



Kootenay Mountaineer

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Permissive Government Policy is Ruining the Land

David McIntyre - All across Canada, public lands are being caught in a destructive wave of conflicting land use and accelerating abuse. The casualties of this conflict are the very resources that governments have been entrusted to safeguard: the water, the land and the forests. Public lands have traditionally been expected to deliver "multiple use" benefits for recreation, mining, forestry, water reserves, and livestock grazing. But in many areas multiple use has become multiple abuse! Perhaps nowhere is the destruction more devastating and widespread than in southwestern Alberta where I live. Beneath the overwhelming beauty of the Rocky Mountains vehicles and cattle now compete to erode stream banks. Human waste from unregulated camping pollutes the landscape. Off the roads, plants and topsoil are being torn up by the churning wheels of all-terrain vehicles. This is the new image in the

headwaters of the Castle, Crowsnest, and Oldman rivers. The destruction is a direct result of the government's inability to manage public lands and renewable resources. This sad picture is being painted by a philosophy of granting everyone the right to do everything. Not far from my front door, a growing network of so-called 'trails' has proliferated to become screaming corridors of unregulated motorized access. Many of these routes - muddy and rutted - carve through stream banks and destroy what were once gorgeous alpine meadows. And where the trails go, the cattle follow. Often they graze above timberline, trampling fragile wetlands and polluting mountain streams. But the cattle aren't alone. Here in Crowsnest Pass the government has permitted unregulated camping on public land. That's a euphemism for pollution, litter, resource degradation, and congested chaos. Many people seem to see government lands as lands that are available for unrestricted assaults from motorized vehicles and off-road vehicular camping. Within these lands people park their campers, make fire pits and use the streams and woodlands as their toilets. People drive hours to reach the Crowsnest where they don't have to be bothered with camping fees or parking in designated areas. Sadly, the time for action has long passed. We can't go on forever with a laissez-faire policy of multiple use. The land, the water and the forest resources cannot sustain endless abuse. There will have to come a time when some areas in Canada are declared off limits for specific activities. In Crowsnest Pass that means government managers will have to create meaningful rules to preserve one of the most beautiful, ecologically diverse and fragile areas in North America.

Norman Thyer brought this transcript, to our attention. It was on CBC Radio's "Commentary". McIntyre, a resident of the Crowsnest Pass has led tours for the Smithsonian Institution much of the wilderness of western North America. This privatization of common resources

is further described in Jeremy Rifkin's "Biosphere Politics".

Heavy mechanization and motorization of recreation is overextending our ecological footprint. British Columbians are extremely heavy users of energy in this regard (considerably more than Europeans and even more than our neighbors to the south). All this "recreating" significantly adds up to heavy impact on the environment."

The contrary is that the little things that each of us does in saving energy, reducing mechanization and motorization in the backcountry, has the potential to add up significantly and reduce our impact. Provided of course that we do them. This side note is actually taken from our son's grade seven Science textbooks. The principle is taught but what happens? Eds.

Slippery Slopes In The Ski Industry

Hal Clifford's book "Downhill Slide: Why the Corporate Ski Industry is Bad for Skiing, Ski Towns, and the Environment" (Sierra Club Books) is a scathing critique of how money changes everything in mountain "ski" towns. Clifford believes the sport has lost its soul by going "mainstream" The essence of skiing was on the "Hill" and not in the "Village". People who live at, or near, ski towns have long felt a proprietary ownership of their mountain. In the old days resorts were locally owned, in many cases by rather "benevolent dictators" who might have been reticent about upgrading facilities, but who seldom alienated the locals either. All that changed in the '80's and '90's once Wall Street came to Main Street in the form of three publicly traded companies (Intrawest, Vail Resorts and the American Skiing company) that control one quarter of the destination resort business in North America These companies raise capital by selling real estate, not lift tickets. And this unholy alliance of developers, government

agencies and resort owners is what lies at the heart of Cliffords critique.

The situation has exacerbated the polarity between rich and poor where \$3.5 million vacation homes sit idle for 50 weeks of the year, while workers huddle four to a bedroom in crowded trailers 40 minutes away from the lifts.

Clifford deals with how Intrawest sells "lifestyle", designing its "villages" to orchestrate every second of a visitor's vacation thereby providing an "experience" that will have them willingly reaching for their wallets. The "spontaneous encounters" that occur throughout these "new village resorts" are carefully stage-managed by an ingenious troupe of demographers, developers and marketers who fanatically control every aspect of what the visitor will encounter, right down to who runs the chocolate fudge shop. Clifford believes that the upscale clientele of these new resorts will see through this gauzy artifice and want something "real". He fails to note that many of the young ski bums of before are now the mainstream baby boomers of today who have actually been attracted back to the "The Village" by the amenities of suburbia.

