

Kootenay Mountaineer

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter May-June-July 2002 Issue 3 Next deadline: Approx. Sept.15th



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KMC website
www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca

The 2002 Executive:

Chair	Paul Allen
Vice	Reid Henderson
Treasurer	Elaine Martin
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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
Box 365 Robson BC V0G 1X0

» **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

BACKCOUNTRY ISSUES AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

By Kim Kratky

As you may already know, things are looking grim indeed for public access to BC Parks and Crown land. First, the parks issue. We seem to be moving toward privatization of recreation in our provincial parks. The Minister has announced user fees for day use like picnicking and boat launching; as well, facilities like trails may be administered by commercial operators who will charge for their use. Right now, Parks seems to have no money to pursue any of its mandates.

Another interesting development concerns recreation facilities operated by BC Forest Service in partnership with non-profit societies (Read KMC, Nelson Nordic Ski Club, etc.). As BCFS is getting out of the recreation field, plans are to turn over administration of huts, x-c ski tracks, and so on to the societies, provided they pay a \$500 fee for each entity to be administered, are assessed other fees, and pay property tax—even though the facilities are on Crown land.

Finally, the road access issue. BCFS will no longer maintain road access; the only roads maintained will be those accessing active logging or mining sites. This means that maintaining road access to sites like Idaho lookout will devolve onto non-profit societies or municipalities.

If this makes you unhappy, please write Premier Gordon Campbell (call him at 800 663-7867 and ask for Premier's Office); Hon. Stan Hagen, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management (for issues in paragraph 2 above); Hon. Joyce Murray, Minister responsible for BC Parks. The address for all is Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4.

Executive Notes

Conservation: KMC members are asked to respond to issues created by government curtailments. These will have far reaching effects in our use of the outdoors.

Mountaineering School: Eight persons are enrolled. The location has been changed to Ymir Mountain because of liability concerns with B.C. Parks.

Climbing Camp: 9 members are going to camp in the Albert Group, south and west of Roger's Pass.

Newsletter: Keep your submissions coming. They are all appreciated. Printers have apologized for last issue's poor quality. Next issue will be out in September.

Library: KMC'er Earle Whipple has kindly donated his 1956 to 1985 American Alpine Journals to the club library. He also filled in our "Accidents in North American Mountaineering" series with several issues so now we have everything from 1964 to 1993. Thank you Earle!

Social: 14 members attended the spring potluck dinner at the new Robson School. Guest speaker biologist Joanne Siderius gave us the "Bear Aware" presentation. Lack of participation may result in

cancellation of future spring social.

KMC T-shirts will be for sale at some of the hikes. (\$15.00 each).

Karabiner: The 1998-99-2000 issue should be out this fall. A committee is being considered for the next publication so as to spread the work involved.

Website: One of our new members Doug Brown has volunteered to help Peter Jordan with its design and maintenance. What else would members like to see on it? An archive has been suggested. A password to access special information is also a possibility. Putting our newsletter on the website has also been suggested.

Cabins Huts and Trails: A Selkirk College student and KMC member Sandy Detillieux has created a great map of the Bonnington Traverse. The club will laminate copies and put them in some of the Bonnington Huts.

Other news: Selkirk College is embarking on the development of a "Geo-Spatial Research Center" covering the Columbia-Kootenay area. Information will be forthcoming.

Some interesting websites:

www.yupiskishoes.com This site has the latest on mini-skis with skins. The intent is to improve on snowshoeing.

www.clubtread.com An online source for Pacific Northwest backcountry users. There is not much detail but it has over 400 trail suggestions and it is improving.

www.mtb.bc.ca It is a B.C. Mountain Bike magazine and trail database.

www.bivouac.com This is a Vancouver based Canadian Mountain Encyclopedia. A compilation of articles, maps and photos produced by regional experts across Canada.

www.backpacking.net Lightweight backpackers resource guide.

Laurie Charlton informed us of the following website:

<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWSSTechNews/home.html>

Interesting information on different items can be found.

One article on summitting Everest (29,035' world's tallest mountain) last May, by different teams of climbers from around the world, may be of interest to some of you KMC'ers.

Among the people that reached the top are the sons of the original first two climbers, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay who had made the first ascent in 1953 some 49 years ago! Quite a few statistics are given as well, such as how many persons have climbed the mountain, how many have died, etc...

The KMC library also has several books on climbing Everest. Eds.

Not All Those Who Wander Are Lost J. R. Tolkien

KMC Summer Hiking Trips Schedule 2002

Classification of Trips: Physical: A-easy B-moderate C-strenuous D-very strenuous

Technical: 1-hike 2-scramble 3-scramble, perhaps with some exposure 4-climb 5-climb, continual belays

Reminders: Mountain transportation is expensive - Share the costs: A figure of 35 cents per km divided among the passengers (not including the driver) is being suggested. No dogs permitted on club trips. Phoning the coordinator before going hiking is appreciated

