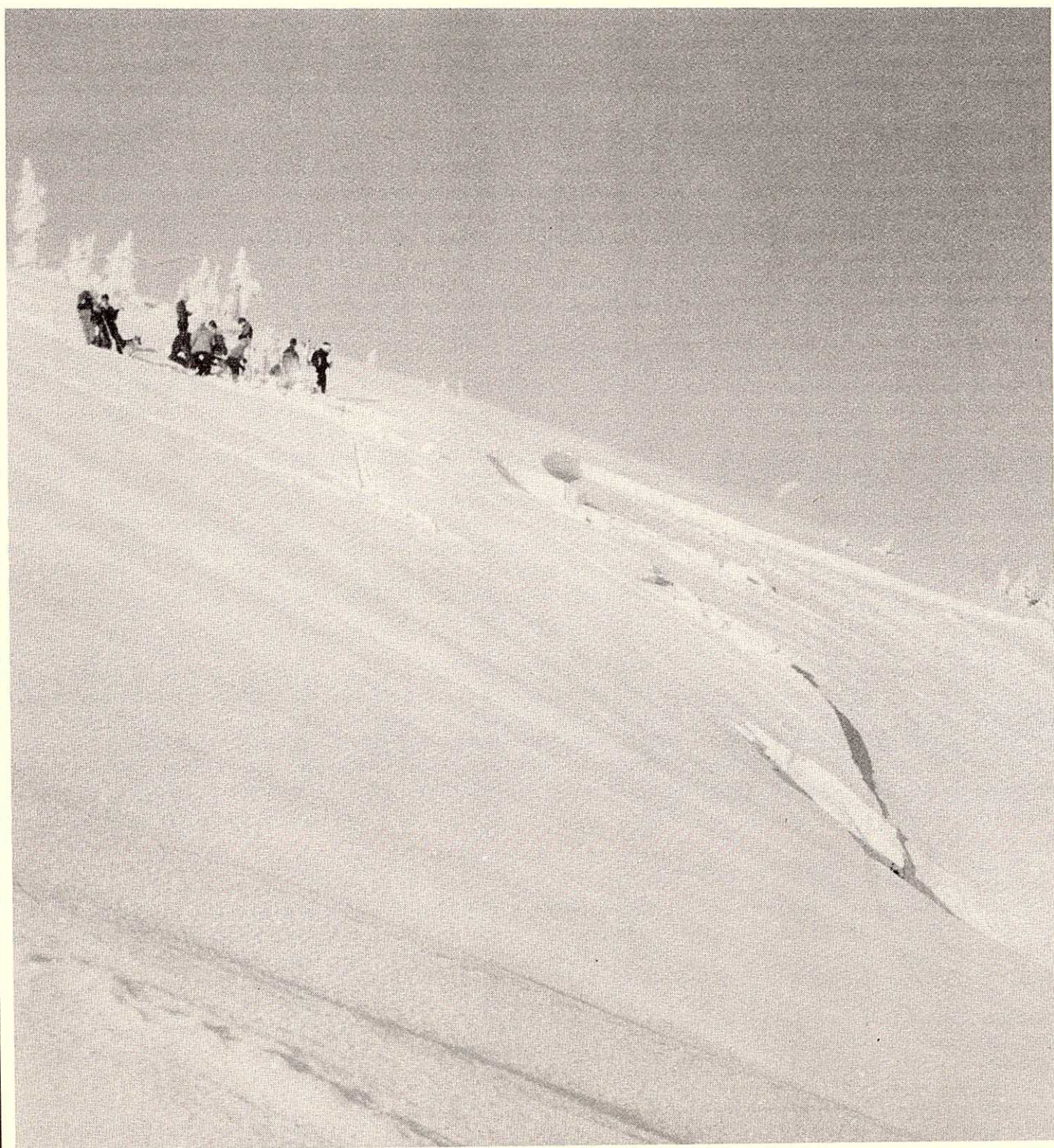


CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

March 1991



The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is the official sport governing body for mountaineering in B.C., representing the interests of hiking, climbing and outdoor clubs in the province.

The FMCBC operates as a non-profit organization addressing mountain related issues, promoting safety and education through courses of instruction, and constructing and maintaining hiking and mountain access trails throughout B.C.

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or group involved or interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities and conservation concerns. Membership includes a subscription to CLOUDBURST.

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CLOUDBURST

Cloudburst is published quarterly by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia, 336-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9
Phone (604) 737-3053.

Editor: Sara Kammerzell Assistant: Anne Ng
Layout: Sport B.C. Print Shop

Unsolicited manuscripts are welcome and will be considered for unpaid publication. Submissions should be typed, double spaced, signed and accompanied by a SASE for return. Your ideas are welcome.

COVER PHOTO: A very demonstrative avalanche course. See "Northern Perspective".
Photo Credit: Mike Nash

Assisted by



Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture
Honourable Lyall Hanson, Minister

From the Executive Director

Jim Rutter

Some personal thoughts about the Federation

You, the reader, are probably a member of a hiking club — and there's nothing you like more than getting outside on a weekend to share the trail with boon companions.

That's the way it should be.

Probably you are aware that there are some major problems out there, such as conflicts between forest companies and forest preservationists.

If you're out in the winter too, you may be aware that ski tourers in the backcountry sometimes have their day spoiled by meeting helicopters or snowmobiles, with their dominant presence.

But chances are you personally are not much affected by these issues, and so it isn't in your plans to learn more about what is really going on — let alone set aside time to attend a meeting or write a letter.

