

CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Quarterly Newsletter

December, 1997
\$2.50

WHO WE ARE!

Alberni Valley Outdoor Club
Alpine Club of Canada
- Vancouver Section
Alpine Club of Canada
- Vancouver Island Section
B.C. Mountaineering Club
Caledonia Ramblers
Chilliwack Outdoor Club
Comox District
Mountaineering Club
Fraser Valley Hikers
Island Mountain Ramblers
Klister Outdoor Klub
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Vancouver Island Trails Info. Society
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CLOUDBURST

Articles: We welcome 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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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 (604)737-3053 (Vancouver) with your VISA or MASTERCARD number or send \$25 with your name and address to: FMCBC
336 - 1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

Board of Directors:

President: Pat Harrison, VOA member

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Section member

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Dave King, Caladonia
Ramblers member

Committee Chairs:

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Roger Freeman and
Jay MacArthur

Trails: John Otava and
Bill Meyer

Education and Safety:

Chris Mills

Volume 7 Number 3

FMCBC Meetings

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

Recreation and Conservation Committee:

Contact office for information

Education and Safety Committee:

Contact office for information

Trails Committee:

January 19

Board of Directors:

January 21

Lower Mainland Delegates:

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Island Delegates:

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Pat Harrison

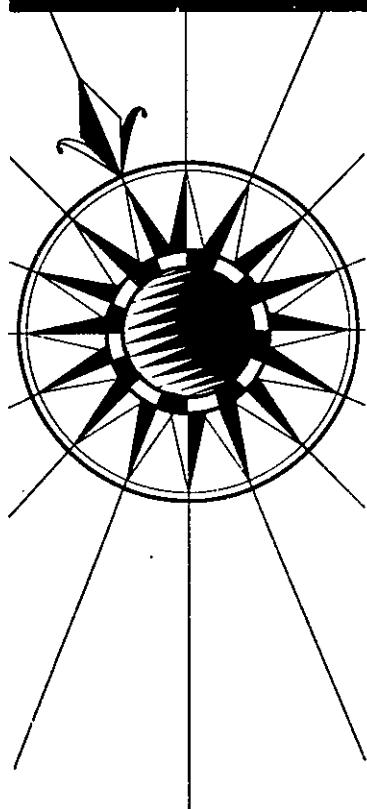
Season's Greetings to all the members of the Federation. I am particularly pleased with the 1997 season as it pertains to the Fed. It has been a year of renewal and purpose, and a year of regeneration of our volunteer juices.

For those who have not heard, we now have a permanent email address: fmcbsc@mountainclubs.bc.ca which will allow clubs to communicate to us readily from the four corners of the province. I have asked Alana to set up an email contact with each club. In addition, we now have a wonderful website at <http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca> which I thank Chris Mills and Alana Procuik for launching. I encourage each club to take a cruise on the Website. Each club is being offered their own webpage free of charge for their club. We are looking forward to hearing from our clubs and their members.

We have made significant progress on two long standing issues: Insurance for club leaders and Occupier's Liability Act. Chris Mills, our V.P., is coordinating these issues. A FMCBC Projects board is now present in the Fed office listing the coordinators for the more than 20 conservation and access issues in which the Fed is currently involved. This will ensure that one person will be coordinating each project and there will not be inconsistent policy coming forth from the Fed. *If your club has a conservation issue that it is heavily involved in, it would be helpful to add the club and coordinator on our projects board.*

I thank all the volunteers who have given their time this year. I am looking forward to 1998 for an event better year for our clubs and members. Have a great 1998 and fantastic outings.

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PROPOSED GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS

By Chris Mills, Vice President

The FMCBC Board of Directors has investigated the possibilities of a liability insurance program for Members and has recommended for Club consideration a program offered by Johnston Meier Insurance Services Ltd. and underwritten by the Zurich Insurance Company. Details of this program were sent to Club Presidents in early December of 1997 and may also be found on our web site at <http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca>. Basically, if your Club wishes to join the program Members will pay a \$2.00 per year premium for Commercial General Liability insurance. It will be the decision of a Club on whether or not to participate in the program. Directors and Officers Liability insurance can also be obtained at an additional premium.

The program will require that the FMCBC become a Member of Trails BC. However, FMCBC Members should not be concerned that Membership of the FMCBC in Trails BC (which is the functional and operational Approved Associate of the Trans Canada Trail Foundation in British Columbia) will in any way affect the integrity, independence, philosophy or established policies of the FMCBC. The Board intends to develop a clearly defined relationship with Trails BC to ensure these matters.

It has taken considerable time for the FMCBC to obtain a proposal for Commercial General Liability and Directors & Officers liability insurance at a reasonable cost. This has required a substantial effort by several Directors, and discussions with numerous insurance brokers. It is most unlikely that we can obtain more favourable rates, and we ask that you give this proposal thorough consideration by your Club.

