



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



November 2007. Vol. 85, No. 9

Cathedral Lakes park in fall.

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, 13 November - The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Entertainment will be provided by your executive and Alice Purdey and Geoff Mumford, who will give a slide show on trekking in the eastern Himalayas in the Mt. Genyen area.

Tuesday, 11 December - Entertainment will be a show by Todd Ponzini, Dave Scanlon, et al. on the club's special centennial climbs and camp in Garibaldi park.



Many possible new rock routes in the Mt. Genyen area! Photo - A. Purdey.

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Esther and Martin Kafer

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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

November

3-4: Pender Island (hike and bike) B2
Lisa Baile 604-732-5555
Easy hiking and biking on a sunny Gulf Island.

The perfect place to bike & hike while waiting for the snow to fall. There are many beautiful places to visit and you can camp in Lisa and Peter's garden or, if the weather is bad, crash on the floor of their log house.

Membership

Membership fees for 2007/2008 are now due - Membership fees for 2007-2008 are now due. If you do not pay your dues, **THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU WILL RECEIVE.** You should fill out the yellow renewal form appearing in the October newsletter, indicating if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, read and sign the waiver on the reverse

side, then send in the signed form with appropriate dues. Note - if you renew membership you will be entitled to a free copy of the club's centennial video.

Membership dues are -

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

BCMC Centennial activities

Centennial logo available

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

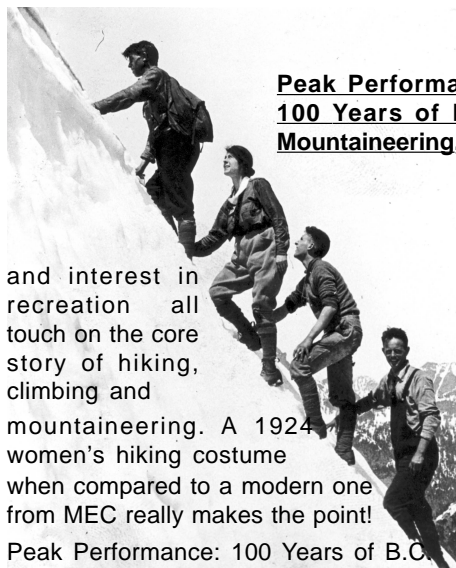
Contact Dave Scanlon if you want one.

Club bandanas are available

The club has also recently produced bandanas with the club logo and wording stating the club is 100 years old. These are available at club socials for \$10.

North Vancouver Museum special centennial display

An exhibition celebrating the B.C. Mountaineering Club's centennial, opened on October 4th at the North Vancouver Museum & Archives. Rare film footage, historic photographs and antique equipment have been assembled along with stories of first ascents, trail blazing, rescue and conservation. Many of the stories are of personal success while others are of the Club's role in charting unknown territory, ensuring safe access to wilderness areas, and encouraging preservation. With a mixture of very old and modern tools and clothing, the story is in some ways a microcosm of twentieth century change. The changing role of women, the impact of new fibres and manufactured materials, increased mobility



**Peak Performance
100 Years of B.C.
Mountaineering,**

and interest in recreation all touch on the core story of hiking, climbing and mountaineering. A 1924 women's hiking costume when compared to a modern one from MEC really makes the point!

Peak Performance: 100 Years of B.C. Mountaineering was assembled by club members and the North Vancouver Museum & Archives The exhibition will remain open until April at the North Vancouver Museum Galleries at 209 West 4th Street North Vancouver. The North Vancouver Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday from noon to 5 pm. For more information call 604- 987- 5612.

News

Older climbers have a greater chance of dying on Mt. Everest.

A recent study by R.B. Huey et al., entitled "Effects of age and gender on success and death of mountaineers on Mt. Everest", published in *Biology Letters*, Vol. 3, No. 5, October 22, 2007, found that men and women had similar odds of summiting and of dying. People older than 40 had reduced chances of summiting and those older than 60 have increased chances of dying (10 times more likely than younger people), particularly when descending from the summit.

North Cascade glaciers are retreating alarmingly

A study by Mauri Pelto, published in the journal *Hydrological Processes* (Vol. 20 p. 769) in 2006 has concluded that during the 20 year period from 1984 to 2004, glaciers in Washington's North Cascade Mtns. lost 18-32% of their entire volume due to melting. Thinning has been along the entire length of the glaciers and retreat has been rapid and ubiquitous. This comes from a study of 47 glaciers, four of which disappeared during the study. Eight glaciers on Mt. Baker that were advancing in 1975 have now averaged a retreat of almost 300 m since 1984. Retreat has generally been most rapid since 1976.

