



# B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter



**April 2009. Vol. 87, No. 4**

Ski touring near Refugio Frey, Argentina  
Photo: Matt Gunn

## **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 14 April** - Matt Gunn and Grahame Quan will lead a tour through some of the best ski touring and ski mountaineering terrain in Chile and Argentina. Deep powder, spectacular volcanoes, steep couloirs and enticing huts of the Northern Patagonian Andes will be featured from Bariloche to Las Lenas.

**Tuesday 12 May** - Mt. Olympus by Silvia Bacovic



Ed Zenger and Ravil Chamgoulov on the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro 5895m  
Photo: R. Chamgoulov collection

## British Columbia Mountaineering Club

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### HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

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PAST-PRESIDENT -	DAVID HUGHES	604-980-6484
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SAFETY EQUIPMENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
SATELLITE PHONE	-PETER GUMPLINGER	604-733-8264
LIBRARY -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

#### 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 (604-736-8462) or Peter Gumplinger (604-733-8264), 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 **Alice Purdey (ph. 604-293-2951, email - [alicep.fred@gmail.com](mailto:alicep.fred@gmail.com)).**

**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 courteous and inform the trip organizer.

## Trip Schedule

Please check the website for final updates. All trips are ski trips unless otherwise indicated.

### April

<b>3-5: Frenchman Coulee/ Vantage WA</b>	<b>Climbing 5</b>
Francis St. Pierre	604.224.0502
<b>4 Chanter Pk.</b>	<b>B2</b>
Peter Oostlander	604.451.4585
<b>4-5: Birkenhead</b>	<b>C3</b>
Greg Stoltman	604.926.6496
<b>4-5: Mt. Baker</b>	<b>C3</b>
Peter Gumplinger	604.733.8264
<b>5: Spearhead OR Neve Traverse</b>	<b>C/D3</b>
Jane Weller	604.988.3618
<b>10-13: Watersprite Lk</b>	<b>B3</b>
Dave Scanlon	604.572.5051

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## Member News

### **New Members**

The club welcomes the following new members:  
Megan Turnock, Ivana Sigur, Valery Milner, Scott Nelson, Sandra Nicol, Kelly Scott Graham, Paul Ellis, Gordon Forbes, Ura Szumylo, Adrienne Johnson, Alexander Wallace, Gavin Baran, Sebastien Vignoud

### **BCMC Membership Cards**

BCMC members are entitled to discounts at some climbing gyms and the Canada West Mountain School. If you would like a membership card, they are available at the monthly club socials. Or, contact Silvia Bakovic at [sbakovic2002@yahoo.ca](mailto:sbakovic2002@yahoo.ca) to make alternate arrangements.

### **Congratulations!**

Lindsey Laycock and Leif Marmolejo know how to beat the mid-winter blues. They went to Dominican Republic and got married on February 28th. Best wishes to the happy couple.

### **Attention VOC Members!**

#### **Past and Present**

If you are joining the BCMC for the first time, you are eligible for a discounted BCMC membership fee of \$30. This fee includes membership in the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (worth \$15), the club's liability insurance (\$6).....and lots of fun activities and friends! A great deal! Come and join us, we are waiting for You!

<b>11-12: Rainbow Mtn (tentative)</b>	<b>B2</b>
Andrew Geisheimer	604.569.0084
<b>25: Prospector Pk Snowshoe</b>	<b>D3</b>
Alastair Ferries	604.329.1637
<b>25-26 Exodus</b>	<b>B/C3</b>
Monika Bittel	604.983.3097

### May

<b>1-3: Spearhead Traverse</b>	<b>C3</b>
Alena Dzujkova	778.881.5642
<b>3-9: Canyons of the Escalante (Mixed)</b>	<b>A-C/2-5</b>
Peter Woodsworth	604.254.7076
<b>9: Leader's Choice (Hike)</b>	<b>B3</b>
Ed Zenger	604.434.3095
<b>9-17: Frenchman's Coulee WA (Climbing)</b>	<b>4+</b>
David Scanlon	604.572.5051

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## **Good News!**

The popular *Scrambles in Southwest British Columbia* by Matt Gunn has been reprinted. Matt will be selling it at the upcoming Social. It is also available through his website [www.cairnpublishing.com](http://www.cairnpublishing.com).

## **No Articles – No “Cloudburst” – Brian**

*Wood, FMCBC President*

Let your creative energies flow. Make your mark in the BC literary world!

