



# Kootenay Mountaineer

The KMC Newsletter Sept-Oct 2004 Issue 5 Next deadline: Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>

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~ Melting Mountains evening (TBA for November)  
~ Trip Reports: Payne Wagon Road, New Denver - Silverton, Ward's Ferry trail, TransCanada Trail bike ride, Mt. Mephistopheles, MacBeth area, Clearwater/Ymir return, Silver Pk/Garden show, Monica Meadows?, Western Battle Range Camp, Mt. Fennel, Grassy hut work party, Oscar crk. to Porcupine crk., Jumbo Pass, Saddle Mtn, Gimli, Davis crk. trail, Pks south of Jumbo Pass, Toad Mtn. trail clearing, Mt. Vingolf  
~ Other (non-club) Trip Reports: Mt. Nott to Mt. Dag traverse, Mt. Loki, Access to Mt. Loki, Nisleheim Pk., Mt. Baldr search, Craig Pk., Devil's Range, Mt. Burnham, Jumbo Pass-Diana Lake-The Judge

## KMC Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.



Date: **Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Location: Trapper John's Restaurant in Salmo**

**Time:** Happy half hour begins at **6:30**, the buffet will be set out at 7:00 and the meeting will follow.

**Cost** of the meal is **\$16.00**.

Please call by Wednesday, November 10 so we can confirm numbers.

Contact Jill Watson 362-5660.

## More Than Just A Letter to the Editor

My hiking style appears to be different from that of most KMC members. I perform best when I go slowly for the first hour or two. After that, I can often go faster, and keep going for the rest of the day. Evidently I am not alone in this preference, as this style is advocated by Geoffrey Winthrop Young (Mountain Craft, 5th edition, pp32ff) and the Seattle Mountaineers (Mountaineering - The Freedom of the Hills, 3rd edition, pp90ff). It is also advisable for optimizing one's performance at high altitudes. On the typical KMC trip, however, most participants start out at full speed, and often do not stop for the first two hours. Consequently, on several occasions, I have lost touch with the rest of the group after the first few minutes, not resuming contact with them until several hours later. That is why I have not been participating in many trips lately.

So it was a welcome development when Carole Page proposed more hikes at an appropriate level, sometimes in conjunction with an already planned more advanced trip. On the August 15th trip to Gimli Pk. area, there were two groups. The slow group had more participants than the fast group. Interestingly, although the slow group started walking later, with several stops and a leisurely lunch, they covered about the same distance as the fast group and returned to the trailhead earlier.

Incidentally, some of us "slow pokes" do not necessarily want to restrict ourselves to easy trail hikes. We are also capable of moderately easy climbs on snow and rock. We just don't want to make a race of it.

Norman Thyer



## Hiking Camp Slide and Digital Image Social

Date: Friday **October 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Location: Resker Hall in Robson**

Members are invited to bring albums of prints, carousels of slides or CDs of digital images. We look forward to seeing an edited collection of your best shots.

Everyone welcome.



Coffee, tea and treats will be served from 7:00 to 7:30.

**Nature never did betray the heart that loved her. William Wordsworth**

# Government Scraps 'Working Forest' label

The B.C. government has backed away from its plan to designate almost half the province as a working forest.

Ken Wu of Western Canada Wilderness Committee said the "working forest" is now just words without legislative teeth. "This is just a great day," he said. "It's the first big environmental victory under the B.C. Liberal government and it shows that people should not be cynical under the B.C. Liberals. They need to get involved. It works."

The government has abandoned plans to designate 48 per cent of B.C.—about 45 million hectares—as working forest. Sustainable Resources Management Minister George Abbott said Victoria would retain the provincial forest designation and pursue its goal of a working forest. *The Province, Friday July 30, 2004. P.A4*

**Forest and Range Practices Act:** This recently implemented code replaces B.C. previous legislation concerning forest recreation and forest service road use. For more information visit: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/frpa/frparegs/frparegs.html](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/frpa/frparegs/frparegs.html)

**INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY** is being celebrated on **Dec.11** this year with the theme 'Peace: Key to Sustainable Mountain Development'. Conflicts in mountains have increased in the last 50 years, with serious violent conflicts now almost twice as likely to occur at high altitude. With mountains covering one-quarter of the earth's land surface and home to 12 percent of the world's population, mountain people are affected by conflict that is out of all proportion to their numbers and the land they occupy. Without peace, people cannot take steps to reduce their poverty and improve their livelihood opportunities.

The UN declared International Mountain Day as a result of the successful observance of the UN International Year of Mountains in 2002, which increased global awareness of the importance of mountains, stimulated the establishment of national committees in 78 countries, and strengthened alliances through promoting the creation of the Mountain Partnership. Their newsletter, 'Peak to Peak', is now online. This monthly newsletter will be e-mailed to all those interested. They are also interested in your input See [www.mountainpartnership.org/newsletter03.html](http://www.mountainpartnership.org/newsletter03.html)

**ACCESS SOCIETY.** The CASBC will be now referred as the "ACCESS SOCIETY". The unpronounceable acronym CASBC will only be used for formal situations. Their website, logo, letterhead, brochure and related things will be revamped. The new website will be [www.access-society.ca](http://www.access-society.ca)

## 'Spirit of 2010' Trail project

A \$4.2-million trail system is to be built in British Columbia, a move designed to boost tourism and link 18 communities. Dubbed the "Spirit of 2010 Trail," the network will use converted recreational rail corridors on Vancouver Island, and in the Okanagan and Kootenays. Approximately 700 km in all. "Tourists and communities alike will gain from this world class trail network," said Stephen Owen, federal minister of western economic diversification, in a news release.

