

# 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

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## EDITORIAL

The FMCBC has recently obtained the services of Jim Rutter as Executive Director. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ken Woodsworth for his time and effort whilst in the equivalent position of F.M.C.B.C. Coordinator and welcome Jim with his different style and ideas.

The reputation of the F.M.C.B.C. is good and we have knowledgeable and dedicated people on the executive committees. However, the Federation has a limited provincial distribution and a low profile. Jim believes that our efforts should go to expanding our member groups as province-wide as possible. He has initiated a survey through the Chamber of Commerce to this effect.

We can raise the profile and therefore the political effectiveness of the Federation through increased sponsorship of events, speakers and conferences. Our mountaineering and avalanche courses can be offered province-wide, sponsored by local members but with materials and organization supplied by F.M.C.B.C.

Jim is working on a presentation package designed to explain the effective role of the Federation to potential new member groups. Current members also need to be well informed of the value they receive for their subscriptions. The newsletter "Cloudburst" will have an increased print run to supply more copies to F.M.C.B.C. members.

Many of our member groups are located near to Vancouver. Jim would like to attend one of your regular meetings or an A.G.M. in the near future, you can contact Jim at the above address or telephone him at 687-3333, local 232. This is the new F.M.C.B.C. office, on the third floor of the Sport B.C. Building.

During the next two months Jim expects to travel to meet as many of our member groups as possible. Hopefully, as a result of our province-wide survey, there will be a number of new member groups to visit too.

Please send Jim a copy of your current activity schedule, and contact person names and phone numbers (if recently changed). Each day at the office Jim receives many calls about clubs and hikes available and he tries to provide the appropriate member group contact.

Finally, Jim's effectiveness depends on your input, and the quality of communication we establish between member groups and this office. Please contact Jim as soon as possible.



## PROFILE

These past few months we have had a new Executive Director (Coordinator), Mr. Jim Rutter. Here is a short profile of Jim. We hope to have an in depth article in the next issue, but for now, meet Jim Rutter in brief.

Jim was originally introduced to the President, Jay MacArthur, by Ross Peterson, Co-Chairman of the Safety and Education Committee. Ross and Jim are colleagues on the North Shore Rescue Team, of which Jim has been a member for three years. This year he also has the position of Training Officer for the team, and a seat on the N.S.R. Executive.

During the last two years in Vancouver Jim has taught high school P.E., History and Community Recreation at King George Secondary School in the West End. Prior to that, he lived for three years at Strathcona Park Lodge on Vancouver Island. Here he instructed school and adult groups in back packing, wilderness survival, extended mountain trips, rock climbing, canoeing and glacier travel. Jim was responsible for the promotion of school group visits, and assisted in staff interviews and selection.

During his last year there he was Senior Instructor and responsible for staff training, the planning of programmes for visiting groups, and staff representation of the Board of Directors.

Jim brings to this position with the F.M.C.B.C. nine years teaching experience, extensive travel in B.C., a background of hiking and mountain travel including two visits to the European Alps and one to New Zealand's Mt. Cook Region, and an active interest in the healthy development of recreation and tourism in B.C.

We wish Jim every success in his new position.



## PUBLICATIONS

"Wilderness or Logging?" is the title of Trevor Jones new book. This book is an in-depth look at the balance of logging and recreation use in two specific areas of B.C. It examines the revenues generated by each method of forest use, and comes to some conclusions which are of major importance to everybody in B.C.

"The Provincial Cabinet made significant land use decisions in recent years on two outstanding wilderness areas in southwestern B.C., the Stein Valley and Cascade wilderness. The decisions in each case were that logging was the preferred land use. Park status was rejected. Cabinet decided that the economic potential, as presented by the Forest Service, outweighed the non-financial values. However, the analyses in this book show that Cabinet was given erroneous economic information upon which to base their decisions. Their decisions might well have been different if accurate information had been provided by their advisors."

The F.M.C.B.C. has financially supported this publication so far. We need support for this project from all our members. The bookstores will sell the book for \$6.95. It is available to you THROUGH YOUR F.M.C.B.C. DELEGATE for \$5.00 each. Please order through your club delegate, as it is difficult for our office to handle individual orders.

## WESTERN WILDERNESS 1984 CALENDAR:

1984 is not only a notable year in Orwellian terms, it is the crucial year for decisions concerning wilderness protection in B.C. Just off the press, the 1984 Western Canada Endangered Wilderness Calendar might tip the scales in favour of conservation.

It is the Wilderness Committee's fourth year of publishing and improving their calendar. Paul George, one of the Committee's six directors, asserts that they are finally in the same league as their foreign competitors. But he also says people must judge for themselves, because he might be biased. Now the Committee must sell all ten thousand calendars - the number they have to print to keep their price competitive - in order to survive.

