

Kootenay Mountaineer

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter

March-April 2002

Issue 2

Next deadline: Approx. June 15th



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KMC website
www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca

The 2002 Executive:

Chair	Paul Allen
Vice	Reid Henderson
Treasurer	Elaine Martin
Secretary	Ross Bates
Conservation	Kim Kratky
Cabins & Trails	Paul Allen
Winter Trips	Peter Jordan
Summer Trips	Don Harasym
Newsletter	Eliane & Steven Miros
Hiking Camps	Drew Desjardins
Climbing Camp	Kim Kratky
Mtn School	Jenny Baillie
Karabiner	Holly Ridenour
Social	Jill Watson & Jan Micklethwaite

Contacts

» Membership Annual Dues: «

(Fees Unchanged - Note: Address change)

Individual \$20 Couple/Family \$25 Junior \$10
Send to: KMC Membership c/o Eliane Miros

» **Library & Newsletter submissions** «

Eliane & Steven Miros

Editorial Policy: We encourage all submissions of writings, cartoons, drawings, book & website reviews and trip reports. Suitability for publication is at editors' discretion. Articles and advertisements may be edited for clarity and length. Advertising must be thought to be of interest to members in regard to the outdoors, especially locally. Discretion will be used for commercial endeavors

Message from the Chair

Submitted by Paul Allen

To KMC members

The executive on your behalf has attended many meetings with B.C. Parks concerning the proposed new hut to replace the Slocan Chief Cabin. The original cabin has serious problems including substantial rot of the lower logs as well as environmental concerns and is in dire need of replacement. Parks has undertaken a large fund raising effort based on the Trudeau legacy, which is largely complete with about \$800,000 available.

The KMC has been involved in input towards the design stage, this has resulted in Parks significantly reducing the size of the proposed new hut as well as roof design changes and interior layout plans as well. We have also lobbied hard to have campgrounds closed and the overall human footprint in the Park to be as small and unobtrusive as possible. Largely we have succeeded in getting every item which we deemed important to be incorporated into this proposed hut.

However we would have liked the new hut to be high up on Smuggler's Ridge in the timber, but due to sewer and water concerns, financial feasibility, as well as bear problems we have to accept Parks choice as the best site.

This was not a KMC proposed cabin, it was and is being driven by B.C. Parks and we were only consulted on cabin design and location. In this regard we can be thankful that they have addressed our concerns and received our inputs as well as they have. Parks has spent over two full years studying both the design and layout and I believe must be given full credit for doing their due diligence very well. Hopefully the new hut will be a success and not create different problems in the future.

From B.C.Parks Kokanee Glacier Alpine Hut Location

BC Parks has selected the northeast corner of Kaslo Lake as the preferred site for building the new Kokanee Glacier Alpine Cabin. The site was chosen after review of environmental, recreational, economic and construction considerations. Based on reports and information provided by a variety of consultants, BC Parks determined that this site could provide excellent winter and summer recreational opportunities while minimizing the impact to the environment. Construction will begin in the summer of 2002.

The site provides superior access to water and power, incredible views across Kaslo Lake towards Kokanee Lake, a view of Kokanee Glacier, and improved public access. Because the new cabin site is 1.2km closer to the Gibson Lake, Enterprise Creek and Lemon Creek parking lots than the Slocan Chief Cabin, visitors to the Park will have a shorter hike before they reach shelter and can make their trip to Kokanee Glacier in 2 stages.

As part of the overall project the existing Slocan Chief Cabin will become a day-use only interpretive center detailing the rich history of the park. To mitigate potential impacts on grizzly bears and to protect the fragile wet meadows in the vicinity of the Slocan Chief, the existing Ranger Cabin, Ranger Workshop and Kalmia Campground will be closed. BC Parks will reclaim the area around Kalmia as wilderness and implement a formal grizzly bear monitoring program for the area.

BC Parks would like to thank the KMC for their personal involvement in this project and trust you will be able to support us in this decision. If you would like further information, please contact Wayne Stetski, BC Parks Kootenay District Manager at 250 422-4202.