WEB SITE NEWS

By Chris Mills, Vice President

By the time you read this article the FMCBC web site will have moved to <http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca>. This move has involved the registration of www.mountainclubs.bc.ca as our permanent web address (URL), and many other changes that will allow us to give you better service. For example, the new site has a feedback page that allows you to comment on any aspects of the FMCBC, CWMS and IWFA operation, or to make suggestions regarding the web site. There is also a local search engine that allows a search of the FMCBC pages. Future enhancements planned are a series of slide shows on CWMS courses and a searchable database for trail information. We also plan to include more photographs and graphics to enhance the "eye appeal" of the site. All Member Clubs may now request their own "Club Page" to post their information. In the near future the site will have a discussion page for the exchange of ideas between Members, and there may be a central "Schedule of Trips" page.

With these changes come changes in e-mail addresses: Brian Jones is now brianjones@mountainclubs.bc.ca, Alana Prociuk is alana@mountainclubs.bc.ca and the general address for the FMCBC is fmcbc@mountainclubs.bc.ca

This is your site - please add it to your "favourites" and visit it frequently.

Happy surfing!



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RECREATION AND CONSERVATION UPDATE

LILLOOET LRMP UPDATE

By Markus Kellerhals, Co-Chair Rec and Con

Markus Kellerhals and Jay MacArthur are continuing to represent the Mountain Clubs at the Lillooet LRMP (Land Resource Management Plan) table, which will decide on protected areas and other land use designations in the Lillooet Forest District.

From talking to various people we have defined some of the FMCBC's interests in this area. They are: (1) Park status for the South Chilcotins, (2) A small park in the Cerise Creek area, (3) A park in the Shulaps Range protecting the unlogged Shulaps-Holbrook drainage, (4) The Crown of the Cayoosh Park - protecting the unlogged valleys of Melvin and Lost Valley Creek in the Cayoosh Range, (5) Small parks protecting Keary and Bobb Lakes and their immediate surroundings in the Bendor Range, and (6) Restrictions on snowmobile access in several small valleys off the Duffey Lake Road.

We would be glad to hear suggestions and comments from club members about this list of interests. Markus can be reached at 734-0010 and Jay at 987-1232.

About 9½ percent of the district is currently protected, mainly in the Stein Valley Park. During the planning process, logging is deferred on an additional 8 percent of the land base (called Official Study Areas). Unfortunately the Study Areas largely protect alpine and higher elevation areas that are not threatened by logging in any case. Several extremely contentious areas are located outside of the official Study Areas, and thus have no interim protection. These areas are: (1) Siska Creek - a valley south of Lytton that was recently declared a Tribal Park by the Siska Indian Band; (2) Shulaps Creek - a gem of a valley that drains the Shulaps Range and spans elevations from 9000' to 2500'; and nearest to the hearts of the Mountain Clubs (3) Lower Tyaughton - Bonanza - part of the proposed South Chilcotins Park, that the FMCBC and many other groups have long been fighting for. All three of these areas are slated for imminent development.

Despite the strenuous protests of the FMCBC, and many other table members, there will be no additional deferrals. In other words, the Lillooet LRMP seems to be the usual talk and log process. Despite our grave concerns with the process, Jay and I feel that the Mountain Clubs' interests

continued on page 12

PROVINCIAL PARK LEGACY PROJECT

By Jay MacArthur, Co-Chair Rec and Con

At our last Recreation and Conservation Committee meeting, Mark Angelo, chair of the Park Legacy project came and presented an overview of the process. It is a public consultation process to examine the future management and planning of the protected areas system in B.C. The purpose of the Legacy Project is to provide government with practical, community-based thoughts, suggestions and recommendations to enhance long term planning and management of protected areas, while building stronger relationships between communities and their parks. Or in my words, intended to help BC Parks improve their goals and policies. We think that the FMCBC should get involved. We're not sure how, yet. The Legacy Project has a website:
<http://www.parklegacy.bc.ca>

The following questions are taken from the website (the draft ideas are mine):

Vision

What overriding principles should guide the policies and legislation that apply to protected areas?

- The protection of natural environments, vegetation and wildlife
- That development should be minimized to allow limited public use, that does not harm natural ecological processes
- How do you write the words to allow the construction of some small parking lots in recreation zones but not allow megaprojects like Cypress Bowl.

Planning

How can park planning processes be improved to create quality management plans for all protected areas and ensure public involvement?

