

CLOUDBURST

**The Spearhead Hut Proposal
Updates from Vancouver Island
Ron Dart explores Birney's David**



FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC Spring/Summer 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 and climbers, and outdoor clubs throughout British Columbia.

The FMCBC

- addresses mountain access, recreation, and conservation issues
- coordinates, builds, and maintains hiking and mountain access trails throughout B.C. through its member clubs
- promotes outdoor education and safety

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 contact the FMCBC office to receive a list of clubs that belong to the FMCBC (See back cover). Membership is \$15 per annum per membership when a member of a FMCBC Club and \$25 per annum for individual members.

Executive

President: Brian Wood
Vice President: Scott Webster
Treasurer: Elisa Kreller
Secretary: Patrick Harrison

Directors

Dave King (ACC-PG, CR, Northern Regional Director), Caroline Clapham (ACC-Van), Andrew Pape-Salmon (ACC-VI), Rob Gunn (AVOC), Brian Wood (BMC), Dean Pollack (BOC), Ken Rodonets (CDMC), Don Hay (COC), Roy Howard (FHA), Karl Stevenson (FoSP), Patrick Harrison (HBC), Bill Perry (IMR), Peter Oostlander (KMC), Travis Carter (MRBS), Mack Skinner and Cristina Jacob (NSH), Eleanor Acker (NVOC), Dave Lavery (OC), Max Bitel (SFU), Gil Parker (VISTA), Eric Burkle (VITIS), Mike Stewart (VOA), Erica Lay (VOC), Peter Rothermel (VI Regional Director),

Committee Chairs

Recreation and Conservation: Brian Wood & Monika Bittel
Trails: Patrick Harrison & Alex Wallace

Cloudburst

Editors: Bill Perry & Jay MacArthur
Production: Jodi Appleton

Staff

Administrative Manager: Jodi Appleton
Bookkeeper: Kathy Flood

For More Information on the FMCBC:

www.mountainclubs.org

PO Box 19673 Vancouver BC V5T 4E7

Tel: 604-873-6096

Email: fmcdbc@mountainclubs.org

INDEX

President's Report.....	4
Letters and News of Interest	5
Recreation and Conservation Updates.....	7
Trails Updates.....	11
Club Ramblings.....	12
Club and Regional Updates.....	15
Literature of Interest.....	21
Announcements.....	28

Cover Photo taken by Andrew Pape-Salmon



Stevens Peak from Mount Bate, Vancouver Island (near Tahsis). 2010 Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Camp

Cloudburst is published semi-annually by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. Publication/Mail sales Agreement # 41309018. Printed by Hemlock Printers. Circulation 3500.



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 (FMCBC) is a democratic, grassroots organization dedicated to the conservation of and access to British Columbia's wilderness and mountain areas. As our name indicates we are a federation of outdoor clubs and our membership is about 3500 from 22 clubs around the province. Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of non-motorized or self-propelled mountain recreation users including hikers, climbers, mountaineers, backcountry skiers and snowshoers, who all share an interest in the protection and preservation of the mountain/wilderness environment. The FMCBC also has several individual members who are not affiliated with the club, but share our mission and accomplishments. Membership is open to any club or individual that supports our mission. In addition to the work that FMCBC does on their behalf, membership benefits include a subscription to the FMCBC newsletter *Cloudburst* and access to an inexpensive Third-Party Liability insurance program for club members, and Directors and Officers liability insurance for your club organizers.

The FMCBC mandate is "to foster and promote the non-motorized activities of the membership and the general public through leadership, advocacy and education". The FMCBC recognizes hikers, mountaineers and ski-tourers etc. to be a traditional user group and represents their rights province-wide to freely access and enjoy a quality experience in the mountains and forests of British Columbia. Our members believe that the enjoyment of these pursuits in an unspoiled environment is a vital component to the quality of life in British Columbia.

- The FMCBC fulfills its mandate with a comprehensive approach to mountain recreation and conservation by:
- Participating in provincial land use decision processes.
- Working to positively change (and in some cases enhance) 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 continued access to existing recreational resources.
- Building, maintaining and protecting hiking and mountain access trails.
- Promoting hiking, rock climbing, mountaineering, ski touring and other self-propelled mountain activities.
- Educating the public on conservation issues, related to outdoor recreation.
- Educating its member and the public on mountain and backcountry safety and working with member clubs to address risk management issues.
- Encouraging new membership in our member clubs

Acting under the policy of "talk, understand and persuade", rather than "confront and force", the FMCBC advocates for the interests of its member groups. Much of this work is done through our committees including our Trails Committee and Recreation and Conservation Committee. With the exception of the assistance provided by the FMCBC's Administrative Manager work on these programs is done mainly by volunteers.

The FMCBC was founded in 1971, based on a predecessor organization called the Mountain Access Committee. Since this time the FMCBC has had many success stories working on behalf of our members and the public at large. If you visit our website (www.mountainclubs.org) you can view a list of some of our successes and accomplishments we have had through the years categorized by geographical region. Some highlights include the popular Adopt-a-Trail program and the resolution of several land use issues through participation in various planning processes.

We continue to work towards success on new issues and projects. Much of our work these days tends to be access related where we are competing with other users of the land base or in some cases a lack of investment in existing infrastructure. At the core of these projects, issues and successes (and often the grinding work that goes unnoticed) is the countless hours of time from dedicated volunteers from across the province. Without these volunteers the FMCBC would not exist and we are always looking for new volunteers—no experience required. Through our committees, club advocates and general membership we have much to hope for on the trail ahead. ■

President's Report

Brian Wood (BC Mountaineering Club)

2011 is the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the FMCBC and we hope that we can continue to provide a useful “umbrella organization” to help self-propelled backcountry recreation clubs communicate effectively between themselves, government agencies, other users of the back country, and the public.

The AGM in June marks the end of my three year term as President, and Scott Webster, our current Vice President, has agreed to run for the President's position. The VP role will therefore become vacant so we are looking for someone who would be interested in filling that role in preparation to take on the role of President in two years. There are other openings on the Executive Committee, the Recreation and Conservation Committee, the Trails Committee, the Fund Raising Committee and Communications Committee. We always seem to be short of volunteers, and so please consider helping in any position that interests you.

As this will be my last President's Report I would like to summarise and update some of our activities during my term. Some of the projects that were “in progress” when I started are still in progress, but hopefully further towards completion. For example, the recent re-structuring of the FMCBC Board of Directors to be more responsive and visible to our clubs, and thus more democratic and accountable, seems to be acceptable and fairly well settled. Although we anticipate there will be some minor “tweaking”, most of this new structure has been incorporated into our Constitution and By-laws.

We are further enhancing communication between the clubs by using more electronic media which will disseminate more information more frequently to our clubs than the current semi-annual Cloudburst Newsletter. We hope that more frequent electronic dissemination of information will answer the perennial question from some of our members: “What is the FMCBC doing for me?” As legal matters assume more importance, we have changed our insurance provider once again, and are striving to improve and understand our Liability Insurance coverage for those clubs that need it. For a while negotiations with the District of Squamish over transfer of the FMCBC land to the new Municipal Smoke Bluffs Park have been stalled due to lack of “in perpetuity” protection for the climbing areas, but negotiations are re-starting shortly.

For over two years our financial position has been solid and we are now in a position to financially assist our committee members with some of their costs of attending meetings etc, which have been steadily increasing. As many of you know, our improved financial health is mainly due to elimination of our paid Executive Director position, and for the last three years, we have relied on Jodi Appleton, our part-time Administrative Manager, to help keep the organization functioning, ably assisted by a team of Directors and other dedicated volunteers. She is improving her managerial skills to perform a wider range of duties that have made the FMCBC more efficient and more visible to the member clubs, as well as to the public through her work on Cloudburst.

There is one important project still in its early stage, which we hope will help us build a more sustainable and successful FMCBC that will be independent of government funding and thus more able to withstand political whims that have caused financial problems in the past. We are continuing to work with the Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) to form a “Community Partnership” which could help to build the capacity of the FMCBC to improve services to its members and to the general public to protect the interests of the non-motorized (or self-propelled) back country recreationists. We call this group the non-motorized recreation sector (NMRS), and they represent a large portion of the MEC membership and thus provide their main customer base. Most of our members are also in the NMRS, and some of them have extensive experience in negotiating land use issues and wild land management issues with government agencies, resource extraction companies, and other backcountry recreationists. In view of this extensive experience, we feel we are the best organization in BC to protect the interests of the NMRS and the land base which is their “playground”, but first we hope to further improve our general management skills and general effectiveness of communication with the government and the public.

After discussions with the MEC, we initiated a Strategic Planning Process (SPP) to enable the FMCBC Board of Directors to focus more accurately on aspects that are most important to our members, and to reduce or eliminate our efforts in areas



Brian on his trip to Ecuador this Spring.

John Emes

of less importance to our members. After reviewing several proposals from strategic planners in response to our advertised position, our committee selected a professional strategic planner, Terje (Terry) Vold, who has a forest science, a biological science, and a forest recreation background. He also has many years of experience in strategic planning, facilitating land use negotiations, and many other matters relating to backcountry recreation and conservation issues. He contacted about forty persons from our member clubs and from other organizations that are familiar with the FMCBC, and supplied each with a detailed questionnaire. Most of the questionnaires were completed during phone interviews with Terje followed by a “feedback check”, and a few questionnaires were completed by the persons completing answers in writing. As a result of this work, our planner has prepared a Progress Report and a Consolidated Feedback Report, which have been circulated to the Strategic Planning Committee to review. The final results of this stage of the planning process will be reviewed and discussed at the AGM in early June so that we can make decisions and start on implementation of the recommendations.

In all, I feel that we have made some progress, albeit much slower than I would have hoped. Some more good news is that we are beginning to reduce the average age of the Executive Committee by bringing in younger folks. For example, my expected replacement, Scott, has just become a father for the first time, whereas I am a grandfather several times over. This infusion of youth, with its new ideas and enthusiasm, can bring fresh life into this 40 year old organization. However, just in case someone thinks of accusing me of ageism, we do need the experience and acquired wisdom of our older members who have served us so well for many decades. I will end by saying thanks to all who have helped, and good luck to those taking up the torch. ■

Letters and News of Interest

A conversation on BC Forests

Bill Perry, Editor (Island Mountain Ramblers)

I believe that we in FMCBC are experts in wilderness values and what is important to wilderness users. The Federation of Mountain Clubs has earned a solid reputation for this knowledge through years of delivering facts needed by decision makers and through responsible negotiation.

Sometimes it is difficult to find the right time and opportunity to voice our opinion on land use issues. In fact, the Federation is hoping, in the not-too-distant future, to find funding for someone to advocate full-time on behalf of the non-motorized outdoor recreation community.

To my surprise, I recently discovered an initiative which seems to be actively seeking our opinion on the future of BC's Forests. It is called “Healthy forests-Healthy communities; A conversation on BC forests.” As part of this project, a series of “community dialogue sessions” is being planned in locations throughout BC.

The FMCBC directors will be discussing the extent to which we should be involved in this process. Meanwhile, check out their web site at <http://bcforestconversation.com/> to find out more about how individuals can participate. ■

A Possible Approach to Improve the Effectiveness of the FMCBC

Brian Wood (BC Mountaineering Club)

Some of the critics of the FMCBC state that our rate of success in land use disputes is not very encouraging, and some would say that our apparent lack of improvement in these matters contributes to the “burn-out” rate of our volunteers. Hope springs eternal, and I will try to explain my version of how the FMCBC might operate in the future to improve our success rate. First, here is a little history.

For decades the FMCBC has supplied various government agencies with submissions on a wide range of topics relating to back country recreation issues, usually relating to ultimate permitted use or activities on specific areas of Crown (public) land that had historically been used only by the non-motorized recreation sector (NMRS). In the early days, the disputed land uses were usually about natural resource extraction, for example logging and mining, which could destroy hiking trails, etc, and we felt these were too often resolved in favour of the extraction industry. Now however, since recent large increases in the motorized recreation sector (MRS), both public and commercial, often the disputed uses are conflicts with the MRS which operates off-road vehicles (ORVs) e.g. snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), 4x4 trucks, motorized trail bikes,

etc. The disputed uses also include helicopter-accessed activities such as heli-skiing, heli-hiking, heli-biking, etc. With respect to public motorized recreation, due to lack of resources for zoning enforcement, it is often impossible to prevent public motorized recreation operating on non-park public land, even if the land has been zoned for non-motorized use. With respect to commercial recreation, i.e. tourism activities, enforcement to keep the NMRS off land that is zoned for the NMRS is somewhat better because government tenures permitting the commercial recreation can be cancelled for non-compliance. Most of these tenures are for motorized activities and often take place in areas once free of such activities, and our often repeated arguments about the long standing NMRS's "traditional use" of the area are usually ignored in favour of boosting tourism revenues. Motorized tenures are often issued for many years, and the NMRS is usually displaced from the areas within a relatively short time as the peaceful wilderness experience is now lost to the roar and smell of engines, which usually also displace wildlife.

