

# BC. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2005**

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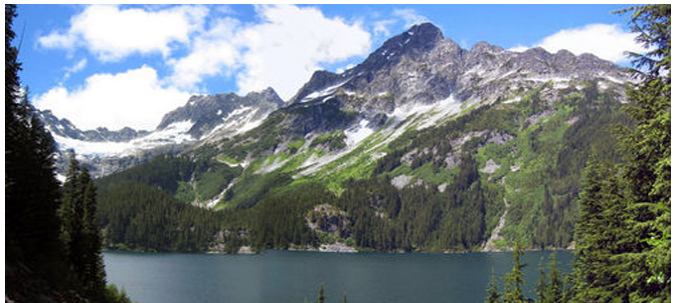
## **EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS**

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, 9 August** - The Club barbeque will be held beginning 5 pm at Jericho beach near the foot of Trimble St.

**Tuesday, 3 September** - Entertainment will be a slide show by Stuart Coleman on a recent climbing and skiing expedition to 4 volcanoes in Kamchatka, eastern Siberia

Omega, as seen from near Pelops during last month's Lake Lovelywater summer camp. Photo - V. Morkunas.



Alpha above Lake Lovelywater during last month's summer camp. Photo - V. Morkunas.



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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). All material within this newsletter is copyright © British Columbia Mountaineering Club.

**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. Please note that images should be at least 60 pixels/cm (150 pixels/inch) for successful printing. Images with a lesser resolution will probably not be printed. Deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month preceding the publication month.

Send submissions to Michael Feller (email - [feller@interchg.ubc.ca](mailto: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. The club has avalanche transceivers and snow shovels available for hire. These may be obtained by contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 at least 2 days prior to the day they are wanted. 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 also contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 at least 2 days prior to the day it 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

<b>August 6:</b> Blanshard Needle Hiking and rock climbing in the lower Fraser valley.	C3-4/1550 m	Emanuele Porra	604-533-7723
<b>August 7:</b> Brandywine meadows Easy hiking in the Cheakamus valley area	B2	Kathy Nemis	604-254-1170
<b>August 13-21:</b> Squamish to Coquitlam Extended hiking through the mountains of Pinecone-Burke park.	B2	Mike Peel	604-444-4068
<b>August 19-24:</b> Alpine Lakes wilderness Hiking and scrambling near Leavenworth in central Washington.	C3	Julia Borchardt	604-204-0726
<b>August 20:</b> Cheam and Lady Pks. Hiking and easy scrambling on the Fraser-Chilliwack divide.	B2/2178 m	Peter Oostlander	604-451-4585
<b>August 20-21:</b> Tulameen Mtn. Hiking and scrambling south of the Coquihalla area.	C3/2285 m	Jos van der Burg	604-463-7582
<b>August 20-21:</b> Viennese Pk. Rock climbing in the Chehalis area, ascending via the South Face. Limited to 4 people. A challenging and committing climb.	C5/2074 m	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
<b>August 27:</b> Mt. Lindeman Extended scrambling west of Chilliwack Lake in the Chilliwack valley.	D3/2310 m	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
<b>August 27-28:</b> Organizer's choice Hiking somewhere in the Pemberton area. Contact the organizer for further details.	B2	Pat Crean	604-986-5622
<b>August 27-28:</b> Mountain Lake cabin area Easy scrambling above Howe Sound.	B-C2	Maurice Lamothe	604-984-8766
<b>August 31-Sep. 1:</b> Mt. Rohr Hiking and easy scrambling off the Duffey Lake road. Kid and dog friendly.	B2/2423 m	Julia Borchardt	604-204-0726
<b>September 3-5:</b> Upper Stein valley Hiking in via Texas Ck. off the Duffey Lake road.	B2	Ziff House	1-604-856-8570
<b>September 10:</b> Markhor-Needle Pk. Rock climbing in the Coquihalla area.	B3-4/2092 m	Marcus Dell	604-274-9511
<b>September 10:</b> Big Bosom Buttes Extended scrambling in northern Washington.	D3/1988 m	Alastair Ferries	604-263-5835
<b>September 10:</b> Mt. Baker area Hiking in northern Washington.	B2	Marilyn Cram	1-604-823-6071
<b>September 10-11:</b> Rainbow Mtn. Hiking and easy scrambling near Whistler.	B2/2314 m	Carol MacMillan	604-879-2947
<b>September 17:</b> Squamish Chief Hiking up the backside of the Chief.	A2	Akinori Nagai	604-986-2756
<b>September 17-18:</b> Mt. Hatfield and MacLeod Pk. Scrambling between Hope and Manning Park.	B-C3/2227 m	Jos van der Burg	604-463-7582
<b>September 17-18:</b> Mt. Weart Mountaineering in Garibaldi park, ascending via the North Face - another challenging and committing climb. Party limited to 4.	C5/2835 m	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
<b>September 24-25:</b> Organizer's choice Scrambling somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.	B3	Ilze Rupners	604-222-3720
<b>September 25:</b> Mt. Moriarty Hiking on Vancouver Island.	B2/1603 m	Ralph Hutchinson	1-250-756-1916
<b>October 1:</b> Little Ring Pk. Extended scrambling in the upper Squamish valley.	C3/2260 m	Alastair Ferries	604-263-5835
<b>October 1-2:</b> Squeah Mtn. Karl's annual fall outing to the rocky ridges, this time NE of Hope.	B2-3/1798 m	Karl Ricker	1-604-938-1107

