



P.O. BOX 33768 · STATION D · VANCOUVER, B.C. · V6J 4L6

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

representing hiking, climbing and conservation groups

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1

SPRING 1981.

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia is once again sponsoring a Basic Mountaineering Course. It will run from April 23rd with four lectures and four weekend trips. Mike Down will be coordinating the course this year. For more information, write:

MIKE DOWN,
2213 KINGS AVENUE,
WEST VANCOUVER, B.C.
V7V 2C1

Clubs in other areas of B.C. who would like to sponsor a course should contact the Federation.

A.G.M. REPORT -- See Page 3.

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

The Federation hopes to sponsor a seminar to help trip leaders improve their skills. The Federation's Safety and Education Committee is working on this project.

WRITERS WANTED

Writers are needed to help make this newsletter a success. Write an article about your area of the province and send it to:

JAY MACARTHUR,
4870 PRINCETON AVENUE,
RICHMOND, B.C.
V7E 4P2

Thanks.

SIERRA CLUB PUBLIC LECTURE -- The Ediza.

Come out to see the splendors of Mr. Ediza and find out about the proposed developments in the area that will affect future enjoyment and preservation of the Park:

Monday, April 27 --- 8:00 p.m. --- Robson Square Theatre.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Conservation Issues Around B.C.
O.R.C.

MEMBER GROUPS OF THE F.M.C.B.C.

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club	Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
Alpine Club of Canada	Outdoor Club of Victoria
- Vancouver Section	Outdoor Club of Victoria Trails
- Vancouver Island Section	Information Society
B.C.I.T. Outdoor Club	Outsetters Club
B.C. Mountaineering Club	Outward Bound - British Columbia
Caledonia Ramblers	Penticton Outdoors Club
Canadian Hostelling Assoc. - B.C. Reg.	Sierra Club of Western Canada (Vanc. Group)
Comox District Mountaineering Club	Simon Fraser Outdoor Club
Fort Nelson Cross-Country Ski & Outdoor Club	Squamish Ski and Outdoor Club
Hygh Tymers	Timberline Trail and Nature Club
Island Mountain Ramblers	Valley Outdoor Association
Kelowna Outdoor Club	Vancouver Natural History Society
Klister Outdoor Klub	Varsity Outdoor Club
Kootenay Mountaineering Club	Vernon Outdoors Club
Kootenay Nordic Club	
North Shore Hikers	
North Shore Rescue Team	

The function of the F.M.C.B.C. is to foster and promote cooperation and co-ordination 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.

The primary purpose of this newsletter is for information exchange. In addition, please send any and all information that you would like to share with the Federation Membership and your fellow Outdoorpersons!!

In the last A.G.M., it was decided the primary purpose of a Federation Coordinator would be to keep the membership informed and lobby for conservation. I feel that this newsletter should concentrate on information on the happenings in the FMCBC and conservation issues within B.C.

FRIENDS OF THE STIKINE

This is a new group that has formed which is dedicated to preservation of the Stikine River in its natural state. To join send \$10.00 tax deductible dollars to the Sierra Club of B.C. (Stikine Fund). c/o 536 A Yates Street, Victoria, B.C., V8W 1K8. If tax deduction is not important send \$10.00 directly to Friends of the Stikine, 4669 Drummond Drive, Vancouver, B.C., V6R 1E8.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

48 representatives from Federation-affiliated organizations attended the A.G.M. held in Robson Square in Vancouver on November 29, 1980. Each F.M.C.B.C. Executive Member reported on the past year's efforts, which included:

- Joining the Southern Chilcotin Mountains Coalition,
- Holding a Mining Seminar,
- Attending Coquitlam Mountain Study meetings,
- Submitting a brief on the Skagit Valley flooding,
- Continuing involvement with the Stein River Valley,
- Attending the Forest Service's Public Involvement Seminar in Victoria,
- Sponsoring Basic Mountaineering and Backpacking Courses,
- Continuing contributions to manuals and pamphlets,
- A Trail Maintenance Seminar held by Parks & Outdoor Recreation,
- Standardization of a trail-marking system through active logging areas (through the Forest Land Use Liaison Committee)
- And the rebirth of the Federation Newsletter.