- I think that BC parks are doing a pretty good job of getting the public involved in park management planning
- Advisory boards have been used in the past and should continue to be used in an expanded role. Such advisory boards should not necessarily be given more weight than other public input. Decision making is a tricky business. By writing clear guiding principles on both a provincial and local level, hopefully more consistent decisions will be made in the future.

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EDUCATION AND SAFETY THE TEN ESSENTIALS AND WINTER

By Chris Mills, Vice President

After thirteen successive articles on specific aspects of education and safety, it seems appropriate, in this issue of Cloudburst, to re-examine the "Ten Essentials". Because of the time of year these essential safety items will be viewed in the context of winter mountain travel.

The "Ten Essentials" are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Map | 6. Sunglasses |
| 2. Compass | 7. First Aid supplies |
| 3. Flashlight/headlamp
with spare bulbs
and batteries | 8. Pocket knife |
| 4. Extra food | 9. Matches, in waterproof
container |
| 5. Extra clothing | 10. Fire starter |

The snow-covered landscape of winter looks very different from that of summer. Many features, even prominent ones, are hidden in a blanket of white and orientation and navigation become more difficult. With the map and compass skills that you have learned, practiced and developed in the summer months (CB September '96), orienting a 1:50,000 topographic map and plotting a travel route should be straightforward. However, there are several winter advantages of detailed map study while planning your route. Distance and the contour lines on a topo map allow you to calculate slope angles, which will indicate those slopes most likely to be avalanche prone (most common in the 30-45 deg range and frequent in the 25-55 deg range). Contour lines also indicate whether a slope is convex (more likely to avalanche) or concave (less likely to avalanche). The presence or absence of tree cover can also guide you here. From a knowledge of prevailing wind direction, you can also estimate where snow cover is likely to be greatest (lee slopes) and least (windward slopes), and the most likely position of cornices (overhanging lee slopes). The ability to read and understand topographic maps is a great asset in winter mountain travel.

Because you are likely to have your hands full of ski poles, trekking poles (CB September '97) or an ice axe, a headlamp (CB September '97) is probably a better choice of illumination than a flashlight in winter. Because of the longer hours of darkness spare batteries are a "must" in winter.

Extra high-calorie food should always be carried, but if you have to spend a night out in the snow you will be really grateful for carrying this essential. If a stove is carried for making a hot drink or food, note that it will

rapidly disappear into the snow unless you place it on a rock or log, or insulate it. I have found that a 20 cm square of closed cell foam mattress under a cheap metal pie dish very effect for this purpose.

Extra clothing (enough to survive an unexpected night out - CB March '97) should be an obvious addition to your pack, and don't forget a small closed cell foam pad to sit on when resting. A warm, effective head cover is essential, even though you may not wear it while traveling.

Sunglasses, glacier glasses or goggles (CB June '97) are a requirement for snow travel because of the intensity of harmful reflected radiation. In winter you *must* carry a spare pair. Skin protection (CB June '97) is a definite essential in the snow.

First aid supplies should be carried that are a reflection of the seriousness of the trip.

A pocket knife, matches and firestarter will enable you to start a fire for warmth and to counter potential hypothermia (CB December '95). Please be as careful with fires in the winter as you would at any other time of the year.

Other items that should be considered essential are:

11. A water bottle (CB June '95) and/or a method of melting snow, and an appropriate water purification system. Snow around heavily used camp sites or huts is often heavily contaminated by human wastes lurking under the most recent snowfall
12. A repair kit with appropriate contents to fix a broken ski pole, ski binding or snowshoe
13. Avalanche transceivers (CB December '96) for each member of your group

The final essential is intelligence. Check weather and avalanche reports, and observe conditions. If your skills are questionable, take the appropriate courses and learn or improve your skills (Canada West Mountain School offers courses on almost every aspect of winter mountain travel - Telephone (604) 737-3053). Avalanches are a serious safety hazard - the toll-free telephone number for avalanche information is 1-800-667-1105, and Canada West Mountain School provides avalanche safety courses.

Season's Greetings, and please enjoy the white stuff safely.

NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE

KAKWA ASCENTS

By Mike Nash, Caledonia Ramblers

Long time member and past director of the FMCBC, George Evanoff, has been a leading proponent of the Kakwa for many years. From the early eighties, George has volunteered countless hours of his time to lead many Caledonia Ramblers trips into the area, and to champion the Kakwa as the largest protected area in the Prince George District. For the past 12 years, his photograph of Mount Ida taken on one of the club trips has adorned the front cover of the Province's Northern BC Parks map.