Sea-to-Sky LRMP (Land and Resource Management Plan) update - First Nations agreements and establishment of a Plan Implementation and Monitoring Committee

The provincial government has negotiated agreements with 3 First Nation groups – the Squamish, In-Shuck-ch, and Tsleil-Waututh, and is still negotiating agreements with other groups whose claims cover all the land in the Lillooet River drainage north of Lillooet Lake.

The agreement with the Tsleil-Waututh covers the Indian River valley and involves an agreement to allow the Tsleil-Waututh to develop economic and conservation plans for the area, including Indian Arm provincial park. The Tseil-Waututh also claim

most of the Mamquam Valley, but this valley is not mentioned in the agreement.

The agreement with the In-Shuck-ch covers the entire Pitt River and Harrison Lake – Lillooet lake drainage as far north as Twin One and Two creeks. It includes the eastern and southern parts of Garibaldi park as well as the northern part of Golden Ears park.

The agreement with the Squamish covers the drainage of the Squamish River and its tributaries, as well as the drainages of the Soo and Cheakamus rivers.

The In-Shuck-ch agreement alters the LRMP plan by establishing a Cultural Management Zone in the Lillooet valley bottom, including most of the land between the river and Garibaldi Park, except for the Fire Ck – Fire Mtn. area. Cultural management subzones are also superimposed on the LRMP's Wildland Zone in the upper Douglas Ck. valley, and in the Lizzie Lake – Cloudraker and North Lizzie areas. All LRMP-allowed activities continue to be permitted in the Cultural Management Zone and subzone, but they must conserve or maintain the integrity of First Nation cultural and heritage resources. "Traditional harvesting for cultural purposes" is also allowed. The Upper Douglas Ck. valley, with its pictographs and petroglyphs, is singled out as being particularly culturally significant and is to become a permanent protected area in which logging, mining, and tourism developments are not permitted. This was something that the conservation and recreation sector representatives at the LRMP table wanted, but couldn't accomplish.

Gunsight Pk. in Garibaldi Park has been called In-Shuck-ch Mtn. and is supposedly a historically, culturally, and spiritually significant place which is to be managed for the conservation of cultural and heritage resources.

The Squamish agreement changes the LRMP agreement in the following ways:

- 1) Three Wild Spirit Places are established in the Squamish valley area – Upper Elaho, Lower Sims, and the Ashlu-Squamish divide as well as Sigurd Ck. area. All these are to be zoned to allow non-motorized commercial recreation only. The LRMP had zoned all these areas for motorized

air access and part of the upper Elaho for shared motorized/non motorized with helicopter access in winter. Summer recreational zoning was generally unresolved by the LRMP. Existing commercial motorized recreation tenures will be allowed to continue but will be examined when the tenures expire. No new commercial motorized recreation tenures are to be allowed.

2) Other areas of importance to the Squamish Nation that are to be zoned for non-motorized use, again except for existing tenures which will be examined when they expire, are the Sigurd Ck. area, Cloudburst Mtn. area, the core part of the Blanca Lakes area, the upper Callaghan valley, and the upper Madeley Ck – Rainbow – Sproatt Mtn area. The Callaghan and Rainbow – Sproatt areas, however, are in an area that is “subject to further discussions: due undoubtedly to the 2010 Olympics and the government’s desire to shift a commercial snowmobile tenure onto Sproatt Mtn. Fewer restrictions are placed on public motorized recreation. This is to be not allowed only in the Blanca Lakes core area and the Wild Spirit Places. Interestingly the Sky Pilot area commercial helicopter tenure can remain but is to be assessed upon its expiry, and no new commercial motorized tenures are allowed in this area. All First Nation’s traditional uses in these Wild Spirit Places and other areas of importance are to continue. Agreement could not be reached over the Tricouni and Brohm Ridge areas. While the Squamish First Nation Agreement represents a few short term gains, with some

potential losses (Sproatt Mtn.), long term gains are possible if motorized tenures are not renewed. The BCMC will have to be active when these tenures come up for renewal.