June 19 (Wed)	Palisades C-2	Hazel Kirkwood	365-xxxx
22 (Sat)	Gray's Peak C-3	David Beringer	352-xxxx
23	TBA	David Shadbolt	352-xxxx
26 (Wed)	Powder Creek B-1	Ted Ibrahim	505-xxxx
29-30	Gimli/Asgaard C-3	John Bargh	354-xxxx
30	Idaho via Wakefield C-1	ChristineSutherland	
July 1 (Mon)	McKean Lakes/Woden B-1/C-3	David Beringer	352-xxxx
3 (Wed)	Coordinator needed		
6 (Sat)	Insect Peak C-2/C-3	Vicki Hart	442-xxxx
7	Mt. Martin C-3	Bill Sones	265-xxxx
10 (Wed)	Mt Esmeralda B-2/C-2	Bob Dean	352-xxxx
13 (Sat)	Mt. Abercrombie	Mary Baker	368-xxxx
14	Wurtemberg Mt C-3	Dave Mitchell	354-xxxx
17 (Wed)	Mt Fennel C-2	Ted Ibrahim	505-xxxx
20 (Sat)	Reco Mtn-Jackson Basin-Sandon (bike & hike)	Peter Jordan	352-xxxx
21	Mount Lucifer C-3	Pat Sheppard	365-xxxx
24 (Wed)	Idaho Peak/Selkirk Peak C-2	Bob Dean	352-xxxx
27-28 (Sat)	Asgaard	David Cunningham	352-xxxx
28	Mt Brennan C-2	ChristineSutherland	
31 (Wed)	Coordinator needed		
Aug 3 (Sat)	Crawford Creek Headwaters	Dave Dever	227-xxxx
4	Dennis Basin A-1	Anne Kwan	352-xxxx
7 (Wed)	Coordinator needed		
10 (Sat)	Coordinator needed		
11	Coordinator needed		
14 (Wed)	Coordinator needed		
17 (Sat)	Dolly Varden C-2	Ross Bates	304-xxxx
18	Gregario C-3	David Shadbolt	352-xxxx
21 (Wed)	Pontiac Peak C-3	Ray Neumar	352-xxxx
24 - 25 (Sat)	Mt Banquo D-4 (Overnight)	Dave Mitchell	354-xxxx
25	Coordinator needed		
27-29	Mt. Hamilton D-4	Howie Ridge	354-xxxx
28 (Wed)	Siwash Mt C-2	Ted Ibrahim	505-xxxx
Aug 31 - Sept 2	Jumbo/MacBeth C-3	Ross Bates	304-xxxx
31 (Sat)	Outlook and Beyond C-2	John Bargh	354-xxxx
Sept 1 (Sun)	Old Glory C-2	Pat Sheppard	365-xxxx
4 (Wed)	Copper Mt. B-1	Bob Dean	352-xxxx
7-8	Dwar Creek Hot Springs	Dave Dever	227-xxxx
8	Toad Mt. B-2	Brad Steele	352-xxxx
11 (Wed)	Berry-Plewman Traverse A-1	Sue/Bert Port	365-xxxx
14 (Sat)	Ymir Mt. C-2/C-3	Chris Fairbank	354-xxxx
15	Rugged Peak/Big Sister B-3	Bill Sones	265-xxxx
18 (Wed)	Coordinator needed		
21 (1 or 2 days)	Haystack B-1/C-2	Peter Jordan	352-xxxx
22	Record Ridge/Granite Loop B-1	Jill Watson	362-xxxx
25	Mt Rinda NW ridge C-2/C-3	Bob Dean	352-xxxx
28 (Sat)	Grassy Mt. C-2	Pat/Al Sheppard	365-xxxx
29	Brilliant Bluffs B-2	Andrew Martin	365-xxxx





KMC Summer Bike Trips Schedule for 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 skills required 4-advanced mountain biking abilities - steep or exposed trails, difficult route finding may be involved 5-extreme mountain skills necessary

June	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 - Retallic 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 any other favorite biking trip.

KMC Summer Climbing Schedule For 2002



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

Grading of trips: Following the lead of three recent climbing guides for western Canada, I have used a combination of the Yosemite Decimal System and the European alpine grade. A summary of the latter follows:

F easy (facile) An easy climb with little technical difficulty; class 3-4 rock and/or easy travel on snow/glacier of slopes to 40 degrees

PD a little difficult (peu difficile) Rock up to 5.3-5.4; snow up to 45 degrees; may require exposed climbing on rock and/or snow.

AD fairly difficult (assez difficile) A fairly difficult climb with short sections of 5.6-5.7 rock and/or steep snow and ice; route-finding, escape and descent are more challenging; ascent route is usually reasonable to descend

D difficult (difficile) A difficult climb with rock to 5.6-5.7 and/or very steep snow or ice to 55 degrees; climbing is usually sustained; rock may be loose; route-finding may be challenging; these routes are demanding

and present considerable challenge.

TD and ED1/2/3/4 No club trips at these levels are scheduled.

Bear in mind: many trip grades are estimated since the outings are exploratory; the grading system does not consider the often arduous approaches to West Kootenay mountains; all trips are contingent on road access, which may change at short notice.

June 1-2	Emperor Pk. (Glacier Crk.)	D,	ski;	Stan Metcalfe	362-xxxx.
June 5	Mt. Shardelow (Valhallas)	F	class 3		
June 9	Mt. Harlow (Valhallas)	PD	class 3-4		
June 12	Nasokwen Mtn. (Kokanee Group)	F	class 3		
June 16	Artist Point Mtn. (Kokanee Group)	PD	class 3-4		
June 19	Gainer Crk. headwaters (Badshots)	PD	class 4-5 (unclimbed objective)		
June 22	Crawford Creek headwaters (Purcells)	PD	class 3-4 (unclimbed objective)		
June 25-26	Spine Mtn. (Badshots)	F 4	(approach will be brutal)	Paul Allen	362-xxxx
June 29-July 1	Weekend Steeple Mtn. (Nelson Range)	F to PD	(may be unclimbed)		
July 6	u/n N. of Dolly Varden (Goat Range)	PD	class 3-5 (may be unclimbed)	Howie Ridge	354-xxxx
July 10	Wolves Ears (Valhallas)	PD	class 5	Bert Port	365-xxxx
July 13-20	KMCers at Flying Circus Camp #1 (Argentine Group)				
July 27-Aug. 3	KMC Climbing Camp (Albert Group)				
August 10-12	Mt. Cooper (Goat Range)	PD	class 4	(a long and tiring approach)	
August 17-19	Mt. Charybdis (Westfall Group)	PD	class 4	Paul Allen	362-xxxx (long & tiring approach)
August 27-29	Mt. Hamilton (Westfall Grp.)	F	class 4	Howie Ridge	354-xxxx (another painful approach)
Sept 7	Drinnon Pk. (Valhallas)	F	class 3-4	Doug Brown	
Sept. 14-15	Mt. St. Mary (St. Mary's Alpine Park)	F	class 3-4		
Sept. 21	Winter Pk. (Purcells)	F	class 3-4		

Traveling in bear country

can be quite exhilarating. Although most bear attacks can be avoided, there is always a chance of encountering a bear. The following is a compilation of the latest information collected from various wildlife specialists, bear encounters and bear articles. Although nothing is 100% guaranteed effective, the following might prove to be useful.

