
CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Newsletter

December 1996

SPECIAL FEATURES:

-Stayin' Alive In the Backcountry Page 9

-Photo Contest Winners Page 10

Photo Contest Winners!



Photo credit: Mary Skinner

Take a look on page 10 and 11 for more!

CLOUSBURST

Articles: We welcome, and space permitting, will print articles which inform our readers about mountain conservation/recreation issues or activities in B.C. Word limit: 500

Advertising: The FMCBC invites advertising or classified advertising that would be useful to our members. Please contact the Editor for a rate sheet.

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Jay MacArthur

Trails: Bill Meyer, John Otava

Safety and Education: Chris Mills

Volume 6 Number 4

Membership

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is the official sport-governing body for mountaineering in BC, representing the interests of hiking, climbing and outdoor clubs in the province. The FMCBC is a non-profit organization addressing mountain conservation and access issues, promoting safety and education through courses of instruction, building and maintaining hiking trails throughout BC.

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or group interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities and conservation concerns. Those interested in joining this non-profit organization have two options:

Club membership: Please contact the office to receive a free list of clubs that belong to the FMCBC.

Individual Membership: Call the office at 737-3053

(Vancouver) with your VISA or MASTERCARD number or send \$25 with your name and address to: FMCBC

#336 - 1367 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

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FMCBC Meetings

For all meeting locations please contact FMCBC office at 737-3053.

Recreation and Conservation Committee:

January 13, February 17

Safety and Education Committee:

Contact office for information

Trails Committee:

January 20, March 3

Board of Directors:

January 22

Lower Mainland Delegates' Meeting:

Contact office for information

Island Delegates' Meeting:

Contact office for information

PRESIDENTS REPORT

By Pat Harrison

I am sorry to see the departure of Linda Coss as the Executive Director of FMCBC. Linda has been offered an excellent job with Junior Achievement of B.C. We can feel fortunate that we had "use" of her talents for the past two years. Linda has been able to move the Federation to a positive financial picture. Linda was also instrumental in organizing a special general meeting February 1995 to find out in which direction the members of the Federation wanted their organization to go. Some of Linda's other achievements included streamlining office procedures, initiating and completing a review of the policies in the Federation Handbook, alliance with International Wilderness First-Aid which starting to bring in much needed revenue, and promoting active participation in the various committees. Linda's strengths are her great organizational and leadership skills. Working with a Board of Directors composed of volunteers and a Federation of 19 highly varied clubs is no easy task. We will miss Linda's presence. We wish her the very best in her new career.

At the AGM last June in Prince George, an action plan for studying the "user conflict" issue was enacted. One aspect of the plan was to see if any successful plans had been enacted elsewhere in Canada or the U.S. Regrettably, little has been achieved in this area. Last spring, Markus Kellerhals, V.P., and Darlene Anderson, director, organized a meeting with Federation of B.C. Snowmobilers to discuss conflicts in the Squamish-Whistler Corridor, in particular, the Pemberton icecap. The BCSF proposed an agreement which was not satisfactory to FMCBC members. As a result, Markus and Darlene organized a special

meeting (a subgroup of the Rec. and Con. Committee which included members of ACC, BCMC, & NSH) in early November to discuss alternatives to the BCSF proposals. Their recommendations have been sent to the BCSF for review. The important step that has occurred is the initiation of dialogue and discussion between conflicting user groups. Dave Mitchell of Kootenay Mountaineering continues to serve on the Provincial User Conflict Committee.

At last month's Island Delegates' meeting, two important issues were raised: access to private land and the status of the Occupiers Liability Act. The Federation is in the process of contacting the forest companies to discuss the recent trend of denying access to recreationalists in areas where they have traditionally hiked and to find out what the official access policy is for the company. I have also sent a letter to the Attorney General's requesting action on the Occupiers Liability Act recommendations (Law Reform Commission of B.C.'s report 140) which would protect landowners and give recreationalists access to private land.

The central coast LMRP process is beginning. The Federation hopes to play an active role in this process. Markus Kellerhals will be our representative in this process.

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time to your club or to the Federation. Volunteers are the one ingredient that makes the Federation tick.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

By Linda Coss

By the time you receive this edition of Cloudburst, I will have left the Federation after two years as your Executive Director. It has been a time of challenge and change. Over the past year the Federation has been actively tackling some of the issues of importance to you, the members. As identified at our last AGM, the issue of snowmobile-skier conflicts has been given priority and several initiatives have been put in place to resolve this on-going problem. It is hoped that some agreements will be reached with snowmobile clubs in the near future. Thanks to Markus Kellerhals and Darlene Anderson, Directors for volunteering their time to attend meetings and negotiate on your behalf.

Liability insurance is important to some of our clubs and not to others. The board has been pursuing a policy that will provide the flexibility needed. This may seem like an easy task but it is as complex as the Federation itself and I commend Chris Rolfe, Director for the time he has donated to undertake this project on our behalf.

During the past year the Board has diligently revisited all of the Federation's policies to ensure they continue to reflect the needs and desires of the membership. A time consuming process. Thank you to your President Pat Harrison and members of the board for this effort and the

hours spent in meetings making policy decisions so the Federation continues to operate effectively and democratically.