Clifford's demographic analysis is spot-on when he shows the incredible challenge resorts will have to deal with in maintaining the "skier-visits" over the next 2 decades as skiers' age. There already has been no growth for some time and as the dropout rate of skiers over 45 is precipitous there is a need for resorts to invent themselves in theme park fashion to attract visitors. Anyone passionate about skiing and its ever-changing place in mountain culture will find *Downhill Slide* worth reading. What makes the ski industry different than, say, mining or timber extraction is that many of the resort executives that Clifford interviews really love skiing and snowboarding, and want to see them flourish. That their mission- to "grow" the sport, hence to grow, period -might be at odds with the environment and the needs of the local population does not seem to cross their minds, or is conveniently ignored. Weather or not that bothers you likely depends on your financial situation, and whether skiing is just another sport to you, or a way of life. If you're a downhill skier who still believes that people who work and play in the mountains should respect the

environment, then *Downhill Slide* will be like reading the ingredients on the label of your favorite junkfood. You won't quit eating it, but you're not going to feel very good afterward. It's interesting to note that Clifford researched much of the book while he worked as a real estate columnist for Ski Magazine. One wonders if the company CEO's interviewed would have been so candid if they'd been told that the writer was doing a story for the Sierra Club. *Condensed. The complete review by Steven Threndyle is in the March 11, 2003 issue of The Vancouver Sun, p. H12*

Sherpas Set Everest Records



News Services, The Province, Tues, May 27, 2003.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Everest's first climb. A record number of mountaineers are expected to climb the mountain.

A Sherpa guide, Appa, made his record 13th climb of the 8,850-metre peak. Appa said he was not trying to set any new records. He said his job is to guide western climbers to the top and it's the only work he does well. Appa first climbed Everest in 1989 with a New Zealand team led by veteran climber Rob Hall, one of eight people who died during a storm near the summit in 1996. In another record-setting climb, Lakpa Gyelu, 35, raced from Everest's 5,297-metre base camp to the summit in 10 hours and 56 minutes yesterday. Most climbers take about four days to cover the distance up the mountain's steep and icy slopes. It was Gyelu's 10th ascent of Mount Everest. He broke the speed record of 12 hours and 45 minutes set last week by another Sherpa.

The race to be the first black African to climb Everest was won yesterday by a South African game ranger. In a satellite phone call shortly after reaching the peak, Sibusiso Vilane, 32, said he "cried tears of joy" after climbing the mountain "for black people and for Africa." *Condensed. Eds*

TEAMWORK AND SAFETY IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

Chris Ludwig, Vice President, British Columbia Mountaineering Club. *This article was condensed from the Federation of Mountain clubs of B.C.M.C website at <http://www.mountainclubs.bc.ca/E&S/edsafe2.htm>*

There is one simple trend that will influence mountaineering, rock climbing, and hiking in the approaching century more than any other...people, people, and more people. Why these people stream from the cities to punish themselves in the inhospitable backcountry of British Columbia I am not entirely sure. Perhaps it is the television commercials featuring existence. Socially, climbing and trekking fits conveniently in the modern business work ethic: reach your goals at any cost, be better than the rest, and stand alone on the summit. The maddening and self-centered cry of business philosophy and material possession resounds in all those who have become dysfunctional in our tragically disconnected society. Those who don't know the outdoors often bring this burden into the backcountry. In the media climbers are portrayed as sporty, young, ideal, and immortal. If you are not climbing at least 5.12c and don't drive an expensive four-wheel-drive to the crag, you must be a worthless wizened old hiker. Unfortunately, human companionship and teamwork have been replaced with the shallows of spectacle and rampant individualism. After all, rarely does one see any climber with a rope hanging uselessly into the void below. We call these people the 'me, me's of the world. I see them in the mountains all the time, but I wonder if they notice anyone but themselves. Perhaps it is these attitudes that are causing more people to get hurt or killed in the backcountry. Perhaps these are the reasons many are perpetually dissatisfied. The mountains don't care how much money you have, nor do they care how strong or good you are. Expensive equipment and climbing textbooks are of course equally as useless. For these reasons, some people should never become mountaineers. The common way these days to learn about climbing/hiking are find a friend or partner/learn as you go. Unfortunately, beginning climbers (and

often time's 'expert' climbers) do not know all of what can kill or injure them. Over the years, the signs have become more obvious to me: a cornice here, a glacier here, here a rock, there a serac, everywhere a possible attack. Yet it stuns me every season seeing mountaineers on glaciers unroped, hikers with only a shopping bag and climbers without helmets. These are but a drop in the bucket of the growing insanity that is out there every day. Contrary to popular belief, it is not macho to be without a rope or helmet, nor is it cool to climb what you are not prepared or trained for. That is called stupid. There is no other word for it. I have seen time and time again tragedy or the unexpected. I would suggest finding another way to express your freedom, independence, self-worth, and so on and so forth. Almost daily I hear the words "I am going with someone who is experienced". These dangerous words almost always give rise to the horrible spectra of false security. My usual response is to ask "How do you know they are experienced?" Perhaps one should be aware that 'experts' die as easily as do the brainless wonders. After all, a falling rock does not know the difference between the two. Furthermore, experts often place their faith in security systems and techniques that amount to little more than fantasy and thoughtless procedure. I have seen these safety systems crumble wholly when confronted with the unpredictable power of nature. A few examples are the climbers who have little or no first-aid skills, roped travel without knowledge of crevasse rescue, and winter travel without knowledge of avalanches. In practice I do not know any experts, nor do I even trust myself entirely. Any climber who claims total control is either ignorant, or destined for mishap. Now ask yourself again whether or not you want to rely on someone else for your safety. Some answers are found by looking into the past for insight. Few would dispute that our predecessors were very remarkable. They climbed and explored mountains that are difficult even by today's standards with primitive equipment and techniques. There are countless routes in guidebooks that give the climber the impression that safe technical routes have been established all throughout the coast range. Pictures of perfect equipment and perfect people climbing