<b>October 2:</b> West Lion Classic scramble above Howe Sound.	C2-3/1654 m	Phil Kubik	604-266-5873
<b>October 8-10:</b> Cathedral park Fall hiking east of Manning Park.	B2	Ellen Woodd	1-250-494-0527
<b>October 8-10:</b> Mt. Weart and Wedge Mtn. Mountaineering in Garibaldi park.	C3/2904 m	Stanislav Liarsky	604-983-4476
<b>October 9:</b> Brunswick Mtn. Hiking and scrambling above Howe Sound.	B-C2/1788 m	Neil Beattie	604-669-7847

## WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMBING

The club is again organizing rock climbing evenings at Squamish every Wednesday through

August. Contact Nancy Baxter at 604-734-5474 for further information.

## MEMBERSHIP

**New Members** - The club welcomes the following new Associate Members: Dominique

Barabe, Vida Morkunas, and Harry Oppermann.

### In memoriam - Hugh Batzer 1922-2004

Hugh was born in England in 1922. He attended Cambridge University where he graduated as a Civil Engineer in 1944. Directly after university he entered the army and was stationed in Italy. He was first in the military engineers and then in intelligence where he rose to the ranks of Captain. At war's end he was transferred to Klagenfurt, Austria, where he found his lifelong passion of mountaineering and winter sports. After the army he worked as a civil engineer in the UK and also in Aden, Yemen.

He immigrated to Canada in 1954 and came directly to the West Coast. In Vancouver he worked in consulting engineering on the design of pulp and paper mills with a stint in Japan.

Hugh was a member of the BCMC from the early 60's. He was the designer of the arch type mountain shelters built by the BCMC. The first such hut located in the Chilliwack area carried his name. Unfortunately it was swept away by an avalanche some years later.

He retired to Whistler in 1982 and lived there until he passed away in December 2004.

Werner Himmelsbach

## CENTENNIAL TRIVIA

The naming of mountains (and other features such as glaciers, creeks, lakes, etc) visited for the first time was regarded as a duty by early local climbers. Many of the peaks in the coast mountains bear the names of club members:

Atwell Peak, Bishop, Cayley, Dalton Dome, Fyles, Munday, Neal, Trorey, Chapman, Fowler, Mills, and Binkert, as well as others.

David Scanlon

## THANKS TO VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS

The club wishes to thank the following people who have volunteered to help out on the club's instruction courses:

**Summer courses** - Paul Miller, Kit Griffin, Jack Pals, Rhonda Oshaneck, Anders Ourom, David Karkut and Dawn Purdy-Karkut, Kim Talbot and

Paul "Taf" Talbot, Arnie Wilson, Jeff Rabinovitch, Paul Morton, Liam Grimes, Nancy Baxter, Nic Ranicar, Phil Ibis, Scott Tebbutt, Derrick Johnstone, and Paul Morton.