Thus, whether the FMCBC is negotiating with the government about resource extraction or motorized recreation conflicting with our activities, our perception is that we rarely get a fraction of what we request. It is obviously very discouraging to our volunteers to see so little benefit for the NMRS after so many years of volunteer work. I am hoping that we can improve our financial position to deal with government more effectively to produce better results for the NMRS than in previous years by using an approach which probably requires some skills that we might have to pay for as we may not have the skills or available time in our volunteer pool.

The approach involves scientific literature searching for which we might already have capable volunteers. I understand that governments usually focus on numbers such as the voting public numbers, and the bottom line of financial reports, and I am hoping to use this type of data to get the government's attention. I feel we could try to assemble in *one* report convincing and professionally obtained scientific evidence to support at least these six propositions.

1. There are many more people (i.e. voters) in the NMRS then the MRS.
2. The NMRS contributes more dollars overall to the economy than the MRS.
3. NMRS participants reduce health care costs because of their more active lifestyle, and perhaps less accidents per capita.
4. Children of parents in the NMRS have more chances of being physically active in wild places and thus have a greater chance to observe nature than those children of the MRS, and thus have less chance of acquiring "nature deficit syndrome" which might help reduce the incidence of ADD and therefore education costs. (I feel this proposition might be little shakier than the remaining five).
5. The NMRS has a lower carbon footprint (per capita and probably overall) than the MRS because the MRS is usually controlling a throttle of a gasoline powered motor.
6. The NMRS causes less environmental damage (which includes wildlife disturbance), requires less costly infrastructure, and also causes less wear and tear to the infrastructure than MRS.

I feel we should explore these and possibly other benefits that might have some scientific basis to show that the NMRS provides many more worthwhile benefits to society than MRS. To reduce our time, our costs and our chances of "re-inventing the wheel" by performing our own research, I feel we should conduct good scientific literature searches to find references which would support at least these six propositions with well documented studies. If we cannot find suitable reports to support all six propositions, perhaps we could establish funding to have a university graduate(s) pursue some original research to support one or more of these propositions for which we cannot find suitable literature references. I would hope that the person doing this searching could produce a report which would combine *all* these arguments into a well-reasoned and summarized report that could be understood by a non-technical political committee.

I feel there is nothing new in any of these six propositions, and there is probably hard scientific evidence and reputable studies to support most, if not all, of these propositions. Assuming some such studies exist, they may have already been used *singly* to support arguments relating to the benefits of the NMRS over MRS. By having all these studies in one report, I would like to *overwhelm* any previous arguments against one or two of these studies with the *cumulative effect* of all these studies, which clearly cover a wide range of estimates of revenues, cost savings and social benefits. While some folks may feel I am exaggerating the benefits of self-propelled back country recreation, if our report is suitably presented to senior bureaucrats, perhaps they would be convinced to approach their masters of whatever political stripe so that good understandable science would overcome the power of the motorized industry, which can be measured not only in horsepower but also in lobbying dollars. ■

Chilliwack River Valley Trails Association (CRVTA)

Jack Bryceland (Chilliwack Outdoor Club)

From the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) workshop (held at the BC Institute of Technology on October 29-30 2010), which was titled 'Finding Solutions to Regional & Community Trail Issues, a local working group has been formed in Chilliwack.

It is an attempt to solve existing, and prevent future, recreational conflicts in the Chilliwack River Valley by having a diverse group of users banding together. There was an initial meeting on March 16 and a second meeting on April 19. A third meeting is scheduled for May 19.

Currently there is one representative each from:

Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Association
Backcountry Horsemen of BC
Chilliwack Snowmobile Club/BC Snowmobile Federation
Dual-Sport BC
Right Nuts ATV Club/Quad Riders Assn. of BC
Trans Canada Trail
Canoe Kayak BC
Chilliwack Outdoor Club/Federation of Mountain Clubs

The CRVTA is working in close cooperation with Mike Peters and Marina Dunn, the Chilliwack District representatives of Recreational Sites and Trails BC, which is now part of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. We have decided, currently, to limit our area of interest to the Chilliwack River watershed excluding Provincial Parks and Vedder Mountain. The latter is excluded since the Vedder Mountain Trails Association is actually providing a model for what we want to accomplish here. Should we manage to establish a successful working group, we may choose to include the Provincial Parks at a later date.

We have three topics on the table now:

- a) Department of National Defence gates.
- b) Run-of-the-river proposals, aka IPPs.
- c) Trans Canada Trail & motorized use.

If any members of FMCBC have thoughts or suggestions I'd be happy to hear them. ■

Jack Bryceland
jackb@imag.net
604-858-6601
2011/05/08

Recreation and Conservation

The Spearhead hut system proposal and the Garibaldi Park Management Plan

By Michael Feller (BC Mountaineering Club)

The proposal to build a system of huts in the Spearhead Range within Garibaldi Park has emerged from its early days of secrecy and is currently being debated by a variety of people and groups. Probably the most significant aspect of the proposal is that it is to occur within a provincial park – Garibaldi Park – which has a management plan in place which gives direction to use of the Spearhead Range. This management plan states:

1. "There are no facilities provided in the Spearhead Range" (p. 27)
2. Concerning a proposed hut system and Spearhead loop trail, the plan talks about the tradeoffs between increased use and loss of wilderness values then states "The Spearhead route will be studied in detail to determine the best option for development" (Public comment summary/analysis p. 10)

Nowhere does the existing plan recommend any developments in the Spearheads. The zoning of the Spearheads area as Natural Environment does not exclude hut construction, but the plan doesn't recommend it. It merely states that the area will be studied, and a hut system may be constructed if the studies demonstrate that a hut system is "the best option for development".

A number of questions about the proposal have been raised in FMCBC Recreation and Conservation committee meetings. These questions include the following:

- 1) What are the locations of winter and summer routes and huts?
- 2) How many huts will be constructed?
- 3) What will be the type and size of huts?
- 4) What will be the hut amenities and how will they be serviced?
- 5) What will the user fees be?
- 6) How will the hut accommodations be managed?
- 7) What will be the policy towards motorized access?

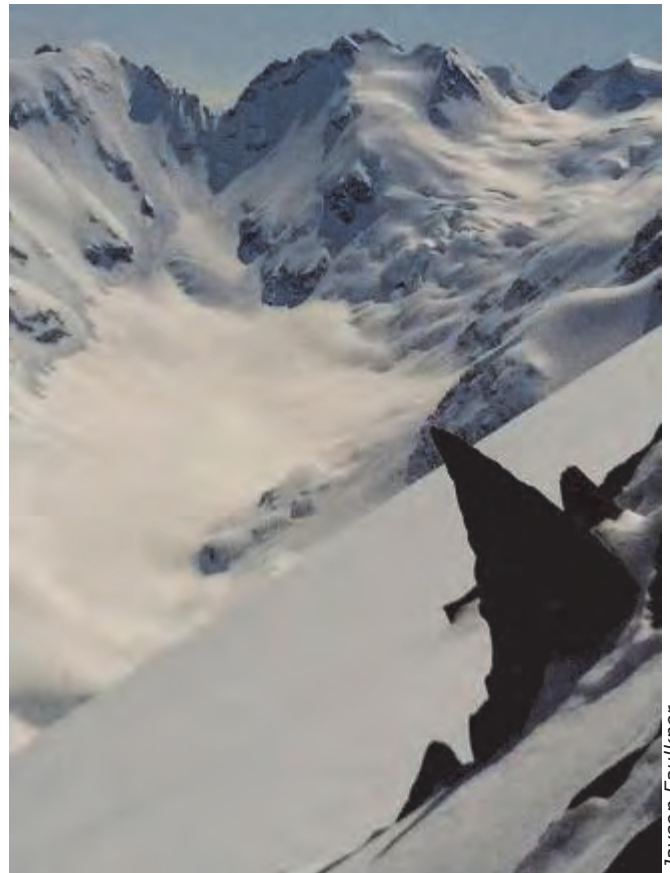
Although it has been suggested that BC Parks is fully behind the project, public comments by BC Parks do not support that suggestion. According to the BC Parks planning officer for the region, Vicki Haberl:

“BC Parks has received the proposal from the Spearhead Huts Committee and we are reviewing it. It would be incorrect to say BC Parks supports the project as that has not yet been determined. the 1990 Master Plan does not answer the question of huts in the Spearhead, and directs that the concept would need to be explored further. We are currently scoping out what kind of review process is required, and how to facilitate public comment. First Nations consultation would also be an important requirement. BC Parks has met with the proponent to better understand the proposal. And we are considering what studies may be required (wildlife surveys, impact assessments, etc.) It is early stages so there is nothing to provide to you at this time. A timeframe has not yet been determined.” [email of 9 November, 2010]

This was further elaborated in a subsequent email by Vicki [23 February, 2011]

“Here are some points that reflect BC Parks’ position regarding this proposal:

- The Spearhead hut system is contemplated in the 1990 Master Plan but does not provide direction on whether or not it should be approved. It calls for it to be studied in detail. (Garibaldi Master Plan (P. 21) - Winter Recreation - Actions - *Study in detail the high route trail in the Spearhead Range linking the Blackcomb ski area and the Whistler ski area as a possible ski tour route supported by a hut system. Included in the study will be an assessment of impact on mountain goats.*”)
- Given that the Spearhead Hut Committee has come forward with this proposal, BC Parks will review and adjudicate it. There have been “discussions” with interested parties about huts in the Spearhead in the past, but none as serious or credible as this proposal. BC Parks views this proposal as an opportunity to follow the direction of the Master Plan and to study the opportunity in detail.
- There will be a public consultation process. There will be a First Nations consultation process. We are still determining how to conduct the consultation processes.
- There will be a detailed assessment of potential impacts. This assessment will go far beyond the recommendations of the Master Plan, and will consider much more than impacts to mountain goats. Our preliminary list contains many similar questions as those you have raised [FMCBC Rec and Con questions above], and more. I suspect the issue of impact to “wilderness recreation opportunities” will be one of the key issues debated in the public consultation process.
- BC Parks will work with the Hut Committee to guide them in terms of the assessments that they will be required to complete, and to determine what aspects BC Parks will be responsible for.
- The issue of Garibaldi Park’s role in providing “opportunities for true non-motorized winter backcountry recreation in the Squamish-Pemberton region” is precisely the reason BC Parks wishes to review this hut system proposal, and to confirm the long-term direction regarding the Whistler Heli Ski tenure for the Spearhead Range. ■



Jayson Faulkner

On the Spearhead Traverse looking across at the upper Fitzsimmons.

Southwest BC Recreation and Conservation Committee Report

Evelyn Feller (BC Mountaineering Club)
(NEW ARTICLE)

The committee has had a very active year with regular monthly meetings in which guests were often invited to provide information on specific issues which was in addition to our usual letter writing to appropriate individuals or organizations. The main topics attended to have been mostly ongoing over several years and are outlined below.

BC Parks.

BC Parks is receiving good publicity because of its 2011 Centennial and the politically-motivated elimination of parking fees, but bad publicity because of deterioration of trails and other infrastructure. In addition there are increasing public complaints over the cutbacks in ranger and interpretive services which used to be provided. This is not surprising when one looks at declining parks funding, as well as the “musical chairs” antics of both senior and junior bureaucrats in government, further aggravated by the elimination or retirement of staff. It is becoming increasingly difficult to locate anyone who knows anything about parks, and the way government works.