The government seems to believe that agreements on the remaining northern part of the Squamish Forest District will be reached soon as it released in September a proposed terms of reference for an LRMP Plan Implementation and Monitoring Committee (PIMC). It is not yet certain how membership of the committee will be determined, or how many people will be on it. It will report to the provincial government, primarily to the Integrated Land Management Bureau, although its recommendations will be reviewed by the heads of the local land management agencies who form the Inter-Agency Management Committee (IAMC). First Nations may be represented on the PIMC or they may negotiate their own needs directly with the BC government, in keeping with the BC government’s inability to treat non-First Nations people fairly in land use issues. The purpose of the PIMC is “to serve as a vehicle through which balanced and objective evaluation of the implementation and monitoring of land use plan direction is undertaken. PIMCs determine and provide advice to government on implementation progress and through individual ministries, may undertake additional monitoring activities to determine the extent to which the desired future outcomes (objectives) are being achieved.”

Equipment Notes

Avalanche transceivers assessed

Now that snow is appearing in the mountains, thoughts of winter mountaineering lead to thoughts about avalanches and avalanche transceiver,s which are required on club trips. An excellent website (www.beaconreviews.com/tranceivers/) should be visited for an in-depth discussion and reviews of different transceivers. This website reported tests on 16 different transceivers and concluded -

1. **The best options** are currently the 3 antenna transceivers – the **Pieps DSP** and the **Pulse Barryvox**. They have long ranges, allow you to lock-out a transceiver during a multiple burial,

and their third antennas are excellent at dealing with spikes. The Pulse has more features but the Pieps is easier to use.

2. In second place were the ARVA Advanced, ARVA Evolution+, Barryvox 3000, and the Tracker DTS, all of which are two-antenna transceivers.

3. In third place were all of the single-antenna beacons (e.g. the Ortovox F1 and M2). They were considered good avalanche transceivers but they required significantly more skill and practice.

A transceiver’s range depends on antenna orientation and battery strength, as well as slight variations in transmitting frequency. The Ortovox

F1, M1, and M2, and X1 (analog) transceivers were found to have the greatest range (>60 m) while the Ortovox X1 (Digital), D3, and Barryvox 3000 (Digital) were found to have the shortest range (<33 m).

Range is only one factor. The number of burials and the orientation of the transmitting transceivers are also critical factors with which the 3 antenna transceivers are best equipped to cope. According to Beaconreviews.com –

“During deeper burials, the strongest signal is rarely directly above the victim. Beacons with fewer than three antennas (and some beacons with three antennas) will lead you to the strongest signal, which will be a point that is near, but not directly above, the victim.

The distance between the strongest signal and the victim is based on the orientation of the two transceivers and the depth of the burial. These possibly confusing signals are the result of the flux lines and are called spikes.

When the transmitting beacon is on the surface of the snow, the receiving beacon will receive the strongest signal when it is directly above the transmitter. This is true regardless of the orientation of the two beacons and the number of antennas in the receiving beacon, because the transceivers are very close to each other.

However, when the transmitting beacon is buried, this can change significantly. When the receiving beacon has fewer than three antennas and is held horizontally, and the transmitting beacon is buried three meters deep in a vertical orientation, the strongest signal will not be over the buried beacon. Instead it will be a meter or two away.

The actual distance between the strongest signal and a point directly above the victim depends on many factors (primarily the depth and antenna orientation). The average distance from the strongest signal to the point over the victim was 1.4 meters on a three meter burial and 0.85

meters on a two meter burial. (This was with the transmitting beacon in a vertical position and the receiving beacon in a horizontal position). However, when both the transmitting and receiving beacons are horizontal, the strongest signals occur directly over the victim and a meter or two to either side.

If the buried beacon is neither vertical or horizontal (which is usually the case), the spikes appear at varying distances from the victim.

All this would be more manageable if there were only two or three points on the surface of the snow, but the two or three points assume you are walking in a straight line (as would be the case if you are following the flux lines to the victim) and the beacons are precisely oriented. In the real world, these “spikes” appear as an oval on the surface of the snow surrounding the victim.

Three-antenna transceivers use the third antenna to analyze the flux lines and direct you to the point directly above the victim. When using either the Pieps DSP or the Pulse Barryvox as the receiving beacon, there was only one strong signal and it was always within a few cm of the point above the victim. Unfortunately, the three-antenna Ortovox X1 and Ortovox D3 behave like two-antenna beacons. These two Ortovox beacons consistently display the shortest distance when over the spikes rather than when over the victim. That is unfortunate, because the only reason for a third antenna is to remove spikes from deeper burials.

If your one- or two-antenna beacon leads you to a spike, you should still find the victim with good probing technique. For example, if you are within one meter of the victim and you probe using 25 cm spacing, you will need to probe approximately 64 times to completely check within one meter of the spike. If it takes 5 seconds per probe (a wild guess), it will take you a little more than 5 minutes to completely probe the area (although it is likely you will encounter the victim before this time.)”