The federal government is contributing \$2.1 million from the Softwood Industry Community Economic Adjustment Initiative. The trail project includes \$1.658 million in funds from the province, Tourism British Columbia and four regional districts. The Trans Canada Trail Foundation will provide \$415,000.

The four trails to be improved as part of the Spirit of 2010 Trail network are portions of the Kettle Valley Railroad Rail Trail, portions of the Slocan Rail Trail, South Slocan and The Cowichan Valley Rail Trail from Lake Cowichan to Shawnigan Lakes. *VANCOUVER SUN, Aug. 28, 04*

## Banff Mountain Film Festival

Oct.30-Nov.7, 2004. After the event, some 40 of the festival films will be screened across the world. For further information, visit the Web site [www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/about/film.htm](http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/about/film.htm).

**Nelson, November 26, 27 & 28, 2004, Snowpack 250-352-6411, saks@snowpack.ca**  
**Revelstoke, November 12, 2004, Friends of Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks, 250-837-2010**

## Stawamus Chief Gondola !!!

A proposal has been made to the B.C. government, to build a gondola to the second summit of the Chief. It would be based at the gravel pit between Stawamus Chief and Shannon Falls provincial parks, and would ascend via numerous towers to the Bulleheads, the top of Tantalus Wall, the upper backside of the first summit, to a terminal on the second summit.

About a hectare on the second summit would be enclosed, with an observation deck and various facilities. Gondola capacity would be 880 passengers/hour. The Stawamus Chief, and surrounding cliffs, is an outstanding landmark and natural feature, only 50 km north of Vancouver. They offer world-class rock climbing, some of the most heavily used trails in B.C., excellent camping, and superb vantage points. There are tens of thousands of annual climber-days at the Chief. It is B.C.'s home crag, and a 2004 estimate is that recreation at the Chief contributes \$20 million annually to the area. Many climbers have moved to Squamish because of the Chief, and it has an important role in the culture and economy of the area. The Chief is largely old-growth forest, apart from the highway/powerline swath in front.

**Please help!** The Access Society particularly encourages climbers, and climbers' organizations, from outside B.C. to write and express their concerns.

See their website [www.access-society.ca](http://www.access-society.ca) for more information on how you can get involved on this issue and other concerns.

## NEED FOR AN OFF-ROAD VEHICLE COALITION

The outcry from local Off-Road Vehicle enthusiasts over access to the rail bed between Castlegar and Christina Lake is a small manifestation of a much larger issue, that of appropriate use of off-road vehicles on the myriad of trails, side roads and outdoor areas our province.

This problem has prompted the formation of "The Coalition for Licensing and Registration Off-Road Vehicles in British Columbia". In November, 2002, a group of environmental, conservation, and trails organizations plus five government ministries united under one clear mandate: to achieve provincial licensing and registration of off-road vehicles, including a management strategy. Due to the momentum generated by the Coalition, the Provincial Government has recently established an Inter-Agency Policy Group to monitor the issue of trail use and work with the Coalition.

Everyone who is seriously interested in the outdoors is aware of the negative impacts on the land by careless or uneducated behavior by any users. The Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off-Road Vehicles is working particularly to support and achieve effective management of all motorized off-road vehicles in British Columbia.

Member groups all agree that licensing and registration will provide a means for clubs to work collaboratively with other interest groups on education, safety, trail enhancement, conservation and stewardship. It is extremely important that these matters be challenged because the growth in use of ORV's in recent years is exponential. Bruno Delesalle, executive director of the Grasslands Conservation Council of B.C. agrees. "We see licensing and registration as a means to identify irresponsible riders and thereby mitigate habitat loss, promote responsible riding, and encourage collaborative management of back and open country ORV riders."

A strategy document is expected to be completed by fall, 2004 and will include a legislative framework, implementation strategy, and model for licensing and registration. The group's motto: **Working Together in an Environment of Trust and Co-operation.**

The Friends of Parks & Trails executive would like to hear from

members, and other interested persons, regarding the matter of trail use and management. "Friends" has a number of documents containing information on the 2 local meetings concerning ATV use, the Coalition and its work, and the Trails BC rules for Trans-Canada Trail use in BC. Essay covers containing this information will be available for reading at the Castlegar Library and the CPR Museum by requests at the desks. *This article is by Elaine Robinson, editor of the Friends of Parks and Trails newsletter*

## Bouncing boulder kills climber in Yoho

A 40-year-old Quebec woman died while climbing in Yoho National Park after a bouncing boulder the size of a football knocked her unconscious. The woman was climbing on Mount Victoria near Lake O'Hara on the southeastern boundary of British Columbia when the rock struck her in the head. She was not wearing a helmet. *Vancouver Sun, July 27, 2004, B2.*

Meeting at the start of a trip can be a more complicated process than one expects, especially when there is confusion about the EXACT meeting place. Going on a cross-country ski trip from Ottawa, two carloads planned to meet by a roadside store. One carload waited in the store's parking lot. After 40 or 50 minutes, the other car had not appeared. We feared they might have had an accident, and returned towards Ottawa to look for them. Not finding them, we went on to the ski area - and met the other group there sometime in the afternoon. They had been waiting for us on the highway near the store, but out of our sight.

At least two meeting places at Nancy Green Lake highway junction have been used for ski trips in that area. On one occasion, part of the group went to one place, and part to the other. Even though they were only 100 metres apart, they could not see each other.

