

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2003

VOL. 81, NO. 9

Below the Black Tusk in autumn

EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

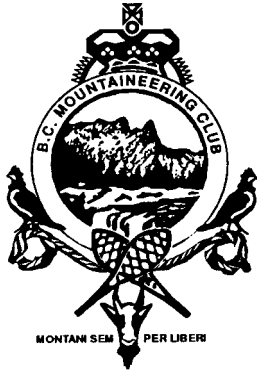
Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Cookies, tea, and coffee are provided.

Tuesday, 18 November - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE TO THE 3RD TUESDAY IN NOVEMBER - The Annual General Meeting. Entertainment will be provided by your executive and by Marcus Dell who will give a slide show on a recent climb of Mt. Logan, via the E. Ridge.

Tuesday, 9 December - Entertainment will be a slide show by Todd Ponzini and Dave Scanlon on this year's summer camps run by the club in the Wedgemount Lake and upper Stein areas.



Summit plateau of Mt. Logan. Photo - Bill Maurer

	HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer		
	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS		
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SECRETARY -	WE NEED SOMEONE		SUMMER CAMP - DAVID SCANLON 604-464-3730
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The **BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER** is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published 10 times per year (every month except July and September).

Submissions - of any written, drawn, or photographic material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club are welcome. If possible, submissions should be sent to the editor by email or on a diskette. Deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month preceding the publication month.

Send submissions to Michael Feller (email - feller@interchg.ubc.ca, ph. 604-270-4050).

Editorial policy - All submitted written material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise. 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 B.C. Mountaineering Club.

SCHEDULED TRIPS

Participation on club trips is open to any person with adequate skills and experience, subject to the approval of the trip organizer. All non-member participants must sign a disclosure and waiver form relieving the club and all other participants on the trip from any liability. A trip organizer is not a certified guide. The function of the organizer is to organize the trip, ensure that it gets underway, know the access to the area, and know a route or routes on the climb.

It is expected that each person on a club trip has the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment. The organizer may specify certain equipment mandatory for participation in a trip. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment, may be requested to withdraw from the trip. The club has a satellite phone available for hire. This may be obtained by contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 prior to the Thursday before the weekend the equipment is wanted. Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking the equipment used. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer by Thursday evening for weekend trips, and by Friday for Sunday trips.

If you are given a ride, please remember to pay the driver your portion of the car costs. If you decide not to go on a trip for which you have previously registered, please be courteous and inform the trip organizer.

ORGANIZER

November 1: Brandywine Mtn. (ski) Early season skiing in the Cheakamus valley before the snowmobilers take over.	C2-3/2229 m	Darlene Anderson	1-604-905-5380
November 1: Elsay Lake Loop Extended hiking in Vancouver's North Shore mountains, using the Indian Arm trail.	C-D2	Peter Gumpfinger	604-738-8264
November 8-9: Frenchman Coulee (rock) Rock climbing in a dry area.	A5	Margaret Hanson	604-341-5961
November 15: Mt. Fromme and Goat Mtn. Hiking near Grouse Mtn. in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.	B2/1319 m	Todd Ponzini	604-215-2665
November 18: Mt. McGuire Hiking in the Chilliwack valley area.	A2/2032 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
November 30: Diamond Head area (ski) Early season easy skiing in Garibaldi park.	B2	Pam Krannitz	604-946-9942
December 6: Zoa Pk. (ski) Easy skiing in the Coquihalla area.	A2/1250 m	Greg Hamilton	604-984-6800

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees for 2003/2004 are now

due - Membership fees for 2003/2004 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE. You should fill out the yellow renewal form accompanying the October (last month's) newsletter, indicate if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, read and sign the waiver on the reverse side, then send the form with the appropriate dues to the club.

Membership dues are -

Single	\$45	Junior	\$20
Couple	\$68	Life	\$800

New Members

The club welcomes the following new Associate members: Edward Bron, Janis Drozdiak, James Gray, Alex Hudson, Michael Solkshinitz, and Bill Tubbs.

