



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



June-July, 2007. Vol. 85, No. 6

In Mt. Revelstoke national park.

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, 5 June - Entertainment will be a show by Todd Ponzini featuring 100 years of photos from the club archives



Well dressed mountaineers at the 1914 BCMC camp in Garibaldi park. Photo - C. Chapman, in BCMC archives.

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
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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
WEBMASTER -	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
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LIBRARY -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

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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

June

- 9: Needle Peak** **B2(3)/2090 m**
Marsha Ablowitz 604-261-8953
Hiking and scrambling in the Coquihalla area.
- 9: Blackcomb Buttress** **C5/2436 m**
Lawrence McIntosh 604-822-3341
Mountaineering and rock climbing near Whistler, accessed using Blackcomb lifts. Joint trip with the ACC.
- 10: Eaton Lake** **B2**
Mary Hearnden 604-731-4048
Hiking in the Chilliwack valley, possibly climbing Mt. Grant.
- 16: North Twin Sister** **C3-4/2013m**
Jim Fraser 604-631-9282
Mountain rock climbing in northern Washington.
- 16-17: Mt. Cayley** **B-C4/2385 m**
Jane Weller 604-988-3618
Mountaineering and rock climbing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide. Ascending via the N. Ridge, possibly using skis for the approach.
- 17: Mt. Fromme** **A2/1177 m**
Esther Kafer 604-733-0462
Hiking on Vancouver's North Shore mountains. A special trip for members who can remember "the good old days".
- 23: Mt. Harvey and Brunswick Mtn. B-C2/1788m**
Daniel Carey 604-311-4048
Hiking and rock scrambling above Howe Sound.
- 27: Cypress Pk.** **B2-3/2083m**
Kevin Swanson 604-943-4364
Hiking and scrambling on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.
- 29-July 2: Semaphore Lakes** **B2-3**
Julia Smith 778-317-5795
Hiking and scrambling above Railroad Pass on the Lilloet-Hurley divide. Family- and dog-friendly.

BCMC Summer Camps

South Chilcotin, 27 July - 6 August

One week of rambling and scrambling in the Southern Chilcotin. Flying in to Lorna Lake then hiking back to Tyaughton Lake. Limit 12 people. For more information please contact Karl Ricker at 1-604-938-1107.

- 30-July 1: Joffre Pk.** **B4/2721m**
Randy Enomoto 604-224-6184
Mountaineering off the Duffey Lake road.
- 30-July 2: Mt. Garibaldi** **C4/2678 m**
Todd Ponzini 604-408-9617
Centennial ascent re-enactment. See April BCMC newsletter for details about this special trip.

July

- 1: Mt. Weart** **C3-4/2822 m**
Stanislav Liarsky 604-983-4476
Extended mountaineering in Garibaldi park.
- 7: Cloudburst Mtn** **B2/1871 m**
Helen Habgood 604-357-3094
Hiking on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide, approaching via High Falls Ck. (4WD).
- 14: Mt. Larrabee** **C3/2396m**
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Rock scrambling near the B.C. - Washington border in the Chilliwack valley area.
- 16: Mt. MacFarlane** **C2/2090m**
Kevin Swanson 604-943-4364
Extended hiking and scrambling in the Chilliwack valley area.
- 28: Howe Sound Crest trail** **C-D2**
Monika Bittel 604-983-3097
Extended hiking above Howe Sound from Cypress Park to Deeks Ck. If weather is dubious, may be rescheduled to Sunday.

August

- 4-6: Mt. Baker area** **B2-3**
Julia Smith 778-317-5795
Hiking and scrambling in northern Washington.
- 9: Brunswick Mtn.** **B2/1788m**
Kevin Swanson 604-943-4364
Hiking and scrambling above Howe Sound.

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 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.

Valhalla Provincial Park, 17-26 August

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 FMCBC on joint outings. There will be a car shuttle before and

Wednesday Evening rock climbing

Weekly top roping in Smoke Bluffs or Murrin Park area (weather permitting), beginning June 6.