Executive Notes

- **Conservation:**

“DEFROST IN THE ALPINE ?”
AWARENESS PROGRAM

The KMC Executive has voted unanimously to support the “*Defrost in the Alpine?*” proposal made by Ian Bruce, a Vancouver-based engineer and ACC member. Ian’s three-phase project intends to promote awareness of the effects of climate change on the alpine environment in western Canada. He intends to produce a brochure, create a website, and deliver a series of presentations highlighted by an appearance at this year’s Mountain Community Conference in Banff. KMC joins the following organizations in support of the proposal: ACC Vancouver and Whistler Sections, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, U. of Calgary Outdoor Program Centre, Sierra Club of Canada, and the David Suzuki Foundation. Our role in this non-profit venture is to provide a public letter of support, make the brochure available, link up with the resulting website, and perhaps host Ian for a presentation. (Submitted by Kim Kratky)

- **Hiking Trips:**

This time of year the unusually late arrival of spring has made the start of some of our scheduled hikes rather difficult. The latest schedule is in this newsletter with a few dates that still need filling.

Sharing car costs during KMC outings is based on determining what those costs are... And the discussion could go on forever! The executive is suggesting that a reasonable figure of 35 cents per kilometer should be divided among the passengers.

- **Mountaineering School:**

This year the KMC is offering the following Mountaineering skills course:

GENERAL MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

Dates: June 18th (evening)
June 21st, 22nd & 23rd (Full days)

Price: \$300- Includes hut fees – non-members please add \$20 membership fee
Course Limited to 16 persons

Instructor: Laura Adams, Certified ACMG Guide

Please register by May 18th at (250) 362-xxxx (Jenny Baillie)

This course will include mountaineering on rock, snow and glaciated terrain, trip and route planning, map and compass navigation and mountain weather. Kokanee Glacier will be used as the location to cover glacier travel, snow and ice climbing. The three full days involve a two-night stay at Slocan Chief Cabin.

- **Climbing Camp:**

Information regarding the location of the upcoming general mountaineering camp is given later in this newsletter.

- **Newsletter:**

Please keep sending in material for *your* newsletter.

Ed.Note: The section “Other trip reports” is intended both for the story and a knowledgeable contact for future reference.

- **Social:**

Our next spring social is a Pot Luck Dinner Meeting.

Note the Pot Luck Plan as follows:

Surnames

A to H

Bring Dessert,

I to Q

bring salads,

R to Z

bring Main courses.

Since the location is in a school, they would prefer that we not bring beer or wine.

BRING YOUR OWN PLATES AND CUTLERY. WE WILL SUPPLY STROFOAM CUPS FOR TEA AND COFFEE.

There will be a special draw for a free KMC T-shirt, and T-shirts will be available for purchase as well.

Spring Social



Date: Friday May 3rd

Location: Robson Community School (One block west from the Robson Hall)

Time: Social: 6:00 to 6:30

Dinner: 6:30 to 7:30

Followed by brief Business Meeting

Speaker: Joanne Siderius, a biologist who will share current information about bears and how hikers can safely share their environment.

- **Hiking Camps:** To date camps 1 and 2 still have vacancies. Camp 3 is full.

KMC Bike Trips Schedule 2002

Trip classification:

Physical A-easy (short day, little elevation gain) B-fair (a longer day or moderate elevation gain) C-average (a full day, reasonable level of fitness required) D-strenuous (a long day, lots of elevation gain) E-very strenuous

Technical 1-suitable for all bikes 2-hybrid or mountain bike recommended 3-moderate mountain biking skill required 4-advanced mountain biking abilities - steep or exposed trails, difficult route finding may be involved 5-extreme mountain skills necessary

May	3	8 mile - Proctor return B-1	Yvonne Tremblay	825-xxxx
	10	Ft Sheppard B-2	Jill Watson	362-xxxx
	17	Slocan Jct - Castlegar return C-1	Mary Woodward	825-xxxx
	24	Otooshenia - Pourpour area B-2	Sue Port	365-xxxx
	31	Nelson - Canal return C-1	Yvonne Tremblay	825-xxxx
June	7	New Denver - Summit Lake C-3	Hans Korn	367-xxxx
	14	Cottonwood Lake-Troup Jct B-2	Yvonne Tremblay	825-xxxx
	21	Mtn Station - Ymir C-2	Bess Schuurman	354-xxxx
	28	Waneta Plaza - 7 Mile Dam C-2	Mary Woodward	825-xxxx
July	5	Summit Lake - Nakusp C-2	Bess Schuurman	354-xxxx
	12	Paulsen - Christina Lake C-3	Hans Korn	367-xxxx
	19	Paulsen - Castlegar C-3	Renata Belzyck	365-xxxx
	20	Reco Mt-Jackson Basin-Sandon(Bike-Hike)	Peter Jordan	352-xxxx
	26	TBA	Jill Watson	362-xxxx
August	2	Leader Required		
	9	Leader Required		
	16	Nakusp Hot Springs-Kuskanux Trail C-4	Carol Potasnyk	365-xxxx
	23	Kokanee Creek Park - Riondel return	Ted Ibrahim	505-xxxx
	30	Passmore - Appledale B-2	Yvonne Tremblay	825-xxxx
Sept	6	Trail - Nelway return C-3	Bess Schuurman	354-xxxx
	13	Rossland - Christina Lake C-3	Hans Korn	367-xxxx
	20	Kaslo - Retaillic via railway C-3	Carol Potasnyk	365-xxxx
	27	6 Mile Lakes C-2	Mary Woodward	825-xxxx
Oct	4	Bonanza area C-3	Vicki Hart	442-xxxx
	11	Rossland area	Diane Paolini	362-xxxx
	18	Mtn Station-Silver King-Troup C-3	Carol Potasnyk	365-xxxx
	25	Leader Required		