BCMC NEWS

Articles wanted for the 2004 B.C. Moun-

taineer - We will be producing the club's biennial journal next year. Articles about extended, more unusual, different, exotic, etc., trips are wanted, together with photos. Deadline for submissions is 31 January, 2004. Please submit your articles and photos (slides, prints, or high resolution digital images) to the editor.

Apologies - The last (October) BCMC newsletter contained an article on a rock climbing closure at Lower Malemute. It should have stated that this article was taken from Access News, published by the Climbers Access Society of B.C.

Newsletter by email - This coming year we will begin electronic distribution of the newsletter for those who want it. If you indicate on your membership renewal form that you would prefer to receive the news-

letter by email, you will be emailed a notification, when the newsletter is ready, that you can obtain an electronic version from a web address associated with the club website. This version will be in pdf format.

The electronic version will be available approximately a week earlier than you would receive it by normal mail, and will contain some colour photos.

Mount McKinley (Denali) - 2004 - A member of our club, Ravil Chamgoulov is organizing a trip to Mount McKinley in May 2004. Ravil has climbed 150 + mountains, mostly in Europe and Asia, including five 7000-m peaks. A training climb for participants will be Mount Rainier in December 2003. If you are interested in climbing Denali, and have relevant experience, please contact Ravil at 604-294-0761.

TRY SKIING IN A NON-MOTORIZED OR NON-SNOWMOBILE AREA

The Sea-to-Sky Winter Backcountry Recreation Forum has designated 3 types of zones in the Squamish Forest District which are to become free of snowmobiles. This is more likely to happen if we actively ski in these areas, thereby staking a claim. Full details, including maps, are available on the Forum's website (Backcountryforum.org). Why not organize a trip to them?

The 3 types of zones are - Non-motorized (NM), Non-motorized with Restricted Motorized Access (RMA) (i.e. helicopter access), and Non-motorized with Motorized Tenure (MT) (i.e. heliskiing or snowcat skiing, but no snowmobiles).

The areas are -

1. Upper Meager - Manatee - Lillooet Glacier - Bridge Glacier area (RMA + MT + partly motorized - time share)
2. North Creek - Pebble Creek area (NM with one snowmobile corridor).
3. Sockeye - Phelix Creek valleys (NM)
4. Joffre Creek - Duffey Lake Corridor - Lillooet Lake area (MN)
5. Mt. Currie area (RMA)

6. Garibaldi Park (NM + MT)
7. Clendinning and Upper Lillooet Parks (NM)
8. Overseer Mtn and South Creek (RMA)
9. Miller Creek - Wasp Creek area (NM + MT)
10. Exodus Peak - Blanca Lakes area (partly NM, partly motorized - time share)
11. Sims Valley (RMA)
12. Ashlu-Elaho/Squamish divide (NM)
13. Tzoonie - Jimmy Jimmy - Tantalus Park (NM + RMA)
14. 21 Mile Creek, Sproatt, upper Madeley, Rainbow Mtn. (NM + MT)
15. Upper Callaghan valley (NM)
16. Mt. Brew, Roe Creek, Cypress Pk area (NM)
17. Cloudburst Mtn, including Branch 100 (NM)
18. Sky Pilot - Ben Lomond area (NM)
19. Skookumchuk Ck - Mamquam Mtn. (NM)
20. Pinecone Lake area (NM)

NEWS

The Lions trail from Lion's Bay - a festering sore caused by the Lion's Bay community.

Paul Binkert of the B.C.M.C. was a formidable trail builder for decades. He lead club parties on trips to construct a trail to the Lions from the logging road

above Lions Bay, beginning in 1960. The trail was eventually constructed then maintained by club work parties in the subsequent decades. The club adopted the trail as part of the FMCBC's adopt-a-trail program a number of years ago. Use of the trail escalated greatly with time to the point where it became one of the most popular trails in SW B.C. The community of Lions Bay began to appear and develop. This community has in the last 15 years or so, produced lead-

ers who have displayed an intense hatred of those who hike the Lions trails, and obstacle after obstacle has been placed in the way of those wishing to hike the trail. This has culminated with a recent ban on all car parking in the vicinity of the trailhead, an extended fire closure of the area, and reports of intimidation by one individual of those wishing to hike the trail.