Please send anything that might be of interest to our readers. This includes the good and the bad news. The good news includes: club activities; accounts of climbs, trips and tours, preferably with lots of images. The bad news could include unpleasant experiences with other back country users where you have found trail destruction or garbage from off-road vehicles, decreased enjoyment due to nearby motorised users etc.. If you do not report destruction of the backcountry (and we know it is happening), we have no chance of defending our playground. You could also comment on committee reports, Federation news, book reviews, etc. Here are the guidelines for contributions, as kindly supplied by Jodi, our office administrator and co-editor.

Images (we need lots) should be 150 - 300 DPI and include a description (names of any people in the photo and the location) and the name of the photographer. Articles should be no longer than 1000 words and include the name of the author. Send submissions to [admin.manager@mountain-clubs.org](mailto:admin.manager@mountain-clubs.org). We need your stuff by **April 15th 2009**.

**Thank you.**

## **In Memorium: Roy Mason** *Martin Kafer*

Roy, who recently died of a heart attack as he hiked up the BCMC trail on Grouse, was a member of the club since 1954.

To honour his memory I can do no better than to quote some of the words of Brian Gavin, BCMC president in 1989, when Roy was elected an honorary member of the club: "Roy significantly raised the profile of the BCMC through organizational efforts - firstly through the 1957 BCMC 50th Anniversary Expedition to Duffy Lake when the first ascents of the Joffre group were made, and secondly with the Centennial Committee for BC in 1958 which resulted in the second ascent of Mt. Fairweather. This latter adventure resulted in the BCMC being awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Province of B.C. Roy was vice-president for two years and then club president for two years and he served the mountaineering community through many years with the Mountain Rescue Group.

Although he later gave in to an interest in flying, it is noted that he used this activity to the benefit of many club members by assisting with reces, air support and so on. Perhaps the most significant by-product of his flying was the "discovery" of the Stein River valley. He identified it as an area of importance and his efforts contributed greatly to the NDP government's moratorium on the Stein in 1974. Furthermore, he undertook to share his flying adventures with us all through his book "Ice Runway".

Roy was a great help to a lot of climbers during his flying heydays, I personally was on his plane to recce many areas, such as the Tantalus, Manatee, Lillooet-Lord, Lucky Four Cabin site, Judge Howie & Silvertip routes and more. His pioneering vision to publicize the singular beauty of the STEIN valley with his submission to the BC government in 1973 eventually culminated in the creation of the park in 1995.

In the last 8 years after his second heart surgery Roy slowed down a bit in his hiking, but only two summers ago he still delighted in climbing the Coquihalla Needle with us. Almost year-round he hiked with BCMC friends on Grouse and other trails three times a week to enjoy the exercise - and the friendly company. He was a good friend and mountain companion, we will sorely miss him!



One of Roy's first ascents - Mt Matier 1241m  
Photo by Dan Carey

## **Climbing At Squamish: The First 50 Years** **(History Project)** *Anders Ourom*

Climbing at Squamish began just over 50 years ago. Guidebooks and articles have been published, but no comprehensive history of this special place. I've been thinking about this for years and last year finally scanned some slides and wrote some stories of climbing at Squamish in the 1970s. They are on the web at [http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic\\_id=668163](http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=668163). It's a somewhat personal account of those times, but with intimations of broader themes, particularly history, and some context. Several climbers have already contributed both with postings and to me privately.

This is good groundwork for a book on the topic. I would like it to be a *community project* because none of us "owns" something like this and your input should lead to a better product. Assuming it comes together, it seems unlikely the project would make much money, although one never knows. I intend that at least some of the proceeds go to the Climbers' Access Society, to support its work on behalf of B.C.'s climbers.

A project like this involves a lot of work. There are a myriad of things that would need to happen and even more decisions to make. Can you help? I look forward to any and all thoughts, suggestions, and contributions regarding this project. Contact me at 604.228.1798 or [aiourom@telus.net](mailto:aiourom@telus.net). Thanks.

## **Accident on Mt. Baker**

Thanks to Andrej Dobos for sharing this story and the lessons that are a reminder to us all.

**North Ridge of Mt Baker - Aug 30 - Sep 2, 2008** Andrej Dobos

### **Base Camp**

Saturday afternoon of the last Labour Day weekend my climbing partner Dan Lord and I camped at the toe of Coleman Glacier. Our final destination, Mt. Baker with its 3,285 meters, was hiding in the clouds.

As we were getting ready for the night, we talked to two participants of an American Alpine Institute group, and mentioned we were planning to climb the North Ridge of Mt. Baker on Sunday. Little did we know how critical this conversation was to be!

