BC Mountaineering Club Newsletter

Mt. Baker in August
Photo: Diana Diaconu

Oct. 2011. Vol. 89, No. 8

EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

Evening socials are held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario St., Vancouver) from 7:30 pm. Cookies, tea and coffee are provided.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN MUG

Tues. 11th Oct.- Kevin Swanson will do a multimedia presentation on canyoneering in southern Utah and introduce us to some local creeks.

Tues. 8th Nov. - AGM and executive elections followed by a presentation on a ski camp in Garibaldi Park.

Rappelling in Lost Ck, near Mission, BC
Photo: Kevin Swanson

British Columbia Mountaineering Club
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8
EMAIL: info@bcmc.ca; NET: www.bcmc.ca

HONOURARY PRESIDENTS
Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	DAVID SCANLON	604-531-5025
PAST-PRESIDENT:	TODD PONZINI	604-936-9369
VICE-PRESIDENT:	ALENA DZUJKOVA	778-881-5642
SECRETARY:	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
Alternate Secretary	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
TREASURER:	CRAIG KALNIN	604-787-5396
MEMBERSHIP:	HUGH KELLAS	604-209-4744
SOCIALS:	OPEN	
CLIMBING:	WINIFRED SWATSCHEK	604-828-8541
CABIN/TRAILS:	EMANUELE PORRA	604-533-7723
CONSERVATION:	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
CAMPS and PROGRAMS	ALENA DZUJKOVA	778-881-5642
FMCBC REP:	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
WEBMASTER:	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
EDITOR - NEWSLETTER:	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
Alternate Newsletter Ed.	BRITTANY ZENGER	778-228-2392
EDITOR - OTHER	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
SAFETY EQUIPMENT:	KIT GRIFFIN	604-313-7282
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 (604-313-7282) 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 August). 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. 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: **editor@bcmc.ca**

Members may upload articles, photos etc. for the editor at: **http://bcmc.ca/members/EditorUpload.asp**

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. 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 ~ Check for updates and details at www.bcmc.ca. No phone # means signup not yet open at time of publication.

October 2011

1	Little Ring Peak: C3	Jeff Han	604.616.4593
1-2	Bighorn Mtn: B2	Karl Ricker	1.604.938.1107
1-2	Joffre Pk - Aussie Couloir: C4 *Training, members only*	Serguei Okountsev	
1-28	Red Rock climbing camp: B5 *Dates flexible*	Francis St. Pierre	604.224.0502
8	Sun God and Seven O'Clock Mtns: C2	Jeff Han	604.616.4593
8-10	Lost Pk N face: C5 (*1st ascent, members only*)	Serguei Okountsev	
15	Mt Fee: C3/4	Gordon Esplin	
15	Saturday rock climbing: A5	Paul Ng	604.434.3312
15-16	Widowmaker's Arete Reversed *(members only*)	Serguei Okountsev	
22-23	In-SHUCK-ch Mtn (Gunsight Pk): D3	Alastair Ferries	604.329.1637

November 2011

19	Herman Saddle (ski): B2/3	Thomas Schroeder	

NEWS AND NOTICES

New members: The club welcomes thge following new members: Simon Whitehead, Adrienne Denham, Mike Douglas, Josee Houle, Anne-Sophie Massard, Evgeny Sorkin, Celinda Williams, and Stefan Tjarks.

Results of Voting at the Special General Meeting in September

Both of the Resolutions presented, namely, *A General Resolution to Transfer the BCMC Archives to the North Vancouver Museum and Archives,* and *A Special Resolution to Amend Club Membership Fees*, were passed and carried with near unanimous support. The archival materials have now been transferred into the care of the NVMA. Club fees will now be as presented in last month's newsletter and as on the club website. From time-to-time questions arise as to the difference between the Active and Associate membership categories, now subsumed under "Individual". There is legally solid reasoning for this differentiation which will be explained in detail in next month's newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

Mark it in your calendar ~ the AGM will be held at the November Social, on Tuesday 8th. There will be a significant turnover in the executive this year, so now is your chance to offer your services to your club. Please contact the nominating committee through Brian Wood, Francis St. Pierre or Alena Dzujkova.

Are You A Graphics Designer?

Long-time club members, David and Mary Macaree (now deceased), authored the popular guidebook, *109 Walks in British Columbia's Lower Mainland* and saw it through many revisions. BCMC is now gratefully benefiting from a bequest of royalties on sales of the book. Greystone Publishers offered BCMC an opportunity to produce the next revised edition in order to maximize benefits from future royalties. Two volunteers, John Halliday and Alice Purdey, with support from others, are now embarking on this 20-month project.