At Playmor Junction, South Slokan, at least three meeting places have been used at various times - in the Credit Union parking lot, on the road beside the Credit Union, and in a "park-and-ride" area on the other side of the junction. This summer, I arranged to be picked up at a certain junction. The driver had looked for me at another junction 500 metres away. She finally found me 40 minutes

later.

So, BE PRECISE. Indeed, BE VERY PRECISE.

Remember Murphy's Law: If anything can go wrong, it will.

*Submitted by Norman Thyer*

### "Friends of Parks And Trails"

spent several days chainsawing and clearing the Nancy Greene Lake Trails, the Blue Grouse Basin trail and the second turnoff to the Gimli area. Thank you Friends! Several of the Friends are KMCers. Visit their informative website (including trail descriptions, maps and images) at [www.friendsoftrails.org](http://www.friendsoftrails.org)

## LATE-SEASON

**HIKING.** It's important to keep certain considerations in mind, *as the days of fall get shorter*, lest you become the latest entry in Search and Rescue's annual statistics of lost, injured and other needy hikers. September and October are two of the busiest months for search and rescue teams. Often it's something as simple as a hiker who hasn't budgeted enough time to get up a peak and back down again before the sun sets. Or a hiker who hasn't had the foresight to bring a headlamp or flashlight. Or someone who heads up into the mountains in shorts and a T-shirt and gets caught out in a sudden downpour - or early snowfall. At this time of year, the elements are even more unpredictable. So, make your mantra for late season hiking this: Be prepared. (Actually, it's best to make that your year-round mantra for hiking, but we'll try not to be preachy here.) To that end, here are some tips, courtesy of North Shore Rescue:

- Always tell someone where you're going. Leave a note with a responsible person explaining where you're going, the route you'll take, who is going with you and what time you expect to return.
- Always carry the 10 essentials
- Never hike alone.
- Allow enough time to complete your hike in daylight hours.
- Bring a guidebook and map and stay on the trail.

If you do become lost, injured or benighted, here are some tips:  
- Do not panic. Maintain a positive mental attitude if you become lost. Being lost need not be dangerous if you are

prepared.

- Stay where you are. If you move around after getting lost, you'll likely move farther away from the trail.

- Don't go downhill. Because of mountain geography, going down often leads to dangerous natural drainage with thick brush, steep cliffs and waterfalls.

- Blow your whistle to help searchers.

- Protect yourself from the elements. Be as comfortable as possible but, when darkness lifts, make sure you can be seen from the air by searchers in helicopters or planes. *From **Fires Fade To Leave Familiar Pitfalls** By Dawn Hanna, in The Province, Thursday, Sept 25, 2003.*

## WEARING DOWN THE MOUNTAINS

**A**re rock climbers leaving cliff faces in less than peak condition? The impact of climbing on the natural environment is a hot topic among climbers. The damage that climbers can do to their fragile ecosystems where they practice their sport can be considerable. Many climbers understand their impact, others don't. But as the number of climbers grows—from 800,000 in 2000 to 1 million today, according to industry sources—so does the impact they are having on the wilderness. Modern climbing techniques make it possible to scale rock faces that were previously inaccessible to humans. And the new craze for *bouldering*, a sub discipline, is bringing a younger and more unruly generation to the sport.

Certainly the depredations of a bunch of rubber-soled, chalk-bag-toting rock rats are minor compared with forest clear cutting or strip mining. But because climbers are drawn to some of the most spectacular landscapes—their footprints are closely scrutinized, and a debate is under way between climbers and US Federal land managers on what and where people should be permitted to climb.

Contentious issues include bolting—the practice of drilling bolts into cliff faces, protecting ancient rock art, preventing degradation of the base areas around cliff bases, minimizing interference with wildlife—including nesting birds, the very resistant chalk stains that are left on cliff faces and garbage including equipment, trash and human waste.

"On big walls people get very intense after a few days up there—they feel more at risk, and ethics tend to go out the

window", says Lincoln Else, Yosemite's sole climbing ranger. Like snowboarders or surfers, climbers see themselves as part of a counter-culture and dislike being dictated to. Spreading the message of "leave no trace" requires mingling with and getting to know these climbers as much as possible. Hardest to educate are the growing legions of boulderers, many of whom started climbing in gyms and regard the sport as a social activity, not a wilderness experience. It is cheap, requiring no ropes or expensive equipment, and it attracts younger climbers, who hang out in groups watching each other try different maneuvers. The impact is more immediate because there is a lot of activity at the base of the rocks. The Access Fund, a national advocacy group for climbers set up a bouldering campaign last year. It has donated money to clean up around climbing sites. But they recognize it is a challenge to get the message out there. *By Terry McCarthy. Edited and condensed from the Sept. 2003 of Time*

*"That's the thing about taking on the big mountains. Climbers know that it's risky, that accidents happen, and that people die. But you always think it's going to happen to someone else." Conrad Anker*

## Controversy Over Grand Canyon Rafting

BY J. MICHAEL KENNEDY

With 7,000 on the waiting list, it can take 20 years for an independent rafter to get the chance to run the Colorado River. These are contentious days at the Grand Canyon, filled—with bickering over who has the right to raft the Colorado River as it snakes through one of the country's natural treasures.

The National Park Service stirred up a major flap last month by freezing the wait list for private rafters on the Colorado, coveted by river rats for its churning rapids. The list is already so long that reservations are backed up as much as 20 years. Adding to the battle is the debate over a new park service proposal due out in the coming months detailing how the Grand Canyon should be used.