In July, George realized a longstanding ambition to summit this classic Matterhorn shaped peak. At the age of 65, George with his two companions, Allan Ewert of Prince George, and Chris Webb of Arizona, bivouacked high on the side of Mount Ida during a night of electrical storms. They spent much of the night crouched under a rock to keep their sleeping bags dry. Recommencing their ascent at 5 am, they reached the summit at noon after a series of rock and ice climbs. Although battered and bruised from a fall when the rope was not on belay, George was ecstatic as he radioed his wife, Lillian from the top. Their summit stay was brief as they were forced down by another approaching storm that heralded sustained bad weather during their three day walk out of the area.

This achievement caps George's First Winter Ascent of nearby Mount Sir Alexander in February 1990 with his son Craig Evanoff and Bonnie Hooe. (The Canadian Alpine Journal, Volume 74, 1991, Pages 43-44). These Kakwa peaks are the two most northerly 10,000+ foot mountains in the Canadian Rockies.

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IN MEMORY OF LORNE GLASSFORD

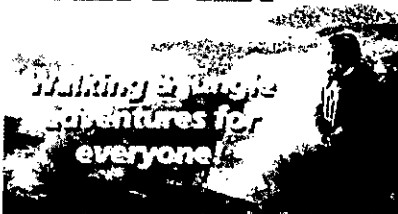
By Dorothy Meyer, Prince George

Those of you who attended the Annual General Meeting of the FMCBC in Prince George in 1996 will remember Lorne and Win Glassford as hosts and co-hikers.

Members of the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club were deeply saddened by the sudden death of Lorne Glassford on the summit of Mount Ben Nevis in Scotland, where he was hiking with his wife Win on September 22nd, 1997. With Lorne's passing, we have lost a founding member of our club, who over the last 25 years has contributed so much to the growth and success of mountain hiking in Prince George.

We will always miss Lorne and fondly remember his wonderful cheerfulness and comradeship.

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ISLAND PERSPECTIVE RISK

By Sandy Briggs, ACC—Vancouver Island Section

I completely agree that one of the most important things about mountaineering is the enabling quality, gradually being removed from other aspects of our lives, of allowing the individual to take direct responsibility for his or her actions. A complication pointed out by others, including perhaps especially Arlene Blum in her book *Annapurna: A Woman's Place*, is that while the climbers themselves often accept the risks, our spouses, partners, children, parents, and friends, in general, do not. Moreover, while an ethically 'ideal' (?) climber might not expect to be rescued, realistic climbers must anticipate that, in most societies influenced by (laudable, I think) socio-religious sentiments concerned with helping others, there will be, where possible, a rescue attempt, especially considering pressures from the above-named groups. Also, assuming that there is going to be some kind of rescue effort in most cases, the question arises as to who will pay. Clair Israelson, in his position with Parks Canada, has a particular concern with this question and comments that he has never found a backcountry user who has said "Whatever it costs, I will pay the bill." There are at least a couple of good reasons for this. One is that sometimes rescue efforts are mounted, only later to find that the subject, the 'rescuer', does not want to be rescued, or does not need to be rescued. Who pays for that? Secondly, who among us actually could pay for a full-scale search and rescue involving dozens of people and some aircraft.

Many recreationists are sufficiently 'at the edge' financially that they can barely pay Parks' camping fees, never mind a day of helicopter time. Surely it is for this reason that insurance was invented? (I'll leave aside my opinion that, compared to lots of places the various governments dump vast amounts of our money, paying for a few rescues adds up to pretty small beans, on a national budget scale.) This kind of insurance — the straightforward paying of rescue costs, (even) in the absence of any liability problems — seems to have been very hard to get in Canada, in spite of being so obvious a need. One thing that really bothers me, and I suppose this arises because I reside on the coast, is that although the vast majority of coast region rescues involve boats, the public concern about costs seems only to arise in the case of hikers or climbers. A recent (Aug 2, 1997, *Times Colonist*) newspaper ad in Victoria says (if I read it correctly) that in 1996 the Victoria Rescue Coordination Centre catalogued 1419 marine incidents, 230 air incidents, 312 humanitarian aid cases and 247 false alarms or hoaxes.

Where are the rescues of backcountry recreationists in this?? Gosh, we have the whole of the Coast Range to worry about!! Could it be that the money spent rescuing hikers and climbers is completely insignificant in comparison to rescuing sport fishers who run out of gas?? Even if all 312 humanitarian aid cases were mountain rescues, the number pales in comparison to marine rescues. Having said that, I would still like to contribute (more than already) to the costs in case I ever need a rescue. Failing the availability of reasonably priced rescue insurance there is still a solution. (This is not my idea. I refer you to the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia, phone 604-737-3053, Vancouver.) Why not place a small (the figure could be calculated, maybe 0.05 percent or some such) rescue tax on all outdoor recreational equipment from snowmobiles and rifles and fishing rods to tents and boots to ice-axes and crampons and insect repellent and outboard motors and kayaks and.....— you get the idea. That way the people most likely to need a rescue are the ones paying for it, as the tax would go into a dedicated rescue fund. Hey, it just might work.