**Winter course** - Todd Ponzini and Derrick Johnstone.

## BCMC NEWS

### Write up a trail and help the BCMC

Trailpeak.com, a popular website for local trail news and other information, will donate \$25 to our Centennial Fund for every trail submitted to the site by BCMC members. It's easy. Simply go to [www.trailpeak.com](http://www.trailpeak.com), sign up for a free account, click 'add a trail' and submit your info. The top contributors will receive a free map/compass/GPS course and the best submissions will be awarded with digital topo maps of Southwestern BC from [www.maptown.com](http://www.maptown.com). TrailPeak is also offering a 15% discount to all BCMC members on their map/compass/GPS courses and will donate a further 15% of course proceeds back to the Centennial Fund. This is a great way to support the club, so please check out the site and see what you can contribute today, and throughout the year. Please indicate in your submission that you are a BCMC member so we can be sure to get credit for member submissions.

Julia Borchardt

### Another business offering discounts to BCMC members

The Hangout (climbing gym in Richmond formerly known as The Rock House) is offering the following to BCMC members:

Climb at The HANGOUT Indoor Climbing Centre and save 10% off the price of a daypass or any membership. As an added bonus you can receive a 2 for 1 daypass the first time you come in just by asking for it! You can check out the massive renovations, amazing bouldering and great atmosphere in the "best priced and coolest gym in the lower mainland".

#520 - 3771 Jacombs Rd., Richmond, or [hangoutclimbing.com](http://hangoutclimbing.com) or 604-276-0012.

### Race up Mt. Payne

Some members of the North Shore Hikers are challenging any members of any hiking club in BC to a race up Mt. Payne on 13 August, 2005. Mt. Payne is 2450 m and the race would start from any point of ones choosing along the Silverhope/Skagit Creek Rd. (600 m.) at 7 am. There is no trail up the mountain, and no obvious best route. The race thus, is not just a test of physical endurance, but of ability to look at a mountain (and maps), and figure out the fastest route up. To make it fair and fun, all those who are interested are asked not to do any recces before the race. However, simply looking at the mountain, as well as maps, photos and any information you can find, is fair. The whole point of the race is to have fun climbing a rarely climbed mountain. Participants are encouraged to car camp and socialize at a (to be selected)camping place, near the base on Friday evening.

THIS IS NOT IN ANY WAY A CLUB SPONSORED OR SANCTIONED RACE. Mt. Payne is a rugged mountain with sub-peaks, gullies, loose rock and steep sections. Anyone participating will be required to carry a minimum of a 10 kg backpack that contains at least 4 litres of water, a helmet, extra food and rain protection. They will also be required to sign a waiver acknowledging that they understand that this is not a club sanctioned event, and that they understand all the risks involved.

Anyone interested please contact - Alastair Ferries 604-263-5835 or [natlakee@hotmail.com](mailto:natlakee@hotmail.com)

## NEWS

### Temporary Baden Powell trail detour in Seymour watershed

The GVRD is doing some pipe installation work that will in part follow the Baden Powell Trail alignment in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve this summer. This will involve a detour around approximately 300 m of the trail, directly east of Lillooet Road. There will also be some tree clearing along the pipe alignment, though the trail will be restored upon completion. This area is north of Capilano College on the North Shore.

Signage posted at the site will allow people who come upon the construction to detour safely.

### Parking Meters in Parks a Fiasco

A recent press release from Western Canada Wilderness Committee and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society states that -

#### **“BC Government Documents Show Park Visits Reduced by More Than One Million, Revenue Targets Missed by 80%”.**

Freedom of Information (FOI) documents from a request made by the Wilderness Committee (WCWC) and additional FOI documents that were given to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - BC chapter (CPAWS) reveal that a BC government decision in 2003 to put parking meters in provincial parks to raise revenue has backfired dramatically.

- FOI documents show that in 2003, when parking meters were introduced into 14 popular parks in the Lower Mainland, visits fell by 20% in the first year, resulting in over 1,000,000 fewer visitors.
- FOI documents also reveal that public compli-

ance with parking meters averaged less than 25%.

- The BC government’s Recreation Stewardship Panel in 2002 originally projected revenues from parking meters to be between \$4 and \$6 million annually, but the FOI documents show that total revenue was less than \$800,000 - thereby missing revenue targets by 80%.

- FOI documents show that 15,000 parking violation warnings and tickets were issued, but \$0 in revenue was collected because park operators did not have the legal authority to ticket.