Trip Reports

Vantage, aka Frenchman's Coulee, 18 April - 6 May, 2007

This rock climbing trip was my third to the area. The only disappointment was the number who came. With the word earlier in the year that Skaha wasn't open I expected more calls than the 11

who did come.

The driving time is 4½ hours and is all interstate driving. What takes the time can be the border crossing or the shopping, as most eatables have to be bought there, south of the border. We always have stopped for lunch too so we didn't arrive

until about 3 pm. The cars were unloaded and at 4:30 we were on the rock, the eager beavers that we were. We just had to get a couple of climbs in before dark. Our first evening meal was late because of this. Don't know what the hurry was as we were to be there for 9 days. There were 5 of us at first. Four decided that they were going to Smith Rocks as the weather looked better there. Two were to come later in the week.

The climbing is on basaltic columns left over from the massive lava flows from about 11 million years ago. Some of the climbing is spectacular when you are on a separate leaning column 20-25 m high. The scenery is spectacular also with views of the Columbian Plateau and glimpses of the Columbia River. This is not a desert but a semi arid area with very little rain. There are areas that one can climb all day, moving around to stay out of the sun so as to not get too hot. Getting too hot? Drive 5 minutes down to the Columbia River for a cool dip. The camping is free with the exception of needing a \$12 Department of Fish and Wildlife parking permit. This climbing area seems remote. We've found the best place to get supplies is Quincy, 30 km away. It has the biggest and nearest stores.

We almost had the place to ourselves from Sunday afternoon on as the weekend warriors left. We would go to the Feathers first to get warmed up then go further afield in the afternoon. For those who have never been there, the Feathers is the closest area to the campsite. All of 10 minutes away. Home for lunch.

Sunday evening Marion, Julia, Lugo and Mike came. They set up camp and we visited that evening to catch up on the news. Julia was having trouble with her new truck and was hoping that it would get them home.

They left as a small short shower came in and out; later the same day we went into town as we were running out of supplies (beer and ice). The long term plan was to go to Smith Rocks later in the week. One of us, Anya, went and asked for a print out of a weather report. Lo and behold, she got one at the local Honda dealership. Smith Rock was calling for 0° C and sleet and possible snow flurries. Easy decision. Stay put. Back to camp, where two other groups had arrived. In chatting with them it was discovered that they were there too because of the weather forecast.

The next day coming back to camp we saw a van

and there were Brian and Norma. Catching up on the news was great. Norma was to stay for a day or two then go back to Vancouver taking Ingrid as she had to work. Next day we all went south for a most pleasant stroll taking in the plant life and birds. Not far south was a lake with an extensive marsh. The birdlife there was fun to see with many species. A path was taken west then to see sunshine basin in all it's glory. A great drop off with exposure all around. Fantastic views. We were able to see the geology of the place easily with hundreds of columns exposed. Some were huge, needing a 70 meter rope at least to rappel off. This is the place for me to go next time. The place has much that I haven't visited as yet and this is my third time.

Thursday Norma and Ingrid left. Then came Friday and Peter and Brian left. No, we didn't do anything wrong! Their plan all along was to leave then and go off on their own for three weeks or so. On our last Saturday there the three of us left climbed a bit then went to the river to get cleaned up and it was cool too! That evening we went into the small town of Vantage for a restaurant-cooked meal. That was a most pleasant evening. Sunday saw us up bright and early and away. We had breakfast in the town of Ellensburg. Anya wanted to do some shopping so we stopped in Seattle on the way home. The truck crossing had no lineup and clear sailing saw us home in no time from there.

Participants: Peter Woodsworth, Marion Jans, Anya Pakendorf, Werner Grzimek, Brian Wood, Norma Charles Wood, Julia Smith, Lugo Ferrara, Mike Levidne, Ingrid Schechter, and David Scanlon (organizer and reporter).

Cloudraker Mtn., 7-8 July 2007

On Cassiope Peak in May I could see a dominant mountain to the east of Lillooet Lake. It's name clinched it – I was going to put it on the schedule. The approach from Rogers Creek road to the southeast seemed easiest but the logging company told me that I had to get permission from the local native band. As an ambassador for BCMC I asked - and wasn't given permission. Hiking 16 km up Lizzie and Tao Creek logging roads wasn't appealing so I decided we would try it as a bushwack from Lillooet Lake, starting about 5 km south of Lizzie creek and via Tao Peak and Salamander Mtn.