The Federation of Mountain Clubs has been attempting to maintain access to and along the trail for many years. Alex Wallace, the current Trails Committee Chairman writes -

“Gabriel Mazoret and Louise Irwin of Trails both recalled that:

...1988-89 Taiga Works provided a grant to FMCBC to build a hikers parking lot at, or beyond, the trailhead gate, but Lions Bay turned it down on the basis of “increased traffic” concerns.

...1991 ? MEC provided a grant to FMCBC to build a hikers parking lot at, or beyond, the trailhead (gate) but Lions Bay turned it down because of “increased traffic” concerns.

...in the late 1980's Lions Bay threatened (?) to shut down hiking in “their” watersheds on the basis of health concerns, but the health inspector (who lives in Lions Bay- according to Louise) showed that the source was not in the area that was used by hikers: therefore there was another source- which presumably would be dogs or wildlife. A Car-In protest was also proposed at this time.

...in 1992 Anders Ourom was working on the Lions Bay parking problem, and was consulting the engineers working on the “New Highway” project and it was determined that the Brunswick Beach gravel pit ‘parking lot’ was too dangerous. [Gabriel points out that it is dangerous because it was a gravel pit and has unstable slopes: if cash was available to deal with this by engineering it could possibly be used, but Lions Bay has also expressed interest in parking their Winnebagos in it].

...in 1998 Pat Harrison was negotiating with Brenda Broughton to resolve the parking issue, primarily based on using the school parking. Pat’s article in

Cloudburst Nov '98 notes that Harvey and Magnesia creeks supply Lions Bay. FMCBC’s suggestions were to “ go to village council for review in November”.

Oct 2003 Update;

Oct 3 - Rick Crosby Article published in Pique.

Oct 4 - Pat Harrison met with Mayor Douglas Miller (DM) to open negotiations on parking and hiker access on behalf of Trails Committee/FMCBC/Sea to Sky RF... DM states that Rick Crosby’s article was inaccurate: that Squamish Forest District requested that Lions Bay Village Council keep the fire ban / closure on for a further two weeks (after it was lifted elsewhere) , until it released them, and they voted to open the trails. [This is difficult to reconcile with the direct reports I had daily from Rick Crosby, that he had talked to DM at that time, that council would vote at 10 am, etc, : oddly, there was no mention of MOF directive as rationale.] The question was asked...”Why Lions Bay only? “. However as Pat says, that is beside the point at this stage.

Douglas Miller points out that Lions Bay has a completely new council, and that they are flexible and have negotiated an agreement with the divers, whereas the previous council (Mayor Broughton) shut the divers out. DM complains of much verbal abuse via his telephone.

Oct 4 - MSRM person advises Pat H that only Victoria and Vancouver have the ability to keep people out of their watersheds.

Oct 5 - Report that the vague signage at the trailhead, allowing some people to angle park, has been replaced in the last week by new signs making it clear that No Parking is allowed. People park in all sorts of places around Lions Bay in order to hike. On the 4th and 5th of October, usual numbers are seen on the trails due to fine weather, despite parking restrictions.

Oct 6 - Trails Committee. It is noted that BC taxpayers have spent large/enormous sums of money on creek stabilisation/debris flow engineering in order to protect Lions Bay residents, and therefore it is unfair that they try and shut out a few of these taxpayers who want to go hiking for a day. It also was noted that, as with Vancouver Airport, it’s unlikely that the Courts will

back legal action against a long established activity, even if entails traffic (60 cars ?) and car doors slamming at 7am. The above health inspector scenario was also cited.

It was suggested that a test case be mounted, as Paul Binkert did in order to establish the right to park at Horseshoe Bay (Eagleridge, WV) to start the Baden-Powell trail eastbound (he parked, hiked, was ticketed, and fought the ticket...successfully stating that there was no actual safety hazard. So now we all can park and hike there .)"

