



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



April, 2007. Vol. 85, No. 4

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, 10 April - Entertainment will be a presentation by Johannes Koch on changes in vegetation and glaciers in Garibaldi park in response to climate change.

Tuesday, 8 May - Entertainment will be a slide show on outdoor activities in Utah, by Kevin Swanson.



Wedgemount glacier in 1971 (top - photo M. Feller), 1976 (middle) and 2003 (below). Small photos - K. Ricker.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484
PAST-PRESIDENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
VICE-PRESIDENT -	TODD PONZINI	604-408-9617
SECRETARY -	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
TREASURER -	TODD PONZINI	604-408-9617
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -		
	DERRICK JOHNSTONE	604-505-6250
	PAUL HAWMAN	604-924-1235
SOCIALS -	DONNA SCANLON	604-572-5051
	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
CLIMBING -	JOS VAN DER BURG	604-463-7582
	EMANUELE PORRA	604-533-7723
CABIN/TRAILS -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
	PETER WOODSWORTH	604-254-7076
CONSERVATION -	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
SUMMER CAMP -		
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FMCBC REP -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
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EDITOR -	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050

EQUIPMENT -	PAUL KUBIK	604-876-0764
SAFETY EQUIPMENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
LIBRARY -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8

EMAIL ADDRESS: info@bcmc.ca

INTERNET SITE: www.bcmc.ca

CLUB EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Avalanche transceivers - First day - \$5 per day for members, \$7 for non-members then \$3 per subsequent day .

Snow shovels - \$3 per day.

Avalanche probes - \$3 per day.

VHF radios - \$8 per day, \$40 per week

Satellite phone - \$60 per week or \$10 per day plus \$300 refundable deposit, all payable in advance, then \$2 per minute use.

If the phone is returned damaged, the renter will be responsible for repair costs. If the phone is lost or damaged beyond repair, the renter will be responsible for reimbursing the club the \$2000 cost of the phone. Trip organizers should request a deposit from trip participants to cover this cost.

First priority for equipment rental is club camps and trips.

Equipment is rented from Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462, who should be contacted at least 2 days prior to the day the equipment is wanted, except for the satellite phone, which should be arranged at least 2 weeks prior to the day it is wanted.

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 (ph. 604-270-4050, email - feller@interchg.ubc.ca).

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. 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 more than 1 day prior to the trip.

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
2 courteous and inform the trip organizer.

Trip Schedule

All trips are ski trips unless indicated otherwise

April

- 6-8: Ossa and Pelion Mtns. C3/2312 m**
Todd Ponzini 604-340-9653
Skiing in the North Tantalus Range, out of Ashlu Ck.
- 6-9: Mt. Fee area ski camp B2-3/2162 m**
David Scanlon 604-572-5051
Mini ski camp on the Squamish-Cheakamus Divide. Suitable for beginners.
- 7-8: Elfin Lakes (snowshoe/ski) A2**
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666
A meet and greet training trip for those interested in Atwell 1 week later, as well as anyone else interested in visiting this popular area in Garibaldi park. Participants will demonstrate avalanche and crevasse rescue skills, as well as snow and glacier climbing skills.
- 14: Garibaldi N v  traverse D+3**
Jane Weller 604-988-3618
Only for the very seriously fit and strong skiers.
- 14: Coquihalla canyon area (snowshoe) C2-3**
Stanislav Liarsky 604-983-4476
Snowshoeing in the lower Coquihalla area.
- 14-15: Elusive Pk. C3/2777 m**
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Skiing south of the Duffey Lake road.
- 14-16: Atwell Pk. C-D3(4)/2655 m**
Justin Bennett 604-813-4666
Limited to 6 climbers although others wanting to camp on the Diamond Glacier are welcome. Those wanting to go on this trip should go on the preceding weekend trip to Elfin Lakes. Ski or snowshoe approach, ascending via the N ridge.
- 15: Singing Pass area B2**
Ed Zenger 604-434-3095

BCMC Summer Camps

1. Tantalus area, 21-29 July

A week of excellent climbing based out of the new, posh Haberl Hut. \$490 gets you choppered in and out and covers hut fees. This is a self guided mountaineering camp with routes typically Class 3 and above. This is not hiking terrain. For further information, contact Peter Woodsworth at 604-254-7076.

Skiing in Garibaldi park.

- 21: Tomyhoi Pk B-C3/2266 m**
Emanuele Porra 604-533-7723
Skiing, snowshoeing, or potholing up the N side of this peak in the Chilliwack valley area, just south of the U.S. border. Maximum number of participants is 7.
- 21-22: Mt. Carr B3/2590 m**
Phil Kubik 604-266-5873
Skiing above Garibaldi Lake in Garibaldi park.
- 28: Organizer's choice (rock) A5**
Anders Ourom 604-228-1798
Rock climbing somewhere. Contact the organizer for further details.
- 28-29: Mt. Lindeman B-C3/2312 m**
Larry Kost 604-594-3130
Skiing in the Chilliwack valley area, approaching via Center Ck.
- 28-29: Eldorado Pk. C3/2703 m**
Jane Weller 604-988-3618
Extended skiing in the central Washington Cascades.
- 28-May 6: Vantage (rock) A5**
David Scanlon 604-572-5051
Warm spring rock climbing.
- 29: Tonic Pk. B2**
Karl Ricker 1-604-938-1107
Skiing opposite Whistler on the 21 Mile Ck - Callaghan divide.

May

- 5: Golden Ears (hike) C2-3/1716 m**
Reinhard Fabische 604-462-9638
Extended snowy hiking in the lower Fraser valley.
- 5-6: Silverstar Mtn. C3/2705 m**
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Skiing in northern Washington.

