



# NEWSLETTER

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

(representing 29 hiking, climbing, and conservation groups)\*

Volume 3, Number 1

March, 1980

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MEMBER  
GROUPS

Alberni Outdoor Club  
Alpine Club of Canada  
- Vancouver Section  
- Vancouver Island Section  
B.C. Mountaineering Club  
B.C.I.T. Outdoor Club  
Caledonia Ramblers  
Canadian Hostelling Assoc.  
Comox District Mountaineering Club  
Island Mountain Ramblers  
Kelowna Outdoors Club  
Klister Outdoor Klub  
Kootenay Mountaineering Club  
Kootenay Nordic Club  
North Shore Hikers  
North & West Vancouver  
Search and Rescue

Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society  
Outdoor Club of Victoria  
Outdoor Club of Victoria - Trails  
Information Society  
Outsetters Club  
Outward Bound - British Columbia  
Penticton Outdoors Club  
Sierra Club of British Columbia  
Simon Fraser Outdoor Club  
Squamish Ski and Outdoor Club  
Timberline Trail & Nature Club  
Valley Outdoor Association  
Vancouver Natural History Society  
Varsity Outdoor Club (UBC)  
Vernon Outdoors Club

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GREETINGS! (ONCE AGAIN)

OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL

This is not the first newsletter produced by the FMCBC. It is, rather, an attempt at the resurrection of one formerly printed in the mid-70's. Our present hope is to make this a quarterly. I was sorely tempted to proclaim something to this effect in a sub-title, but thought the better of it. Better, that is, to start with modest goals and see what happens, than with showy titles, grand visions, and later embarrassment, if for example, our quarterly eventually slips to a "semi-" or even worse, a "bi-".

The purpose of still another pile of pages like this, more work for both readers and writers, is to help the Federation hang together, or in less slangy terminology, facilitate inter-club communication and document our activities so as to foster unity within the ranks. A need for this exists because presently no one publication compiles general Federation news and disseminates it to our membership.

\* "The function of the F.M.C.B.C. is to foster and promote cooperation and coordination between outdoor oriented groups throughout the province of British Columbia. It presently concentrates on organizations that are directly involved with self-propelled mountain activities such as hiking, backpacking, climbing, ski-touring and especially conservation; hence the name: Federation of Mountain Clubs." PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REPRODUCE ANY OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER.



Certainly, a prerequisite for mutual concern and effective action is staying informed. While we already produce minutes for the delegates' and three committee meetings, these serve as fairly detailed accounts of intricate Federation business, and are not intended to convey the broader picture. That is to be the function of this newsletter. In addition it can serve as a forum for the presentation and exchange of views, as well as supply information about clubs of possible interest to other member clubs. A secondary objective is to use it to communicate the gist of our affairs to those outsiders with whom we often deal--gov't resource agencies, forest and mining industries, the media, etc.

THIS IS AN FMCBC PRODUCT, NOT SIMON AND LEON'S. We are the compilers, but we need something to compile. Either we have to collect it all ourselves, whereupon omissions, mistakes, and biases will riddle the product, or others help by bringing to our attention what they want to appear, and the service will improve. If any club has any submissions or suggestions (on anything, e.g. format, content, a more creative name than the functional "Newsletter"), don't hesitate to get them to us. We especially encourage those clubs outside of the Vancouver area, for whom representation to the bulk of us is an even greater problem. Through a modest amount of cooperation this bulletin could actually be of some value. -LK

P.S. Many of the briefs appearing here appear in much more detailed form in minutes of the delegates' meetings as well as those of the Trails, Recreation & Conservation, and Safety & Educations Committees.