At the heart of the controversy is a long-standing row between outfitting companies and recreational rafters. While outfitters are allocated about 70 per cent of the trips downriver, private paddlers have to make do with the rest. That isn't fair, contend the private river runners, because so many more people want to

make the trip on their own these days. The outfitters, for their part, argue that they provide a service for many segments of society, ranging from the disabled to those who simply want to sit back and relax.

"We represent a huge segment of the public that can't do it on their own," said Brian Merrill, who heads Western River Expeditions and is president of the outfitters' trade organization. "We're the easier vehicle to do that right now."

The private rafters counter that it's really a money issue, with the access tilted to those who can pay the bucks. "If you can afford it, you can go," said Kim Crumbo, who spent 30 years as a river guide and park wilderness coordinator before becoming regional director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. "If you can't, you wait 20 years." The tab for a commercial 14-day trip can run more than \$2,000, while private paddlers can do it for less than half that price.

In 1940, fewer than 100 people had made the trip down the canyon's rapids. But after the Second World War, rafting on the river became more popular. At the same time, commercial operators saw opportunity and began booking trips on the river by oared and motorized rafts. They became the prime source of trips down the Colorado, even as the number of private rafters was increasing dramatically—to a point where the wait list swelled to more than 7,000 people this year. Paddlers chafe at not being able to get on the river to test their skills against boiling sections like Lava Falls and Crystal Rapids.

Critics contend that a freeze on individual rafters signals that the park service favors outfitters, because there have been no restrictions placed on them. But Kate Cannon, a deputy superintendent at the park, said it was simply a matter of common sense because of the changes a new use plan might bring. "It was the only responsible move because we thought it would not be right to allow people to get on a wait list that might not serve a purpose," she said. "This isn't our first planning attempt, but there have been a number of things that have stopped us in the past."

Among other things, outfitters maintain that the 20-year wait is a bogus number and that anyone can raft the canyon if willing to fill a spot on a private trip on short notice.

Meanwhile, paddlers want the prime season extended and the number of launches split down the middle. Both sides do agree on something: The system

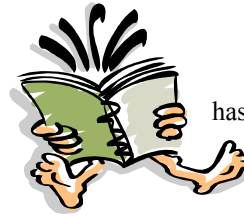
needs to be overhauled, and they are waiting expectantly for the new proposal. "We have no idea what the park is going to settle on," said Merrill. *From The Los Angeles Times Via The Vancouver Sun*

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## Library News: Fall Reading:

### Men for the Mountains

Sid Marty, a one time Parks Canada warden, outspoken environmentalist and author books about natural history and life in the west. In *Men for the Mountains* he relates a experiences as a Parks Canada Warden, primarily in the mountain parks, with his His anecdotes range from humorous to horrifying. Tales of his early experiences with rescues of ill-begotten climbers and hikers in Yoho National Park will make you laugh, but his stories of shooting grizzly bears and hunters decimating herds of elk may make you cry. A great fall read.



has written a number of number of his characteristic candour. working horses and

### The Ascent of Rum Doodle

William. Bowman's classic "Ascent of Rum Doodle" is a must read for anyone who's read enough of the standard mountaineering literature ("we were pinned down at 21,000 feet by a storm", etc., etc., etc.) to find the stories the same with only the mountain names different. Written in deadpan and understated British style, this book is a great laugh from beginning to end. A wonderful fall pick-me-up if the rainy weather has got you down.

|| **Library** || Sandra McGuinness Tel.352-3545 Address: 3939 Malina Rd, Nelson BC V1L6X6

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**Karabiner Issues:** Karabiner Journals are a marvelous collection of grand memories and achievements throughout decades. They have been compiled, prepared and issued through innumerable hours of volunteer work and by many different persons at one time or another. The formats have changed at times, the numbers of issues have been once per year generally, but in some years, a spring and a fall journal were published. Each parution was given the year number and an issue number, and were consistently and correctly numbered until the year 1977. In the Karabiner of that year the Volume number did not appear on the front cover or on the inside page. It should have been noted as Volume number 20. Subsequently, other following years did not see the Volume number either. Those should be noted as:

Year 1978 Volume 21

Year 1979 No Karabiner was issued.

Year 1980 Volume 22

Year 1981 Spring Edition Volume 23

then the Year 1981 Autumn Edition is once again "on track" and correctly numbered as Volume 24

as well as from Year 1982 (Volume 25) till Year 1995 (Volume 38) they are also correctly numbered.

After that, something happened! Possibly a typo - and as a result the subsequent issues received improperly sequenced Volume numbers.

It only applies to three Karabiner journals. They are:

**Year 1996 incorrectly numbered Volume 30 (Should have been Volume 39)**

**Year 1997 incorrectly numbered Volume 31 (Should have been Volume 40)**

and our very last publication which covers the **Years 1998, 1999 and 2000** incorrectly numbered **Volume 40 instead of Volume 41.**

So if you still possess those journals, please make the appropriate changes!

## Mail update

*The following thank you note (forwarded by Don Harasym) is from Andy, of Scotland, who accompanied some KMC'ers on a couple of hikes.*

Hi Don,

Very sorry that I didn't get a chance to say "bye" before I left town. My wife and I left Nelson a couple of weeks ago and spent a week doing a quick tour up through Lake Louise - Jasper before driving over to Whistler and then flying home from Vancouver last Thursday. Spectacular scenery but the Nelson area seemed like the best place to live (by a mile!) and we do hope to be back.