2. Valhallas provincial park. 17-26 August, or perhaps 1 week later.

This camp will be a joint one-week camp with the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, and is part of an initiative to invite members of the BCMC on joint outings. There will be a car shuttle before and after the camp to enable us to camp in two sites for exploring peaks around these sites. A

half-day pack-in with 7-8 days of supplies takes us to Gwillim Lakes campsite for about 4 days of hiking and Class 3 scrambles. Then a full-day pack-in to another site for about 3 more days of exploration before hiking out to the cars. Ice axes required, and rope(s) for occasional (?) use. For more information please contact Brian Wood, 604-222-1541 or bjwood@telus.net

Garibaldi Park Mountaineering Camp, 4 - 12 August (C3)

This will be a hike in, hike out, week long mountaineering trip to Garibaldi Park. The plan is

Membership

New Honorary Member - David Hughes

The club executive, at its March meeting, appointed David Hughes, the current club president, as an honorary member (no – David was not present at the meeting!)

David joined the club in 1970 and has been actively involved in club affairs since that time. He was vice-president in 1975 and 1976, and has served as president for 6 years, the second longest period of any president in the club's history (the longest period has been 7 years). His 6 year tenure was broken up by 3 years as past president, for a total of 11 years on the club executive. He has been an excellent spokesman for the club, representing the club extremely well at this year's Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, for example. He has been actively lobbying on behalf of the club for some time. His executive meetings are very well organized and run, and they accomplish much. His service to the club goes well beyond the executive and lobbying, however. He has organized and led numerous successful trips as

BCMC Summer Climbing and Mountaineering programs

The BC Mountaineering is pleased to offer club-based, mentor organized climbing programs for new and current members. These programs are offered ONCE per year.

Please visit www.bcmc.ca for an application form and fill out one form per program (if you are interested in attending more than one activity).

For all [rock climbing programs](#) - mail your completed and signed forms to:

Monica Durigon

to travel through Singing Pass and the Spearhead Range to Naden Pass, where the primary objectives will be ascents of Mt. Sir Richard, Nivalis Mountain and Outlier Peak. We will climb other peaks in the Spearhead Range on our return if time permits.

Participants must be BCMC members, have a strong level of fitness, and have experience in glacier travel and scrambling to class 3. Please be prepared to discuss your mountaineering experience with the organizer.

For more information or to reserve one of the eleven available spaces, please call Todd Ponzini at 604-408-9617.

well as summer climbing expeditions and is a highly competent mountaineer, both on snow and rock. He has clearly distinguished himself in mountaineering and service to the club.

David comments -

I would like to thank the Club for electing me to Honorary Membership. I had just returned from a ski touring trip with a number of BCMC members, which resulted in my missing the March Executive meeting. I had no idea that this award was being discussed in my absence. I was completely surprised when Todd Ponzini announced the award at the March Social, and the granting of Honorary Member status is greatly appreciated.

The BCMC has been an important part of my life since joining in 1970. I have enjoyed all aspects of the Club; the training, trips and expeditions, my roles on the Executive and the many friends that I have made. I hope I can continue to help more people experience the Club and appreciate its initiatives and programs to explore, recreate and conserve our wonderful home - B.C.

4127 Cambridge St., Burnaby BC V5C 1G8

For [the mountaineering program](#) - mail your completed and signed forms to:

Todd Ponzini, 3336 W. 2nd Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6R 1J1.

If you are not a current member you may include a completed membership form as well (also available at bcmc.ca). Please include cheques for payment made out to the "BC Mountaineering Club".

For further information contact -

Rock climbing programs - Paul Miller & Kit Griffin at climbingprograms@bcmc.ca

Mountaineering program – Todd Ponzini at 604-408-9617.

Basic Outdoor Top-roping

(maximum 8 participants, cost \$60)

Dates: Eve Tues Apr 17, 1 Day of Apr 21/22

This program is aimed at those who have done some indoor gym climbing, and want to try it outside. This program, or an equivalent, is a prerequisite for Essential Rockclimbing. The program will cover - safety, environmental issues, basic equipment, basic climbing skills and techniques, and the elements of top-roping (tying in, belaying, lowering, etc.). It will be a one-day program (plus one planning evening). The program will not cover setting up top-rope anchors, rappelling, or belaying from above.

To participate, you must have a sit harness, rock shoes, a belay device (no figure 8s), two locking karabiners (Ds or ovals), plus one large pear/Münter-biner, and a helmet. (Some items can be rented from area retailers.) Program mentors or the BCMC will provide other needed equipment.

Essential Rockclimbing

(maximum 8 participants, cost \$130)

Dates: Eve Thurs May 1, Weekend of May 5/6

Essential Rockclimbing consists of an evening lecture/practice, and two weekend days at Squamish. At the end of the program, you should be able to set up and use a simple top-rope, rappel, set basic anchors, belay and follow a lead climber.

You must provide rock shoes, a sit harness, a helmet, four locking (Ds or ovals) karabiners, plus one large pear/Münter-biner, a belay device (no figure 8s), and two slings of 7mm accessory cord (1.5 m and 5 m in length). Program mentors and the BCMC will provide other needed equipment. Prerequisite - Basic Outdoor Top-roping or equivalent. You are required to be able to “tie-in” to a climbing harness and belay. This program (or equivalent) is a prerequisite for the Mountaineering Program. Fees and schedule do not include Basic Outdoor Top-roping.

Lead Climbing

(maximum 6 participants, cost \$220)

Dates: Eve Tues Apr 24, Weekends of Apr 28/29, May 12/13, and Jun 2/3

This is for those who have solid outdoor top-roping skills plus a season’s experience. Participants will be asked to demonstrate a basic top-rope system on the first day. The program will include three weekends and at least one evening.