While the more experienced climbers will be happy to share their knowledge, this is NOT a climbing course. Every participant must be able to belay and is expected to have some top roping experience.

Check out BCMC 'Last Minute Trips' forum (go to <http://bcmc.ca/bb/> and click on Last Minute Trips) for up-to-date information about the trip. I'll make sure to post a go/no-go message on this forum every Wednesday by 3PM. Note that some evenings may be cancelled even if the weather is

after the camp to enable us to camp in two sites for exploring peaks around these sites. A half-day pack-in on a good trail 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

North Ck. hiking and climbing camp, 25 August - 3 September.

A week of hiking to 5th class climbing based at the club cabin in North Ck. For more information please contact David Scanlon. 604-572-5051.

good.

Meeting: 4:50PM, parking lot at Taylor Way & Hwy 1
Departure: 5PM sharp

All participants must bring their personal climbing gear (harness, belay device, locking biner, climbing shoes) and a headlamp (we may be returning to the parking lot after dark). Also highly recommended is a helmet, prussic for rappelling, water, and snacks. Ropes & anchor material for this event are provided by participants and not by the club. If you have a full strength climbing rope and anchor material, please do bring it.

Andrej Dobos (604-764-0174)

BCMC Centennial activities update

Centennial stamps

Centennial stamps are now available. The stamps arrived early, in fact the day of the May social, so sales have already taken place. We



These stamps will be on sale at the June social.

have 3 sheets left of the Keepsake stamp sheets (21 useable stamps and 1 large commemorative one) at \$26 per sheet and plenty of the 40 stamp sheets at \$33 per sheet.

be on sale at the June

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 cost \$60 each and will be on sale at the June Social. Contact Donna Scanlon at 604-572-5051 if you want some tickets but cannot make the social.

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. A sew-on cloth logo, about 9 cm in diameter, will be available at a cost of \$5 each.

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 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.

BCMC Centennial Heritage Hikes - Bug Light Hikes (up Grouse Mountain on the Cut Ski Run), June 8 and 22.

Come celebrate the 100th year of the BCMC and the City of North Vancouver! Two Friday evenings. Meet at the base of the Screaming Eagle Chair (the Cut Ski Run) for sunset at 9:30 pm. Hike up with bug-lights (old-fashioned candle lanterns) to Theatre in the Sky and view the BCMC Centennial Slide Show. Go for drinks and swap stories afterwards. **Participants must be in good physical condition. Please be equipped with proper hiking footwear, warm clothing, and back-up battery operated headlamp. Grade of trail = easy-moderate. Estimated hiking time = 45 minutes.** Access to Bug Light Hike start point is by means of Grouse Mountain Resorts Sky Ride and Screaming Eagle Chair download (user pay ticket required) or by hiking up the BCMC Trail. The approach hike up the BCMC Trail meets at the start of the Grouse Grind at 7:30 pm. We will arrive at the base of the Screaming Eagle Chair (the Cut) for the sunset Bug Light Hike start time of 9:30 pm. **Participants must be in good physical condition. Please be equipped with proper hiking footwear, warm clothing, back-up battery operated headlamp, and drinking**

water. Grade of BCMC Trail = steep. Estimated hiking time = 1.5 to 2 hours.

All participants will be required to sign waivers.

Note: Skyride download tickets are \$5.00.

For additional information contact:

heritagehikes@bcmc.ca or Dave Perfitt at 604.988.5454

Making a Bug Light

A bug light is a simple candle lantern made from a tin can with a wire handle. Hikers used them in simpler times, before battery operated lights. They were often left hanging on trees for others to use at the start of North Shore trails, such as the BCMC Trail up Grouse Mountain.