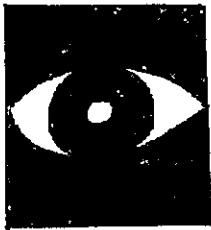
For those who are unfamiliar with Western Canada Wilderness Committee, it is a non-profit B.C. society dedicated to educating the public about the fact that Canada has some of the most outstanding wilderness left in the world and that at least some of it must be protected.

Obscurity is the key problem. Pressure does not build to persuade governments to establish more parks, mainly because the general public doesn't even know the names of the areas let alone why these areas are special and should be preserved. How many people have heard of South Moresby, Kakwa, Cummins and Chilko Lake? These and eight other imminently-threatened areas are featured in the 1984 calendar. The fate of over half of them will be decided in the next few months.

Since 1981, the Wilderness Committee has used the beauty of the areas to advertise for their preservation. Seeing the Canadian areas which are threatened, even if only by photograph, makes people want to save them. Besides the calendar, the Committee has published several full-colour posters. The latest - "Supernatural Chilko Lake" - was a joint effort with the Federation of Mountain Clubs and several other organizations. Mr. George believes that this poster, along with other efforts, helped the area take a step towards park status by becoming a park study area.

Perhaps because the Committee's productions are so professional-looking, people get the mistaken notion that they have a lot of financial backing, are big and don't need any help. The truth is, the Committee has less than 50 members (although they would like more - membership only \$15.00). And like most organizations, only a handful do all the work. They are also in debt, always existing hand-to-mouth. Every bit of money from poster and calendar sales and the few tax-deductible donations they receive is recycled back into production and education.

One problem is that, in trying to make the calendar current, the Committee waits until the last minute to produce it. This puts it outside the normal ordering framework for bookstores, so that only a few carry them. Although this may change, this year, as in the past, the Committee is relying on clubs and individuals to distribute the calendars. In short, the Committee needs the help of every member of the mountain and outdoor clubs and their friends, particularly in this crucial year. Even a small order will help (\$6.95 each or 5 for \$25.00). Besides, the calendar makes a beautiful, low-cost, all-Canadian, environmentally-appropriate Christmas gift.



## F O C U S

### 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."

This is a reprint of an article in Cloudburst, Volume I, Issue II.



## MINISTRY NEWS

### Helicopter Skiing in Garibaldi Provincial Park

The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division of the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing has decided not to allow helicopter skiing near Russet Lake or Mt. Overlord. B.C. Powder Guides will be limited in their Park Use Permit to operate in the Spearhead Range.

This good news for ski tourers is the result of conflicts between ski tourers and helicopter skiers. The petition sponsored by the B.C.M.C. helped to convince the Parks Branch that there should be no heli-skiing near Russet Lake.

The F.M.C.B.C. wrote a letter to Tony Brummet asking that no commercial mechanized ski guiding be allowed in the park. A meeting was organized with Mel Turner, the Senior Regional Planner, where the compromise was reached. Mel pointed out to us that B.C. Powder Guides have been using the Spearhead

Range historically and that a couple of jobs are dependent on this park use permit. I don't feel that we can reasonably object to the park use permit until we can demonstrate that ski tourers use the Spearheads more than heli skiers. Since this park use permit is being issued for 10 years we will have to live with this compromise.

Jay MacArthur



## TRAIL WATCH

### TRAILS '83"

Have you heard what's happened to your favourite trail? Is it a mud bowl? Does a gate block your access? In salmonberry overgrowing your route?

The Federation's trails committee is trying to remedy some of these problems. Enclosed with this newsletter is an F.M.C.B.C. trail report card. This report card helps to organize and coordinate people in their efforts to work on B.C. trails. With the large number of job creation programs working on trails it is getting harder and harder to keep track of what's been done and what needs to be done on hiking trails by volunteer groups.

It is hoped that this newsletter will reach a circulation of close to 3,000 members. If one out of every three members would return their report card it would be a great aid in helping to keep hiking trails in good condition.

The information provided in these report cards would give the trails committee a start in setting up a computer inventory of existing B.C. trails. This information system would not only assist Federation members but also help put pressure on government agencies to protect and preserve existing trails.

Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

## LIONS BAY VILLAGE - FECAL CONTAMINATION

It was brought to our attention by Bruce Blackwell, Chairman of the Trails Committee, that the community of Lion's Bay was investigating the possible pollution of their drinking water supply.

This was confirmed by Rick Findlay of North Shore Health Unit; he had identified fecal coliforms in samples taken from the domestic taps and water intakes of Lions Bay.