So, Mr. Israelson, I am willing to pay, through societally acceptable means such as insurance or a tax. Anyway, I'm a long way from the extreme end of the mountaineering spectrum. The most dangerous part of most of my trips is the drive to get there. I guess it's good we have insurance for that, not to mention a largely publicly-funded rescue (i.e. ambulance) system.

Marie Seabrook

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SLEEPER

By Chris Ludwig, BCMC

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and stings of time
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carpet the world
with words you knew
carry them in silence
throughout nature too

toss the head
circle round
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what might you discover
while standing on your head
or perhaps
laying in bed?

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you know it

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you'll carry them with you
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their weight always slows us

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if you dare
for and for
all is for not
tis' a battle for naught
I thought

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CLUB NEWS

NORTH SHORE HIKERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Al Payne, FMCBC Delegate

Highlights of the North Shore Hikers Annual General Meeting Friday, November 28, 1997.

Safety

Our President, Peter Mercer, stressed the importance of keeping the group together when returning from a hike. Slow participants would not be left behind, abandoned by faster hikers racing to get back to their cars. The coordinator needs to be sure that all participants return safely.

Insurance

Peter was also pleased to inform us that the FMCBC has found a group insurance package that should meet our needs. It will cost \$2.00 per member and will cover hiking, biking, and kayaking. Backcountry skiing and snowshoeing are included as hiking. Cross border trips are also covered. This looks like what we have been looking for. Our executive will make a decision on this at our next meeting in January. Thanks to Chris Mills for his efforts to resolve the insurance problem.

Annual Dues

Next year, our dues will increase from \$20 to \$22 per year, mainly because of the increased cost of insurance and postage.

Brian Jones, FMCBC Manager of Operations

We were pleased to have Brian speak to our club about the recent reorganization of the FMCBC management, the services provided by the FMCBC, and about the various committees doing volunteer work (Recreation and Conservation, Trails, Education and Safety, Climbing and Management). He also fielded questions from our members.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the FMCBC Committees. Leslie Bohm, a Director of the FMCBC, made a plea for volunteers to serve on the above mentioned FMCBC committees. If one of these committees interests you, why not volunteer?

VARSITY OUTDOOR CLUB HUT UPDATE

By Andre Zimmermann, FMCBC Delegate

As some of you may know the Varsity Outdoor Club (VOC) at UBC has been actively perusing a new backcountry hut since 1994. The Workers Compensation Board of BC through a retraining program completed the construction of the hut this past summer. The hut is currently waiting to be transported to Phelix Creek.

The hut will be owned and maintained by the VOC and available for use by all members of the public. As was mentioned in the March 97' Cloudburst the hut will be named: The Brian Waddington Memorial Hut. The primary use will be for winter and spring backcountry skiing and mountaineering. Other recreational opportunities include alpine rockclimbing, hiking and backpacking. The area is not accessible by motorized vehicles. There are local grizzly bear and mountain goat populations within the area which the VOC would like to see impacted as little as possible. Consequently, the VOC would like to see use in late summer and early fall minimized so the bears who are most active in the area at this time are disturbed as little as possible.

The hut has been built to fit building code regulations by experienced carpenters and is significantly heavier than originally proposed. As a result of the unanticipated weight of the structure, and the associated additional cost the VOC was not able to fly the hut in this past summer. Over the last few months the VOC has managed to receive a number of grants. Additionally we have also set up the conditions for a loan of a maximum of \$6000.00 from the Federation in case all of the necessary funds cannot be raised by next summer. As a result of these activities all of the money necessary to install the hut can be accounted for, and the hut will be put in place this coming summer.

In pursuing the remaining funds to avoid a loan an account has been set up with the Federation for tax deductible donations from groups or individuals towards the Brian Waddington Memorial Hut. Donations can be made through the Federation. If you would like more information regarding the hut you can contact the Federation or Andre Zimmermann from the VOC at 876-6258 or e-mail: zandre@unixg.ubc.ca

A thank you goes out to the many people who have contributed to the hut thus far. The VOC look forward to the installation of the hut this coming summer.

TRAIL TALES: 'LOADED WITH FRESH'

By Chris Barner, Heathens' Club

An old friend of mine named Steve used to come blasting in my door every fall whenever the clouds clear and reveal our misty mountains sporting a dazzling mantle of new snow. "Have you seen the mountains yet?", he would bellow, "they're loaded with fresh."

Steve is no longer with us, but the excited and energetic attitude that always surrounded him prospers. Here on Vancouver Island the mountain community thrives within it, from one end to the other.