A bug light can be made from a large tin can, a candle, and some coat hanger wire. Drill some holes for the wire handle through the sidewall of the can. One hole is drilled at the sidewall-top just below the rim and another hole drilled at the sidewall-bottom, just above the bottom rim. One more hole is then drilled through the can's bottom near the sidewall-bottom hole. From here one needs to pierce a hole in the sidewall for the candle, 180 degrees around the can from the wire handle holes drilled. This pierced hole is best put 2/3 of the way up from can-bottom and pierced from the outside inward. This can be awkward, but using snips, by placing the can on a secured piece of 2x4



lumber and pierce with a hammer and bladed screwdriver. The pierced hole will result in sharp tin tabs. Be careful! These sharp tabs are what hold the candle in place. Now push a wax candle into the pierced hole carefully. Keep pushing until the candle top is near the centre of the can. A tight fit is better. The candle should be secure as to not fall out while burning. Finally attach the wire handle through the drilled holes and crimp the ends with needle nose pliers.

Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. News

1. Annual General Meeting, 22-24 June

This year's AGM will be hosted by the Kootenay Mountaineering Club in the West Kootenays, probably in Castlegar, on Saturday 23 June. Club members are encouraged to participate in this annual event. The annual general meeting provides an opportunity to meet members from other clubs, which can encourage joint mountaineering trips with these other clubs. There will probably be a social get-together on the Friday evening and a hike on Sunday. Billets are usually available for out-of-town participants, and car pooling is usually arranged to assist in transportation. For further information contact Brian Wood at 604-222-1541, or visit www.mountainclubs.bc.ca

2. FMBC – Re-structuring Proposal

At last year's annual general meeting of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMC), it was proposed that the FMC be re-structured to be a more democratic, all inclusive, grass roots organization, which provides member clubs and associates the opportunity to participate in the functioning and decision making processes of the FMC. The restructuring is also intended to improve communication between the clubs and the FMC, which in turn would increase volunteer participation. Below are the main recommendations for restructuring the FMC:

1) Each club elects a director to represent the club. The directors will in turn elect the Executive (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary). Each director will have a specific task, many of whom will serve on a regional Recreation and Conservation committee or Trails Committee, or a RC/Trails Committee depending on the regional setup. Having a director on a regional committee does not exclude others from the same club from participating on the same regional committee.

2) Regional Committees will direct the activities of the FMC. Issues will be brought forward from the directors or members of clubs and the directors will set priorities. Regional committees can be a combined committee involving both Recreation and Conservation (R & C), and Trails activities. In some areas, there be will separate committees for R & C activities and Trail activities.

Directors may belong to either the R & C Committee, or to the Trails Committee, or to both. Committees will be run on a consensus building basis and everyone attending meetings will have an equal opportunity to participate. Each committee will elect a Chair. The Chair does not have to be a Director.

3) The Chair of each of the regional committees will form a Provincial Liaison Committee to coordinate either Provincial Recreation and Conservation activities or Provincial Trails Committee activities. Each Liaison Committee will elect a Chair who will report to the Board periodically (perhaps four times per year) to communicate the activities of the committee (thus a communication role). A budget must be provided to help pay for the telephone conferencing necessary to coordinate the activities of the Provincial Liaison Committees.

4) The Executive Director's activities will be directed by the committees and coordinated through the President of the Federation of Mountain Clubs. The Executive Director will report regularly to the President of the FMC on all activities undertaken by the Executive Director.

5) Member clubs are encouraged at their AGM's to elect members to represent the club at standing committees (Recreation and Conservation, and Trails Committees) and encourage members to participate on the committees.

Brian Wood and Monika Bittel

Children's outdoor equipment for sale

- Kids Hi-Tek Hiking Boots - Altitude IV Junior Waterproof, seam-sealed, full-grain leather, lightly worn. Sizes: 11, 12, and 13 (US) - 29, 30, and 32 (Eur.)

New: \$90 Asking \$45 per pair.

- Kids Mustang Endurance PFD for 30-60 lbs. New \$30. Asking \$10

- 2 Kids sleeping bags, synthetic, rectangular (29" X 60"), rated to +8 C, clean & lightly used. \$10 each

- two Ross Wyborn classics!

Serratus Back Pack 60 L, Red. \$30

Serratus Travel Pack, green, lightly used. \$40

If interested, please contact Brian Gavin at 604-929-0675

News

Logging in Manning Park is “to protect public safety”.