That's the way it shouldn't be.

During the past few weeks there has been an almost unprecedented opportunity for you to help influence some very important decisions that will affect you.

The ministries of Parks and Forests have been holding public meetings to hear what you think about Parks Plan 90, and what you think about proposed wilderness areas.

I don't think you were there.

Well, perhaps your club was there to present a brief put together by the two or three die-hard worriers who form a committee of ah... what's its name. Yes, they'd be there. They do that sort of thing.

Then again, the Federation would be there, wouldn't they? After all, we give them all that money to do that for us — so we can go away on weekends and enjoy life.

You're right, the Federation was there. And some clubs were there too, just like you thought. But it wasn't enough, because industry did better — much, much better. And the snowmobilers were there too, to make sure these wilderness areas weren't created; locking them out from the Pemberton Ice Cap and all the other pristine areas beyond heliskiing range

where you can still ski tour and feel you're discovering Canada.

Throughout B.C. the registered presenters from the mining and logging industries so outnumbered the recreationists that the Federation phoned, or tried to phone, every club to make sure they were out there telling their side of the story.

The resource industries were set back a few years ago by the impassioned environmental movement. I hear that on losing much of South Moresby to a national park proposal the forest industry vowed "never again".

Today this industry puts real money and jobs into representing their position.

The sum total of contributions to the Federation from its members is \$30,000 a year. It may look like real money until you try to spend it. Would you have one person working at home full-time, without money for stamps? Or, one person part-time at home with a small budget?

The Federation manages to run an office, employ three staff, have four others part-time, send its members a newsletter, support our volunteer committees and pay for regional representatives to attend Vancouver meetings because it raises a further \$170,000 from its course program, trail building contracts and donations.

But there isn't enough spare time and money to compete with the lobby from mining, forestry and commercial recreation.

There are few choices; but when I hear that clubs will leave the Federation if we even whisper about a fee increase there is only one choice.

Our members, through their clubs, have to get involved — even if it means giving up a weekend. I urge each club to develop a committee to actively represent them at every opportunity. I urge each club to make sure they have a member attend the Federation's Rec. and Con. Committee meetings. I urge each of you, to be informed about the decisions being made now that affect you.

We, too, have to say "never again" to missing a chance to tell parks and forests how to decide.

President's Column

Suzanne Mazoret

The work of the Federation has been continuing over the last few months along the objectives established in the Long Term Plan. Now planning for the next year, as well as consolidation and completion of some of the previous goals of the organization, is underway.

Establishment of a 1991-92 budget is critical for the coming year. We have managed to keep to the budget and not end in a deficit situation but it is important to continue to manage the financial resources of the Federation "in the black". Income from grants has increased and will be important in the coming year also. It is predicted that the Safety and Education courses and other projects will bring us extra income next year as well.

The Board will prepare an Annual Report as was done last year. As a summary it will help us focus on our past activities as well as give member clubs and members knowledge of what the Federation has been doing.

Finalizing some of the Long Term Plan goals for the AGM is also important. The Access Policy, the Hut Policy, constitutional revisions and other matters are all to be presented for discussion and, in some cases, final ratification. As the one occasion when all regions and members are represented, the AGM will provide a focus and a direction for the organization for the coming year. Most of these items will be represented in their final form for ratification because the discussion and development of these issues will have happened beforehand. It is important therefore for all members to be truly represented by their Delegates or Regional Directors on issues of importance to the Federation. The Federation will only develop as the members direct; the Directors are really only 'caretakers' for the year and are answerable to the membership.

It is important to recognize though that we are a Federation of clubs; clubs which have a variety of members who can represent a wide spectrum of opinion on many issues. Unanimity may be possible over deeply felt issues related to conservation and protection. On other issues, there is potential for a wide range of opinions and for these matters, it may be that a compromise position or general consensus is the best we can do. As the last round of Delegates meetings before the AGM is nearly upon us, members should use the opportunity to tell us what they feel is important for the Federation.

Trail News

NO SLACK!

Many symposiums such as the Mountain Biking or the Cave Management Symposium show an increased pressure by other recreation user groups on the land agencies (Forests, Parks etc.) and divide their already stretched time, energy and funds in an effort to accommodate everybody. So, more than ever, we, hikers and climbers, should **show** strong support of our trail and access system. This means everyone should get involved if not already. Monitoring, using and adopting trails are ways to show your committed interest. Writing support letters to government to preserve recreation areas is another way.

Take a Hike Around Prince George

In Prince George, the Caledonia Ramblers are a very active hiking club. They have built several trails and maintain many more. A member of the club, Mike Nash, highly recommends hiking in the Prince George area and volunteers the services of his club to anyone needing information. A trail guide produced by the club is also available to help you. Contact the Caledonia Ramblers, Box 26, Station A, Prince George, B.C., V2L 4R9.

The trails the Caledonia Ramblers traditionally maintains are:

Boulder Mtn, Caledonia Mtn, Erg Mtn, Fang Mtn, Farm Mtn, Grizzly Den, Murray Mtn and Murray Ridge, Ptarmigan Creek (Hammell Mtn), Raven Lake, Sugar Bowl Mtn, Torpy Mtn, Viking Ridge and its crossover to Sugar Bowl.

Congratulations to this very active group. Maybe the club could now officially adopt some of the trails to help protect them. Keep up the good work!