- Be alert where recent bear activity has been documented. Some common areas where bears like to frequent are: Avalanche chutes, streambeds, dense edge cover, in late summers, berry patches.
- Use extreme caution when traveling on trails at night or at either end of day.
- Be careful with food smells – Never cook close to camp. Store all foods in plastic away from camp at night and when camp is unattended. We suggest at least a hundred yards from camp and at least 14' up a tree hung 4' away from the trunk.
- Watch for fresh bear signs (Scat or bear tracks) on the trail or near possible campsite.
- If possible, make plenty of noise on the trail, especially on blind curves, in dense vegetation or areas with limited vision.
- Be conscious of the wind – Bears have an excellent sense of smell. If the wind is at your back, chances are a bear will smell you and leave the area before you reach it. If the wind is blowing in your face, your chances of an encounter are greatly increased. Also in high wind situations or along creeks and streams, a bear might not hear you or you might not hear it.
- Dead animal carcass – If you come upon a dead animal carcass, immediately leave the area. Bears will often feed on a carcass (whenever they can find them) for days and also stay in the area to protect their food.
- Bear cubs – If you see a bear cub, chances are the sow is not far away. Female bears will fiercely defend their young, so it's best you leave the area and find an alternative route.
- Keep dogs under control – Dogs can lead an angry bear back to you.
- We advise not to travel alone in bear country. Invite a friend. It is always safer to travel in groups if possible.

AVOID PRIME BEAR HABITAT Avoid areas that bear like and you can reduce your chances of an encounter. If you can't avoid these areas, be extra cautious and alert when traveling through them. Bears like to travel on saddles, ridges, game trails and along water. They feed on green grasses and also vegetation that grows in wet areas. They often rest in cool, dark, thick forests. Grizzly bears are typically, but not exclusively active during the dawn, dusk, and nighttime hours. In spring and early summer, bears are often found in lower elevations along rivers and streams. They love to catch fish when the spawning runs are going. They will also search for winterkilled animals in these areas. In the summer, bears usually spend time at higher elevations often in park like areas. They'll eat wild berries when they are ripe. If you like to go out wild berry picking, be extra careful, make lots of noise and keep children near you at all times. In the fall, bears are often found in white bark pine stands eating pine nuts. Sometimes a bear will dig around a tree to try to locate a squirrel's cache of nuts. Bears also dig for roots in mid elevation meadows, especially in years when there are fewer pine nuts.

BE AWARE OF RECENT GRIZZLY BEAR ACTIVITY Typical signs of grizzly bears use include: Fresh tracks (A grizzly claws marks extend farther away from pads than black bears), scat greater than 2 inches in diameter (most likely a grizzly's), areas where the ground may be tore up from bear scavenging and partially consumed or buried animal carcasses.

BEAR BEHAVIOR Bears seem to experience moods much like we do; they can be shy, curious, pushy or aggressive, and can possess other attributes that we can identify as human like. Each time you get close to a bear, you encounter a specific individual that may behave differently from any other individual you have ever met before or will ever meet again. Grizzly attack victims are not often aware of why they were attacked. Many attacks are caused by close encounters, where the bear has been surprised and felt threatened by human presence. A female with cubs will be especially aggressive and will defend her cubs from any possible threat. Many attacks can be avoided if the bear sees a way out of the situation. Bears are basically solitary animals. Each has its zone of danger, or personal space, which varies from animal to animal. If something or someone penetrates this zone, a response in the form of a bluff charge, bodily contact, or outright attack may result. Oftentimes grizzly bears will essentially ignore people until the person enters into a bear's "personal space". Even groups as large as a hundred people have been ignored by grizzly bears until one of the groups gets too close. Most bears are timid enough to flee a possible encounter if they sense the presence of something or someone soon enough to leave the area undetected. On the other hand, when a bear is surprised, the bear may see you as a threat, forcing an immediate response. A person who runs when frightened by a bear may trigger a chase response. One bear will even chase another if it runs. Bears that stand their ground when confronted by other bears usually aren't attacked, and bears that behave submissively have a lower incidence of being attacked as well. A grizzly rarely wants to kill a human. Considering the damage a grizzly is capable of inflicting on a human, wounds resulting from bear attacks are often nothing more than superficial bites, scrapes and lacerations. The evidence is very clear that grizzly do not try to kill a human as a result of a close encounter; they simply try to remove a perceived threat. The injuries that occur are more a function of what the human does to resist, rather than what the bear is capable of doing. Of course, a grizzly entering a tent presents a predatory event that is behaviorally very different than a close encounter situation.

Young grizzlies can pose another danger. Often these bears have just left their mother and rank low on the hierarchical scale. Larger, more dominant bears often push these juveniles into marginal habitats. To survive young bears do a lot of exploring. If these bears start to use campgrounds as foraging areas, they may quickly become dangerous to people camping in them. In extremely rare instances, young grizzlies will even key onto people as potential prey.

Black bears seem more to rely on sheer bluffing than on charging and mauling. Those rare instances in which a black bear presses an attack can probably be grouped into 2 categories: First, a female protecting her cubs, particularly if she is also habituated and food conditioned; or second, a bear that has no experience with humans and may regard them as prey.

BODY LANGUAGE OF BEARS A bear that stands on its hind feet is usually trying to get a better look and smell by sniffing the air. This is not an aggressive posture in itself. It simply means the bear is unsure of what is in front of him, but still could drop on all fours and charge.

A bear that swings its head from side to side or turns sideways from you is expressing a reluctance to charge and is looking for a way out of the situation.

If a bear looks at you in the eye directly and has its ears back, it is warning you that you are too close and feels threatened. A bear may also make barking, wolfing or moaning sounds to indicate this.

If a bear “pops” its jaws, it is very agitated and most often will charge. Charges are often a test to resolve a situation and are often “bluff charges” where the bear stops short of you, veers off and runs right past you. A bear might bluff charge many times before leaving. A bear may also bluff charge a few times and then come at you from a different angle.

A bear that does charge, and knocks you down, is attempting to remove a threat. The bear will use as much force as he believes is necessary to remove that threat.

A bear can instantly reach speeds of 30 to 35 miles/hour in a matter of a split second. NEVER TRY TO OUTFRAN A BEAR, it will only make matters worse.

BEAR ENCOUNTERS ON THE TRAIL.

