



NEWSLETTER

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FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Federation of Mountain Clubs is a mechanism for coordinating the actions of its member organizations, which include: Alpine Club of Canada (Vancouver and Vancouver Island Sections), BCIT Outdoor Club, B.C. Mountaineering Club, Island Mountain Ramblers, Mountain Rescue Group, Kootenay Mountaineering Club, North Shore Hikers, Outward Bound (B.C.), Simon Fraser Outdoor Club, Vancouver Natural History Society, Varsity Outdoor Club, Canadian Youth Hostel Assn., Sierra Club of B.C., and Univ. of Victoria Outdoor Club. Without sharing of knowledge, activities, and points of view, this mechanism will fail. The NEWSLETTER, it is hoped, will add a dimension to the present system of Delegates' Meetings; each individual club member may get a better view of the Federation and other clubs.

Most of us enjoy hiking and climbing, but few take responsibility for the trails which make access possible. Although some paths are government-maintained, most have no legal status and may be disrupted by logging, mining, or development. In the belief that preservation of trails is essential, this and subsequent issues of the NEWSLETTER will bring you information on trail conditions. But we need input from interested individuals, both on trails and other relevant issues. If you find errors or have suggestions for improvement, please write me. The present format is preliminary only. Trail information, for example, may not seem very useful at this season; some readers may not receive their copy for more than a month because of differing patterns of distribution for each club. Some areas of the Province are over-represented. But it is a start, and as its usefulness becomes manifest, it should continually improve.

FEDERATION NEWS

Planning is under way for a second outdoor recreation conference; the first was held on February 23. If you are interested in the Proceedings, see your club's Federation Delegate. It seems clear that non-member clubs representing different (and perhaps incompatible) usage of the mountains must be included: canoeists, snowmobilers, skiers, horseback riders, recreational vehicle owners, etc. There will probably be a trail task force at the conference, and a full-scale Trails Symposium may follow, possibly along the lines of those held in Ontario.

TRAIL COMMITTEE

The Federation's Trail Committee has had two excellent meetings with staff of the Parks Branch and Forest Service present. This is an innovation which will continue. It has already saved effort, as it was discovered that the Parks Branch has prepared a Trail Map Ledger showing trails and road access both inside and outside parks (unpublished). The Committee has worked out an arrangement whereby a similar

ledger will be prepared for Federation and Forest Service use. We will indicate corrections and route of trails not already plotted. It may then be easier to work out a method of prior notification of trail disruption because of logging, etc.

THE TRAIL CLEARINGHOUSE: A NEW CONCEPT

Arrangements for trail maintenance are often loose or non-existent. Trails built with Federal funds may have no provision for maintenance or consultation with local experts on appropriate standards. Descriptions of trails in guide-books and on maps may be unreliable or out-of-date. Road access may be confusing. There is also considerable controversy over philosophy of trail-building: is it good to tell people about trails? Won't that increase usage by the "wrong kind" of people? On the other hand, without government knowledge of extensive public use, valuable recreational areas may not be preserved. Without settling any of these issues, the Trail Committee, chaired by Paul Binkert of the BCMC, decided to establish a Clearinghouse to receive and disseminate information about trail building, conditions, and responsibility. We hope it will be used extensively, and that it will eventually provide us with accurate information about most trails in the Province. If we can consolidate this information, then Government is more likely to take notice of Federation requests for legal status of trails. The following section represents current information. No legal or moral responsibility for maintenance is implied by the listing of a club next to a trail. We do hope that clear lines of responsibility will be worked out in the near future, and that no new trails will be built until we can handle the ones already in existence.

FOR COMMENTS OR INFORMATION, WRITE: The Coordinator, Elizabeth Walker, Suite #108, 4875 Valley Drive, Vancouver V6J 4B8, or CALL 261-5383 (H).

Trail Information: [MTG=Mountain Trail Guide page; 103=103 Hikes; topo map; maintaining organization if known.]

ALOUETTE MT. [MTG 45; 103-138; 92G/8W]. New trail changes description in MTG. Change sentence "follow this road to the R for over 2 miles" to read: "follow this road to the R for 10 min. to a point where new trail, clearly signposted, begins. This trail is easy to follow. After a little more than an hour it joins the ridge trail to the summit. Allow 2 hours for return trip from Mike Lake." Comments: needs more markers on higher levels; horses using trail illegally at times. [Naylor, ACC, Sept.]

CRICKMER, MT. [MTG 62; 92G/8W; NSH]. Route marked with yellow tapes has been obliterated by logging, but it is not difficult to get onto the ridge through slash and open woods. [Naylor, ACC, Sept.]