A few suggested trips are Waneta - Deep Lake - Northport return, Sullivan Lake - Ione return, Balfour- Garland Bay There are many interesting trails in the Rossland area if anyone can lead a group on some of them. Please contact Carol 365-xxxx if you can lead these or other favorite biking trip.

❄ KMC Trip Reports ❄

Hall Creek/Keno Creek, January 20

We put on our snowshoes at the bottom of the Hall Cr. Road and started walking at 8:45 on Sunday morning. There was about 5 inches of snow when we started walking at an elevation of 3000 ft. We followed the Hall Cr. Rd. for about 1 km. then took an old mining road up Keno Cr. It snowed hard all day. We went through a series of switchbacks then into an open area. We climbed steadily but not too steeply. The snow kept getting deeper. Breaking trail kept getting harder. There were 5 of us and we each took turns breaking trail. It was hard work at the front and a smooth path at the back. Close to the ridge (6000ft.), which separates Hall Cr. and Barrett Cr. and looks down on Lost Lake, there was 18" to 24" of fresh powder snow. As we approached the ridge there started to be gusts of wind. We decided to have lunch below the ridge where we thought it would be less windy. The wind made the conditions quite cold.

While we were having lunch a telemark skier arrived. He had followed our tracks up.

After lunch 3 of our members decided they were cold and had had enough and so started down. Brad and myself kept going to the ridge. Visibility was very poor at the ridge and there was a lot of snow. We made a point of staying off steep terrain because of the sloughing of the fresh snow. We soon turned around. Running down hill on the powder was difficult because of so much snow. On our way down the skier passed us. He stopped for a visit then with a "whoop" he headed off into the powder. It looked like he had a terrific run down.

The hardy snow shoers were Dave Clarke, Bob Dean, Mary Protheau, Brad Steele, and David Cunningham (Coordinator)

Sandon Loop, January 27th

The trip started on the Three Forks to Sandon Trail, just below the Tin Cup. After about 10 minutes, we climbed uphill to the Cody spur and headed NW. After about ½ hour we joined up with the Old Wagon Road that goes up Payne Mountain. We decided to go down and snowshoe towards Three Forks all the while enjoying a magnificent Winter Wonderland of deep powder snow.

Participants: Nell Plotnikoff, Don Harasym, Chlo and John Burton, Susan Fisher, a guest and Carole Page, coordinator.

Mt Neptune, Feb.2nd

As 7 skiers ascended clearcuts on Mt. Crowe the cloud thinned and the surrounding peaks were soon identified. The powder run off the back of Crowe, between big trees, was steep. We skinned up the less steep slopes of Neptune, which remained hidden in mist for the rest of the day. Returning, we skied the powder glades on Neptune, ascended Crowe again then descended glades and clearcuts for a total for the day of about 850 m. Carving up the powder were: Kim Deane, J-F Naud, Brad Steele, Jim Guido, Andrew Colgan, Ross Bates, Bert Port (Coordinator).

Appledale Rail-Trail, February 3rd

On Sunday there were just the 2 of us: Carole Page and I. We had a nice relaxing hike-about. We walked around the perimeter of the golf course, and then headed towards Appledale on the rail-trail. We walked a couple of kilometers along the river. It was very peaceful with a pastoral and picturesque setting. We Came back to the clubhouse and ate a delicious lunch!!

We were Carole Page and Nell Plotnikoff, Coordinator.