- Stop, stay calm and quiet, and make no sudden moves.
- Break eye contact – Do not stare into the bear’s eyes, as this is a sign of aggression.
- Stand your ground – Do not turn your back on the bear - Sometimes a bear will bluff charge several times. Have your UDAP bear spray ready but do not spray unless you are sure the bear is close enough to spray in the face.
- Look for signs of agitation and aggression. When a bear is standing on its hind legs, he is usually just trying to get a better look and smell of you.
- When a bear is upset, it may have its ears back-It may lower its head and swing it from side to side- it may paw at the ground- it may make huffing or woofing noises- it may snap its jaw, or it may not show any signs at all and just drop and charge with no warning.
- Back away slowly, in a calming, monotone voice-you want to show the bear that you are submissive and want to get out of “its” territory. Do not turn your back and always have pepper power ready. If the bear comes at you-spray the UDAP aiming for the bear’s face or spray a fog that the bear has to run through to get to you.

BEING CLOSE TO A SOW WITH CUBS IS ALWAYS A DANGEROUS SITUATION Keep a cool head. Try to stay calm, do not yell or scream. Some bears, even grizzlies will climb trees after you. Also a grizzly can reach 10 feet up a tree while standing on the ground. Right before a grizzly bear makes contact in a surprise attack at close range (and you don’t have pepper spray), roll into a ball or lie face down, try to protect your neck and face, and pray. Don’t stick your arm out, kick, scream, or fight. Try to protect the vulnerable parts of your body while remaining as still as possible. This will actively be helping the bear remove a perceived threat. Surprising a territorial male bear or a sow with cubs will also be a threatening situation. Some bears, mostly young bears, unfamiliar with the danger of human contact, have been known to actually stalk humans. If you believe this is the situation you are in, and have not just surprised the bear, it is recommended that you defend yourself aggressively. If the bear mauls you continuously, despite your being passive, you may have to fight back. Try using any available weapon - a knife, rock, fist and concentrate on hitting the bear’s head, eyes and nostrils.

BEAR ENCOUNTERS IN CAMP The situation of a bear that enters your camp is to be handled differently than a bear surprised on the trail. They might have not had any fear of humans and have probably become used to eat human food and garbage. These bears are dangerous, and are no longer fearful of being in close proximity to humans, make sure that you store your food properly. A bear that finds no food in camp is more likely to become disinterested and move on to better pickings. Try to remain calm, avoid making eye contact and speak softly to the bear. If the bear is within 10 to 15 feet spray the bear with your UDAP. If it is safe to do so, try slowly backing out of the area while looking for suitable trees to climb. Make sure you have enough time to climb a tree before attempting it. Make sure you can be up the tree at least 14 feet before the bear reached you. Climb as high as you can and stay there until the bear is gone. Be aware that some grizzlies can climb trees and all black bears can.

If you are attacked by a bear in camp, it may be a predatory attack or could also just be a bear seeing your camp as its food source. The bear may have made a conscious choice to attack you, or may see you as a threat to its food supply. Playing dead may not work depending on the situation. Spray the bear with your UDAP spray; fight the attack by punching, slapping or using any object available as weapon. Try to evade the bear by climbing up a tree or a boulder. Sleep in tents large enough to stack gear between you and the tent wall. If a bear gets within 10 to 15’ of your tent or attempts to enter it, spray the bear with your UDAP spray and fight back. Report the incident as soon as possible even if the bear simply walks through the camp. We do not recommend that you remain in that particular campsite for another night.

IF A BEAR COMES INTO YOUR CAMP AT NIGHT Get your UDAP spray ready, and then, look out of the tent and check out the bear with your flashlight. First, make sure it’s a bear, not one of your hiking partners or other harmless animal wandering in the night. If you can identify it as a black bear, the situation is usually not as serious as a grizzly coming into camp. Spray the bear if it is within 10 to 15’ with your UDAP spray. This will not permanently harm the bear but will let it know that it is an unwelcome guest and it will probably not return. If you have time to get to your escape tree, do it, but don’t leave the tent if you aren’t sure you have time. If the bear (black or grizzly) is hanging around the cooking area because of the food smell, make lots of noise and try to scare the bear away.

IF A BEAR COMES INTO YOUR TENT

This is the worse possible situation. It very rarely happens, but there are a few documented cases. At night, attacks usually come from a predatory bear. If you act like pray, you become pray. Once more, don't panic, run, or scream but do remain calm. Instead, fight back with everything you have. Don't lie still in your sleeping bag. Don't play dead. Use the UDAP bear deterrent pepper spray. Make loud metallic noise. Use an air horn. Shine lights in the bear's eyes. Temporarily blind the bear with the flash of your camera. Use any deterrent you brought with you. Unload on the bear with everything you have. Anything goes, use whatever physical resistance you can.

WHAT CAUSES A BEAR TO ATTACK?

Bears attack other bears, other animals, and people because they have genetically programmed types of aggressive behaviors that pertain to population regulation, survival, defense, and predatory aggression. This doesn't mean that there aren't other factors involved in some attacks. Or that people don't contribute to some attacks. Though we have established the fact that bears are unpredictable, there are four situations that are most likely to cause a bear to attack. By knowing what they are we can work to avoid getting into these types of situations. 1. When a person encounters a protective sow with cubs, an average of 78% of all attacks is related to these encounters. 2. When a bear is surprised, or startled. 3. When a human gets too close to a bear's food supply. 4. Predatory bears (when the bear intends to eat you).

Regardless of the situation, surprise is one of the leading causes in bear attacks. A solitary bear, which is startled by a hiker on a trail, may run away or aggressively confront the hiker. Most injury encounters with bears occur when the person gets within 55 yards before the bear is aware of his presence

WHAT ABOUT HUNTING IN GRIZZLY COUNTRY?

Sportsmen, who harvest big animals in grizzly country, should be aware that the sound of a gunshot might sound like a dinner bell to a wandering grizzly. Some hunters tracking down their trophy elk can be quite surprised when they find a grizzly has beaten them to it. Hunters who make a kill in grizzly country should make lots of noise as they carefully approach the carcass. They should also try to view the carcass from a distance to see if a grizzly is regarding it. The blood and gore at a kill sight may attract a keen nosed opportunistic grizzly.