There were four of us and we left Vancouver at 6:30 pm Friday, car-camped at Lillooet Lake, and started hiking at 6:30 am Saturday. The bush was easy and at 2 pm just below Tao Peak we left our backpacks and set off for the summit. In 15 minutes we were at the top of Tao and in another 45 minutes we were on Salamander. The north-east ridge of Cloudraker looked possible and required the least amount of descent from Salamander. One quarter of the way up it we were stumped. Not only was there a 25 m deep sheer gash all the way across the ridge, part of the climb on the other side looked like a wet class 5, so back to the Salamander/Cloudraker col.

It was now after 4 pm. We had already had a tough day. Dropping 120 m to attempt Cloudraker's north snow-covered face meant a 600 m ascent to the summit and then a 450 m return ascent up Salamander (which would come to more than 2700 m that day, most of it with backpacks). Fortunately we decided not to try for, by the time we got back to camp, we were all pretty tired. A quick dinner, into our tents, and we all had a really good sleep.

The next morning there was a light rain and Cloudraker was covered in cloud but it looked like there was a high cloud ceiling with changing weather beneath. Jane had a debilitating headache but Serguei and Johnathon were keen and we were off by 7 am. Everything went well, (the north face only approaching 40 degrees in a few places) and we were on the summit by 11 am.

By 3 pm we were back in camp and by 4 pm we were descending. This was tougher than anticipated. The snow slope leading up to Tao which we had easily ascended we now painstakingly descended backwards, plunging in our ice-axes every two steps; and further down we left the ridge a couple of times to negotiate cliff bands and had to thrash our way back to it. Saturday had been 12 ½ hours and Sunday was going to be longer so we were tired and had to be cautious. By the time we got back to the truck at 9 pm, it was too late and too buggy to go for the long anticipated swim. Nevertheless it had been a scenic, aesthetic and rewarding trip. It was a very collegial and determined group, and Johnathon's first BCMC trip. We told him that the next one would seem like a piece of cake.

Participants: Serguei Okountsev, Johnathon Rempel, Jane Weller, and Alastair Ferries (Organizer and reporter),

Sky Pilot Mtn., 13-15 July, 2007

The 5 of us left the church on Friday about 7:30 am. A nice late start on a warm weekday morning. The road in to the trailhead was fine, someone having done some yeoman chain sawing to get it open. We started out from the cars at 9:30. The trail was the same as last year with the only difference being a bit more snow. From the point the trail enters the trees we were on snow the rest of the way to camp. This was great as the going is so much easier with all the boulder fields covered. And lets not forget the scree. We all like it when it is covered, and there was quite a bit to be had in the area to which we were going. After 5½ hours we arrived at 3pm. Man oh man was it hot and muggy!

Leaving camp we decided to try to get over to climb the Nai - two rock tusks to the east of Ledge Mtn. Some route exploring was done. Needless to say this shouldn't have happened but that is what we do at times. At one point in time I was crawling downhill not even being on the ground being hung up in the shrubbery. For better or worse this was overcome. (it was for the worse!!), seeing us get to the west Nai. By the time we got down to the col between the two, it was 7 pm. A short chat had us deciding to try getting up the east Nai as we were right there. It turned out to be more difficult than expected with us backing off. With the horrific bushwack fresh in our minds we went on to try the regular route back to camp. OOPS Shoulda taken the way you know, even if it isn't good. Three long rappels later down this steep snow-filled gully had Bob being the last to come down. Time 10:30 - dark. Snow conditions, getting very hard. Attitude of the group - won't go there!

Bob was told to leave the gear there til the next day. He didn't hesitate even for a nanosecond. The routefinding to camp in the dark was superb. Considering that we only had two headlamps between the 5 of us. (always bring your own headlamp). Midnight saw us get to camp. A big bowl of soup, a hot drink and to bed.

Saturday we had to get the left behind gear. In the daylight we could that our route the night before was the right one, actually, the only one.

Onward and upward as they say. The regular route up Ledge Mtn was taken along the sometimes narrow south face route. Much much exposure, but lots of handholds. A well deserved rest was taken. Not many go up Ledge as Sky Pilot is the big draw. Fewer still go up the west buttress which is one of the routes we wanted. But because of the problem Friday and having to go back to get the gear, our schedule was out of whack big time. We descended Ledge and traversed over past Tombstone Tower and stopped. Due to time constraints our choice was one thing and one thing only. Either try to get up Tombstone Tower (another thing we wanted to try) - a maybe, or go up Sky Pilot itself - a given. Everyone chose Sky Pilot.