First Adoption on the Island

Under the Adopt-A-Trail program and with the agreement of BC Parks, the Comox District Mountaineering Club (CDMC) has just adopted the Upper Myra Trail in Strathcona Park. This is the first hiking trail adopted on Vancouver Island under this program coordinated by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. To have more information on the AAT program for Vancouver Island, contact the Federation's Regional Director, Judy Wigmore at 1040 Koen Road, RR 2, Site 222, C-4, Qualicum Beach, B.C., V0R 2T0, phone 752 2518.

For Adoption

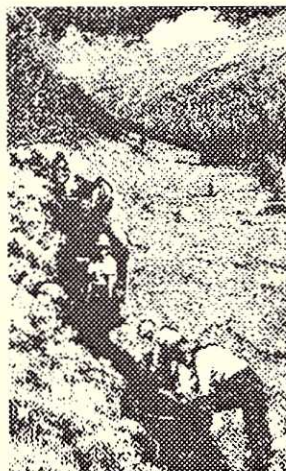
The Squamish District Forest Service is recommending for adoption the following hiking trails:

Brandywine Meadows, Brew Lake, Cal-Cheak Brandywine, Cougar Lake, Lizzie Creek, Owl Lakes, Tenquille Lake.

Contact the Federation's Trails Committee Coordinator of that zone, Blair Mitten at 922 0215 (home) or 926 0270 (work) if you would like more information about adopting one of these trails. We are sorry to learn that The Lions Bay Municipality denied permission to the Ministry of Forests to have trails adopted in their watershed. Fortunately the Clubs maintaining those trails continue doing so. Our thanks to those "Maintainers".



Adopt-A-Trail



Adopt-A-Trail Week

April 8 - 14

With your help we will try to make the Adopt-A-Trail Week special by having more trails adopted or maintained. The Federation will be geared to answer any inquiries on adopting a trail. You and your friends could maintain a trail you particularly like. Please let others know about Adopt-A-Trail Week, at work, at lunch, on the trails. The Federation also will be publicizing "Adopt-A-Trail Week". The more trails adopted, the stronger our trail system will be.

Alpine Club of Canada

Vancouver Section

Weekend climbs and winter ski trips to destinations in the local mountains, lower coast mountains and Cascade mountains, are the main focus of the Vancouver Section of the Alpine Club. Trips are of both a technical and non-technical nature and are open to anyone with adequate skills (with preference given to members on popular trips). We also occasionally offer instructional evenings or days in rock climbing and telemarking. The trip schedule is published four times annually. Locally the club maintains the Lizzie Lake trail and the Lake Lovelywater cabin.

We hold meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Floral Hall of Van Dusen Gardens, West 37th Avenue and Oak Street in Vancouver. Business discussion is minimal; the focus of each meeting is a slide show of interest to mountaineers, climbers and skiers. Tea, coffee, cookies and bzzr are available after the meeting. The newsletter, The Avalanche Echoes, is sent ten times a year to our 400 members.

The club has an active interest in environmental issues which affect mountain users. One executive position is devoted to such issues. More volunteer effort in this area would be greatly appreciated.

The Vancouver Section also runs two or three weeklong climbing and skiing camps each year to more remote areas in the province.

The Vancouver Section is part of the Alpine Club of Canada, Canada's national mountaineering club, with about 4000 members across Canada. The ACC maintains a series of clubhouses in Canmore. The club also administers an environmental endowment fund, supports sport climbing, publishes the annual Canadian Alpine Journal and a quarterly newsletter, and runs a variety of climbing and ski camps in Canada and overseas.

Local section membership rates are \$30.00 for singles and \$40.00 for couples. For more information about either the local Vancouver Section or the National Alpine Club of Canada, please contact the membership secretary:

Helen Habgood, 1089 East 51st Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5X 1E6
Phone: 327-6302

ROUND TABLE

The mission of the British Columbia Round Table on the Environment and the Economy is to advise Cabinet on how to integrate environmental, economic and social considerations so as to enhance opportunities for the future.

Sustainable Development: A Definition

According to the report by the World Commission on Environment and Development, **Our Common Future**, sustainable development is: "meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Essentially, this means taking environmental concerns into account at all levels of economic planning and decision-making.

BC ROUND TABLE INFORMATION

The BC Round Table has released a number of materials which are available by request. Those currently available are: **A Better Way** brochure, discussion paper, and video on the Round Table; and the **Foundation Report** recommending an independent foundation to conduct research on sustainable development.

Three theme papers are currently in preparation:

- Sustainable Land and Water Use
- Sustainable Communities
- Sustainable Energy

A series of background papers will also be released shortly:

- Decision processes for land allocation

- Analytical methods for land allocation
- Water allocation and management
- Population changes
- Air quality issues
- Municipal water issues
- Waste management issues
- The British Columbia economy
- Economic incentives
- Resource accounting
- Energy development processes
- Transboundary issues

To receive any of these materials, contact the BC Round Table Secretariat, 229-560 Johnson St., Victoria, BC V8W 3C6. Tel. (604) 387-5422.