Many hunters, who have killed animals and returned the next morning to pack out the meat, have been suddenly confronted by an aggressive bear that has claimed the kill overnight. If a kill sight appears disturbed, but no bear is seen, it's best to back off because the bear may be lying in cover nearby. A bear on a kill may refuse to back off, even when shots are fired into the ground nearby, and many sportsmen have been forced to relinquish their harvested game animal to a protective bear guarding its food supply. Smart sportsmen who harvest big game animals in grizzly country try to pack out the meat the same day of the kill, or they carry the quartered carcass to a safe spot a few hundred yards from the bloody kill sight and then hang the quarters high in a tree.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Barrie K. Gilbert - Animal Behavior/Wildlife Management - Utah State University

Dr. Steven Herrero - Bear Behavioral Studies - University of Calgary (Author of "Bear Attacks" , Lyons & Bruford - Publishers)

Ron Aasheim - Administrator, Conservation Education Division - Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

Steven P. French, M.D. - Yellowstone Grizzly Foundation

Kevin Frey - Grizzly Bear Management Specialist, Yellowstone Ecosystem - Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

James Gore - National Grizzly Bear Habitat Coordinator - Forest Service

Kerry A. Gunther - Bear Management Specialist - Yellowstone National Park

Peter Kummerfeldt - Owner and Chief instructor - Survival Consultant Group

Dave Lockman - Education Supervisor - Wyoming Game and Fish Department **Dave Moody** - Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Chris Queen - Wyoming Game and Fish Department Sanctuary

The KMC would like to thank Mark Matheny, President UDAP Industries for his permission to copy into our newsletter the preceding article on Bear Safety.

This article has been condensed for our newsletter.

Mark himself survived a bear attack. Since then, he has dedicated himself to improving a product designed to safeguard people against mauling, and to help them better coexist with wildlife. In a short time, his 225 to 260 gram UDAP bear deterrent pepper spray cans have generated numerous testimonials from grateful customers.

Mark's Company provides UDAP Bear Deterrent Pepper Spray and he has said that there are many ideas and theories on what to do in the event of a bear encounter. The preceding information are opinions and may not work in all situations.

Please visit Mark's website at <http://www.udap.com> or markm@udap.com for ordering UDAP Bear Deterrent Pepper Spray and to get more information on bear safety.

KMC TRIP REPORTS



BRILLIANT OVERLOOK, April 7

It was a glorious sunny day and many people were eager to go on a hike. Despite the time change everyone arrived at the correct time with no early arrivals. We started at the Brilliant Bridge and hiked the Skattebo Trail to the Brilliant Overlook Trail. Walter Volovsek and his crew were working on the trail and answered a few questions about it. The new powerline is in place. We hiked through snow but the weather was warm and the breeze refreshing. We managed to get all 32 participants to the Overlook. The view was worth the journey. We had a leisurely lunch and proceeded to the Tower. At the Tower we changed the usual route and hiked down the new powerline to the Access Road and back to the Skattebo Trail. The hike was completed at four o'clock, everyone finished and the sun was still shining.

We were: D. Cushing, C. Davies, J. Watson, W. & H. Horsfall, N. Plotnikoff, A. Kwan, S. Word, R. Bates, D. Kilbach, H. Kirkwood, N. Casciano, D. Langille, W. Hurst, J. F. E. & S. Miros, D. Harasym, R. Neumar, A. Martin, T. Ibrahim, L. Hill, C. Paluck, J. & D. Kalman, M. Lowe, V. Maloff, G. Deveraut, B. Dean, A. & P. Sheppard, Coordinators.

RIPPLE MOUNTAIN, 2260m. (7400') April 7

At this time of year, there are many choices of things to do. Some are thinking of cycling, golf or gardens. Others are keen to get started on the hiking season. On the same day as our ski trip, 32 people preferred to go hiking at the Brilliant Bluffs. So the four of us who chose to ski tour were obviously in the minority. Fred said before we even got out of the car (incidentally, a car that has no coffee cup holders), that we would be "touring" more than "skiing." This was to prepare ourselves for marginal snow. Because Ripple is so close to Idaho, we were expecting to ski on mashed potatoes. With the one hour time change, a leisurely start felt like a Fred start (at least to me it did). We traversed down around the north side of Lightning Strike in the crust and frozen avalanche debris to the valley where twin lakes are. Going up the boilerplate snow to the col, we traverse skied down to the south east ridge of Ripple. From there we went up the gully on the south side of the ridge, onto the sparsely treed, open face that can be seen from the road at Sandhill Corner. That is where the bighorn sheep hang out, so don't take your eyes off the road too long to look.

The day's weather was a mix of sun cloud and graupel squalls. We timed it so that we arrived at the summit just

in time for one of the squalls. Actually it was my fault. I was running in low gear that day, and the others were politely waiting for me. On the summit, we thought that finally we had caught Fred identifying the South Salmo River drainage incorrectly. He apologised for his mistake, but when we checked the map, we discovered that he was actually correct first time, and we were mistaken about him being wrong. One day we'll catch him up! Fortunately, the snow for the descent was pretty good. The crust was breakable only when cranking the hardest turns, and even the boilerplate into the twin lakes had softened enough to make it a pleasant cruise. Connecting to the trail set two weeks previously, a steady climb out of the valley, parallel to the road brought us back to the car about 7 hours later. It's a reasonably long day, but a good peak to bag at this time of year. We were, Fred Thiessen, Bert Port, Peter Tchir and myself, the leader, who was not once led. David Mitchell

GALENA TRAIL, May 5

Seven hikers drove to Three Forks to walk the Galena Trail to New Denver. The weather was cool but not at all wet. At Alamo Siding (former population 200) we spent some time exploring the ruins of an ore concentrator. The remains of the concentrator are quite impressive. Pieces of machinery are still visible. There is a portion of the structure still standing and some of the spur rail lines are still in place. Uphill from the site of the concentrator is one of the houses of Clarence Cunninham, the man who revitalized Alamo Siding in the 20s and 30s. The main house is gone, so this would have been the residence of either Mrs. Dowden, his housekeeper, or Mr. Corey, his book keeper.

(Information taken from <http://www.futures.bc.ca/galena>)

After lunch, and conversations with hikers on tour from Chicago, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, and other US cities, we took turns riding the cable car across Carpenter Creek to continue on to New Denver. Along the way are old trestles, Denver Canyon, and the former site of a power plant which provided electricity to New Denver. The Galena Trail is an easy hike, 13 km. in length, with an elevation gain of 183 metres (600 feet).