In conversation with the Mayor of Lions Bay, Mr. Douglas Pollock, we learned that hikers were suspect of being the cause of this pollution, and there was a possibility that the municipality would seek to close the access trails to the Lions which pass through the Lions Bay watershed.

The F.M.C.B.C. in a letter to Mr. Pollock, stressed their appreciation of the pollution problem and the need for a solution. We pointed out that there are a number of factors which indicate that hikers are unlikely to be the cause of the pollution - namely

1. There was no evidence of pollution prior to February, '83 (which coincides with the Alberta Creek Slide).
2. Any contamination on the trail would be at such a distance from the intakes that it would be leached out and undetectable.
3. In February, the time of the initial pollution, there are virtually no hikers in the area, and it has been "empty" for three months at least.

We suggested

1. That a sign be erected at the trailhead informing hikers of the problem, and a chemical toilet be provided for the use of visitors.
2. That further water samples be taken in both creeks to determine the source of the pollution.

Again, we stressed that the F.M.C.B.C. would wish to be part of the solution, even if we didn't believe hikers were the cause of the problem.

There has not been a reply to date from Mr. Pollock.

This area of concern, i.e. watersheds/recreation is one with ramifications for all the province.

As outdoor recreation interest grows, the pressure on the recreational areas close to centres of population increases, and this is where the watersheds are located.

Unlike Britain, where the watersheds are used for hiking and camping, and the reservoirs used for sailing and kayaking because they have full water purification systems - there are many small watersheds, such as Lions Bay, which take their water straight from the creek. Conflicts of interest will occur, and the F.M.C.B.C. can co-ordinate concerns and responses in your area, hopefully without a spirit of confrontation.

If your club has any related local concerns, contact the F.M.C.B.C. office in Vancouver, 687-3333.

You can help the Lions Bay situation by

- a) leaving your dogs at home
- b) removing all garbage, even that left by others
- c) parking your car carefully, so that it does not interfere with residents
- d) speaking up when you meet less conscientious hikers

## SNOW PARK

Traditionally the upkeep of parks and outdoor recreation areas in winter has been good. However, with restraint, the situation may change for the worse, creating problems for outdoor recreationists, especially cross-country skiers and snowmobilers.

Governments are increasingly unwilling or unable to pay for the expense of trail maintenance, yet without year-round trail maintenance, the enjoyment of winter recreation is inevitably restricted.

Across the border, Washington State opted for the user-pay solution back in 1975. Under their system a person buys a "snowpark permit" for \$10 from a retail outlet. The permit is a decal which is placed on the front windshield. The permit holder is entitled to park in any designated "snowpark" parking lot. These lots are regularly snowploughed and give access to groomed trails in 36 locations across the state.

Revenue from the sale of the permits generates an average of \$78,000 a year. The money is placed in a special fund. About 20% of the total is spent on snowploughing at designated snowpark areas, 30% on enforcement and trail grooming, and 10% on new equipment. Each year new areas are added to the Snowpark System.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission contracts out trail grooming to the Forest Service, clubs, and individuals. No new jobs are directly created, but where existing positions are indirectly supported.

Latest figures from Washington indicate 8,000 permits were sold last year. Washington has a reciprocal agreement in Oregon which suggests some arrangement might be possible in B.C.

Would the Washington solution work in British Columbia? Do we want a user-pay system like this one?

Would sufficient numbers of permits be bought to pay for the trail grooming? These are some of the questions we in the outdoor recreation field need to start answering. ORC would be glad to hear your thoughts.

For further information contact: Robin Draper, ORC.

## Canada Works Projects

Under Section 38 of the Government of Canada Job Creation Programmes there is the opportunity for sponsoring groups to plan work projects using workers on U.I.C.

The F.M.C.B.C. has reviewed this method of job creation, and feels that by sponsoring our own projects we can meet some of the local concerns of our member groups, and benefit everyone with the finished products.



Obviously this is most easily accomplished near Vancouver where our executive Director can supervise the projects. But, if any of our member groups have proposals, and have the ability to co-sponsor and help supervise a local project, then the F.M.C.B.C. can help you to initiate an application to Canada Works.

There is no money in this for us. It has to be worth doing on the basis of being a worthwhile project, with the side benefits of P.R. and job creation.

Think hard. Are there any suitable projects in your area? Ideas include:

- new trails
- upgrading existing trails
- re-opening Historic routes
- X-C ski routes
- hiking shelters, bridges

In the past, programmes such as these have been used to sponsor projects throughout the province by both member groups and the Outdoor Recreation Council.