perfect routes on the pages of perfect store catalogues are a grotesque deception. Nothing could be further from reality. Do you not think that these pioneering/expert climbers experienced fear, injury, and death? Are you sure that the route you climb today is in the same conditions and shape as when it was first climbed? How many of these routes were climbed in unsafe conditions risking accident or death? I am not saying that one should never venture beyond Stanley Park, however, each climber must choose their own level of risk and manage it to the best of his/her ability. Unfortunately, many simply never give these issues a passing thought. I am convinced that such climbers/hikers are a danger to themselves and their partners. Quite frankly, I am sick of having friends needlessly killed and injured in the mountains. It is an unnecessary tragedy, which hurts friends, family and our society in general. Get a grip and bring your ego back down to earth - no mountain is worth dying over. Early climbers did have one advantage over many modern climbers however - camaraderie. They also experienced a sense of working as a team, and the rewards of trust. Many of today's experienced climbers/outdoors people have become so insular as to miss out on this joy almost entirely. We often savor our experiences and time outdoors for only ourselves, and sometimes the guy on the other end of the rope if he/she is lucky. Who can blame us with so many 'me, me's around? Climbing with the same three partners, although intimate, has its limitations. In the old days, a group of thirty was a symbol of group spirit and strength. One's own desire for success was secondary to the safety of the rest of the group. In today's club trips, helping a beginning climber reach the summit safely with the rest of the group is considered archaic and a nuisance. Many climbers behave in manner that reflects the philosophy: "as long as I make the summit who cares?" Here, beginners are left to struggle on their own, resources are hoarded, and lives are endangered pointlessly. It is a sinking feeling to watch a shower of rocks or ice spray down from 'experienced' climbers above onto the helpless novices below. Some even find amusement over a hiker/climber who struggles behind the main group. This is

a growing trend, which undoubtedly will lead to needless tragedy in the future. I see little reason for this behavior. It all seems an oddity to me. So, if your mind is open and you choose to embrace the outdoors for what they are, then you must first understand yourself and the human condition. There is a strong history in this province of apprenticeship in climbing and hiking. It takes a considerable length of time for anyone to become even remotely near competent (leadership in particular) in the backcountry. The clubs have always given their time and energy freely to preparing people for 'safe' experience in the mountains. Mountaineering schools and guides are also excellent avenues for learning from some of the best climbers in the mountaineering community. Take the time to get to know your partners and take responsibility for each other. The rewards of climbing are always much greater when shared with people you believe in and trust. Think carefully about the consequences of your climbing style on other people. Could you live with the guilt of killing a friend or even a faceless stranger? I know I couldn't. And if you don't know what the stakes are, are not prepared to live with the consequences of stupidity or arrogance, stay home for your own sake.

TO TICK IT OFF- Climbing has changed dramatically since the days of Hillary and he bemoans the commercialization of Everest. He believes far too many people attempt to reach the summit, many of them ill equipped for the challenges the mountain's slopes possess. "I just think it is a bit ridiculous myself, and I don't like it because I think the motivation of the people who go up, or who are led up really, has nothing to do with mountaineering"... "They just want to get their name in the paper and all that. It's not the motivation of the challenge of the mountains, the beauty of the area and the rest of it, they just want to tick it off". *Originally in the Calgary Herald. Condensed from The Province, Thurs, May 29, 2003 by Kerry Williamson, CanWest News Service.*



Although today's boots incorporate many synthetic materials, leather remains a key component, and even leathers prepared with modern tanning techniques still require care. No longer nourished by the original occupant, leather will rot, or become brittle and crack, if neglected. Even footwear with high-tech waterproof breathable materials needs maintenance to stay intact and breathing. Looking after your footwear will reward you with longer boot life and drier, more comfortable feet.

Basic Care

As elsewhere in life, prevention is easier than cure. Care products reduce damage, but cannot undo neglect. Do not let dirt dry on your boots, as mud will wick oils from the leather and salt and grit abrade leather and seams. Clean all mud and dirt from the outside of your boots with cool water, a stiff brush, and when possible, a cleaner such as Saddle Soap (but never detergents).

-Reduce the danger of rot by drying wet boots whenever you can. Remove laces and footbeds (wash them as well) to allow boots to dry quickly and thoroughly. Stuff wet boots with newspaper to absorb moisture and odors, removing the paper once it is soaked.

-Never cook your footwear - besides rendering the leather brittle, excess heat can soften the cements that hold upper and sole together. Heat should be indirect and no greater than room temperature. Heat that is uncomfortable for your bare hand is too much for boots. Footwear abused by overheating is not covered by warranties from either MEC or the manufacturer.

-Residues from sweat can also be tough on footwear, so occasionally rinse or wipe out the interior of boots, dry them out, and spray them with a disinfectant or fungus preventative. If the lining is leather, apply a *thin* layer of Leather Lining Cream®.

-The leathers of some boots are factory treated for water-proofness, and can be

worn on several trips before needing treatment.