We are looking for someone with graphics design experience to provide advice on alternative approaches for producing the print-ready digital map files for the book. If you are interested, please contact John at: walks109@bcmc.ca

Congratulations to Monika Bittel and her paddling companion, Brian Thompson (BT), who spent the summer kayaking the length of British Columbia's west coast. Monika writes:

Our adventure started on July 2. We flew to Bella Bella, BC, where we joined our kayaks (Nimbus Telkwa HV) on board the "Dream Catcher", which took us to Brundige Inlet on the north end of Dundas Island, a couple of kilometres south of the BC-Alaska border. We started paddling south on July 8, staying on the outer coast as much as possible (excluding Haida Gwaii and Vancouver Island). Sixty-nine days later, on September 14, we paddled into Eagle Harbour, West Vancouver. Bella Bella and Lund were our re-supply points. We averaged about 25 km per day for a total of approximately 1400 km. The 69 days includes 14 rest/weather days. We had some incredible, close encounters with humpback whales, killer whales, wolves and sea otters and lots of opportunities to watch eagles, sea lions, seals, osprey, herons, cranes, mink, bear and deer. We supplemented our dinners with sea asparagus, clams, oysters, crab and two sockeye (10-15 lbs each; one caught with rod and reel, the other, bare-handed). Finding campsites was probably the biggest challenge, followed by navigating currents and rapids, big crossings, and staying upright or making headway on some pretty strong wind days. Amazingly, there were only about a half-dozen days that we could not move because of weather. All in all a grand adventure! Sorry to see it come to an end, but on to planning the next one!

TRIP REPORTS

Mount Baker, Aug 13-14: Close, But No Cigar

Initially, it looked like a no go on the trip because no one had a glacier rope. Eventually, I tracked down the club ropes and was able to borrow 2 from Alena Dzujkova. Everyone had prior glacier experience and two of our party had graduated from the BCMC mountaineering course last year.

We made it up to the top of the Hog's Back in 2 hours and set camp at 5700 feet (1737 m). There were 15 campsites there, but most of them were occupied. New for this year, the forest service has sited 2 fiberglass toilet boxes on a rock island to the west of the camping spots. There are a further 2 boxes up at the Black Buttes tent site. I would still carry the blue bags for human waste however, because the lower boxes were pretty full.

The forecast was for rain on Sunday, so I suggested we make our bid for the summit the same day. Return would be by headlamp and moonlight.

We set out at 2:00 pm as one rope of 4 and worked our way past the Black Buttes at 3:00 p.m. where we encountered an 83-year-old man soloing down the mountain. He had experienced leg cramps at the Colfax-Baker col and decided against going for the summit. Further along, we met a large party descending back to their camp at the Black Buttes. They had started at 4:00 am that morning.

Cloudwalkers Kosta and Arman
Photo: Diana Diaconu

At 6:15 p.m. we crested the Pumice Ridge at 9000 feet (2743 m) and were about an hour and a half from Grant Peak. At this point, one person was too cold and another was too tired to continue. I didn't like the idea

of leaving 2 people behind unroped so made the decision to return as a group to camp. As we descended, we could see a bank of clouds roll in below us, engulfing our tents.

Back at camp, a couple of rangers visited us and gave us a friendly caution about picking a larger tent site next time to avoid trampling the lupines. Brannan, one of the rangers, asked us to popularize their new blog that posts current conditions for climbers: mtbakerclimbing.blogspot.com/

Our call on the weather proved prescient because it was drizzling as we reached the parking area on Sunday morning and Diana, who bicycled to Richmond that afternoon, reported the summit in clouds.

Trip Participants: Konstantin (Kosta) Beznosov, Diana Diaconu, Randy Enomoto (reporter) and Arman Sharif.

Caspar Creek – an outstanding trip, 16-17 April, 2011

Good memories of a sunny spring trip where we explored the headwaters of Caspar Creek and had a long swooping descent from the col east of Duke enticed me back into the valley. While Duke and Caspar are worthy objectives it can be fun to see new territory and the potential of other good descent routes was worth exploring. I tried to block memories of previous trips of fighting through slide alder on the overgrown logging road or a miserable return on one trip with several centimetres of snow 'glop' on skis.

Photo: Michael Feller

Our party of seven made good time on the old logging road with no sign of the infamous alder stretch. The slide crossings were stable and presented no danger. We set up camp at the road end which is a good central point for most objectives in the valley. We set off for an afternoon ski to the Duke – Vantage Col. The three who made the col reported good views towards Matier through clouds and wind. Lack of 'glop' remover thwarted other party members in reaching the col and the ski down was in heavy conditions.