DEEKS LAKE [MTG 18; 103-56; 92G/11E; NSH]. Trail cleared in Sept., further work party scheduled Nov. 24. Slightly re-routed above logging camp where washout occurred. A group of 11 packed out 250 pounds of garbage--tin cans, bottles, plastic, from near the Lake! (Hughes, NSH, Sept.)

ELK-THURSTON TRAIL [103-158; 92H/4W; VNHS]. A few new blowdowns on ascent require Swede or light power saw; ridge trail needs trimming of evergreens crowding trail [Ricker, ACC, July].

JOFFRE, MT. [1974 Culbert Alpine Guide pp. 169, 178; Alpine Crafts? Forest Service?]. Aluminum markers required; lacks blazes, confused because of timber cruiser ribbons. Power saw needed to clear out logs; bridges need improvement; hard to follow with snow cover. Relocation of trail on E side of lowest lake appears desirable (trail swampy & longer on W). [Ricker, ACC, mid-July]

LAKE LOVELY WATER [MTG 23; 92G/14E/W; ACC]. ACC work party cleared most of it in September, but a few large blow-downs remain [Walker, ACC, Sept.]

OUTRAM, MT. [MTG 63; 103-192; 92H/5W,3E,6E; BCMC]. A few blow-downs. Aluminum markers needed high on timbered ridge. Route above timberline obscure in early spring snow. Description in 103 Hikes misleading. Cairns on ridge would help. Highway turnoff passable. Cross-roof beam down in cabin at start of trail. [Ricker, ACC, July].

RAINBOW LAKE [103-114; 92J/2,3]. Log bridges washed out; very wet and receives heavy use [Seligman, NSH; Brown, NSH, Oct.].

REXFORD, MT. [MTG 50; 92H/4E; BCMC]. Road approach rough. Trail beginning off road recognizable only by beaten track on old worn skid trail. Sign would be helpful. Trail good, most blow-downs cleared except at upper end. Brushing needed lower down. Switchbacks needed at first steep hill beyond valley portion. More markers needed at about 5000' near cliff base. Rumours have it that lower part will be destroyed by logging next year [Ricker, ACC, July 27].

SCHKAM LOOKOUT [103-208; 92H/6W]. The "perimeter road" referred to in Guide is not very evident; angles off to L perhaps a mile up logging road. Bushy in places. Logging road itself climbs up paralleling American Creek offering no reward except logging desolation. Perimeter road "westward" is very overgrown and may be impassable [Naylor, ACC, June].

SINGING PASS VIA FITZSIMMONS CREEK [MTG 38; 103-122; 92J/2; Western Garibaldi Park PS/G3; Parks Branch]. Clearing needed to remove snow-damaged trees. Markers needed beyond Oboe Creek for early season travel. One creek bridge totally demolished. Part of Oboe Creek bridge damaged. Approach road terrible, washout imminent; Parks Branch action needed. Russet Lake Shelter in good shape, needs: minor insulation replacement, paint on gable ends, incinerator barrel emptied, restriction on size of groups using it. Relocation needed to save Singing Pass meadows. [Ricker, ACC, July 16]

STAWAMUS CHIEF [MTG 21; 103-62; 92G/11E; BCMC]. Steep section below summit of S (first) peak relocated: continue along trail towards Centre (2nd) Peak and switch back. 2 new aluminum signs & fresh red paint marks applied. Windswept section between Centre & North Peaks near upper end of N gully cleared of windfall. Red paint used for marking [Binkert, BCMC, April].

TENQUILLE LAKE [MTG 41; 103-126; 92J/7,10]. Blowdowns cleared Aug. 17. The key turn onto Wilson Rd. is not signed--the "No Through Road" sign is misleading as it suggests Wilson Rd. does not cross river. Once across river, trail beginning can be missed--sign is gone, tape obscure; other roads can be mistaken for Wilson Rd. Trail itself relatively good, but lake campsites need major garbage cleanup. Avalanche has cut across trail just S of pass at 5400'; power saw needed. Brushing needed around 4000'. Cabin at lake needs new roof, floor, window repaired, cleanup. (Used in winter for ski-touring & as refuge from storms in summer) [Ricker, ACC, Aug. 19]

WEDGEMOUNT [103-125; 92J/2; BCMC]. Trail cleared by crew on June 23 to snowline at about 4000' [Binkert, BCMC, June 27].