### **Climb**

Sunday morning we negotiated crevasses of the lower glacier and started climbing. The ridge turned out to be a pleasant mixture of snow and ice, and early afternoon we reached the crux of the climb - a more-or-less vertical wall of ice leading onto the upper glacier. By this time both of us were getting a bit tired, but excited about being only some 300 vertical meters below the summit.

Dan started leading the first pitch of the wall, but before he had a chance to put in his first piece of protection above the belay anchor he fell. At the time his feet were perhaps 2m above the belay station, so the fall was not too severe and as a belayer I could barely feel it. However, as he was falling, his crampon must have hit the ice and twisted his leg, and his first words after the fall were along the lines '... we are fucked... my leg is broken...'

### **Descent**

With no means to call for help, no sleeping bags or bivys, limited amount of food and water, and weather moving in, we decided to go back. We were hoping to lower onto a relatively flat glacier below the ridge, from where I could walk to the camp to call for help. To descend, we would set up an anchor, and I would slowly lower Dan down. He would be lying on the snow, trying to control the direction of his descent with two ice tools, occasionally screaming from pain, as his broken leg would get caught on the ice. Once the rope was out, Dan would set up a new anchor and belay me

while I down-climbed to him. On steeper pitches we would set up a V-thread and I would rappel instead. Personally, I was very concerned about stopping, as I feared that once we are not moving, Dan - having to sit on the snow the whole time - will start getting hypothermia, not to mention a shock from his injury.

Before the trip Dan insisted that we bring a stove with us. Now, in pain, climbing in the cold of the night, both of us were looking forward to stopping and making a cup of hot soup. Therefore, you can imagine our disappointment when we found out that while we had the stove, pot and fuel, we had no matches, lighter, or a flint! ...and so back to the slow and painful lowering it was... At around 4am Dan noticed headlamps of climbers on Coleman-Deming route and started signaling for help with his headlamp. It looked like the group noticed us and acknowledged Dan's SOS. We ended up rappelling the whole night from Sunday to Monday, and then the first half of Monday, before reaching the lowest couple of pitches above the flat glacier at some 2,560 m.

### **To Go or to Stay?**

By this time, after 30 hours on the mountain with no sleep and minimal amount of food and water, I started having serious concerns about my ability to continue down-climbing safely. If I were to fall at the top of a pitch, I would have likely taken out any protection, and both of us would have ended up at the bottom of the cliffs. Therefore, we decided to stay put, and either rest before continuing down, or wait for search and rescue (SAR).

A number of our friends and mountaineers knew where we were and when we were expected to return, and there was no question in our minds that some of them will contact SAR when we fail to come back. At the very latest, I knew that my girlfriend would arrive from the Yukon Wednesday morning and call 911 then. However, we did not have a *designated* person to call for help, and we failed to sign the registry at the bottom of the trail (something the SAR coordinator rightfully criticized later), and so we could only guess who would be the first to call: one of our friends, the American Alpine Institute, the group we were signaling SOS, a random climber seeing our abandoned bivys at the campsite...

### **Emergency Bivy**

We climbed onto a small rocky ridge, found an old bivy site, and started preparing for the night: look-

ing for water, writing a big 'HELP' on the snowfield next to us, and munching on a few peanuts we had left and the last couple of sips of Gatorade. The second night was rather cold, and I spent most of it jogging and jumping in a futile effort to keep myself warm. In excruciating pain (the few painkillers we had were long gone) Dan was clenching his teeth into a cordellette, moving every couple of minutes so as to shift pain from one part of his leg to another.

The morning found us quite exhausted, thirsty, and hungry. Surprisingly, both of us were in good spirits, and we kept ourselves occupied by checking on water from the icicles, refreshing the 'HELP!' sign, improving our shelters, and briefly considering the option of continuing our descent.

In an attempt to light our stove, Dan tried to create sparks by scratching the rocks with crampons, scratching crampons against each other, using ice axes, knives, trying different stones...

Towards the noon we started realizing that we may have to spend yet another night on the mountain, and started building a new shelter - this time with huge flat boulders as a roof.