After a good evening with a well excavated kitchen and fire-side gathering, we started up the valley the next day. Here we lost some time heading through the hummocky ground in the forest rather than following the creek. We crossed several small lakes and had great views of Duke and Peak 2320m to the east of the Caspar Creek Col. Some of us headed up to the col where with increasing wind and cloud we missed the great views of Snowspider. Andrzej, Rebecca and Giovanni successfully climbed Peak 2320m and were very enthusiastic about the magnificent ski run and the view of Snowspider.

As the clouds grew darker in Duffey Lake Valley we skied back down the road in great conditions and increasingly larger snow flakes. Caspar Creek will entice us back again.

Participants: Giovanni Ghigliotti, Jason White, Andrzej Jarzabek, Patrick Rault, Rebecca Lee, Michael Feller and Evelyn Feller (organizer and reporter)

Ups And Downs On The Duffey

March 3 2011 came the knee injury, then 4 months of inactivity, then came July 8 and the surgery, then finally came the time when; " I am going out for a hike no matter what"! The knee will either work or not! So I decided

to hike the ridge north of Duffey Lake from Mount Rohr going east ending up at an old mining road for my exit. A 5 day trip. I decide on a date and get ready to go. A few days later a friend and I were talking and this trip came up and could she come. I said yes, so I now had someone to go with. One of those spur of the moment things that somehow just happens. Four months of idleness really gets you unfit fast so this trip sure wouldn't set any speed records. Aaaaand we're off. The pick up at 7:30-the drive- the start at 11AM, and the plod begins.

The weather forecast is perfect and first day is great and we hike up { the first up } the regular trail up to Rohr Lake stopping for lunch at the lake. Having been there before I was looking forward to see if the trout were still in the lake from last time and wasn't to be disappointed. There were trout everywhere. They were still there and seemed to be in a playful mood. That is the only way I could describe what they were doing. They seemed to be chasing each other around and around. Really fast. Sometimes breaking the surface. What fun to watch, and they weren't afraid to see us watching them either as most fish would disappear upon seeing any movement. After lunch we carried on up and over the north shoulder of Mt Rohr to camp by one of the lakes there. We camped on the snow as it was the flattest place there was. This was an interesting place in that the map showed a glacier on Rohrs north side but all we saw was one bit of left over ice far up the north wall. I guess like most older maps many glaciers that are shown are now smaller, or gone altogether. The lake we were beside will not become ice free this year as there is way too much there to melt away.

Good intentions sometimes get lost and our day 2 start was no exception. The alarm went off at 6AM. We arose at? Lets just say it was much later than 6AM. Not your early alpine start for sure! The good thing about the later start was that the snow was soft enough to kick step in to where we had to go as we didn't bring our crampons.

But finally start we did and now here is where the real up and down begins as we go up to the next 1000' to the first 7500" summit on the ridge. Ridge hiking if great as you have views all around and if there is any breeze at all you will surely get it. And again the views. We were seeing mountains from a direction that few ever get to see. Marriott, Matier, Duke, Caspar, Wedge, and far to the north the Bendor Range and Truax Mountain. Then there was the 3000' look down to the south to Duffey Lake and the ants that were the cars on the Duffey Lake road.

Mt. Matier & Mt. Joffre; Duffey Lk road in valley
Photo: David Scanlon

Now ridge walking / hiking if fine until it is time to camp because there isn't any water up there. So in the next valley we dropped down about 600' to where there was a small stream coming from a snowfield. This was the headwaters of Common Johnny Creek. It was a fine meadow to camp in except for the noise of the marmots because they were singing all over. We never encountered that before as they usually just whistle once as a warning and then stop run and hide. Maybe mom and dad were teaching them how to do it. One of them was fun to listen to though because it's voice must have been getting tired and his whistles were changing more to squeaks than whistles. We laughed. This was also a good place to view the route for the next day. It appeared that some places were going to be a challenge as parts of the ridge looked very imposing from this angle. We discussed alternatives for the morrow and none looked good.

The next day we did get up to the alarm as planned and started out at 7:30AM. From what we could see this was going to be a much more challenging day so wanted to get at it. It was to be our most technical day. So

we went back up the 600' to the ridge to carry on. It turned out that we had help with our route finding and we will be ever grateful. We had found that there was a goat path that was getting progressively more sustained as we went along and we followed this for most of the rest of the next 2 days. The goats absolutely went the best way. Except once! There was this one rocky outcrop that we couldn't climb over so we had to go around it. That was were we had to traverse a very steep grassy side hill. We don't know where the goats went but we did pick up their trail again on the other side. This was one of those places were you have to get your ice axe out and be ready to self arrest if you slip. It would have been a long long grassy slide. Those goats! Oh to have been able to be a quadruped at times instead of a biped. There were some class 3 scrambles to do after this and a couple were exciting to get through. There were some airy gaps, some steep down climbing, and some places were we didn't think we could pass but there was always appeared a way through.

