



# CLOUDBURST

the newsletter of the

**FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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

representing hiking, climbing and conservation groups

Vol I, Issue 2  
Spring, 1983

## F.M.C.B.C. EXECUTIVE

Jay MacArthur	-	President
Stephen Fuller	-	Vice-President
William Peters	-	Vice-President, Vancouver Island Section
John Randall	-	Treasurer (263-1142)
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Berni Claus		
Ross Peterson	-	Safety & Education Committee
Bruce Blackwell	-	Chairman, Trails Committee
Geoff Pinnington )		
Terry Chow	-	Communications Committee

All inquiries regarding the Newsletter should be direct to the editors:

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Vancouver, B.C.  
V6K 3S4

Phone: 732-5335

Terry Chow: Box 391  
Nelson, B.C.  
V1L 5R2

Phone:

## COURSES AND COURSE REPORTS

The FMCBC Mountaineering course is underway and fully subscribed to with forty-one participants. If you would like a format to organize a club course on similar lines then write to Jay, Ross or June.

### **A Map and Compass Course**

A map and compass course will be held on June 19, at Seymour Mountain, and will be directed by Geoff Pinnington. This course will consist of a morning theory session followed by an afternoon practical. Member clubs are asked to bring this opportunity to the attention of their members. This should be a popular, and we hope a useful outing, and those interested are asked to contact Ken Woodsworth. The fee will be \$4.00, and participants are reminded to bring a compass and outdoor clothes. We are planning to hold a second such course sometime in July.



## A Basic Backpacking Course

A basic backpacking course for sometime in July is also planned, and the Committee is looking for a course conductor. If any clubs have suggested to make regarding a coordinator, assistants, course content, or level of interest, please contact Ken Woodsworth.

## Kootenay Mountaineering Club Basic Mountaineering Course 1983 (John Wurflinger)

The 1983 Basic Mountaineering Course is a general mountaineering course intended for beginners. It will include general aspects of wilderness travel, rock climbing, snow and ice climbing and glacier travel.

The course begins on April 13th, the total cost is \$55.00 which includes the price of the Spring Dinner in May.

Three lectures will be held at Selkirk College at 7 p.m. on April 13th, 20th, 27th/83; followed by a series of five rock climbing sessions at the Kinnaird Bluffs on Wednesday evenings - May 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and June 1st. The time will be fixed at the lectures.

A snow and ice lecture will be held at Selkirk College at 7 p.m. on June 8th/83; followed by two field trips on snow and ice climbing - on June 19th to Ymir Mountain and on June 25th, 26th overnight trip to Glacier Creek.

Ken Holmes  
Box 29  
Rossland, B.C., V0G 1Y0

## CAMPS

### THE 1983 HIKING CAMP

Earl Jorgensen will go to Gwillam Lake from July 30th to August 7th. The fee is \$150.00 and each application must be accompanied by a \$50.00 deposit.

Notice the date is a week later than usual to allow extra time for snow melting. The Gwillam Lake area has got the distinct advantage of being within a 3 to 4 hr. hike from the cars on a good trail. The effect of this is two-fold:

- a) Some people may choose to hike in or out or both thus saving the cost of flying.
- b) Some may plan a shorter camp by either hiking in later or hiking out sooner - in all cases their gear could be airlifted.

Again we should have an economical camp in an excellent area. Refunds will likely be generous.

Application forms will be available in the May newsletter but if members have questions or would like to be "early birds" please contact:

Earl Jorgensen at 352-7775 or John Stewart at 352-3273



## NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEES

### Safety and Education Committee Report

The upcoming activities of the Safety and Education Committee will include the organization of outdoor education courses and continued liaison with safety organizations, such as the Mountain Rescue Council of B.C.

### Evaluation of Education Needs

The Committee plans to assess the needs and desires of club members and the public for outdoor education so that we can begin to fine tune these courses more to these specific needs. We will also expand the course evaluation system towards the same end.

### Next Meeting

We hope to schedule two meetings of the Committee before the summer break; the first on May 18, which will address the above topics, and the second in late June. Meeting notices and agendas will be circulated. Meetings will be held at Sport B.C.

