

# BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club

Newsletter

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## SUBMISSIONS

We want you to write for us! Any submitted news, events, trip reports, letters relevant to the BCMC will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise.

For photos, high resolution is much appreciated. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity, or for consistency with club policies. Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the BCMC.

## SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT

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*Cover Image by  
Gord Esplin*

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# THE BIG SPITTING SPLITTING ROARING ORANGE 20 TON THINGY MACHINE

WRITTEN BY DAVID SCANLON

IMAGES BY GORD ESPLIN

## THE FIRST WORK PARTY

This dratted Covid-19 virus has really changed how things are done; resulting in a time of uncertainty. The rules of no big groups, no hugging—do miss the hugging!— and no close socializing make it difficult to get things done. The Watersprite Cabin needed more firewood to be flown in this year. With the outdoor construction industry fully operational, I decided a work party may be a solution. I sent out an email to the Club's cabins and trails group asking for volunteers to cut and stack firewood. In that email I outlined my thoughts and concerns about the coronavirus and social distancing. I also indicated that if required I would supply masks. I wanted to be sure that





anyone coming was aware of what we were going to be doing and how we would be doing it. Once that email was sent there were immediate responses indicating that people were anxious to get outside no matter what the task. All in all there ended up being a great group of people able to come.

Unbeknown to most is that the people who own and run Black Tusk Helicopters also own and run Black Mount Logging Enterprises. The Club has been dealing with them ever since the Watersprite Cabin was built. Black Tusk Helicopters flew up all of the cabins building supplies in previous years along with other materials and custodian flights.

Derek Saindon is one of the owners and managers. He had everything set up for us when we arrived. Hundreds of rounds were cut for us by their guys. The wood splitter was gassed up and ready to go. All we had to do was get at it. As you can

see in some of the pictures some of those rounds were BIG! Talk about your manual labour!

Everyone worked hard and we switched off now and again for the harder jobs. We started just after 9AM, took a lunch break and ended at 3PM. I was out of gas before 3PM and could tell that the guys were getting







tired. Even though I did not think we had cut enough, we called a halt to the day.

The whole idea was to split the rounds and stack them to dry out over the summer before flying them up to the Watersprite Cabin. The pictures give you an idea of where we were working and how we were doing it. Black Mount Logging has a yard right down by Howe Sound. There, we split the wood, loaded it into the front end loader to be driven up to an area and loosely stacked. Once stacked it was covered by tarps to dry out by the infamous Howe Sound Wind.

We had a few small sprinkles or two of rain on that day. It remained overcast; it was not a bad day to be working outside.

## THE SECOND PARTY

The second party ended up having sunny weather, but thankfully not hot and they did about three hours of work. We now have enough wood to fill the cabin basement and once stored it should be enough for the next two years.

The next phase of this operation will be in September when there will be a call out for more volunteers to fill



bags with firewood at the yard. The following day those bags will be driven up the FSR to be flown up to the cabin. Once at the cabin, people will be waiting to store it in the cabin's basement.

## THE PEOPLE

A real mix of ages and backgrounds. Everyone is a hard worker. Nobody complained about the hard work (at least not to me). Was it fun? I'll let them answer that one. Whether it's trail clearing or building something, for me I can look back and visually see what was accomplished. That in itself has always been worth it.



To make a personal point and for the Club: the Clubs Watersprite Cabin gets used by almost 1100 people yearly. By volunteering to cut firewood, stack it, do trail work or volunteer as a custodian, you are a contributor to society as well as the BCMC.

So a great big thank you to all of you from the BCMC who cut and stacked the firewood for those 2 days.

PS. And that Spitting Splitting Roaring Orange 20 ton Thingy Machine. Yep! 20 tons of force and it went through everything we put at it. Best thing about those two days. Everyone came home with all of their fingers and toes!





# DON'T LOSE YOUR WALLET IN THE MOUNTAINS

STORY AND IMAGES BY DEAN CHAMBERLAND

I was driving back through Pemberton on March 21st after a successful ski mo trip up and down Cayoosh with Evgeny, Adam, when realized my wallet was missing... did it fall out of the car when I was changing clothes after a trip and parked in a snowy lot off Duffy Lake Road? Not realizing this, I phoned home as I started the drive back, only to be distressed at hearing my parents having problems with grocery shortages in Langley. Pemberton has a few grocery stores plus a community less given

to panic, so a hunch about them being well-stocked proved right. My current problem, though, is I can't find my wallet!

Three thorough car searches later, I finally accepted it must be sitting at that roadside lot 30 minutes away (see map). I had my bank's e-wallet phone app installed, so bought them their shopping list, however feeling no other choice, decided to drive back to start my search. This was a moment of defeat, knowing I was adding at least an hour and would not be home until after 9 pm (it had already been a long day). Plus, there was no guarantee I'd find it! Maybe someone already found it? Even if they turn it in, as you hope one would, you may not see it for days.





Resigned to this reality, I stopped at the McDonald's to eat before the outing, and took a few minutes to again search the entire car and all my mountaineering gear/bags/...etc...nothing. As I lock the car and turn to walk in, at that very moment, a silver minivan showed up and out pop three people dressed like I was earlier, in back-country ski gear. The van even looked similar to one parked next to me earlier in the day.

I figure why not just ask "Hey, were you guys at the Duffy?"

"Yeah". Hmmm, maybe...just maybe...

"Were you at the Cayoosh parking lot?"

"Yeah". I was now struggling internally to remain calm. Breathe.

"Ok, did you see a . . ."