F M C B C

SCHEDULED MEETING DATES FOR 1991

Recreation and Conservation Committee

March 11	Mon.	7:30 pm
April 08	Mon.	7:30 pm
May 13	Mon.	7:30 pm
June 10	Mon.	7:30 pm

Safety and Education Committee

March 13	Wed.	7:00 pm
April 10	Wed.	7:00 pm
May 08	Wed.	7:00 pm
June 12	Wed.	7:00 pm
July 10	Wed.	7:00 pm
Aug. 14	Wed.	7:00 pm
Sept 11	Wed.	7:00 pm
Oct. 09	Wed.	7:00 pm
Nov. 13	Wed.	7:00 pm
Dec. 11	Wed.	7:00 pm

Board of Directors' Meetings

March 16	Sat.	9:00 am
April 17	Wed.	6:30 pm
May 15	Wed.	6:30 pm
June 19	Wed.	6:30 pm
July 17	Wed.	6:30 pm
Aug. 21	Wed.	6:30 pm
Sept. 18	Wed.	6:30 pm
Oct. 16	Wed.	6:30 pm
Nov. 20	Wed.	6:30 pm
Dec. 18	Wed.	6:30 pm

Delegates' Meetings

March 23	Sat.	
Vancouver Island Region		9:00 am
March 27	Wed.	
Vancouver Region		7:00 pm

Annual General Meeting

June 15	Saturday	9-5
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Smoke Bluff

March 25	Mon.	5:30 pm
April 22	Mon.	5:30 pm

Trails Committee

April 01	Mon.	7:00 pm
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* If you need more information on these dates, please contact the office.

SUMMER 1991 BACKPACKING COURSES

All of the Backpacking courses that we offer focus on **developing your environmental awareness**, in addition to teaching the necessary skills for safe and self-reliant travel in our mountain regions. Course locales are chosen for many reasons, including the FMC's goal to increase public awareness of the environmentally sensitive nature of, and potential land use conflicts in, some special areas.

Southern Chilcotins

An unspoiled area between Bridge River and Chilko Lake is a candidate for parks status. This region is a transition between the coast mountains and the interior plateau. The hiking terrain ranges from moderate to rugged.

Cost \$340.00 + gst, July 7-14

Strathcona West

A serious, high ridge traverse spending ten days in the wild central part of Strathcona Park, on Vancouver Island.

Cost \$425.00 + gst, Aug. 9-18

Strathcona East

Starting at Mt. Washington, we traverse from Mount Albert Edward south to the Comox Glacier following high ridges. Side trips to Red Pillar and Mount Harmston will complement this very rewarding wilderness hike.

Cost \$425.00 + gst, Aug. 2-11

Stein Valley

This wilderness valley is well-known as the last unlogged major watershed in southwestern B.C. and the spiritual home to the First Native People. We will lead two trips, one in each direction, between Lizzie Creek near Lillooet Lake, on the west, and the Stein Canyon where it meets the Fraser, on the east.

Cost \$375.00 + gst, July 20-28 and July 28- Aug.5

Chilko Tchaikazan

Situated near the high peaks of B.C.'s Coast Range, the Chilko Lake area could become a world class mountain park. The journey begins up the Tchaikazan River, then moves north through a high pass into the Yohetta Valley.

Cost \$340.00 + gst, Aug. 25-Sept. 1

REMEMBER.... WE CAN INSTRUCT IN YOUR AREA!

The FMCBC can run custom courses in **all** parts of British Columbia. The Federation, as the provincial sport-governing body for mountaineering, represents the interests of hiking, climbing and outdoor clubs.

We can organize and/or operate courses for any location and time to suit your club, school or organization's schedule.

Some examples of our extensive programs include:

- Rock climbing programs for individuals or groups
 - Rescue courses (rock, mountain, avalanche, etc.)
 - Avalanche courses for community centre groups
 - Mountain safety courses for government and industry
 - Telemark lessons

Discount available on Federation courses when you become a member of FMCBC.

JOIN A CLUB NOW

Develop your outdoor skills and find companionship for your backcountry travels.

W I N T E R C O U R S E S

Yes, there is still a lot of snow left in the mountains, so if you haven't had enough, come on out and join us on some spring ski tours!

Garibaldi Neve

A classic three day ski traverse in Garibaldi Park.

Cost \$180.00 + gst, Apr. 5-7

Spearhead Traverse

This trip has been compared to the Haute Route of Europe. Once past the lifts at Blackcomb, the route stays above 2,000 metres for 4 days, and crosses 13 glaciers in only 40 kilometres.

Cost \$300.00 + gst, Mar. 27-31 and April 10-14

SELECTIONS FROM OUR SUMMER PROGRAM

All of the courses run by the F.M.C.B.C. are instructional in nature and are taught by qualified instructors. F.M.C.B.C. members may deduct \$10.00 from the course fee.

Introduction to Rock Climbing

As our entry level program for the non-climber, **safety and its applications to climbing will be stressed.** Students will gain practical experience in rope management, belaying, rappelling, climbing procedures and ethics on and off the mountain.

Cost \$120.00 + gst

Rock Refresher

An introduction to **anchors, relevant knots and the refinement of climbing technique.** Emphasis will be on the development of self-sufficiency in top-roped climbing.

Cost \$150.00 + gst

Learn to Lead

A primer for leading, covering the **basics of placing protection in rock, belaying a leader and removing protection, anchor theory and construction.**

Cost \$230.00 + gst

Movement Over Rock

Three intensive days are spent on **coaching you in developing superior rope and climbing techniques.**

This course is geared toward the climber in the 5.8 to 5.11 range.

Cost \$270.00 + gst

Complete Rock

Four days of rock climbing will **develop skills required for multi-pitch climbs.** Once you are comfortable in your rock shoes we will focus on the decision-making process required for leading.

Cost \$340.00 + gst

Rock Rescue

Designed to give experienced climbers greater **skills in dealing with emergency situations.** Topics will include improvised harnesses, anchors, escaping belay systems and building raising/lowering systems.