Garibaldi Park

1. The R&C committee has continued to keep up-to-date with the work of the Friends of Garibaldi Park. Given the declining government funding for parks, necessary park services and trail maintenance may have to be accomplished through funding and volunteer work by such groups as Friend of Garibaldi Park.
2. Spearhead Huts Traverse. We reviewed the proposals for the development of a hut to hut traverse in the Spearhead range and developed a list of issues that needed to be addressed before the committee would recommend FMCBC support for this proposal.
3. Singing Pass Access and Bridge. Members have complained about the loss of access to Singing Pass due to landslides and bridge removal across Fitzsimmons Creek. We are still awaiting BC Parks update of critical information before we can seek funding to support bridge and access improvements.
4. Whistler Heli-skiing Tenure. We have continued to communicate with parks and tenure agencies to cancel heli-ski tenures in the park.
5. Many of the above issues are related to the updating of the Garibaldi Master Plan. Because there are so many issues emerging in the Whistler area, including more ski run expansion into the park, parks staff have indicated that there will be a plan that focuses on the Whistler area. R&C committee members will be actively involved in this process.

Sea-to-Sky LRMP Unresolved Area

Russ Kreye of ILMB attended the September meeting to discuss motorized and non-motorized land zoning issues relating to areas in the S2S LRMP which had not been resolved at the end of the planning process. The motorized use includes both commercial and public motorized recreationists, mostly snowmobiles. There are several areas which are important for day trips which include Tricouni, Brohm Ridge, Rainbow Watershed, Brandywine, etc and aboriginal groups are interested in being involved in the planning of most of these areas.

We all agreed that parking is a problem for both motorized and non-motorised recreationists, and restricting parking for the large snowmobile trailer rigs could help the non-motorised users. Signage would be a start, and then enforcement, but there was not much hope for the latter. Recently the Squamish First Nation rejected any motorized activity in the Seagram Lakes area and the result has been potential snowmobile use of the important Roe Creek access to Brew Hut and snowmobile incursion into other non-motorized areas.

Strategies to protect loss of access and non-motorized access continue.

Callaghan Backcountry and the Olympic Legacy Society (OLS)

Since Whistler Olympic Park (WOP) transferred management of its general area to OLS there have been access problems relating to hours of permitted parking, trail fees etc and it has been frustrating trying to deal with the managing group. There

have been several meetings and email exchanges, but nothing has been resolved to our satisfaction. Committee members conducted a survey that demonstrated a fee reduction would be beneficial both to the users and operators but our recommendations were rejected.

Run-of-River Projects(IPP's)

Creek Power, owned by Innergex and Ledcor power Corp have applied for 3 IPP Projects in the Upper Lillooet Valley and a 72 km long transmission line, and three persons involved with this came to our October meeting to answer questions and receive input. The project is currently undergoing environmental assessment processes with the Federal and Provincial governments, and local government and aboriginal groups are being consulted. There are two cabins (one owned by BCMC) that are close to two of the proposed IPP creeks, and there is concern about the road access to build the intake structure and penstock as this could facilitate access for off-road vehicles(ORV's) who presently cannot access the BCMC cabin. There is also concern that access roads for the transmission line could also facilitate access for ORV's. Creek Power assured us that they are considering all these concerns and will keep us informed. There is another IPP in the Upper Lillooet Valley which has been a source of environmental and recreational problems in the past. Information from recreationists with experience traveling in other areas with IPPs has indicated that access is often very restricted. There is also increasing concern about the impact of the Lillooet IPPs on significant natural features such as Keyhole Falls. The R&C committee will keep following this process.

21 Mile Creek Signage

A number of FMCBC members worked hard to erect signage at key access points to 21 Mile Creek to inform the motorized communities where the non-motorized zone in the area is. As part of this process we have continued to record snowmobile access violations.

The R&C committee has also continued to monitor and keep current on issues such as LRMP changes that have not followed due process, heli-ski problems in Phelix Creek area and a variety of planning activities in the Whistler area.

A number of committee members are to be commended for their dogged persistence in representing the interests of the non-motorized community and getting information from government and other organizations. ■

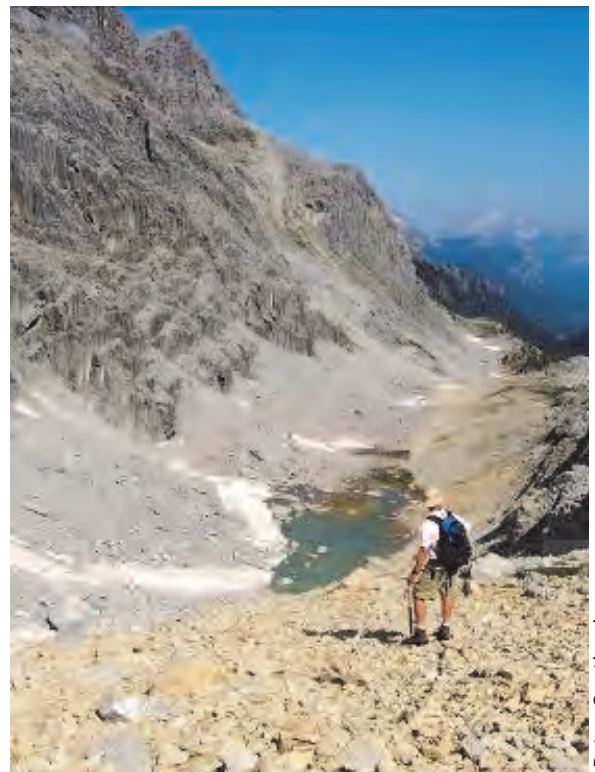
CLOUDBURST

Cover Photo Contest

If you have a photo that you think would make a great cover please email it to us at admin.manager@mountainclubs.org

Congratulations and thank you to
Andrew Pape-Salmon
whose great photo made the cover of our
Spring/Summer 2011 Issue.

Please submit photos for our next issue
by October 15, 2011.



Peter Oostlander

Carl Jorgenson hiking to Limestone Lake from KMC supper campsite in 2009 .



Southwest BC Trails Update

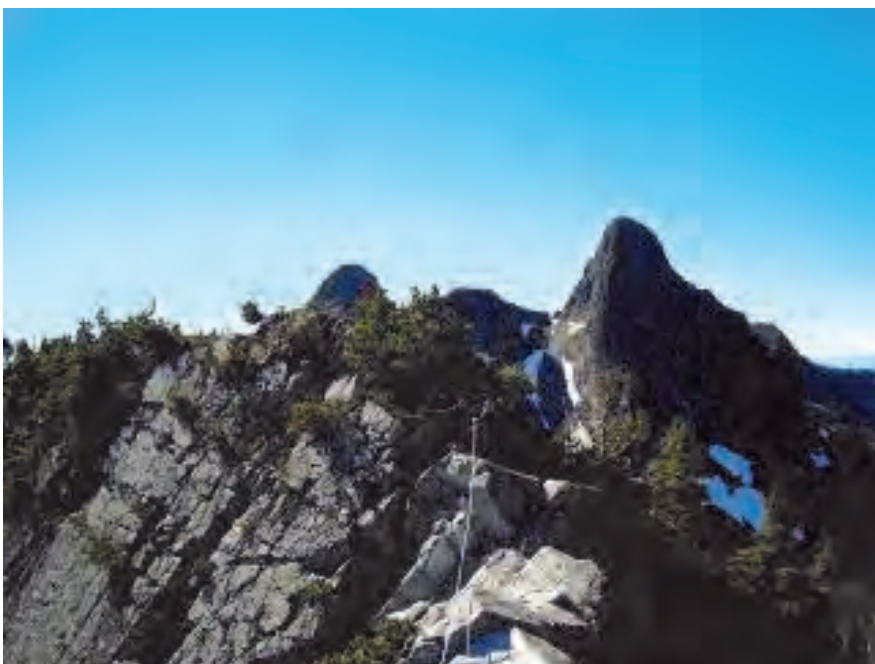
Alex Wallace

South West BC Trails Committee Co-chair

Currently our understanding is that in Provincial Parks all volunteers are still banned from doing trail work [unless a ranger is on site during trail work- there is one (1) for the Lower Mainland's Eight provincial parks at the moment] until the issue of volunteer liability raised by Risk Management Branch / Ministry of Finance has been resolved, - and the \$600,000 reduction in BC Parks budget this year, meaning that they still have less funding than 15 years ago and that's for twice as many parks. I recently did a calculation using the 1991 BC Parks operating budget of \$32 Million as a start point and adding inflation each year and then the increasing number of parks the extrapolated figure I got for 2011 is \$160 million annually: which explains why there is so little maintenance of trails and a huge backlog of repairs. We were told recently that Garibaldi needs \$4.1 million to bring the trails up to a fit state, and given that Cypress needs at least the same, with Seymour possibly needing \$3 million for eroded trails and other work, that would be \$11.2 million needed for three parks, out of 989 Parks and protected areas. When Minister Murray had the meters installed she cited the example of Washington State, but neglected to mention that they spent roughly \$110 Million annually for 110 State parks, (and their meters were voted out by referendum within 2 years) whereas BC Parks was, and is still, in the situation of having roughly \$30 Million to maintain nearly 1,000 parks- and much of that goes to the PFO's.

At least one individual has written to government suggesting that Cypress, Seymour, Alice Lake and other parks should be handed over to Metro Vancouver or other regional parks systems as BC Parks has virtually no funding. I personally think that this is not the way to go, especially for the mountain parks, but I confess that I have wondered whether Peace Arch should be maintained by the Federal Government (as it mostly consists of lawns, flowerbeds, buildings and picnic areas, and these are a significant drain on BC Parks' finances and time, particularly when someone runs the border and drives through the flowerbeds) and how many people know that it's a Provincial Park..? http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/peace_arch/

One of the difficulties in addressing the volunteer liability issue is that over the last year we have been given several different stories as to why it is now suddenly an issue, and BC Parks can no longer retain liability and cover these volunteers. Brian Wood and I recently accompanied Jeremy McCall of ORC to a meeting on Victoria with the new Acting Director of BC Parks, Tessa Graham (former aide to Gordon Campbell) seeking resolution or at least clarification on this issue, - as we have never received formal written notice that liability is now on clubs' shoulders if they choose to do trail work in parks. Ms Graham indicated that the liability issue had indeed been raised by Ministry of Finance, but it was not clear as to how it could be resolved, or when it would be worked on by her or her staff. We suggested that our Adopt-A-Trail program could be the template for a system of 'qualified volunteers' whereby rangers could train and approve trail work volunteers, who could then work unsupervised as time allowed ; and the province would still retain responsibility for liability issues within provincial parks as they have done for the last thirty years or more. The alternative appears to follow the TSA model (on Crown land) where clubs will be asked to take responsibility for a trail via a signed agreement, which also provides general liability insurance from the Government (i.e. they will pay the premium for \$1 million of coverage) however this proposal was not well received in the case of trails on Crown land, despite Jack Bryceland spending 7 or 8 years reworking the agreement forms. Again, given that it has originated in Ministry of Finance, Risk Management branch, this move could be perceived as Government cost-cutting measure, i.e. by downloading the risks and legal costs on to volunteers, and so on to clubs and their directors, despite the claim that it's "...for consistency throughout the province". We could still have consistency and training of volunteers, without downloading liability on to them and their clubs. I must admit that I'm not optimistic at this stage, as the Crown Land TSA debate took up years of time in meetings and the issue was not resolved despite the lengthy and exhaustive process. ■



Alex Wallace

Area Supervisor Larry Syroishko of BC parks checking the ancient safety rope on Thomas Peak during a survey hike on the Howe Sound Crest trail section north of The Lions in Sept 2010.

The Vedder Mountain Trails Association

Gary Baker (Chilliwack Outdoor Club)

Vedder Mountain lies south of Chilliwack and flanks the very popular Cultus Lake Provincial Park. For decades it has been used by hikers and horsemen, and more recently they have been joined by mountain bikers, ATVers and off road motorcyclists. Approximately 170km of old skid roads and recreational trails crisscross the mountain. The mountain is also one of the premier timber harvest areas within the Chilliwack Forest District.

The Vedder Mountain Trails Association (VMTA), a registered non-profit society, was formed in 2004 of a need to address both perceived (by local authorities and politicians) and real usage conflicts that were occurring as a result of the rapidly increasing numbers of recreational users. There was also growing concern that public access to this trails network could be restricted and that logging interests would trump all other users' interests, as active logging was about to resume on the mountain, resulting in the likely destruction of many very popular trails. Recreational users needed a voice and needed to be heard.