The old Squamish gag, "how can you tell a good island climber?....they moved to the mainland," has no truth to it anymore – if it ever did. Granted, Canada's second 5.14a was climbed at Horne Lake this summer by a visiting French ace, but it's only a matter of time before the many local 5.12 and 5.13 ers establish one of their own. At Crest Creek, a fine new gaggle of aid climbs prepare north island firm (not quite hard) cores for their alpine big wall adventures, while a keen group of Courtenay climber are developing both aid and free lines at Comox lake. Finally, in the alpine, one sees many a new face on the classic free climbs, or gazing dreamy eyed at a future standard setter.

But climbing is really only a tiny aspect of climbing. Let's look into the soul.....

Beneath this fall's dazzling snowcover, Heathen trailwork parties are busy at Crest Creek and Kings Peak building bridges and improving access to these fine climbing areas. The parties are always large, infested with smiles, and the sun shines on these individuals despite the rain. It's a legacy passed on to us from the older island clubs such as the Ramblers, C.D.M.C., and the V.O.C and A.C.C from Victoria. These dedicated citizens regularly spend their precious weekends driving all over the island to care for their mountains, their cherished old friends. Our experiences with them at places like Phillips Ridge have inspired a whole new generation of Island mountaineers.

These Victoria folk deserve special mention. Leave work on Friday afternoon to drive six or seven hours up-island to a place like the Rugged Range and sleep in the back of a truck or the middle of a logging road. Plow through

deep snow to the base of some remote Island spire, make a first ascent, plow back out, drive another seven hours, in the dark of course. Arrive back in Victoria at 2am before work on Monday. I love the mountains – live for the mountains – but if I lived in Victoria I probably wouldn't get out as much as they do.

The old Squamish gag, "how can you tell a good island climber?....they moved to the mainland," has no truth to it anymore – if it ever did.

And have you ever read the Victoria ACC section newsletter, the Bushwacker? As much as I enjoy the CAJ, I think the Bushwacker is the best mountain magazine, period. It is sophisticated without losing touch with the human element that weaves itself through climbing and climbing clubs. When I get a chance to peruse the Bushwacker, my copies of 'Rock and Ice' and 'Climbing' ride the pine for a while.

We beat the fresh snow onto Rambler Peak in September – a fine climb on the amazing 3,000 west buttress. One of the things that struck me on the approach was the fine work the Ramblers and BC Parks have been doing on the Elk River Trail.

Traffic has been heavy there this past decade, and the trail would have been a mess without their intervention. I sat dangling my legs off the fine span at Butterworth Creek, remembering the slippery log crossings and boulder hops that used to be such an impediment to technical climbing in the Elk River valley. It is fitting that what is, in my opinion, the finest peak in this finest of ranges, is named for such a dedicated group of mountaineers whose outlook has always been fresh. The rest of us are simply catching up.

And what of the Island elders? What does Ruth Masters have to say about all this? Let's face it, if Ruth were twenty right now she'd be on-sighting 5.13 with natural gear... and you'd never see her power bar wrappers littering the base of the crags. Ruth's old ideas are our new ones. She is one of a large contingent of elder Island mountaineers whose outlook has always been fresh. The rest of us are simply catching up.

No story of climbing on Vancouver Island could be complete without a chapter on John and Fred Put. These guys are my dear friends and climbing companions so there may be some bias here, but I don't know of anymore selfless individuals in the climbing scene anywhere.

Continued on page 13

HIKING ON SNOW

By John Vandermeer, Valley Outdoor Association

The heavy snow pack of the last few winters in South-West British Columbia has shortened the hiking season for many of us. Many hikers traverse snow fields for which they are not properly equipped. I am personally aware of the two serious accidents of hikers on snow which could have been fatal. What can be done to prevent similar accidents? Travelling on snow is always risky at the best of times.

One has to use common sense and ask one self some questions such as; Am I properly equipped to cross the snowfield? Is there away around it? In case of a fall how far will I go down and what is there at the bottom? Is there avalanche danger? Last but not least "do I feel confident to proceed"?

On snow one has to wear heavy boots with solid soles. The leader should step kick and set out the route to follow. Select your traverse carefully. If you have to cross a snowslope try to cross it above avalanche danger. If that is not possible, cross high on the slope and keep an eye out for what is above you. If you are in a group keep distance at least 30-50 meters. If you cross an avalanche gully, do so one at a time.

When travelling on a snow slope, keep your weight above your feet, do not lean into a slope. An ice axe, if you know how to handle it, will increase your confidence and could save your life or save you from serious injury.

When using an ice axe on snow trails or on flat snow, use it as a walking stick. On steep snow slopes carry the ice axe across your chest and hold it ready for instant arrest. When falling, hang on to your ice axe, face the snow, arch your torso away from the snow and press the sharp point of the ice axe into the snow for an early arrest.