- An internal audit conducted by the government in February 2004 warned that the risks around parking violation tickets were “high” because the “costs of administering the parking tickets may be excessive and the ministry may lack the resources to enforce the new parking fees”.

“At the end of the day, the decision to put parking meters into parks was poorly thought out, poorly planned and poorly implemented. British Columbians should not have to pay to go for a walk in the park,” said Eva Riccius, Ecosystem Specialist for CPAWS.

In 2003, the BC government introduced parking meters in 14 parks in the Lower Mainland and 13 on Vancouver Island. In 2004, the meters were expanded to 14 additional parks in the Okanagan. “The money raised from the meters was supposed to be put back into the parks, for picnic tables and hiking trails, but with the revenue shortfall where does that leave our parks today?” said Gwen Barlee, WCWC policy director. “We’re calling today on the BC government to rectify the mistake that was made and immediately remove the parking meters from our provincial parks.”

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Lodges in provincial parks and the ACC

I am writing regarding the April '05 edition of the BCMC newsletter containing an article entitled *B. C. Government Plan to Build Lodges in Provincial Parks Exposed*. The article included what some would regard as disparaging comments about

the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) and our mountain huts, and I feel I must respond.

For the record, the ACC owns or operates a total of 30 backcountry huts of which 16 are in national parks in the west and six are in BC provincial parks. We average well over 30,000 occupancy bednights per year at our huts, and three of them

are so popular they require a lottery system for bookings. Our oldest hut was built over 90 years ago and we are about to reconstruct the Fay Hut this summer (the hut was lost to fire in Yoho National Park in 2003). One of our huts (Abbot Pass) is designated as a National Historic Site. All of our huts are well maintained and we pride ourselves in continually striving for the highest level of environmental stewardship at each facility e.g. all of our modern huts utilize fly-out barrel systems for managing human waste and there are special arrangements in place at the huts for managing gray water.

BC Parks has been impressed enough with our hut management and environmental stewardship track record that within the past few years they have asked us to take on management responsibility for four of their huts plus some adjacent campsites in the Kokanee, Bugaboo, and Elk Lakes Parks. Our sixth provincial park-situated hut, the Tantalus Hut near Squamish, is owned by the ACC (Vancouver Section). It is no exaggeration to say the Tantalus Hut is in at least as good a condition today as when it was built in

1964 and is already almost fully booked for every 2005 summer weekend.

In summary, we in the ACC are very proud of our mountain huts and we believe they provide a valuable service to mountaineers, backcountry skiers, rock climbers, and hikers. We are also very proud of the excellent and long standing working relationships we have with both BC Parks and the National Parks of Canada.

Bruce Keith, Executive Director, Alpine Club of Canada

**Editor's comment:** This letter has completely missed the point and illustrates the problem perfectly. The issue raised in my April, 2005, newsletter article was not the quality of the ACC's hut stewardship, which is not in dispute, but rather whether or not commercial lodges are appropriate in B.C. parks and specifically concerning the ACC, whether or not such a lodge is appropriate in Mt. Robson park and the lack of consultation by the national group of the ACC with their B.C. members over the proposed Robson park lodge.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Scrambles in Southwest British Columbia by Matt Gunn

This recently published guide purports to fill a niche between 103 Hikes and the Culbert and Fairley guides. It covers the same general area as Fairley's guide but not as comprehensively as routes, generally only one route per peak, to only about 130 peaks are described. Routes vary from hikes to class 4 climbs – a wide range to be considered "scrambles".

The book makes excellent use of black and white photos with usually more than one photo illustrating each route. One minor concern is that most of the photos appear pale and grey and white rather than black and white, although this might be deliberate so that routes marked on the photos are easy to see. Easy to read maps provide overviews of different areas and road and foot access to these areas. Routes are generally described in detail, with road access (2WD vs 4WD) described in similar detail, although much resetting of odometers is called for. As road

access is subject to frequent change the book recommends using bivouac.com or the free website of the book's publisher – [www.cairnpublishing.com](http://www.cairnpublishing.com) – to obtain up to date information. The introductory section also contains an excellent list of information sources – printed, website, and telephone numbers, including Ministry of Forests websites and phone numbers, as well as relevant logging company phone numbers - the best sources of current road information.