Lost Creek, February 10

It seems just about every ski trip so far this winter has gone to Wolf Ridge (Windy Ridge on the map) east of Kootenay Pass. This weekend we had good weather and fairly stable snow, so we made the trip from the Salmo-Creston Summit north to Lost Creek.

Many people try to do this trip by following the crest of Cornice Ridge (which is the route in Trevor's guidebook). However this is not advised. The preferred route is to go up the ridge above the lake to a flat shoulder at 1930 m. Behind a small knoll, drop north off the ridge a short distance across a steep slope. Be careful, although the slope is small, there can be avalanche danger here. Then head northwest across the valley bottom, and climb up the obvious safe slope to the pass at the north end of Cornice Ridge, 2050 m. From here, drop west into the next valley, and the route to the pass above Lost Creek is easy if the visibility is good.

We had good conditions, although the slopes were a bit wind-blasted near the ridge crests. We enjoyed two great runs into the Lost Creek valley from the ridge to the west, and another run on the south-facing slope towards the microwave tower. We were even blessed by an absence of snowmobiles in Lost Creek Pass. Although this is a somewhat long up-and-down approach if you want to access a good ski slope, the high alpine bowls and good viewpoints make it one of the more attractive tours in the Kootenay Pass area.

We were: Bert and Sue Port, Fred Thiessen, Emilee Fanjoy, Peter Tchir, Andrew Colgan, Vivien Bowers, Dave Toews, Dwain Boyer, Robin Lidstone, Lauren Waters, Ken Holmes, and Peter Jordan (L & R).

SunSpot Cabin, February 24th

This snowshoe trip began at the Nancy Green Summit between Rossland and Nancy Green Lake. Our group of eight headed west across the clearcut to the logging road. We followed the road for about an hour and arrived to the leader's surprise at the SunSpot Cabin. Since snowshoeing is a relatively new sport to me, I was amazed at how quickly we traveled. The lunch spot I planned now became morning tea break. Our trip now transformed into a cabin tour. We started our descent to the Eagle's Nest by following the flagged traversing ski trail. This proved too boring for our strong snowshoeing troupe, so the leader found a more challenging exploratory route. Much to everyone's surprise, we did find the Eagle's Nest Cabin. We arrived in time to join the Watson's and Caroline La Face for lunch. After solving all the world's problems we journeyed nearby the Alzheimers Trail running through the woods like *coureur de bois*. Our final stop was the Surprise Cabin. The participants were Norman and Anna Thyer, Susan Fisher, Ted Ibrahim, Don Harasym, Shirley Mondin, Nell Plotnikoff, and coordinator Carol Potasnyk

* Other trip reports

Summit creek/Carolina creek/Bayonne creek traverse, March 3rd

Feeling frisky on a warm and sunny Sunday, three of us embarked on a traverse starting at the N. fork of Summit Creek road 3 km. east of the Salmo-Creston summit. After an enervating skin up through the trees (20 cm. of slidey fresh snow on boilerplate), we reached Pristine Pass just east of Wolf Pk. in 2 hrs. 20 min. We then skied north into Carolina Creek, diagonalizing down and east to stay above the creek on the south side (good conditions here) until we joined the south-side road which we followed to Bayonne Creek where we found the bridge had been pulled. After throwing our skis and packs across the creek, we crawled individually across a precarious snowbridge, re-donned skis, and glided down the Bayonne FSR to Hwy 3, where we had left a second vehicle 8 km. east of the summit. We didn't get in too many turns, but the blue skies and snowy vistas consoled us; after all, it was an exploratory trip. Total time: 5 ½ hours. On the trip: Dave Adams, Howie Ridge, Kim Kratky, and dogs Riley and Max.

BERRY MOUNTAIN (GPSed at 7,195')

On Thursday, **March 21**, Howie Ridge, Dave Adams, the dogs Riley and Max, and I made a trip to this peak on the south side of Nancy Greene Pass (formerly known as Strawberry Flats). Departing the truck at 9:50 in -10 C temperatures, we crossed the logged cutblocks to a point at the base of Berry's northwest ridge where it's at its lowest. After an easy skin up to the ridge, we embarked on a long plod up the gentle, heavily-treed northwest ridge. About 2/3s of the way up, the snow became soft and sticky, making for a lively experience as the air was coloured by curses. On the summit after a four-hour grunt up, we basked in the sun in -2 C temperatures, and speculated about the number of kick turns we would have to make to descend in what we thought would be cement. Miracle of miracles, for our ski off the north bowl we enjoyed heavy powder and stable conditions, making a return to the truck in 1 hour 15 minutes. This officially-unnamed peak, located at GR 347-476 on the Rossland-Trail 1:50 000 sheet, would make a good early-season club trip on foot (ie., all travel on snow with no bushwhacking). Kim Kratky

Mount San Jacinto, 10,813', November 12th

2001 *(Edited for length)*

A great climb and a wonderful experience. On a recent November holiday in California, we first spent time in Joshua Tree National Park, the Desert Queen Ranch in Hidden Valley and Mount Ryan.

