, so Maddy, Richard, & Alexis got their first taste of alpine ice with a short solo on 60 degree ice.

Till that point in the day, the weather had held out, but by then clouds were starting to build up in the valley and were slowly rising up towards the glacier. Although we were still in the sun, descending and crossing the Coleman glacier in a white-out seemed less than ideal. There wasn't much we could do though, other than plug our way up the headwall. The snow was firm and travel was quick up the face. Near the summit, the wind picked up, and hastened our climb. We crossed over the NW ridge to seek shelter from the increasingly strong gusts, but the wind was relentless.

We transitioned at the summit dome and went in the general direction of the headwall on the expansive summit glacier. As the slope slowly rolled away from us, it seemed as though we were perpetually skiing out into oblivion. The slope steepened, and we still couldn't see any sign of the route. By this time we were skiing on 45 degree slopes that were bullet proof thanks to the frigid wind. Our edges seemed to be on the brink of losing their ability to hold us onto the slope and any turns that were made were followed by violent chattering in an effort to regain control on the surface. The route was still not in view, and I was desperately hoping that I had not led us out onto the seracs that hang precipitously over the headwall. A few more cautious turns and all of a sudden everything came into view. We were almost exactly where we wanted to be, right at the top of head-wall. We could see a bergschrund below us, and the seracs were out to our right. I tried to stamp out a small platform on the rotten snow above a rock, and delicately took out my camera. I told Maddy to go ski closer towards the seracs, do a few turns, hop the 'schrund carefully, and then wait for me. I snapped a few pictures as Maddy did some turns on the N  v  , arcing her knees into the hill aggressively, digging her edges in and controlling her descent. I let out a "whoop" when she landed over the 'schrund and came to a stop. I was glad to stop balancing on my perch and enjoyed the steep and exhilarating turns to join her.

Below, the snow was perfect corn down the rest of the face. The icy choke had softened enough to accommodate some tense and careful turns. We hopped over the last bergschrund and were back on the Coleman glacier, which the cloud cover had kept cool enough that it hadn't turned to slush. A nice end to a great day. ■



Alex Gibbs

Maddy Armstrong skiing out into oblivion

Vancouver Island Trail Guides Now Available as E-books

We are proud that our three hiking trails books are now available as e-books. As far as we know, these are the first e-books about hiking on Vancouver Island and quite possibly in all of Western Canada. The Vancouver Island Trails Information Society was the first publisher of hiking books on the Island and has now continuously done so for almost four decades, with an estimated 100,000 plus hard copies sold. The books produced are: *Hiking Trails 1, Victoria & Vicinity*; *Hiking Trails 2, South-Central Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands*; *Hiking Trails 3, Northern Vancouver Island*. Next year will mark the non-profit society's 40th anniversary.

While we will continue to publish in hard copy, we are responding to the younger outdoors enthusiasts who are getting most of their information through a variety of mobile devices. Also, occasionally we have had requests for our books from people living overseas who were planning to travel here but wanted a book on very short notice and then found the rush courier costs too high, or we couldn't meet their tight timelines. This should help deal with such requests. The [e-books](#) are available from our distributor. Note that prices are in US dollars. For more information about VITIS and our books visit our [website](#).

Eric Burkle, President, VITIS



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FMCBC 2012 AGM

FMCBC's AGM will be held in
Squamish
on **June 2, 2012.**

If you are interested in
learning more or attending
please contact [Jodi](#)

Check out

[FMCBC's 2012-2014 Strategic Plan](#)

Learn how you can get involved!

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
would like to welcome the
[Vancouver Rock Climbing Group](#)
as our newest member club.

Thank you for your support.

DONATIONS APPEAL for PROJECTS FUND

Dear FMCBC Members,

The FMCBC appreciates the support we receive from our members and your financial contribution which goes towards covering the FMCBC's program and administration costs. FMCBC's programs have been growing over the past few years and we are looking toward more growth as we begin to implement our 2012-2014 Strategic Plan.

The FMCBC would like to build a Projects Fund to assist with funding for projects proposed by our member clubs which would be a benefit to FMCBC members. The FMCBC has a budget for projects which we would like to see put to good use, but the budget is small so we are making an appeal to our members for additional donations to increase our Projects Fund for 2012/2013.

All donations to the FMCBC *received before March 31, 2012* will go towards our 2012/2013 Projects Fund. In April the FMCBC will inform its member clubs as to the amount available in the Projects Fund and clubs can apply through a short grant application for funds for their local project. FMCBC will establish a Grant Committee who will review the applications in May and will award grants at the FMCBC AGM on June 2, 2012.

Please help us make some projects happen around BC next year by making a charitable donation to the FMCBC before March 31, 2012.

Your donation is tax-deductible for the year in which the donation was made. A charitable tax receipt will be issued to automatically for donations of \$15 or more. For donations over \$1,000, you have the option to be listed as a supporter on the FMCBC website and in the Cloudburst newsletter.

To make a donation, contact Jodi directly at admin.manager@mountainclubs.org or 604-873-6096 or complete the printable donation form on our website and mail it along with your cheque to: FMCBC, PO Box 19673, Vancouver BC, V5T 4E7. Please make the cheque payable to Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. You can also make a secure online donation to the FMCBC at the Canada Helps website <http://www.canadahelps.org>. Type in **FMCBC** to find us and make your donation. Canada Helps is a registered charity with the goal to make giving to charities simple. Their site provides an easy and secure way to make donations.

Thank you for your support.



Member Clubs

CENTRAL INTERIOR

Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section

<http://www.accprincegeorge.ca/>

Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club

<http://caledoniaramblers.ca/>

Fraser Headwaters Alliance

<http://www.fraserheadwaters.org/>

FRASER VALLEY

Backroads Outdoor Club

<http://backroadsoutdoor.ca/>

Chilliwack Outdoor Club

<http://www.chilliwackoutdoorclub.com/>

SOUTHERN INTERIOR

Kootenay Mountaineering Club

<http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca/>

METRO VANCOUVER

Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Section

<http://www.accvancouver.ca/>

BC Mountaineering Club

<http://www.bcmc.ca>

Hike BC

<http://www.nationaltrailofbc.ca>

North Shore Hikers

<http://www.northshorehikers.org/>

North Vancouver Outdoors Club

<http://www.northvanoutdoorsclub.ca/>

Outsetters Club of Vancouver

<http://www.outsetters.org/>

SFU Outdoor Club

<http://www.sfuoutdoors.ca/>

Valley Outdoor Association

<http://www.valleyoutdoor.org/>

Vancouver Rock Climbing Group

<http://www.vrcg.ca>

Varsity Outdoor Club – Vancouver (UBC)

<http://www.ubc-voc.com/>

NORTH COAST

Mount Remo Backcountry Society

<http://www.mtremo.ca/>

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club

<http://www.mountainclubs.org/AVOC.htm>

Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section

<http://www.accvi.ca/>

Comox District Mountaineering Club

<http://www.comoxhiking.com>

Friends of Strathcona Park

<http://friendsofstrathcona.org/>

Island Mountain Ramblers

<http://sites.google.com/site/islandmountainramblers/>

Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association

<http://www.vispine.ca/>

Vancouver Island Trails Information Society

<http://www.hikingtrailsbooks.com/>



Ross Scott

Jocelyne, Zuzana and four amigos after a hard lunch at the summit of the “golfcourse”



John Mclellan

Top of the Hounds Tooth. Participants: John Mclellan, John Labramboise, Peter Murphy, Marilyn Cram, Brett Rueff, Deanna Sherrat, Oly & Matthew Eichstadt, Ron Dart, Kirsten Knechtel.