Cost \$150.00 + gst

Crevasse Rescue

Three days learning **recognized crevasse rescue techniques** and their application in the field - a must for the experienced mountaineer.

Cost \$225.00 + gst

Mountain Navigation

The **theory and practical application of map and compass** as vital components of orienteering and route planning are covered.

Cost \$50.00 + gst

Complete Mountaineering

A busy 7 day course offering **skill development in all areas necessary for safe mountaineering** in the Coast Range. By the end of the course, participants should be ready to tackle a major glaciated peak.

Cost \$350.00 + gst

Introduction to Mountain Travel

Totally devoted to **safe travel on snow and ice**, the course content includes: ice axe and crampon techniques, rope handling, prusiking, negotiating hazardous terrain and the basics of crevasse rescue.

Cost \$240.00 + gst

Introduction to Backpacking

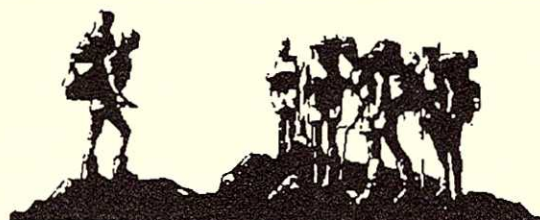
An entry level overnight course teaching the basics necessary to begin this fascinating recreational activity. **Skills such as navigation, route & trip planning and clothing/gear needs** are covered.

Cost \$120.00 + gst

TRADITIONAL MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

This course offers six consecutive weekends of instruction in all aspects of general mountaineering. Everything from rock climbing techniques in Squamish to crevasse rescue systems on local glaciers will be covered by professional instructors. Evening lectures once a week supplement the weekend field sessions, and allow everyone a chance to get together and plan future adventures!

Cost \$400.00 + gst, May 4 - June 2



The FEDERATION of
MOUNTAIN CLUBS
of British Columbia

336 - 1367 West Broadway,
Vancouver, British Columbia V6H 4A9

*For more details on these and other courses, phone the F.M.C.B.C. office at 737-3053.
We will be pleased to give you more information and help you choose a course.*

Letters to the Editor

From Walter Latter, F.O.S.P.

In your December issue of Cloudburst you give credit to the Comox District Mountaineering Club as having coordinated the Bedwell Valley trail building project. The CDMC and other clubs have contributed many hours of volunteer time to trails in Strathcona Park, and we did have some of their members participate in the project, for which we are very grateful. But the coordinators of the project were Marlene and Steve Smith, who are members of the Friends of Strathcona Park.

This project has been ongoing for the last two years and has demanded an enormous amount of time and personal commitment to organize the work parties and plane connections. Along with this, there were moments of frustration when people committed themselves to the project, plane flights were arranged, but at the eleventh hour they backed out.

This last summer a total of forty people worked on the trail, many committing themselves for up to a week, which amounted to over one thousand woman/man hours. Thus the first twelve mile stretch, which was done in 1989, was connected with the remainder. The trail has now been roughed in from Bedwell Sound to the Thelwood trail coming up from Buttle Lake, the lower end of which is being constructed by the parks branch.

To date, the amount of monies spent on this project has been over five thousand dollars, not to mention all the hours of volunteer labour and travel time. Mountain Equipment Co-op has contributed a considerable amount of the funding, for which we are very grateful.

I am sure you will agree with me and the other FOSP directors that a project of this magnitude warrants the giving of credit where credit is due, for without Steve and Marlene's dedication and sheer determination, this project would not

have reached the point it has today.

The project is not completed yet and will be ongoing for years to come. The members of FOSP have adopted this trail as a commitment to helping keep Strathcona Park intact for future generations to enjoy.

Ed Note

We certainly do recognize the work of Steve and Marlene Smith, and the FOSP. The article in Cloudburst referred to an FMCBC Job Development project this past summer. We apologize for any confusion.

From Sally L. Garrard, Director, Electoral Area A

Squamish - Lillooet Regional District

I represent one of the funding groups who helped the Bralome Trail Project with funds. In November, I walked all the trails to see what had been done.

It is an excellent, first rate job, and I have no hesitation in recommending them for further projects. The trails are well laid out, well marked, the surface cleared and as level as is practical. The walk boards over bogs are well constructed, have sturdy hand rails, and the viewing spaces well chosen, allowing users to stop and enjoy the mountain and lake - both winter and summer. The amount of work accomplished was beyond what I would expect. Again, I will support any further applications for more funding.

From Janet Cameron, Secretary of Kootenay Mountaineering Club

I am writing on behalf of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club. An article appeared in the October issue of Cloudburst about "roping up". It was written by one of our members, Norm Thyer. While he is free to express his view, we feel that this article maybe interpreted to reflect the view of the KMC, especially as it was signed N.

Thyer, the Kootenay Mountaineering Club.

Indeed, his views do not reflect the view or attitude of the KMC and we would appreciate only articles submitted by our executive on behalf of our club be signed, the Kootenay Mountaineering Club.

Thank you for your cooperation and the "Cloudburst". We otherwise enjoy and commend the publication.