Although such leathers remain permanently waterproof, over time the top layer will start to absorb water, adding weight and reducing breathability. A light treatment will help maintain the surface water repellency.

Prevention and Repair

Applying Freesole® or a similar urethane goop to the seams and to the edge where sole and upper join will increase water resistance and durability. This works best on new, untreated boots, but be aware that it will darken any leather or fabric. Urethanes can also be used for field repairs; gluing soles in an emergency, and filling in worn patches on rands.

Waterproofing and conditioning

Note that waterproofing and conditioning are not always the same thing. Generally, a product that conditions will improve water repellency, but some waterproofing products do not condition leather.

Most commercial treatment products use one or more of the following active ingredients: oils, waxes, silicones, and fluoropolymers. Solvents or mineral spirits may be added for greater penetration.

-Animal oils and greases soften leather, reducing its supportiveness. MEC does not recommend them.

-Beeswax products provide the longest lasting nourishment for leathers, as well as some water repellency. They will darken and flatten suedes or nubucks, and can build up on all leathers, trapping dirt. The latter drawback can be overcome by buffing the wax to remove the excess. Sno Seal and the Biwell products are both wax-based treatments.

-Silicones provide highly effective water repellency, with minimal reduction of breathability. Usually in liquid form, they penetrate top grain and smooth out leathers, and do not by themselves affect the nap of suede or nubuck. However they stiffen at lower temperatures, do not condition leather, are not as durable as waxes and should be kept away from rubber soles and rands. Biwell Trekking and Tana Silicon Guard include silicone among other ingredients.

-Fluoropolymers dry quickly, instantly resist water, and maintain breathability. Furthermore, fluoropolymers repel oily stains and do not by themselves affect the appearance of either real or synthetic leathers. They do not condition leathers and are not as effective on smooth-out top grain leathers. Product examples include Tana All Protector, and the more concentrated Tan Suede And Nubuck Protector.

-Silicone and fluoropolymers are usually mixed with waxes and oils, and can be applied to wet or dry leather or fabrics. These combinations will condition and waterproof, allow the boots to breathe, and are long lasting. Several applications are required for full effectiveness, with a 24-hour drying time between coats. Various treatments such as NikWax Nubuck and Suede Treatment use water-based polymers.

Different care products contain some or all of these principle ingredients. Consult the product label or ask MEC staff for more information.

Most care products are best applied in well-ventilated areas because of the fumes they give off while drying. Pure wax products are an exception to this rule. Follow the directions for specific products carefully.

Care tips

- Always clean *before* protecting leather
- Use cleaners and protectors sparingly
- Apply creams to the cloth first
- Gore-Tex® membranes are NOT affected by shoe polish, silicone, oil or leather conditioners
- Apply conditioner when leather appears dry or no longer repels water
- After applying waterproofer, buff boots to a shine to remove any excess goop that can hold dirt
- Especially with wax products, apply thin coats with 24 hours drying time between coats
- Brushing eliminates treatment residues and may restore nap of suede and nubuck
- Clean hardware but do not apply any boot treatments to it
- Beware of treatments with conditioners in them; over-conditioning softens the leather and jeopardizes the support

Storage

Keep boots in a cool, dry place, out of direct sunlight, preferably with shoetrees or some support so the toes don't curl to ruin the fit.

If you are unsure of the leather type in your MEC footwear, check with us.

If you're good to your boots, they'll be good to you where it counts – in the long haul.

KMC Trip Reports

Sentinel Slog, May 28

This hike was changed from the originally planned trip to Mt. Gladstone due to weather concerns.

Seven hikers met at the corner of Robson Access Rd. and Terrace Rd. in the Brilliant area of Castlegar and drove .300m to a good parking area on the right where we left our vehicles and started the steep uphill deer trail to the gas line dirt-path which we followed up for another 100m. A well-defined deer-path on the left side was taken and from then on we followed the multicolored flags that kept us going on the trail. We encountered so many wildflowers at the peak of their bloom and delighted in recognizing a lot of them and searching others' names in the book David had brought along.

The views along the way gave us welcome rest stops and we reached our summit-of-the-day, a rocky outcrop overlooking Grassy, Siwash, Palisades, Kamikaze, Mackie, Red, Faith... in good time. We enjoyed a restful lunch in the sunshine with interesting conversation, laughter, and woodticks! When time came to leave, it was downhill all the way to the cars.

On this lovely day were David Cunningham, Don Harasym, Hazel Kirkwood, Stephanie Nouail, Gene Van Dyck, Mary Woodward and Eliane Miros.

David came to this hike on his bike from Nelson, and rode home the same way! Way to go David!

[Don Harasym picture]

Paulson-Robson

On **May 30**, ten of us bikers met at the Keenleyside Dam at 9am, when we organized our transport and drove to Paulson Pass. From there we rode to the Kettle Valley Railroad trail entrance near the Paulson Bridge for our ride to Robson. The weather was perfect, neither too cold nor too warm.

We rode uphill for a few km., stopped at the Verigin Memorial then proceeded gently downhill for the rest of the way. Riding through one long and two short tunnels was fun and so was crossing the trestles built up over deep ravines. We had lunch on a mountain side overlooking the Arrow Lakes. We were back at the Keenleyside Dam by 3pm, riding a total of 65 km. We all agreed it was a great day.