The SSW ridge is one of my favorites. Compared to a lot of rock in the area this ridge is quite solid. With just a tiny bit of class 4, it is continuous class 3 with many handholds and just the right amount of exposure to make it fun all the way to the top. We summited about 6 pm. The view was great and the temperature fine. Resting and enjoying the view, we savored the day, forgetting all of the previous trials and tribulations. 20 or so minutes later a float plane came into view. It was heading straight towards us. It was one of Whistler's float planes, and he came real close and dead level to us doing a wig wag while going by with the passengers all waving. Great fun.

I'd been up the other small very exposed sub peak on earlier trips and wanted to try it again. It is a very exposed little rock pile and a worthwhile challenge. Upon returning, Bob wanted to try it and was successful, then Ilse went over and climbed it also. Great fun.

We arrived back to camp at a more reasonable time that evening – 8 pm. Not the midnight of the night before. Talk about timing. Just as we arrived at the tents, a small shower started - just to welcome us back - then quit while we ate, starting again as we readied for bed. We 4 said goodbye to Ramsay as he had to leave early the next morning. He was getting up at 5 to get away and no one was about to get up that early if we didn't have to. Ramsay was a little apprehensive about going out alone as he hadn't been in the area before, but we talked about the route and had him look around on the way in a few times to get a feel for the area.

The next morning we all arose, ate, and were off,

hours after Ramsay. During the time we were still sleeping the weather closed in on us. It was very very foggy. Ironically we ended up following Ramsay's tracks out although it was he who had never been there before. He could see though and he followed the way out perfectly. We wanted to climb up Mt Shear on the way out but because the visibility was nil we voted not to. Next time.

So we all made it, and had a good time even though the climbing we wanted to get done didn't happen. Three peaks were bagged. There is still more that I want to do in the area so maybe, just maybe, one more time next year.

Participants: Ilse Rupners, Bob Woodhouse, Ramsay Dyer, Peter Malacarne, and Dave Scanlon (Organizer and reporter).

Petlushkwohap Mountain, 3-6 August, 2007

In a nutshell, the first two attempts on Petlushkwohap didn't get anywhere near the summit. Last year's try suffered mainly from scheduling problems and a July long weekend attempt never got to the start of the trip due to the Lytton ferry being out of service and a washout on the road on the Fraser River's west side.

For this year's August long weekend attempt, I decided a Friday night driving start was essential for a Saturday morning 8 am hike start at the trailhead. I met 5 of our group at the Chevron, one block south of Grandview Hwy. and Boundary Road at 6 pm. A sixth was picked up nearby and two more were met at the Surrey Park and Ride by 160th St. After this, and through some dubiously wet weather and slow traffic, our 9th and final member was picked up in Abbotsford. As we drove up the Fraser Canyon the weather improved dramatically. The trailhead was reached around 9:30 pm under mainly clear skies.

Saturday morning saw us up at 6 am with the weather still looking good. By 7:45 we were underway up the Stryen Creek trail which trends left away from the Stein valley. The valley fork was reached at 10, the trail being completely clear to there. From there we took the right fork and shortly after crossed the creek which has a log cabin just beyond it. Here we took a break and admired the new work being done on this cabin with its very peculiar rooftop addition.

We entered the upper right hand valley at about 11:40 which is where trail deterioration began. 45 minutes later we had lunch. By 1:15 we were

moving again with an estimated 4 to 5 hours left to get to the lake at the valley head where we would camp. The upper trail had numerous blowdowns and disappeared at times. Eventually we hit a sea of dwarf willow and were forced to the left (east) side of the creek. We managed to find animal trails to walk on in the forest. Further up we encountered the odd slide alder belt as well as rockslides and boulder fields. The last kilometer to the lake was almost all boulder field. The first people reached the lake a little before 7 pm, exceeding my 10 hour estimate.

On Sunday morning it was up at 5 am for what was expected to be a twelve hour day. The weather was clear and I felt very optimistic. By 6:55 we were all underway to tackle the first 350 vertical metres to the head of the Earl Creek drainage. This was reached at 8:15 and became a decision point for part of the group. After this point the easiest way to Petlushkwohap was to drop 400 m into the Earl Creek drainage and then head up and west to the valley head below the southeast side of the mountain. As the entire route was visible from this "crux point" three people decided it was too far and a fourth decided to try his luck on the ridge around the head of the Earl Creek drainage.