From Bruce K. McKnight, Vice President, Corporate Affairs of Westmin Resources Limited

RE: STRATHCONA PARK AND WESTMIN POWER ALTERNATIVES

We'd like to clarify the points raised in the December 1990 issue of Cloudburst. Westmin is not seeking additional electrical power to supply its mining operations at Myra Falls in Strathcona Park. It is studying ways to replace worn out diesel power generators, some of which have been operating there for nearly 20 years. Westmin has taken this power supply problem first to BC Parks and then to the public for input and feedback. We will be continuing this process over the next few months with BC Parks and the public until a solution is reached.

You may be interested to know that we have received over 130 completed questionnaire responses from the public including some well researched and thoughtful letters from many individuals and representatives of your member clubs. We really appreciate this public interest and response and recognize they are essential ingredients in our public planning/consultation process.

Attention Climbers!

Pinnacles Park Coalition, The Trust For Public Land

The Peshastin Pinnacles, which have been closed to the public since 1986, are now in the process of being reopened. The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national non-profit conservation organization, has worked in concert with the Peshastin Pinnacles Coalition to acquire the Peshastin Pinnacles, resolve the parking and access issues and develop trails in the area to preserve this unique resource.

TPL now owns the Pinnacles and through the joint efforts of volunteers and a professional trail builder, we are installing a network of trails in the area. In addition, TPL is negotiating the purchase of several acres of the adjoining orchard land to provide for better access to the Pinnacles and convenient parking.

Parks of British Columbia and the Yukon

by Maggie Paquet

Now available. The only authorized guide to the national, provincial and territorial parks, historic sites and trails of B.C. and the Yukon.

- 440 pages
- Over 150 maps and photos
- 4 appendices, glossary and index
- \$17.95 and \$2.00/ copy, shipping

Contact: Maggie Paquet, Maia Publishing Ltd., 302 East 6th Street, North Vancouver, B.C. V7L 1P6 988-5887

Currently there is no place to park cars at the Pinnacles. You may remember that when the area was used previously, no parking was available and parking on the country road created conflicts with the neighbours and others driving on the roadway. **It is especially important now not to trespass on adjacent private properties and not to recreate the parking problem.** So, until an area for parking can be purchased and developed, the Pinnacles are not open for climbing.

TPL, the Pinnacles Coalition and the Washington State Parks Department are working together to complete the trail work in November. We hope to acquire the acreage for the parking in December and begin development of the parking and day use area soon thereafter. We anticipate this development work to be completed by early next year (weather permitting). At that time the property will be transferred to Washington State Parks and, under their management, the new Peshastin Pinnacles State Park will be officially opened to the public.

We still need help with trail building and other site work to complete the park. If you have particular skills and are willing to donate your time or labour, please let us know. For further information or an update on the status and timeline for the

park opening, write or give us a call at: The Trust for Public Land
506 Second Avenue, Suite 1510 Seattle,
WA 98104 (206-587-2447)

Ed Note

The Smoke Bluffs Park project at Squamish is at about the same stage as Peshastin. Parking and toilets should be in place for this season.

From Darlene Anderson

I am writing in response to the article published in the December 1990 issue of Cloudburst by Suzanne Mazoret, describing the visit by FMCBC directors to Austria last October 1990.

The message conveyed to me by that article was that it gave some members on the board the chance to see how the hut and trail system in the Austrian Alps is managed. Many positive viewpoints on the entire operation were offered in the article which I feel are sincerely valid. An important example of this is that it provides the opportunity for those not strong enough to shoulder a heavy pack to enjoy the beauty of the mountains.

For the moment I would like to express my unsolicited, rather biased, and personally held beliefs on a hut and trail system as described in the article.

It is with horror that I am hearing rumours of a hut system, in particular one based on the European system which caters to high use of an area, being entertained as a possibility for development by the Federation. Despite the positive values of such a system, as expressed by Suzanne, for me, the many negative aspects far outweigh these positive ones.

I have lived in two places where hiking in the mountains is a favourite recreational activity for many of the people living there; here in the Coast Range mountains from Vancouver, and in New Zealand, particularly from Nelson. In both communities I have often met Europeans who are "escaping" the "civilization" and overcrowding present in the mountains in Europe. I have never visited them myself so this is only secondhand knowledge. Nonetheless it has succeeded in turning me off visiting them.

The above leads to my first point which is that I feel as British Columbian Canadians we should be offering other people in the world something that is unique and different from what exists elsewhere. The unique experience we can offer is mountains that are free of "hotel-like" huts. In its place we can still offer mountains that are much closer to being in their natural undisturbed wilderness state.

I realize that this means excluding some less fit and weaker people from enjoying *an aspect* of the mountain environment. But is this a bad thing? Much of my emotional and social support is found

through my forays into our relatively undisturbed mountains with like-minded acquaintances and friends. British Columbia is in the unique position of having relatively uncrowded mountains where those that do go can have an experience that is impressively beautiful and unique to almost anywhere else in the world. Do we want to change this exceptional situation by developing a hut system that will destroy it? Well, my answer is easy to guess: a vehement NO.

So yes, this comes across as a rather selfish and elitist point of view. I am strong and fit enough to undertake this form of recreational pleasure. Can both kinds of experience exist? Hut and trail system in one area of our mountains - with nothing elsewhere? It would be a tough order to fill - especially when already there are numerous other wolves knocking at the "land use controversy" door: logging, mining, heli-skiing, snowcat tours and ski area developments. My biggest fear is that these new commercial developments and possibly even this proposed hut and trail system will take all the most beautiful places - leaving us strong and somewhat small group of wilderness lovers with second rate areas.

So in a vote for development of a hut and trail system modelled after the European tradition I am VERY STRONGLY OPPOSED.