After being driven to the base of an aerial tramway up Mt. San Jacinto, I rode the expensive, glitzy, rotating Swiss Gondola above spectacular rock spires to a platform at 8516', arriving just before noon. I spoke with the warden who told me I was simply too late to attempt the summit, but... (Hikers who plan to venture beyond the immediate area are required to register at a warden station below this mini summit) off I went on the trail through open light timber, with little underbrush, just dirt, dust and stones lining the route in less obvious parts. I stopped, took

a photo of my pack at the 9700' sign and decided to go just a bit higher to get different views. A trail had been cleared between the low brush, which is something like our white rhododendron. I kept thinking I must turn around; my 2 pm turnaround time was extended to 2:30. More groups of trees and rocks, then I came to an old stone cabin. I went to look at this place from 1933. I looked at the rocks above and thought I'd just peek at them. To the right might have been possible before the accident, but I decided against that route. Somehow I stumbled on an easier way through the rocks and after hearing voices above I scrambled up. A man appeared, followed cautiously by a lady picking her way down. I was so near the summit that it was too late to give up. The kind gentleman scrambled back up to the summit to take a picture of me and then hurried back to the lady. It was just past 3 o'clock. I timidly made my way back down to the rock cabin, once on the easier trail I jogged-walked as fast as I could which is not very fast. Julian was to be back at the gondola base at 4:30. It was already 4 pm at the Welland Divide. The light was fading especially in the forest. Near a meadow a young man carrying a backpack was walking towards me, he assured me I was on the correct trail. Finally I saw a light in the trees. It was the locked up warden cabin. Even with a headlight I could not find my return sign out paper, so I filled out a complete one and stuck that in the box, then hurried up to the gondola. The P.A. system suddenly asked if a Pamela Jenkins was on the ride, I confessed. I was safely down by 6 pm after a great day.

Thank you to the following people who made this trip possible and enjoyable: Julian Lash, Jade Jackson, Mike Gladych and Others, Gene Bentzel, Bob Nelson and my husband Dennis Sims.

Pamela Jenkins

Member writes... *(edited)*

CBC One Radio recently had listeners nominating special mountains, because of the International Year of the Mountains. Some KMC members and other friends had their nominations read. I was disappointed not to hear mine-so I thought it might be interesting for some KMC members to read it.

I first came to live in north Okanagan in 68 and soon learned of Monashee Provincial Park with Peters Lake and Mt. Fosthall. In the 70's I trekked into Peters Lake with some of my girl guides (before the trail had been cleared). We ended up on the summit of Mt. Fosthall where we met Steven Lattey (and friends), who was writing a book about local hikes.

The following summer the North Okanagan Naturalists Club held their summer camp at Peters Lake. Some of us climbed Mt. Fosthall. The 3rd summer I advertised the trip in the Mountaineering Club magazine; With Sonia Ward, Fred Taylor and others I climbed Mt. Fosthall again.

Many years later it was recorded as "a first recorded ascent" in the American Alpine Club Climbers Guide to the Columbia Mountains of Canada.

I climbed it once more in the 80's from Margie Lake. With the KMC in the 90's I chose not to climb it when we camped in the Valley of the Moon. It was a long trip to reach the end of Peters Lake, from where all my previous climbs had started.

I wonder if I will ever climb it again.

Pamela Jenkins

MOUNT JOHN CARTER BECOMES AN OFFICIAL NAME

On Dec. 18, 2001 the BC Committee on Geographical Names approved Mount John Carter as an officially-listed place name. To find it on the map, turn to "Kokanee Peak" 82F/11 1:50 000 scale. It is the highest point on the ridge of Outlook Mtn., located about 1 km. north of Outlook at GR 878-095, and surveyed at 2610 m. The Committee show the peak to be at lat. 49 deg. 44' 25" and long. 117 deg. 11' 25", but I believe they are slightly off. Check for yourself. You can find this entry and a short biography of John on the web. Go to www.gdbc.gov.bc.ca/bcnames. Click on "What's New." Go to "Recent Naming Decisions." Select "Previous Calendar Year" and "terrain features." Click "Find" to bring up a list with Mount John Carter on it.