After Old Glory, I went right over the top of Elephant Mtn. the following day - it's bigger than it looks (!) and took all day. After this I did no more big hikes although managed to fit in a day ski touring on Outlook Mtn. (though not reaching the summit!) in Kokanee Glacier Park. Other than this, hikes were much gentler - Fry Creek Canyon (wild) and Christina Lake (mellow). Anyway, I very much appreciated the chance to get out with KMC and really enjoyed the hikes up Ymir Mtn. and Old Glory, so thanks for letting me join you on these trips.

The typically fickle Scottish weather is currently surpassing itself - it's currently 11 degrees and driving rain and has apparently been snowing in the Cairngorm Mountains. No fire risk here...

Cheers,

Andy Wight, Scotland

# "Monashee" is Gaelic for the Mountains of Peace

## **Melting Mountains Awareness Program**

Due to the overwhelming response that we received from people such as you regarding the *Melting Mountains* brochure, the Alpine Club of Canada, with support from the David Suzuki Foundation, the Government of Canada, and Mountain Equipment Co-op are planning a series of presentations throughout Western Canada this fall and winter. These free presentations will include:

- an exploration of the science of climate change
- a discussion of the effects of climate change on our mountains
- an overview of solutions to tackle climate change
- an opportunity to discuss local concerns and ask questions.

For example, did you know that climbing routes around the world are changing due to rock fall and glacier recession induced by climate change? Did you also know that many ski resorts around the world are forecast to be *below* snowline in a few decades? But did you know that by driving 100 km/hr instead of 120 km/hr, you use roughly 20% less fuel, and thereby save on fuel costs and reduce your personal greenhouse gas emissions? These presentations explore these topics and are a great way to get citizens, group members, employees, and clients motivated and on their way to tackling climate change.

If your organization, business, or community would like to host a presentation, then we would like to hear from you! To set up a presentation, there are a number of things that you should know. Our presentation is typically about 45 minutes long, and we suggest that you allow for at least 30 minutes of discussion afterwards. For much of the presentation, we use a laptop with a digital projector.

**There will be a Nelson presentation some time in November. Date will be announced once the exact location has been set.**

### **“A-B” Hikes and a Casual “C”!!!**

Carole Page in New Denver has been providing a great service to club members who are primarily interested in the A and B rated hikes by advising the membership of hikes that she is organizing in the Slocan. This has got us thinking that the KMC could do more to provide more hiking opportunities for those that are not into the more challenging C or D level hikes. Carole has agreed to

assist Don Harasym to expand the schedule with more A/B hikes.

We are, therefore, asking members to volunteer to coordinate A and B level hikes and to choose destinations and dates. Depending on the number of volunteers that come forward, we should be able to set more A and B hiking days for the remainder of the hiking season.

- Visit “The Alpinist”, a reader supported, independent climbing magazine with a focused, grass-roots base at <http://www.alpinist.com/experience.php>
- For a very inclusive Q & A forum on outdoors equipment and gear try <http://www.explore-mag.com/geararc.html>
- For downloadable 1:50000 topographic maps of the U.S. try <http://www.topozone.com/>

**"If you don't know where you're going, you'll probably end up somewhere else." Yogi Berra**

## Executive Notes



### Conservation:

The Jumbo decision has been postponed. There is still time to phone the Premier's office and express your opposition to the Jumbo proposal. A \$100 contribution was made from the Conservation budget to the Eco Centre for the Jumbo fight

We are investigating the Mountain Caribou concern. There is an information picket (blockade) on the Duncan River Road. Its stated purpose is to provide info about the effects of logging on the mountain caribou. Silver Spray and Woodbury trails are to be cleaned up next year. They are closed now because of liability concerns due to "fire damaged" trees along the trail. Dangers on trails that were affected by fire include fallen and unstable trees; root burnout holes in trail surfaces, loss of bridges and directional signs, slope instability and an increased hazard of falling rocks. CBC Radio's Interior morning show has been soliciting comments about B.C. park conditions. Contact the show at [kelowna@cbc.ca](mailto:kelowna@cbc.ca) Kim will also contact the Parks on this matter.

### Climbing Camp:

Doug said that the camp in the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy went very well. Two minor accidents occurred during the approach. 6 KMCers and 4 BCMCers attended.

### Website:

Doug reported the latest newsletters are on the website, the "for sale" section is seeing increased use. A high spam setting may result in rejections. A "no subject" notation will also be rejected by our setup. The email update and resulting trips unfortunately do miss those without computer access.

### Huts & Trails:

Ted was happy with the 8 people Toad Mtn work party. The trail is shaping up. Lemon Creek Trail is next. The volunteer work on Jumbo pass trail is great. Another trail may be the Enterprise Cr. Trail.

There was discussion of reimbursement for drivers taking work parties to the trailhead. Opinion was split regarding how to do this, and if there would be insurance implications. No decision was made.

### Bonnington Huts:

Sandra noted that the work parties are proving to be a success. More will be scheduled. There has been a noticeable gender slant on these. The MOF has been very helpful and cooperative, and willing to transport materials. Holes were patched and repairs made to Copper hut. A laminate map is posted inside.

Forestry will re-align the leaning outhouse at the Steed hut. The next work party is at the Huckleberry hut. Our earlier contacts with the Okanagan section of the ACC have not materialized.

### Winter trips:

David has so far very few applications for the winter week at Kokanee Hut. It was noted that some clubs require a year membership before being in the lottery. A discussion revolved around using snowmobiles, "within reason", to access difficult to reach skiing areas. Opinions were divided but one experiment might be had. Non-club trips may be pursued in this manner.