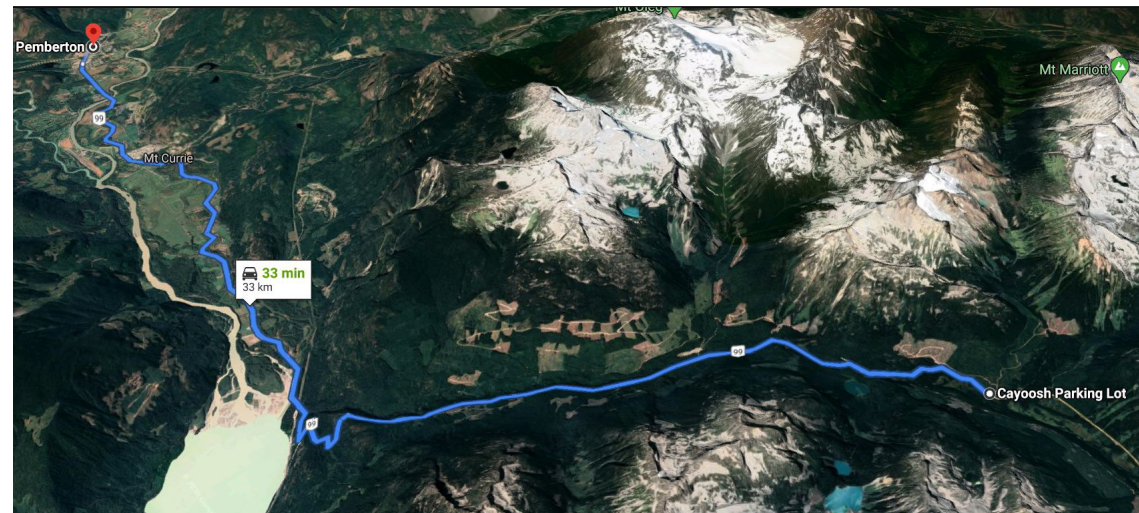
As he reaches down into his van's door "Hey, did you lose a . . ."

Nearly simultaneously: "wallet?"

He held it up the air and I immediately recognized it; the relief I felt is hard to describe. I wanted to shake his

*Distance travelled by  
the lost wallet*

hand, but we're not doing that these days, so I began repeatedly professing my gratitude, while we all marveled at the chances of this happening. Had I been off by





seconds, we would not have met then. He was planning to look me up on facebook, so it would have eventually worked out, but to have that problem solved so quickly was a very happy ending.

I told them I was buying them 'dinner', such as the food there is, but they wouldn't let me. So I instead broke

protocol and forced him to take the cash that was in my wallet, which he accepted as gas money.

Merci beaucoup pour votre aide to the two kind strangers from France and their Canadian friend.

I was hoping for a miracle, and by pure luck, found one. What are the odds?





# CLUB UPDATES

## YOUR BCMC VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

WRITTEN BY DAVID SCANLON

Brian Sheffield scheduled a North Creek cabin work party from July 5 until July 11. The plan was to work on the trail and complete any other tasks needed in and around the cabin. Participants were: Brian Sheffield, David Scanlon, David Egan, Lisa Yeoman, Marc Fawcett-Atkinson, Peter Gumplinger, Oudina Cherfi. The main accomplishments were establishing a new route from the cabin to the alpine leading to Sugus mountain. We cleared the routes up to the alpine leading towards the Boomerang Glacier Valley, which leads to Samson, Sessel and Deliah Peaks, or on and over to the valley north of Sessel. Other main tasks done were the improvement of stream crossings. The crossings of Sugus, North Creek, and the smaller Boomerang Creek are now all improved with substantial hand lines and foot treads. As always stream crossings should be carefully done. We did some painting, repaired the stove, cleaned the cabin, lopping, cleaned the heli landing site up, cut and stored firewood, cleared tent pads

around the cabin, and improved trail markings. Additionally, we cleared the trail from the North Creek East Main FSR end of road into the cabin.

With all of this work done, one can now hike into the North Creek Cabin in 4 plus or minus hours from the trailhead making this a great place for a 4 day mini camp. A one-day drive up and hike in, 2 days hiking, and one-day to hike out and drive home.





## WATERSPRITE LAKE TRAIL UPGRADES

Chris Ludwig and his team of volunteers have done an incredible job at continually improving the Watersprite Lake Trail. Below are snapshots of some their achievements.



*Brand new boardwalk installed today to cover a new annoying mud hole at KM .5 of the trail.*



*We performed major upgrades and additions to the steepest sets of ramped steps in the connector trail at KM 1.2. These new steps use larger re-bar, longer beams of lumber, and are capped by fancy steel traction bars.*



*Another steep section of steps in the connector trail. They are now more numerous, wider in some cases and capped with steel traction plates as well.*



*The new terraced boardwalk had a steep drop at the end we hadn't finished dealing with two weeks ago. Now it has a lovely side step for those with shorter legs.*



# THE HIKERS PRAYER

WRITTEN BY DAVID F. GARNER

ADAPTED FROM THE 23RD PSALM

The LORD is my guide,  
I have all that I need,  
He leads me to rest in green meadows,  
He leads me along trickling streams,  
He strengthens me,  
He guides me down smooth trails,  
Reminding me of His devotion,  
As I hike through valleys shadowed by storms,  
I fear no misfortune, for You are my guide,

Your well-worn staff shows Your experience,  
And I take comfort,  
You prepare a feast for me,  
At the end of a long treacherous day,  
You sooth me with a hot drink,  
Surely Your goodness and care,  
Will always be there,  
And I will follow in Your footsteps,  
Every day of my life.



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