When I arrived two years ago the Federation had just gone through some very tough financial times. Today our budget is balanced and in the capable hands of your treasurer, Andrea Agnoloni.

With the provincial government carefully scrutinizing all aspects of their budget, the Federation may experience cutbacks of its core funding this coming year. With the support and help of the board FMCBC agreed to oversee the administration of International Wilderness First Aid. It is hoped that this initiative will help to stabilize the Federation's finances so as to be less dependent on government funding.

It has been a time of change and challenge. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work with so many committed and hard-working volunteers. A special thank you to the Board of Directors and FMCBC committees. They have contributed to make the Executive Directors job a little easier and the Federation of Mountain Clubs a little better.



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ISLAND PERSPECTIVE

By Chris Barner

A cool drop of water splatters all over my lap. I focus my attention upwards in time to see another drop speeding toward the ground, for a split second reflecting the gray November world behind me. Above, a young man dangling in slings from a leeper stack stretches to place a rivet. The tapping of hammer on drill mimics the sound of hundreds of water droplets terminating their brief flight on leaves and gravel nearby before echoing away to be heard elsewhere.

The young man is Chris Perreault, a Heathen lad with a grin and a twinkle, and half a Volkswagen load of shiny new gear. He is in the process of learning about our amazing planet by becoming intimate with rain and rock, gravity and fear, and by listening to the smooth soothings of some Neanderthal who is belaying in a much safer place. Collapsing limp and exhausted into his harness after every twenty five hammer blows or so, he gazes out from under the shelter of the overhanging Emerald Wall at the rain-drenched trees and a shape-changing flock of starlings. My stare follows his and I smile broadly... there are so many shades of green.

The day begins hanging on skyhooks from a detached flake. It reverberates, gong-like, when I tap it with my hammer. I cross a blank section on a rivet and a bolt towards a co-operative looking crack behind a better flake. Rewarded, we gain fifteen feet in fifteen minutes before its Chris' turn to drill. Our goal, maybe for today - more likely for tomorrow, is a narrow ledge midway up the face where we plan to end the first pitch. The next one will follow a dry prow of smooth rock to the rim. We are excited in our anticipation ... young Heathens want to climb big walls, and it is here that they will learn how to do it, howling, hanging, and surrounded every few seconds by new reflections of an old world.

Chris is a perfect example of climbing's fine tradition of near constant change. He is not the boy he was a year ago, nor is he the man society expects will replace the boy. Rather, he is simply a climber. He has left the condescending terminology of age politics on the ground, and life has become a series of ventures into "the wild." For today, the medium is steep stone; tomorrow, perhaps the human soul, an hour of deep conversation, or an eye in the crowd. For "the wild" is everywhere, and to touch it is to see the world through the eyes of a young man on fire.

Why climb? How the hell do you stop? The spirit exists and it will not be exorcised. The siren call of the unseen has been strong. What lies in the next valley?

Have you seen beyond the next ridge? Is the hunting better there? Will I find peace and prosperity? This very land has been settled several times by individuals of many races answering such questions. We are all immigrants into the unknown, lured unrelentingly by the vague yet potent promise that is the wonder of our world.

Chris and I see that world anew from the high crag. A horizontal moonrise; only half a sky; the amazing autumn colour seen to best advantage from above, our cheeks pressed against cold November rock;... the reflection in a drop of water. The cliffs are fine teachers, and the climbers that climb them learn well. To discover a new world, one need only look to the old one from a new place. Nobody I know looks harder than Chris Perreault.

What we knew becomes a part of what we know. The rain falls amongst the glistening evergreens. Chris climbs upward through the mist, into tomorrow, ... into "the wild."

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NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE

by Mike Nash, Prince George

It is January in northern BC, and an amazing drama of life is taking place. Countless numbers and species of animals are reaching their yearly population peak in one of the planet's most biologically frenzied and diverse environments, about which little is known.

The place is in the mountain forests of northern British Columbia. The air temperature falls below minus twenty degrees; the bears are asleep in their dens, and the woodland caribou, wolves and others move silently through the trees. Below the seemingly lifeless snowpack, the soil is alive with countless numbers and species of water borne protozoans and other microscopic organisms. Hidden from casual human sight, the scanning electron microscope reveals stunningly chaotic shapes and shell like constructs.

At higher elevations, the ground is well insulated by the snow pack and remains close to the freezing point. Even when the ground is frozen, it supports water in capillary or hygroscopic states, provided it has not been compacted.

Although many of the protozoan species are known, the taxonomy is uncertain. They are hard to identify, and very little is known about their behaviour. There are typically between 2.5 and 3 million of these microscopic animals in each tiny gram of forest soil! And the thousand or so species of protozoans are just a few of the 80 or 90 different groups of organisms in the soil, not counting bacteria and fungi. The same gram of soil contains 30 to 40 million bacteria. The below ground biodiversity of the northern forests is thought to far exceed *both* the above and below ground diversity of the equatorial rain forests.

The protozoans appear to live in a balanced symbiotic relationship with the rhizosphere, the few micron diameter environment of soil that surrounds and is influenced by the roots of plants. Bacteria, algae, microrhyzal fungi and slime molds are all important parts of this puzzle. Much of the northern forests' organic production and turnover happens below ground, in the apparent dead of winter!