Club member, Paul Kubik, has also been actively trying to resolve the situation and maintain access to the trail. He writes -

"I think it important that the club is made aware that certain actions by villagers are illegal. For example, the so-called closure of the trailhead by the villagers occurred well before the backcountry ban went into effect and for a couple of weeks after it was rescinded. Actions by villagers, particularly by the individual at the trailhead in the "Darth Vader" car borders on criminality because there may have been intimidation. The article [in the October BCMC Newsletter] failed to mention any of this, which leaves members with an air of uncertainty about whether they should hike the trail. I think that the villagers will be delighted if they realize how successful their tactics have been. This is, I believe, precisely what they were seeking. The actions of the villagers are an opportunistic attempt to close the watershed.

The solution to the problem should be on several fronts.

1) The BCMC should move to adopt the Lions trail and possibly other trails in the Lions Bay area under the new rules that have been recently established by the government. I have talked to Paul Kuster at the Squamish Forest District about getting the necessary documents and have been waiting since August to receive them.

2) The Federation should push to have a trailhead parking area at Brunswick Pit with access and egress both north and southbound as part of the Sea to Sky highway upgrade. Paul Kuster has expressed willingness to approve relocation of the trailhead to this area.

3) We should upgrade the Tunnel Point trail leading to Hat Mountain because it offers an easy connection to the Lions and Brunswick trails. That way, there are alternatives if hikers feel intimidated by the actions of Lions Bay villagers or there are construction related access difficulties.

4) As part of the adoption program, we should consider implementing trail maintenance fees for all hikers using the Lions trail and others we maintain. The political purpose of doing so would be to establish an economic opportunity for the club. Blockades by villagers will deprive the club of fees and therefore the club will be in a better legal position to sue the Village, should they wish to do so."

TRIP REPORTS

Elk and Thurston Mountains, 25 May, 2003

Flatlanders from Western Australia (Alan and daughter Anna) and other desperadoes (desperate for a walk regardless of the view).

Commercial fast-food outlet parking lots provide a good meeting place early on a Sunday morning. The Vancouverites met our fearless leaders (Lisa and Peter) at Wendy's on the corner of Boundary and Grandview. Being keen newcomers, Anna and I ar-

rived first. The names of the next two fellow walkers were intimidating - Tibor and Zoran suggested a cultural heritage of hiking, mountaineering and toughness. In fact Zoran, who travelled with us to the start point, confirmed this view by alluding to his hiking CV during our drive to the next rendezvous - Russia, the Alps, the Rockies, the Dolomites. We had been up the back of Stawamus Chief two days previously but decided not to mention it. It was interesting to hear of his travels and struggles from war-torn Yugoslavia to Vancouver. Climbing and hiking were obviously an

important part of his life, rather than an occasional (necessarily, due to the isolation and topography of Perth) diversion for us. He spoke with the zeal I recognised in Australians when talking about favourite surfing locations.

We met the out-of-towners on the side of the road in dairy country. We were surrounded by lush cow pastures on an overcast, drizzly day - invigorating and refreshingly typical of BC. After making use of the amenities (the nearby tree and nearby ditch), the convoy moved on to the starting point, which unfortunately had been used as a rubbish tip from time to time. The wet and heavily overcast conditions and a dim prospect of sunshine later suggested that a slow pace might bring the reward of late views. This suited us, since we were afraid of holding the group up. We all changed into our gear, some putting more on and some (the more experienced) taking extras off. Anna had no boots and only tennis shoes and it was decided that she should wear socks, plastic bags, socks and shoes since snow was expected upstairs. She only had one tennis racket so left it behind - snow-shoe humour.

The start was steep and everyone soon heated up and stripped to the bare essentials. Although visibility was limited, the downward view through the trees was beautiful from our up-sloping ridge, and the quiet of the woods was very peaceful. Grouse, in the mood for love, could occasionally be heard through the trees. Fortunately, rain was minimal. At the first "viewpoint", Lisa described the scene beyond the mist including the mountains to the North and the Chilliwack River and surrounding district to the south - the only southern view (in clear skies) from the trail. Lisa's toffees were welcome and we pressed onwards and upward. Too early for any but a few very early flowers (Indian paintbrush and wild strawberries). Steep drops away to the south of the trail put us to imagining furious downhill skiing. Snow was rare, being present only on the upper reaches of the trail, just around the edge of the treeline. Anna's plastic bags held up well.