Participants may be asked to help with other programs, and are expected to climb regularly together on evenings and free weekends. By the end of the program, participants should be comfortable leading 5.7 rock climbs and moderately technical mountain routes. This program covers: placing and using anchors, equipment selection and use, safety and environmental issues, leading, training, and related issues.

Participants must have all basic climbing equipment, and must be prepared to invest in all equipment needed for leading, likely several hundred dollars. Organizer’s equipment is also used. Note that members joining the club, specifically to take Lead and Essential Rock program will be required to register for next year’s club membership at the same time. This is to encourage participants to continue to “give back” to the club, in time and effort, in the future.

Mountaineering

(maximum 9 participants, cost \$280)

Dates: evenings May 31, June 7 + 14, weekend of June 16-17 (Mt. Seymour), extended weekend of June 21-24 (Joffre-Matier area)

Essential Rockclimbing or equivalent is a prerequisite.

This program covers mountain travel and navigation, safety and environmental issues, snow travel, glacier travel, crevasse rescue, self arrest, and ascent of a moderate peak. By the end of the program you should be able safely to undertake most club trips up to the B4 level.

To participate you must -

- be a current member of the BCMC;
- be able to attend all theory and practical sessions comprising the program;
- have solid experience in backcountry hiking and overnight camping;
- have completed the Essential Rock program,

or equivalent, and understand basic rockclimbing techniques and ropework;

- be willing and eager to participate in future club activities, including leading club trips and providing mentorship to less experienced members in the future.

Participants must be able and willing to commit to all theory and practical sessions. Additionally, participants must provide the following:

- All personal backpacking/camping equipment and supplies
- sit harness, belay device and locking karabiner
- ice axe and crampons

BCMC Centennial activities update

BCMC Centennial activities and the 2007 Vancouver (VIMFF)

WOW. The club wants to give a big thanks to all club members who volunteered to man the BCMC booth this year, the club's centennial year. I was overwhelmed by the response. Thank you all. I even had to turn down volunteers. Donna Scanlon, Sara, David Perfitt, Martin Kafer, Bruce Cassels, Kevin Swanson, Silvia Bakovic, Liz Price, Kathy Banks, Svetlana Tkacova, Carol MacMillan, Gerry Kollmuss, Brian Wood, Larry Leonard, Claire Oldham, Peter and Silke Gumplinger, Jane Weller, Alena Dzijkova, Larry Kost and Emanuele Porra. You all received your free tickets for some great shows!!

Jane allowed me, Donna, and Emanuele to use her house (and you too Jane) to prepare the 15 trays of food for the reception, carrying them in and setting them up. Alice Purdey, Fred Douglas, and Peter Stange helped in the making of the DVD. David Hughes introduced the BCMC evening festivities at the VIMFF. Then there is Ross. Many thanks are due to Ross Wyborn, who did an outstanding job in the making of the slide show that was presented at the VIMFF. Thanks also to those who donated their pictures and slides.

The club needs help with the centennial journal. Is anyone able to write an article for the club's centennial journal on the club's use of transportation or gear, over the last 1000 years?? If the club can get the same kind of volunteer help for this project it will be just awesome!!

David Scanlon

- climbing helmet

The club will provide other needed technical equipment (ropes, pickets, etc.) and two prussiks for each participant.

Please note that members who have joined the club specifically to take this program will be required to join for two consecutive years.

This is to encourage new member participants to continue to "give back" to the club, with time and effort in the future. Spaces in the program will be given on a "first come" basis, provided you can provide satisfactory proof of your suitability to participate.

The club's centennial banquet – not to be missed

SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 28

The only trip you should be planning for Sunday, October 28, 2007, should be to the Grouse Nest, for the BCMC Centennial Banquet.

Just to point out, if you miss this one, the next one will be a LONG TIME COMING!

Tickets go on sale beginning on the May Social.

Centennial climb on Mt. Garibaldi

On the Canada weekend (June 30 – July 2), Todd Ponzini will lead a centennial ascent of Mt. Garibaldi in which all climbers will be wearing the costumes of the early 1900's.

Garibaldi was first climbed the year the club was born – 1907 – exactly 100 years ago. A member of the first ascent party was club member J.J. Trorey. Trorey's ice axe resides with club member Brian Wood. This ice axe will be taken to the summit – 100 years after it was first implanted there. See pages 14-15 for details.

Centennial logo to be made available to club members.

The club's centennial committee is working on different ways of making the centennial logo designed by Claire Oldham, available to club members. Iron-on patches for clothing and stick on decals are being investigated. Valid stamps, recognized by Canada Post, are about to be produced.

Books and old newsletters to be auctioned off

Donations from club members have resulted in the club library having an excess of some materials. A complete 40 year set of club newsletters, including the club's special 50th anniversary journal, as well as old mountaineering books, will be auctioned off at the May social meeting, the proceeds going to the club's centennial fund.

North Vancouver Museum special centennial display

This will occur in the fall, after North Vancouver's centennial display has finished (The club is as old as North Vancouver!). The display will focus on several themes, featuring the club's

Do you have a bookcase to donate for the club library?

Recent kind donations to the club library have caused it to grow beyond our existing storage capacity. We need the equivalent of about 4 lineal metres of shelving. If you can donate anything, please contact Michael Feller at 604-270-4050.

exploration, conservation, and mountaineering history. Photographs, Ross Wyborn's excellent slide show, and historical artifacts will be included. If you wish to assist with this contact Hugh Kellas (hugh.kellas@gvrd.bc.ca) who is coordinating this event on behalf of the club.

Do you have old gear hiding in your closet?

The BCMC in association with the North Vancouver Museum & Archives is putting together an historic mountaineering exhibit. The exhibit, which will run from September to December, is looking for historic clothing or equipment to put on display.

MEC North Vancouver will be putting together a current display of hiking clothing & equipment for comparison with a woman's hiking outfit from the 1920's.