### Social:

Jill and Jan are setting up the Camps Slide Show on Oct 8, the AGM on Nov. 12. and the Melting Mountains Program evening will be announced.

We still have T-shirts for sale.

### Summer Trips:

Don reported that the summer trips went well, including the combined B & C rating hikes. It is hard to recruit leaders for the more casual paced hikes. Yet, these are well attended and everyone is enjoying them.

Everyone is reminded to 1) check their schedule, and 2) the E-mail update, and 3) phone the coordinator to avoid problems.

Don indicated a desire to step down from his directorship. Someone please volunteer!

### Newsletter:

Thank you to all who send submissions, trip reports, etc. They are much appreciated. This job combined with the membership services is very time-consuming. Eliane hopes someone will step forward to take over the membership duties.

### Membership:

Our latest update shows a grand total of **393** members of which 143 Single Residents, 6 Single Associates, 95 Families Residents (with 228 members), 2 Families Associates (with 5 members), and 11 Friends.

The membership form will be slightly revamped to 1) avoid duplication of subscription to email and 2) for membership privacy.

Eliane indicated a desire to step down from the "membership" services. This function fits with very well with the Treasurer's duties if someone wishes to combine them.

### Treasurer:

Elaine stated that there was \$15735 in assets, not counting the value of T-shirts. The full report will be at the AGM.

Elaine stated her intention to step down from the duties after her term is complete.

### Hiking Camp:

It was an enjoyable area. A focus on hiking in general rather than "peak bagging" enveloped the trips. Heli costs were almost \$14,000.00, but due to the extra charge that was levied, there should be no deficit. There will be a Hiking Camp meeting prior to the AGM to develop appropriate changes for next year. The financial report will be done as well.

### Old Business:

-Sandra McGuinness is volunteering to arrange "mountaineering course(s)" in the future if/when interest is shown.

-It was moved that we buy/build 25 summit canisters on a cost effective basis. There is a KMC protocol/philosophy on the placements of our registers. Would someone, anyone, volunteer to spell it out?

-A point was made that formal relations to other clubs/associations took too much effort/cost on our volunteer organization. We can pursue and should encourage coordinating outings with other clubs. We should also help like-minded clubs and associations with their backcountry concerns by penmanship. They do appreciate the support. Perhaps a simple support system/contacts should be encouraged.

### New Business:

-The heavy discussion was on Cub Trips and supporting our coordinators when faced with ill-prepared, unexpected (too large a #) or unknown participants. People routinely expect to be able to go on trips. We regularly do not turn people away but on occasion we should. Our trip coordinators are there because they feel comfortable leading trips with others. These coordinators form the basis of our club. When poorly prepared, unexpected or unknown participant-situations occur we risk losing coordinators. KMCers are mountaineers who have a rough idea of what will work. There is a mountaineering culture. Everyone should support and at times even encourage the decision to turn someone away. This support should be based on a club culture that promotes mountaineering and strongly supports turning people away when questions arise as to their suitability for that outing. Even at the trailhead. No one likes to do it, but having no coordinators is worse!

It was decided to arrange a KMC Culture Coordinator Support, exchange, discussion, workshop, evening(s) to help work this out.

-A discussion confirmed that a "Club Trip" is one that has passed through (essentially sanctioned by) the Summer Trips Chair, Winter Trips Chair etc. Trips on the trips schedules in the newsletter are all club trips. Trips posted on the email update are either 1) Club Trips when noted as approved by these Chairs, or, 2) non-club trips when they are posted only by the initiator. Both are acceptable and encouraged, but please be aware and recognize the difference.

# KMC Trip Reports

## **Payne Wagon Road, Payne Mt, Sandon, May 5**

Starting at the old K/S railway station (same trail as the Three Forks to Sandon) and hiking N/E about a km the trail veers up more northerly. This was a recce trip to look for loop snowshoe or x-country ski trails. However, after about 3 km of sloshing around in heavy rains, with no visibility, we retreated. Participants were: Maureen Kowalchuk, Carol Potasnyk, and Carole Page, coordinator

## **New Denver to Silverton, another reco trip with KMC members and New Denver hikers, June 5**

Drive up 3 kilometers on the old Sandon Road and then hike in a

southerly direction across the west face of Idaho Peak on the Hartney Road to the Standard Mine road. Views of the Slocan Lake and the Valhallas are great. At the end of this trip is a spectacular waterfall. (This trip took 4 hours, but I have since hiked it in 3 hours)

Participants: Linda Hill, Ed Watamaniuk, 3 New Denver hikers and coordinator Carole Page.

## **Wandering Along Wards Ferry Trail**

The Wards Ferry trail, built by the Nelson Area Trails Society, wanders along the Kootenay River from Rover Creek FSR to the village of Glade. While there are no spectacular views or summits reached, this is a pleasant trail with lots of opportunities for flower spotting and bird watching. The middle section of the hike is particularly enjoyable as it passes through old growth cedar forest along the south bank of Slocan Pool.

A party of eight KMC'ers hiked the trail on Wednesday **June 16** on the first day of sunny weather after interminable June rains. We met at Playmore Junction and split into two parties of four, one party drove to Rover Creek to start the hike, while the other started from Glade. We met down by the river for lunch, swapped car keys and each party continued the hike.

To reach the trail at the Rover Creek end, turn onto Rover Creek FSR (the first turn on your right after you cross Kootenay Canal on Blewett Road) and follow the main road for about 2 km. As you drive keep an eye out for the small blue Wards Ferry sign just below the road on the right hand side (there is also a small rock cairn at the side of the road). The road is wide enough here for a couple of vehicles to pull off.