The protozoans are the main bacterial predator. When the ground is disturbed during clearcutting of trees, the metabolism of bacteria and fungi rises, protozoan predation increases, and bacterial metabolism goes sky high until much of the organic nutrients are used up and released. The soil is the habitat; most of a site's regenerative capabilities is dependent on organic matter -- fewer soil organisms, less plant and tree growth!

As timber harvesting moves into the more fragile higher elevation environments, *we must go slowly* until we know a lot more about the effects of what we are doing. To this end, long term research into the effects of harvesting and regeneration methods on the biology of higher elevation forests and soils is being proposed by the Prince George LRMP table. Potential research opportunities could abound for the University of Northern BC, supported by FRBC money. What better investment to protect our future?

In the mean time, join me in thought and perhaps wonder at the miracle taking place beneath our feet as we ski or snowshoe through the winter forests this January.

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INTERNATIONAL WILDERNESS FIRST AID

By Anna Christensen

Safety Education - Guest Speakers

Our wilderness first aid instructors are available to do presentations or educational features at club and annual general meetings, or any other public gathering of outdoor enthusiasts. Suitable topics include, but are not limited to:

- ☛ Wilderness First Aid-What to do when you can't call 911:
An overview of challenges faced when dealing with back-country emergencies.
- ☛ Emergency communication devices include.
PLD's, EPIRB's and ELT's.
- ☛ Improvised patient evacuation techniques.
- ☛ Water purification and disinfection techniques -
Facts and fallacies.
- ☛ Blisters - Prevention and management.
- ☛ Hypothermia - Facts and fallacies.

Presentations vary from 30 minutes to 2 hour duration. For further information, contact Alana at the FMCBC office, telephone 737-3166.

Sponsor a Wilderness First Aid Course for your Club

Increase the safety for your membership by organizing a custom Wilderness first aid course for your club. People often don't get around to signing up for a course until after having a close call!

The obvious benefits include learning how to prevent back-country emergencies in addition to training in general accident handling skills. The focus is on developing knowledge, skills and confidence as well as ensuring realistic expectations with respect to dealing with wilderness mis-adventures. Other benefits of sponsoring a custom course include:

- ☛ Arranging convenient dates and location that accommodate the members' needs.
- ☛ Reduced course fee: The larger the class size, the more you save.
- ☛ Emphasis on the specific activities which are of interest to your membership: i.e., the focus can be on hiking, climbing, skiing, etc, or on a combination thereof.
- ☛ The course can serve as a social activity in the off season and thereby keep members involved in the club.

For further information contact Alana at the FMCBC office, telephone 737-3166.



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CANADA WEST MOUNTAIN SCHOOL STAYIN' ALIVE IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

By Brian Jones

It's dumped 50 cms overnight, and your buddy's on the phone at 7:00 am telling you to get your butt 'outta bed and head out on a day tour into the hills.

Nothing beats a day of skiing untracked powder. Heading out into the backcountry can lead to some of the best snow anywhere. It can also lead to disaster. Avalanches kill an average of 7-8 people per year in Canada. Most will be recreationists like you and me. The majority of victims will start the avalanches that kill them. All probably think it could never happen to them.

The most important element that helps to keep you alive in avalanche terrain is knowledge. Knowing how to recognize avalanche terrain is the number one step. In a nutshell, if you're going to have fun skiing it, it almost definitely is avalanche terrain. Any slope that is over 25 degrees in incline, has more than 25 cm of snow on it, and you can crank turns down is a potential avalanche slope.

Understanding the factors that lead to instabilities in the snowpack is your next step. These factors are largely weather related, and require years of experience to fully understand, but you can gain much through basic awareness courses, books, videos and experienced avalanche professionals. The more you know, the safer you'll be. Unfortunately for all of us, predicting avalanches is never an exact science. Obvious signs of instability such as recent avalanches, cracks in the snow and excessive rain or snowfall tell us when it is unsafe. Yet, it can be equally unsafe with no apparent signs indicating the hazard!

Before heading out, call the CAA Avalanche Bulletin at 1(800)667-1105. This bulletin, which is a very useful tool, will assist you in making your decisions - it won't decide for you. Talk to the avalanche forecasters on the local ski hills. Again, they won't tell you what to do, but they can offer you a lot of information about snowpack and conditions.

Make sure that you are carrying the appropriate equipment for your trip. The following should be a minimum for any party heading out into unpatrolled avalanche terrain:

- X One avalanche transceiver per person (with appropriate training and practice)

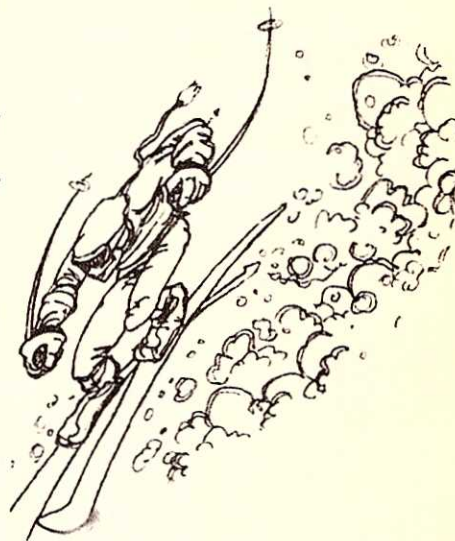
- X One shovel per person (a transceiver only helps find 'em - you dig 'em out!)
- X One probe per person (testing snow layers and pinpointing location of buried victims)
- X First aid kit (and proper training in first aid)
- X Signaling devices (flares are great, but don't rule out cell phones or radios)
- X Emergency tarp/clothes (if something goes wrong, you may be there for a long time)