#### GENERAL NEWS BRIEF

- : Delegates' meetings have been held on Sept. 26 and Oct. 24, 1979, and Jan. 23 and Feb. 27, 1980.
- : Annual General Meeting: About 55 people from member and non-member groups attended the 1979 AGM, held Nov. 24 at Simon Fraser Univ. in Vancouver. Out-going president gave a report citing some of our activities and commending the three committee chairmen for their work. Committee chairmen all gave reports while member clubs circulated theirs. The many non-member clubs present were given a chance to voice their concerns and ask questions. The meeting ran smoothly, and fairly well avoided the boredom and yawns that often set in at such affairs, while still attending to necessary business.
- : Simon Priest, who was a paid club coordinator for part of 1979, travelled around the southern part of the province in December and January, speaking to a number of groups who are prospective Federation members. Some ten indicated to him that they would join.
- : A discussion at the Jan. 23 delegates' meeting centred around how the Federation should transact its delegates' business in view of increasing membership in areas of the province far enough from Vancouver to make travel there for a two hour meeting inconvenient. The problem is how we are to increase our membership (strength) and at the same time maintain our policy of taking stands only on those issues for which there is consensus and ample knowledge.

A solution is needed that will provide for both and yet not bog us down in our own bureaucracy. Eventually it was decided that



regions could send representatives to delegates' meetings (expenses paid--pending the outcome of our grant applications) and carry proxy votes from other member clubs in the same region. Policy in this area will have to remain tentative until the extent of regional interest and the availability of funds are ascertained.

- : A short pamphlet describing the FMCBC to member and prospective members and others is in the process of being produced, and is presently in final draft form.
- : Coalition to Protect the Southern Chilcotin Mountains: Jay MacArthur has been attending these meetings on behalf of the Federation. After a discussion at the Jan. 23 delegates' meeting on the conflicts in this area and the possibility of doing something about them, the FMCBC delegates voted to join the Coalition. The area in question is slated for possible mining and forestry development this year, so that the present Coalition represents a last-ditch effort following years of less urgent attempts to convince the government of its recreational value in its present condition. Latest is that the Forest Service has established a planning committee that will be meeting with the public to discuss concerns and issues at 1 PM, March 22 in the Lillooet high school.
- : New Members: The Kootenay Mountaineering Club, Squamish Ski & Outdoor Club, Klister Outdoor Klub, Vernon Outdoors Club, Kelowna Outdoors Club, Kootenay Nordic Club, Timberline Trail & Nature Club, and Penticton Outdoors Club have all recently joined the Federation.
- : GRANTS: The Federation is applying for three provincial grants.
  - 1) to the Amateur Sport and Fitness Fund for an administrative operations grant that would cover, among other things, the expenses of a paid coordinator.
  - 2) to the Ministry of Education for funds to hire a resource person to instruct public school teachers in outdoor and safety principles.
  - 3) to the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division for money to aid in the distribution of safety pamphlets to member clubs.
- : COURSES: The FMCBC is offering courses in spring & summer, 1980+-
  - Basic Backpacking \$45 students, \$60 non-students, June 4 - July 6  
Limit: 40 participants Contact Simon Priest 461-3665
  - Beginner's Hiking \$25 students, \$40 non-students, July 3 - July 27  
Limit: 40 participants Contact Simon Priest 461-3665
  - Basic Mountaineering \$65 students, \$80 non-students, Apr. 23-June 8  
Limit: 45 participants Contact Barry Hodgins 873-1277(h)  
274-1264(o)
- : The recent death of a skier on Mt. Seymour has prompted an investigation by V-P Gordon Swan into Park staff's handling of the incident; He developed a set of recommendations for accident prevention and emergency procedures. The Safety and Education Committee is considering what action to undertake.