After some initial boulder clambering to a short snow slope the terrain moderated for awhile and then steepened again to the heather – small conifer mix. The five of us continuing on to Petlushkwohap were then spat out onto the start of 2 km of boulder field. Eventually we were able to work our way to the right side and walk on heather. By 11:15 we had reached a creek at the base of Petlushkwohap and 15 minutes higher we decided on lunch.

There we were at a bit of an impasse with some people suggesting a 1:30 turnaround time. I suggested that at the very least we should attain the big 2400 m bench on Petlushkwohap's south side. I thought it would take 1½ hours to get there but in reality it only took 45 minutes. Once on the bench there was no discussion as to what to do as people were heading for the summit ridge by three different routes. Above the bench via a scree gully the mountain seemed to shrink rapidly. Once on the ridge that sense slowed somewhat. By 2:30 we had summited – 7½ hours after leaving camp.

The mountain has 3 summits, one of which is

distinctly to the NW and separated from where we were. Of the two that are side by side, the NE one is higher and reachable by a short gully scramble. After 20 minutes on top it was time to leave. Before heading down, one of our party fired off a celebratory bear banger which apparently startled our member on the ridge route. He actually thought that part of cliff was breaking away. This party member also mentioned that if he had radio contact with the summit party he would have continued on the ridge route. This route looked very exposed, however

The route off the mountain went very quickly once we reached the scree chutes. Once on the 2400 m bench we went further east than on the approach, to take advantage of another scree gully. Soon it was back into the relentless mosquitoes. A quick break was had in the heather glade zone before it was back to the boulder field. Then we reascended the 400 m to get to the Earl Creek – Stryen Creek divide. After some waiting and resting it was down to camp, reaching it at 9:15, just beating darkness. This meant dinner in the dark and eventually a much deserved rest.

On BC Day, Monday, it was up at 6 am and moving by 8:15 under mostly clear skies. Once again it was route finding through boulder fields, patches of forest and dwarf willow and slide alder belts. Eventually we hit a red ribboned trail on the east side of the creek. We were forced to cross roughly below Mt. Roach. From here we put up with windfalls until they ended. Lunch was had in this area. We had another break at the valley forks which is idyllic on a hot day.

The vehicles were reached around 6 pm in pure summer heat. Some of us dipped in the Fraser by the ferry dock. Overall it was a great success. Participants: Misha Tsiroulnikov, Erin Buckol, Mike Peel, Tony Tacone, Roland Stefani, Mark Burgoyne, Bernie Brandy, Ziff House, and Greg Stoltmann (organizer and reporter).

Mt Rexford, 8-9 September, 2007

Mt. Rexford had been on my list for some time, so I was quite excited when I saw a trip to the mountain scheduled for the second weekend of September. I asked my friend, Lorne, if he wanted to join the trip and he was happy to accept my invitation, so I phoned Denis and signed us up. It was our first trip with the BCMC and we didn't know what to expect from a C rated climb, but on

Saturday morning we packed up the last of our gear and headed out to meet the rest of the group. After a quick meeting at the Tim Horton's on Lickman Rd. we all headed up towards Chilliwack Lake until turning at the Nesakwach Creek FSR and being granted some amazing views of Slesse and some of the surrounding mountains. It was a fairly quick drive to the trailhead and after grabbing our packs and gawking at Mt. Slesse we headed up the steep trail to camp. The Rexford trail isn't particularly long but is definitely steep...very steep. First, it climbs a steep clearcut, heads into the woods and then crosses a creek before levelling out a little bit as it switch-backs through the woods but when it comes alongside the cliffs of the Illusion Peaks it heads straight up the hill without switching back once. Despite the steep trail we made fairly good time into camp, considering that we were all carrying packs, so we happily dropped our packs and rested.

Once the entire group had made it into camp, Dan, Carolyn, Neil and I decided to climb the North Ridge of the North Nesakwach Spire (although the SW ridge looked sweet) as we had plenty of daylight left. We crossed the boulder field below the West Face of the spire and gained the ridge quite quickly. There was no 5th class climbing (or very little) on the lower ridge and although there were several fun looking 5th class options on the middle section of the ridge we went around them to the right. Neil led the final 5th class pitch to the summit ridge and we reached the summit after about 1½ hours of climbing. We easily descended the South Ridge and went back to camp to eat some food. When the sun went down the temperature dropped quickly and I spent a cold, windy night, suffocating in my sleeping bag.