### Search

In the meantime our hope that somebody will notice we are missing was becoming a reality: The American Alpine Institute group notified SAR that our bivys haven't been touched for a few days. Volunteers hiked up to the camp, checked our gear, and noticed most of it is Canadian made. They also noticed my abandoned car at the trail head with a Canadian license plate, contacted the RCMP, got my phone number and tried to call me (not knowing that the phone number was for a dead cell phone in one of the bivys they just checked!). Not being able to get any response, the SAR coordinator asked the RCMP to go to my apartment to try to find out what may be happening. A friend that I asked to dog-sit was also getting concerned: I told her I would be back on Sunday night or Monday noon. However, it was already Tuesday and I was not around. Not being a climber or hiker and unsure what to do, she contacted my other friends and the message that Dan and I haven't returned quickly spread. Later in the afternoon our friends called 911 and filed a missing persons report.

If we had signed the trail registry, the SAR team would have had enough information to start a full-blown search and rescue operation on Tuesday morning.

However, as it stood, all that the SAR team had by Tuesday early afternoon was a number of indicators that two Canadian climbers may be in trouble - but not enough information to authorize the use of helicopters. In spite of this, after a consultation with volunteer climbers, considering all 'circumstantial evidence' and worsening weather, the SAR coordinator decided to trust his gut instinct, push the limits of bureaucracy, and expand the 'information gathering' by calling a US Customs and Border Patrol helicopter with a volunteer climber on board.

### Rescue

And so it happened that as we were finishing our makeshift shelter on the ridge, a small search helicopter appeared in the valley. Following the climbers' route the crew quickly noticed us, waving our red and orange jackets. As the pilot started circling above our heads, Dan

was pointing at his leg, making sure the crew understands he is injured.

A few minutes later a black

US NAVY Search and Rescue helicopter came, hovered above our heads, dropped a line, and lowered two marines with a stretcher. They tied Dan to the stretcher, and one of the marines with Dan was hoisted up into the helicopter. Once on board, the line came down again, and the other marine and I were lifted up to safety. Within 10 or 15 minutes after being airlifted the helicopter landed at a hospital in Bellingham and we were taken into the Emergency Room.



### Back in the Civilization

While on the mountain we were hoping somebody would help us. Now, in a US hospital, concerned about the medical bills, we found ourselves trying to push away extremely nice and very helpful doctors and nurses, not wanting any more attention than absolutely necessary to get Dan safely across the border to a Canadian hospital.

While the doctors were preparing paperwork for a transfer to Canada, one of the nurses helped us to find a car rental place and I went to get a vehicle. Dan was released from the hospital, I drove us to BC, and after a short detour through VGH Emergency

Room we ended up in the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster. On the Thursday night Dan had surgery.

### **Lessons**

What would I do differently next time? Come to think about it - only the obvious things everybody knows about, but sometimes we don't do...

First of all, make sure to *explicitly* ask somebody to call 911 if I don't come back by certain time, and let them know where I go. Sign all relevant trail registers. Bring gear to call for help if necessary: radios, satellite phones, cell phones, Spot... I know - after a good dinner, while browsing the latest MEC catalogue in the comfort of one's home, Spot or a satellite phone look very expensive. But in the middle of the night, freezing on a mountain with a broken leg (if one is lucky), those few hundred dollars suddenly have a very different value.

There is no such thing as a day-trip in the high alpine: Have at least one emergency bivy and sleeping bag in the group, a pot, fuel, and stove (and means of lighting it!) to melt water, and spare food. Some people prefer to go 'light and fast' but, especially after this experience, my preference is for a bigger safety margin - even if 'heavier and slower'.

### **Conclusion**

Finally, I'd like to say a big thanks to everybody that alerted SAR, the SAR coordinator that took his chances, the whole SAR team that took us off the mountain, helpful doctors and nurses in the hospital, and all of our friends for continuing support!

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## **Trip Reports**

### **Mt. Shuksan via the Fisher Chimneys**

Aug. 2-4 2008

Fred Becky waxed poetic in his description of Mt. Shuksan in the Cascade Alpine Guide. So when this climb showed up in the BCMC schedule I jumped at the chance to go and have a closer look at it. The forecast was for three days of sunshine but rain was splashing on our windshield as we drove toward the Mt. Baker area. Andrej had the trip well organized, with the four rope teams of four each traveling together in the same vehicle with their ropes, snow stakes, ice screws, pulleys and other paraphernalia potentially

useful for crossing glaciers.

We hung out by a warm fireplace in the Mt. Baker visitor center until the precipitation more or less abated (the nearby Bible Center had refused us entry), then saddled up and hiked along a soggy trail to a ridge above Lake Ann. We hit the hay early, as Andrej wanted us up at 3:30 AM. I thought that this was optimistic, given the soggy sky, but when I went out for a leak during the night I almost shouted out with joy as the sky was ablaze with stars.