Do not use the wrist loop around your hand when travelling on steep snow. If you slide out of control you could be injured by the ice axe. Glissading on an ice axe is great fun, but let someone show you how to use the axe.

Source: The Freedom of the Hills

Lillooet LRMP Update - continued from page 5

will be best served by our continued participation at the table (It may be a crooked game, but it's the only game in town!).

One of the conditions of our participation at the table is that we don't lobby government outside of the process. It is for this reason that you are unlikely to see the Federation spearheading a letter writing campaign while the process is going on, even though our interests appear to be getting trampled. However, the Federation is cooperating with other groups to bring out an educational brochure on this area (under the terms of the table educational efforts are not only permitted but considered desirable).

In the meantime the logging company in the area (Ainsworth) plans to build a road into Bonanza Basin in the South Chilcotins Wilderness within the next few months. Several conservation and recreation groups not directly involved in the LRMP have been mounting letter writing campaigns to win an 11th hour deferral for this area.

Editors note: Southern Chilcotin Web Site - To see the hiking guide of the Southern Chilcotins visit Jay MacArthurs site at: <http://www3.bc.sympatico.ca/jay/spruce.htm>

Provincial Park Legacy - continued from page 5

Management

How can management of protected areas be improved to ensure continued use by the public while preserving the ecological values of parks?

-We have to limit use in some areas

Resourcing

What major opportunities to diversify the sources of support for ongoing protected areas operations should be explored?

-Money is the important factor. Are more user fees inevitable or could we encourage volunteers. How about a credit system for volunteers. Volunteers could earn park dollars to use on campground and other user fees

Public Involvement

What should be done to encourage broader and more effective public involvement in stewardship of protected areas? Volunteers need to encourage other volunteers! Help make it fun to be a volunteer.

You, our members, use BC Parks more than anyone. We need your input. Is anyone interested in coordinating a FMCBC response? I can be the recipient of any answers for now.



An Opening

Photo by Sam Jowett

Garibaldi Park and surrounding areas are available...

We are looking for a "Zone N Coordinator" for the area between Mamquam, Pemberton and the headwaters of Harrison Lake including Garibaldi Park. (Zone N).

We need a responsible person who

- knows the area
- is a member of the Federation of Mountain Clubs
- supports the FMCBC policies
- has spare time to join our great "Trails" team.

As the Coordinator for Zone N, you will,

- be informed and monitor anything that could affect current and future trails, mountain access and the environment
- help take appropriate action as required
- be reasonably knowledgeable about the trails' condition and promote trail maintenance
- assist the Adopt-A-Trail program
- report to the Trails Committee regularly.

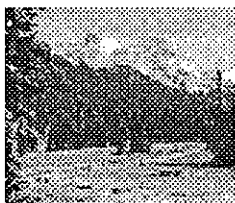


Photo by Gabriel Mazoret



This is a volunteer position and is an exceptional opportunity to be involved.

Please contact John Otava
FMCBC Trails Committee Co-Chair
at 469-9430.

Loaded with Fresh - continued from page 11

Crest Creek is a beautifully kept climbing area – Jim Sanford calls it a "climbing garden" – and John and Fred are the reason why. They imported the best of the "go for it" attitude from Squamish and merged it with the "live for it" Island approach to create the perfect hybrid atmosphere. They have inspired the youth of Gold River, and helped introduce climbing to the north and west Island. Theirs is the ideal example for anyone to follow.

So, that's the Island scene. Funny how things change. We might be water-ice and attitude challenged, but the attitude here is just like the mountains that gleam beyond my window pane – LOADED WITH FRESH! No wonder so many of you mainland climbers are moving over here lately. And as for you folks stuck way over there in the Rockies, well, I guess even climbing needs a fringe element somewhere.



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AN IMPORTANT FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE FOR ALL FMCBC CLUBS

By Brian Jones, Manager of Operations

Over the past few years funding for the FMCBC and our clubs has been decreasing. One role that the FMCBC can play is to help source out funding for clubs. The following outlines a campaign that will generate revenue for member clubs as well as for the Fed. As with all fundraising efforts, the success depends on the level of participation. Please read on.

This campaign is based on an *affinity credit card program*. Affinity programs work by encouraging people to carry and use a credit card that pays dividends back to their organization. In our case, we will use a Master Card issued by MBNA. The card would be a Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC Master Card, issued to you like any other credit card. Here's how the fund raising will work:

\$1.00 for each card signed up;
.3% of all transactions on each card;
\$25.00 for each card signed up directly through the FMCBC.