The trail starts off through forest and is well marked by flagging and WF signs. Along the way, you'll cross Rover Creek on a good log bridge and spend some time walking along the gas line and the power line. After a couple of kilometres the trail skirts around a fence and descends through a beautiful cedar forest to the Kootenay River. The remainder of the trail follows along the west bank of the Kootenay River to Glade.

Participants: Esther Brown, Maurice De St Jorre, John Golik, Ted Ibrahim, Hazel Kirkwood, Gord McGregor, Ed Beynon, and Sandra McGuinness



## The Trans Canada Trail (TCT) Elko - Elk Lakes

### Pass June 30 - July 4

I was very impressed with the response I got for this trip. Ten bikers took on the challenge of the TCT. Robert volunteered to drive the support vehicle and Viv and Patsy volunteered to help shuttle us back to Elko. What a crew! On Wednesday everyone travelled to Elko and camped at the West Crow Motel & RV Centre which was very close to accessing the TCT. It rained that night and into the morning until breakfast was over. We were all pleased to have a dry start to the trip. The plan for the day was to cycle from Elko to Hosmer approximately 50 km. Since Dave Mitchell is familiar with the East Kootenays he advised against this plan. Hosmer turns out not to be the destination spot of the area, so the goal of the day became get to wherever we make it. With organizing the trip we were short one vehicle to be dropped off at Elk Lakes Pass. Dave Mitchell having a reputation of great speed and a vehicle that can carry 5 bikes was easily persuaded to volunteer to do this task. While 9 of us cycled off on River Road towards Fernie, Dave took off to find a place to leave his vehicle in Elkford. The route as described in the Trans Canada Trail book is quite easy to follow. The terrain was mainly gravel, undulating forest service roads with lovely views along the Elk River. We stopped at the Visitor information in Fernie for lunch. Timing was great because once there the rain came down. We were still full of energy and keen to get more kms under our wheels so the slower cyclists headed off for Sparwood once the rain ceased and the faster group waited for Dave.

Not wanting to cycle on the highway we chose the alternate route to Sparwood suggested in the trail guide. This route took us along the Ladner Creek FSR. Besides being a never ending climb, the route is not complete. The two groups of cyclists regrouped where the road going in the direction to Sparwood disappeared. It was at this point Laura mentioned how uncomfortable her new bike was to ride. After examining the situation, we realized her seat was mounted backwards. Once this was altered her speed and enjoyment of the trip increased. We then navigated our way to Sparwood by following power lines, and an old skid road. We luckily dropped onto Matevic Road at the same time the owner of this private road was driving by. She took pity on us and unlocked the gate so we could access highway 43 north of Sparwood. We were grateful of the long days at this time of year since we did not make it to the campground until around 8pm.

**Day 1** was a great day of route finding, mountain biking, comradeship and sight seeing. As Dave M put it at the end of the day "this was one of the first KMC trips that everyone started at different times but all finished the day together." In all we biked 74 km.

**Day 2** was a relatively easy day. From Sparwood to Elkford the route travels 33 km along highway 43 which is paved with a shoulder. Views of the Rockies make this a very pleasant trip. At Elkford we left the comfort of the pavement and cycled 20 km to Blue Lake Recreation Site. After cycling a total of 58 km this little gem of a lake provided refreshing swims and a great spot to unwind at the end of the day.

**Day 3** started with spitting rain and very low cloud. We had approximately 60 km left to go. By the time we mounted our saddles the rain had stopped. We continued along the Elk River FSR. This road climbs consistently and provides views of Fording Coal and the surrounding mountains. It is said to be the most magnificent portion of the TCT. Low cloud prevented seeing it in its grandeur. After a few kilometers of travel, rain

began to fall. It continued for some time making the cycling very unpleasant. People were getting cold, wet and miserable. To avoid anyone from becoming hypothermic, the decision was made to return to Elkford where we could dry out and warm up. Dave M took the lead and sped down to Elkford to get his vehicle. Along the way the sidewall of his tire separated, delaying the process. The rain turned the road into a mucky mess. Soon riders and bikes were caked in road mud. Pedals and gears could barely move. Luckily there were many clear running creeks to douse bikes and riders alike. Eventually the sun came out and we all made it to the Elkdord municipal campground on bikes. Charlie bent his rear wheel but was able to complete the journey. We set up camp, celebrated our accomplishments and all agreed we would like to return to the Elk Valley and finish the last 30 km of this trip. Over the three days of cycling we covered 188 km.

I would like to thank Robert Fox for donating his time, driving the support vehicle and shuttling bikes. Also thanks to Vivian Baumgartner and Patsy Wright for buying groceries, making dinner and helping shuttle bikes.

Participants were Charlie Chandler, Helen Foulger, David Grant, Janice Isaac, Jan Micklethwaite, Dave Mitchell, Laura Ranallo, Bess Schuurman, Jill Watson, and coordinator Carol Potasnyk.



### Mt. Mephistopheles (2713 m 8901') July 10-11

There were many enquiries about this trip but finally I decided to limit the number of participants to 12. I apologize to those I turned down for the trip but I felt this was a safety issue.