Lastly, be prepared for the worst. If you or a member of your party gets caught, your reaction could literally make the difference between life and death. Every time you are traveling on avalanche slopes ask yourself "what will I do if this slides". Look

for escape routes, islands of safety to move towards, bad runouts to avoid. If a slope avalanches, head for one side of the slide, and try to stay on the surface. When it slows down, stick one arm up (to be seen better) and the other across your face (to make an air pocket). If you witness a person getting caught, first

make sure you are safe, then watch carefully to see where the victim was last on the surface. This will narrow down your search area immensely. Next, quickly search the area below the last seen point for any visual clues (such as a hand sticking out!). At the same time, start using transceivers to search.

The backcountry in winter is a special place, full of attractions for all of us. With education and knowledge, plus a good dose of common sense, we can safely travel the mountains. Without, we are relying on luck - and luck goes both ways.



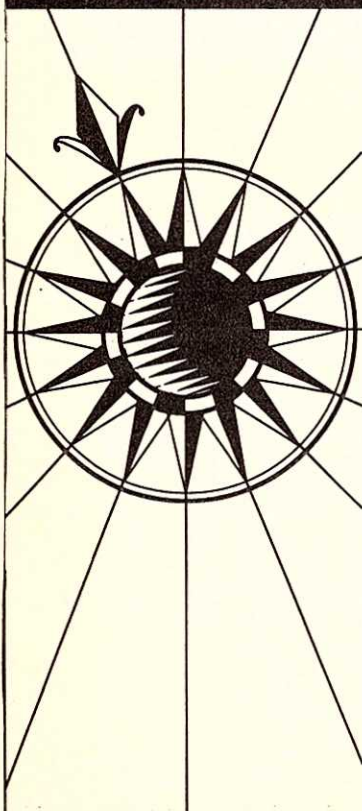
CLUB INTEREST

The FMCBC has been approached by a parent affiliated with a Vancouver eastside high school alternative program for assistance. Some Grade 9 students are interested in joining the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. It includes an Expedition component at each award level involving an outdoor journey and overnight camping.

They want to align themselves with some individuals (or a group) who can provide ongoing leadership and staffing to facilitate the achievement of this progressively challenging component.

Contact Toni Crawford at 438-1149 for more details.

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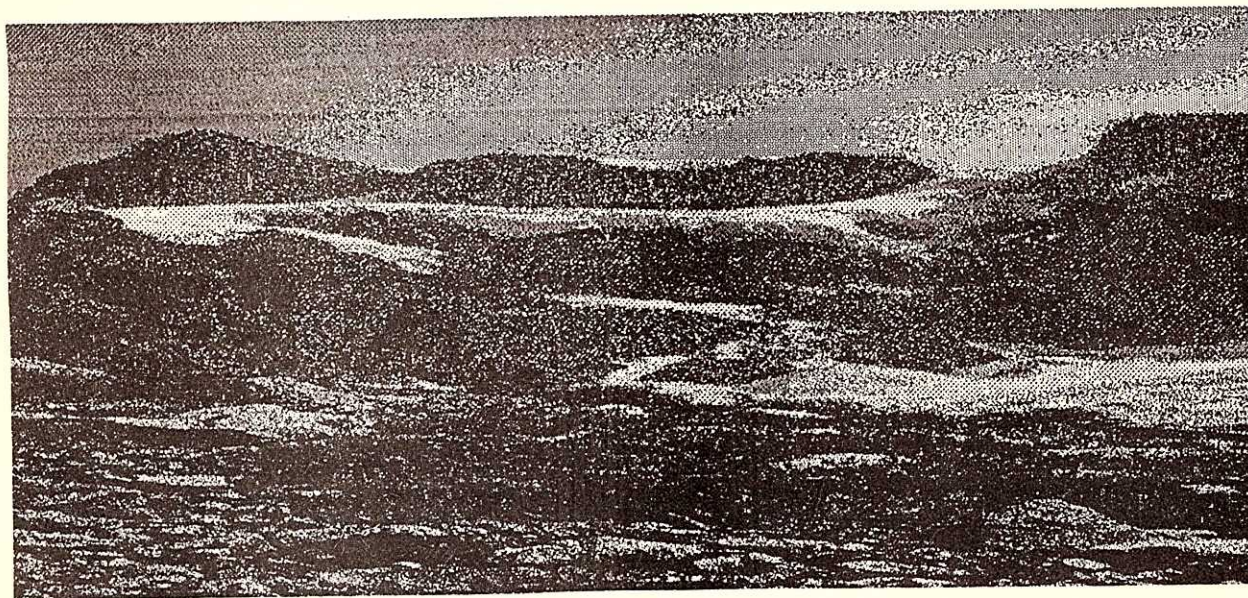
PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Here we have the winners of the first annual FMCBC photo contest!