Individual club efforts and activities reported included an active year for outings and a modest amount of trail work (except for Paul Binkert, whose efforts were great, as usual).

The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society continued efforts with Brent Mountain, Cathedral Park, the Cascade Wilderness, and the Osoyoos Region.

The Kootenay Nordic Club became more involved in mining-related issues.

The Vancouver Natural History Society held a "very successful" Summer Camp in Cinnabar Basin in the Southern Chilcotin Mountains, and has begun work on a new poster series dealing habitat and the environment.

The Fort Nelson Cross Country Ski and Outdoor Club cleared skiing trails, held races, & showed N.F.B. films on skiing.

The Timberline Trail and Nature Club (Dawson Creek) continued with the Second Century Fund to purchase a private pond called McQueen's Slough, a unique breeding place for Eared Grebes.

The Valley Outdoor Association held a "very successful" Summer Camp in the Stein Valley Area.

The Squamish Ski and Outdoor Club assisted in the Winter 79/80 eagle count. 1500 bald eagles were counted in the Squamish area alone.

The Varsity Outdoor Club (U.B.C.) won a long battle to receive compensation for a cabin built at Whistler in the 60's. The \$30,000 will go towards building public cabins in other locations.

The Sierra Club counted an active year of public lectures and ongoing involvement in numerous environmental issues.

The Klister Outdoor Klub had an active year of outings and programmes, including the dubious fortune of meeting 16 snowmobiles on the Monument 83 trail in Manning Provincial Park.

The Vancouver Y.M.C.A. Hygh Tymers concluded a successful year of hiking, cross-country skiing, and jogging/fitness.

The Outdoor Club of Victoria Trails Information Society continued their sale of booklets, as well as preserving in their efforts to convince the government to buy Sidney Island (in the Gulf Islands) for park purposes. Some encouragement was received, but as yet, no action taken.

Cont'd.

The Penticton Club spent the year clearing trails, conducting trips, and attending meetings on Brent Mountain.

The Island Ramblers continued their programme of placing summit registers and formed Committees to investigate logging in the Tsitika watershed and proposed logging of part of the historic Mr. Arrowsmith Trail.

The Golden Agers Hiking Club sent a member to the meeting and was welcomed into the Federation.

The following officers were elected and appointments made:

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|----------------------|---|
| - Arno Schortinghuis | - President |
| - Gordon Swan | - Vice-President |
| - Brian Johnson | - Vice-President, Van. Island Section |
| - Berni Claus | - Treasurer |
| - June Banwell | - Secretary |
| - Roger Freeman | - Chairman, Rec. & Conservation Committee |
| - Simon Priest | - Chairman, Safety & Education Committee |
| - Jay MacArthur | - Chairman, Communications Committee |
| - May Macaree | - Forest Land Use Liaison Committee Rep. |
| - John Walker | - O.R.C. Representative |

The chairmanship of the Trails Committee was left unfilled until a volunteer can be found.

Discussions were held on several major issues:

Courses - Should the F.M.C.B.C. continue to offer these, or delegate them to the individual clubs? No definite course of action emerged from discussion. It was agreed to defer decisions until further club input is received.

Improving Coordination and Communication - The general lament is that all too often, not enough is done on particular issues because of the difficulty in communicating with all potential helpers in becoming informed enough to contribute an intelligent, supportable position, and in the Federation itself reaching consensus. Rec. & Con. Chairman Roger Freeman would like to get copies of all letters sent by clubs. He in turn offered to inform clubs on specific issues to which they might contribute.

Federation Funding - A discussion of this controversial topic dominated much of the afternoon. A motion was passed supporting in principle the concept of a paid coordinator to implement Federation initiatives. Though most delegates could accept the idea of a \$2 levy per member per year, there was at first considerable doubt as to the practical effect this would have on club membership as well as membership of clubs in the Federation. Several Clubs indicated that they had already decided in favour of the idea (each with qualifications): The Timberline Trail and Nature Club, Kootenay Mountaineering Club, North Shore Hikers, and Simon Fraser Outdoor Club. (The Varsity Outdoor Club at U.B.C. has since approved the idea, and the Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Section Executive have split evenly on it.) Eventually it was decided to send a letter to all clubs asking for a commitment as soon as possible.