LETTERS:

From: Fraser Valley Hikers  
c/o 32285 Hillcrest Ave.  
Clearbrook, B.C.  
V2T 1S7

Dear Sir:

I would like to make a comment or two on the newsletter on behalf of FRASER VALLEY HIKERS. My thoughts and opinions are based on the Summer 1983 edition.

I thought your editorial was too short, the articles on South Moresby (Queen Charlottes) and Kianuko Creek a bit too long. Overall, however, the information was varied enough to hold the interest of a broad cross-section of readers.

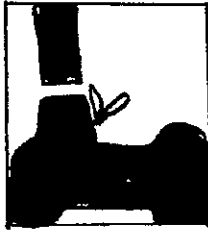
In closing, I'd like to say that you are much too negative about the publication. For example, on page one of Cloudburst you say: "in fact any criticism would be greeted with handstands and yells of glee, at least it would show that someone, somewhere bothers to read our newsletter."

Gee whiz, you've done only three issues so far -- and already you want it to be a bestseller. Give it a chance! How did the venerable strong oak begin?

Yours truly,

Waltar Schmur  
Secretary

Thanks Walter for your comments. My "handstands" comment got the desired response - someone wrote a letter. I've incorporated your note on the editorial.



## FOOTNOTES

### STAY IN THE FEDERATION - WE'RE EXPANDING

Recent contact with new groups in Castlegar, Kelowna, New Denver and Revelstoke allows us to feel enthusiastic that our plans to expand the F.M.C.B.C. membership are being realized.

For the Federation to be as effective as possible in its relations with government, Parks, and various commercial operations, we need to represent as many individuals as possible.

Because the Federation is truly a province-wide representative it needs member groups throughout the province. F.M.C.B.C. concerns of the present and recent past include the Skein Valley proposals (near Lytton), the Valhallas, the Chilko Lake Park proposal, Moresby Island options, Historic Trails brief, Heli-Skiing permits for Garibaldi, the Cariboo, Monashees and Valemont areas, the proposed logging plans for the Soo area, and sponsorship of Trevor Jones' book "Wilderness or Logging".

F.M.C.B.C. concerns are truly PROVINCE-WIDE.

Occasionally our member groups wonder if they should stay in the Federation. Are we worth \$2.00 per year?

You need us, as a strong respected voice supporting your local concerns, as representatives for other groups supporting you in principle and as a full time watchdog of government policy and its changes, which could affect you now or in the future.

We need you, as a group able to bring local concerns to our attention, as part of our representative base of 3,500 people and as delegates from your corner of the province.

FOR YOUR \$2.00, YOUR OPTIONS AND CONCERNS ARE REPRESENTED

FOR YOUR \$2.00 YOU SUPPORT THE CONCERNS OF OTHER F.M.C.B.C. MEMBERS

Surely this is a cheap price to pay for the input we have into the direction, and the quality, of the development of our provincial Recreation resources?

Stay in the F.M.C.B.C., and encourage other groups to join.

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

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June Banwell	(Secretary	305-2355 West 3rd Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6K 1L6	H: 736-0567
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Terry Chow:		Box 391 Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R2	
Jim Rutter	(Executive Director)	1200 Hornby Street Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2	O: 687-3333

## FMCBC COURSES (WINTER 83/84)

BASIC AVALANCHE COURSE  
\$30.00

Dec. 10 - 11 Vancouver/Squamish  
Jan. 21 - 22 Chilliwack  
\* Feb. 25 - 26 Vancouver/Squamish

These programmes were very popular last year, and this year they are selling out quickly.

The December 10 - 11 course is full, and the waiting list may produce an extra course in the new year.

The Chilliwack Outdoor Club is hosting a course in their area, and the Federation is keen to assist any of our member groups to do the same. As the planning takes at least a month, you are asked to contact our Vancouver office as soon as possible.

The courses begin with a classroom day, including map work and a film, and the second day is in the field studying snowpeak formation, stability, safety and rescue.

A good, short programme for skiers, snowshoers, and all winter outdoors people.

BASIC AVALANCHE COURSE  
INSTRUCTORS WORKSHOP  
\$20.00

Nov. 19 - 20

Designed for those who have taken a basic course, and who plan to teach a course themselves.

Technical review, teaching techniques, course organization and materials are all presented clearly in this classroom/field workshop.

This course is not full to date.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 26TH

PLACE: 4 Seasons Hotel (Downtown Vancouver)  
TIME: 9:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Coffee will be served

All our member groups have been contacted, and asked to send a delegate.

Out of town groups are particularly encouraged to attend, and present their local concerns to the meeting.

All interested members of the FMCBC are welcome.