The B.C. Ministry of Environment issued a press release in late February describing the logging program in Manning Park. The press release states -

“To reduce the impacts of the provincial mountain pine beetle infestation, an on-going forest fuel and hazard tree management program is being implemented in Manning Provincial Park. Hazard trees are being removed in public areas of the park for visitor safety, and fuel breaks are being established near park boundaries to reduce the risk of wildfire spreading to areas adjacent to the park, as recommended in the Filmon Report.

To reduce hazard tree risks to park visitors, dead and dying pine trees in the Mule Deer Campground and Coldspring Campground and along Highway 3 from the Beaver Pond to Manning Park Resort on the south side of the highway will be removed starting in mid-February. BC Parks will be investing approximately \$25,000 to implement this portion of the project.

The Bonnevier Fuel Break project, planned to reduce the wildfire risk to the Eastgate community adjacent to the park, will begin in the third week in February. The fuel break will be established by removing dead and dying pine trees and other forest fuels, and reducing the forest density near the park boundary in a 140-hectare interface zone. Reducing the forest density improves wildfire control and reduces the risk of fast-moving crown fires. Government has invested about \$80,000 to date for planning and creating access to the fuel break. The Ministry of Forests and Range and the Upper Similkameen Indian Band are also working to decrease fuel loading and increase the size of the fuel break outside of the park.

The Bonnevier Trail from Highway 3 will be closed during these activities to ensure public safety. The trail can be accessed from an alternate point on the Forest Service road above Eastgate on the east side of Bonnevier Creek.

As part of the infestation management program, hazard trees threatening the BC Hydro line on the north side of Highway 3 will also be removed, starting in early March.”

Editor’s comment - This logging / fuel reduction program requires more scrutiny than it has apparently been getting. It potentially threatens the park’s ecological integrity and may be yet another government attempt to allow businesses, in this case logging companies, to extract money from provincial parks.

Fixed roof accomodation for Cape Scott Park

Cape Scott park is the latest provincial park to have accomodation infrastructures built under the government’s fixed-roof accomodation policy. According to a press release in late February - “Following a request for proposals, Strategic Forest Management Inc. (SFMI) has been selected to design a fixed-roof accommodation facility and provide associated visitor services for Cape Scott Provincial Park. SFMI’s overall concept involves a hut-to-hut operation along the North Coast Trail that utilizes yurts for roofed accomodation and offers a variety of educational, recreational and interpretive services for park visitors. The yurts will be designed and built to have minimal impact on the sensitive ecosystems and wildlife populations in Cape Scott Park.

SFMI is the current Park Facility Operator for Cape Scott, as well the contractor for construction of the North Coast Trail. The locally based company employs about 50 professional and technical staff and plans to expand its tourism and recreation sector business.

The successful proponent is responsible for the completion of agency, stakeholder and public consultations. The ministry is responsible for consultation with First Nations and, where necessary, accomodation of First Nations’ interests.”

Trip Reports

Your editor apologises for not printing many trip reports earlier, but there was limited space for these reports and a very large backlog has built

up. This backlog should be cleared in the next 2 newsletters.

Nanaimo Bars on Mt. Zakwaski (2043 m, more or less), 30 September – 1 October, 2006

Zakwaski? What's in a name? Several years ago our annual autumn invasion wound up on Mt. Lytton, the northwest-most summit in the Cascade Mountains. Rising 10 k's to the east is a significant hump (Mt. Zakwaski) which, at the time, twigged John Sapac's curiosity. Not only having the distinction of being given an unusual name, but also being the northeast-most summit in the Cascades, it also had a similar fascination with Fred Beckey for he queried me about it, drawing a blank, but included it anyway in both editions of his Cascade Alpine Guide. And there is a problem with its assigned elevation. Provincial maps show it to be one metre higher than Mt. Lytton, whereas the federal maps indicate it to be a metre lower. From Mt. Lytton our attempt to resolve the elevation dispute had failed, using Norm's laser survey gun (see BC Mountaineer, Vol. 67: p. 60).