### Trails Committee

The chairman has filed an application for a young Canada works grant to employ seven people to work on the Squamish Chief Trail.

A letter reminding member clubs of their responsibilities toward trail maintenance has been circulated.

The Alpine Club of Canada Vancouver Section are negotiating a rental fee for access rights from the Squamish Indian Band through to Lake Lovelywater.

### Focus:

In this issue we focus attention on the general trend of National Park development in the U.S.A. and ask for your views on the accessibility of Canada's National Parks.

### America's National Parks:

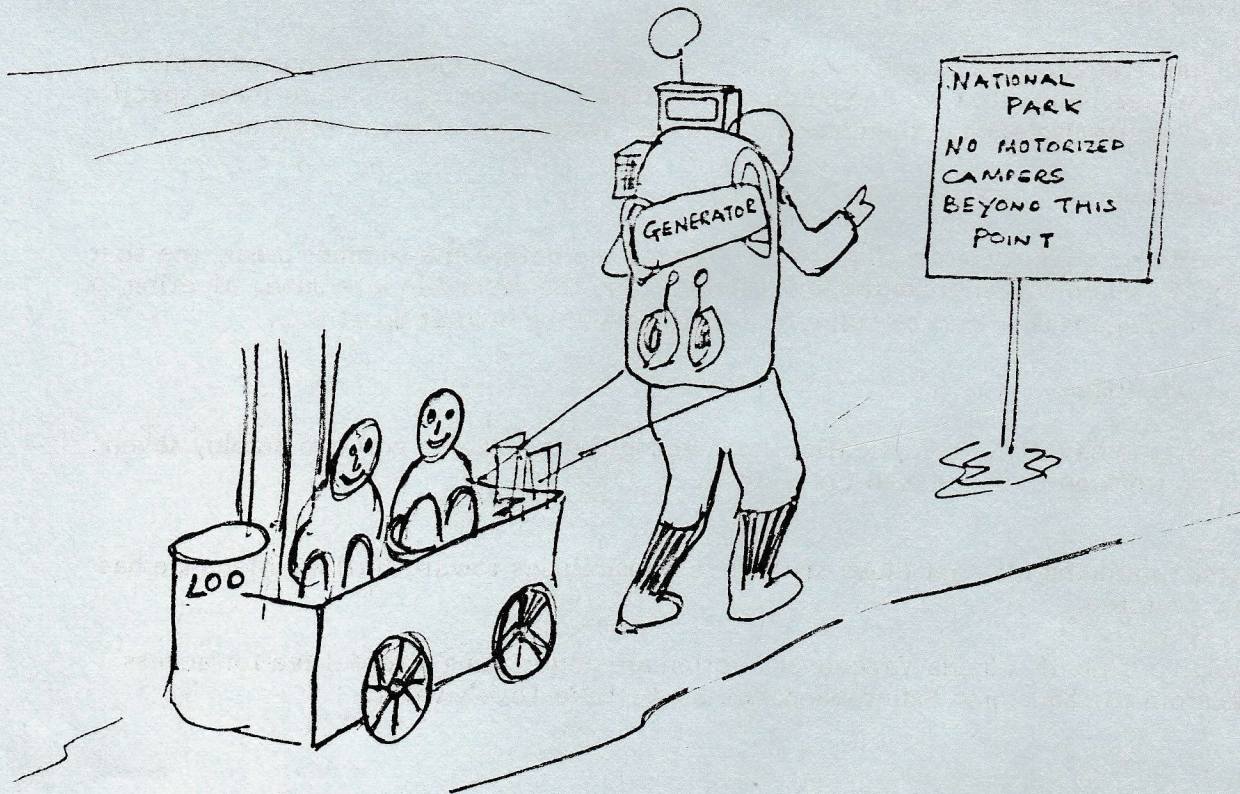
In February Channel 9 carried a National Geographic Special on America's National Parks and asked the question, "are they a playground for all people or a paradise to be preserved for all time?" Documented below are a few of the highlights and important points raised by the program.