After attempting to sleep for 8 hours we got up at 5:30, ate breakfast, got our gear together and set out for Rexford at about 6:15. After boulder hopping to the toe of the West Ridge we scrambled up the first steep ridge section with very little difficulty. The next portion of the ridge was an easy hike but, after not eating a good breakfast and forgetting my water, I found this tiring and went very slowly. Luckily I perked up again by the time we reached the base of the class 4 gully leading to the false peak of Rexford and scrambled up the enjoyable chimney that leads back up to the ridge crest. The group waited for the last of us to reach the false peak and we walked around a

neat pile of rocks to the base of the true summit block. Dennis offered to let me lead the final 5th class chimney to the summit and I was quick to accept. The final pitch was quite easy and when I reached the summit Ferdinand had already found an easier (class 3-4) way around to the left of the summit block. We both belayed people up to the summit and spent a windy 15 minutes on top trying to thaw out our hands in the rising sun. The descent took a fair bit of time as we took our time setting up and using the rappels down the mountain (although Ferdinand would much rather have down climbed the whole thing). Once we reached the easy hiking part of the Ridge we made good time down to the lower ridge again. I down climbed the north-facing gully (loose rock) to the boulder field below and waited for the rest of the group to arrive from the lower ridge. We went back to the campsite to eat and pack up then started the steep descent back to the cars. The descent was nasty with our packs but once we reached the treed part of the trail it became much easier. After reaching the cars at the base of the trail we waited for the rest of the group to arrive and then went back to the Boston Pizza in Chilliwack to finish off our trip.

Overall the west ridge of Rexford is class 4 and the only part that we roped up for was the final pitch to the true summit. The group was great and the trip was a highly enjoyable experience and I hope that I get to climb this mountain again.

Participants: Les Pitt, Richard Blaschek, Neil Beattie, Greg Iuzziluo, Carolyn Goluza, Andrew Brown, Lorne Bleakney, Ferdi Reinstader, Daniel Friedmann, Marilyn Cox, Denis Lalonde (organizer), and Marc Leclerc (reporter).

The Border Peaks, 18 March, 2007

The weather gods proved to be on our side this day. After a thorough drenching on Saturday and the forecast for Sunday not a whole lot better, only 2 out of the original 16 participants cancelled. It showed how keen people were to get out after a string of bad weekends. A rainy day out in the mountains is still better than a day in the city.

The Border Peaks are located up the Chilliwack Valley west of Slesse. We didn't exactly climb a peak on this tour, as we skied up to a high point at the pass between Outrigger and Canadian Border Peak. It's a spectacular area which can be prone to avalanches coming off Canadian

Border Peak. If the avalanche conditions are high there are other safer slopes that can be skied off Spencer Ridge to the north of Canadian Border Peak.

The group met at 8 am at the Tim Hortons in Chilliwack under dreary skies. Nobody was highly motivated but before dissention could set in, we left for our destination. We were driving through the rain in Chilliwack and as we



turned up the Chilliwack Valley we were greeted with sunlight and broken clouds.

Our spirits lifted but of course the day wasn't over yet. After getting past the gate on Tamahi Creek we drove till the snowline and started skiing just after 9.30 am. Fairly flat at first but rising more steeply once the switchbacks started.

The skis had to be taken off half a dozen times before the snow was continuous. The weather held but there were a few more clouds around and the occasional drop could be felt. But the sun came out from time to time, increasing the avalanche activity. This was fairly active most of the day making our intended objective too treacherous to attempt. We opted for a ski up Spencer Ridge instead and topped out at 1980 m where we enjoyed the nice warm filtered sunshine. There was fresh snow up there and with the first turns this snow slid very easily down the slope. Not far below it turned to a nice spring-like ski which was easier to handle. As always, the ski down was over too fast but nobody had the energy to go back up for another short run. We were all satisfied with the day and our luck with the weather. The ski down the road saw some short cuts being taken between switchbacks trying to avoid some of the open areas and having to take skis off.

We reached the cars shortly after 4 pm. Nice and early for everybody to get back to town at a reasonable time after a bite to eat first at the Jolly Miller. It was a good day with a great group of determined people.



Jos (left), Claude, Ramsay, Dave, and Dana (right). Photos - C. Tatin-Jaleran.



Up to Spencer Ridge. Photos - J. van der Burg.



Participants: Dave Hirnwood, Claude Tani, Martin Cook, Diana Diaconu, Clemence Tatin-Jaleran, Ramsay Dyer, Murray Lasmar, Adam Swartz, Kerri-Ann Huck, James Huck, Larry Kost, Alex Forrest, Dana Lis, and Jos van der Burg (organizer and reporter).