

# Kootenay Mountaineer

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter March-April 2003 Issue 2 Next deadline: Approx. June 25<sup>th</sup>

## A Vision for the Future?

Up to now our fragile alpine areas have been protected by their remoteness and the effort that it took to reach them. It seems that the only effort required now is to reach into your back pocket for your visa card. *Ed Mankelov of the BC Wildlife Federation in his "Parks in Peril" presentation to the Sierra Club Sponsored Panel Discussion in Victoria, Sept 24, 2002. Mankelov continues, "BC Parks do pay for themselves as a system, but should they have to? They offer so many other benefits to society beyond the economic yardstick that this government is choosing to use. I believe that the government through Land and Water BC have their eyes on our parks as a place where they could make money through Commercial Backcountry Recreation. During a meeting that I had with Minister of Sustainable Resources Stan Hagen on our concerns about Commercial Backcountry Recreation he finished the meeting with, "It's all about money".*

*Mankelov was a member of the original BC Parks Legacy Panel struck in 1997 to find out from the people of BC how they wanted our park system brought into the 21st century as a legacy for today's and future generations. Unfortunately, few of the recommendations, submitted in Feb 99, were ever carried out. The people of BC told the Panel that "they cared deeply about our parks, that our parks and protected areas contributed to the quality of life that we enjoy in this province, that they did not want our parks privatized or commercialized and that ecological integrity must come before recreation." Mankelov believes the present government will take from this report only what serves their interests. From The Outdoor Edge (Jan/Feb 2003).*

### MINISTRY OF FORESTS – RECREATION

The Ministry of Forests has cancelled its initial request for proposals issued last fall soliciting interest from proponents in taking over the maintenance and management of Forest Service Recreation Sites and Trails, under partnership agreements. The initial RFP included clauses and conditions requiring proponents to obtain liability insurance and indemnify the province. MoF has since decided to pay for an insurance policy for any proponent willing to take over sites or trails. The new RFP will not have the insurance/liability clauses included hence the need to re-advertise a new RFP with revised conditions. Further information may be obtained at any FS district or regional office throughout BC. The Access News #33 Feb 2003 *Doug Herchmer*

### RECREATION STEWARDSHIP PANEL & PARK USER FEES

This panel was formed by the government in May 2002, to develop a new management and funding model for fish, wildlife and park recreation. (There was a similar process – the Parks Legacy Project – in the late 1990s.) It involved extensive research and consultation – the September draft report led to 675 comments. The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection estimates the gap between recreation user fee revenue and expenditures is \$18.7 million, and that the 10% who camp overnight currently pay nearly 100% of the fees collected by the park system. (Studies show that the indirect economic contribution of parks and park use is several times the public investment.) The B.C. park system has doubled in the last decade, with steady declines in funding, and there is a "facility maintenance backlog" of \$40 million.

A final report was issued in November. It recommended maintaining provincial responsibility for conservation of fish and wildlife and their

habitats, and for ecological integrity. Consultation, co-operation and agreements with first peoples will remain a priority, as will consultation with "provincial advisory bodies" regarding park and wildlife management. It recommended that all conservation work be paid for from general revenues; that users pay the costs of providing recreation opportunities, with all revenue to a separate account used for that purpose; that contributions should be used to support enhanced levels of conservation and recreation, e.g. through the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund; and that bridge funding will be needed. \$13.2 million is to be raised through user fees. The Access News #33 Feb 2003 *Vancouver Sun (29<sup>th</sup> January 2003), Pique (31<sup>st</sup> January 2003), Brian Wood*



### JOHN CLARKE Xwexwséłkn (1945 – 2003)

John Clarke, B.C. mountaineer and conservationist, died of cancer on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. He leaves wife Annette, son Nicholas, family, and innumerable friends and colleagues. John was a leading explorer of B.C.'s Coast Ranges from the 1960s until recently. He spent many weeks in our mountains each year, and made many short and long trips. These included over six hundred first ascents, and many first ski or foot traverses through different ranges, sometimes solo. John was the subject of the award-winning documentary *Child of the Wind*. He wrote and spoke extensively about his journeys. Starting in 1995, John devoted tremendous time and energy to the Wilderness Education Program. He spoke to thousands of students about the importance of wilderness, and introduced hundreds to the outdoors and wilderness through various trips and events. A focus of this largely volunteer work was the proposed Stoltmann Wilderness, based in the Elaho Valley northwest of Squamish. Together with the first peoples of Squamish, John developed the Witness Program. John was an honorary member of the Alpine Club of Canada and of the B.C. Mountaineering Club. In July 2002 he received the Order of Canada, one of the few mountaineers so honoured. He was also adopted by the Squamish Nation, and given the name Xwexwséłkn, meaning brave mountain goat.