Participants: Carole Page, Brad Steele, Robin Lidstone, Darlene Kilback, Eric Ackerman, Ron Perrier, Nell Plotnikoff, coordinator.

YMIR MOUNTAIN, 2398m. (7867') May 12

It was a gorgeous sunny day. Very much a sunscreen day. There was hard snow with some soft snow on top. Along the ridge from the top of Summit chair there was a small amount of fresh snow, just enough to let you get your foot comfortable and to make nice steps. Once at the summit, we considered following the ridge to half-dome. However, there was a lot of snow on the ridge, which made us feel uncomfortable so we retraced

our steps down the mountain to a low point on the ridge. We then descended in front of the mountain. Here we encountered 1 ½ feet of fresh heavy snow. When it got steep, snow started to roll in large balls in front of us. This made us a little nervous so we moved quickly till we were away from the steep area.

It took us 2 ½ hours to reach the summit and 1 hour and 20 minutes to descend.

We were David Shadbolt, Don Harasym, John Bargh, Andrew Martin and leader David Cunningham

Mt. GLADSTONE, 2252m. June 1

The pleasant warm weather provided a backdrop for this trip. The trailhead is located on the Christina Lake-Castlegar abandoned rail line. We took the Paulson Bridge Hwy. Bypass down to where it meets the old railbed. From here we followed it approx. 2.5 km north to a large open field on the left. Hopper creek is a few meters further on. An old well-placed log crosses the creek, allowing access to the field and the trail. The trail starts out as a well-used lane at first going south for some distance, rapidly gaining elevation, then switching back northward to Hopper Creek. As the trail slowly disappeared (due to lack of upkeep and snow) we (under the strong trailfinding abilities of Vicky, John and Eliane) began following flagging into the Hopper Creek drainage. The route we took crossed the creek and climbed through brush up the obvious eastern end of the mountain to the lofty ridge and snow above. Almost everyone took a rest break (some scurried to a small peak on the east) before we trudged westwardly, along the ridge, through the snow, to the hidden summit. From the summit we had a grand view in all directions including both the Arrow and Christina Lakes. Mt. Faith looked inviting from here (a new logging road seemed to approach its eastern flank). After a long bask in the sun, and after Ted took GPS readings for the database, we continued along the ridge, slowly descending down into the Hopper creek drainage. Here the snow easily supported our weight and allowed for a leisurely downhill jog to where we originally crossed the creek. The melting snow water had almost everyone's feet wet, but the trail was easy to follow back. It was roughly 6 hrs of trekking. We'd like to thank the following for an enjoyable day: E. Ackerman, J. Baillie, J. Bargh, R. Bates, D. Brown, J. Fidler, F. Fodor, D. Harasym, V. Hart, T. Ibrahim, K. Medland, A. & P. Sheppard, J. Watson, M. Woodward.

Eliane and Steven Miros, co-ordinators.

YMIR MOUNTAIN, 2398m. (7867') June 5

It was a cold wet day. It wasn't raining in the morning so we started with hopes of traversing from Half-Dome to Ymir Mt.

We went straight up from the parking lot to the ridge just east of White Queen Mt. We then followed the ridge to Half-Dome. The snow was firm and easy to walk on

except when we got close to the rocks. There it was fluffy and soft probably due to heavy rain. On top of Half-Dome it was raining hard and very windy. Visibility was poor. To follow the ridge to Ymir Mt. seemed risky as there was still snow there. We attempted to walk around the ridge on the ski hill side. Unfortunately the snow conditions were treacherous and steep so we decided not to continue. We descended down the face of Ymir Mt.

We were Ray Neumar, Hans Korn, Irme Mende, Brad Steele, David Shadbolt and leader David Cunningham (replacing Mary Woodward)

MT. SHARDELOW, 2396 m.(7861')

After Wednesday's rained-out trip, I returned to climb Mt. Shardelow on Friday, **June 7th**. Here are some details of this worthwhile early-season outing. For access, drive the Koch Crk. road about 20 km. and turn left onto the signed Dago Crk. road. After some 2 km. (4WD, water bars) take the older road straight ahead rather than turning left and crossing the creek (signed Spiers Crk.). Drive as far as you can on the Dago Crk. road which ends below a waterfall about 4 km. north of the preceding junction. To access Shardelow, ascend through the prominent cutblock on the west side of the creek (GR 340-125) near road's end. Stay on the north side of the creek draining this block and make for a peaklet at GR 320-130. As you approach the peaklet, follow the creek as it bends north, keeping on its right bank. In about 1 hr. 40 min., reach an attractive finger lake at GR 331-135 (6150'). From the lake, proceed west and southwest through timber to the basin on the east side of Shardelow. To easily gain the summit, which is at the south end of a long north-south ridge, ascend steep slopes to two tarns (315-137) to the east of a col on the peak's north ridge. From the col, follow the easy north ridge to the summit. Times: 3.5 hrs. up. 2 hrs. to return.

This trip is best made in May or early June so that you can walk on snow. Otherwise, bushwhacking could be unpleasant. On Friday's trip, I reached walkable snow at ca. 5400', partway up the cutblock. In the alpine, the snow was very hard, almost to the point of requiring crampons. Map: Burton 82F/13. Also useful: Passmore 82F/12.

Kim Kratky

MT. HARLOW, 2582 m., 8471'(map 82F/13 Burton)

On Sunday, **June 9th**, a KMC party scaled this infrequently-climbed Valhalla Range peak from the Koch Creek side. As far as we know, all previous KMC trips to Harlow have been from the east, or Hoder Creek approach. Our road access was via Branch 1, which begins on the east side of the Koch road about 21.7 km. from the Little Slokan junction. We drove 2.8 km. to 5100' on Branch 1 before being stopped by snow. Starting on foot at 8:00, we hiked on the road to the first

switchback, where we turned left onto an overgrown spur. After a further 10 min., we descended directly to a creek at GR 383-124 and followed this east on snow. Still in timber, we passed through a notch at 398-122 and contoured east and north round the basin south of Harlow. We then ascended a steep snow couloir to gain a ridge leading to the southeast base of Harlow's prominent summit knob. A short finish on more steep snow led us to the summit at 12:40. Return, via the ascent route with a detour to the lake at 400-120, took only 2 hrs. 40 min. Since we were back to the vehicles by 4:00, Fred said there would be no overtime charged. Snow and weather conditions: although skies clouded over after noon, we never received any rain or snow; snow in the alpine was almost firm enough to require crampons, although neither crampons nor the rope were used. All members of the party summited in good order: Doug Brown, Ken Holmes, Sandra McGuinness, Stan Metcalfe, Bert Port, Howie Ridge, Peter Tchir, Fred Thiessen, Kim Kratky (co-ordinator). Overall, an excellent trip, but again one best done early in the year because of formidable bushwhacking after snowmelt.