Each route is rated for difficulty using a 4 class system (easy, moderate, difficult, and very difficult). It is also given a subjective rating for quality (one, two, or three stars), similar to that given in Dick Culbert's last guide. Because this can only be subjective, its use can be debatable – I would personally give 3 stars to some of the one star routes, based on the aesthetics of the surrounding scenery – Gott Pk. and Vantage Pk, for example.

Grid references and GPS use are described in detail and GPS waypoints are given for most

major road junctions and trailheads. Unfortunately it was deemed necessary to devote an entire page to a disclaimer warning readers that essentially nothing in the book may be accurate so whatever they do it is entirely at their own risk and nothing in the book should necessarily be believed. The information in the book does seem to be generally accurate, however. Ascent times are generally those of fitter and more competent parties.

If you want to progress beyond just hiking and are looking for some ideas for ascents, or if you have become jaded through years of mountaineering and wish to be given some new stimulation, this book is for you. It does indeed fill a niche between 103 Hikes and Fairley's Guide and is a worthwhile addition to these other two guides.

Michael Feller

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Excelsior Mountain, 31 July, 2004**

There are three ways to access the very pleasant Excelsior Ridge walk in the Mt. Baker Wilderness. The easiest begins at an elevation of 1304 m from a parking lot on the Canyon Ck. Road; another is a 6.5 km switchback trail gained from a parking lot 13 km east of Glacier, and the third trail, which gains the ridge through Welcome Pass, begins at a service road east of Glacier. On a recce for a club trip, Fred and I chose the Welcome Pass route which is a sustained, steep climb for under two hours. The transition from shadowy forest to bright meadow is sudden and dramatic. Flowers were at their peak and we spent a leisurely several hours strolling the ridge to the west end and back. Trail elevation varies from 1600 – 1750 m and we actually had trouble identifying the high point.

The trip is a comfortable day's journey from Vancouver. You must purchase a parking ticket (\$5.00) at the Glacier Ranger Station, summer hours 0800 – 1630, to park at the trailhead or you can park on a roadside for free and walk a bit further. As it happens, the weather forecast for the scheduled trip day was grim and we decided to cancel during a Friday evening downpour. However, Saturday dawned bright and sunny in town and I had to keep looking at the black clouds on the mountains to alleviate pangs of regret. Club member Jennifer Nageli, who was already in the area, did go up in the rain.

Party: Fred Douglas and Alice Purdey (reporter)

### **The Nipple, 17 April, 2005**

We met at 7:30 at the Cross Road restaurant in Abbotsford. Despite coming directly from

Abbotsford I was the last one arriving at the parking lot where people were already gathered. I saw snowshoes on the ground and I feared for a moment that the trip wasn't a ski trip. I was soon reassured by Jos that it was indeed a ski trip.

We started driving east towards Hope and then 66 km north up the Fraser Canyon. It wasn't sunny but just a little cloudy. The Fraser Canyon was very scenic and since that was my second time going through it, I really enjoyed every bit of the road. At Boston Bar we crossed the railroad to the East and soon we arrived on a logging road. We were following Jos who knew that way very well since not long before he got lost in an attempt to find the way to the Nipple Peak trailhead. I recommend if you are heading there to read the account of Paul Kubik in the June-July 2004 Newsletter, which gives many more details on how to reach the right place.

We proceeded up the logging road and at 1000 m we encountered snow. We parked the vehicles, got our gear ready and started walking up the logging road. I think it was around 10.45am. Since I was at the back of the group I didn't really have to worry about where to go and I just followed whoever was in front of me. We started skiing up where there were no longer any trees. It looked like a fire had destroyed the forest in that place. You could just see the trunks of the trees sticking out of the thin layer of snow. The visibility wasn't very good but the weather was quite warm. It was cloudy and I couldn't really see Jos at the front of the group. We then started skiing into a real forest. The trees were so close to each other that I wondered about the difficulty of skiing down. The temperature was very high and the snow at that



level was very wet and sticky. I started having problems with snow piling up underneath the skins. Monika stopped to fix her skins with some wax and she gave it to me as well. After the wax treatment it was a little better but my skis still felt very heavy and I was trying to get rid of the snow underneath by shaking the skis and hitting the ground every now and then.