The founding partners of the VMTA - Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association, Back Country Horsemen of BC, Vedder Running Club, Cascade Off-road Motorcycle Club and Chilliwack Outdoor Club and the newest partner, the Lower Mainland ATV Club, which joined the VMTA in 2010 - believe that collaboration and cooperation is the way to manage, protect, and develop the recreational potential and opportunities that exist on the mountain.

Together we have been able to negotiate agreements with logging companies to preserve or minimize the impact on trails and have secured ongoing governmental support and funding for trail maintenance, signage, and road repairs. We have sponsored an annual "Clean-Up Day" and have GPS mapped all of the trails on the mountain and produced detailed user maps.

We love to share our trails and we want them to be around for future generations to enjoy as we do. Explore our trails at our website <http://www.vmta.ca/>. Better still, visit Vedder Mt., enjoy the sights and see how motorized and non-motorized users of the wilderness can collaborate so all can better enjoy their outdoor experience. ■

Club Ramblings

Mount Edziza – August 2010

Nowell Senior (Caledonia Ramblers)



Nowell Senior

The first day of our 10 day hike to Mount Edziza began at Mowdade Lake (say Mo-daddy) - with the choice of one of two trails. One of these trails was on dry land and fairly visible; the other was apparently under a swamp that stretched about 2 km up Chakima Creek. We chose the invisible trail, and after 3 hours reached the dry land trail.

At this point, I felt weak and sickly and didn't know why.

I'm almost never ill, but the very hint of illness jolts my imagination to pick me up and run off with me. Of course, it must have been leeches silently sucking away as I splashed through the swamp. But everyone else looked strong and hearty. Perhaps I was more susceptible to the immigrant Anopheles mosquitoes that were being blown in on the southerlies from the Caribbean, and I was in the first stage of an attack of malaria or dengue fever.

Whatever I had – it gave me nausea, pain and no desire for food; hardly encouraging when carrying a full pack 3000 feet up to the Mount Edziza Plateau.

Fortunately heavy rain forced us to hunker down for two days near the head of Chakima Creek, which allowed me to rest up in my tent. Even more fortunate was the entertaining and enlightening chatter between Charlene and Darryl from their tents. Listening to their marathon conversations covering a vast range of topics filled my mind and kept the hounds of pain at bay.



Courtesy: Tomi Gassler

We met, as arranged, with a second group on the plateau and nearer to Mount Edziza, but I was getting weaker each day. Once it was realized that I was sick, my fellow hikers pounced on me and distributed every thing in my pack amongst them. Of course the bulk of the weight was in the food I hadn't been able to eat over the previous five days, and the food I was hoping to eat over the next five days. This was OK with me of course; it was parting with my beer that was a wrench because I was still enjoying it, but our camp doctor had forbidden it. This is the stuff of those old country songs about crying in your beer as the loved one disappears over the horizon. In my case, I was crying in my empty backpack as my beer disappeared over the horizon.

Thanks to the doctor and nurses in our group, I did begin to feel better, and although my appetite never fully returned, I did start to feel peckish. I didn't know who had my food, but it helped to sharpen my appetite further not knowing who had what; selecting at random made the meal a surprise and more enjoyable.

I've told you nothing about Mount Edziza, but I can tell you that despite my physical struggle, I was not robbed of my capacity to appreciate the unique beauty of the volcanic landscape, Mount Edziza, with torrents of water streaming from her glacial mantle, and a rich variety of wildlife, including grizzly bear, wolf, caribou, and goats.

There was an added feature to this landscape, and that was the human element which helped me to complete this trip to such a marvellous place - thanks to you all for this.

Yes, and please remember that if you find yourself on the way to Mount Edziza by way of Chakima Creek, and leaving Mowdade Lake - take the trail to the right that's on dry land.

Adieu, with a handshake in thought. ■

Skoki Lodge

Ron Dart (BC Mountaineering Club)

In 1996, Skoki was named a National Historic Site by the federal Department of Canadian Heritage because of its association with early tourism in the Rockies and its link with the growth of skiing in the park.

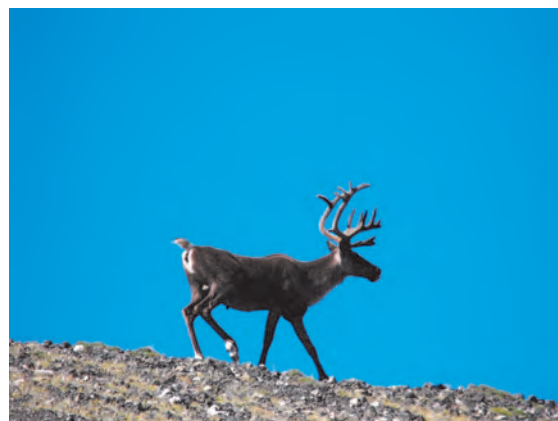
~ Kathryn Manry, *Skoki: Beyond the Passes* (2001) p.94.

A few of us, under a full moon in December 1975, did a five day ski trip from Sunshine Village to the well tended wooden cabin by Lake Magog at the base of Mount Assiniboine. It took us two days to get to our destination, and we spent one full night skiing under the light of the moon and star thick sky. It was a few days well worth the memory. Sunshine Village and Lake Louise have been two of the most important launch places for skiing, hiking and mountaineering in the Canadian Rockies, but Skoki Lodge (closer to Lake Louise) holds a unique place in backcountry history in the Rockies.

Skoki was the first commercial backcountry lodge in the Rockies, and by 1930 the vision was very much alive. The tales included, kudos of praise, avalanche deaths, poems written, artists inspired and treks taken to Skoki make for history at its alluring best. *Skoki: Beyond the Passes: The Story of Western Canada's First Backcountry Ski Lodge* recounts the history well of life at Skoki from 1930 to the present.

I have done many a trek in the Lake Louise area, but in April 2011, my wife joined me for a week of mountain research at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies and time on the slopes. The back country ski trip from Temple Chalet (a fine wooden hut with restaurant on the backside of the Lake Louise ski area) to Skoki Lodge makes for a delightful return day trip. The 11km skin to board or ski from Temple to Halfway Hut (which has seen better days) over both Boulder and Deception Pass brings the eager to Skoki Lodge. Many do a trip into the lodge, bunk and bed down for the night (after being well fed), do some backcountry skiing on the smaller slopes for a couple of days, then return to the Lodge and ski out. We were fortunate that the weather gods spoiled us the week we were in the area, and the temples of time did not disappoint us. The fact that we were on the slopes in early spring meant the bears were out of hibernation, and we spotted, nearby, a grizzly pawing the snow for something to feed a ravenous stomach. The summer trip into Skoki, though, is also a keeper and trek worth doing, but winter and spring in Skoki has its own sort of charm and magic.

Those who are interested in doing the Skoki trip (if for no other reason than its historic significance) should read *Skoki: Beyond the Passes: The Story of Western Canada's First Backcountry Ski Lodge* before taking the trip. Many of the best tales told about Skoki Lodge are packed into this compact missive. ■



Nowell Senior

Qua Peak

Kenneth Roy
(Kootenay Mountaineering Club)

January 2, 2011

As I sat staring at the Christmas tree over the holidays stuffing my face with my favorite peanut butter fudge sent to me by my family back home, I remembered about the Qua peak trip I had couldn't make last winter because of work. With sunny skies, moderate avi conditions, cold temperatures and with a high of -7C predicted for the following Sunday I thought it would be a great time to get out and tackle Qua peak.

A quick inquiry email to Sandra and Doug and low and behold, the wheels they were a turnin'. We managed to round up seven people for the trip but at the last minute one called in sick, and the other was tending to a sick dog at home. Sandra, Jenn and I met at the hitching post at 7:00AM for a very brisk start to the morning which I'm sure was close to -20C. Andrew and Sarah were the other two who showed up a few minutes behind in the upper Whitewater parking lot. To avoid getting too cold, we decided that it would be easiest to regroup near the top of blasters ridge. It was up there that we could start to soak in some of the morning sun.



Sandra MacGuinness in the sunshine.

Regrouped and ready to roll with the sun already over the peaks, we set off east along blasters ridge in the direction of our goal. After about twenty-five minutes the five of us stopped on the ridge just opposite prospectors bowl to rip off the skins and ski our first descent to Qua creek. It was about a 1700ft descent through a nicely gladed tree run on a south facing side.

With Qua creek within reaching distance, the skins were reapplied and for the next 1 hour and a bit Sandra, Jenn and Andrew led the charge. To avoid a steeper ascent into the true Qua peak basin we travelled further east to a "known" slide path. Out of the sun in the valley below, it felt like a chilly -15C.

We stopped briefly for a bite to eat just before ascending the slide path and at about 1900m we veered south to enter the Qua peak basin. We managed to reach the sun's rays as we came around the corner of the north trending Qua ridge. Feeling warmed up and still a bit hungry we stopped again at around 2200m before making the final approach to the col. Our plan was to reach the peak by noon and get home around 3PM.

Jenn ventured ahead setting the final uptrack as the rest of us followed behind. Sarah decided to stay back at this point and watched from below. We removed the skis for the few remaining hundred feet to the col and ultimately to Qua peak. Lots of faceted snow and a higher than normal snowpack at the col proved to be a bit challenge. Fortunately for us, Andrew's six-foot something stature was not far behind and came in handy as he punched his way up and over the cornice.

Andrew took the lead until the summit which was reached at about 12:40PM. Just shy of our goal of high noon. A couple of videos and pictures were snapped at the summit and off we went back down. We skied an awesome short run down to 2200m where we regrouped with Sarah before our return back home.

The sun felt great as we made our way back out of Qua creek. Instead of retracing our steps back to Blasters Ridge, we decided to head up to West Ymir col for a final ski down into Ymir bowl. We travelled west on the south facing slopes at an elevation of about 1800m until turning up towards the col. What a great way to start the new year! Great day, Great skiing – hopefully not the last!

Participants were: Sandra MacGuinness, Jennifer Kyler, Andrew and Sarah Murray, Kenneth Roy- trip motivator. ■

Hike BC Spring News

Pat Harrison (Hike BC)

Hello everyone,

It has been an exciting time for Hike BC since last summer. Hike BC has been able to become established in the Lower Mainland and the Sunshine Coast with the help of various groups.

Many thanks to the following for their efforts in establishing and improving the National Hiking Trail this past year:

- The City Council of Surrey
- The Surrey Parks and Recreation Department
- The Surrey Heritage Commission
- The Surrey Sunnyside Acres Heritage Committee
- Many staff members of the City of Surrey
- The City Council of White Rock
- Many staff members of the City of White Rock
- The Metro Vancouver Board
- Many staff of Metro Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department
- The City of Delta
- The City Council of Courtenay
- The planners of Courtenay
- The Powell River Wilderness Society (Eagle Walz)
- The Friends of Barkerville (Robin Grady)
- The Friends of the Telegraph Trail (Dwight Dodge)
- The Caledonia Ramblers (Dave King)
- The Fraser Headwater Alliance (Roy Howard)

The National Hiking Trail has now been signed from the Peace Arch Visitors' Centre near Blaine, Washington to the Tsawwassen Ferry. The western terminus is now marked at the Peace Arch Visitor Centre by a large 30 cm X 45 cm sign.

The Powell River Wilderness Society is in the process of marking the entire length of the Sunshine Coast Trail as part of the National Hiking Trail. They are also in the process of establishing huts along this trail.

BC Parks has given the go ahead to sign the Howe Sound Crest Trail and Black Mountain Trails as part of the National Hiking Trail.

Hike BC has more meetings scheduled for Courtenay and Sechelt. We hope to extend the National Hiking Trail considerably by the end of the summer.

Hike BC will be holding its AGM in Quesnel on the 14th of June, following a meeting with the City Council on the 14th of June. We want to formalize the passage of the trail through Quesnel.

In subsequent months, we hope to meet with the association that is building the Sea to Sky Trail from Squamish to Pemberton. They have given preliminary approval to sign this trail.

If you live in southwest BC in the Lower Mainland and you want to buy outdoor gear, there is a great little store on King George Blvd and 24th Avenue. Mountain Magic sells Hike BC's *Trail Pass*, which helps Hike BC while helping your pocket book. For \$15 till the end of 2011, one can get 5-10% off purchases at Mountain Magic. If you have a big ticket item like a tent, one can earn back their entire purchase of the *Trail Pass* in that one purchase. You can check Mountain Magic out at: www.mountainmagicgear.com or call 604 535 5182.