Leon Kolankiewicz.

O.R.C. - THE OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL OF B.C.

The O.R.C. has been busy lately making up recreation maps of the Whistler 100 Mile House and Windermere Lake areas. Watch for them in your favourite Outdoor store.

They are also trying to get a grant to hire a Trails and Rivers Coordinator. This would help the Federation's Trails Committee which has two new co-chairpersons.

On April 7th, O.R.C. is sponsoring an Anik B broadcast on the Knowledge Network featuring a presentation with Lands, Parks and Housing discussing the All Terrain Vehicle Act and its new regulations. This can be seen in Vancouver on Channel 18 if you have a converter, and in twenty different areas around B.C. which have cable T.V. systems. You can phone in and comment, too!

On May 5th, O.R.C. will broadcast a presentation on Summer Recreation.

Stay informed! Subscribe to OUTDOOR REPORTS, and ask to be sent the last two issues. Kreg Sky wrote an informative article on Provincial Conversation issues in the Fall issue, while the Winter 1980 issue has overview of the Riverfest Conference.

Send \$2 to: O.R.C.,
1200 HORNBY STREET,
VANCOUVER, B.C.
V6Z 2E2

SKAGIT VALLEY

Since Ronald Reagan has fired all three American Commissioners to the International Joint Commission the status of the Provincial Government's bid to stop the flooding of the Skagit Valley is in limbo. It may be a few months before new commissioners are appointed and they decide if public hearings will be held.

For information send a contribution to: ROSS COMMITTEE
1200 HORNBY STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C.
V6Z 2E2

BRENT MOUNTAIN

The Ministry of Lands, Parks, and Housing has rejected an application for a ski development on Brent Mountain in the Okanagan near Apex. However, the developer plans to resubmit his application. The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society has presented a parks proposal to the Parks Division.

For more information send a contribution to: OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY
BOX 787
SUMMERLAND, B.C.
VOH 1Z0

PROPOSED WINDY BAY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

This 12 sq. mile watershed in the southern Queen Charlotte Islands is due to be logged soon unless this proposal succeeds. At stake are the following:

- the largest Ancient Murrelet colony in B.C. (the Ancient Murrelet is a forest floor nesting seabird)
- "the last remaining significant stand of virgin cedar, spruce, and hemlock of magnificent size"
- and "an outstanding salmon stream which is more productive than any other for its size on the B.C. coast"

Rights to this timber, part of Tree Farm License #39, belong to Western Forest Products, which bought out Rayonier-ITT last year. The company has recently submitted its own proposal for a reserve that would protect about 1/6 of the watershed, including the murrelet colony and a strip along the stream. Preservationists do not feel this is enough to protect the values of this outstanding area, and that to set aside on small watershed on a coast logged in hundreds of watersheds is not an excessive request.

Paul George of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee informed this reporter that the whole watershed has recently been staked for mineral claims. Paul claims that it is supposed to have little or no mineral value and suspects that the staking may have been done because if the area is preserved, the claimants will have to be compensated. The chief conflict however, is still over timber values. A decision is due soon. Write to James Chabot, Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4, if you support this request.

Leon Kolankiewicz

AKAMINA - KISHENENA

The Forest Service has split this area of South-Eastern B.C. into two zones for planning purposes. Logging started last fall in Zone B.

Planning has started for a Zone A recreation/harvesting plan. Public involvement is welcome for Zone A. Write to: MINISTRY OF FORESTS - NELSON REGION
518 LAKE STREET
NELSON, B.C.
V1L 4C6

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Ministry of Forests sponsored a Public Involvement Workshop at the University of Victoria on November 14-15, 1980. Gathered together were 150 representatives from government, industry and public groups from all parts of B.C.

The purpose of the meeting was to "provide an opportunity for public; industry, resource agency and Forest Service members of currently active public involvement groups to exchange ideas and to advise the Forest Service on the development of its Public Involvement Program."

David Thompson attended the workshop for the Federation. As a result of discussion at the January Recreation and Conservation Committee a subcommittee was formed to bring forward a policy for the FMCBC on public involvement.