In 1872 Yellowstone was set aside as the world's first National park. Many other wilderness acres and historic sites have been similarly designated as protected areas. In fact, there are twelve different classifications which now exist to cover such as: Battle grounds, cemeteries, places of interest (Alcatraz), national monuments (Statue of Liberty) and other parks (the Grand Canyon).

In 1916 the National Parks service was founded with a mandate to 1) protect parks and 2) promote their use. Since then, much work has been done to make access to the national parks easy for the private automobile and motor homes. Convenience stores, hotel accommodation, gas stations and vast areas of paved camping grounds and parking lots have been developed. The result being that the work involved in protecting the park has greatly increased as both the natural surroundings and the wild life come under abuse by those who have no real feeling for the wilderness environment.



The Sierra Club of the U.S.A. is pressing for the closure of motor home facilities, hotels and associate services inside the park boundaries and indeed are working toward the total exclusion of the private automobile from inside the National Park boundaries.



Roderick Nash, author of "Wilderness and the American Mind", believes that the parks service should have the courage to mold the parks so that they invite the wilderness seekers (the hiker, climber, canoeist) and put off others who are not interested in a true wilderness experience.

The U.S.A. already has a model - Denali (formerly Mount McKinley) National Park. The private automobile is restricted and in nearly 4 1/2 million acres, there are only seven camp grounds.

To many, the national parks should be true wilderness areas. Opponents say that since the people of the U.S.A. pay for the parks in taxes, they should have the right of access. By removing the hotel and motor home facilities, one is restricting, in particular, the middle aged and elderly, and it is these groups which in twenty years time will form a very high percentage of the American people as the average age is rising. The facilities which many are now seeking to destroy will be needed by many in the future. Why should the national parks be restricted to the young and healthy!

Proponents of restricted access to national parks point to the changing role of the Park Ranger. The friendly figure who many get to know on their short visit was often seen as a grown-up Boy Scout. Despite his low pay, about \$12,000 per annum, there are often 1,000 applicants for any vacancy.



The prerequisite of the Park Ranger used to be his interest in botany, wildlife and conservation. However, an increase in crime in the national parks has seen a changing role for the warden who is now trained in law enforcement and self-protection. As jobs become available in the service, it is the people with police reservist type skills who are getting the jobs in preference to the botanist or conservationist. One has to be the friendly counsellor, the stern adviser, but more importantly, the law enforcement officer.

Theodore Roosevelt once said of the Grand Canyon that it was the one great site all Americans should see. "I hope there will be no buildings there and that it remains undisturbed allowing nature alone to continue the etching process." A move is now afoot to remove "civilization" from the rim of the park, and to ban the use of outboard motors on the Colorado river 5,000 feet below.

Motorized rafting through the Canyon has become big business. These rafting expeditions are equivalent to the luxury liners of oceanic travel. In 1980, 14,000 people travelled down the Colorado river, dining on steaks and swimming in warm hidden pools, warmed by the sun.

Roderick Nash likens travelling down the Colorado in a motorized raft to doing the John Muir trail on a dirt bike.

In Alaska, near the Brookes Wilderness area, lives Ray Bain, an anthropologist. He comments, "we have an opportunity to save something like this (as he points to the natural wilderness behind) which has been here since the beginning of time. We don't have the ability to create nature's wilderness. We do have the ability to destroy it."

Please let me have your letters on your views on the accessibility of our parks in Canada. In the next issue focus will look at the South Moresby area on the Queen Charlotte Islands. All historical, geological and other information would be very gratefully received. Please write.