A moving and well-attended service for John was held on 26<sup>th</sup> January in North Vancouver. Donations to a trust fund for Nicholas can be made by calling (604) 318-0001, and cards sent to Annette Clarke, 2496 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6K 1Y4. Donations to the Wilderness Education Program can be made c/o B.C. Spaces for Nature, 3116 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6K 1N3 (mark "WEP" on the cheque). The Access News #33 Feb 2003

Avalanche Bulletin: Recent backcountry avalanche fatalities prompted the B.C. government to provide funds for “extraordinary” bulletins when needed. Provincial government funding for the avalanche bulletin was cut about a year ago. The Canadian Avalanche Association still hopes to obtain enough for a daily bulletin; in the European Alps, this reduced accidents by 50%. Source: Vancouver Sun (8<sup>th</sup> February 2003) via Access News #33 Feb 2003

## On Mount Everest...

In the past two decades, Mount Everest has gone from being an icon in the world mountaineering community, to a subject of derision and cynicism. This proliferation of multiple ascents and Evil Knivel-like stunts has done nothing but diminish the accomplishments of history's great climbers, and has ultimately diminished the mountain itself. There is no doubt that Everest has changed, almost beyond recognition since 1953, when Hillary and Norgay first set foot on the "Third Pole". "In the two months that I spent up in the mountains," said Hillary, "I cannot remember seeing a single person apart from my companions." He marveled at "the sheer sense of isolation and remoteness." Krakauer's soul-searching book, *Into Thin Air*, raised alarming questions about the practice of trying to guide clients to the summit of the world's highest peak. But, far from deterring others from attempting to conquer the world's highest peak, such tragedies only seem to have inflamed the great spirit of adventure.

Apart from destroying Everest's mystique, the sheer volume of traffic on the mountain has led some experts to estimate that at least 100 tons of garbage litters the mountain's upper slopes, making it the world's highest garbage dump. "I didn't climb Everest to be famous," Sharon Wood the first North American woman to have reached the summit in 1986 says. "And I think most people didn't back then. I think I saw it as kind of an Icon of human achievement, and as a testing piece." *Condensed and edited from an interview of Sharon Wood By Mark Mallet, The Vancouver Sun, Feb. 15, 2003*

Mount Everest: This is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first ascent of Chomolungma, aka Mt. Everest (correctly pronounced "eve-rest"). The name Chomolungma has well-documented origins amongst the Tibetan and Sherpa peoples; the mountain is known to some Nepalese as Sagarmatha. China has begun a campaign to rename it Mount Qomolangma. (Chomolungma and Qomolangma seem to be varying ways of spelling the same Tibetan word in English.) However, the Chinese government also says that "British colonialists raped the sacred mountain of the Tibetans by giving it a false name" and that "Until today the world is still persistently humiliating Mount Qomolangma with English-language hegemonism." Vancouver Sun (19<sup>th</sup> November 2002) via Access News #33 Feb 2003

---

## Combining nature, travel and heritage

The **World Legacy Awards** are considered the best examples in the tourism industry of the ideal balance between nature conservation, the protection of heritage sites, social responsibility and commerce. The 2002 winners were announced by Conservation International and National Geographic Traveler magazine. The winners are determined after onsite verification visits by a team of scientific, anthropological and tourism professionals.

The winner of the **Nature Travel Award**, given to a group making significant contributions to the conservation of natural areas and biodiversity, is Wilderness Safaris, based, in Rivonia, South Africa. They manage more than one million hectares of pristine natural habitat in southern Africa, where they have 36 lodges in six countries. The group provides tourists with extensive instruction about conservation and sustainable management, works with local committees to promote economic growth and provides a free, weeklong safari for 1,000 underprivileged African children each year. The winner of the **Heritage**

**Tourism Award**, given to a group making contributions to cultural heritage and diversity, is AGT Oxford. Based in Oxford, England, the group won for its work in Italy where it used ancient pilgrimage and farming paths as a basis for self-guided or guided walking tours through Tuscany and Umbria.

The winner of the **Destination Stewardship Award**, presented to a group protecting the overall natural and cultural heritage of a destination, is the REST (Responsible Ecological Social Tours) for its project on one of Thailand's most beautiful tropical islands, Koh Yao Noi in the Phuket region. REST works with local communities to reduce the negative effects of tourism while promoting conservation and increasing the amount of income for participating families.

Conservation International ([www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org)) is an international environmental organization that works to protect earth's most endangered plant and animal species in the world's most threatened places. (Wire Services)

## The Greatest Danger to Our Future Is Apathy

"Can we overcome apathy? Yes, but only if we have hope. One reason for hope lies in the extraordinary nature of human intellectual accomplishment. We have seen many things in the past one hundred years and there is no reason to believe it will stop. Now that we have finally faced up to the terrible damage that we have inflicted on our environment, our ingenuity is working overtime to find technological solutions. But technology is not enough. We must engage with our hearts also. And it's happening. While pollution still plagues much of the world, progress is being made. We have huge power, we of the affluent societies, we who are causing the most environmental damage. For we are the consumers. We do not have to buy products from companies with bad environmental policies. To help us the Internet is linking small grass roots movements so that people whom once felt they were on their own can contact others with the same concerns. Each of us must work hard now to heal the hurts. We cannot expect those living in poverty and ignorance to save the world. We can do something to preserve our planet." Jane Goodall (*condensed & adapted from TIME*)