Other recent official names in the West Kootenay are **Burns Meadow, De Ferro Ridge, and White Queen Mountain.**

Ski touring types may also want to know that **Mt. Beattie** (named after WO John Beattie, a Nelson soldier killed over Germany in 1944) has also been given official status. Surveyed at 2015 m., it can be found on Nelson 82F/6 at GR 890-798. Kim Kratky

TRAIL BUILDING IN THE LARDEAU

An article by Sean Hennessey in the Pennywise of March 26th summarized the activities of the Lardeau-Duncan Trail Committee over the last year. With support from, among others, the RDCK and Human Resources Development Canada, the committee built or improved three trails and one campground. The following should be of special interest to the KMC. A new Fry Creek trail was created to bypass private land and join the main trail farther upstream. About half of the Macbeth Icefields trail was brushed out, and a new bridge was put in over Uli Creek (I always thought this was Dunsinane Creek). Finally, the committee cleared 3-4 km. of the Hall Creek trail before winter and hope to complete the job to the Hall-Healy pass in 2002. Sean invites suggestions for projects and can be reached at 366-4372 or sean@pop.kin.bc.ca. Perhaps the KMC might want to become a partner in some of these projects. *Kim Kratky*

Mount Dolly Varden

In the November 2000 Newsletter, I speculated on the origin of the name Mt. Dolly Varden. According to the Oxford Companion to English Literature, Dolly Varden is "a character in Dickens's 'Barnaby Rudge'", and the article on that book describes her as "coquettish". "Barnaby Rudge" was one of my reading projects this winter, and my impression was that Dolly Varden was a young lady who was notable for her good looks, but not much else. Evidently the Bull Trout, or *Salvelinus malma*, is quite pretty too, which may account for its alternative name of Dolly Varden. The Random House Dictionary of the English Language says that the name is "applied to fish in allusion to its coloring". And I assume that the mountain is named after the fish, since both are found in the same area. Meanwhile, about 1km north of Mt. Dolly Varden is a higher, and more conspicuous, summit which is unnamed on the map. Would it be appropriate to name it after another character in "Barnaby Rudge"? Besides various contemptible scoundrels, there are some worthy characters in the novel, including Dolly's father, Gabriel Varden. So it could be appropriate for the "father" to be watching over the "daughter". Or should this summit be named after a fish, too? (Mt. Sardine?)

Lyme Disease And Prevention

Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria known as the *B. burgdoferi* and is carried in the gut of certain ticks that feed off mice or deer. When the tick carrying Lyme disease finds a human being and feeds, its stomach contents go into the person's blood stream and cause a skin rash starting at the point where the tick attaches itself. This rash, called erythema migrans, is typical. Several weeks later, flu-like symptoms develop, sometimes with severe inflammation of the brain and nervous tissue, and occasionally of the heart. The long term consequences of Lyme disease can be serious and debilitating and cause chronic fatigue, Arthritis, and damage to the peripheral nerves and brain. Even though Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics, many patients have persistent symptoms and other patients who have been treated late or remain undiagnosed may have longterm symptoms. The best treatment is to avoid the disease in the first place. Wearing long pants tucked inside boots or shoes, long sleeved shirts and a hat are useful but may not be practical when it's hot. The best practice is to avoid places with ticks that carry Lyme disease, but if that is not possible, the most important thing is to check yourself for the ticks. It is probably the easiest, safest and non-toxic way to prevent the disease. A tick carrying Lyme disease must feed for 48 hours before it can actually transmit the disease. Develop a checking routine - say checking yourself in the shower for ticks and removing them. This way you will not get the disease. Checking for ticks is extremely important because ticks that carry Lyme disease also carry other infections, some of which may be even more serious than Lyme disease, such as Babesia, and Ehrlichia. Ticks that carry these diseases like moist, warm areas of the human body, such as the belt line, sock line, the arm pits. The tick that carries Lyme disease is the size of a sesame seed. When fed, it can bloat to 10 times the size. People who live in Lyme disease areas find it convenient to rub their hands over their body during a shower. The tick feels like a little scab that doesn't come off. It should be removed without irritating it. Don't cover it with Vaseline, kerosene or touch a match to it, because it could cause the tick to regurgitate its stomach contents. Ticks should be pulled on slowly and firmly with tweezers or if you don't have them, your finger nails. It's not that difficult and it will save you a lot of grief. (From *Canada.com* story)