I met the other people after a while. They were having a break to give me time to catch up with them. After this break we proceeded through the forest. The snow was much better at this point. After climbing up through the forest for another hour, we reached an open area that seemed to be the end of the uphill. There wasn't anything around that looked like a peak and anywhere to go higher up, at least from that point. Indeed we were not close to the destination of the trip. We started skiing on the side of this high point where there wasn't too much snow due to the wind. After crossing this exposed area the weather started changing. Clouds came in, it was snowing a little bit and visibility was very poor. Therefore I could not really say where I was going. I was following the tracks and trying not to get lost. We started climbing up again. I could see Jos proceeding and soon he disappeared behind some rocks. I was starting to wonder where the peak was.

The visibility was getting better. Soon after passing the rocks I reached the last point of the uphill. I left my skis there and I reached Jos, Monika and Ramsey at the top of The Nipple. Jos told me that I should have been proud because most likely I was the first Italian woman to have climbed it. I told him that it was too bad I didn't have with me an Italian flag! After few minutes all the other people arrived at the top too. It was 3pm. At the top there was a big antenna and a pile of rocks covered with feathers. Well not real feathers. They were covered by snow but the wind gave it the shape of many beautiful feathers. It was sunny at that point and the visibility wasn't too bad. Considering how awful the weather was just 20 minutes earlier, we were considered lucky to have been able to see that little bit of a view. It was very windy and very cold up there. We just stayed for 20 minutes, had something to eat and drink and then decided to head back. I couldn't see any resemblance to a Nipple but Jos said that from somewhere it looks like a Nipple. Peter added

the information that the name was given by the pioneers that settled in the area looking for gold. Since they didn't have many women around they were putting their imagination at work by looking at the beautiful surrounding mountains!

Going down was very fast in the very first part. The snow was icy but enjoyable anyway. Things got worse for me when we got to the forest. The snow was very heavy and sticky and it was very hard for me to curve between one tree and the next. I was falling down and hugging trees quite a lot and getting exhausted. I decided to take off my skis and put them on my pack. The problem was that I was sinking so badly that going forward was even harder and slower than with the skis on. Luckily, Alastair arrived with his snowshoes and offered to carry my skis. I managed to head down quicker and Stanislav was waiting for me, making sure I wasn't getting lost. It was a long way down. Finally we reached the burned forest where I put my skis back on and decided to ski down. The snow was incredibly wet and heavy. Finally I reached the end of this slope and I met Jos, Monika and Ramsey who were looking up for Peter. He was also having some problems coming down through the trees but he soon appeared and we all reached the cars.

It was a very good trip with great company and I am very happy to have had the chance of exploring an area that I have never skied before. Despite my problems going down in the forest I made Jos promise me that he would still let me go on his future trips!

Participants: Craig McNeill, Ramsay Dyer, Stanislav Liarsky, Alastair Ferries, Peter Oostlander, Monika Bittel, Jos van der Burg (organizer), and Silvia Bakovic (reporter)

### **Evans Peak, 1 May, 2005**

Evans Peak is a bump to the east of Alouette Mountain, rather insignificant in appearance but guarded mainly by steep bluffs and, from the Alouette – Evans col, class 3 forested slopes. We were happy to use our ice axes for anchor when we weren't swinging on branches or gripping exposed roots. But first we had to get there.

A Bivouac article by Jeff Powell gives clear directions to reach Evans Ck and the north gully to the Evans-Alouette col. However, instead of

travelling up the creek bed, we ascended the parallel, open forest ridge to the west, eventually dropping into the creek bed not far below the north gully. Ascent of the gully was actually not bad as the thorny beasties that Jeff and party battled in July were still immature, leafless and pliant. And Fred always travels with garden pruners, so it was even better for me following behind.

We encountered only a few patches of soft snow on the summit where we lunched (again) and enjoyed the view. We also spent some nostalgic moments reminiscing about the search for Mr. Evans and son who had disappeared in the area some forty years ago. We had both been on the search party.

Returning (carefully) to the col, we decided to follow a rather vague trail towards the Alouette ridge to see where it might go. This turned out to be a well-flagged and reasonably worn route right down the south-east slope, exiting onto the Viewpoint trail at a spot about 40 paces south of a small, bright red "1.5" marker on a tree. Home is north, towards the marker. The Viewpoint trail joins the West Canyon trail at junction 0.0 only a few minutes from the parking lot. Round trip was an easy day.