Do you have a piece of gear in your closet that's really cool? If you do we'd like to hear from you. Please email Hugh Kellas and let him now what you've got and if you'd be interested in having it on display. Contact hugh.kellas@gvrd.bc.ca

Feature for the April social presentation -

The following article by **Joe Simpson** was first published in The Independent in November 2005. It is reproduced here with permission. Joe Simpson is a well known climber whose classic book "Touching the void" is widely

known.

Your editor first read this article in the highly informative Kootenay Mountaineering Club newsletter.

Melting Mountains - How climate change is destroying the world's most spectacular landscapes.

On 23 July 1983 Ian Whittaker and I were inching our way up the Bonatti Pillar, a legendary alpine climb up 2000 ft of golden granite on the southwest face of Les Drus, high above Chamonix in France.

Walter Bonatti had made the first ascent of this route alone over five days in 1955. It is a legendary mountaineering story; perhaps one of the greatest exploits in the history of Alpinism, to rank alongside the first ascents of the north

faces of the Eiger, the Matterhorn and the Grandes Jorasses.

We all need heroes. Walter Bonatti was the hero of heroes; a man way ahead of his time whose mountaineering prowess was awe-inspiring. I repeated the routes he put up with a sense of reverence. I have followed in the footsteps of so many of my heroes and there were times on their routes when I half expected to see them pass me by dressed in the clothes and the

equipment of their time, climbing steadily with grim, hard, unsmiling expressions. I knew that they would not notice me.

Only Bonatti has survived. The rest are all gone, leaving the faint glow of their brilliance on the routes they pioneered. Yet the icy world in which Bonatti played his high-risk games is changing with frightening rapidity. The mountains are melting, and it is not only mountaineers who will suffer the effects. The long-term outlook for the Alpine nations - and those in which the other great ranges lie - is bleak.

The Dru is an extraordinary pinnacle of rock. It sports an icy north face (one of the six classic Alpine north faces), a 3000 ft west face of smooth vertical walls and overhangs, and the spectacular southwest Bonatti Pillar. Few mountains have such a variety of magnificent lines on them or look so beautiful. The Dru crusted with a winter lace-work of ice and gilded in the golden pink of Alpine glow is one of the most striking sights in the Alps. The Bonatti Pillar itself rises in a series of steep, leaning columns seamed with fissures and bristling with overhangs. It rears up 2000 ft towards the massive capping overhangs just below the summit.

By late afternoon we had reached the Red Walls - 300 ft of blank granite split by a hairline crack that bristled with old, rusting pitons. We were tempted to bivouac on a series of terraces at the top of the Red Walls but confidence got the better of us and we decided to try to get past the huge roofs and reach the summit in a day. As darkness began to close around us we found ourselves in increasingly blank and forbidding territory. The dark shadow of the roofs blackened the early night sky above and tendrils of mist began swirling up from the depths of the icy couloir glinting thousands of feet below. I began to follow the ropes draped down the corner, clutching in the darkness at unseen holds and shouting for Ian to give me a tight rope. After about 40 feet, the vertical corner seemed to pinch out into a smooth wall. Groping to my left, my fingers slipped into a sharp-edged crack and, with help from Ian, I struggled up until I saw the dark shadows of his legs hanging above me. He was sitting on a narrow ledge. I clipped myself to a handrail

rope that Ian had fixed above the ledge. The handrail had been tied to an old ring piton and stretched across to the far end of the edge, where he had tied it to a small flake of protruding granite. Once ensconced inside my bivouac bag I settled myself down on the comforting solidity of the ledge. Seconds later there was a heart stopping downward lurch accompanied by the thunderous sound of tons of granite plunging into the abyss. I heard a cry of alarm and pain above the roar of falling rock. My arms were outside the bivouac bag as I fell and I flailed them blindly trying to grab something. It must have taken only a fraction of a second but it seemed to last forever.

We bounced on the springy stretch of rope. The handrail had held. I swung gently on the rope with my arms pinned to my sides. I had held the fall on my armpits and for a confused moment I desperately tried to remember whether I had clipped myself to the handrail. In the sudden darkness, with the sounds of falling rock echoing up from the depths, I was momentarily disorientated. Ian? I remembered that sudden yelp during the fall. Had he gone with it?

"By 'eck!" I heard Ian's broad Lancastrian voice beside me. I poked my head out from my bag and glanced at Ian. His head lolled on to his shoulder and his torch reflected a sodium yellow light off the surrounding rock walls. There was blood on his neck. We hung side by side on the tightly stretched rope and swore. With the help of our torches we were horrified to find that our ropes had gone. We looked at each other and giggled nervously. Two thousand feet up and no ropes! The handrail shifted suddenly, causing us both to squeak with fright, hearts hammering at the thought of falling again. I turned and shone my torch on the handrail. It looked odd. I twisted round, grabbed the rope. It shifted again and the peg moved. I lowered myself gingerly back on to the rope.

"Oh God", I whispered.

"What?"

"The peg's bugged. Let's put something in."
"It's gone. The hardware, boots, everything. It went with the ledge."

Ian was silent. I looked at the flake where the handrail had been tied off. Tiny pebbles and

dust trickled from its sheared-off base. Both attachment points could go at any moment. If either went, we would fall into the abyss.

"I think we had better stay very, very still."

"Aye," Ian muttered.

We hung there helplessly for 12 hours until at last a helicopter came into view and we were winched to safety.

Two weeks later, while working as a plongeur in the Montenvers Hotel, I saw an even bigger rock fall on Les Drus - a fall that altered the shape of the summit and spewed helicopter-sized blocks down the north face, creating a 1000 ft high dust cloud. So what? After being swept 2,000 feet down the north-east face of Les Courtes in 1981 and then having my bed disappear on the Dru in 1983 I am keenly aware that mountains have always been falling down, usually, it would seem, with me attached to them. It happens. The Cairngorms were once Himalayan in scale. Frost, wind and water have ground them down to their present lowly heights.