We left camp at about 4:30 AM, staying high on the snow slopes and scree slopes until we approached the Lower Curtis Glacier. Andrej found the lower entrance to the Fisher Chimney. It is not obvious and starts well before one reaches the Lower Curtis Glacier, then angles up to the left above this glacier: one needs to leave the tourist trail at 10 U 600404 5409481 (on WGS84 UTM grid), and then head for about 100m West (up & right) towards the entrance into the lower gully at 10 U 600509 5409493. From there we scrambled up the gully, trending towards climber's right, until we reached a scree slope at 10 U 600706 5409515. We traversed across the slope for about 300m heading North-West, reaching entrance into the upper part of the Chimneys at 10 U 600993 5409683.

Some climbers reach the entrance to the upper part of the Fischer Chimney by staying on the tourist trail until it ends at Lower Curtis Glacier, then traversing to the climber's left of the glacier until below the scree slope, and then climb straight up towards the entrance into the upper part of the chimney. Actually, this is probably one of the original variants of the Fischer Chimneys route - but these days most people seem to follow the former route through lower chimneys.

The Chimney itself is fairly straight forward, with a few Class 3 moves to add some interest, and then spits one out onto a snowfield above (10 U 601324 5409646). The upper portion of this snowfield consists of "Winnies Slide" (10 U 601642 5409668), a steep snow slope where presumably a lady by the name of Winifred took a whipper in the days of yore. The Slide now sports a fixed rope, more useful for the descent than the ascent.

Above Winnies Slide is a rocky ledge where we roped up for the ascent of the Upper Curtis Glacier. The start of this ascent is steep and icy and then moderates to a reasonably flat glacier, pock-marked with an oc-

casional yawning crevasse. The Upper Curtis Glacier then necks into a steep jumble of snow and ice called "Hell's Highway" (10 U 601900 5408931), before it turns left, to the north, and joins Sulphide Glacier.

The summit pyramid soars above the north end of the Sulphide Glacier. There's a damp, Class 3 gully running up the middle of this pyramid or one can ascend via the airy West Ridge. I hiked up the upper half of the West Ridge, passing roped climbers who were grumpy over such temerity. There were well over 20 climbers on the peak, including a guided party of four and two other smaller, private parties. The views from the summit were spectacular, especially of the nearby Mt. Baker massif.

But all good things must come to an end so we down-climbed and rappelled off of the peak and then roped up and trudged back down toward our bivy site. There were a few slips on the way and some of us had to use our self-arrest maneuvers. We straggled into camp around 9:30 – 10:00 PM, exhausted yet exhilarated over such a grand adventure.

We slept in late Monday morning then had breakfast, packed, saddled up and hiked out in the blazing hot sun to the trailhead, where Paul had a six-pack buried in the snow. The resuscitating qualities of the cold brew were as close to a religious experience as this writer will probably ever get. At Graham's quaint pub in the town of Glacier we all gathered around a long table and inhaled fish tacos, cold brew, other sustenance and toasted Andrej for a splendid job in leading this trip.

Climbers: Alena Dzukova, Marc Hewitt, Andrew Brown, Clemence Tatin-Jaleran, Darryl Leniuk, Dan Lord, Paul Gaudry, Derek Jones, Nancy Manning, Peter Steiner, Sean Pickersgill, Alan Brelsford, Luke Vivier, Radmila Jaksic, Andrej Dobos (organizer), Gordon Esplin (reporter).

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## **Mt. Rohr Feb. 24-15 2008**

Nineteen people were keen, but trip leaders have to decide what is best and stick to whatever number is safe. So I kept the number to ten.

The first part of the access to Mt Rohr follows the Wendy Thompson Memorial Hut trail into Marriot Basin and is an easy walk into the forest. Then the uphill started. There is nothing glamorous about this part of

the route. Nearing camp, there is a steep, open area that in summer is just a big old rock slide. The slopes on both sides are steeply treed making this the best ski route in. Steep switch backing is the way to go here. The turns are crucial trying not to fall with full packs. I know that I am not good at this. I am just too stiff. We camped on a flat place with scattered trees and a great view south, west to Cayoosh Mountain, and north to Mt Marriot. The sunset was spectacular. Dinner was the usual fun time even in the cold, about -12. Different foods were discussed and shared. A flask of rum really hit the spot. The five ladies received a Valentines Day treat.

The stars that night in the perfectly clear sky were at their spectacular best and at sunrise it was still clear to the west, But. The sky became more overcast to the east as we ate with just the slightest snowflake falling. We left camp heading for Mt Rohr as visibility fell. I like this area as there isn't a lot of avalanche danger.