(This was a private trip of the spontaneous kind that happen when the forecast is bad but morning weather looks promising and the hills are calling.)

Participants: Fred Douglas and Alice Purdey (reporter)

### **Mt. Northgraves, 7 May, 2005**

Eight people, 8 bikes, 8 daypacks, ice axes and other gear were all squeezed into 2 vehicles at the park and ride in Abbotsford at 7:30 in the morning. I had told everyone that bikes might be needed to finish the last 8 km on the Cantalon Creek road but there were rumors that the difficulties could be bypassed this year. I couldn't take the chance and decided to take them just in case. We drove up to Hope, turned south onto the Silver Skagit road until just after the 19 km marker and turned right onto the Cantalon Creek road. After removing some big rocks off the road we reached the difficulties from years past. The minor rockslide was passable as other traffic had made the slide more rounded and smooth. The wash out was next. It was about 60cm deep and 1.5m wide. We decided to put everybody to work

and fill it in as much as possible. In the meantime Todd and Andrzej drove their trucks past the truck of a fellow club member, who will remain nameless, parked almost in the middle of the road. By the time they reached us we had it as good as filled in. Todd wasted no time and plowed right in. After some spinning he made it through without too much trouble. Andrzej made it through as well. Now that that was out of the way we had clear sailing for the next 5 to 6 km. That would have been the section we would have needed the bikes for. At one point 2 ski poles were left in the middle of the road but the person they belonged to was nowhere to be seen. They belonged to our nameless club member who had left them in frustration in the middle of the road because he was walking a perfectly driveable road for many a kilometer. Two km from the end of the road we reached the big slide which is not passable with a 4x4. Here we parked, left the bikes, and decided to walk those last few km. At the end of the road at 900m there was no snow left to cover up the logging debris and bush. But I didn't expect it to be bad. We headed into the forest along the creek as soon as possible and traveled in there until the easy end. At the end of the forest the slopes leading up to the southwest ridge on Northgraves start. A lot of snow had already melted away and it was a mixture of rocks and snow at first. It wasn't long before we were on snow all the way.

The slopes were moderately angled but it was a bit of a slog in the soft snow. At around 1pm we reached the south west ridge proper after leaving the trucks at 10:45. We were at 1850m and I had expected the great view you get from there but instead we had lunch in the fog. It tried to clear at times but we broke out of the clouds once we moved higher towards the peak. Suddenly the peak was visible through the mist. We moved on to the false summit and from there after a few steep and exposed snow sections we were on the final few meters to the summit which we reached at 3 pm. It was warm and there was little wind. It was time for some relaxation. But there was not much of a view to enjoy because all the major peaks were obscured. It didn't look like it was going to lift.

After 45 minutes we headed back down, most suited up for the bum slide down the snow

slopes. That was a blast and made the trip down very fast. Then the trip down through the forest saw as back at the cars at 6:15 pm - 7.5 hours for the round trip. Being able to drive the road further saved a fair bit of time, but seeing we had brought the bikes anyway, four of us decided to bike the 10 km downhill back to the Silver Skagit. It would be faster than the trucks which had to negotiate water bars, slides and washouts. Once down at the Silver Skagit we decided to just keep on going and we cycled another 3 to 4 km before the others caught up. Now we were ready for a bite to eat at the Major League in Chilliwack. We met up with the gang which had completed a route up the rotten west ridge of Mt. Hatfield . It completed a great day with a great group of people.

Participants: Alastair Ferries, Andrzej Jarzabek, Gerry Kollmuss, Pascal Roussel, Stanislav Liarsky, Monika Bittel, Todd Ponzini and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter)

### **Tricouni Mountain, 17 July, 2005**

This was another joint BCMC & North Shore Hikers trip, with 17 eager beavers meeting at Park Royal South at 7:30 AM on Sunday. Four 4x4's got us more or less to the Tricouni parking lot, although one expired a kilometer short due to an overheating automatic transmission and another that could not handle the high water-bars. By 10:15 we were all together again and bushwhacking straight up to the east through a lower logged-over area, up a steep slope avalanche-scoured of trees and bushes, finally attaining a high alpine ridge that runs north to Tricouni. This route, although initially strenuous, affords easy alpine strolling with magnificent views all around.