Hike BC now has a website up and running at www.nationaltrailofbc.ca. This website is fairly basic, but we hope to improve upon it in the coming year.

Hike BC hopes that everyone has had a great winter and will have a great summer. ■

Vancouver Island regional report

Bill Perry (Island Mountain Ramblers)

The following is a summary of and excerpts from the minutes of the Island Delegates Meeting on April 16, 2011, attended by representatives of Vancouver Island hiking clubs

BC Parks Centennial

It was decided that the following centennial projects would be initiated:

A wish list for new parks in BC.

Members are encouraged to make proposals, which would be considered and prioritized at the fall meeting. Some ideas to consider:

1. A “VI Spine Park,” along the lines of the Capital Regional District Trails / linear parks, with, say, a 20-m wide swath easement or right-of way.
2. The Victoria/Warden Massif
3. An area about 50+ hectares just NE of Elk Mountain at about 1250m elevation
4. The Capes/Idiens Lake area that TimberWest had for sale and many thought should be purchased by BC Parks a couple of years ago. The property is still for sale.
5. The expansion of Juan de Fuca Park to include the lands under threat of resort development,

An advisory committee for BC Parks.

This could include FMCBC, other interested organizations, First Nations, tourism bodies, etc. This sort of group has been lacking and could assist BC Parks in its planning and decision-making.

Reinstatement of a BC Parks volunteers program.

FMCBC could propose to spearhead this effort. We would need to work with BC Parks to discuss the insurance coverage and guidelines.

FoSP’s centennial project is completing the Bedwell trail, and is hoping to get Parks’ approval.

Access Issues

It was reported that Island Timberlands (IT) doesn’t want to have information about their lands (including roads) displayed on RDN (Regional District of Nanaimo) maps. Negotiations are underway between IT and RDN to try to resolve this, as road information is essential for the public to access Mt. Arrowsmith Park. It was decided that no FMCBC action is required at this stage, pending the outcome of these discussions.

There are access problems with the Comox Lake road. TimberWest now requires groups obtain a permit, which requires groups to pay \$500, carry \$3M general liability insurance, \$1.5M fire insurance, \$3M vehicle insurance, and carry a spill kit and a fire extinguisher. CDMC applied on February 1, and TW (or rather Couverdon, their real estate arm) are just looking at it now. Hunters do not require an access permit during hunting season, and this unequal treatment of user groups should be raised at the next FMCBC meeting. FMCBC will be informed when we hear back from TW.



Eric Burkle

Roofed Accommodation in Wilderness Locations

In 2010 a private group proposed building a cabin near Louise Goetting Lake, just southeast of Sutton Pass (between the Tofino Highway and Alberni Inlet.). The application was not approved by the Integrated Land Management Bureau. However, it has been suggested that local hiking groups belonging to FMCBC develop a strategy for responding to future applications of this type. A first step would be to assist in revisiting the Federation's policy on roofed accommodation as it may apply to areas outside parks. It was also noted that there are already a number of cabins in parks and in public and privately owned managed forest areas on Vancouver Island.

Assuming that Island clubs agree that huts or cabins are appropriate in certain places, which, if any, wilderness locations would be suitable in the area southwest of Sutton Pass? It has been suggested that the Island delegates take a proactive approach by forming a committee to recommend if and where roofed accommodation should exist in this area. Further discussion and action on this issue will take place at the next meeting.

FMCBC Funding for Projects

The Federation now has funds available for worthy projects. It was mentioned that VISTA would be applying for funding for trail establishment. One of the benefits of VISTA route delineation could be improved access to some areas that are currently difficult to get to, such as the Beauforts, Victoria/Warden, and the area south of Lake Cowichan.

Roundtable: Updates from Member Clubs

AVOC: is working together with other groups on the Inlet Trail. Phase 1 is done, and the groups are partnering with IT on this regional trail. They expect to open it in the spring. Much of Phase 2 is done, but funds are needed for a crossing over China Creek.

The Log Train Trail (part of the proposed Spine route) is also in disrepair, and the groups are trying to get the ACRD (Alberni Clayoquot Regional District) to upgrade the lease and supply the required funds to improve safety.

ACC: is involved in advocacy efforts for the Juan de Fuca Trail mentioned above. They had a very successful summer camp season last year – three week-long camps at the Alava/Bate sanctuary near Gold River. This summer's plans are for one week-long hut-based camp in Lake O'Hara (nearly full) and three week-long tent-based camps in the Coast Range (all full).

CDMC: is waiting for a response from TimberWest regarding the Comox Lake Road (primary access route to the Comox Glacier).

VISTA: Thanks to the FMCBC for support.

FOSP: Bedwell is the focus. Approval for the Clayoquot Wilderness Resort (CWR) horse trail permit is still not final. FOSP will continue constructing a trail for hikers, more scenic than the valley bottom route. There will likely be two work groups, one working up from the Sound, the other down from the lake. There may also be another day project like Crest Creek trail last year. It was noted that work in parks requires planning and approval, which has not yet been given to this proposal.

VITIS: are working on updating their bylaws and constitution, and are clearing up archival material. They are always interested in corrections and updates to their trails information. They are also interested in GPS coordinates for trailheads. They have established one \$500 scholarship and three \$500 bursaries for the four institutions of the Island, with the aim of getting young people interested in the outdoors.

IMR: have enjoyed a very active snowshoe hiking season in record snow accumulations. The trip photos and reports have been emailed to members. In February, the Ramblers assisted in organizing a slide and film presentation on the Strathcona centennial expedition, which retraced the steps of the 1910 expedition that recommended turning the area into a park. It was led and organized by Phil Stone. Also, the club's treasury is now in better shape, having shared in the proceeds from this event. ■



New Bursaries and Scholarship Now Available for 2011

Eric Burkle (Vancouver Island Trails Information Society)

For the first time ever, Vancouver Island Trails Information Society (VITIS) bursaries and a scholarship are now available for students commencing or continuing studies in outdoor recreation, environmental studies and conservation programs at the following Vancouver Island post-secondary institutions:

- University of Victoria (scholarship of \$500)
- Camosun College (bursary of \$500)
- Vancouver Island University (bursary of \$500)
- North Island College (bursary of \$500)

Successful applicants will also receive a copy of their choice of one of our *Hiking Trails 1, 2 or 3* books. Applicants are asked to contact the financial aid offices or websites of the respective institutions. The selection will be made by each institution.

The new bursaries and scholarship were created to give back to the community that has supported our books for the past forty years, and to increase the interest, particularly among younger people, in the outdoors and hiking. During the past year, VITIS has also made donations to Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary in Victoria and to the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. ■

BC Mountaineering Club Report

Brian Wood (BC Mountaineering Club)

The debate about FMCBC membership fees has not yet been settled, and perhaps after some more debates we will be able to agree upon a fee structure that will keep most members satisfied and not cause the FMCBC to slip back into the red as it did a few years ago. Now that the FMCBC has no Gaming Grant funding, one of the costs of running the FMCBC is printing and mailing Cloud-burst, and this raises the option of paper communication versus electronic communication, which is also still being debated.

Probably like many of our member clubs, the BCMC is also discussing the option of paper versus electronic communication, and to help the Executive come to a decision on this tricky aspect, in the last year the BCMC requested opinions from its members on many topics, but particularly including the options of paper versus electronic communication. To receive our members' opinions with minimal effort, we used a web-based computer program called "Survey Monkey" which permits easy user input for on-line collection of members' opinions, automatic collation of opinion data, and final displaying of all data in several different formats. Some of the results were not surprising, but what I found surprising was the wish to save paper, and to a lesser extent, save cash, which of course is reflected in our membership fees. Personally, I have always thought that club membership fees were a very small part of the costs of outdoor recreation when you factor in gear, clothing, car, and travel and meal costs, but a few extra dollars on membership fees seem to get some folks very excited. So, assuming that the BCMC members are generally typical of other outdoor club members, reviewing some aspect of the survey might be instructive to other clubs.

So, briefly, 57 % of our members want to receive their "monthly" newsletter online (really 10 issues per year), and 38% (strong) and 14% (somewhat) would like a discount for receiving it electronically, and about 27% want no change, i.e. no discount. There are many reasons some members of the club like to receive paper copies, e.g. convenience, escape from computers, etc whereas one of the reasons given includes lack of computer access, but we would expect that factor to diminish in the future as more of us embrace (reluctantly?) the internet. The newsletter is about 12 pages, containing a schedule of upcoming trips, any special event details or short articles, and brief trip reports of past trips. Coincidentally, in the last year or so the BCMC has started issuing an all-electronic shorter E-news, usually for matters that are time sensitive or particularly topical, but without trip reports. All this communication is in addition to our busy website which is maintained by our skilled and dedicated webmaster, and is always the best place to go for a current trip schedule. There have been discussions relating to possible duplication or redundancy between



John Emes

Brian Wood on Volcan Cayambe in Ecuador.

the newsletter and the E-news, and so I would expect to see some changes in the future. The BCMC membership fee committee is presently investigating options in view of the strong showing of the membership for a discount for receiving electronic communication.

I have reported this information to Cloudburst because the FMCBC is looking at similar but not identical matters relating to communication. Many of our members have given positive ratings to the monthly FMCBC E-news, and this, of course, is much less costly and more frequent and topical than our semi-annual Cloudburst Newsletter. To protect the FMCBC's financial position, at present the FMCBC does not give a discount for opting to receive Cloudburst electronically instead of receiving a mailed printed copy. I suspect these communication options and their financial implications will be discussed at the forthcoming AGM.

If anyone is interested in reviewing the BCMC membership survey and its results, please let me know. ■

ACC – Vancouver Island Section Club Report

Cedric Zala (Chair, ACC-VI)
(NEW ARTICLE)

The ACC VI section continues to be very active on a number of fronts. I'd just like to mention some of the highlights of the past while.

Our education program has proven very popular. Many of our courses continue to be free and instructed by club members, and we build a subsidy of about 50% into the cost of other courses like Avalanche Safety Training and Wilderness First Aid. In addition, we provide a subsidy of 50% for courses taken with guiding companies. All this is aimed at encouraging members to get out there safely, and also to gain the skills to lead more trips.

We now maintain our schedule dynamically on our website, which allows us to deal easily with adding or rescheduling trips. It has changed the planning dynamic a bit, though, as we used to try to get a full six-month printed schedule of trips. However, with a flexible schedule, you can't really print it out and put it on the fridge! But even though there is the occasional murmur of discontent, people have generally made the adjustment to the on-line format very well.

And although the schedule is reasonably full, we could always use more trips and leaders, particularly from the younger age bracket. We are not alone here – finding enough experienced leaders is an ongoing challenge facing most outdoors groups. We feel that part of the reluctance of members to lead stems from their lack of confidence in their own leadership skills. For this reason, we are aiming to increase our leadership training initiatives in the coming year, and are looking into the UIAA leadership certification scheme as a means of expanding our leader base.

We continue our monthly electronic newsletter, the *Island Bushwhacker*, and our flagship *Bushwhacker Annual* continues to be a publication we are very proud of, with about 80 pages of articles expected in the 2010 issue.

The club was also featured in the January 2011 issue of *Senior Living*, with profiles of three of our members and descriptions of some of our exploits and programs.

A real high point in 2010 was the trip, funded by our youth grant program, by four UVic students to the remote Brooks Peninsula with the objective of climbing Mt. Doom. They have written a very thorough and engaging article on their adventures, which will appear in the 2010 Bushwhacker Annual.

Another high point was our summer camp in the Alava/Bate Sanctuary, between Gold River and Tahsis. Up to recently we have had hut-based summer camps on the mainland, but decided to break with tradition and organize a tent-based camp on the Island. It was amazingly popular, and the original two week-long camps had to be supplemented to include a third one in order to meet the demand to experience and climb in this fabulous, pristine area. Spirits were undampened by having to camp on two metres of snow, and except for the very last day, the weather cooperated to make it a superb experience.

For the coming summer we have two different types of summer camps organized: a week in Lake O'Hara at the Elizabeth Parker Hut, and three one-week tent-based camps in the Coast Range's Athelney Pass area, which is being put on in conjunction with the Vancouver section. Response has been excellent, and all four camps are now full.