Over the following years John repeatedly asked for a scheduled Zakwaski trip. Finally I gave in and in late August the requisite recce of the logging road approach was carried out. It had been 20 years since forestry had concluded its operations near the peak, and it took a full afternoon to sort out an approach which weaved about several de-activated roads. So, heading up Mowhokam Valley "main", which, curiously, is marked as Ainslie Road where it intersects the TransCanada 11 kilometres north of Boston Bar, one reaches the Mowhokam-Nicoamen "pass" (1260 m) at kilometre 27.4. The road splits here: left to the east slopes of Mt. Lytton and eventually to the Nicoamen Native Reserve in the Thompson Valley, and right into the upper east branch of the Nicoamen Valley where Zakwaski lies on its eastern slopes. On the latter a yanked-out bridge and full road de-activation stops all motorized movement about 3 k's northwest of the summit. The recce turned up a bone dry approach anywhere along this road, and so retreating back to the pass I checked out the campsite used for Mt. Lytton. It lies 13 kilometres by road from the intended trail head but the campsite had water and it was unchanged from 2002. The route to the site was marked with roadside cairns while finishing off the exploration sortie.

Come late September, Mt. Zakwaski has generated an unusual barrage of phone calls

from potential participants. Why the interest? It had to be the name at the end of the alphabet, or was John Sapac actively promoting the trip? Despite the gloomy weekend weather forecast, ten actually showed up at our usual café in Boston Bar; moreover all of the participants were ahead of schedule. Meanwhile, the duet from Merritt-Logan Lake were on the direct approach from the north to meet us at the campsite. By 16:30 hours a very drafty campsite was reached. As in 2002, winds howled through the elevated valley, and again there were many hunters combing the roadside systems. Six tents and vehicles closed off any thoroughfare around us on our road access, and a fire was set to combat the chill, but only after Norm, the forester, gave us the go-ahead to light it.

At about 10 pm the wind began to subside; the scudding clouds disappeared, and optimism sprang forth for a favourable sunny day for the next day's hike. But at 2 am Marilyn blurted — "it's raining" and it poured for the next few hours. Reluctant sleepers were coaxed out of bed at 7 am with a warming fire, and at 8 am the overall gloom disappeared despite the presence of new snow on the cloud-shrouded higher slopes. The procession only needed a final briefing on the road directions, and after doing so and then putting the map back into my car in the back seat, the door was closed — clunk! Electronics were triggered to lock all the doors, with keys still in the ignition and the spare in my wallet which was in the pants that I had just removed in favour of wet weather gear! There was no easy way into the car, short of breaking a window. Frustrated, the car was left at camp, which also had my day pack. The procession slithered on the roads greased by the overnight rain stopping at the de-activated road block, elevation 1260 m.

The bush was saturated, though a couple of holes in the clouds overhead did suggest some pending weather improvement. Norm and Bert were not impressed and insisted their day would be better served in unlocking the stranded vehicle. So one of the three GPS units disappeared with them leaving 10 of us plus two dogs to wade through the second growth on the bushy road to reach its end in the cut block. By then saturation was complete, but it was a short hike uphill to the edge of old timber with its drier state of affairs. There the underbrush was

minimal thanks to the transition to a steep scree slope which gave easy access to a rocky promontory (el. 1750 m) that juts out from the nearby crest of the north ridge of the mountain. Barry announced that his GPS was reading a distance of only 1290 m to the summit. Meanwhile, Dave was studiously marking in the way points on his unit. Not a bad idea because clouds were swirling before us. Then a Northern goshawk emerged from within the black mass to check us out, our first such sighting on any North Cascade venture.

The crest of the ridge was broad and the expected subalpine underbrush to wade through turned out to be mainly a pleasant low-growing heather. The overnight snow was melting fast; an obvious game trail on the ridge provided a very useable route, and soon the trees dwarfed out to our height on an expansive summit dome. An initial rogue cairn was passed, but it was not anywhere near the high point. Wandering south a few hundred metres, a surveyor's signal tripod was reached. It hovered over a bronze survey plug left by the B.C. Topographic Survey with a stone cairn beside it. With the declared high point reached, the sun began to break out at about 12:30. Surveyors' rusty cans indicated their lunch of sardines and a brew-up of coffee at the site. Our lunch formalities were much more posh, except for the leader who had none. But I was showered with a veritable gourmet by the nine others, and never had I eaten so well on a summit. The lunch break was extended by John, who pulled a large slab of Nanaimo bar from his pack to celebrate the conquest — a large chunk going to everyone.