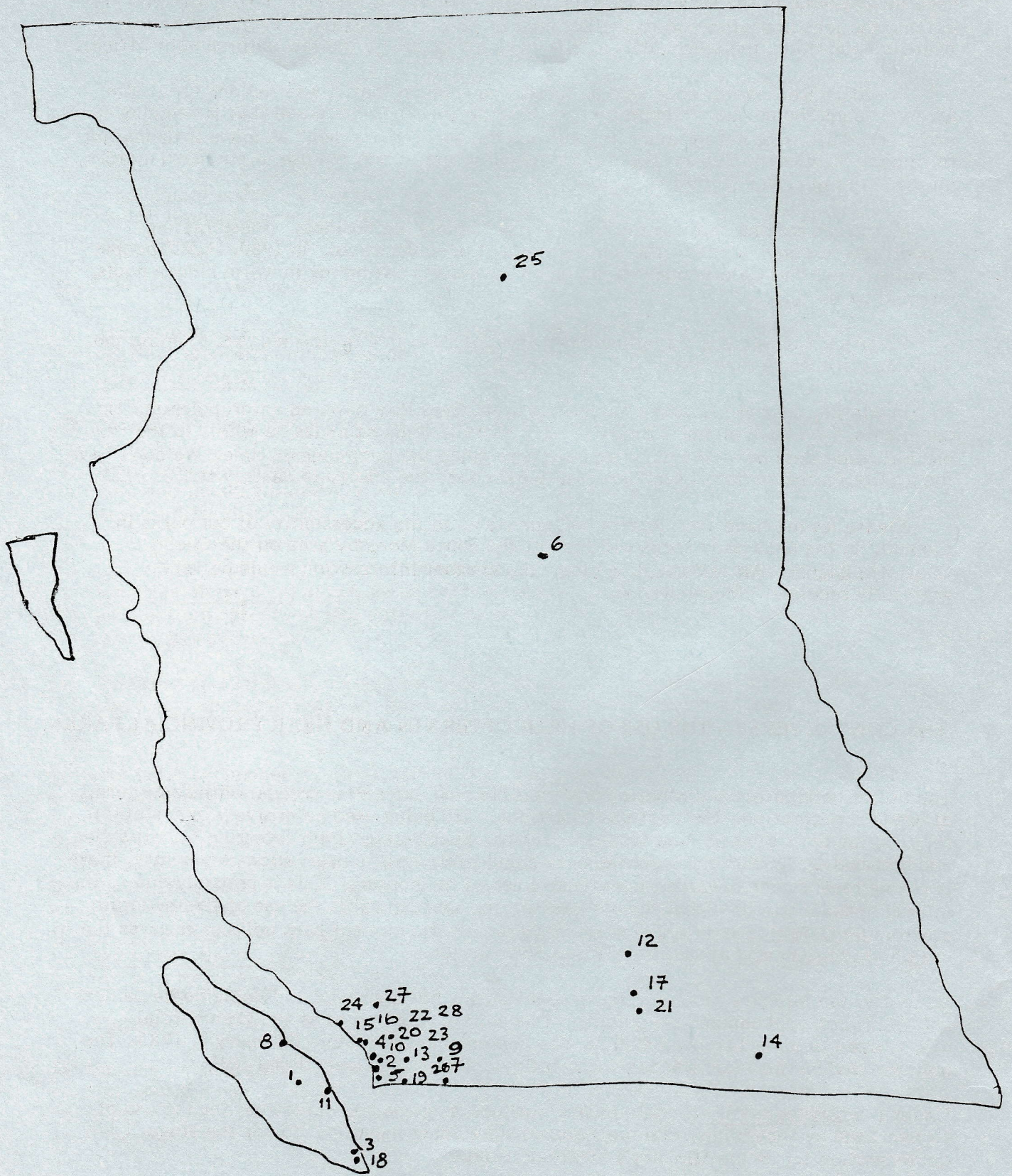
## THE CONTROVERSY - THE USE OF HELICOPTERS IN AND NEAR PROVINCIAL PARKS

The use of helicopters and other aircraft has become extremely popular with some forms of outdoor recreation. Helicopters in particular are being used extensively in mountain regions, for their take-off and landing abilities. Specifically, I am referring to heli-skiing and heli-hiking. Within the mountaineering and wilderness conservation community, there is strong resentment towards the extensive use of helicopters. This is probably due to the ethical codes intrinsic within the mountaineering sport towards the use of the mountain environment. In this article, I would like to review the current park policies towards the use of helicopters and other aircraft on Crown Land.

Recently, the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing has approved and implemented a new policy towards mechanized ski guiding. This policy, referred to as the Commercial Mechanized Guiding Land Use Policy, was implemented effective February 1, 1983. The policy is divided into (1) The Strategic Policy and (2) The Operational Policy.