The **Climbers' Access Society of British Columbia** has concerns when recreation is viewed solely in terms of fees and services, without regard to all its other direct and indirect health, environmental, spiritual, cultural, social, and economic benefits. Simply put, we need to get outside and in nature more, in low impact and healthy ways. A big part of what climbing and mountaineering are about. Low impact backcountry recreation is a public good, like playing fields, streets, and clean water. It justifies some public investment. On one hand there are use fees – fees charged simply for carrying on low impact backcountry recreation – and on the other user fees – fees for services (usually 'front country' - toilets, secure/developed parking, improved camping...). User fees can be tolerable if the amount has some relation to the service provided, if the services are necessary or requested, and if the money transparently goes back into maintaining the service. They can also be a barrier. John Clarke got started with camping trips to Cultus Lake. What if camping fees then had prevented this? In western Canada, there has been a historic right to "low impact use" of public land without fees. Where the land truly requires management (number of users, environmental concerns, competing uses), and is managed accordingly, use fees might be justified. However, use fees are often arbitrary, have little relation to any service that is provided, and are not traceable. And 'management' isn't always desirable. Complicating this, the climbing and mountaineering communities have long taken an active role in providing such few backcountry services as are needed – trail building and maintenance, cleanups, volunteer search & rescue, toilets, huts, etc – and are aware of the need to minimize impacts. It would be unjust if we were required to pay for a 'service' we had ourselves provided for the public good. The Access News #33 Feb 2003

Trails Day -June 7- "Their Creation, Use & Maintenance"

## Congestion Charges ?

London introduced a "congestion charge" a few weeks ago. Apparently the traffic has become so bad that the average car speed is now 2.9 km/hr, which is slightly slower than the horse and cart traffic of London 200 years ago. Inner-city congestion and urban overcrowding-sprawl are now a familiar story the world over as more and more of us are drawn into the cities.

Cities have been with us for thousands of years whereas nations as we know them, have only existed for a few hundred years. Rem Koolhaas believes that cities and their "culture of congestion" now drive the market order. Robert Kaplan takes this a step higher saying that these forces, and not nations, are to be the avatars of the new world order "the age of high tech feudalism".

Does the city and its traffic patterns define us? Is this to determine our emerging global identity? Do we subscribe to this perspective or is there an alternative based on creativity, an anti-authoritarian instinct and an entrepreneurial spirit?

Condensed from an article in the Globe and Mail by Ken Wiwa (wiwa@dial.pipex.com)

## On Air Travel

So you recycle your newspapers and carrier bags, take buses and trains wherever possible and harangue the authorities to switch to wind power. You're green; you care about the environment. And then you blow it all by jumping on that cheap flight to Thailand or America. You've just used up all environmental Brownie points, in one go. Can you still call yourself green at 30,000 feet? Frankly, no. Air travel is choking our world faster than any other form of transport. The average jet pumps around a ton of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere for every passenger it carries from London to New York.

Air transport is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions but has so far sparked relatively little concern among governments and international bodies.

Eugenio Yunis, the World Tourism Organisation's Director of Sustainable Development, admits that his organization is only now beginning a study on the environmental impact of air travel. He emphasizes that the expansion of tourism demand is something that cannot be controlled - we live in a free society and the solution is not to stop people traveling or price them out of the sky with taxes. So we have to make these trips as least damaging as possible. The fact that the world's aircraft fleet has doubled its fuel efficiency over the past 30 years does not make up for the fact that global air traffic has quadrupled since 1970. This is forecast to more than double by 2015 and double or even triple again by 2050.

In the Eighties the car became the symbol of independence, freedom and personal mobility. Cheap, fun, cool - let's build more roads. And where did that get us? Serious concerns about the effects of road traffic pollution on human health and global warming have shattered the illusion of car as king. Is the jumbo jet destined to go the same way in the twenty-first century? The World Travel and Tourism Council calls the combined business of travel and tourism the world's biggest industry, producing 12 per cent of global GDP. Measures suggested to curb air travel are regressive. Higher taxes just put prices up and take travel away from people. Stephen Joseph of Transport 2000 said that while no one wanted to keep air travel as the domain of the wealthy, the polluter must pay. Individuals cannot be expected to ration their own flying, becoming martyrs to the environment, while governments themselves are taking such a weak lead on the issue. He concluded: "People should think twice before flying halfway round the world to an eco resort. But unless governments do more to tackle aviation growth and influence the choices people make about travel in the future, then it will just be a question of... if you don't fly, someone else will just take your place on the jumbo."

Forwarded by Norman Thyer. Condensed and edited version of a web article by Joanna Walters in *The Observer*, Sunday May 12, 2002. (Norman has several worthy articles at <http://mypage.uniserve.com/~nthyer/ea/lobuje.htm>)



**Sustainable Choices?** "We are not cleaning up our own mess. We are not facing up to the price of our lifestyles. Real environmental change depends on us. The challenges are great, but if we accept individual responsibility and make sustainable choices, we will rise to the challenges, and we will become part of the positive tide of change." Severn Cullis-Suzuki

## Book Reviews



### Hiking The Southern Rockies

By Joey Ambrosi, 1999

*Paramount Printers, Lethbridge, Alberta*

In my January 2001 Book Review for the Karabiner I alluded to a hiking guidebook for the SE Kootenay. This is that book, which also covers SW Alberta, detailing 144 hikes in 15 regions, ranging from a 20 minute jaunt to the 3 day Tamarack Trail.

Almost 50 of these hikes end at a lake - the author is also a fly fisherman - with many lakes being close to the alpine, providing good access to the ridges and summits above. 25 hikes lead to a pass or a ridge, once again offering the possibility of further exploration. 8 forestry look-outs are described, hopefully similar to Saddle Mtn. Of most interest to KMC members would be the 13 hikes that end at a peak or summit. The remaining 50 or so trips are primarily lower altitude "valley-bottom" excursions.