Therefore, the following potential revenue could apply for the first year:

1,000 cards signed up through MBNA
(@ \$1.00) \$ 1,000.00
100 cards signed up through the FMCBC
(@ \$25.00) \$ 2,500.00
1,100 card holders purchasing an average of
\$3,600/year (x .3%) \$ 11,880.00/year

Total 1st year revenue \$ 15,380.00

As you can see, the potential revenue could be quite substantial, depending on the numbers of people that participate. All revenues that are generated can be tracked to the club of origin. **This will allow us to proportion 50% of the net proceeds to the clubs that generated the revenue.** Additionally, your club may designate a specific FMCBC project for the FMCBC portion of your revenues. In other words, if the FMCBC Affinity program signs up 1,000 cardholders, the FMCBC receives \$1,000.00. The FMCBC can track how many people from each club sign up, and split the revenues with that club. So, if Club "A" has 100 member's sign up, the FMCBC receives \$50.00 and Club "A" automatically receives \$50.00. The \$50.00 for the FMCBC may be directed to any FMCBC project specified by your club. The same process applies to the .3%

dividend and to the \$25.00 direct sign up bonus.

Quite simply, this could be great source of revenue for clubs!

What about the actual credit card? It is a Master Card with very competitive rates and services. The standard card has no fee, and very low interest rates. MBNA is the card issuer, and you, as cardholder, will deal directly with them. MBNA is the second largest credit card issuer in North America, and has a very secure history and excellent track record.

So, how can we ensure that this program is successful?

- Encourage everyone to take out a card. Even if you do not use it, it will help generate revenue;
- Encourage all cardholders in your club to use their cards often;
- Apply for the card directly through the FMCBC (\$25.00 is raised instead of \$1.00);
- Have your club take out a card and use it for club expenses (FMCBC dues, hall rentals, etc)

MBNA will begin marketing this card in February to our membership. **No mailing lists have been or will be released to MBNA!** All materials to do with marketing this program are reviewed and authorized by the FMCBC and mailing is done through the FMCBC. The first piece of information will arrive at your house around mid February. This will include a letter from Pat Harrison, FMCBC President. Please take the time to read the materials and consider the proposal. Remember that every dollar raised helps us continue the work we are doing. For complete details on MBNA, MBNA Master Card, and on the Affinity program, please contact Brian Jones at the FMCBC office at 737-3053 or e-mail brianjones@mountainclubs.bc.ca.

BEST OF ADVENTURE

For 21 years our Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training programme ("Colt") has lead the way in outdoor education. We seek committed outdoor enthusiasts who will keep us at the forefront. Rewards include teaching hard and soft skills to individuals who want to pursue a career as an outdoor leader, varied residence in a vibrant community of outdoor enthusiasts.

We are looking for:

COLT Director

In this roll you will have an opportunity to instruct and to help define short and long term goals for the programme curriculum.

6-8 month full time position

Starting date: March 16, 1998

Salary range: \$2,500.00 - \$4,000.00/month

Mountain Instructor

In this role you would be the lead land based instructor for all mountain and rock trips.

6-8 month full time position

Starting date: March 16, 1998

Salary range: \$2,000.00 - \$2,800.00/month

**Strathcona Park Lodge & Outdoor
Education Centre**

P.O. Box 2160

Campbell River, BC

V9W 5C9

Fax (250)286-6010

Closing date: January 23, 1998

FMCBC BULLETIN

CLUB WEBPAGES

The FMCBC office would like to offer all FMCBC member clubs a webpage. All you have to do is give us the information and keep us updated. We will set up a page for you and keep it updated. Contact Alana Prociuk for more information at alana@mountainclubs.bc.ca or telephone 737-3053.

KEEP THE FMCBC OFFICE UPDATED

The FMCBC office has set-up a project board to help keep in touch with the many projects FMCBC volunteers and committee members are involved in. Please help keep us updated by calling in all new projects, contact people or information. Let's keep us all aware.

THE FEDERATION of MOUNTAIN CLUBS of BC -1998 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Book this day in your calendar. The FMCBC AGM for 1998 will be hosted by Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Island Section. The AGM will take place in Victoria on Saturday, June 20th, 1998. Big thanks to the Alpine Club for taking on the AGM. Stay tuned for more information in the next Cloudburst or check the FMCBC website at <http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca>



IT'S A PARTY!!

**Write this date on your calendar
SEPTEMBER 26th, 1998**

Yup', the FMCBC is having another Annual Gala celebration! Open to all members, students, volunteers, staff, friends, kids, pets and any like minded company that enjoys the mountains. This will be an evening event of snacks, beverages, socializing and entertainment. A Rainbow Auction will highlight the evening, with chances to win many different prizes and services donated by local retailers, guides, companies and individuals.

**With this much notice,
how can you not show up?!**
**Stay tuned for updates
in the next Cloudburst.**