Front cover:

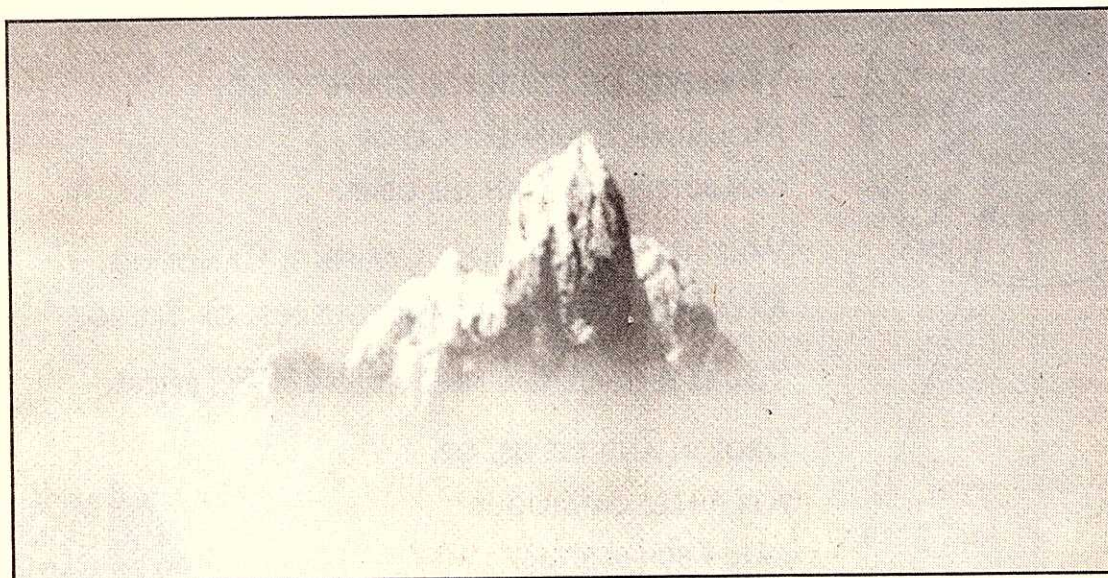
Best Photo Winter - Mary Skinner

Location: Backcountry skiing near Mt. Philip - Wells Gray Provincial Park



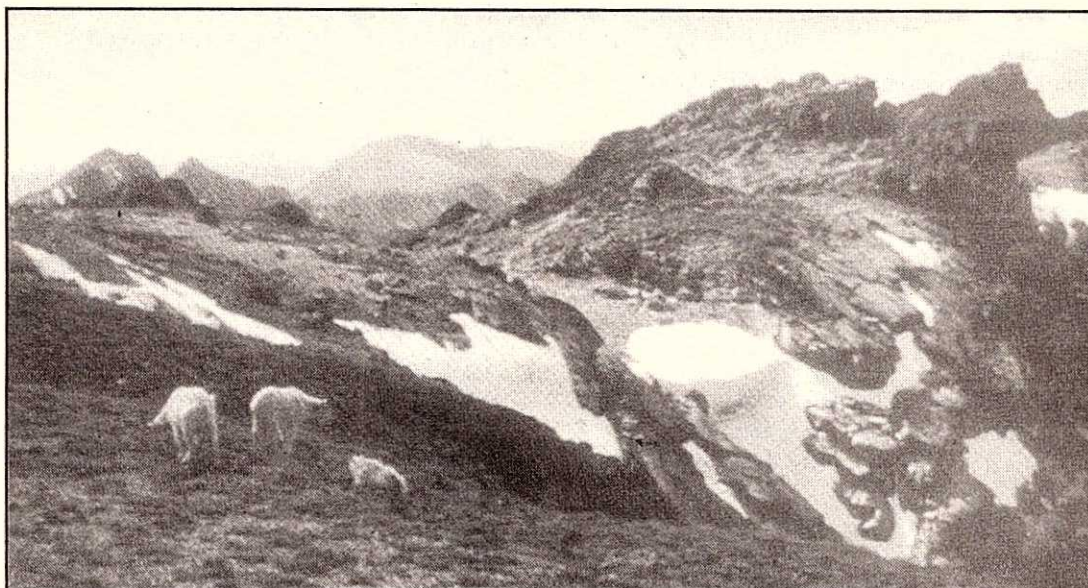
Best Photo Summer - Barbara Darovski

Location: Mt. Baker



Best Slide Winter - Dominik Stoll

Location: Mt. Waddington



Best Slide Summer - Tim O'Hearn

Location: Goats near Stone City - Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park

Thanks to all who participated in the first annual FMCBC photo contest and stay tuned for more!

THE VALLEY OF FLOWERS and the FESTIVAL OF LADAKH

18th July - 8th August, 1997

Himalayan trekking with well known BC naturalist and India expert Kelly Sekhon

To the north of Delhi lies the Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh. In the northern part of this province is the tranquil Kullu Valley at the head of which lies the Rohtang Pass. Across this high pass is the semi arid Buddhist region of Lahaul, a place somewhat similar to Zaskar and a land of towering peaks, hanging glaciers, snow-fed rivers, picturesque monasteries and a wealth of Himalayan flora. The tour is escorted by an expert naturalist and India expert who will guide you through the cultural diversity of India and the Himalayan regions of Lahaul and Ladakh. The trip advisors are our associates who are experts in Himalayan travel having personally travelled and run treks, climbs and exploratory tours to the area for over twenty years.