As usual there were rabbits in the group going out front quickly. Maybe the -17 temperature had something with them going so fast. The quicker ones summited and were just leaving the top as the rest of us were arriving. The weather still hadn't cleared and in the flat light they had to struggle on their ski down. For us, on



the other hand, the clouds parted and rewarded us with fantastic views. We stayed a short time on top, ate a bit, and had one of “the” best ski runs down in the sun. The snow was sweet this day.

So back to camp to pack. That morning Peter couldn't find his coffee cup anywhere. He was going nuts trying to think what happened to it. Then Ian mentioned that he was missing a bag of garbage. Oh Oh! Something's going on here! Then Ariel said that a small bag of snacks he'd left in his tent vestibule was missing. Then! There was the answer! The culprit. It was a martin! He was spotted around camp while we were packing. I guess this goes to show that one can never be too careful with their food in the wilderness.

The most challenging part of the ski out was the first 400' or so down that steep slope right from camp with full packs. Three skiers thought that to traverse through the forest was easier. Not! Will you Natasha or Mazy listen to Peter again when he says, “follow me”? Don't think so. Eventually everyone made it down, coming out of the forest with nothing but the logging road in front of us all the way to the highway.

We then did the beer and a burp thing at the Shady tree Pub in Squamish and shared our stories of daring deeds.

Five of this group were from the club's winter mountaineering course and two others were new to winter mountaineering. That was how the trip was put on the schedule. Something fairly easy for beginners and graduates from the course. And then for whomever else wanted to come. We got the best snow conditions, good weather, clear when it mattered, and a great bunch who got along and had fun.

Did I mention that everyone summited! The 8000' Mt Rohr. Some were faster, some were slower, some were better skiers. But everyone made it. Not bad for newbies. And you just know that there are going to be a lot of tired and achy bodies tomorrow!

The survivors are: Alena Prchalova, Zoran Vasic, Mazy Baker, Peter Malacarni, Alena Dzijkova, Ariel Goldenberg, Ian Whitehead, Andrea Ouchi, Natasha Suvorova, David Scanlon (organizer and reporter)  
Photo: Mt. Cayoosh by Alena Prchalova

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## **Mt. Kilimanjaro** Nov. 26 – Dec. 02, 2008

Mt. Kilimanjaro is located in Tanzania, 3 degrees south from equator. To get there we needed to fly to

Nairobi, the capital of neighboring Kenya. The flight was towards the time. We had 2+ days to fly according to our tickets, though it was only a 16 hour flight. One day virtually disappeared from our lives. The good news was that we gained that day back on the way home. We spend one day in Nairobi resting after the international flight and exploring the exotic city. Next day we crossed the border to reach Arusha town- our base for the climb.

There were seven of us in the group, all from Vancouver, including two BCMC members- Ed Zenger and myself. That was a fundraising climb, and each of us had raised something from several hundreds dollars up to \$4,000 dollars to benefit the BC Cancer Foundation.

The mountain at 5,895 m/19,340 ft is the highest in Africa, and as any big mountain it has numerous climbing routes. The choice is from a very technical one to a “normal” route, which is kind of a hiking with some scrambling. However it is a high-altitude hiking and proper organization and acclimatization are mandatory for success. It was my third climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Last year I climbed it twice- once a Machame route with a group of fundraisers in six days, and once- more technical Arrow glacier route solo in two days. This year we were going to climb the mountain via normal Machame route in seven days to give people more time for acclimatization. Several people in the group had never been higher than 3,000 meters before.



Machame route is the second most popular route on the mountain, and the most beautiful one. To climb it you will traverse halfway around the mountain and hike about 35 miles. The route goes through several different climate zones, starting from tropical jungle,

followed by the rocky slopes with unusual vegetation, and finishing with the giant glaciers at the end. The beauty of this mountain is amazing.

We started our climb at the Kilimanjaro National Park entrance. The trail went inside the tropical forest of rubber trees and giant fig trees. After a while, the forest gave way to tall grasses with begonia flowers and giant heather, and led us to Machame hut campsite- our first camp at 3,000 m.