At the summit we stopped by the large cairn and decided to have lunch and admire the clouds. Very rapid drops in temperature had everyone diving for all their warm gear. Anna thanked Alan for insisting on her

bringing her heavy top - hard to imagine that it would be so cold at the top from the start point at 900 m. Peter and Lisa once again described the magnificent views of Mt Baker and other peaks to be seen across the border (on a clear day). I was disappointed at not getting a closer look at Baker whose peak I had enjoyed from the distance of downtown Vancouver on the steps of St Paul's Hospital when I was working there.

Since we had apparently crossed a peak earlier, a debate arose regarding which peak we were actually on. Maps and altimeters were consulted. Hard to tell from the map and although the altimeter reading was closer to Elk than to Thurston, it had not been calibrated so could be interpreted either way. Lunch was much enjoyed and a vote was taken - go on or return. With little hope of views improving, the majority decision was to return. Three went on. The return trip was a pleasant stroll down through the open meadows and the quiet trees. We came upon a grouse (a big one apparently) standing stock-still among the underbrush and almost dissolving from view, even under the gaze of the onlookers, but given away immediately with movement. It was enjoyable to chat with our old friends Peter and Lisa and some new friends from the BCMC and ACC. Back at the start point, we were soon joined by the extra 3 trekkers who had initially decided to go on. They soon turned back to follow us since the trail had petered out in the snow soon after the cairn. This renewed speculation that we had reached the peak of Mt Thurston after all, having walked beyond Elk Mtn.

Candidates for apres-hike refreshments included the local legendary pies at a local airfield. However, coffee and cake at Tim Horton's won the day. We followed Zif in his green early model Mini Cooper S to the nearest outlet. Having got up to a mountain top (still not sure which one) and back in the fog without losing the trail, we managed to get temporarily separated in the suburbs. We pressed on hoping to catch up with the others. Fortunately the road eventually ran out or we may still be on our way to Mexico. We doubled back and eventually enjoyed a strange-tasting coffee concoction at TH's

Although the views on the walk were limited (to 200

metres) it was agreed by all that as an early season hike, the climb was a good workout for the muscles and tendons and cobwebs. We had met a number of interesting fellow-climbers and learnt a few more things about putting a good hiking kit together (including being prepared for very cold weather and wearing boots!). Also learnt that it is very difficult to tell exactly where you are in limited visibility, even with very experienced mountaineers! An altimeter is useless if not calibrated. We look forward to another chance to see those views. As we drove back to Vancouver the skies gradually cleared, although it was doubtful if it was going to clear completely. Perhaps it would have been a good day to go late, but like most walkers I like to start early.

Although I was in Vancouver for only a week, and although Zif lived out of town, we ran into Zif by chance the very next day in the Mountain Equipment Co-op on Broadway. We greeted each other like old friends. We were new friends at least, having shared a pleasant hike the previous day.

Back in the flatlands of Western Australia, enjoying the blustery winter rains and preparing for a scorching summer, I miss the overcast and misty quiet of the woods in the steep mountain trails around Vancouver in beautiful BC. I look forward to another chance to get a closer look at Mount Baker.

Participants: Elizabeth and John Stewart, Tibor Galler, Michael Fuhrmann, Arnie Wilson, Monica Durigon, Andre Dobos, Ziff House, Pascal Roussel, Zoran Vasic, Dee Costa, Alan (reporter) and Anna James, and Peter Paré and Lisa Baile (organizers).

Mt. Rexford and Nesakwatch Spires, 28 June - 1 July, 2003

Four days up Rexford Way – sounded like a good plan. We had the July 1st holiday on Tuesday this year so I thought of going to the Mt. Rexford area and playing for 4 days on the Nesakwatch Spires – Mt. Rexford and even to Mt. Rexford's south peak.

A good turnout – 12 people were to go along with me, with Monika Bittel, coming in on Sunday. Monika was only going to come in "if" the weather forecast was

favourable.