At the north end of this ridge most hikers descended down a short, steep snow-slope while others continued traversing along exposed 3rd-class ledges, so as not to loose any elevation. The snow-slope route is faster and probably safer, although later in the year it is icy and crampons are needed. At this point some of the hikers decided that they had had enough exercise for one day and went down to wait beside Tricouni Meadows' upper lake. The rest continued traversing north to attain the ridge that leads to Tricouni peak.

There's a steep, narrow gully that can be used to get onto this ridge without having to lose further elevation. Most of us went up this and nine summited via the standard route around 3pm. After a short lunch we headed back down to join the others at the upper lake. But two of the slower girls were missing and nowhere in sight. We were worried as the day was getting late. Another party of two, just returning from the summit, claimed that they had seen the girls trying to ascend the gully, had told them that it would not go and had guided them back down it. So we waited and waited, using our binoculars to scan the slopes. Some thought that they might already (magically) be down at the cars, while others thought that they might have gone back along the ridge route but did so out of sight (impossible), and others thought that they may be stuck and would need help. So after an hour or two of waiting we organized a small rescue party. They were gone for only about 15 minutes before the girls appeared, two tiny specks in the distance. What a relief!!

After they had joined us at the lake we descended down to the muddy trail that leads back to the Tricouni parking lot, down the logging road and hence to the Shady Tree pub. If there has to be a moral to this story about steep bushwhacking and mountain scrambling I suppose that it is to come prepared and to be in good physical condition.

Participants: 16 and Gordon Esplin (Organizer and reporter).

### **Mt. Cheam, 20 June, 2005**

(From a report on Bivouac.com)

On Sunday June 20, my girlfriend and I went up to Mt. Cheam for a pleasant afternoon hike. We drove to the usual parking lot, and started walking up the last stretch of road to the meadows. Just as we were leaving the truck, about 5 dirtbikes and 5 ATVs drove through the blockade and headed up the road. OK, I thought, they'd drive up to the final landing for a better view.

When we reached the road end, we found that they'd driven into the meadows and were in the process of tearing up the place. Some were trying to ride up the trail itself, some were doing donuts

in the meadow, and some were doing laps of Spoon Lake. The worst was a group of ATV'ers riding up and down the creekbed, creating huge mudholes and delighting in spinning the wheels and flinging mud, plants and heather ten feet in the air. It was a horrible scene of destruction, and the scene was more like Mad Max than a peaceful alpine meadow.

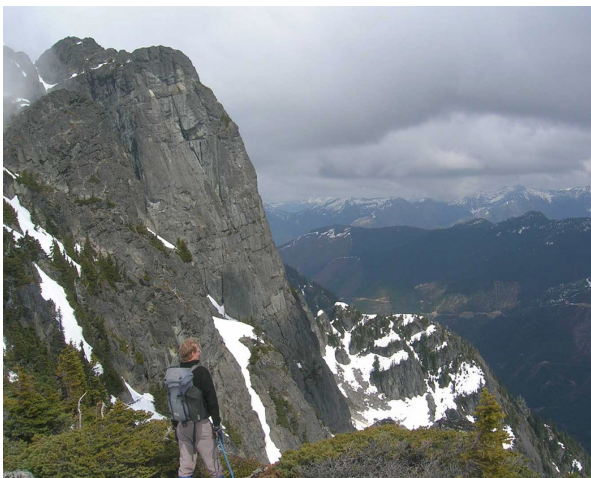
I'm pretty open minded, but this was over the top and made me quite mad. The only thing that stopped me from personally telling each one of them to fu@k off was that they saw which truck was mine and would likely destroy it on their return. After about 20 minutes, they surveyed the scene and seemed satisfied with the destruction caused, so they headed for home. As we were hiking down, we noticed a young couple decked out in dirt bike gear hiking to the summit. They gave a cheery greeting, and I gave them a curt hello. I wondered how high they had ridden their bikes and how much of the countryside they had torn up. But when we reached the truck, their bikes were leaning up against the barrier in the parking lot, just where they should be. I guess not all dirt bikers are thoughtless assholes.....

Todd Ponzini (Reporter)



Above - Tricouni. Photo - G. Esplin.

## SCENES FROM TRIPS ON THE PREVIOUS PAGES



Mt. Northgraves S Face (left) and S Ridge (right). Photos - P. Roussel.