Next day our path followed along a steep rocky ridge passing through heather and open moorlands and crossing the Shira Plateau. In about 6 hours we reached Shira Camp at 3800 m. Everybody felt good except of Karen. Next day Karen got really sick and at Baranco camp she had finished her climb and descended via Umbwe route to Arusha with a local assistant guide, a second cook, and one porter. I used this route last year as the approach to Arrow glacier. The next three days we were hiking along the South Circle- the trail that connects several approach routes at the elevation around 4,000 m. That gave us enough time to adjust our bodies to altitude. The trail has many ups and downs, which is good for acclimatization. We climbed Lava Tower at 4,600 m. and descended to Grand Barranco canyon at 4,000. We scrambled up a steep Barranco Wall. We crossed many small streams before crossing the Karanga River just before Karanga camp. It was accompanied by great views of the mountain from all angles. By the end of the fifth day we reached Barafu campsite (4,600) - our last camp on the way.

I need to say a few words about the local people, who helped us during the climb. Tanzanian government requires that climbers have to hire local guides and porters. For seven climbers in our group we had twenty local people who carried loads, cooked food, and accompanied us on the trail. That created very unusual comfort on the mountain. The porters work really hard for very little money. It's a poor country. The guides are very good in managing their team, and they know the mountain very well, though they have some limitations. As a rule they never had any special mountaineering training, they never used crampons or ice axes, and climb only normal routes of only one mountain.

Some notes about the weather on Kilimanjaro. The mountain is climbable all around the year, though there are two rainy seasons, which are better to be

avoided. We climbed it right after the short rainy season, the same time as my last year climbs. Weather is very important factor in the mountains and I always try to understand the ideas of local mountain weather. I guess I found the weather pattern on Kilimanjaro at least for that period of year. The mountain is so big, that it creates its own weather. Usually at night and in the morning it is clear and nice. With the sunrise, the tropical forests and dense vegetation at the bottom of the mountain start to evaporate, and by noon the mountain is covered by a layer of clouds with possible fog and scattered showers. Have to say that it worked that way almost all the time, with bright sunny mornings and foggy afternoons.

On the sixth day, to be exact, on the sixth night at 12 pm we began our summit push. By 6 am, when the sun started to light glaciers with a pink pre-dawn color, we reached the edge of the summit crater at Stella Point.

From that spot it was only about 30 minutes to the top of the summit, and soon all six of us were standing on Kibo peak (5,893 m)- the highest single peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

We spent half an hour on the summit, and then descended a long way to 3,000 m. Mweka camp via Mweka route. Next day we descended to the town of Arusha, where we united with Karen and went to safari.

**Participants:** Andy Chu, Amir Khanlou, Ramin Khanlou, Susanne Klocke, Karen Winqvist, Ed Zenger, and Ravil Chamgoulov (Organizer and Reporter) Photo: Mt. Kilimanjaro from camp by R. Chamgoulov

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## **Rainbow Mtn. [2314m] (via Callaghan Valley) - March, 7, 2009**

I was curious about the approach to Rainbow Mtn. from the new Whistler Olympic Park (WOP) in the Callaghan Valley. So my objective was essentially accomplished when we arrived in Rainbow Pass. I can confirm that the information on the VOC wiki ([http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Whistler\\_Nordic\\_Centre\\_-\\_Callaghan\\_Valley](http://www.ubc-voc.com/wiki/Whistler_Nordic_Centre_-_Callaghan_Valley)), assembled by Scott Nelson, reflects the realities on the ground. - The bureaucracy was lengthy but expected. We signed in at the Ski Shop with a friendly employee who knew all about the procedure: waivers to be signed by all and parking passes for the cars. The Ski Shop is located at

basement level in the Day Lodge, which was otherwise closed for the day because of an IPC Biathlon and Cross-country World Cup event. My initial fear, supported by hard-to-find information on the WOP website's (<http://www.whistlerolympicpark.com>) ->The Venue->SnowConditions page, under "General Info - Please Note", was that because of the event the whole of the biathlon area would be off-limits to the public.

The trail head for the winter route to Hanging Lake starts just to the right of the score board. This was fortunately not the case but we were redirected to park at P4 below the Day Lodge because all parking nearer to the biathlon area (P8) was already taken up by competition team SUVs. It was now about 9am and the event was not scheduled to start for another hour. While we were getting ready I noticed a shuttle bus ferrying people to the biathlon area. I asked a parking attendant if the bus was for spectators and if so whether we could use it too. No, was the answer, for officials, but he was sure that we'd get a ride if only we ask nicely. Sure! We piled into the large bus and got the VIP treatment when the happy driver did another shuttle just for us. What a start to a BCMC trip, possibly a first! How could we top this? Well, the sun was shining now and just as we were about to step into our heavy armor bindings, a group of three athletic women in all body colorful Canadian National Team tights suits walked by us, smiling at us guys - we sure looked out of place - our stare following them, focused on their behind, then they bent over in unison, slapped on their skate skis and off they skated in perfect style and technique. - It took a bit of head shaking to come out of daydreaming and back to the task at hand.