I'd never checked the road for this trip and wouldn't this time, except the prior weekend was rainy and Donna and I just went for a drive. We visited some friends then went down the Neskwatch Creek F.S.R. – a gate (!) requiring a further 2 km hike. Egads! The Rexford trail is unrelentingly steep and I, being the opportunistic type. (I won't use the "L" work - Lazy) tried to find out who had the key. A few phone calls later the key man was found. His name was Miles Foreman and he graciously lent me a key to the gate. I passed it on to Rhys Gibb who had a Rexford trip 2 weeks later and he returned the key. Hey - 2 km is 2km. I'm not getting any younger, you know.

I must say that in the last 3 years I've talked with 3 different private contractors about access to F.S.R.'s. They have all been most co-operative. For 2002 summer camp up the Truax F.S.R. they waited to put in the water bars until after the camp. And putting in logs so we could cross Truax Creek! In 2002 Dave Lasser of Terminal Forest Products gave the B.C.M.C. a key to the Furry Creek F.S.R. so we can now drive in 10.5 km and once again access our Mountain Lake hut. Circa 1970. And also Sandy Dent construction, presently building a BC Hydro mini power plant on Furry Creek, have always let us through, although sometimes we have had to wait (blasting) (heavy equipment) but getting us in. Thanks. Oops. Guess I'm wandering a bit.

Up we went. The 900 m grunt to camp. 4 of us going up Mt. Rexford Saturday while the rest of us passed out – "er" rested, that is.

On Sunday we all went up the North Nesakwatch Spire's north ridge. A fun class 3-4-5 climb, then down to camp. Remember Monika? Only coming in if the forecast was good? It was then 2 pm, and no Monika, and the forecast was poor, anyways, so we packed up and left. On the way down it sprinkled a bit. At the cars, we saw Monika. She thought she'd come up anyway. Oh well. It's always good to see her. We packed up and left. A few minutes later the rain came. We did the mandatory pub crawl in Sardis, then drove home in the rain.

All the best to Deb Harris, Chris Peck, Donna Bailie, Monika Bittel, Brian Cashin, Marian Jans, Carol MacMillan, Gary Russell, Anja Pakendorf, Yuko Iwanapa, Trudy Rey, Peter Woodsworth, and David Scanlon (Organizer and reporter).

Black Tusk, 26 July, 2003

Of the baker's dozen that expressed interest, nine showed up at the usual gathering place, beside St. David's church, at 6:45 am. We carpooled to the Rubble Creek parking lot, paid the lately levied three dollar vehicle parking, and started up around 8:30. A forest canopy to switch back through was quite welcome on this cloudless Saturday (Sun was hot, the surface temperature a million degrees). We went up via Taylor Meadows, walked past the wild blossoms under the blazing sun, munched up the large leftover snowfield below the saddle, donned our helmets at the bottom of the chimney, followed a trail of fresh blood drops (not ours), and got to the summit by 1 pm. More than half the group had never been on this trail; they vowed to return. We all continuously ogled the surroundings; Mts. Garibaldi, Price and Table kept staring back at us. It was a near-perfect day, an occasional biting black fly the only, er, fly in the ointment.

We went to Garibaldi Lake on the way back, to sit by and wade in the cool waters. Got back to the cars around 5:30. Executed a mega calorie intake at Wendy's - before dispersing around 7.

Happy Hikers: Dale, (not a typo) Dale, Doug, Michael, Murray, Paul, Shahram & Simin (the newlyweds), and JP Shason (Organizer and reporter).

Cardtable Mtn. 2-4 August, 2003

This trip started out like many other BCMC trips - by meeting at the St David's parking lot in North Van at 6pm on a Friday. Little did I know, as I sat in the back of Rick's sister's Jeep what was going to transpire. My first clue that this wasn't a typical trip was the conversation between Rick and Hugh. There was a distinct lack of curiosity about what mountain each has climbed in the recent past, or what each does for a living. We drove for a good 4 hours, including the dusty Hurley River road, to the next meeting point,

right next to the river just outside of Goldbridge. Here two other cronies of Rick awaited us - Neil and Tony. The last participant - Bernie - arrived on his own well after the festivities were underway. Yes, there was consumption of some alcohol, flashing oncoming cars with our headlights as they went over the nearby narrow wooden bridge, and general story telling and reminiscing of the same trip held the year before. By this time it was close to midnight.