However, 20 years later it would seem that perhaps Les Drus are falling down rather faster than they should. In 1997 more than 1,500 cubic metres of rock fell into the valley below, destroying classic alpine routes such as the Thomas Gross and the Destivelle routes as well as some pitches of the Bonatti Pillar.

This was nothing compared with the collapse on 29 June this summer, when the west face of Petit Dru suffered yet another enormous rock fall. A fortnight earlier, two climbers on the Quartz Ledge escape route from the top of the north face had been alarmed to discover that a gaping crack had split open along the length of the ledge. It was the first sign that the Bonatti Pillar in its entirety was soon to disappear, alongside the famous Harlin Route on the west face and large chunks of the American Direct. The collapse occurred above the previous 1997 fall. Fifty years of iconic climbs had disappeared without trace. More surprisingly still, no one was killed. Climbers have been advised to steer clear.

Such warnings are becoming ominously familiar in the Alps nowadays. Two years ago Victor Saunders, one of Britain's leading climbers, and his companion, Craig Higgins,

had reached a point halfway up the Matterhorn's Hörnli ridge when their climb turned into a nightmare. "An enormous avalanche hurtled down the mountain's east face," said Saunders. "I have never seen so much rock falling at one time." An almost continuous rain of boulders ricocheted past them as they cowered under an overhang. Within an hour an even bigger rock avalanche was thundering down the north face, obliterating the classic 1931 Schmidt route that I had climbed in 1980. This was swiftly followed by the thunder and dust cloud of yet another vast rock fall. In one of mountaineering's biggest mass rescues, more than 70 climbers had to be hoisted from the slopes of the Matterhorn. A ban on climbing the mountain was instigated for the first time in history as rock falls battered its broken flanks. It seemed to the survivors that the very Alps had started falling apart.

In the summer of 2003 one of the world's most iconic climbs, the 1938 route on the Eiger's north face, became yet another victim of climate change. Climbers were shocked to find that there was barely any ice left on the route. The huge second ice field, the third ice field and the White Spider had melted away and now consisted of rubble-strewn rock slopes dusted by blackened snow and pocked by forlorn patches of ancient grey ice. The heat wave of last year, reported to have been the hottest Alpine summer in 200 years, seemed to have finished off this venerable climb. It may be that it is only ever climbable during the winter months, when some semblance of névé ice has reformed.

A local guide, Hans Ueli, has reported enormous rock falls. One such fall woke him at five in the morning and, upon looking out of his window, he saw that the lower half of the 6000 ft high face was obscured by an enormous cloud of dust. Climbs the length and breadths of the Alps have suffered similar collapses. On Fiescherwand there was no snow ice at all on the entire four-mile wide north face. The north face of Les Droites near Chamonix, recently only climbable in the winter, now even in the coldest months presents an insurmountable 600 m barrier of smooth, bare rock slabs where once there had been pristine ice fields.

Ironically, only a few days before the Bonatti Pillar disintegrated, a man regarded by some as a half-witted religious bigot announced at the G8 summit in Gleneagles that as far as he was concerned America did not regard global warming as important nor pressing. Leastways that is how I interpreted President George Bush's words.

Scientists now believe global warming is melting the Alps. The ice that for thousands of years had filled the deep cracks at the summit of the Dru has started to melt. The glue holding this rock tower together is leaking away. More seriously, the crust of permafrost that binds the whole mountain range together is beginning to melt. The foundations of buildings, roads, mines, tunnels, cable-car stations and their supporting pylons are entirely dependent on the frozen solidity of this permafrost. As it steadily melts, the whole infrastructure of Alpine tourism is at risk, as well as a great many lives. All the most famous ski resorts in Europe are situated in valleys overlooked by mountains held together by permafrost. The high altitude permafrost zones lie on steep slopes above these settlements, roads, railways and valleys. Massive slope failures and landslides leading to blocked rivers, dammed lakes and catastrophic flooding will be especially pronounced in the Alps, which has such steep topography and high population levels.

Already climatologists have predicted the complete failure of the Scottish ski industry due to lack of snow within 20 years and the Alpine ski industry within 50 years. Many Alpine ski resorts would already be out of business but for the snow machines. Because the best Alpine ski fields and lift systems are above the crucial permafrost altitude of 8202 feet [2500 m], it could spell the end of the ski industry as we know it, let alone the more esoteric world of mountaineering. When you consider that one sixth of Austria's gross domestic product comes from Alpine tourism, the effects of permafrost meltdown could be far more wide-ranging than just screwing up our winter sports holidays.

Climatologists, geologists and civil engineers from all over the world are making disturbingly similar reports. Glaciers in Antarctica are thinning twice as fast as they were a decade

ago and this may destabilize the west Antarctic ice sheet, which, if melted, contains enough ice to raise sea levels by as much as five metres. A gigantic slab, the Larsen B ice shelf, has already fallen off its eastern side. Ablation rates of glaciers are speeding up all over the world. Retreating glaciers in the Peruvian Andes are adding huge amounts of melt water to already overburdened mountain lakes, greatly increasing the risk of dam collapses and alluvion avalanches. There are passes in the Cordillera Real in Bolivia that just 20 years ago were glaciated, yet now are rocky moraine fields. Only two weeks ago it was announced that Kilimanjaro in Tanzania would lose its year-round mantle of snow within 10 years. One-third of Kilimanjaro's ice field has disappeared in the past 12 years. In Iceland ice cores have shown that temperatures are at their highest since the arrival of the Vikings. The past two years have been the hottest since records began in 1822. At this rate of melting, all the ice will be gone in 200 years.