Under the Strategic Policy, the ministry outlines its goals and objectives for the use of Crown Land by the commercial mechanized ski guiding industry. To set the stage, I will quote section 1.1 of the Ministry's Strategic Goal.







## MEMBER CLUBS

1. ALBERNI VALLEY OUTDOOR CLUB  
P.O. Box 56  
Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 7M6
2. ALPINE CLUB OF VANCOUVER - VANCOUVER SECTION  
P.O. Box 2839  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3X3
3. ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA - VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION  
c/o 311 Stevens Road  
Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X3
4. B.C.I.T. OUTDOOR CLUB  
British Columbia Institute of Technology  
3700 Willingdon Avenue  
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2
5. B. C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
P.O. Box 2674  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3W8
6. CALEDONIA RAMBLERS  
Box 26, Station A  
Prince George, B.C. V2L 4R9
7. CHILLIWACK OUTDOOR CLUB  
c/o Marion Burn (President)  
33748 Dewdney Trunk Road  
R.R.#5, Mission, B.C. V2V 5X4
8. COMOX DISTRICT MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
c/o N.B. Forster (President)  
220 Back Road  
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 3W6
9. FRASER VALLEY HIKERS  
c/o 32285 Hillcrest Avenue  
Clearbrook, B.C.
10. HYGH TYMERS  
955 Burrard St  
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 1Y2
11. ISLAND MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS  
P.O. Box 691  
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5M2
12. KELOWNA OUTDOOR CLUB  
c/o 303 - 543 Rowcliffe Ave.  
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 5Y8
13. KLISTER OUTDOOR CLUB  
Glen Gytenbeek  
7909 Patterson Street  
Burnaby, B.C.
14. KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
Box 3195  
Castlegar, B.C. V1N 3H5
15. NORTH SHORE HIKERS  
P.O. Box 4535  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4A1
16. NORTH SHORE RESCUE TEAM  
c/o Nth & West Vancouver Emergency Program  
165 East 13th St.  
North Vancouver, B.C. V7L 2L3
17. OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY  
Harold King (President)  
P.O. Box 787  
Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z0 (495-6907)
18. OUTDOOR CLUB OF VICTORIA  
John Walker (President)  
260 Prospect Lake Road  
R.R. #7, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X3
19. OUTSETTERS CLUB  
Jim Cunliffe (President)  
410-1450 Chestnut Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V3K 6J6
20. OUTWARD BOUND - BRITISH COLUMBIA  
101 - 1600 West 6th Ave.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1R3
21. PENTICTON OUTDOOR CLUB  
c/o 171 Walden Crescent  
Penticton, B.C. V2A 1R6
22. SIERRA CLUB OF WESTERN CANADA (Vancouver Group)  
c/o 1200 Hornby Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2
23. SIMON FRASER OUTDOOR CLUB  
c/o Simon Fraser Student Society  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6
24. SQUAMISH SKI AND OUTDOOR CLUB  
Box 2317  
Squamish, B.C. V0N 3G0
25. TIMBERLINE TRAIL & NATURE CLUB  
P.O. Box 779  
Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 4H8
26. VALLEY OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION  
Betty Smith (President)  
8681 Shepherd Way  
Delta, B.C. V4C 4J9
27. VANCOUVER NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 3021  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3X5
28. VARSITY OUTDOOR CLUB  
Student Union Building  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5



The Ministry recognizes the use of Crown Land by the commercial mechanized ski guiding industry as beneficial to the provincial recreation and tourism industry and to the local economy of several areas of British Columbia. It also recognizes the diversity of uses and potential for environmental problems and user conflicts on Crown Lands considered suitable for commercial mechanized ski guiding purposes. Accordingly, the Ministry will make appropriate Crown lands available to sustain the development of the commercial mechanized ski guiding industry in B.C. provided that such lands remain available for other legitimate uses and exclude environmentally sensitive areas.

Of importance and interest to the mountaineering and wilderness conservation community is the statement underlined, which distinctly states concern for the environment. Continuing through the policy, we will see how this is implemented in relation to our interests and if effectively.