Ed Note

The "Trip to Austria" article was a personal account and was not meant to be taken as FMCBC policy or direction. The FMCBC is developing, in consultation with its members, a Hut Policy for the organization. Development of this policy has been delayed but will be an item on the next round of Delegate's Meetings

Parks Plan 90

The BC Ministry of Parks in recently releasing its draft systems plan has identified 116 potential new provincial parks. The proposed parks were selected to meet goals of conserving representative BC landscapes and special features. Recreation priorities for these parks are to enhance tourism along major routes, provide holiday destinations and backcountry recreation. Areas which the Ministry suggests be considered for future park status include Gray Bay - Cumsheewa Head on the Queen Charlottes, the Lower Skeena River, Clemenceau Glacier near Hamber Park, Nootka Sound off Vancouver Island, and additions to Tweedsmuir, Kakwa, Garibaldi, Monashee, Mt Assiniboine, Strathcona, and Chilliwack Lake Parks.

Open for public comment are the recreation and conservation goals which BC Parks has proposed, the areas government ought to study for future parks, and areas which need to be considered first for park status.

A copy of Parks Plan 90 is available at your nearest BC Parks office or phone Victoria (#387-5002).

Provincial Parks and Wilderness for the 90s

It's not too late to get involved in Parks Plan 90.

Please write to:

Provincial Parks and Wilderness for the 90s

P.O. Box 77, 800 Johnson Street
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

The government wants your input on:

- B.C. Parks mandate and goals
- the B.C.F.S. Wilderness Program
- the areas proposed as park and wilderness study areas
- other areas that should be studied

Please send a copy of your letter to the FMCBC Recreation and Conservation Committee.

Mike Nash - Caledonia Ramblers, Prince George

I started this column over a year ago with some tongue in cheek thoughts on the ethics of indiscriminate cairn building. It was therefore of interest to hear recently that Parks Canada have initiated a program to remove unauthorized cairns from Gros Morne National Park. We might take this as a signal to follow suit, or at least to make an effort to leave less sign of our passing.

In the July edition of Cloudburst, I discussed the helicopter controversy in Mt. Robson Provincial Park. BC Parks Northern Region have since held public hearings (November) and have distributed a detailed questionnaire on the Mt. Robson Master Plan which focuses on this issue.

Other topics discussed during the past year were the 'shared resource' (March/90), high elevation logging (October/90) and the future growth and mission of the FMCBC (December/90). In writing the column, I have tried to represent the views of a cross section of northern mountain users.

The northernmost annual **FMCBC Avalanche Course** was a great success again this year. Led by FMCBC Director, George Evanoff, eleven students were accompanied on the field trip by three helpers and an RCMP dog master and trained avalanche dog. It was held at the 'Powder King' ski resort in the Pine Pass, where we had almost a metre of new powder snow, and the combined special effects of low angle sunlight and 'sun dogs' caused by ice crystals falling out of

the clear air. The stunted fir trees were heavily rimed into both grotesque and picturesque shapes on the summit.

After a little scrambling, the dog managed to ride the chair lift successfully, but gave up a third of the way up the high T-bar and required his master to don climbing skins. George took the class over to the top of a nearby bowl to dig a snow pit, while the rest of us set about building a simulated avalanche with a buried live victim and two separately buried transceivers.

Hearing a noise behind me, I turned around to see a soft slab avalanche release not more than six metres from the group doing the snow pit. With a crown fracture 80 cm deep, and taking out most of a fair sized bowl, it could have been deadly for anyone crossing the slope. The snow pit soon showed that the problem was an 80 cm thick wind slab on a thick layer of buried surface hoar. Although there had been some settling of the snow pack, several experienced skiers said later that they might have crossed the slope which had released; an invaluable reminder for all of us present on the importance of knowing where the starting zones are and of doing a proper evaluation.

Later that day, three more avalanches were released by skiers; two of them intentionally by ski hill staff, and one by our group on the ski out. The dog put on an impressive demonstration, first by taking care of his own business in the middle of the simulated avalanche (although

fortunately not above the victim), but then quickly sorting through our confusing scent and locating and digging down to the victim in about a minute.

Special note for Steve Dubas for volunteering to be buried alive, Dave King for doing it safely, and Barbara Hoffstrom for filming the day for local Cablevision.

A personal note in closing. I have just finished reading the new book by Doug Peacock: "Grizzly Years - In Search of the American Wilderness" published by Henry Holt and Company. Doug Peacock featured in the award winning film "Peacock's War" at the 1988 Banff Festival of Mountain Films. I feel that we could learn much from his philosophy of wilderness and its importance to our future.

Safety and Education Report

submitted by Alastair Foreman, Chairman

The Safety and Education Committee of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC is responsible for the continued smooth and safe operation of all FMCBC courses. Those of you who have been following the development of the Federation's education program over the last few years will certainly realize how far it has come - we hope to continue this rise in standards and professionalism.

The committee meetings are open to any interested person and we always welcome fresh input. There is never a shortage of important and controversial issues to discuss - for example, issues such as instructor qualification requirements, course manuals content, FMCBC safety policies, the traditional mountaineering course and alternative rockclimbing sites are the kinds of ongoing problems handled by the committee. On the current agenda is discussion of potential youth programs for the FMCBC, updates to course manuals IV and V (snow/glacier and rock-climbing), development of instructor manuals, as well as several other issues.

The committee generally meets in the second week of each month at Sport BC - contact the FMCBC office for exact dates and times or see page 4. See you there!