In the Arctic, a region of sea ice the size of France and Germany has melted away in the past 30 years and there are fears that the inflow of fresh water could possibly lead to the shutdown of the Gulf Stream, which bathes Europe in warm water. This would plunge Britain into winters that would be the equivalent of those in northern Canada. It wouldn't save the ski industry, not unless you like skiing in conditions of 40° C below.

Boreholes sunk to monitor ice temperatures in Switzerland, Austria, the Dolomites, the German Alps, the Sierra Nevada and the Abisko mountains in Sweden have all recorded temperature increases of between 0.5 and 1°C during the past 15 years. The ground temperature in the Alps has risen considerably over the past decade. As air temperatures have increased, the effects below ground are being magnified fivefold. A test borehole dug in Murtel in southern Switzerland has revealed that sub-surface soils have warmed by more than 1°C since 1990. Increasing evaporation caused by warmer summers is also triggering thicker falls of winter snow, which insulate the soil and keep it warm. All in all it is not looking good.

Spotting the early signs of the imminent collapse of buildings and valleys may be possible. Mountains collapsing around your ears are a dead giveaway. Noticing that cable stations and other buildings have developed cracks should also be easy. But by then the horse has well and truly bolted. The abrupt disintegration of the Matterhorn, the Dru and

the desertification of the north face of the Eiger may mean that some classic routes can no longer be climbed, but they are also the harbinger of far more gloomy events. Is this global warming? I don't know. It might just be a normal climatic cycle. Somehow, unlike President Bush, I don't think so. It may not be the day after tomorrow but it certainly looks as if it is all because of the day before yesterday.

News

Commercial heliskiing application for the vast Mt. Waddington-Silverthron - Whitemantle area

A company called Knight Inlet Heli Sports recently applied for a commercial heliski tenure covering a vast area around Mt. Waddington, including Waddington itself, as well as the club's Plummer hut, and the Whitemantle and Silverthron glacier areas. There are already commercial heliski tenures to the south and north of the Waddington area and a gentleman's agreement had kept these companies out of the Waddington area. If the Waddington area goes, then all of BC's Coast Mountains will go.

The FMCBC contacted the heliski proponent, John Dawson, only to be told by him that we should not object to his application because his operation would not impact the environment and he would not "impede or change the use of the land for others". The FMCBC would be better off fighting fish farms. If he saw a mountaineering party in the area, he would keep 1 km away from them (not avoid the area entirely which is the agreement other heliski operators have elsewhere in B.C.).

If Mr. Dawson is unable to see that the introduction of commercial heliskiing into an area where it currently doesn't exist, is not changing the use of the land, he clearly represents a major threat to the integrity of wilderness mountaineering and ski touring in the Mt. Waddington region.

Numerous letters of opposition to the heliski proposal have been sent off including ones by the club and the FMCBC. Extracts from the FMCBC letter are printed below. If you wish to send off your own letter, please do so. Check out the application on the website (www2.lwbc.bc.ca/applicationposting/viewpost.jsp?postid=7262)

then send in a letter to Diane Tetarenko, Manager of Adventure Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts (diane.tetarenko@gov.bc.ca), but do it soon.

"The area identified in the application, in particular the Waddington Range, which includes the highest mountain entirely within BC – Mt Waddington, is recognized as an extremely important world-class mountaineering, climbing and ski touring area. It has gained international notoriety due to the abundance and variety of climbing and skiing objectives. Equally as important are the rugged approaches, bad weather, poor and often dangerous climbing conditions, and complete isolation and remoteness, which have all become the hallmarks of the "Waddington" wilderness experience. The Waddington Range was first 'discovered' in the early 1920s by Don and Phyllis Munday. The famous tales of incredible hardships endured by these mountain and wilderness explorers are chronicled in numerous books and articles.

Since the mid-70s, helicopters have provided climbing and skiing groups easier access to the Waddington and surrounding ranges, but for the most part the prevailing activity in these areas is clearly non-motorized – skiing, climbing, hiking etc. Once the helicopter leaves, groups are completely on their own, immersed in a 'big mountain' wilderness setting. Most parties fly in to base-camps, then spend a week or two climbing or skiing to nearby summits and on adjacent slopes. Some parties still access the area on foot or on ski and from time to time, long-distance touring parties pass through the Ranges, on ski or hiking traverses. For instance parties may traverse from Middle Lake in the

Mosley Creek valley south through the Pantheon, Waddington, and Whitemantle Ranges to exit at the coast; or take the Ha-Iltzuk traverse from Bella Coola or Ape Lake across the Monarch Icefields and onward into and across the Silverthrone and Klinaklini glacial systems to exit at Knight Inlet. These traverses can be up to 4 weeks in length and require a tremendous amount of physical exertion and personal commitment. For these parties that last thing they want to encounter is a helicopter buzzing around them constantly servicing heli-ski groups.

As mentioned Mt. Waddington and the surrounding ranges are internationally popular. This being said the amount of use might appear to be relatively low with an estimated 80—100 recreationists every year, many of these groups being small parties (2-3) with the occasional larger group (20-30). However the FMC would argue that the relatively low usage is part of the areas wilderness appeal. The desirable qualities of mountain or backcountry wilderness areas like Mt Waddington are dependent in a large measure on their low population density and low use factor, difficulty of travel, and freedom from pollution of all kinds (physical, chemical, visual, acoustic). The Waddington Range is a remote, rugged region far from civilization and distant from even the most rudimentary roads. As such, access is challenging, somewhat logistically complicated, time-consuming, and expensive. This limits recreation in the area but at the same time motivates committed wilderness enthusiasts to explore the area. Most mountaineering and climbing etc. in the Waddington Ranges occurs in the summer, while the prime ski season is March to May. Some parties do attempt ski trips and climbing ascents in the winter but this is not the norm. Some of this use is documented in publications like the Alpine Journal (published by the Alpine Club of Canada)

The introduction of a heli-ski tenure into this area will have damaging and irreversible impacts on the traditional, non-motorized, self-propelled recreational users of the Waddington Range and surrounding area. You will note by MTSA's own compatibility matrix for commercial recreation that heli-skiing and ski touring activity are not compatible and the same holds true for non-commercial ski touring and similar non-motorized

activity. I expect that MTSA be informed enough that we do not need to go into the reasons why and we expect our colleagues will expand on this issue. The point being that heli-skiing activity will certainly have an impact on the traditional user groups that date back to when the Munday's first explored the area and this is especially the case for the Mt Waddington Range. Therefore we propose the following recommendations and requests in response to the identified tenure application.