They propose to achieve this through:

- (1) The issuing of Land Act tenures or leases for ski guiding operation based on existing ski runs, environmental hazards and sensitivities, and potential conflicts with non-mechanized ski guiding and other recreational activities.
- (2) Establishing fees for ski runs or areas that will be skied by the ski guiding company.
- (3) Input from the general public, special interest groups (i.e. F.M.C.B.C.) and other commercial ski guiding operators on the location and boundaries of operating area proposed for disposition.
- (4) Utilizing the ministry's referral process to ensure that operation areas exclude sensitive biophysical areas, avoid natural hazard areas and are cognizant of jurisdictions, programs and activities of provincial resource agencies (i.e. forestry, mining agriculture).
- (5) Establish special requirements for insurance coverage, indemnification of the Crown and clean-up guarantees (i.e. garbage) to be included in tenure or lease documents issued.

Number (1) is performed by an initial licence of occupation for a specific area, issued to a new operator for a maximum of five years. Thereafter, a replacement tenure may be issued for a standard term of ten years. A licence of occupation, can be roughly defined as a licence to use an allocated area (corridors) for ski guiding. The ski guiding operation is limited to these corridors and cannot extend beyond them. An application for a licence must include a management plan, which outlines ski-runs, landing areas, emergency shelters, fuel caches, hazardous areas (avalanche paths) and operation areas. If part or all of the operating area of the application for a licence of occupation is located within the boundaries of a provincial park (land under the Park Act), a Park Use Permit or A Resource Use Permit is required.

### Comments

Do the requirements for a Park Use Permit or a Resource Use Permit provided enough control over the use of Helicopters and aircraft in Provincial Parks? It appears that these permits are not clearly defined in this policy. What is required to secure one of these permits for a ski guiding operation in a park and what are the fees?

Number (2) is achieved by an annual rental or fee of \$20.00 per ski run or \$50.00 per ancillary use site, with a minimum rental of \$1,000.00 per commercial mechanized ski guiding licence of occupation.



## Comments

The minimum rental of \$1,000.00 will help to ensure that only those who have extensively planned their operation financially and operationally (i.e. management plans) will apply. The annual rental will help to control or prevent rampant development of prime ski areas (hopefully).

Number (3) and (4) is achieved by the ministry's referral service which will contact groups who also have special interests in the area of application. I have seen letters to various ski operators, asking them to obtain the opinions of certain interest groups before proceeding with development. The application for a particular area must also be advertised for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulated in the land administration district in which the Crown Land is situated. An advertisement is also to be placed with the Vancouver press or Provincial Gazette.

## Comments

How effective is the referral service? It appears that consultation with other groups may be omitted unless pressure is applied from at least one interested group with previous information.

In number (4), other provincial agencies are approached for their opinions and interests in a particular area.

An operator must carry public liability for \$10,000.00 in number (5). A tenure will not be granted or issued until insurance is obtained. For clean-up, a minimum guarantee of not less than \$5,000 must be posted and will be maintained at the sum specified during the term of the tenure.

## Comments

I tend to think that \$5,000 is a sufficient deposit, if the ministry provides some monitoring of the ski guide's operation. It is easy to inflict more than \$5,000 damage to a ski area.

## Heli-Hiking

Definitely not a new sport, heli-hiking is a new commodity that entrepreneurs are selling to the general public. It undermines those of us who put in the effort to reach our destination, using a non-polluting, healthier means of transportation, our legs and feet. Those individuals who advocate this form of hiking, say that it gives the aged and handicapped a chance to see the wilderness regions. What these individuals have not considered, is that you are exposing people who do not have the experience or equipment to handle wilderness travel. This rationale can be applied equally as well to heli-skiing, where novice skiers are now being encouraged to try the experience.

At present, the ministry has no written policy regarding the use of helicopters for hiking(?). The Commercial Mechanized Ski Guiding Land Use Policy, does not give the ski guiding company the rights to use their ski guiding area for heli-hiking. If the popularity towards this commodity continues to increase, a policy will need to be implemented for proper control.

Any comments or information on this controversy will be greatly appreciated. For information contact Terry C.





These hikers get more and more bizarre every year.

## MOUNTAINFEST

May 27 - 29  
Robson Square Media Centre  
800 Robson Street, Vancouver

ADMISSION FREE  
(except for feature film)

## PROGRAM

Friday, May 17th

7:30 p.m.