Our trek explores the little known Miyar valley; with high mountains of over 20,000 feet making up the valley walls and the lower parts dotted with villages inhabited by the Buddhist Lahaulis who cultivate green peas, potatoes and barley, this trip combines the best of trekking, exploring and experiencing local culture. The Miyar Valley is comparatively easy to access by road and there is plenty of opportunity to explore a beautiful and still unspoiled Himalayan region.

Later in our tour, we drive over the high passes of the Greater Himalaya and the Zaskar Range to Ladakh and its capital, Leh, in the fertile Indus valley. Sitting on the edge of the vast Tibetan plateau, Ladakh is home to a distinct culture and is a land of gentle people, traditional mud houses, tiny villages clustered along glacier fed streams and of hilltop monasteries, each host to an important festival every year. Our visit to Ladakh coincides with the colourful Phyang Monastery Festival. After a spectacular Tran-Himalayan flight, there will be an option to visit the Taj Mahal.

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ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND OUTDOOR SAFETY

By Chris Mills, Chair, Safety & Education Committee

I hope that you all had an enjoyable and safe break over the end-of-year holidays. Some Members will, no doubt, have been given electronic gadgets for outdoor use as presents, and may be wondering how to use them most effectively for safety on outdoor trips. The variety of these devices grows annually, so S&E would like to offer some comments on avalanche transceivers, GPS (Global Positioning System) receivers, radio transceivers (including cell phones), and emergency locator beacons (ELB).

Avalanche transceivers, when properly used, are genuine life-savers. Since their range is relatively short (about 70 m), they are an on-site device to be used for victim search immediately following an avalanche. They are of almost no use to a solo traveler, and their effectiveness increases with group size and skill - practical training is essential. When a group sets out, all members set their transceivers to "transmit". In the event of a member becoming engulfed by an avalanche, the remaining members set their transceivers to "receive", and a search begins. There are standard search methods developed to minimize location time (see *The Avalanche Handbook* by McClung & Schaerer), and Canada West Mountain School offers courses in these techniques. New transceivers are sold with a frequency of 457 kHz, but there are many old units in use with a frequency of 2.275 kHz, and some with the option of either frequency. The two frequencies are not compatible, and group leaders must ensure that all group members have units with the same frequency. Avalanche transceivers should be considered essential items for all groups venturing into the snowy backcountry.

Hand held GPS devices are now readily available and increasingly affordable. They generate terrestrial coordinates from the radio transmissions of earth-orbiting satellites - i.e. they determine your location. The units sold for backcountry recreational use do not perform well under tree cover, and can be relied upon only on open ground. Their precision for ground location is ± 100 m according to Jackson (*GPS Navigation Systems*, High Mountain Sports, 160, 1996), which corresponds to one tenth of a blue grid square on an NTS 1:50,000 map. This is about the same precision as you can get with a map and compass by triangulation. While GPS units may sometimes substitute for a compass, a map and map reading skills are still necessary. They are not a replacement for map and compass, but may often aid in navigation.

Radio transceivers (i.e. those that can send (transmit) and receive signals) come in a variety of frequency ranges and capabilities. The best-known, and currently most

popular is the cell phone. The operation of any radio transmitter in Canada and elsewhere requires some form of licence for the equipment and the operator. This varies from a simple payment (cell phone) to series of examinations for the operator, and licence payment for the equipment, for more sophisticated (and capable) equipment. Recreational uses vary also, from an emergency tool for calling for help, to communication for supply and other purposes on extended trips. Radio communication has limitations imposed by distance and terrain, and training should be considered an essential prerequisite of radio transmitter ownership. Even if your use is limited to a help call on a cell phone, your location is still important, and map reading and navigation skills are desirable.

ELB are carried by aircraft, ships, yachts, and some ocean kayakers and snowmobilers. They are radio transmitting devices of fixed frequency that allow Search and Rescue to locate accidents from the air, and can be obtained in various types and sizes. Their use in conventional mountain recreation is limited. Their operation must always be terminated after a rescue to avoid future false alarms.

All of the above equipment requires batteries or rechargeable cells (which have limited life, and are reduced in performance by low temperatures). Most are easily damaged by rough use. **It is therefore not advisable to rely upon electronic devices for your outdoor safety.** Such equipment also has limitations on use, and you must know these limitations. Most units require skill development by the operator.

Learn how to use your new toys, and enjoy them as safety aids !

Call *Canada West Mountain School* at (604) 737-3053 for information on courses in mountain navigation and avalanche safety.



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CLUB BULLETIN

ACC - Vancouver Island: call FMCBC for trip information.

ACC - Vancouver Section: Held it's AGM on November 26, 1996. Members enjoyed an entertaining and informative slide show by Don Serl, and yummy food brought by everyone for the potluck. An election was held for the '97 executive. In October, a trip leadership workshop was held for members and was organized by Darlene Anderson and Fern Hietkamp. The turnout was high and feedback from attendants was very positive. The ACC - Vancouver is introducing a new program to encourage and reward volunteers who lead trips. At each general meeting, the leaders of the trips from the past month will be entered into a draw for a prize.