It was obvious where the route enters the trees. There was a sign with the back country protocol explained. Now, the initial route is very, very contrived as it tries to avoid a snow mobile track which leads to the exact same place from where the flagged route climbs away. For liability reasons, we could be run over by a speeding snow machine. An old ski track we followed soon led away and uphill from the marking - flagging for the ski route is always tied around tree trunks, never hung from branches. Part of my troupe was also anxious to start climbing and so I had to assert authority here to keep them together. Soon, we arrived at the key description: "...then when the road switchbacks to the left continue straight through some tangled trees to reach the end of a logging road." We found the tangled

trees, the road beyond, and saw the snowmobile/snowcat service track emerge from the forest.

It is here where the flagging continues on the uphill side of the road and climbs into the forest. The flagging is relatively easy to follow, eventually crosses the creek, climbs left to right through a steep section, and ends at the bottom of an open talus slope. This route appears well researched and is probably the best possible access to Hanging Lake. A bench about 2/3 up the talus slope leads left and easy to the outlet of Hanging Lake. The sun had long disappeared. It was snowing, whited out, and it looked unlikely we'd get anywhere near the summit. We could barely make out the far side of the lake.

A break was called, transceivers were checked, a compass bearing was taken to point us in the right direction of Rainbow Pass. The pass was best reached a bit to the right of the low point where the slope was more continuous and less broken up by ravines. We came upon the Whistler watershed sign, then contoured up the drainage that flows into Rainbow Lake from the pass to the north, trying to not lose elevation for the return. We crossed over to the mountain's side, skied up a wide slope becoming fall-line with the aforementioned pass. The visibility diminished even more as we left the last trees behind. A cliff band was spotted. There were two options, to the right or left. With the contrast next to the rocks, the right side seemed less steep in this white-out, so up I led when my memory had nothing stored about cliffs to my left. So, we ended up where, what should have been a corridor onto the glacier plateau, was obviously a ridge. It wasn't narrow so we proceeded since the map showed it would also lead to the plateau. When we reached a high point we stopped and waited for better visibility, which never came. We saw enough to know that the corridor was below us and we had reached a logical turn-around point. The ski down was superb and not all that bad initially with the contrast next to the cliff band.

Back at Rainbow Pass we ran into a large group of VOCers, ably led by a young lady up the trail alongside Rainbow Creek. They were prepared to stay overnight. Finally, the sun came out and the summit cleared just when we arrived back at our earlier lunch stop at Hanging Lake. There were old snow mobile tracks on the lake but otherwise we didn't see them hordes and only once heard motor noise in the dis-

tance of Sproatt. The ski through the forest eventually became treacherous when only a thin layer of new snow covered a cruddy hard surface. The trip ended at the Cliffside Pub in Squamish where we witnessed loud pay-per-view type of wrestling - everything goes - with fighters dropping bloody and unconscious, the bar crowd cheering. My choice, for I wanted to check out a new-to-me venue. Not exactly recommended. Participants: Ramsay Dyer, Darryl Leniuk, Francis St-Pierre, Arnold Witzig and Peter Gumplinger (organizer and reporter

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## Treats

Now that you've got your appetite up from reading all these energetic trip reports, kick back and enjoy some of Claire Oldham's granola squares (passed down from her Mum – the recipe, not the squares).

**Ingredients:** 1 cup Flour, 3 cups Oatmeal, 1 cup of Brown Sugar, 1/2 tsp Salt, 1/2 tsp Soda, 3 Dashes of Cinnamon, 1 cup Butter, 2 Large Eggs, 1 tsp Vanilla, 1/2 cup Cranberries, 1/2 cup Mixed Nuts (crush a bit if whole) or 1 cup Granola Cereal as a substitute. Have fun with the ingredients, fruit; nuts; chocolate; coffee. etc...

**How-To:** Mix the dry ingredients first and then wet. Combine the wet to the dry and mix by hand. Make sure no powder is left at the bottom! Press into a deep 11"x 24" rectangular cookie sheet with a 1/2" depth and bake 350° for approx. 15-20min for soft chewy bars, longer for crunchier. Remove from the oven and leave to cool. Cut into squares. Yum!

\*\*If you like treats and you've got a tried and true mountain recipe, send it along to share with others!



Kilimanjaro Sunrise  
Photo: Ravil Chamgoulov