This is a good guidebook. Access directions are clear and concise, while hiking descriptions are written in an engaging and informative manner. Each of the 15 regions has a one-page map on which all of the hikes for that region are shown. As usual, individual maps for each hike would be preferable. Instead of a separate map, each hike is accompanied by a profile, or graph, which plots height gained against distance traveled, letting you know what to expect, and when, in the effort department. Not all profiles are directly comparable however as the scales vary with the overall length. And nowhere near as useful as a good map! Over 200 black and white photos (some a little dark) reveal lots of spectacular and inviting scenery. Tantalising...

The areas most likely to appeal are Elk Lakes and Waterton. One could easily spend a week or more in each location, and I certainly hope to do so. Two spectacular day hikes, which I have had the good fortune to complete, are Middle Sister Peak (Fernie) and Crowsnest Mtn. (guess where?). By coincidence both mountains are the same height, 9135'. Add them to your "to do" list - They're great!

If you do go to Middle Sister, you may wish to use the new Heiko Trail, constructed in 2002. To access this trail, do not turn left at Hartley Pass, as described in the book, but descend into the basin beyond. The new trail starts near a burnt-out vehicle on the left, and rejoins the old trail just below the Middle-West col. This avoids the bottom section of the old trail, which was brutal on descent, even steeper and more slippery than the notorious Mt. Fisher trail. From this col, you go left to climb Middle Sister while the new Heiko trail swings right to eventually reach Island Lake, a trip that requires a car shuttle.

One note of caution: The route up Fernie's famous Ghost Rider Mountain, which starts halfway up the Mt. Hosmer Trail is described as being for "proficient scramblers". I found the last few hundred feet to be excessively steep, loose and exposed. I turned around less than 100 feet from the summit, thereby failing the "proficient scrambler" test, and descended very slowly, and very, very carefully. You know what they say about being old and bold.

Since individual members may not visit the SE Kootenay often enough to justify purchasing this book, I hope that the club library will obtain a copy. Available in Cranbrook, Fernie and discriminating bookstores elsewhere.

Also mentioned in my previous review was the mountaineering guidebook **Selkirks South**, (\*) by David P. Jones. This book appeared in June 2001, and has already been reviewed twice by Kim Kratky, once in the old format West Kootenay Weekender, and again in the 2002 Canadian Alpine Journal. Widely acclaimed for setting a new standard in climbing guides, it easily won that category at the 2002 Banff Book Festival.

The companion volume, **Selkirks North**, is due by early summer, and is eagerly awaited. Hopefully Kim will provide the newsletter with one of his erudite reviews when the time comes, and our librarian will be able to purchase both volumes for the library.

Never one to rest on his many laurels, Jones has already begun to gather material for his newest project - a possible guide to the Purcells. Go, Davey, go!

Hamish Mutch

(\*) *We have this book in the KMC library*

"What we do during our working hours determines what we have; what we do during our leisure hours determines what we are." G. Eastman

# OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT

(From the Climbers' Access Society of British Columbia newsletter "Access News #32", November 2002)

There is concern amongst land-owners and managers ("occupiers") as to whether they might be sued if a recreational climber on their land was injured or killed. The concern appears to be unfounded. A little information on the situation follows. This should not be taken to be legal advice, just some general comments on what it seems to mean.

The 1998 changes to B.C.'s Occupiers' Liability Act virtually eliminated the possibility that occupiers could be found liable to recreational users of undeveloped land. These changes are similar to those in most jurisdictions in Canada and the U.S.A. Most of the relatively few climbing-related lawsuits have occurred in the U.S.A., and almost all are related to product liability, or where there was a commercial relationship e.g. guiding. The U.S.A. is a much more litigious society than Canada. Canadian courts are generally more conservative, while in Canada a losing party must pay at least part of the winning party's court costs. This discourages frivolous lawsuits; all the same, litigation paranoia is based as much on concern about the cost of defending an action as it is on concern about losing. However, we do not know of any climbing or mountaineering related lawsuit in Canada or the U.S.A. based on occupiers' liability law. There are lots of hungry plaintiff's lawyers, and none has even tried.

This is a bit puzzling. No one has even bothered to sue, so there hasn't been a relevant test case. This seems to be for several reasons:

The Occupiers' Liability Act strongly discourages actions.

- + The common law principle that in all risky activities, the courts take participants to have assumed the risks inherent in the activity. A plaintiff claiming not to have known that climbing was dangerous would have an uphill battle. Particularly a climber who was on private undeveloped land, and who claimed that somehow the landowner was responsible.
- + Waivers - commercial and semi-commercial climbing activities invariably now use strongly worded disclosures and waivers. They fully disclose risks ("climbing can kill or seriously injure you"), and the possible results. Belt + suspenders, as it were.

The relevant parts of the Occupiers Liability Act follow. It seems likely that most climbing areas in B.C. would fall under section 3(3.3).

## OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT [RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 337 [Updated to October 1, 1998]

### Definitions

1- In this Act: occupier" means a person who

- (a) is in physical possession of premises, or
- (b) has responsibility for, and control over, the condition of premises, the activities conducted on those premises and the persons allowed to enter those premises, and, for this Act, there may be more than one occupier of the same premises; premises" includes
  - (a) land and structures or either of them, excepting portable structures and equipment other than those described in paragraph (c),
  - (b) ships and vessels,
  - (c) trailers and portable structures designed or used for a residence, business or shelter, and
  - (d) railway locomotives, railway cars, vehicles and aircraft while not in operation; "tenancy" includes a statutory tenancy, an implied tenancy and any contract conferring the right of occupation, and "landlord" must be construed accordingly.