The route up Mt Zakwaski. Photo - K. Ricker.

The extravaganza then went through the agony of summit photos. Digital cameras clicked prematurely before the image taker could stand

in with the others. Then there was the GPS check. Dave's unit said 2041 m (translated) while Barry's gave an initial reading of 2051, before settling down to 2045 m. Nor could the units agree on the position. Dave's was on the NAD 1927 Datum whereas Barry's unit was on NAD 1983. Sounds familiar? The moral of the exercise: use one unit and make sure it's datum agrees with the map! Electronically, the day was not going smoothly.

Meanwhile, down below the car key recovery team was making outstanding progress. They drove the 50 k to Boston Bar and luckily found the BCAA tow truck unengaged. The driver remarked that he had been unlocking stranded motorists with their electronic booby traps all summer, and as of recently had also rescued many a vehicle on the Mowhokam Road. Norm and Bert rode with him back to our campsite. Subarus are tough to open, he said, while driving a wedge against the window frame to increase the gap for his variety of fishing tools. Twenty-five minutes later the door latch lock was finally released; a note was left on the car and back at Boston Bar the tow truck driver was paid \$182.35 for his rescue mission. He explained: A BCAA card doesn't help very much when the rescue mission is on forestry roads. Norm and Bert departed to Logan Lake.

Back on the mountain, a summit plateau tour preceded the descent. Peering down the southwest side, which was very steep and treeless for about 500 m vertical, it was obvious that the logging roads at one time would have provided another and more interesting route. Perched on the edge of the precipice was another survey tripod, of aluminum, which had been left by the military in their quest to provide ground control for their rocketry program. Their junk was carted over to the BC Topo Survey cairn and tripod, to add more confusion should more surveys be carried out. By this time the skies had cleared, thereby eliminating any route navigation confusion during the very pleasant descent of the north ridge. A white-tailed ptarmigan and peregrine falcon were scared up along the way. At the rock protuberance, Dave's way point on the way up, a short break ensued, before the easy scree run down to tree line. The route through the forest, also steep but relatively bush-free, ended up slightly off our uphill route through the cut block, but the bushed-in road was intersected to provide

a quick exit back to the vehicles by 1500 hours, and a much drier road, reaching camp at 1530 hours.

Departure from this campsite is most inspiring by using the north extension of the Mowhokam-Nicoamen Road, because it overlooks the brink of the Thompson River valley. Our fleet of vehicles then descended the 27 tight switchbacks to the native village perched just above the highway. Dinner at Lytton's one and only restaurant pub was served by a very engaging waitress. Usually a BCMC party leaves a restaurant as cheapskates, but not this time! Never had I witnessed such a bountiful tip to the establishment. Well, it was all because of Zakwaski, the name of unknown origin, but obviously with some magical significance. Perhaps there will be another BCMC ascent of the mountain before the club's bi-centennial; but who then will serve the Nanaimo bars?

Participants: Ed Zenger, John Sapac, Barry Berto, Jean Lederer, Marilyn Cram, Jenny Faulkner, Dave Hughes (& dogs), Emily and Heinz Berger, and Bert Parke and Norm Hansen of the car rescue team, and Karl Ricker (Organizer and reporter).

Flora Mountain (aka the other Zoa), 13 January, 2007

At 7 am, there were 19 skiers milling about at the Chevron. I introduced myself to Peter, our group leader and he checked off my name on his list. My first BCMC trip and my first ski trip to Zoa and to the Coquihalla had begun.