B.C. Mountaineering Club: 1996 saw a group of ski mountaineers from Switzerland come and join in a club trip to Mt. Waddington. The group is now organizing a ski mountaineering trip in Switzerland next spring during the 13-19 April, 1997. Club members are welcome to attend this trip. If you wish to do so, please contact Paul Kubik (ph876-0764, email PKUBIK@SFU.CA) immediately.

Caledonia Ramblers: call FMCBC for trip information.

Chilliwack Outdoor Club: call FMCBC for trip information.

Comox District Mountaineering Club: call FMCBC for trip information.

Fraser Valley Hikers: call FMCBC for trip information.

Island Mountain Ramblers: call FMCBC for trip information.

Klister Outdoor Klub: The main news from December was elections for club officers. New president and newsletter editor, Josh Dees and Lin Inman were voted in unanimously. The December trip calendar was compiled before the recent snowfall, with the result that only one ski trip is scheduled - namely the 5 day trip to Mt. Morrisey as guests of our namesake the Kamloops Outdoor Klub. As well as a Xmas party on the 21st, other meetings include Kayaking and a low level hike in Matsqui.

Kootenay Mountaineering Club: call FMCBC for trip information.

North Vancouver Recreation Commission Outdoor Club: NVRCC has been involved in the process to try to get a flat sailing/cycling trail built from Lonsdale Quay to

Capilano River. The Trans Canada Trail has announced that they will use this route, so the future looks promising. We have been fundraising for the Trans Canada Trail for a few years and now have about \$500 to donate. We have also been involved in the Recreation Commission's Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee since it's inception last year. They are advocating that a mountain biking route, suitable for the world cup, be built in North Vancouver district. This would alleviate some of the conflict between hikers and mountain bikers and also give the mountain bikers a proper set of trails to use.

North Shore Hikers: Our club has about 1000 members, and offers a choice of hikes ranging from easy to very strenuous, every weekend, as well as bicycle trips and ski trips. Most of these are Sunday day trips. But our skiing group is relatively small (about 6 to 12 skiers per trip), and we would welcome new members, including beginning telemarkers. They should, however, be able to confidently ski easy down-hill slopes with their free heel equipment, before participating in our trips. Most weekends during the winter months, we run backcountry ski day trips to destinations such as Black Mountain, Garibaldi Park thru to the Whistler area, Manning Park, Coquihalla Summit and Mount Baker. Details of trips are published in program (published quarterly for our members). Our ski trips vary from about five to seven hours in length. Free heel boots are necessary. Most members use telemark boots and bindings, but NNN-BC boots and bindings and alpine touring boots and bindings are fine (skies should have steel edges). Skins are usually required, however, sometimes waxing is sufficient. Avalanche beacons, shovels and probes are recommended equipment. Participants are expected to come suitably clothed, with proper boots and equipment, and to be entirely self-sufficient with adequate food and drink. Sunglasses and sun-screen are essential. All participants must sign a liability waiver for each trip. All inquiries regarding membership should be directed to: The membership secretary, North Shore Hikers, Box 4535, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 4A1, Phone 988-9525 (answering machine)

Outdoor Club of Victoria: General meeting are held on the second Wednesday of each month except June, July and August in the Fellowship Hall of First United Church, 932 Balmoral Street at 7:00 pm.

Outsetters Club: call FMCBC for information.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION INFORMATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK

Commercial Development Plans

- ◆ Cypress Bowl Recreations (CBR), the commercial recreation company within Cypress Provincial Park, intends to double its ski capacity and develop year-round recreation resort, starting in 1997. The \$40 million project will include a gondola-accessed, 100-seat, four-season restaurant on Mount Strachan, a plaza with lodges and retail shops in Cypress Bowl, and additional lodges, parking and other new facilities in the Hollyburn Ridge area.

Expected Date For Signing New Master Plan

- ◆ Environment Minister Paul Ramsey expects to sign the new Master Plan as soon as West Vancouver Council gives permission for construction of water and sewer connections from the municipality to the park. Funds for the \$2 million project, designed to service 15,000 persons per day, will come directly from a the BC Treasury Board. West Vancouver Council will make a decision on the request after receiving a staff report on the project, expected to be completed by late November 1996.

Impact Of New Development

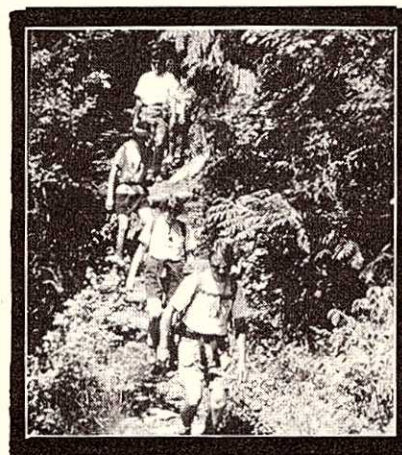
- ◆ While the new Master Plan will protect the 50 acres of previously threatened old-growth forest on Hollyburn Mountain outside CBR's permit area, more than 50 acres of ancient forest within the permit area, including thousand-year-old trees, will be logged for new ski development. More than 500 acres of old-growth will be affected by increased forest fragmentation. No comprehensive environmental assessment of parkland threatened by development has been conducted by government to date. More than 25 acres will be cut on Mount Strachan for downhill ski runs and the gondola lifeline. This information was not available to the public until after the October 1996 public forum on the draft Master Plan. Ski runs will cut through pristine meadows, wetlands and forests in an area previously zoned "special feature" by BC Parks. Ski runs will fragment the Lions View Stand, an area undisturbed by major fire for at least 2000 years. In his 1995 partial assessment of Mount Strachan old-growth, BC Parks Ecologist Hans Roemer stated: "The conservation and scientific significance of the forests northwest of Strachan Chair is high, primarily due to the old age of

the ecosystem as a whole as well as of individual trees. It is recommended that in a provincial park the preservation of these ancient trees and ecosystems must take precedence over recreational development."