WORK TRIPS SCHEDULED: Chadsey Lake garbage (Oct. 19, NSH); 1858 Pack Trail, First Brigade Trail (Oct. 20, NSH); Stawamus Squaw (Oct. 27, NSH).[Other info not available]

OTHER ACTION: Cypress Bowl Trail from Sunset Beach may be relocated since present trailhead has been blocked by private property development; action is being taken to re-open parking at base of Black Mountain Trail which has been cut off from new Upper Levels Highway...A trail system is being developed from Cypress Park to Cypress Bowl. The bridge, to be located near Cypress Falls, is not yet built. Route skirts S and E sides of BC Hydro substation, then follows power line NE, crossing Cypress Creek again, on trail shown on map issued by West Van Forestry Dept.

MAKE NOTES ON YOUR TRIPS AND CONTACT THE TRAIL CLEARINGHOUSE. SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT.

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK - NOTICE FROM PARKS BRANCH

Letter from R.A. Russell, Regional Supervisor (June 19) states: "Please notify any persons in your organization of the enclosed changes. Groups of 10 or more are requested to contact our office at Kokanee Creek Park..." "Accommodation at the Slocan Chief Cabin...will be limited to 20 people per night on a first come, first served basis beginning June 27, 1974. Also beginning on this date will be a 3 day limit on consecutive overnight stays. These restrictions will be in effect until October 15 or later depending on weather. A hut-keeper will be in attendance at the Slocan Chief Cabin area during the period June 27 - October 15, 1974. Park Rangers will be patrolling the Park and will enforce the above regulation. The use of other areas will be encouraged including the Silver Spray Cabin in Clover Basin in the headwaters of Woodberry Creek. A 7 day limit will be enforced here by the Ranger Staff. Hikers should come to the Park equipped with tent and primus. Hikers requesting more information should contact our office at Kokanee Creek Park - 12 miles E of Nelson or phone 825-4660." [Information for next season requested - ED.]

NEW SOURCE OF FUNDS

The Fish & Wildlife Branch of the Dept. of Recreation & Conservation has established a "Public Conservation Assistance Fund," which could be used to support access trail development by non-profit organizations. Write for "Guidelines" to Victoria.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ALPINE GUIDE TO SOUTHWESTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA, by Dick Culbert, 1974. 441 pp., maps, illus., \$9.75. Order from Alpine Guide, Box 91402, West Van V7V 3P1.
BRITISH COLUMBIA CANOE ROUTES, by Canoe Sport B.C., 1974. 112 pp., maps, illus., \$ 3.95. Order from Nunaga Pub. Co., P.O. Box 157, New Westminster V3L 4Y4.
GOLDEN EARS TRAIL HANDBOOK, by R.H. Pottie, 1974. 30 pp., map, \$3.00. Order from author, 3054 Charles St., Vancouver (Phone 253-4896).
HIGH TRAILS: GUIDE TO THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL IN WASHINGTON, by Louise B. Marshall, 4th ed., 1973. 112 pp., 36 maps., \$3.95. Order from Signpost, 16812 36th Ave. West, Lynnwood, Washington 98036.
HIKING IN STRATHCONA PARK, First ed., Karl Stevenson, editor, 1974. 64 pp., maps, illus., \$2.75. Order from Karl Stevenson, RR#2, Courtenay, B.C.
HIKING THE HIGH POINTS: A GUIDE TO HIKES IN THE INTERIOR OF B.C., 4th ed., 1974. 108 pp., maps, illus., \$3.95. Order from Nunaga Pub. Co., address above.
HIKING TRAILS - SOUTHEASTERN VANCOUVER ISLAND, by The Outdoor Club of Victoria, 1973. 48 pp., maps, illus., \$1.25. Order from the Club, P.O. Box 1875, Victoria, B.C.
HIKING TRAILS - VICTORIA AND SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND, by the Outdoor Club of Victoria, address as above, price not known (not seen).
THE PURCELL RANGE STUDY: INTEGRATED RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PURCELL MOUNTAINS. Victoria, B.C. Environment and Land Use Committee, 1974. 70 pp., map. Price not known.
WELLS GRAY PARK: A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE PARK AND ITS ENVIRONS, by Roland Neave, 1974. 192 pp., maps, illus., price not known. Order from Miocene Press, 634 Tunstall Crescent, Kamloops V2C 3J1.
WILDERNESS TRAILS NORTHWEST, by Ira Spring and Harvey Manning, 1974. \$5.95. Order from Touchstone Press, Beaverton, Oregon 97005.

Interested in trips (possibly by charter flight) to Nepal? Contact Mrs. R. Elliot, 1827 Allison Rd., Vancouver 8 or call 228-9664.