It was when our car took the Vedder turn off in Chilliwack that I became suspicious that our 4 car caravan wasn't heading to Zoa. It took some more probing before the confusion was resolved... 2 BCMC group leaders named Peter leaving at 7am from the Chevron, and 2 participants named Sarah meeting for the same trips... for better or for worse, I was heading in the wrong direction. Duplicates discovered, I was quickly reassured that it was 'merely' a 1300m elevation gain and certainly the more adventurous trip to be on.

At 9:30, our group of 14 set off on skis. We yo'ed with 10 Club Tread snowshoers as both groups stumbled over the many downed trees and branches – victims of the many recent wind storms. It wasn't long before our skis were off, and it wasn't much after that that we realized they would be off for a fair bit of the trail.

About a third of the way up, we found enough snow to put our skis on. Ten skiers continued towards the peak while four chose a more leisurely pace, stopping for a sunny lunch at the first lookout before heading back down.

Just below the summit, the skis were off again and the group divided to continue on foot. One group headed up the nearest slope above the trees, and the other skirted the bowl to our right. All met up at the windy summit for a beautiful and clear, but short-lived rendezvous at about 2:30pm, and then we rapidly set our sights on the return voyage.

We descended over patches of wind-scoured snow, ice, and even a short, but sweet patch of fluffy snow in the trees before removing our skis once again for the remainder of the hike out. Our timing was perfect... we arrived back at the cars by the last light of the day.

Participants: Peter Gumplinger (organizer), Silke Gumplinger, Jane Weller, Pascal Bourbousson, Ron Groom, Mike Symchych, Rhys Gibb, Ian Miles, Silvia Bakovic, Marilyn and Dan Friedman, Allan Neufeld, Sarah Lash, and Sarah Carten (reporter)

Climbing in the Chehalis area, 2-4 September, 2006

After turning down non-members and a number of cancellations I ended up with just the right number of people for the trip. I had set the limit at ten but Adam, who was supposed to climb the 5.8 pitch for me on Viennese, phoned just before we were to leave to say that he was coming down with something. Now we were down to nine. The plan was to have part of the group attempt the traverse of Viennese, Recourse and Clarke and the other part climb them individually from camp. We would see if this could work.

It was at 6.45 am Saturday morning that the nine of us set off for the long drive up to the Chehalis area. After a 2.5 hour drive we reached the trailhead to Statlu Lake. The roads were not in bad shape overall. The last 4.5 km were rough but with a 4x4 we didn't have many problems. Half an hour later we were on our way. It was going to be a hot day. Luckily a lot of it is in forest at first, which provided relief from the direct sun. We reached Statlu Lake within an hour. This is a real gem in the Chehalis. The trail wanders along its shore until almost the end where the trail to the upper Statlu Lake branches off. That is where the first real elevation gain starts. The heat also

started to have its effect and the group started to spread out. A break was in order. Than another 45 minutes later we reached the Upper Statlu Lake. It was time for another break and a swim for some. After that the crux of the route starts. You have to work your way up to the basin above the cliffs around the lake. We managed it without much discomfort. Now it was time to find a suitable campsite in between all the rocks and debris. Around 4.30 pm we found one which had some nice heathery areas and gravel or flat rock spots. Not the most comfortable but it would do just fine. Much time was left for cooking and relaxation. It was a beautiful area for this. The plan for the next day was for 7 of us to attempt the traverse and for Ilze and Ove to do Clarke. They would have a later start than us. Our plan was to get up at 5.15 am.

We got up on time and away by 6.30 am. After working our way up from the bivy site we reached the col between peak 1950 m and Viennese. This is where the fun began. An easy class 3 route ascends the east ridge of Viennese, but near the end the ridge narrows and the exposure increases dramatically. It was time to put the rock shoes on and set up a belay for the person who was going to do the lead. Jane gave it a try but was repelled by the 5.9 move. Raphael volunteered to give it a try and pulled it off in style. Ian seconded it and with a pack on had a hell of a time to make the move. We found out after 3 people had summited that there was a slightly easier route further to the left. We followed it and it was definitely more in the 5.7 range. After we all reached the summit it became clear that with 7 people we were not going to be able to do the whole traverse. Not a surprise really. We did a short rappel off the summit to an exposed narrow bench and traversed westward across the face back to the ridge proper. It is mostly class 3 to 4 again from that point to the col with Recourse. We still had lots of time to do Recourse and after some moves of up to low class 5 we reached the summit at around 3 pm. There we relaxed for a while and watched the weather deteriorate somewhat. It was supposed to be sunny all weekend but we felt the odd drop of rain. Nobody had put on their tentfly and there was some concern about getting sleeping bags wet. We headed down to camp where Ilze and Ove also had just arrived about half an hour earlier. They