Morning found a smallish black bear wading through the river, close to our campsite as witnessed by one early riser. However, by the time the entire group headed for breakfast at the Goldbridge Hotel, it was 10 am. After this "rough" breakfast, we completed the remainder of the drive past the Tyax resort, and onto a heavily water barred, deactivated Forest Service road. The trail head was at the edge of a forest clearing. Actually, we didn't find the real trailhead, used for horseback riding, until the end of the trip, so we bushwacked up a steep forest until we reached the ridge from where Cardtable Mtn. was visible.

Here we were at the mercy of both the sun's intense rays, and numerous rather sluggish horseflies. After a total of 5 hours of hiking, we reached our campsite for the next two nights, high on Cardtable mountain meadows, protected by some volcanic outcroppings. Some competition ensued to get the best, i.e. flattest, tent site on the savannah-like grass and rocks, at least between 2 of us.

After a nice afternoon nap in the sun, our trip leader, Rick, proceeded to prepare one of his gourmet dinners - steak. He even brought his own BBQ coals and a small grill. The next day he had stir fry, with leftovers of an entire jar of mayonnaise, canned corned beef, and an estimated half kg of weight gain.

Saturday night again proved to be most excellent for spotting falling stars and was perfect for viewing the milky way. Sunday was spent hiking up to the actual summit of Cardtable, which took all of 40 min. From this vantage point we spotted another campsite on the other side of the mountain, with 6 campers milling about. Since the pitch of the slope on this side of the mountain was quite steep, Rick and some of the others just couldn't resist playing another rather juve-

nile game of rolling rocks down. This resulted in some protestation from the as yet unknown campers. After we completed the hike along the entire length of Cardtable, it was still relatively early in the day. Five of us decided to hike over to a monument like outcropping in the distance. As we descended Cardtable, guess who we met hiking up? the 6 campers from below of course. There was no altercation, just some general chit chat.

On we went, and lunched half way on some tasty smoked salmon provided generously by Hugh's company and it was roughly around this time that Rick enquired whether I was a club member. As we scrambled up the very loose and rather steep scree near the base of the monument, two of us decided we had had enough, and only Rick, Tony and Bernie proceeded to try to climb the rather vertical rock. They were unsuccessful without equipment.

By the time we hiked back to camp, it was close to 5pm. Monday we hiked out leisurely, and Bernie and Hugh decided to leave for home without the usual post trip dinner. This left me alone in the jeep with Rick, no radio reception, no CD player, a tape deck and only some children's movie soundtracks plus a 5 hour drive, which he lengthened by about 50 min, by taking a wrong turn on the dirt road leading to Goldbridge.

Fortunately, we also possessed one of a pair of baby monitors, and after a while figured out that we could annoy the other two in Tony's car with the soundtrack from the 3 little pigs. We stopped for a quick dinner in Whistler at Uli's Flip Side. By the time we reached Vancouver, both Rick and I acquired a taste for Walt Disney's classic songs, and Neil was actually begging us to transmit The Bear Necessities.

Participants: Tony Taccone, Neil White, Hugh Inglis, Bernie, Rick Raynsford (Organizer) and Marta Fechete (Reporter).

Ruth Mountain & Icy Peak, 23-24 August, 2003

After a tense week of compulsive weather report checking, we arrived at the Glacier ranger station un-

der sunny blue skies. This was a great relief given that rain had been forecast all week. After picking up our backcountry camping permit and parking passes, we convened again at the Hannegan Pass trailhead (900 m) and were on the trail by 11:40.

You have to hand it to Washington state trails. We hiked in comfort along an extremely well maintained trail (with one notable exception) almost all the way to the Ruth glacier. An alder & brush free zone ran for almost 2 m on either side of the trail and we had superb views of Nooksack Ridge, Ruth Mountain, waterfalls and wildflowers almost every step of the way. The trail follows the Ruth Creek valley all the way to Hannegan Pass, gaining elevation gradually, mostly after the first 3 km with only 2 or 3 switchbacks. There is no shortage of campsites near the Pass, some with spectacular 360 degree views.