### Application of Act

2- Subject to section 3 (4), and sections 4 and 9, this Act determines the care that an occupier is required to show toward persons entering on the premises in respect of dangers to them, or to their property on the premises, or to the property on the premises of persons who have not themselves entered on the premises, that are due to the state of the premises, or to anything done or omitted to be done on the premises, and for which the occupier is responsible by law.

### Occupiers' duty of care

3-(1) An occupier of premises owes a duty to take that care that in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that a person, and the person's property, on the premises, and property on the premises of a person, whether or not that person personally enters on the premises, will be reasonably safe in using the premises.

(2) The duty of care referred to in subsection (1) applies in relation to the

- (a) condition of the premises,
- (b) activities on the premises, or
- (c) conduct of third parties on the premises.

(3) Despite subsection (1), an occupier has no duty of care to a person in respect of risks willingly assumed by that person other than a duty not to

- (a) create a danger with intent to do harm to the person or damage to the person's property, or
- (b) act with reckless disregard to the safety of the person or the integrity of the person's property.

(3.1) A person who is trespassing on premises while committing, or with the intention of committing, a criminal act is deemed to have willingly assumed all risks and the occupier of those premises is subject only to the duty of care set out in subsection (3).

(3.2) A person who enters any of the categories of premises described in subsection (3.3) is deemed to have willingly assumed all risks and the occupier of those premises is subject only to the duty of care set out in subsection (3) if

- (a) the person who enters is trespassing, or
- (b) the entry is for the purpose of a recreational activity and
  - (i) the occupier receives no payment or other consideration for the entry or activity of the person, other than a payment or other consideration from a government or government agency or a non-profit recreational club or association, and
  - (ii) the occupier is not providing the person with living accommodation on those premises.

(3.3) The categories of premises referred to in subsection (3.2) are as follows:

- (a) premises that the occupier uses primarily for agricultural purposes;
- (b) rural premises that are
  - (i) used for forestry or range purposes,
  - (ii) vacant or undeveloped premises,
  - (iii) forested or wilderness premises, or
  - (iv) private roads reasonably marked as private roads;
- (c) recreational trails reasonably marked as recreational trails;
- (d) utility rights of way and corridors excluding structures located on them.

(4) Nothing in this section relieves an occupier of premises of a duty to exercise, in a particular case, a higher standard of care which, in that case, is incumbent on the person because of an enactment or rule of law imposing special standards of care on particular classes of person.

## Executive Notes



Constitution: Reviewing of the Constitution with the intent of implementing changes later this year is progressing. Presentation will be brought up at the next executive meeting, around end April with unveiling to the membership possibly in May-June for consideration, discussion, and general feedback from the members.

Library: Thank you to Gillian and Kim Deane who donated their Kootenay Karabiners. Does anyone have the 1996 Canadian Alpine Journal? We would appreciate it or being able to borrow it as the club does not have this issue.

KMC Brochure: The executive approved printing (up to \$300) for an updated KMC recruitment brochure. It will be distributed by the executive at various places.

Karabiner: Holly was commended for her great job on this latest issue. Costs were slightly over \$5000. Over 320 copies were mailed. Additional copies can be had for \$10 by contacting Eliane at xxx-xxxx. The group talked about the Karabiner's future. Some of the points were: because of the time and energy involved it should be done by several people next time. Are others interested in coming forward to help? Whenever a new person takes over, there is considerable time spent getting up to speed-everyone has to relearn how to do it, many people are not prompt on their delivery of trip reports and other writings, and it unfortunately makes it necessary to compile everything at the end. This is when it becomes overwhelming. Also it is done on a PageMaker program, publishing costs will be similar for the next issue: Is it efficient use of a member's money as its cost is significant in relation to the yearly fee, dues could be raised, a low tech format could be utilized, the harder cover is appreciated, are a lot of pictures really necessary, many articles could actually be put in the newsletter, there is an important historical-heritage-archive- value to the exploits and explorations of the West Kootenays that it documents, the writings are all worthy, already now it might be hard to reclaim articles from the past 2-3 years. Many of the items in the Karabiner

do not really document the Kootenays, perhaps they should be in the newsletter.

It was noted that someone should update the Karabiner, hiking and climbing camp indexes. We need a volunteer.

Website: After an informative discussion it was agreed that putting newsletters on the web is not a bad idea. Only a summary of destinations will be given and actual trip schedules will not be included - The executive approved purchase of \$200 for software that will aid greatly in web related matters.

Membership: The amount of amendments/deletions/additions to the KMC membership list has been quite large! See below for changes to the membership list. Anyone wishing to receive a complete updated list can request it from KMC membership Box 365 Robson BC V0G 1X0 and must include a self-addressed stamped envelope, or request it via email from xxx@xxx.com. The executive insists that membership is incomplete until you have duly completed, signed and dated the yearly membership form/waiver with the appropriate payment. It was also noted that the trip waiver must be signed by all participants at the start of each outing.

Climbing camp: Doug Brown is now our Climbing Camp Director. Information for this year's camp is in this newsletter, with more details to come in our next issue.

Summer Hiking Trips: The schedule is in this newsletter. Please call xxx-xxxx or email xxx@xxx.ca if you can coordinate a hike, as some dates are still available.