General Mountaineering Camp Location

The general Mountaineering Camp this year will be in the ALBERT GROUP. The location is south and west of Roger's Pass in a little visited area of the Selkirks. This location has been chosen due to the availability of a helicopter in the general area, (hiking Camp). The rock in the area ranges from good clean granite to the usual schist (micaceous). This camp will definitely lend itself more to general mountaineering than technical climbing with both the chance of first ascents as well as general mountain exploration. This will be a good camp for both novice mountaineers as well as mountaineering school graduates. So please come and join us.

Cost: This will be determined by how far we can drive up the Alkokolex River Valley but will probably be slightly higher than previous years. We are aiming for the \$300.00 range. This will be similar to previous years with participants being self-contained, using a communal cooking/meeting tent area. Final costs will be determined in early summer.

Contact: Either Paul Allen (362-xxxx) or Kim Kratky (352-xxxx), this year we have gone back to a \$50.00 non refundable deposit by June 1st.

The number of people attending will be limited by the type of helicopter we use, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested.

KMC Climbing Trips Schedule Summer 2002

Note: This schedule is well under way and will be mostly filled by next newsletter.

Contact person is Kim Kratky, 352-xxxx or xxxx@netidea.com.

June 5	Steeple Mtn. (Nelson Range) C 3-5 (maybe unclimbed)
June 8	Kootenay Mtn. (Nelson Range) B 2-3
June 12	Crawford Crk. headwaters C 3-4 (unclimbed objective)
June 15	u/n 8750' E. of mouth of Westfall R. (Purcells) C 3-4 (as above)
June 19	Gainer Crk. headwaters (Badshots) D 4-5 (as above)
June 22	
June 25-26	Spine Mtn. (Badshots) F 4
June 29	
July 1	
July 3	
July 6	
July 10	
July 13-20	KMCers at Flying Circus Camp #1 (Argentine Group)
July 24	
July 27-Aug. 3	KMC Climbing Camp (Albert Group)
August 7	
August 10-12	Mt. Cooper (Goat Range) D 4
August 14	
August 17-19	Mt. Charybdis (Westfall Group) D 4
August 21	
August 24	
August 27-29	Mt. Hamilton (Westfall Grp.) Howie Ridge
Sept 4	
Sept 7	
Sept 11	
Sept. 14	
Sept. 18	
Sept. 21	

THE DISMANTLING OF BC'S OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

By Pat Harrison, Executive Director Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia

I have sat through many frustrating meetings as a member of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, but few as frustrating as the one at Richmond Inn on Thursday, 28 March 2002. The meeting was organized by the MOF (Ministry of Forests) and LWBC (Land and Water BC, formally BCAL [BC Assets and Land Corporation]). I am not frustrated at the messengers, but at the message they carried: the government is going to dismantle the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure of BC and sell it off to the highest bidder. As Ed Mankelow, member of the BC Wildlife Federation Conservation Committee mentioned, "It's all about money". The only mandate of MOF after the 'Core Review Process' (which did not involve the public) is production of fiber. I am outraged that this government believes that public crown land is a private reserve for the wealthy. Let's remember, this is our land, and we should be stating (dictating) what the core functions of our land are. No longer is Outdoor Recreation considered a core function of MOF. The entire Outdoor Recreation operation for the province costs the taxpayers between 5-7 million dollars per year including salaries; one of the lowest in Canada. So here are the specifics:

- MOF has a reduced budget of \$188 million per year (\$538 down to \$350 million).
- This translates into a loss of 1,433 MOF employees (4,061 down to 2,628).
- Forest Service Roads (FSRs) are no longer considered a core function.
- It costs 10-20 million to maintain the 45,000 kilometers of FSRs.

Here are options for the 45,000 kilometers of FSRs:

1. 35,000 km to be maintained by industry. These are classified as Industrial Roads (reminiscent of the 1960's).
2. 1,300 km to be maintained by MOF as Community Roads (if a First Nation's Reserve, post office, or school are serviced).
3. The remainder will be left to decay. MOF will check annually (with what employees?) the remaining 8,000 km of road to see if they are safe. These will be classified as Wilderness Use Roads (do wildernesses have roads in them?). MOF will not brush or grade these roads, but will determine if they are needed for environmental protection (forest fires fighting). MOF now expects these roads to be used primarily by people owning 4X4s. That's 8,000 km of road not available to people who cannot afford these types of vehicles or choose not to own these types of vehicles. If MOF determines that it is cheaper to pull a culvert than replace it on WURs, then the WURs will be deactivated.