had done the long cirques route around the west side of the mountain which had taken longer than expected and they found it tedious. Again we had lots of time to relax after a great successful day. The plan was now to do Clarke tomorrow and Ilze and Ove would do Recourse. We would start at the same time but take a different more direct route to Clarke. The only problem was that there was a constant barrage of blocks of snow breaking off from a snowfield which went right across our intended path. But we would deal with it tomorrow if the weather was going to hold.

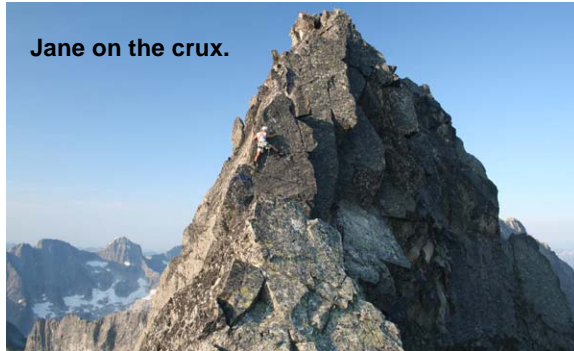
The next morning the weather looked great again. The plan was for both parties to reach the summit at the same time. We left at 6.30 am for the problematic snowfield between Clarke and Recourse. When we got closer it looked a lot better than from below. We had planned to go up a rock ridge and then on the snow. But we found out we could not get on the snow because of an insurmountable icy lip. We backed off and traversed left onto the small glacier. One thing I have not mentioned is that we had no ice axes. Now we were facing a gentle glacier with some blue ice and crevasses. We decided to rope up just in case. The snow was soft enough to get reasonable steps in. But here we were all roped together, with no ice axes, passing above a section of blue ice with slots and waiting to become one of the classic mountaineering accidents where by all climbers get pulled off by the slip of one climber and not having any ice axes to arrest themselves. Raphael had wisely turned around because of improper footwear. But it all went without incident and we were back on the rock in no time. The route from there was a pleasant class 3 and very direct to the summit. It connects with the southwest ridge near the summit. From there it was no more than 30 minutes to the summit, which we reached before 9 am - faster than the 3.5 to 4 hours it took Ilze and Ove. Shortly after we reached the summit the other party reached the summit of Recourse. We exchanged shouts and waves. But it was time to get down.

We took the same route down as up but set up a rappel past the steepest section on the glacier, just in case someone slipped. From there it was an easy walk back down to the rock. We were back in camp by 11 – 4.5 hours round trip. Ilze and Ove came in shortly after us. Now it was time

to pack up and head out. At noon we were on our way on another hot day. After the short nasty bit we were home free to Upper Statlu Lake for a needed swim. That was refreshing and it recharged everybody for the rest of the way down. It didn't stop some from having another swim in Lower Statlu Lake. At 5 pm the last person reached the cars. Now it was time for a well deserved meal to celebrate the end to a very successful weekend at Mission Springs which we all thoroughly enjoyed. A trip made so much more enjoyable by a great group of people. Thanks all. Participants: Ove Albinsson, Ramsey Dyer, Werner Grzimek, Ian McGillivray, Raphael Tsen, Jane Weller, Ilze Rupners, Marian Jans, and Jos van der Burg (Organizer and reporter).



Jos and the East Ridge of Viennese.



Jane on the crux.



Campsite



Bardean through the col



Ramsey, Marian, and Jane on tricky ledge.



Ilse below Viennese



Statlu Lake.

All photos - J. van der Burg.