- Award Winning Movie:  
"Everest North Wall" with Jim Wickwire
- Admission \$4.00

Saturday, May 28th

9:00 - 12:00 a.m.

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

- A series of illustrated talks by experts on the following topics:
  - \* Introduction to Mountaineering
  - \* Introduction to Backpacking
  - \* Introduction to Rock Climbing
  - \* Mountain Safety, Avalanche Awareness, Mountain Rescue
  - \* Trail Building, Marking and Maintenance
  - \* Alpine Ecology

7:30 - 10:00 p.m.

- Films

Sunday, May 19th

- There will be several graduated hikes, for beginners up to experienced hikers. Also, a trail clean-up hike is planned. Details will be announced on Saturday, May 28th.

## EXHIBITION OF MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT:

Wholesale and retail merchants will display a wide variety of equipment for mountain recreation. Exhibits from 4:00 p.m. Friday.



## INFORMATION BOOTHS ON CLUBS, MEMBERSHIP, AND ACTIVITIES.

May 28th The Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. will hold a simultaneous Conference on the topic: "Wilderness Management. The need is now" at the Robson Square Media Centre.

For further information, write:

Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.  
1200 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2E2  
or telepone Ken Woodsworth  
Coordinator, 228-9841 or 687-3333

The next issue of Cloudburst will be sent out at the end of July. Would each committee chairperson ensure that an article giving some news in brief of committee activites is sent to Geoff by July 15th. Thanks.

### NEWS FROM THE MEDIA

ALMANAC is a current affairs C.B.C. radio program.

It's on the air, weekdays, from noon to 2:00 p.m., and its mandate is rather loosely defined as covering resources, the environment, and consumer issues, as well as what might be called 'lifestyles' features.

But, in order to stay on top of things and find out what's going on in all those areas, Almanac needs your help. So, if you're planning a conference, issuing a press release, or just simply have something going on that you think Almanac should know about, please let them know.

Mailing address is: ALMANAC, C.B.C. Radio, 700 Hamilton Street  
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 2R5 Telephone No. is: 665-8005

### LETTERS TO THE F.M.C.B.C. WHISTLER MOUNTAIN CONTROLLED RECREATION AREA

Jay recently received this letter from the Whistler Mountain Corporation:

Dear Mr. MacArthur:

In the spirit of cooperation, I would appreciate your drawing to the attention of your affiliated organizations and their members that the Provincial Government and the Whistler Mountain Ski Corporation have entered into a formal agreement which grants to the Corporation "the exclusive use, occupation and control of the Controlled Recreation Area" on Whistler Mountain. This includes the right without limitation "to control, regulate and direct the movement and activites of skiers and all other persons within the Controlled Recreation Area", as well as the right "to evict persons from the Controlled Recreation Area" at its discretion.



Whistler Mountain Ski Corporation recognizes, however, that many persons other than downhill skiers enjoy the outdoors and that mountaineering, touring and cross-country skiers, in particular, will continue to travel through the Controlled Recreation Area to access Singing Pass and adjacent areas in Garibaldi Provincial Park. While it is not the intent of the Whistler Mountain Ski Corporation to interfere with this pursuit, the Corporation must insist for the safety of both the nordic and downhill skier, that all uphill climbing be restricted to the sides of the ski trails or to designated routes in congested areas.

Upon request, special arrangements may be made for organized groups to ride up the lifts at reduced rates to reach Garibaldi Provincial Park, but those "telemark" skiers who wish to practice their art within the Controlled Recreation Area and use the lifts to do so will be required to purchase tickets.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

### VEHICLE SERVICE

We recently received a letter from Eric Qunam offering transportation:

I live at the head of the Earl Grey Trail and would like to offer a vehicle delivery service to hikers.

i.e. HIKER: Have your vehicle meet you at either end of the Earl Grey Trail. \$85.00 plus gas. Contact Eric Outram, Argenta, 366-4332

Could you please give some ideas on this scheme, and also where would be good places to advertise this service.

Thank you for your kind attention.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our addresses are on the cover sheet so you have no excuse.