Finally, our section has maintained its involvement in community and environmental issues in response to the threat of a 257-cabin resort development adjoining one third of the length of Juan de Fuca Trail. Through our membership in Protect Our Parks, an alliance of outdoors and conservation groups in the CRD, we are attempting to prevent the rezoning that would be required, and to lobby the Provincial Government to acquire the lands and add them to Juan de Fuca Provincial Park. ■

Northern BC Regional Report

Dave King (Caledonia Ramblers)

(NEW ARTICLE)

Over the past year there has been a number of local issues the clubs (Caledonia Ramblers and PG Section of the ACC) and the Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society have been involved in, including:

Last summer Canfor deactivated a road that gave access to one of two main trails into George Evanoff Prov. Park. They did the deactivation with contacting BC Parks, MNRO (Sites and Trails) or the Caledonia Ramblers (had maintained the trail for years and built it originally). It would have cost much less to do a little maintenance on the access road than the deactivation. The incident led to some embarrassment on the part of the company. It also coincided with an audit of Canfor operations on TFL 30 by the Forest Practices Board and in the end I had a good meeting on the subject with Al Gorley, now chair of the FPB. The Board is aware of similar incidents and concerns elsewhere in the province but it is somewhat outside of their mandate to actually investigate.

In the meeting with Mr. Gorley, we also had a good discussion on public input (or lack there of) into forest and land management. This is also an issue of wide concern across the province.

We participated in a public avalanche awareness session in conjunction with the local snowmobile club and others. We also supported 2 avalanche awareness training courses this past winter.

We continue to have a maintenance agreement with BC Parks for 3 cabins and park trails. We have applied for monies from the BC Parks 100-year Anniversary funds to replace woodsheds at 2 of the cabins this summer. We are also supporting an application by the Ozalenka Alpine Club of McBride (use to be a FMC member) to replace 2 bridges on the trail into another cabin they are managing in a park.

For the past 2 years we have had an electronic booking system using Paypal for the Red Mountain cabin in the McGregor Mountains. We hope to have it in place for the coming winter for the 4 aforementioned park cabins. We had hoped have it up and running a year ago but there have been hitches.

The chief Forester made his determination for the Prince George TSA. We were pleased he significantly reduced the AAC for cedar leading stands in the Interior Wetbelt. The Ancient Forest Trail that is being managed and developed by the Caledonia Ramblers is in this forest. It is the hope of everyone that some day the core parts of the forest will be protected in a provincial park or by World Heritage designation. Work on that continues in conjunction with Univ of Northern BC, Save the Cedar league and others.

The Caledonia Ramblers has set up a charitable society to support the Ancient Forest Trail so they can accept donations and issue receipts for monies donated. In five years usage of the trail has grown from nothing to about 10,000 in 2010.

The Ramblers and other local non-motorized and motorized recreation groups are members of the Tabor Mountain Recreation Society and continue to work on a Sec 56 designation for the trails on the Tabor Mountain Recreation area (just east of Pr. George). Originally, we had hoped to have an area-based designation but that received a lot of resistance within government. It is hoped that by the end of this summer an agreement will be in place for a Sec 56 designation of the almost 500 km of trails on the mountain.

The hut planned by the Alpine Club for the Berg Lake area in Mt. Robson Prov. Park is progressing slowly. Final approval has yet to be given, but ACC is targeting 2013 now, as it would be the 100-year anniversary of their first club Summer Mountaineering camp that took place near Berg Lake. ■

AVOC Club Report

Robert Gunn (Alberni Valley Outdoor Club)
(NEW ARTICLE)

While membership of the Alberni Valley Outdoor Club has been largely static for a few years, the core group is enthusiastic and able to run day trips most weekends, with the occasional longer ventures. These trips vary in areas visited and the degree of difficulty, but are generally in the local mountains, rivers and lakes, which offer considerable variety of country.

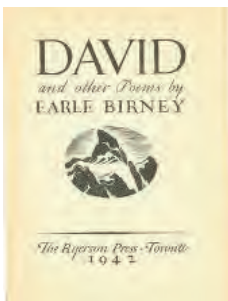
Of special note during the past few years has been the effort club members have put into trail building. Initially this was a purely volunteer effort one or two days a week. Some years the small crew was augmented by visitors such as Canada World Youth volunteers. The initial work was restricted to converting a never completed railway grade along a portion of the Alberni Inlet into a walking trail. This led to a request from BC Parks to construct a trail from one end of the enlarged Stamp Falls Park to the other – along a very beautiful stretch of the Stamp River. Part way through this work a successful application was made to the Island Coastal Economic Trust (one of a series of grant schemes set up by the Campbell Government throughout rural BC), the proposal included the completion of bridges within the Park and additional work on what had become known as the Inlet Trail.

This work was championed by the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, who both acted as the contact point with the Trust and later entered into a private land trail lease with Island Timberlands, the forest land owner of large portions of the Inlet Trail. Additional assistance was received from MEC (signage), banks and others to gain the 50% matching funds required by the Trust. While the project was not problem free, 2 crews of about 5 each were employed for much of 2010 and for a couple of months in 2011, one five days per week and one for 2 days, at a rate of \$15/hr. Thanks must go to Rick and Libby Avis who worked tirelessly as volunteers to smooth the way and push all parties when needed to ensure that things got done. Concurrent with this two things happened. Gil Parker saw that the Inlet route could form part of his vision for a Vancouver Island Spine Trail, even though the route is away from the actual divide; and the Tseshah First Nation built a section of trail from Head Quarters Bay to Francis Lake.

The result of all this activity is that it is now possible to walk from Port Alberni to Francis Lake, with only one short section of logging road walking to cross China Creek, due to be replaced with a 60 foot bridge in time. Although it must be admitted that sections still require additional work, mostly where logging rail bridges over streams have rotted and fallen and the going is still a little rough. Meanwhile Gil and the Spine Association are seeking funds to plan and construct the section of trail from Francis to Lake Cowichan so as to connect with the Trans Canada Hiking Trail and hence Victoria.

With convenient access points along the Bamfield Road, the trail is suitable for day trips, or the longer through walk – a fit person prepared for a long day could walk from the City boundary to Head Quarters Bay in a day. ■

Literature of Interest



David

Ron Dart (BC Mountaineering Club)

I've just finished a long poem about mountain climbing.
~ Earle Birney (Spring 1941)

David is, without doubt, the most important Canadian poem on mountaineering. Most of us in Canada know this classic poem by an annual read of it in school years. The sheer energy, drama and dynamism, the evocative mountain images, the painful and tragic decisions that had to be made, make

David the crown jewel of Canadian mountain poetry. It is 70 years this year (1941-2011) since *David* was written and published. *David and Other Poems* was published in 1942, and the collection of poetry won the Governor General's Award the same year. I was quite fortunate in the 1970s to hear Birney read *David*—it's a memory now well lodged. This short essay will be a short reflection on *David* and its significance.

David is divided into 9 sections, and each section has its own inviting power and unfolds into the next with a certain momentum.

Section I is rather short, but it prepares the reader for what will follow. 'David and I that summer cut trails on the Survey'. The work was demanding, not fulfilling 'In the wail of mosquitoes'. It was on the weekends, though, that the twosome took

to the peaks, far ‘from the ruck of the camp’ and ‘the snoring under the fetid Tents’. Mountains, for David, ‘were made to see over’ and they were ‘Stairs from the valleys and steps to the sun’s retreats’. The dramatic dualism could not be more poignant. The hard work in the valley and camp life drained soul and body. Life on the mountains and peaks was life giving.

Section II is longer than Section I, and Mount Gleam was the goal. The trek up the rocky ridge took David and Bob (who describes and narrates the poem) past a ‘curling lake’ to a quiet evening setting in which dinner was cooked ‘On a poplar prong, in the hurrying slant of the sunset’. Both bedded down for the night, the challenge of Mount Gleam their much anticipated goal. ‘The peak was upthrust like a fist in a frozen ocean of rock’. The ‘alien prairie’ to the east was duly noted from the summit, and on the descent, David taught Bob how to ‘Scree on the west we descended’. The valley again reached, Gleam and a fine trip behind them, the fresh water ‘that knifed down a fern-hidden Cliff’ was their departing gift for the day. Sections I-II are thick with energy, optimism and hopes for more challenging days in the future. The fact that both climbers see ‘Eastward the alien prairie glittered’ means that Mount Gleam was set within the Rockies. Birney grew up in Banff, and he certainly could look eastward to the flat prairies from many a mountain perch in the area.

Section III sounds a more ominous note in the epic poem, and it alerts the reader to much that will, in time, act as a corrective to the earlier naïve optimism of Sections I-II. The climbers are caught in a rain storm ‘on Rampart’s arête’, and as their ‘blueing fingers’ thaw, David passes the precarious time by telling fragmented tales of poets, ‘matching of stories from school days’ and ‘naming of strata’. The clearing clouds reveal a new peak to climb, ‘a sunlit spire on Sawback, an over-hand Crooked like a talon, David named it the Finger’. Section III ends with the climbers finding the skull of a fallen mountain goat ‘underneath a cliff-face, caught on a rock’. ‘Silken feathers of hawks’ surrounded the broken and decaying body of the fallen goat. The storm that initiates Section III, and the discovery of the fact ‘that a goat could slip’, does move *David* into a more tragic direction. The coltish enthusiasm of Section I and Mount Gleam of Section II now links survival in a ‘rainsquall’, the vision of ‘the Finger’ and the fact that ‘a goat could slip’. Birney is very much, by Section III, leading the reader from a naive enthusiasm about the mountains to a tempered realism. The age of innocence is past. The reality of demanding mountain experience has now dawned. The reader cannot but be aware that something that has serious implications is about to occur.

Section IV, like Section I, is rather short, and it provides an interim relief for what is about to be. ‘And then Inglismaldie’. ‘The long ascent of the lonely valley’ took David and Bob to where a pine was ‘scarred by lightning’, the whistle of a pika and ‘great prints’ of a grizzly were on the lower snow slope. David then offered Bob a geological lesson on the script of the rocks ‘from the Cambrian waves’. There is a restful pause in Section IV that the reader knows, like a blue bonnet day, will not last.

Section V begins with ‘On Sundance we tried from the col and the going was hard’. The wind was not being kind, and the lake was low in the valley. Mount Gleam, Rampart’s arête and Inglismaldie were but primers for this more difficult climb. There was an ‘outthrust’ that had to be negotiated, and David ‘clung with his left to a dint in the scarp’. The tension and emotions mount in Section V. David then ‘Lobbed the iceaxe over the rocky lip’, his holds giving way, and he ‘hung by the quivering pick’. The peak reached, David pulled Bob up, and both knew the sheer joy of summit attained and injury and death momentarily held at bay. But, like the goat that fell in Section III, Section V ends with the finding of an injured robin. Bob wanted to rescue, heal and tame the robin, but David ‘Took it and killed it, and said, ‘Could you teach it to fly?’ A bird with a ‘wing-broken’ was a bird, for David, that was not really a bird anymore. The goat that fell and the bird with the broken wing are hints that cannot be missed in this epic poem.

Section VI, like Sections I and IV, offer the reader a pause in the unfolding drama and momentum of the poem. “In August , the second attempt, we ascended the Fortress’. The peak was bagged, and a fine outdoor dinner was the order of the lingering day. The animals were very much alive as were the fish in the water. ‘Sunripe raspberries’ were feasted on, and a marten ‘scouted us’. Sections I, IV and VI have a romantic taste and feel to them- an idealism abounds. But, Sections II, III and V tell a more worrisome tale that will undermine and negate the youthful enthusiasm of the more innocent Sections.

It is in Sections VII-VIII-IX that *David* becomes the vivid and not to be forgotten tragic epic it is, and Bob is put in a no win situation. “But always we talked of the Finger on Sawback, unknown and hooked’. The trek was made through the lowlands and forest in September, and both camped for the night near a glacier as the moonlight highlighted the Finger. The upward journey brought into view ‘Bighorns across the moraine’ and the peaks ever beckoned and pointed to the early morning sun. The more serious and demanding part of the climb was before them. ‘At the base of the Finger we tried once and failed’. David found a chimney to scramble up, and for an hour they ‘fought the rock’ and attained the summit. They unroped and

built a cairn on ‘the rotting tip’. Bob looked north to ‘glistening Assiniboine’, and at that moment lost his handhold and footing. David reached out to save Bob, but in the process ‘the strain crumbled his foothold. Without a gasp he was gone’. The silence and then ‘nightmare thud’ told an ominous tale. The goat had fallen, the bird had been injured, trying to save a friend who had been less than cautious in a desire to see Assiniboine.