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"Recreational development is a job not of building roads into lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind." --Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac



## RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

- : Meetings have been held on Oct. 25, 1979, Jan. 10, and Feb. 21, 1980.
- : At the February 21 meeting, Mel Turner of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division discussed their plans for the eastern part of Garibaldi Provincial Park. Basically, they intend to leave it as is (undeveloped), but still need to draw up a master plan for the area stating this.
- : The Chairman, Roger Freeman, is continuing efforts with the Stein River Valley. A guidebook to the watershed was published early in the autumn with Freeman and David Thompson as authors, through Douglas & McIntyre publishers. It should contribute to concern for the area. There have been repeated crises concerning a miner/logger who is using every means available (legal and not) to gain access to the valley.
- : The Forest Service has asked for our input into folios being prepared for Potlatch Creek and Bowen Island in the Howe Sound area.
- : The Federation is sponsoring a seminar on mining to be held at B.C.I.T. on April 26. Its purpose is to educate conservationists as to the province's legal apparatus concerning mining exploration and development so that we know what recourse we have when confronted with a mining-related issue (e.g. Antimony Mtn. in the Stein, Omineca mining road, etc.).
- : Bruce Fraser of the B.C.F.S. will be appearing at the next meeting of the Committee in April to discuss guidelines he is preparing for public involvement in Forest Service initiatives.

## TRAILS COMMITTEE

- : Meetings held Oct. 31, 1979, January 17 and March 13, 1980.
- : An on-going responsibility of the Committee is overseeing the jurisdiction of trails on Crown land that member clubs in the Vancouver area have volunteered to maintain. Clubs in other regions that do not already share upkeep and construction may find coordinating their efforts mutually beneficial. The 1979 Trails Committee Report has a list of those trails under the jurisdiction of specific clubs, and minutes of the committee meetings often contain updates.
- : The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division will host a trail construction workshop for us in May if sufficient interest is shown by club members and a satisfactory date can be arranged.
- : The province now has an official policy regarding the marking of trails through active logging sites. Trails obliterated in a wasteland of slash have irritated all too many hikers over the years. Hopefully, this will be vigorously implemented. See the 1979 Report for details.



- : The Committee has been investigating the legal responsibility of trail builders and maintainers. In a nutshell, the law says that a person injured through the negligence of another is entitled to recover damages from the negligent party. With regard to trails, the important considerations are who will be using them and what you, as the trail builder, have led them to expect.
- : The Forest Service is requesting our assistance in designating priority trails under the new Forest Act. This winter, they are drawing up a list of Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island trails. Anybody with a trail they would like to see so "designated," should contact Doug Herchmer at 668-2559.

#### SAFETY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- : Meetings held on Jan. 30, Feb. 20, and March 31, 1980.
- : Certification: In Alberta a move is afoot to have instructors and trip leaders certified by a legally recognized body that will attempt to guarantee their competence. There are both philosophical and practical objections to such a policy. The Alberta Mountain Council has organized to fight this and has sought Federation support. Committee members have undertaken to learn more about the issue so that we know what it actually is that we're being asked to support and to be informed should the issue drift our way. At the moment, while there seems to be a general suspicion and dislike in the marrows of most of us for the idea of certification, few of us are informed as to the details of this issue. Members of the Committee will be urging the climbers in our midst to consider the matter. There is reading material for anyone who is interested.
- : The Committee has aided the Outdoor Recreation Council in the preparation of safety pamphlets on hiking, cross country skiing, and avalanches.
- : Kirk Mallette (formerly of S.F.C.C.) has compiled a list of research projects the results of which would be of interest to us. What we hope to do is distribute it to college and university departments who are always strapping students with totally worthless research projects and papers (worthless in the sense that they're good for nothing but a grade). Who knows, if we can tap this reservoir, we may be able to give some students "relevant" work and at the same time answer some of the questions that affect us.

#### THE LAST WORD

#### To All Club Newsletter Editors

Please feel free to take any of the information contained in this bulletin and reproduce it in your newsletter. This is the primary purpose of our bulletin. If you have any information from your group that you feel would be of specific or general interest to others throughout the province, please send the information directly to me at the following address and place me on your mailing list.

Thanks, SIMON PRIEST - 6211 Gordon Ave. Burnaby, B.C. V5E 3M3.