Bike trips: Anyone interested in leading a bike trip, please contact Carol Potasnyk at xxx-xxxx or email xxx@xxx.com. The bike trips are every Friday starting in May and go until mid October.

Equipment: Some of our equipment is now unsafe and should be discarded. We need a new place to store winter and summer equipment. A Nelson volunteer would be appreciated, as it would be the most convenient

location. The gear occupies 4 cardboard boxes and a duffel bag. About 15 cu.ft. in all.

## For Sale

"Sierra" down sleeping bag \$75  
Interested? Call Carol at xxx-xxxx

## From our mailbox

### NAMING MT. SHARDELOW

A Mr. Gerry Langford, of Leicester, UK, who saw a reference to Mt. Shardelow on the KMC website, wrote the Executive to ask about the origin of the peak's name. I emailed a guess that it was probably named after a Canadian serviceman or woman killed in wartime. He replied that, to the best of his knowledge, there was only one Shardelow from Canada killed in World War Two, Private Edward Shardelow of the Canadian Scottish Regiment and son of Edward John and Emma Caroline Shardelow of Nelson, BC. Mr. Langford added that he is distantly related to this family. Both he and I are almost certain that this accounts for the origin of the peak's name.

Kim Kratky

### KOOTENAY KARABINER COVERPICTURE.

"I was pleased to have one of my photos chosen for the cover of the Karabiner. However the picture was printed backwards so it is probably a bit confusing for anyone who knows the area. It was one of those bluebird days and great skiing." Mary Woodward.

### NEWSLETTER FRONT PAGE PICTURE

Artist Phyllis Margolin, from Argenta, gave us permission to reprint this original drawing which appeared in the Karabiner, Fall 1975. Phyllis offers watercolor workshops, and exhibits (June 10-July 6) at the Langham Gallery in Kaslo. For more information call Phyllis at 366-4427

"A group that limits its mandate and ensures that what it does, it does well, has a good strategy for survival."  
*Young, Wyman and Swaigen in Fundraising for Nonprofit Groups*

## KMC Trip Reports

### Cornice Ridge and Beyond, January 19

Well it was one of those days that the usual suspects were not going to show as they had taken off to play in the mountains for a week instead. This left Eric White leading a trip that in the end may have set a KMC record. You see when the usual folks aren't around to intimidate the young folks; the young folks come out in droves. Thus seven people with a mean age of 36.3 years (median 28, SD = 15.4) headed off towards the Salmo Creston at 7 am. After a short ski we made it to the summit along windy ridge and managed to find some enjoyable snow on the way down. After regaining the ridge to the north and losing sight of Mark and Liz for a while we were reunited and managed to make our way even farther north along the ridge until the ridge splits and runs east and west. We turned east and descended down lots of hoar frost into a bowl on the north side of the ridge and had a chilly lunch under the power lines. On route we discovered Liz was still working some of the bugs out of telemark skiing and as a result she was quite covered with snow at lunch. She was nevertheless still smiling. After lunch we were all re-energized and managed to get another run in before we headed back to the cars. After much fun in the snow we made it back to the cars for 3 pm or so. A fun time was had by all. We were Chad, Liz, Andrea, Mark, Eric, Morris and Andre.

### Mount Crowe, 2142m./7041' February 1

Fifteen eager skiers were ready to go touring early Saturday morning. North from Nancy Green Summit we climbed up towards White Owl pass to Mosquito cabin. More climbing and we arrived in the Crowe area - Fog and death crust. Four skiers turned back. The remaining eleven climbed up to Crownsnest hut for lunch and then we bagged the peak! (We have a picture to prove it). An adventurous and arduous descent through death crust. Lots of laughs and falls. Thanks to all for a great day!

Larry Barrault, Wayne Groden, Barb and Larry Hanlon, Peter Jordan, Hans-Peter Korn, Caroline Laface, Gerda Lang, Kevin Penny, Louise Roussel, Norman Thyer, Gene Van Dyck, Jill & Dave Watson, and Vicki Hart, coordinator.

### Moose Meadows Snowshoe Trip, February 9

We met at Nancy Greene where we piled into one car to drive to the Moose Meadows parking spot. From there we snowshoed up the main logging road about 1 km. to the 1<sup>st</sup> junction where we took the right branch and travelled approximately another 3 km. to the "Moose Is Loose" cabin. On our way we passed along "Dentures Swamp" where a pair of false teeth used to hang from a snag beside the swamp. Once at the cabin we soon had a nice fire warming up the shelter and ate our lunch in great comfort. Then we snowshoed back taking a different route which was to the right of our route in and connected with the main road at a higher point. It was gorgeously sunny all day with superb views of Old Glory Mtn. on our return trip.

We were: Renate Belczyk, Don Harasym, Nell Plotnikoff, Carol Potasnyk and Hazel Kirkwood, coordinator.

## Nancy Green Snowshoe Trip, February 16

We had planned to make a trip up in the Mitchener area but heavy fresh snow accumulation would have made it impossible to park at the Mitchener parking lot. So the three of us opted to go around Nancy Greene Lake instead, following the old cross-country ski trail signs. After we completed the trek, Renate invited us back to her house to eat our lunch. A welcome invitation as it was a chilly, wet day. We were: Renate Belczyk, Don Harasym and Hazel Kirkwood, coordinator.