Participants: Dave Adams, Dave Cunningham, Don Hagen, Hans Peter Korn, Eliane Miros, Carol Potasnyk, Ben Thor Larsen, Pat West, Mary Woodward, and Renate Belczyk, coordinator.

Sullivan Lake, June 4

Four of us met and took the 1¼ hour ride from Nelson to Sullivan lake -just across the border into the U.S.A. The Hall Mtn. road was closed, so we did plan B - the hike above the lake and below Hall Mountain. We had beautiful views, lunch by the Lake in the sunshine and then we returned on the same trail to our vehicles.

The four were Don Harasym, Stephanie Nouail, Bonnie Neumar and coordinator, Ray Neumar.

Mt. Gladstone, 2252m. June 14

This trip was postponed 2 weeks because of the heavy runoff and a large amount of mushy snow at lower elevation. We took the Paulson Bridge Hwy. Bypass down to where it meets the old railbed and followed it 2.5 km north to a large open field on the left (Hopper Cr. meets McRae Cr. at this point). This was probably the site of an old lumber camp; 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 going south for some distance, rapidly gaining elevation, and switching back northward to parallel Hopper Creek. The trail is in good condition up to where it crosses Hopper Cr. We wound our way northward up the avalanche path to the ridge high above, and then went westward on good snow to the hidden summit. The day was fairly cloudy but views were had in all directions including both the Arrow and Christina Lakes. With frigid fingers we signed our names in the record tube under the cairn. After lunch we continued along the ridge a short distance then descended back down into the Hopper creek drainage.

We were Renate Belczyk, Andrew Martin, Carol Potasnyk, Gene Van Dyck, Jill Watson, Eliane and Steven Miros, coordinators.

Five Mile Ridge, June 15

Access: Whitewater Ski resort. We followed the old T-Bar route to the ridge that leads to Half Dome. One group went over Half Dome and one around it to the ridge flowing East from it...which some call Five Mile Ridge after the Basin below. A few hikers scrambled all four peaks along the Ridge, while most stopped at the highest peak for lunch and a chat in the sun. Going back we traversed around Half Dome and into Ymir Bowl and had some fun boot skiing down to our vehicles by the lodge. This turned out to be a very pleasant hike with snow hiking, rock scrambling, boot skiing, sunshine and enjoyable company. These were: John Bargh, Martin Carver, David Cunningham, Frank Fodor, Kilynda Kivi, Dave Mitchell, Stephanie Nouail, David Shadbolt, Norman Thyer, Gene Van Dyck, Jill Watson, Mary Woodward, and coordinator, Ray Neumar.

Waneta - Northport - Deep Lake, June 20

As with hikers, the cyclists have a motto that if it is not raining at the start of the trip we go ahead with it. So with ominous skies, Mary Woodward and I mounted our bikes just before the Waneta border crossing. In the past border crossings have been a breeze. A friendly chat with the customs officials and off we go. Not today. After scrutinizing our I.D., panniers were checked. We had a problem. Not realizing that the border being closed to beef, meant even processed meat, it looked like my lunch would be confiscated. Worried that I would have to do the trip without lunch, I was able to convince the US customs that liverwurst was pork liver not beef. We were allowed to cross with lunch on board. The rest of the trip went without a hitch. We encountered only a few sprinkles of rain, some great views and cool temperatures to keep us on the move. We cycled along the Columbia to Northport, then along a secondary road to Deep Lake and on to Waneta. The 63 km trip was all on paved road with minimal traffic. Cycling time was just over 4 hours. This is a great trip for early season conditioning. Participants were Mary Woodward and Carol Potasnyk.

Gray's Peak, 2753m., 9032' June 22

All week the weather was beautiful. On Saturday it rained and was windy. On Sunday in the morning it was not raining from the time we met until we had hiked for about one hour. It was very overcast with visibility of about 50 feet. On Monday it was clear and beautiful. Our hike was scheduled for Sunday.

Many of us had been on this route before. While we could not see much, landmarks were recognized when they came close and we knew where we were most of the time.

We had trouble finding the cull between Gray and Kokanee but when we came up against a wall we knew we had veered too much to the north. When we reached Gray's glacier it was snowing hard, windy and very poor visibility. We took a compass bearing from the map, which was due south, and followed the compass trustingly across the glacier. Uneventfully we arrived at the summit. The rocks there were covered with snow, we still had wind and no visibility. We all touched the summit, signed the registry and headed for a spot a little more hospitable at the foot of the summit.

In spite of the poor conditions, or maybe because of the difficult conditions, the group of hikers (and one skier) seemed to be in very good spirits.

We were Frank Fodor, Don Harasym, Vicki Hart, Craig Hollinger, Gerda Lang, Andrew Martin, Steven Miro, Gene Van Dyck, Mary Woodward, and coordinator David Cunningham.