Section VIII walks the reader into the heart of the drama and dilemma. Bob was safe, but what was David’s plight? The precarious scramble down ‘the fifty impossible feet’ to where David had fallen was a surreal experience. David was finally found, but although his face was ‘upturned and strangely unmarred, his legs were ‘Splayed beneath him, beside the final drop, Six hundred feet sheer to the ice’. David was alive, but only. A rock had also been driven into David’s back, and he was impaled on it. Bob felt overwhelming guilt at the obstinate fact that David had fallen saving him, but David said, ‘No, Bobbie! Don’t ever blame yourself’. Blood was emerging from a variety of directions and staining rock, clothes, lichen and skin. ‘Bob, I want to go over’. Such a request could not help but yet further complicate how to handle the dreaded fall of David. How should Bob respond and reply to such an endgame request? Bob suggested to David that he would dash down the mountainside and get assistance. Surely search and rescue would work their wonders. But, both knew that by the time Bob reached the valley floor and organized a rescue party, David would be gone. And, even if rescued, then what? -- ‘A wheelchair Bob?’ The image of the broken winged bird cannot but be missed at this point. The goat has fallen. The bird will never fly again. What choice should be made? David was ‘still as a broken doll’, and Bob had to make a decision. He decided to hasten down the mountain for assistance, but David said, ‘For Christ’s sake push me over’. The hawk’s feathers that had been by the fallen goat now took on a more terrifying reality. A hawk was flying overhead. Bob came to see that, in fact, that David ‘Had tested his holds, It was I who had not’. The final line in Section VIII ends with ‘I’d do it for you, Bob’.

Section IX brings the tale to an end in a way that certainly would not please Walt Disney. Bob describes in graphic internal and external detail the mind blur of a descent that took him down the chimney, ‘the grave-cold maw of the bergschrund’, ‘the sun-cankered snowbridge’, a ‘shying the caves In the neve’, ‘gaping greenthroated crevasses’, ‘pursued By the Finger’s lengthening shadow’, past the ‘blinding seracs’, ‘the glacier’s snout’ to the relative safety of the ‘humped moraine’ again. The groping and stumbling, mind and imagination, feelings and emotions at odds with one another, past the ‘glooming lake’, and getting lost in the ‘ragged marsh’ where blood on skin and clothes was momentarily covered by the mire of mud. Bob reached the trailhead again as night was with him. It was just a matter of time before Bob ‘saw the glimmer of tents and babbled my story’. *David* ends with these telling and memorable lines.

I said that he fell straight to the ice where they found him
And none but the sun and incurious clouds have lingered
Around the marks of that day on the ledge of the Finger,
That day, the last of my youth, on the last of our mountains.

The song of mountain innocence is over. The song of mountain experience has now been sounded. The song of mountain wisdom is yet before Bob. His youth is now behind him; his future is yet before him.

There is no doubt, though, that *David* is the quintessential Canadian mountain poem, and this being the 70th year since it was written and published, a few articles are in order to honour poet and poem.

Most of the magazines and journals Birney sent the poem to in April 1941 rejected it, and it was not until *The Canadian Forum* accepted and published *David* in December 1941, that the poem took to formal print. It took less than a year for Birney to win the Governor General’s Award for *David and other Poems* (1942). I have a lovely 1st edition copy of *David and other Poems*, and the mountain on the frontispiece looks very much like the Finger that took David’s life and changed Bob’s. ■

Rocky Mountain Guide Books

Ron Dart (BC Mountaineering Club)

I was in the Banff area the last week of April 2011, and, when there, had the opportunity to do further research on Canadian mountaineering at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. I was quite fortunate, when at the Whyte Museum, to take in their special exhibit ‘A Retrospective of Canadian Rockies’ Trail Guides’. The exhibit is on display in the Swiss Guides Room from April 23-May 30. The Swiss Guides Room is not large, but the history of guiding books was told well.

The classic guide book of the Rockies that has gone into many editions is *The Canadian Rockies Trail Guide: A Hiker's Manual*. This tome was first published in 1971, and Brian Patton and Bart Robinson did the in the trenches mules work. The exhibit at the Whyte Museum in 2011 is dedicated to 40 years of many editions of *The Canadian Rockies Trail Guide*. There are, though, many other books in the genre that were either self published or a publisher had the vision to broaden out or deepen the possibilities of guide books. The first edition (much leaner) of *Don't Waste Your Time in the Rockies* (a rather opinionated approach to which trails are worthy of the treks and why) to Graeme Pole's *Classic Hikes of the Canadian Rockies* were on display. Many other books that focussed on trail guides in the Rockies made for a historic walkabout in the Swiss Guides Room.

I lingered in the Swiss Guides Room for an ample amount of time (I was the only one in such a silent space), and I thought about the focus on the Rockies, a museum that dealt with mountaineering in Banff (Whyte Museum) and the guide books that have such a pedigree. The fact that I live in the Cascade Mountains and close to the Coast Mountains nudged me to think about how much the Rockies dominates the history and imagination of many. The Cascades and Coastal mountains do not get the same attention. We have no real comparable mountaineering museum on the west coast to the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. Why is this the case? We have, obviously, many fine guide books, back-country books and ski books. We have a history as graphic and tellable as the Rockies' but, there is no museum as a focal point for archives. Would it be possible for the Federation of Mountain Clubs in British Columbia to do something on the West Coast that equals or even surpasses the work done in Banff at the Whyte Museum on mountaineering?-----something to ponder as we enter the summer season. ■

Bruno Engler: (1915-2001) **Renaissance Mountain Man** Ron Dart (BC Mountaineering Club)

Ten years have passed this year since Bruno Engler died and went to the other side of the mountains that he lived in most of his life. There is an inviting restaurant in Banff, replete with Engler lore, legend, newspaper clippings and many photographs of the Engler era. My wife and I, after a day on the slopes in April 2011, took to Bruno's Bar and Grill for some fine ale, food, tale telling and more insights on Bruno Engler the Renaissance mountain man, raconteur and activist. Who was Engler and why is he important in the Canadian mountaineering hall of fame?

Bruno Engler, like the Swiss Guides that shaped early mountaineering in Canada, was born in Switzerland. Engler was trained, as a young man, in mountaineering, guiding and photography. Engler's interest and training in mountaineering, photography and skiing placed him in an enviable position when he arrived in Canada in 1939. The Swiss Guides were not trained skiers, Sunshine Village was developing its ski program, and Engler was hired to build up the Sunshine Village ski school near Banff. Engler was also offered a position with Swiss Guides (Ernest Feuz & Rudolf Aemmer) at Lake Louise. The fact that Engler came to Canada in WW II, and his mountain skills were well known by those like Rex Gibson, meant that the military was interested in him, and he trained many Canadian troops.

Engler was much more the bon vivant than the more staid Swiss Guides. He was a raconteur of the mountains, and he had many a lively tale to tell. Much of Engler's life went from one dramatic episode to another. Such a well lived life is recounted in *Bruno Engler: A Mountain Life* (1996). Engler led many a climb with such well known early mountaineers as Tony Cromwell, Frank Smythe and Georgia Englehard. Mountaineering was not a fulltime job in the post WWII years, though, and Engler had to cast about for other work. Engler found a job in Blairmore (Alberta) at a strip mine, and he lived in the area for four years with his second wife, Angel Engler. It was at this time that Engler climbed many of the mountains in the Crowsnest Pass area with Fritz Frei, and he assisted in creating a ski area in the Pass.

The post WWII boom of the 50s-60s-70s, increasingly so, tapped into Engler's many gifts and talents. Engler was in demand as a mountain guide and ski instructor, his stunning black-white mountain photography (that is at the same level as



Ron Dart in front of Bruno's Bar and Grill in Banff

Karin Dart

Ansel Adams and Bradford Washburn) was selling well, his work at Rogers Pass on avalanches placed him at the forefront of mountain safety, and the movie industry was drawn to his charming looks and photogenic poses. Engler became a free-lance correspondent for the CBC in the 1950s, he started 'Alpine Films' at the same period of time, and his life as a filmmaker dominated the next few decades. In fact, Engler was involved in the making of more than twenty-five films between 1950 and 1980. The CBC did a feature on Engler's life in the 1960s called 'Diary of a Mountain Man', and in 1966 Engler initiated 'The Veterans' Race' at Sunshine Village. Engler had become a legend in the mountain community, and he and Hans Gmoser led Prime Minister Trudeau to the Bugaboos in 1972.

Engler was, in his rich and varied life, a fine skier and ski instructor, a pioneer in avalanche safety, mountain climber and guide, photographer, filmmaker, actor, exquisite story teller and ambassador for Canadian mountain culture. He was, in a sense, the complete renaissance mountain man.

Engler's commitment to mountain culture was rewarded with a variety of accolades; to name but a few: Alberta Achievement Award for Excellence, Premier Cup for Photography and Mountaineering and the distinguished Rose Award. Engler was made an honorary member of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides in 1975. ■

Bibliography

A Mountain Life: The Stories and Photographs of Bruno Engler (1996)

Bruno Engler Photography: Sixty Years of Mountain Photography in the Canadian Rockies (2001)

Guardians of the Peaks: Mountain Rescue in the Canadian Rockies and Columbia Mountains (2006)

Pushing the Limits: The Story of Canadian Mountaineering

The Beats of the North Cascades

Ron Dart (BC Mountaineering Club)

A braid of circumstances ties the Beat Generation to the North Cascades. In the early 1950s, a weary America turned its attention to getting ahead after enduring the Depression and WWII---and in that era of the man in the gray flannel suit, a group of literary rebels hit the road and the trail. While the Lost Generation found its refuge and inspiration in Paris, the Beats found their safe harbour in the North Cascades as well as in San Francisco's North Beach.

~ James Martin

North Cascades Crest: Notes and Images from America's Alps (1999) p.58



Ron Dart at Kerouac's lookout cabin in the North Cascades with Hozomeen in the background

On October 7, 1955, the poet Kenneth Rexroth orchestrated the most famous Beat Generation poetry reading in history, one that joined Columbia-educated, Greenwich Village Beat writers—Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac— with the ecologically minded “mountain Beats” of the West— Philip Whalen and Gary Snyder—at San Francisco's Six Gallery. It was that night when Allen Ginsberg read his poem “Howl” for the first time in public. But for Kerouac, Whalen, and Snyder, a Western landscape far from that gallery touched their work deeply.

Snyder and Whalen had lived in fire lookouts on Sauk, Sourdough and Crater mountains in the North Cascades just a few years before, and Kerouac spent his first summer in the range the summer after the Six Gallery reading, when he worked as a lookout on Desolation Peak. Kerouac's experience in that job so lingered in his mind that he wrote about it in four of his books. Allen Ginsberg also visited the North Cascades, making two trips with Snyder in 1956 and 1965.

These are the facts of the Beats' journeys to the ancient rock spires and ice fields of the North Cascades. There is no doubt that they influenced the emerging literary and political vision of this new generation of American writers. The lookout sites, perched high on rock rims, knobs and citadels of ages, became literary sites to develop spiritual and cultural insights. There, the Beat writers retreated to reclaim more meditative lives. They felt that the North Cascades were like the mountains in China where their Chinese mountain sage, Han-Shan, spent his meditative days.

Kenneth Rexroth (1905-1982) was the elder and dean of the West Coast mountain Beats.

He fondly tells the tale of his North Cascade days in his accessible autobiography, *An Autobiographical Novel*. Rexroth had traveled across much of the United States in 1924, that summer when he not only helped build a shelter in the Cascades but also hiked, opened trails with saw and axe and had many an adventure. His rambles included a climb of Glacier Peak, west of Lake Chelan, and an amble up the Skagit Valley to Canada. His mountain enthusiasm could not be missed. “I got back probably the happiest boy who ever lived.” (Page 281.) And he recalled, “I tried to arrange my itinerary so that I’d have a peak to climb every evening after work.” (Page 283.) The sights he took in from the precarious perch where he joined the group building McGregor Lookout were worthy of the poet’s soul and eye.