- ◆ Another 25 acres of ancient forest will be cut on Hollyburn Ridge for new nordic ski trails and facilities, putting increased stress on remaining old-growth through further fragmentation, and altering the character of this popular summer hiking area, valued for its tranquillity. Several lakes and wetland areas between First and Sixth lakes may also be affected by ski expansion.

✉ Friends of Cypress Provincial Park, Tel/Fax 922-7949, October 31, 1996

Editor's note: The above was an abbreviated report, for a complete report please contact FMCBC at 737-3053.



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Bulletin

Disabled Skiers Association of B.C. wants you!

D.S.A.B.C. is looking for Cross-Country Ski Instructors and Activity Coordinators who are proficient skiers (preferably Level 1 Certification, but not essential), possess good communication skills as well as an interest in working with people with disabilities. Volunteers will receive complimentary trail pass and/or equipment rental for the full day, training manual and orientation, valuable experience and lots of fun. There is a \$20.00 membership fee to cover liability while working with D.S.A.B.C. Interested candidates should call Andrea Heal at 322-0229 or the Disabled Skiers Office at 737-3042 for further information.

Notice to Backcountry Skiers

If you are planning a trip to Mt. Jimmy Jimmy this season, please phone the Federation office (737-3053) for an update on access before you go.

Be aware out there!

For updated avalanche information contact Canadian Avalanche Associations bulletin hotline: in Vancouver call (604) 290-9333 or in B.C./Alberta contact 1-800-667-1105.

Just the Facts!

61,095 hikers bought down-only skyride tickets on Grouse Mountain last summer.

Correction from September Cloudburst

The Lower Mainland Protected Area Strategy article written by Mike Feller was not written in conjunction with ACC - Vancouver Section or B.C. Mountaineering Club. Sorry for the error.

What's on the Web

Here are a couple of sites to check out:

- * Cyberspace Snow and Avalanche Center:
<http://www.csac.org>
- * Access to major mountain ranges:
<http://www.ul.ie/~mci/uiaa.html>

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Richmond Outdoor Club: for club members: the club has put a deposit on two cabins in Manning Park for the weekend of the 21st of February, 1997. If you'd like a weekend of skiing call Sue McIntyre to register.

Valley Outdoor Association: call FMCBC for trip information.

Varsity Outdoor Club: call FMCBC for trip information.

Editor's Note: For more information on the above clubs please contact FMCBC at 737-3053.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

☞Dear Editor:

I read with interest Markus Kellerhals' article regarding snowmobiles (The Bane of Winter Wilderness). I would suggest that the FMCBC be very careful about "raising this issue above the bureaucratic horizon."

I think you may want to strongly consider resolving this issue directly with the B.C. Snowmobiling Federation. If you try to go to the bureaucrats and the politicians for resolution you may get a typically political end result. If I was in Victoria faced with an unresolved problem between snowmobilers and back country skiers over turf, I would find the simplest solution to be to divide up the turf. This could easily result in back country ski areas being protected for skiers but other areas set aside for snowmobilers.

I would much rather be able to continue using the area even if it meant snowmobilers could as well. I would be especially angry with the FMCBC if their efforts to restrict snowmobile use in certain areas resulted in restricted access for ski touring in other areas. In addition, I think that the ski touring groups have more to lose if a political decision is made. The snowmobilers would likely be given exclusive access to their most popular areas like Brandywine. I therefore strongly urge the FMCBC to do absolutely whatever it can to negotiate with B.C. Snowmobiling Federation to come to some equitable, mutually satisfying agreement on land use before you attempt to allow bureaucrats or politicians to solve your problems.

Yours sincerely,

Grant McCormack, M.D., FRCPC

☞Dear Editor:

Greeting from the Province of Bohol in the Philippines !!

We are the Bohol Outdoor Explorer's Club, an outdoor club based in Tagbilaran City, Province of Bohol, Philippines. This club was organized in 1994 and is composed of university students and young professionals who bonded themselves in furthering their hobby in outdoor activities and their concern towards environmental consciousness and protection.

Your Federation has been recommended by your Embassy here in the Philippines for possible contacts. As we understand, you are a Federation of mountain clubs in British Columbia. Therefore, we wanted to know possible mountain clubs in your area and be recommended by your Federation for possible sisterhood agreements with our Club in the Philippines.

This idea of a sisterhood agreement is as simple as your Club in Canada will serve or stand as a big brother - sharing information, new technologies and guiding our new outdoor club.

We do hope that you will find time matching us with one of your member mountain clubs.

Thank you and we look forward for a better and lasting relationship with your organization.

Truly yours,

Mr. Blair L. Panong
Chairman

Editors Note: Interested clubs please contact Mr. Panong directly.