Kim Kratky

SANDON PEAK, 2346m.(7697', map Slocan 82F/14)

Not receiving any call for the club climbing trip of **June 12th**, the co-ordinator changed the destination to this remote and obscure peak in the Slocan Range. Details follow. I approached from the Silverton Creek side, turning up Branch 9 about 9.8 km. From Silverton and following this spur 2.5 km to the east edge of a big cutblock. Ascending the block northeast along the west bank of a creek, I soon came across a well-defined trail, undoubtedly made during the mining boom on Silver Ridge over 100 years ago. I followed this over an hour before losing it in the snow several hundred feet below treeline and the ridge. Gaining the ridge at about GR 830-332, I continued southeast over u/n 7,650' (GR 839-325) to the summit of Sandon Peak in 5 ½ hours from the truck. I was slowed by the unpleasant snow, in places nearly bottomless mush, and the many cornices needing careful attention. On the summit, I found a cairn with no record and took a refreshing 10 min. break. For descent, I re-traced my steps and was surprised to find the trail emerged exactly where my truck was parked (3 ½ hours down). Although I flagged the trailhead with several strips of orange flagging tape, it's difficult to follow through the cutblock as several large trees have fallen on it lengthwise. Once in the timber, it is very clear, although large deadfalls slow progress. Many older deadfalls have been cut out, so someone obviously looked after this trail for years. Perhaps worth exploring to its end for those who are interested in mining history. Although the views were fine, an ascent of Sandon Peak

is not really recommended, unless you're an aficionado of suffering.

Kim Kratky

SPIDER PK. AND VIRGIL MTN.(map Slocan 82F/14)

The club climbing schedule for Sunday, **June 16**, was changed to Blue Grouse Basin because of road access problems elsewhere. First, a brief description of access. The road is in good 2WD condition right to the turnoff for Timber Creek, 50 m. from the parking lot. Best not to drive to the lot; there's ample parking at the turnoff. The trail is in good condition, with only a few blowdowns. It was covered by snow several hundred feet below the basin. We climbed Spider (GR 835-195) by its southwest face on quite steep snow, reaching the top at 12:00, 3 hrs. 40 min. from the truck. After a long lunch under sunny skies, we descended rock and steep snow couloirs on the north ridge, continued north on rock and snow of a connecting ridge, and scaled the south ridge of Virgil, again a mix of rock and snow. We summited at 2:45, 1 hr. 45 min. after leaving Spider. After a 30 min. break, we re-traced our steps and exited the ridge to Blue Grouse Basin at a prominent rock and snow gully where the ridge flattens out.

We reached the truck at 5:40, after a 2 hr. 25 min. descent from the summit. Good snow conditions all the way. Total day: 9 hrs. 20 min. On the trip: Greg Kormany, Kim Kratky.

OTHER TRIP REPORTS

Ski traverse: Salmo-Creston summit to Sheep Creek

On Saturday, **May 10th**, Howie Ridge and I began our outing by dropping a vehicle at the junction of Sheep Creek road and the Waldie Lake road. We were able to drive the necessary 9-10 km. up Sheep Creek only because the road had been plowed. An hour or so later, we started from the access point for the North Fork of Summit Creek, 4 km. east of the Salmo-Creston summit on Hwy. 3 (4,850'). Under blue skies and in spring conditions, we skied up to Pristine Pass (1hr. 40 min.) and then traversed around the north face of Wolf Pk. and up to the 6490' pass north of Wolf (2 hr. 10 min., GR 967-394), all without removing skins. We then skied down to the little lake west of the pass and then northwest down to the south end of Waldie (or Wulf) Lake at 5,350' in good spring conditions on a solid base (about 3.5 hrs). After skiing the length of Waldie Lake, we picked up the trail at its north end and followed it and old snowmobile tracks down to the top of the Waldie Lake road (trail keeps to skier's left of creek; follow orange diamond markers). Thence, it was a pleasant glide down the 6 km. of road to the truck we had left at Sheep Creek. Fortunately, we

had to walk only the last 700 m. of the road. Total trip time: 5 hr. 25 min. Highly recommended for a moderate spring outing. Mid-winter times would be slower, but the route doesn't seem to offer much avalanche exposure. Map: Salmo 82F/3.
Kim Kratky

SLOCAN LAKE-GALENA-SANDON TRAIL

Our **May 18** bike trip can be done in several ways. The user friendly (or "not too great a rider" version) route would be to approach it starting at the north end of Slocan Lake on the abandoned rail-bed and head south. This offers both lake and mountain views as well as the splendor of the Galena trail. When going north on the highway and shortly after leaving the lake, turn left on Bonanza Road and follow it a short distance to the intersection with the railbed. A pleasant cycle along the lakeshore for a few miles is followed by a gradual climb up the rail grade to Sandon or however far one wants to go. At Rosebery the route follows the lakeshore through a log transfer operation and if heavy equipment is working, skirt to the north of the operation and then return to the railbed which you will find at the water's edge.

Steven and Eliane Miros

SKI TOUR OF MT. ECCLES (2161 m., 7090')

Mt. Eccles, located in the far northwestern corner of Baldface Crk. valley, is drained on the west by Trozzo and Winlaw creeks. Since this was the only named peak in the Baldface-Grohman drainage that we hadn't ever climbed by any means, Howie Ridge and I decided it might qualify for a ski-tour ascent. On Sunday, **May 19th**, we embarked in the Cruiser, along with Dave Adams, up the Grohman Creek road. Stopped by snow at km. 12 (3,700'), we donned skis and skins and headed out at 9:05 for the long ski up the road.