Silver Spray Cabin, June 25

We took the first road in to the trailhead, i.e. opposite the Woodbury Resort, rather than the officially approved route about 4 km further along Highway 31. The first section is steep with a loose, rough surface, but was no problem for high clearance 4WD vehicles. The rest of the road to the trailhead (about 12 km from the highway) requires a high clearance vehicle (but not 4WD). The hiking started at about 9 am (elevation 1300 m) and the trail was free of snow until 1780 m. The trail was easy to follow until we crossed the bridge across the creek. We then lost the trail, but tracks were easy to follow in the snow. The snow then became patchier making it more difficult to follow people in front and everyone was off the trail, i.e. we were bushwhacking. Everyone's tracks were back together at the bowl where the trail swings left and then proceeded to the cabin, initially on the trail but later just on a reasonable route. Although the snow was fairly good with little post holing, the snow was soft and it was fairly slow going and we all did not reach the Silver Spray until about 1 pm (elevation about 2370 m). We examined the route up to Evening Star and the col to be used for the shortest route was blocked by a cornice. We realized that to attempt Evening Star, the hike should be later in the season when most of the snow has gone. Although it was a fairly warm summer day, when we were on the ridge above Silver Spray, occasionally it clouded over and there were strong blasts of wind and it felt cold. On the return trip we were able to follow the trail more successfully and we managed to avoid bushwhacking. We were Ross Bates, Marlene Johnstone, Peter Jordan, Bob Keating, Maureen Kowalchuk, Ray Neumar, Bert Port, Alex Walker, Mary Woodward, and coordinator Ted Ibrahim.

Balfour to Garland Bay, June 27 🚲

Four gals met at the ferry landing at 8:10 a.m. Breakfast on the ferry for some and off we went. A beautiful summer day for our 48.5 km. ride. We were at Garland Bay at 11:00 a.m. and had a pleasant break. Back on our bikes we made our way to the trailhead to Pebble Beach, ditched our bikes and hiked this 2.5 km. trail. Lunch and a swim and back to the bikes. We saw a barred owl on the way up from the lake. Another stop at the beach in Riondel where we watched some kayakers. We made the 4:30 ferry in plenty of time for ice cream at Fairy Treats. Participants were Carol Potasnyk, Bess Shuurman, Tandy Wilkinson, and Mary Woodward.

Mt Inverness, 2310m., 7600' June 29

Forteen of us assembled at Roseberry at 7:30 to launch an exploratory attempt on Mt Inverness. Our international group included visitors from England and France. Hicks Rd isn't great, but we did see a herd of elk and had only one flat tire. Our group set off from the parking lot (which was flooded) around 9:30 and arrived at the little frozen lakes (end of trail) about 11:45. As usual at this time of year there was a lot of snow on the last east facing section of the trail.

I had planned to go up the north face, which looks fairly easy from Marten, that is if you like climbing steep snow above rock bands. Reason prevailed and we ended up on the tourist route, which is a gully on the west side just south of the NW ridge. The gully gets steepish for a bit as it angles right near the top but once out of that gully it is easy walking to the top. We summited around 1:00 and then got busy eating and taking pictures of the view and people with their mouths full. Unfortunately there was no summit register and Vicky forgot to bring one.

It was sunny and hot (an intense u.v. experience) so no speed records were set on the way back to the vehicles. Thanks to all of you for sharing a wonderful day. We were; Sarah Caddy (England), David Cunningham, Frank Fodor, Rudy Goerzen, Don Harasym, Vicki Hart, Ted Ibrahim, Peter Jordan, Gerda Lang, Ray Neumar, Stephanie Novail (France), Gene Van Dyck, Mary Woodward, and coordinator Bill Sones. Special thanks to Mary Woodward who kindly offered to stay with our international visitors when they opted for an early lunch over pushing for the summit.

Nancy Greene Summit to Mt. Plewman, July 5

The Ridge Trail is a new trail, approximately 4 years old, which connects the logging road on the north side of Berry Mtn. (recently renamed Mt. Lepsoe), to Plewman Ridge. Nineteen of us met at the Old Glory Trail head, where we did a vehicle drop for our return trip. We drove to the Nancy Greene Summit, and walked up the logging road to the trailhead. The easy trail winds up and over the north ridge and along the west side of the mountain for a great view of the north side of Old Glory. We gained the ridge and hiked to Mt. Plewman where we stopped for a lunch in a cool breeze. A short cut down to intersect the Old Glory Trail, gave us an easy hike out. Good views, good company, we were: Ross Bates, Renata Belczyk, Ed Beynon, Laurie Charlton, Ray Ewert, Wendy Hurst, Ted Ibrahim, Brenda Johnson, Hazel Kirkwood, Caroline Laface, Jocelyn LaFace, Andrew Martin, Elaine Martin, Lois Pazurik, Marg Poohachoff, Gene VanDyck, Jill Watson, Mary Woodward, and coordinator Bob McQueen.

Stewart Creek-Erie Creek, July 6 🚲

There were only two of us but we decided to go anyway. It was predicted to be a hot day so we left early to do the uphill climb in the cool of the day.

We started up Stewart at 7:30 am. and reached the cull at the top of Stewart by 9:30. There were several spots that were steep in this section so we merely walked and pushed our bikes up these areas. It was 7½ kms to the cull. There were many areas that were a good grade to ride. There was only one road up Stewart Creek but there was a network of roads on Erie Creek. We stayed to the main drainage and in approximately 22 kms arrived at the highway near Salmo. We rode back on the highway to Stewart Creek stopping at Salmo for a snack. The trip took us 7 hours. It was a fun outing but would have been more fun if there had been a few more participants.