At a high spot we had an early lunch and as usual out came the binoculars to look around while we ate. I was looking for grizzly bears and looking down into the valley were we had camped there he was! Yeah! A grizzly! It is always fun to find and see a grizzly anywhere but to see one in the basin we had just vacated made us realize that it was a good idea to have had out bear protection with us. The bear was slowly working it's way up to where we had camped. Now that would have been quite a wake up call if he had woken us up! Alena was saying that he wasn't very big. And I'm thinking, well, a small grizzly is still bigger than our local black bears and to have seen one was still a real treat. And to have met him at our tent would have again been quite an eye opener. Speaking of wildlife, we never did see that goat although we saw his tracks for the rest of the trip. So we saw a grizzly, did some class 3 scrambling, traversed a steep hillside, had our second lunch and then came out to a large open meadow about half a Kilometer across leading up to the last 7500' summit we had to get over. It was here as we were walking when we came to a small run off from a snowfield. This was a welcome relief for me as my water was getting to be in short supply and it was hot. I usually don't carry much water. Because. My theory is that water is heavy and I usually carry less than everyone else because of that. So we replenished our water supply, then the one last slog up and we topped out. At the top appeared a small cairn and an old mining post with some dates and initials carved into it. We left our names in a small container.

Alena's truck stop
Photo: Dave Scanlon

The satellite pictures of the area showed many old mining roads in the next basin as did the back roads map book of the area. It also showed that the bridge at the valley bottom was still intact without which the crossing of the Cayoosh River would have been. How to say this, a major problem. We could now see all of the old mining roads as well as a few ponds and lots of running streams from the remaining snow patches. There were many places to camp. Working our way down into the basin we came to one of the roads and followed it down and stopped to camp for the night. We dumped our gear and then went for a wander around the area and came across an old burnt down cabin. And near by was an outhouse. A mystery here about the whole area was that there were roads all over but absolutely no sign of any mining happening at all. No shafts, no piles of diggings, no old equipment, nothing. Just the roads, and they were going up some of the steepest side hills and just ending. If anyone knows of what happened here please let us know. And the outhouse looked to be fairly recently built. We couldn't figure it out. We thought; ATV's? Snow machines? But nothing made sense to us.

We got up the next morning to an overcast sky and wondered if it would rain on us on our last day. We packed up and left, so far to a dry day. As we went lower down into the valley we saw bear scat. And more scat. Guess we aren't alone here we say to each other. Also as we went down the vegetation became thicker and thicker to the point were you were going for hundreds of meters without seeing your feet.

Ok, now work with me on this, OK? You are to make noise in bear country right? So we did. I am banging my hiking poles together and singing. [I can't sing]! And Alena is singing too. I really can't say if she was any good or not as she was singing in Slovakian. She was yelling also. So here we are thrashing through this horrendous

vegetation, banging away, singing, making noise, and we couldn't see 2 meters any which way. Fun? I guess you had to have been there. It did work though as we saw no bears! They may have seen us though but upon hearing the racket wisely left for quieter pastures.

We did work our way down though coming to a few open places here and there and then eureka; we could see and hear the road traffic! The end is in sight! Then we come across an old abandoned yellow pick up truck that was totally trashed. For some silly reason we took our pictures in it even with all of the mouse dirt. Remember that Alena? Down we go, crossing a stream where the bridge was taken out and then the road! What a relief. Now for the hitch hike back the 25K to where the car is. Any one of you picked up a hitch hiker lately? Yes? No? Remembering that many mass murders in the movies are hitch hikers I know I haven't; so I was expecting a long wait before we caught a ride. Here comes vehicle number one so out with the thumb. And they stopped! A couple in an old beater of a pickup. Yahoo! Alena gets the cab and I crawl into the back and off we go.

We didn't get murdered but were let off at our car. Yeah. So to the car, change, lunch in Pemberton, and home. All done. A fun trip to do and it could be done in 3 maybe even 2 days by the really fit and fast. A fun trip to do made more so by having a friend along to share. *Alena Dzujkova, David Scanlon*

Left: The Clouds Roll In on Mt. Baker
Photo: Randy Enomoto

Alpine flowers above Duffey Lake in August
Photo: Dave Scanlon

Ridge walk from Mt. Rohr, centre-right skyline,
above Common Johnny Ck. headwaters
Photo: Dave Scanlon