At Hannegan Pass, just past the side trail to Hannegan Peak, we turned towards Ruth and negotiated the only truly awful section of trail which went straight up a narrow, dust filled gully before breaking into the alpine at about 1700 m. We were rewarded for our efforts by the resumption of the trail which skirted a minor peak and took us along a spectacular heather filled ridge before gently depositing us at the base of the Ruth glacier.

We continued along the talus for a while before roping up for the final glaciated stretch leading to the summit. The snow was soft so we did not put crampons on, only roped up in three teams. After ascending the glacier and a very brief rocky scramble, at 5 p.m. we stood atop Ruth Mountain (2166 m). Although not particularly high or technically challenging, Ruth is a satisfying objective for the spectacular views it offers of the hanging glaciers on Mount Shuksan and Jagged Ridge, as well as of the Border Peaks, Larrabee, Tomyhoi, Slesse, Challenger and many other peaks.

From Ruth, we also had our first look at the weekend's main objective, Icy Peak to the south. It was interesting to see that Icy's Spillway Glacier, which normally cascades 1km down from the summit as a jumble of seracs, had completely sloughed off (it does this periodically), leaving only steep rock slabs in it's trench.



Julia at Hannegan Pass. Photo - J. Borchardt Collection.

It was getting cold so we didn't linger long on the summit before heading down. We found a beautiful camping spot on a 2000 m knoll only half an hour below the summit with just enough room for our 8 tents and enough snow and trickles of water to make up a good water supply. After setting up, we ate dinner to the sounds of avalanches tumbling into the Nooksack Cirque and a beautiful sunset, before turning in around 9:30.

The night was windy and cold but dry and we awoke at 6 to clear skies and the promise of a perfect day. By 7:30 we were on our way, with some dissention as to the best way to get from point a to point b. Half of us headed down what was later referred to as "hell gully" while the other half held out hope for a better way and were rewarded for their faith when they found some cairns on the other side of the gully, leading around and down to the Ruth-Icy col.

We all met up again near the col and made for what looked like the best place to rope up and access Icy's west-side glacier. Wearing crampons for the hard morning snow, we wound our way between crevasses to a point southwest of Icy's northwest rock horn, the highest peak. A Class 3 scramble up the southwest gully led to the summit. The route was not very difficult

but was exposed with some slabby and loose bits. We ended up putting a rope up but most of us made it up solo.

We were all atop Icy Peak (2152 m) by about noon. The view was spectacular. To the west was Shuksan and Jagged Ridge looking close enough to touch. Seahpo Peak was immediately to the south with Mt. Blum in the distance to the southeast. Mt. Challenger with its enormous glacier was to the east, Mineral Mtn. to the northeast, Ruth Mtn., Nooksack Ridge and Copper Mtn. to the north and Goat, Larrabee, Tomyhoi and Slesse to the northwest. We signed the register and after savoring the scenery and our accomplishment, headed back down.

Some of us chose to be belayed down, the rest soloed down and we all met back at the glacier. We went further down the glacier on the way back as it was easier than scrambling on the rocks. We decided to give 'hell gully' a pass and take the ridge way back up to camp.

We returned to camp before 3 and after a brief rest we packed up and struck out for home. We bypassed the peak of Ruth by crossing a shoulder to the West. Some of us chose to rope up for the Ruth Glacier again,

others opted for just crampons. By 5 we made it back to the beautiful heather filled ridge on the north side of Ruth where we stopped for a short rest and a group picture. The rest of the way down was uneventful and a tired, but happy group was back at the cars at 7:30.

Participants: Darlene Anderson, Julian Douglas, Jenny Faulkner, Ziff House, Marco Iucolino, Greg Iuzzolino, Marian Jans, Andre Jarzabek, John Sapac, Norbert Eckert (Organizer) and Julia Borchardt (Reporter).



Fall camp near McGillivray Pass.