We were Carol Potasnyk and David Cunningham.

Mt Vingolf, 2560m., 8400' July 13

Twelve of us assembled at Bonanza Rd in Hills at 8:00 under a threatening sky. Actually there were 2 more but they decided to go on their own hike when they discovered that their dog had joined them. The drive to the trailhead was uneventful and we set off walking at 8:45 at 5200ft. The first section of the trail is an 800 ft climb up to

Shannon Lake. From there the trail skirts the west side of the lake to take you to the south end where the trail ends. This trail has had some recent improvements and is in very good shape thanks to Dale Caton of Valhalla Mtn Touring. There are a few creeks to cross at the south end, one of which had fish in it. From there we climbed the furthest left boulder field to a bit of a trail on the right edge of the boulders which leads to Little Shannon Lake at about 7000 ft. I have gone swimming in this lake many times but as it was raining heavily and the ice was just starting to melt I decided to pass this time around.

The traditional (for me) route up Vingolf is to skirt the left side of Little Shannon Lake and follow the obvious gully up to a pass (which looks down on Wragge Lake); then hang a left and follow the ridge up to the top. A few years ago Hans and Rudy discovered a cunning alternative which eliminates the scrambling with exposure factor (a definite advantage on a rainy day). This involves taking a 90 degree left (east) turn from the traditional route at the north end of Little Shannon Lake. You bushwhack up to some flattish meadows and continue to the cliffs protecting the north ridge of Vingolf. The cunning part is a well-hidden narrow gully leading up to the ridge. Robin named it dinosaur gully because there is a rock resembling a dinosaur head at the top. Once on the ridge it is an easy walk to the summit. Easy that is unless you are tired or married to someone who is tired as were three of our group who enjoyed their lunch on the lower ridge. We reached the top around noon, took in the cloudy views, ate some lunch, admired a merlin and went home.

Thanks to Caroline Laface, Robin Lidstone, Jan Micklethwaite, Steven Miros, Pat and Al Sheppard, David Toews, Gene Van Dyck, Jill Watson, Mary Woodward, and Mike Graup for joining me (Bill Sones) on a less than ideal day.

Siwash Mountain, 2318 m., 7605' July 23

This Wednesday hike was originally scheduled to go on the Alps Alturas trail lead by Ross Bates, but he was unable to go. We met at Playmor junction at 7 am in the middle of a very hot spell of weather and, since it is a long drive to Alps Alturas, we would be too late starting to hike. We agreed that Siwash Mountain was a better choice since it was only a short drive. We started hiking from close to Snowater Lodge and it was already feeling warm. Our route was to the col and then ridge walking up (and down) to Siwash. It was then suggested that some continue on to the Steed Hut and everyone, except the leader, decided to do that and to also go further down to a lake. The return was much the same as the hike out and with the lack of water, most were feeling very thirsty by the time we returned to the vehicles.

We were: Dave Cunningham, Don Harasym, Vicki Hart, Jan Micklethwaite, P'nina Shames, Jason Skidmore, Gene Van Dyck, Tandi Wilkinson, and Ted Ibrahim.

Nilsik-Lemon Creek Trail, August 17

It was very smokey in Nelson. Several people decided not to hike because of the smoke affecting their lungs.

We drove through the Six-Mile Lakes road (which has been improved considerably) to the Lemon Creek road and to the trailhead. There was little smoke in this valley.

Someone (I think not the Parks) has cleared the deadfall from the trail as far as the Nilsik trail. The Nilsik trail was overgrown at lower elevations. Most of us climbed Sunset Mountain (2607m.,8553'). Glory basin was beautiful.

Most of us had a swim in Sapphire Lakes. There was a very bad washout on the top of the Lemon Creek trail. There was a wonderful huckleberry patch which delayed us considerably as we all stopped to browse. The hike took close to 11 hours.

We were Frank Fodor, Kevin Forsyth, Hans Korn, Lea Soukeroff, Norman Thyer, and coordinator David Cunningham

Salmo to Nelson on the BNR

Mary Woodward, Carol Postanyk, Doug Brown and I cycled the BNR from Salmo (the Big Penny) to Nelson (Svoboda Rd) on **Friday 22**

August. Starting off at the Big Penny, the railbed has a little too much loose gravel on to be a real cruiser ride and, after bumping along it for some kilometres getting a very sore butt, I began to think this may not be as pleasant a ride as I had envisioned. However, within about 10 km the railbed improves and we were able to ride faster. We stopped for a break by the Salmo River near Ymir at a little swimming hole that Carol remembered from her last trip, where, for the first time in weeks (or maybe months), it was actually cool enough to have a light sweater on. At about km 20 with 30 more to go, I was riding beside Doug complaining about how sore my butt was already and Doug suggested I sit back on the seat as far as I could. This seemed a remarkably good idea so I tried it - great - for the 5 seconds before the bolt holding my seat on snapped in half sending my seat flying behind me. After we all stopped laughing hysterically (it seemed very funny at the time) we tried taping the seat back on to the post with medical tape from my first aid kit (no-one in the party had duct tape!). I figured I would be able to gingerly balance part of my weight on the seat keeping most of the weight on my legs. Of course, this didn't work worth a damn, as soon as I delicately lowered myself onto the seat it pitched forward and pitched me off.