## Crowe Road - Cliff Road crossover, February 19

We met at the Cliff Road exit at 10 a.m. and left a car there, then drove the 5.5 km. to the Crowe Road start. From there we went up past the Red Dog cabin on up to the Mosquito cabin. Starting at 10:30 a.m., we arrived at Mosquito for lunch at 11:45 a.m. After a good fire, toasted cheese sandwiches and other treats, we left the cabin at 12:30 p.m. and climbed to the top of Cliff Road which we reached by 1:00 p.m. The long ski down was very enjoyable and included a fifteen-minute detour to look for a new cabin in the area. Although we did not find it, we will do this again when we have a better idea of its location. Carrying on through the powder on the sides of the road to slow our descent, we reached the Cliff Road exit by 2:10 p.m. The weather was high cloud with some sunny breaks and quite a few patches of blue. The snow was excellent until near the very end of the trip when it became a little crusty, causing some challenge to stay upright on one's skis!

We were: Heather Lyon, Bobbie Maras, Norman Thyer, and Ron Cameron, coordinator.

## Unnecessary Ridge Snowshoe Trip, February 23

A group of six snowshoers assembled at the Old Glory Trail Head at 10:00 a.m. on a beautifully sunny day, temperature  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$ . We shod up the old road taking advantage of a recently cut ski trail. Upon reaching the ridge, we were treated to a spectacular display of snow sculptures that had formed on the lee side of many of the trees. The snow was soft on the road and windblown and crusty on the ridge. The ascent to the top of the ridge took about three hours and, after a leisurely luncheon basking in the sun while looking at Old Glory and the distant ranges, we worked our way back down arriving at the vehicles about 3:30 p.m. Everyone commented on how much they enjoyed the trip and the fact that there was no avalanche danger on the route taken. One added bonus – cookie treats from Anna and David at the end of the trip. Participants: David Clark, Ted Ibrahim, Carol Potasnyk, Anna and Norman Thyer, and Don Harasym, coordinator.

## Moose - Beaver Circuit, February 26

We met at the Nancy Greene junction and drove to the Moose trailhead then returned one of the two vehicles to the junction. Leaving the trail start at 10:15 a.m., we followed a track for about 2.5 km. along the "old" route, leaving it for the last 2 km. to the cabin, breaking trail through 20 cm. of powder snow. BEAUTIFULLY sunny with just a hint of cloud in spite of a contrary forecast. Reaching Moose cabin at 11:45 a.m. we stopped for a leisurely lunch and social time around the fire. On to Beaver at 12:45 p.m., the leader again missed the trail initially, but not so bad this time, so with a minimum of wandering, the lost was found and on to the clear-cut with a view of Shield Mtn. Down the powder filled road to the main road which was "tracked" by a snow mobile. Once more, there was a challenge in finding the double ribbon markings telling us it was time to leave the road. Having met the challenge we moved on through the trees to the clearing in front of the Beaver cabin. Contrary to some reports, the roof was not collapsed, although there was a fairly good tear in the roof plastic which needs repair. Arriving there at 1:55 p.m. it was time for pictures and a wee snack for those in need. Back on the road again, and after a few falls, due to snow crust and "snakes", not skier skill or lack thereof, we moved along in the cooling, but still partly sunny weather on the last leg of the trip. All arrived safely back at the junction in good spirits, having once more been able to savor the wonderful back country and the company of great companions!

We were: Bobbie Maras, Bess Schuurman, Sylvia Smith, Pat Thomson, Anna and Norman Thyer and Ron Cameron, coordinator.

## Yellow Pine trail, Syringa, March 16

Six of us had a fairly warm day for the first hike of the season. We went up the main trail then continued up a steeper diagonal climb to a nice bench where we ate our lunch and found a few wood ticks. From there we decided to go on to a higher peak. We followed game trails high above Syringa Creek, then turned more westerly and bushwhacked towards a high rocky cliff which we scrambled and climbed up until we reached the top. A good viewpoint of Arrow Lake and somewhat higher than we had gone in previous years. We all agreed that our A-1 hike had turned into at least a B-2.

We were: Ross Bates, Linda Hill, Ted Ibrahim, Andrew Martin, Eliane Miros and Hazel Kirkwood, coordinator.

# Other Trip Reports

## Jebel Toubkal, Morocco 4,167m., 13,670' May 2002

Should you ever be in Marrakesh, and find yourself tiring of its medieval madness, the fortune tellers, actors, dancers, jugglers, snake charmers, fruit and food vendors, boxers and Berber drummers in the square, the carpet, slipper, spice, leather and jewelry markets, the blacksmiths, wood carvers, herbalists and coppersmiths, then you are ready for a trip to Jebel Toubkal.

Jebel Toubkal, a 13,670' peak in the High Atlas, is the highest mountain in North Africa. Only 60 km south of Marrakesh, it is reasonably easy to reach. In May 2002, I took a shared taxi from the Bab-Er-Rob Gate to Asni, 50 km south of the city. Here I waited for a small bus, which struggled up the dirt road to Imlil, where I spent the night. Next morning while hiking out of the village, I stopped at a small store, and rented an adjustable ski pole, which later proved to be very useful.

The trail to the hut, owned and operated by the French Alpine Club, starts at a large boulder displaying the message "Toubkal – A pied (On foot)", and an arrow in faded red paint. It took me 6 hours to reach the hut, following an excellent path that passed through two more villages as it gained 4,500' over 12 km. For the last hour I was hiking through several inches of fresh snow. The hut, at 10,500' was large, cold and occupied by about 25 people, mostly French tourists in guided groups.