For the first two or three kilometers, patchy snow forced us to carry our skis over several "portages." At km. 20, we rock-hopped across a creek where the bridge had been pulled and continued west into a cutblock. Here, Dave decided he had had enough and returned to the creek crossing to wait for the more foolhardy. Ascending through timber via the east ridge and face, we reached the long, flat, north-south oriented summit at 2:40 pm (5 hrs. 35 min. up). After half an hour's break enjoying very good views of Mulvey, Kokanee, Ymir cirque, and even Snowcrest Mtn., we skied (well, side slipped) off the steep east face, then enjoyed some good spring condition turns before hitting a "glue zone," all in moderate timber. Emerging at the landing in the cutblock, we skied down the road, rendezvoused with Dave, and made the long schuss back to the truck by 6:15, all with only a few sprinkles of rain. Return time: 3 hrs. Total day: 9 hrs. 10 min. Not really recommended, but worth doing once.

Kim Kratky

Summit Registers

Registers are still being put on mountains within the following boundaries: Arrow Lakes on the west, the Columbia and Kootenay rivers on the south, the Purcell and the Goat Range. Members are asked to carry a spare to the destination.

Members write...

Several of our members have drawn attention to the following PENNYWISE June 11th 2002 article.

“Jumbo Issue Heats Up.

The Jumbo Glacier Alpine Resort proposal, changing a unique wildlife area into a mega ski resort like Whistler is finally moving again. The new streamlined and watered down Environmental Assessment Act (E.A.A.) is likely to go into effect late summer of this year. That includes the Jumbo Glacier Resort Proposal.

When the Jumbo was phased into the new E.A.A., the Proponent, Oberto Oberti, will be subject to some time limitations. We can anticipate movement soon. His next step will be to file his final report with the Project Assessment Committee.

Stan Hagen, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, has the jurisdiction of the Jumbo Proposal. Although many conservation groups have formally introduced themselves to Mr. Hagen, he knows little of the long history of the Jumbo Proposal, including the strong opposition to it.

In order to impress Stan Hagen with the strength of the opposition, the Invermere newspaper, VALLEY ECHO, has launched an opinion poll and ballot. This unofficial poll provides another opportunity for us to express our opposition to the proposal, to the Proponent, Mr. Oberti, our MLA's and to the government. The poll is open to everyone, and we urge you, your family and friends to participate. Act now to make the deadline, June 30th 2002. Thank you, Rowena Eloise and Inger Kronseth for: The West Kootenay Coalition For Jumbo Wild.”

There is a Resort Poll form at the bottom of page 12 of the PENNYWISE for people to fill out.

Other information can be had by e-mailing the Valley Echo Office in Invermere at editor@cyberlink.bc.ca, or faxing them at 250-342-xxxx.

Eds.

JUMBO CREEK UPDATE, by Kim Kratky

On May 8th, the Provincial government introduced Bill 38, a re-written Environmental Assessment Act that eliminates many of the guarantees of environmental review, consultation with the general public and First Nations, and public access to documents. This legislation applies retroactively to the Jumbo Pass Ski Area project, meaning that we all may wake up one morning and find it has been approved. What can you do? First, vote in the Jumbo Resort Poll, sponsored by the Valley Echo paper of Invermere. There are two questions: Are you in favour of the Jumbo Glacier Alpine Resort Proposal? Would you like to see a regionally-run referendum on Jumbo? Please mail to Box 70, Invermere, BC V0A 1K0 or email your ballot to editor@cyberlink.bc.ca. Finally, you can write or email the usual suspects: the Premier, our MLA, and especially the Hon. Stan Hagen, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, stan.hagen.mla@leg.bc.ca, or Box 9054, STN. PROV. GOV'T., Victoria, BC V8W 9E2. Mr. Hagen will make the final decision on Jumbo.

Norman Thyer now has a personal website at:

<http://mypage.uniserve.com/~nthyer>

The contents are mainly text, so that they download rapidly. You may find some items of interest under the heading "Outdoor Recreation". The pages are simple ones without fancy gimmicks, allowing rapid access, and can be converted to plain text with minimal editing. As the site is still "under construction", not all links in it are working yet, however, the sections on Travel and Outdoor Recreation should be functioning at present and contain items that could be of interest to KMC members including submissions to the Newsletter and Karabiner. The section "Distances and Directions" gives these quantities for several prominent Kootenay summits as seen from popular viewpoints and could be a help in identifying such landmarks.

Norman Thyer 6115 Sproule Creek Road, Nelson, B.C., Canada V1L 6Y1 Tel: 250-352-xxxx E-mail (when it works): Current: xxxx@uniserve.com "Permanent": xxxx@alumni.ucalgary.ca

Please consult me before sending any e-mail attachments other than PLAIN TEXT.

Microsoft Word attachments are unintelligible to my system.

Last year, **Fathom Expeditions** advertised a "Hiking and Climbing Voyage" to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetlands. For 2003, this has now been replaced by two other voyages, one of which also includes South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. For information, call 1-800-621-xxxx, or fax (416) 925-xxxx or (416) 925-xxxx, or write: Fathom Expeditions, 146 Madison Ave, Suite 101, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5R2S5, or e-mail: explore@fathomexpeditions.com or visit the website: www.fathomexpeditions.com N. Thyer

The K.M.C. would like to thank Ted Ibrahim for all his work in the compilation of the mountain database included in this issue.

A tune to keep the bears away!!

The K.M.C. Old Goats

I love the mountains, the forest, the rushing streams,
The granite gray and bare,
The Alpine meadows fair;
I love the Selkirks, the Purcells, the Monashees,
And so I joined the K.M.C.

I'm in the club now,
I go on trips now,
I go to hiking camps in places fresh,
I go to rock school,
I go to slide shows,
I work to save the wilderness.

Trips rated B-2 or Vingolf A-1! We like,
The Sunday dawn we greet,
At South Slocan we meet,
We drive up logging roads rutted for miles and miles,
Then full of hope we start to hike.

We use our ice axe,
We swing our ski poles,
For greater speed we wear our high tech boots.
But though we struggle
We never catch up
The nimble K.M.C. old goats.

They look for trips designated X-24,
They may have been before
But there're new routes to score,
More heights to scale, bush to whack, glacial streams
to cross,
And so they're always game for more.

They straddle bergschrunds,
Cross mighty icefields,
Rappel down Dag's north face without their ropes,
They skid through rock slides,
Glissade down icefalls,
Those nimble K.M.C. old goats.