With reference to the October '90 article on "High Altitude Logging"

The sub-alpine forests of spruce and fir in the central BC. Interior aren't well understood but forest companies see them as an important future sources of logs.

"We're not only talking environmental issues here," said Les Herring, the ministry's forest sciences officer, based in Prince George.

"We're talking the continuity of timber supply in the province. Together, we're talking about a great deal of urgency."

"Because of the continental climate in the interior, the environment is much less forgiving than coast environments. We experience longer regeneration delays and poorer growth because of the climate."

Clear-cutting presents problems in sub-alpine forests. Planted seedlings aren't surviving in the high, shaded, north-facing slopes of the Rockies in the Robson forest district, Herring says.

Herring launched a unique study 1,300 metres up on the slopes of Lucille Mountain that will take 10-20 years to monitor. Experimental clear-cuts of 20-30 hectares—less than half the size normally allowed—will assess the prospects for growing new trees.

Ed Note

Will they wait 10-20 years to assess the results before resuming high elevation logging?

Recreation and Conservation Committee

Jay MacArthur, Chairperson

Parks Plan 90 and Wilderness for the 90s

Introduction

Parks and wilderness areas are important to all British Columbians. The members of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia have a special relationship with wilderness, it is our favorite place for recreation.

This planning process is important because if we don't formally designate areas as park or wilderness, they will soon be developed. We need protected areas for recreation and especially for conservation. It is important to pass "Super, Natural British Columbia" on to our children, in the same pristine condition in which we have enjoyed it.

We want to thank the provincial government, especially the Minister of Parks, John Savage, the former Minister of Parks, Ivan Messmer and the Minister of Forests, Claude Richmond for supporting this initiative in public consultation.

The staff in the Ministry of Parks and the Ministry of Forests should be commended for the amount of time and effort they have invested in this project.

The Process

Once the Ministry of Parks and the Ministry of Forests have collected the massive amounts of public input, how are decisions going to be made? Here are some suggestions for the government:

- the short-list for immediate consideration should include the areas most threatened by development
- committees with public representation from local and provincial groups should be appointed to set boundaries and help prepare park proposals for each short-listed area. These committees should seek further public input. Committee meetings should be open to any member of the public.
- short-term deferrals or moratoriums should be used to protect wilderness or natural areas while park and wilderness planning is taking place
- many areas that have been suggested by members of the public have not been included as proposed study areas, is a rationale available for not including these areas?

The Areas

We support all the areas suggested in the Parks Plan 90 and the Wilderness for the 90s maps. In addition, we support further study of these areas:

- lower Stikine River
- Chilko and Chilcotin Rivers
- Stawamish Chief (Squamish)

We hope that the planning process for the following areas, which have been extensively studied can be expedited:

- Chilko Lake area
- Southern Chilcotin Mountains and Spruce Lake
- mid-Stein
- Sir Sandford

Conservation Goals

We support the Ministry of Parks' objective of having all 59 natural landscapes represented in the provincial park system. The "Goal Statement" in "Landscapes for BC Parks" could be more specific by stating that as an objective, at least 10% of each landscape will be protected in Class A provincial parks.

The parks designated in each of these natural landscapes must be large enough to preserve natural ecosystems and native wildlife populations. In many of the landscapes there may be more than one deserving proposal. We support the designation of more than one large park in many landscapes.

The Ministry of Forests has stated that their conservation goals are to:

- preserve representative examples of the province's diverse natural landscapes
- maintain biological diversity
- protect special or unique features

These goals are very similar to the Ministry of Parks' goals, and could be more specific by including the goal of representing each biogeoclimatic zone. We would also urge the Ministry of Forests to include more "commercial" forest in their wilderness proposals.

Further Comments on Snowcaving on Mount Ruapehu

By Arnold Heine, reprinted from *Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand*

Dec. 1990 Bulletin.

Each winter, Club mountaineering course members regularly "dig in" on the slopes of Mount Ruapehu. A favourite location is the steep eastern face of Paretaitonga. They usually begin digging their caves immediately on arrival at the cave site. This is a good rule on any snow caving expedition, as mountain weather conditions can so quickly change. If the weather is poor on arrival, the quicker multi-entrance technique may be used so that all party members soon get into shelter, and some of the entrance tunnels can be used to store snow debris when enlarging the inside of the cave.

From experience, I have found that entrance drifting is no great cause for alarm (on one occasion it took us three hours to dig our way out) provided the snow is of medium to coarse crystal structure and is able to "breathe". Avoid the fine wind-packed drift snow, as this snow forms a more dense and airtight layer.

While using cooking stoves, maintain an open entrance or ventilation hole. Before settling down for the night, remember to bring all shovels inside the cave. If the entrance appears to be drifting over, regularly check for adequate oxygen by attempting to light a candle. The candle will not burn if the oxygen content of the air in the cave is low - start clearing the entrance and get in some fresh air. If the candle will light up, this does not necessarily indicate low carbon monoxide levels. Learn to recognize the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, it's a potential killer.

Snow falling on well sited, properly constructed snow caves generally strengthens them. Rain, however, usually weakens the cave roof and causes collapse, a problem when snow caving in summer. If practicable in such a situation, the party may be able to dig further into the snow slope and retain the safety of their refuge.

As when faced with a flooded river, so too when sheltering in an adequate snow cave amid a raging storm, sit tight, ration food, forget transport commitments and wait until the river can be safely crossed or the mountain traversed in safety.