Although Rexroth later parted ways with the Beats, he was their mentor and patriarch and a pioneer in the west coast literary movements from the 30s to the 50s. He wove together, on a delicate tapestry, the threads of Eastern and Western mysticism, poetry, politics, ecological awareness, and even publishing.

His influence on the younger Gary Snyder was very clear. Gary Snyder lived as a lookout in the North Cascades at Crater Mountain in 1952 and on Sourdough Mountain in 1953, but the “high summer of the great fear” dominated 1954. Joseph McCarthy was baiting “Reds,” and Snyder’s leftist and anarchist affinities ran counter to McCarthy’s ideological commitments. Snyder could not get a job in the North Cascades because some thought he might be a national security threat. Snyder had more than demonstrated his competence in the mountains as a lookout in 1952-1953, but other factors were at work in keeping him from high mountain lookout life.

Snyder, like Rexroth, was in the midst of synthesizing a new vision for post-World War II America: poetry, politics, Buddhism, ecological attentiveness, and mountain metaphors. The 1950s were the years when the Beats were quietly putting down roots that would give birth, in the 1960s, to the counter-culture. It was in the North Cascades that the silent and listening years formed and forged their souls. It is almost impossible to miss the centrality of mountains in the prose, poetry and translations of Gary Snyder. The publication of Snyder classics from the 1950s such as *Cold Mountain Poems*, *Riprap* and *Myths and Texts* signalled a literary way that was grounded in mountains and the transformative myth of mountains.

I attended a reading of Snyder’s *Danger on Peaks* in 2004 in the North Cascades area, and almost 1000 turned out for the evening. In fact, many had to be turned away. I was quite fortunate at the reading to get a signed copy of *Danger on Peaks* and a photograph taken with Snyder. The theme of mountains, though, was ever present in *Danger on Peaks* as it was in such publications as *Mountains and Rivers Without End*, *Look Out: A Selection of Writings* and the hefty tome, *The Gary Snyder Reader*. Snyder, of course, has traveled, in both a literal and literary sense, beyond the North Cascades, but, again and again, there is a circling back to the glacier thick rock sentinels of the Cascades.

Gary Snyder met Philip Whalen (1923-2002) in 1952. Whalen was never as active in the mountains as Snyder or Rexroth, but he spent a few years there. He lived as a lookout at Sauk Mountain in the North Cascades from 1953 to 1955. I have been to Sauk many times, and the old lookout is no longer visible. It’s an easy perch to reach, and it was from this pleasant spot that Whalen began to synthesize his interest in poetry, Zen Buddhism, mountain metaphors, and an ecological sensibility. Life in the lookouts for Snyder and Whalen was about looking out for changes in American society. Distance from the valley was needed for better seeing, and Whalen and Snyder saw much in the fast moving and driven ethos of the time. Did they want such a frantic existence? The North Cascade Beats were very much charting a new path worthy of a life trek in the 1950s. *Continuous Flame: A Tribute to Philip Whalen* (2004) is a fine eulogy to Whalen’s role in pointing the way to a spirituality that is deeply meditative and poetically probing.

Most know Jack Kerouac (1922-1969) as the “king of the Beats.” The publication of *On the Road* in 1956 drove the shy and introverted Kerouac to the center of literary life in the 1950s. Kerouac was an east coast urban boy, but in 1955, he met Rexroth, Snyder, Whalen and many others at the Six Gallery Reading in San Francisco. Kerouac, like Rexroth, Snyder and Whalen, was on a conscious spiritual and literary search, and he found part of his answer in the mountains. Kerouac was hired as a lookout at Desolation Peak in the North Cascades in the summer of 1956. He had high hopes of what the experience of more than two months alone on a rock knoll would do for him on his journey. Kerouac, like Rexroth, had pronounced Roman Catholic sympathies and leanings, but both men were also interested in the Eastern traditions and Buddhism. Both men were quite aware of the work of Thomas Merton, and the way, as a Christian monk, Merton used the image of mountains as a dominant metaphor in his journey. (Snyder and Whalen, conversely, tended to be much less interested in the relationship between West and East.)

Kerouac's lengthy sojourn as a lookout on Desolation Peak had a profound impact on his life. Desolation Peak is on the north end of Ross Lake just as Snyder's Sourdough lookout is on the south end of Ross Lake. The sheer aloneness as a lookout combined with the silence and rock turrets in all directions does work its way into the inner life. Kerouac wrote poignantly and graphically about his time on Desolation in four books: *Dharma Bums* (1958), *Lonesome Traveler* (1960), *Desolation Angels* (1965) and *Book of Blues* (1995). Snyder is immortalized in *Dharma Bums* as Japhy Ryder just as Mount Hozomeen (whose split knife edge broods over the northern Cascades and gazes down on Desolation Peak) is never far from Kerouac's imagination and writing. Kerouac lacked the inner discipline of Rexroth, Snyder and Whalen and this partially explains his short life and tragic death, but there can be no doubt that the North Cascades touched a deep chord within him that would not be still or silent. The opening few lines of *Desolation Angels* are descriptively apt and insightful.

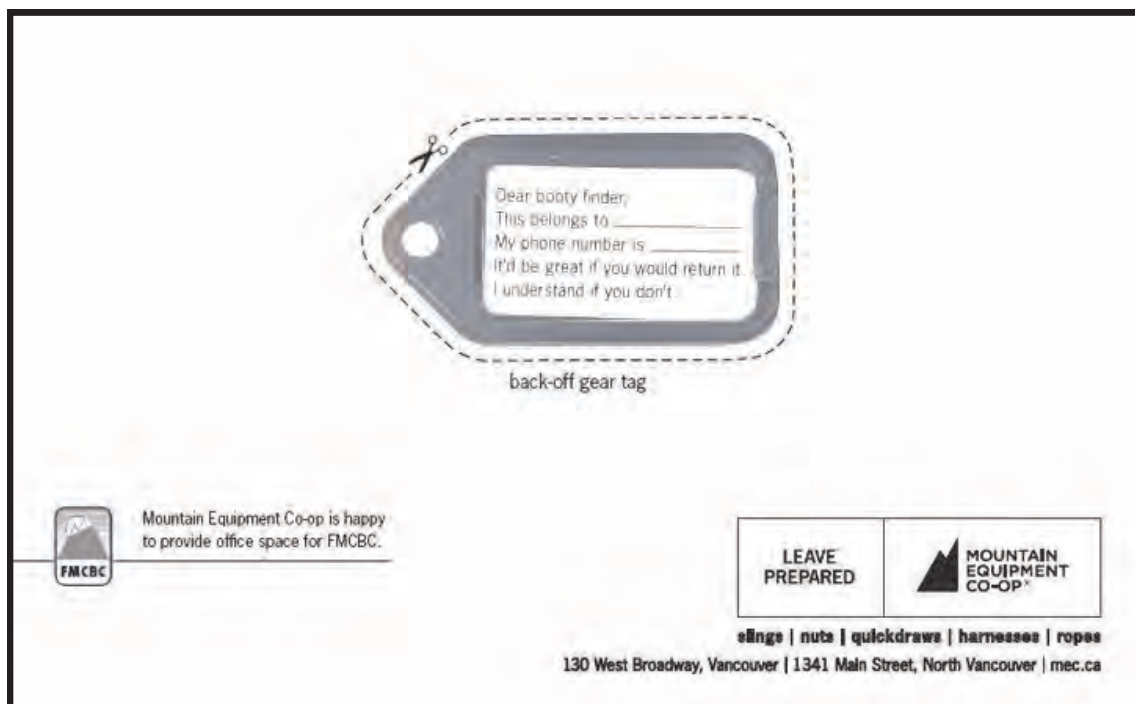
Those afternoons, those lazy afternoons, when I used to sit, or lie down, on Desolation Peak, sometimes on the alpine grass, hundreds of miles of snow covered rock all around, looming Mount Hozomeen on my north, vast snowy Jack to the south, the enchanted picture of the lake below to the west and the snowy hump of Mt. Baker beyond, and to the east the rilled and ridged monstrosities humping to the Cascade Ridge.....stark naked rock, pinnacles and thousand feet high protruding from hunch muscles another thousand feet high protruding from immense timbered shoulders.

I was fortunate to climb the fang-like upper peaks of Hozomeen in 1975, and I have led many a trip to Kerouac's lookout shrine on Desolation Peak. Kerouac brought to a close the final few lines in chapter 22 of *The Dharma Bums* with this celebration of Hozomeen.

Hozomeen, Hozomeen, the most beautiful mountain I ever seen, and the most beautiful as soon as I got to know it and saw the Northern Lights behind it reflecting all the ice of the North Pole from the other side of the world.

Sadly so, Kerouac's descent from the upper knoll and mountain ridge of Desolation Peak to the demands of valley wreaked havoc with his soul. The tragic descent is well recounted in *Desolation Angels*.

The North Cascades—mysterious or even obscure to many who read the Beats—played an essential role in the emerging Beat generation. Rexroth, Snyder, Whalen and Kerouac were all indebted, for different reasons, to the white clad summits, rocky gorges and guardians of ages past. The merging of Eastern and Western spirituality, poetry, prose and politics, ecological awareness, and the mountain as a mystical metaphor all happened to the Beats in the North Cascades in the 1950s. ■





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

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
would like to welcome the
Friends of Strathcona Park
as our newest member club.

Thank you for your support.

If you are not already receiving the
FMCBC Monthly E-News contact Jodi at
admin.manager@mountainclubs.org to be put on our
distribution list. You can view past issues at:
wiki.mountainclubs.org/fmc-bc-e-news

And you can participate in our **letter writing campaigns**
by visiting: wiki.mountainclubs.org/letter-writing

Friends of Garibaldi Park

Retired B.C. Parks supervisor, Al Jenkins, concerned about the state of the Black Tusk Meadows trail, contacted the FMCBC earlier this year for support. Since then he has begun putting together a group called the Friends of Garibaldi Park and has tried to get his message out through the media in various newspaper articles and through his own YouTube video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EP8ml3nar8>

For more information you can visit the FOGP website:

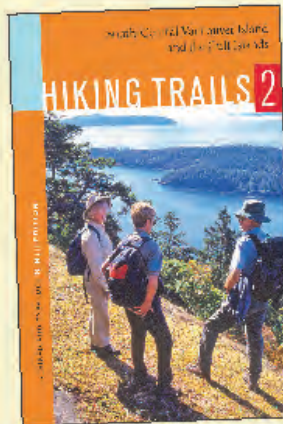
www.friendsofgaribaldipark.org

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Friends of Garibaldi Park to receive updates and information on volunteering opportunities email Jodi at the FMCBC
admin.manager@mountainclubs.org

Hiking Trails 2

Completely revised
and updated 9th edition

Your guide to South-Central Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands



Hiking Trails 2

South-Central Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands—9th edition
Vancouver Island Trails Info. Society
978-0-9697667-7-3 • \$26.00 pb

This bestselling classic continues to be one of three essential hiking guides to one of the most spectacular islands in the world. The book, complete with colour maps and photographs of geographic features, will appeal to both novice and experienced hikers.

Areas included:

- Shawnigan Lake
- Cobble Hill
- Duncan
- Cowichan Valley
- Ladysmith
- Cedar
- Yellow Point
- Nanaimo
- Gulf Islands
- Oceanside
- Port Alberni
- West Coast



Hiking Trails 1

Victoria & Vicinity—13th edition
Vancouver Island Trails Info. Society
978-0-9697667-5-9 • \$24.95 pb

Hiking Trails 3

Northern Vancouver Island—10th edition
Vancouver Island Trails Info. Society
978-0-9697667-6-6 • \$26.00 pb

The Vancouver Island Trails Information Society (VITIS) is a non-profit society dedicated to providing accurate information to the public about parks and trails on Vancouver Island. The society has produced unique hiking books in 32 editions since 1972. See www.hikingtrailsbooks.com for further information about VITIS.

Distributed by Orca Book Publishers

To order call 1-800-210-5277 or contact your local bookstore.



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS
www.orcabooks.com

Member Clubs

CENTRAL INTERIOR

Alpine Club of Canada – Prince George Section

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

Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club

<http://www.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/>

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/>



Bryce Leigh

Brian Finnie on Mt. Rohr.



John McLellan

Houndstooth and Bugaboo Glacier