General Tenure Area

Generally speaking we feel that the area included in the tenure application is too large especially for the size of operation the proponent is contemplating. Each one of the zones included in the tenure application would satisfy a business plan based on eight skiers per week. From an operational point of view we are puzzled how the operator could even utilize Zone 2 and Zone 4 without using fuel caches or a secondary base as they articulate in their management plan. It is also our experience that the weather in this area will severely limit the company's operations and we expect that the majority of their skiing will be done in terrain adjacent to Knight Inlet and seldom would they have the opportunity to access Zone 2 and Zone 4 if it was granted. So based on responsible use guidelines set out by Helicat Canada we would suggest that these areas would not be utilized and therefore not be considered in this tenure application. If the proponent can demonstrate responsible use and the need for expanded territory that can be evaluated at that time. There is also the issue of assessing and/or allocating some of the proposed land-base for future opportunities such as in the Eastern part of the Whitemantle Range. We would also like to see the specific ski runs the proponent intends to use mapped and included in their management plan.

Zone 2 - Mt Waddington Range

The Mt. Waddington Range is the most heavily used and most important area to protect from the proposed tenure activity. Therefore the FMC propose that MTSA not entertain this zone and exclude it, in its entirety, from the tenure application. Of interest here is the aspect that

this is not the first time a heli-ski operation has submitted an application that included the Mt Waddington area. Grand Pantheon Heli-skiing included this area not so long ago in an application to the Williams Lake office. At that time, after similar concerns were raised from interest groups (including the FMC) the parties met with the proponent and ILMB where they agreed not to include the Waddington Range and Nirvana Pass in their tenure and further protect it from heli-skiing activity into the future. Many thought at that time that the Waddington area was spared from heli-ski activity indefinitely, but here we are again. Apparently this information was not shared or acquired from the proponent or the Nanaimo MTSA office.

Also of interest is that we understand from our conversations with existing heli-ski operators that it is generally agreed that the area around Mt. Waddington is not suitable for heliskiing. Either the terrain is too rugged, too high or too dangerous for commercial heli-skiing, or the terrain is too flat as in the case with the area to the west of the Mt. Waddington massive, which is basically a flat icecap with small peaks.

In addition it is our position that the northwestern boundary of Zone 1 - The Whitemantle Range ought to be adjusted to the height of land between Franklin Glacier and Fissure Creek in the western portion, and the Franklin and Scar Creek to the east (the true northern boundary of the Whitemantle Range). This would put the entirety of the Franklin Glacier drainage within the Waddington Range (Zone 2), which is where it belongs geographically and spatially with relation to use of the Waddington range. This adjustment would include the Franklin Glacier in the area proposed for exclusion from the tenure application (Zone 2).

Zone 1, 3 and 4 - Whitemantle Range, Sim River and Klinaklini-Silverthrone complex

The remaining areas or zones of the tenure application are less problematic for our members and notwithstanding the above we would tolerate heli-ski activity in these areas. Having said that traverses and base camps do occur within these zones and on these occasions we would expect the proponent to respect these users and afford them an appropriate buffer well beyond that

indicated in their management plan. One km is nowhere near sufficient to avoid parties in the terrain we are discussing. Five km would be a minimum buffer and 10km would be preferable. This should be easily accommodated given the expanse of terrain included in the application. The FMC recommends that such avoidance protocols be included in any tenure documents and that they further be tied to performance measures in relation to tenure replacement. We suggest that ski and/or climbing parties be able to notify the proponent when they plan to be in the tenure area so the operations manager and/or guides can sufficiently avoid said parties. We would suggest that these are reasonable requests and in fact they are common practice in areas such as the Sea to Ski LRMP region, the Golden LRMP region, and the Cariboo and Purcell Mountain Ranges where heli-skiing activity occurs.

Tenure Application Process

Finally, we would like to speak to the process that has evolved with respect to this application. You had asked the FMC for information regarding correspondence we had with the proponent Mr. John Dawson. I should first say that we were quite interested to learn in the application that they "have initiated contact with both commercial and recreational users". Indeed we did engage in communication with Mr. Dawson, but this contact was initiated by the FMC only after we found the Investigative Permit information on the LWBC/ILMB website. The only contact we received by Mr. Dawson was in response to our inquiry (see attached) where he arrogantly suggested that our time be better spent worrying about other more important issues than his intentions in the Waddington area. To this we politely replied that while we agree there are other important issues our organization was concerned about his intentions and its impacts on our members. We asked to be kept informed of developments so we could help plan a successful operation while avoiding conflicts with other users in the area. We have never heard from Mr. Dawson since, which leads us to believe that he has no real concern for other user groups in his proposed tenure area.

To our knowledge Mr. Dawson hasn't contacted any other recreation group including the BC

Mountaineering Club, which has a permitted hut in the vicinity of Mt. Waddington. We also understand that he didn't contact the commercial operators adjacent to and in one case overlapping his proposed tenure area. This certainly is not in keeping with MTSA policy. We

would like to receive a list of these proposed contacts identified in the application including names and contact people. Further, we would expect MTSA to circulate referral packages to prominent stakeholder groups in particular the BCMC as they have their hut in the middle of the tenure area.