Questions arising from participants at the meeting were:

1. As government is currently in the process of making government not liable on crown land, who is liable if someone is injured on Crown Land because of poor road conditions?
2. What staff are left to check WURs each year?
3. Who will be doing enforcement of any kind?
4. Who will be reporting environmental degradation? MWLP? Probably not as they have so few biologists left.

MOF did state that if a user pay mechanism were put into place, they would be willing to buy back services and maintain liability. Huh? MOF also stated that all recreation sites and trails will be transferred to private organizations utilizing the services of LWBC (Land and Water BC). In other words, privatization of our public lands to the highest bidder. One must remember that LWBC is mandated to increase its revenue through sales and leases by 75% this year! While MOF states none of the roads will be private, nor access denied, nor roads gated, the highest bidder will get control and can charge a fee for access. Now there is a plan for complete inequity from region to region, valley to valley, trail to trail. This process will ensure total fragmentation of our Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure. So, when is this going to take place? Now! Here are the timelines:

1. March 2002: analysis of potential for land transfer.
2. April 2002: LWBC to help implement transfer.
3. May 2002: Public notification (absolutely no public input).
4. June 2002: expression of interest in taking on road, trail, and recreational sites.
5. March 2004: All recreational roads, sites, and trails to be transferred.

All roads, sites, and trails will have a risk assessment completed by June 2002. If bridges or other structures are deemed unsafe, then the trails will be declassified as trails. That means that any type of activity can now occur on a trail that was previously classified as non-motorized or wilderness. All risk assessment will be done in house with no public input. How many trails do you know in the backcountry that are free of snow before June 2002? How will the government have a clue what shape the trails or their structures are in? By June 2002, removal of MOF signs will commence. At this moment of writing, MOF officials were unable to give us the criteria for risk assessment. For organizations having agreements with MOF, those agreements are null and void as of 1 April 2002. BC Hydro, BC Federation of Snowmobiles, the 4X4 Association of BC, and the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC no longer have any agreements with MOF. When asked by Gerry Buldoc of the 4X4 Association of BC and Pat Harrison of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC how volunteer work would fit into the transfer, they did not have an answer. They seemed unaware of all the volunteer work worth millions of dollars even existing. Is the government willing to give up this valuable service to the public by privatizing the backcountry? MOF will continue to set recreational standards (even though they no longer have any recreationalists on staff) and will be responsible for "visual recreation that needs management". What the heck does that mean? Land and Water BC were present at the meeting "to assist" in the transfer. Let's not forget their mandate as a company (with Stan Hagen the lone stockholder): to increase economic development. Alex Wallace, Co-Chair of the FMCBC Trails Committee, asked the LWBC spokesperson about LWBC's role in land stewardship. LWBC spokesperson responded that he did not know what stewardship meant nor does LWBC have any recreational mandate and as such will not participate in Outdoor Recreation activities. Their sole involvement is getting people a commercial tenure on our public land. This means the more favorite sites will be up for grabs by the organizations with the deepest pockets. That ought to cause an all out war among user groups! As LWBC spokesperson stated "We only charge a nominal fee for tenures: as little as \$500. We really don't make any money off of this process." Let's do the math: 650 hiking trails times \$500 equals? well, you know, nothing we or any other non-profit organization can afford. Furthermore, all commercial tenure groups will have to pay for liability insurance, as the government can no longer be held accountable. LWBC says after all "It's all about performance-based government". I'm suggesting that we give government "performance-based writing". Before going to bed tonight, I am calling on all 4,000 members of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, and CEO's and owners of outdoor recreational stores to say to government "No Way!" We don't want our Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure fragmented. We want government to operate it. We made enough fuss at the meeting last Thursday that government will continue to fund some of the recreational sites this summer. When the senior citizens raised a fuss over losing their bus privileges, the government recanted. Please write today, not tomorrow. Tell Premier Campbell and Stan Hagen to lay off the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure. We can make a difference. Tell non-FMCBC people to write: naturalists, snowmobilers, mountain bikers, ATVers, horse riders, hunters, fishers, and others to write. We all have a stake in this. And don't forget the health benefits from outdoor recreation that save the government money.

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