Everyone was up early the next day. Since I didn't know the route I waited until the guided groups had started so that they could both lead the way, and kick steps in the snow. It was clear and cold, and the snow was firmer and steeper than I had expected. I was glad I had rented the ski pole, and that there were tracks to follow. It took me 4 hours to cover the 6 km and 3000' to the summit, which was slowly clouding in. This was my first serious hike of the season, and the last 1000' were a bit of a struggle.

That afternoon I hiked back to Imlil in a freezing mist, which soon had me glazed like a doughnut, in sharp contrast to the heat and hustle of Marrakesh.

Hamish Mutch.

*Reference: Lonely Planet – Morocco. See the Trekking Section.*

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTY COORDINATORS ATTENDING CLUB TRIPS**

### ***Before the trip:***

1. Do not undertake organization of a trip beyond your capabilities. Change the objective or arrange for another coordinator.
2. Be familiar with the area (unless the trip is exploratory in intent). If you have not done the climb recently, a reconnaissance before the trip is an excellent idea. Talk to people familiar with the area; check the guidebooks, old Newsletters, old Karabiners, CAJ journals, Parks Branch, Forest Service, etc.
3. Pick up or ensure the necessary equipment is on the trip: Ice axes, crampons, Pieps, first aid kit, and repair kit. Make arrangements for huts, campsites, and registration as required.
4. Notify a responsible person where you are going and when you will be coming back. Tell them when you return!

### ***Choosing and organizing the party:***

5. The coordinator has full authority to reject anyone he or she feels is unsuited for the trip. For more difficult trips ask people unknown to you what their qualifications are and who they have climbed with.
6. Explain to people what the trip entails: how difficult, how strenuous, what equipment is needed. This is especially important for newcomers, who may not understand the need for proper boots or even rain gear.
7. The coordinator arranges the most economical use of cars. Each passenger should pay a reasonable proportion of the gas and oil expenses of the trip.
8. Make clear arrangements for the assembly of the party at an easily recognizable place at a definite time. Wait a reasonable time for latecomers.

### ***On the trip:***

9. Before leaving the cars, check that everyone, especially anyone inexperienced, is properly equipped. Those who are not should not start out.
10. On many trips it is a good idea to appoint an end person who comes last and makes sure no stragglers fall by the wayside. The end person generally carries the first aid kit. In a large group a second coordinator may be desirable to cover the stragglers.
11. Set a pace that allows the party to stay together, both going up and coming down. Space rests so as to prevent straggling! With large parties, count numbers once in a while to make sure everyone is still together.
12. The coordinator doesn't need to remain in front providing he or she can maintain control of the party. The coordinator and all experienced members have a responsibility to give instruction to the less experienced. Team less experienced members with more experienced members.
13. All decisions should be made with a margin of safety. When in doubt, use common sense and accepted normal procedure.
  - allow enough time for the trip; start early.
  - rope up before a difficult section.
  - turn back when necessary: difficulties, a weak party, lack of time, weather, fatigue, etc.
  - watch for avalanche and rock fall hazard, and act accordingly.
  - in wet or cold weather watch for hypothermia in poorly clad individuals.
  - stay in touch with the group's feelings and respect them.
14. The coordinator should stay at the cars until everyone is down.

### ***After the trip***

15. Return club equipment promptly so next party can use it.
16. Send a trip report to the newsletter editor.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MEMBERS ATTENDING CLUB TRIPS**

1. Ensure your abilities are up to the trip's difficulty. Use the trip grading system on the schedule.
2. Phone the coordinator several days in advance to confirm your attendance, preferably by Wednesday evening at the latest.
3. Show up on time and be prepared physically, mentally, and equipment-wise for the outing you are going on.
4. Return rented/borrowed equipment promptly.
5. Share expenses.

### **In case of an accident**

1. The coordinator should consider the severity and implications of the accident, the remaining hazards, the terrain, and the availability of resources when deciding what to do next.
2. The coordinator should ensure that everyone's present safety is maintained and danger is minimized as is consistent with emergency activities.
3. If help is needed, the coordinator should organize an orderly expedition.
4. If conditions permit, witnesses should stay in the area to provide any necessary information to rescue personnel.
5. All party members should (1) inform the person(s) in charge of any special abilities; (2) ensure their own safety and, if their help is not required, stay clear of rescue activities; (3) cooperate with everyone involved in emergency operations.
6. If the accident is serious enough to warrant aerial evacuation, contact the nearest ambulance or RCMP detachment who will dispatch a helicopter with a first aid attendant.

**KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB - TRIP REGISTRATION LIST**

**WAIVER:** I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors & administrators release and forever discharge the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, their agents, servants, officials, representatives, successors and assignees of any injury sustained by me or by my equipment during this club trip. I understand the inherent dangers of trips into mountainous areas and assume full responsibility for myself.

DATE: 200 /.../...      COORDINATOR:..... DESTINATION:.....

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGNATURE FOR WAIVER	TEL. NUMBER OR ADDRESS	KMC MEMBER#
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			

COORDINATOR: PLEASE RETURN THIS TO A KMC COMMITTEE MEMBER AFTER COMPLETING THE TRIP,  
PREFERABLY THE SUMMER TRIPS CHAIRMAN