Trip Reports

Copper Creek, Sept. 2-4, 2006

A group of 9 people met at St. David's church in West Vancouver for a 6 am meet. This early time assured us of a hike start in the morning instead of early afternoon. After re-meets at the Pemberton Petrocan and the Mt. Rohr sandpile shelter, we followed Larry who knew exactly where the mine road turnoff was to access the Seton Ridge trail which would lead us into the headwaters of Copper Creek.

We managed a 10:25 hike start and after a very brief walk along a left hand spur road, found the trail heading up to the left. The trail rises steadily to an initial high point then drops and rises again into subalpine to a second obvious high point which made for a great lunch spot. This was reached at 2:20.

From here the trail continues to go gently up and down on a wide open ridge top with excellent views. As we began to leave the ridge proper, the trail became much less distinct in the grass meadows. But cross country travel was easy and our camp destination was just ahead over a horizon up the hill. The question I was asking myself was – would this tiny body of water on the map actually have water in it? But before I even saw it I caught the glint of its exit stream in the sun. The stream went into the ground below that point so we didn't see it until just below the pond. Actually there were two round ponds, the larger perhaps 70 m in diameter. But what an idyllic

campspot – it was on a completely flat meadow above the treeline at 2225 m. The time was about 5:30 pm so the usual camp activities commenced. On Sunday morning it was up at 6:30 with most people leaving at 8:30. The basic plan was to head north on another ridge system which is all wide open above treeline terrain. There is a series of small peaks along the ridge which one can bag along the way. Before taking the ridge north we all went up a 2680 m peak immediately to the west. This was our trip high point. Most people made it to the 3rd peak on the north/south ridge system but 3 of us went right to the north end, about 7 km from camp. From here one has great views down onto the Seton Lake power house complex. The last of our group was back at camp just before 6 pm.

On the last day we were up at 7 and in no real hurry. We started our hike out at 9:40 and had lunch on the same bump as on the way in. Vehicles were reached at 4:20. Mark and Bernie headed home via the Fraser canyon and the rest of us regrouped at the Wildwood in Pemberton for dinner. There for 1 hour 50 minutes, a new slowness standard may have been set but the food was good. All in all a very pleasant and fairly relaxing hiking destination.

Participants: Ziff House, Larry Marshik, Bob Trydall, John Sapac, Jenny Faulkner, Klaus Tetzlaff, Miyouki ?, and Greg Stoltmann (organizer and reporter).

Centennial Climb of Mt. Garibaldi (30 June - 2 July, 2007) C4

On August 12, 1907, the first ascent of Mt. Garibaldi was completed by A. Dalton, W. Dalton, A. King, T. Pattison, J. Trorey and G. Warren. They had boarded a steamship to Squamish (known as Newport in those days), hiked into the Squamish Valley and followed the Cheekye River towards Garibaldi. They bushwhacked straight

up to Brohm Ridge, and climbed the summit from the north. From their camp, they described the peak as "some terrible monarch of the skies not to be approached by man". Their trip took 8 days in total, and they endured the usual coastal challenges of bush and bad weather. Dalton Dome, Atwell Peak, Mt. Pattison, Mt. Trorey and

the Warren Glacier are all features in modern day Garibaldi Park that were named after these early climbers.

Their ascent was a milestone for mountaineering in British Columbia. Garibaldi, which at the time was thought to be 10,000 feet high, was one of the first significant high summits climbed near Vancouver, and the ascent opened local climbers' eyes to the possibilities of climbing the other big peaks in the Coast Mountains.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of this historic climb, I will be leading an ascent of Garibaldi where we will be using clothing typical of mountaineers in 1907 to recreate the style of the first ascent.

We will hike past Red Heather meadows, the site of the BCMC's first official summer camp in 1910, to Elfin Lakes, the site of the Club's second camp in 1911. We will continue onwards and camp near Opal Cone, and climb the peak via the Warren Glacier route. The trip is graded C4.

Although we will use historical clothing, we will use modern gear such as boots, ropes, tents, stoves, packs, etc. If anyone would like to bring historic gear, such as a wooden ice axe, it would contribute to the historical theme of the trip. I will be carrying the actual axe used by Mr. Trorey on the first ascent of the peak 100 years ago.

The trip will be limited to 20 participants, and participants must be fit, be current BCMC members, and be experienced in glacier travel. Participants must also wear historical clothing for the entire three day trip. No modern clothing is permitted! You will not be allowed past the parking lot if you bring any gore-tex, fleece, nylon, windstopper, etc. Historical clothing consisted of the following items:

- Wool shirts with buttons, collar, front pocket (i.e. a checked lumberjack's shirt)
- Tweed jackets
- Knickers, baggy style with overhangs at the knee
- Suspenders, not belts
- High woollen socks
- Wool over socks (puttees), not gaiters
- Handkerchief for the neck
- Felt hat with a brim
- Canvas wind pants
- Wool gloves & wool toque or balaclava
- Mosquito nets

- Metal rimmed sun glasses

If the weather forecast is poor, we will reschedule for the following weekend (as a 3 day trip).

I have read several old trip reports and would be happy to answer any questions about suitable clothing for the trip. Women used to wear long wool dresses to the mountains, but the more serious female climbers wore wool shirts and knickers much like the men.

Please call me (Todd Ponzini) at 604-408-9617 to reserve a spot on the trip, and start sewing!

Typical climbing clothing from 1907 is pictured below (from the BCMC archives):



Mountaineering quiz - do you know where the following photos were taken?

If so, contact Ed Zenger at Izen@telus.net. Perhaps you might win! (Photos - E. Zenger collection)

A)



B)