Nevertheless, we continued on and I soon discovered that standing up to pedal is a real quad workout (good way to get in shape for tele-skiing). I managed to keep that up for about 5 minutes. Carol and Mary suggested I sit on the bike rack, which I did, stupidly not removing the seat post first and giving myself another major injury the first time I stopped the bike. However, with the seat post removed I was able to pedal along sitting on the bike rack - my arms fully extended to reach the handlebars (I had no chance of getting the brakes) and my knees hitting my ears as I pedalled along feeling much like a chimp on a bike in the circus. For a while, the rack actually felt more comfortable than my bike seat, but after about 10 km I think the metal was branded into my butt - "Ah" Folks would say, "I can see that there cow's from the mountain bike herd."

Anyway, the rail bed itself gets better and better for cycling as you approach Nelson. Just before Apex cross-country ski area, the bed is flooded (possibly by a beaver) and you have to cycle 20 metres or so through water. Beyond Apex, of course, it's all down hill and it's a very pleasant ride from Cottonwood Lake on with some nice trestle bridges to cross.

Drinnon Peak, 2584 m., 8478' August 27

Eight of us met at South Slocan at 7 am and started hiking from the Drinnon trailhead at 8:35 am with a cooler than usual temperature for this year, of 7 degC. We took the trail to Drinnon Lake and then continued along the southeast shore of the lake, initially on a trail but then bushwhacking. At the far end of the lake we then turned west up the rock and scree slope north of the west ridge of Drinnon Peak. We eventually reached a mini-glacier that goes up to the col on the west ridge. At this point we all put on crampons, except for Don who did not have any and had to stop. Although the glacier was not as hard a surface as the last time I was here, it was still too hard to kick steps in and crampons were necessary. The last part of the ascent up to the col, above the ice, was very loose rocks on a wet muddy base. When we reached the col we made the mistake of trying to go up the ridge and had to descend a couple of times. Lou and Ken managed to scramble up to the peak from one gully earlier than the rest of us who went to the last gully before the southeast ridge that gave a fairly easy scramble to the peak. We arrived at the peak at about 1:30 pm and left at about 2:15 pm. It was just warm enough at the top to have lunch without putting jackets on. We took a route back to the col that did not involve going up and down as much, although we did have to climb back up to the col. Our route back from the col was the same as we came up and we were back at the cars just before 6 pm. We were Lou Chioccarello, Don Harasym, Vicki Hart, Ken Holmes, Stephanie Nouail, Gene Van Dyck, Leah Zoobkoff, and Ted Ibrahim, coordinator.

Executive Notes



Old Business: The draft of constitutional amendments was discussed and is still undergoing changes before being presented at the AGM meeting.

Karabiner: Holly Ridenour has resigned from her position as Karabiner Director and Editor. The executive felt that the position of Director Karabiner could be eliminated from the list of club directors. It was noted that such a change would not preclude the club from continuing/reviving the publication of the Karabiner at any time if interest and/or material would support it.

Doug Brown has offered to do the desktop publishing for the next Karabiner which could come out some time around Christmas. That is **if** the submissions are received in time for its publication!

Karabiner Submissions Request

Please send your reports on 2001, 2002 and 2003 hiking camps, climbing camps, and new and interesting mountain expeditions in the Kootenays, including scientific, geographical knowledge, as well as other facts and incidents which may be useful for the Kootenay mountaineer to know.

Please mail to:

Doug Brown, 3939 Malina Road
Nelson BC V1L 6X6 or email

Submissions deadline Nov.15, 2003

No submissions (prose or pictures) will be accepted after that date.

Website: The Executive feels that a new position of Website Director should be added to the list of club directors. This change would recognize the increasing importance of the club website as a communications link with our membership and the general public.

Library: Sandra McGuinness is assuming the duties of Club Librarian. The Club library has now moved to Sandra's home at 3939 Malina Road in Nelson, Tel.xxx-xxxx email:
Thank you to Garth & Pat Thomson who donated numerous books and publications to the club library. The updated list will be on our website page.

Winter Trips: Dave Mitchell is the new Winter Trips chair. He has accepted to fill Peter Jordan's responsibilities till the end of the term.

Summer Trips: \$300 was given to help organize a Hiking Coordinators Appreciation Night.



Camps Slide Show:

Date: **Friday, October 24th**

Time: **6:30 pm.**

Location: **Resker Hall, Robson.**

(Three blocks east of Robson Hall, next to the little white church).

Other slides and photos are appreciated.

Coffee and treats will be served.

Banff Mountain Film Festival,

Nov 4, 7&9.

Banff Mountain Book Festival

Nov 5-7.

Banff Mountain Summit- Mountains As Water Towers, Nov 23-25.

Call 1-800-413-8368 for tickets or visit

www.banffmountainfestivals.ca

Rosland Mountain Film Festival,

Nov 14-16

Newsletter: With the Karabiner's focus on "kootenay experiences" the editors would appreciate members "other trip" details for inclusion in the newsletter. Please try to make them short.

KMC Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.



Date: **Friday, November 28th**

Location and time will be announced in our next newsletter.

Check out our Webmaster's picks:

<http://www.culture.ca> Quality Canadian Cultural content

<http://coronn.com> Find European climbing Topos