We camped at Wica lakes about 1 ½ hour walk from the Drinnon parking lot. We were up at 6 and left camp at 7:15. We followed the trail until we encountered the first bridge at the bottom of the Gwillim Creek valley. We then left the trail and contoured east till we encountered a rocky slope, which we followed to the creek. Here some took their boots off and waded the creek, others jumped from rock to rock and some just got their feet wet. We then ascended an avalanche slope almost to the tree line then contoured east and in the direction of the waterfall from Cauldron Lake. From Cauldron Lake we followed a valley which led us to a cull between Mt. Trident and Mt. Mephistopheles. We then went up the ridge to the summit. Five people attempted to climb Trident but due to foggy conditions were not sure if they got to the summit or not.

It rained most of the day. As we gained elevation it turned to snow and on the summit ridge there was a strong wind.

We were able to see nothing of the magestic views around us.

We left camp at 7:15 and arrived back at the cars at 5pm. With the 1 ½ hour hike the day before the total time was 11 ½ hours.

We were Lou Chioccarello, Dave Grant, Vicky Hart, Emily & Terry Huxter, Caroline Laface, Ray Neumar, Peter Oostlander, Mark Perry, Gene Van Dyck, Alex Walker, Leah Zoobkoof, and David Cunningham, coordinator.

### MacBeth area, July 14

Twenty two (22!!) keeners showed up for this hike and it was amazing how with that many people spread out along the trail, the wilderness did not feel crowded. All the vehicles parked at what will be by the time you read this, a new improved parking lot, approx 1.7km off the Glacier Creek road. The trail starts up

an old road, traverses an old cutblock (with vigorous growth, erosion and sloughing of the bank providing the potential for an ankle breaker) and at the broken registry box enters the forest and becomes a regular wilderness hiking trail. The bridge crossing was wrecked but Joe cleared off a couple logs and with others, rigged up a rope so that the creek crossing was possible with minimal anxiety. The flat part of the trail was not as wet as usual (although somewhere along the trail one member managed to place her cheek on the hard ground); however on the return there was some confusion about "where's the trail" since the water level had risen considerably, flooding the trail! At the second bridge, which had collapsed after +20 years of duty, a rope was again rigged for balance. The headwall with its series of switchbacks, ladders and blowdowns went up and up, but after crossing one last bridge the view made it worthwhile. At the viewpoint overlooking Graymalkin Lake, we could see Duncan Lake, Mt Brennan, Dryden, Davis, Cooper and of course the MacBeth waterfall. After lunch, several members of the group wandered up the ridge, some to overlook the glacier. The most common comment was *Magnificent!* The trail down was vastly improved thanks to the trail clearing done by Joe. Then to arrive to Roland's cool cherries at the parking lot was a great ending. The hiking time was 7-8 ½ hours so it was a very long day for those who came from Rosslund.

Thanks to Kjell Bronson, Charles Chandler, David Grant, Ted Ibrahim, Graham Kenyon, Caroline LaFace, Bobbie and Nick Maras, Pegasis McGauley, Jan Micklethwaite, Ray and Bonnie Neumar, Roland Proctor, Bess Schuurman, Terry Simpson, Sylvia Smith, Gene and Jo Van Dyck, Jill Watson, Mary Woodward, and trail clearer Joe Johnston for a wonderful hike. Coordinator, Marlene Johnston.

### **Clearwater creek-Ymir and return, July 16**

Two of us set off at 8 am up the Clearwater logging road. It is a good road with a steady uphill grade for 12 kms gaining 1800'. This took us approximately 1 ½ hours.

We went through Huckleberry pass below Mt. Elise and turned onto the old mining road that leads down Huckleberry creek. This road has some rough rocky sections and three creek crossings. It also has some beautifully shaded areas with a soft roadbed and a gentle downhill grade. We arrived at the Wildhorse valley road and then down to Ymir. We spent 40 minutes having lunch at the coffee shop then rode the railbed back to Clearwater Creek. We were tempted to have a dip in the Ymir River but we wanted to get home.

The only disappointing thing about this trip is that there were not more people with us.

We were Dave Grant and Dave Cunningham.

### **Silver Peak Bump in the morning, Garden Show in the afternoon, July 12**

Sixteen KMC'ers gathered at Paninis but by the time we met across the New Denver Bridge, we lost 5. The vehicle was seen whizzing by going south to Silverton???

This hike also starts 3 km. up the old Sandon Rd., goes up about a km. on the Hartney Rd. and then veers SW to a ridge that at the south end overlooks Silverton and Slocan Lake; and with just a 5 minute walk on the ridge, there is a magnificent view of the north end of the lake and New Denver. And yes, I took a lower trail and led this hardy group through a steep gully, upwards, which re-classified this hike to a B+ !!!!

Participants: Peter Bartl, Rina Chase, Heather Croll, Josee

Dufour, Lucie Dufour, John Golik, Diane Jenkins, Hans Korn, Marg Lavorato, Irme Mende, Marg Poohachoff, Nancy Rennie, and Carole Page, coordinator.

### **July 18 hike to... (Supposed to be Monica Meadows)**

The carpoolers from Nelson (and beyond) and campers from Davis Creek arrived at the Argenta turnoff rendezvous to be informed that there was a big fire at Monica and Fire Protection Services were moving big equipment up the Glacier Creek road. The possibility of hiking Mount Davis was a 'no go' as there was also a fire in the nearby MCC cutblock.

Plan B therefore was Kati's (pronounced Cotti's) trail between Sawtooth and Whillet with some rambling of high alpine beyond Heart Lake. Access was via Salsbury Creek logging road. The hike starts at the end of the road at about 5500ft. One half hour via a rough access trail (look for white rectangular sign attached to a tree) leads you to the couloir north and below the teeth of Sawtooth. Follow the gully which curves slightly to the right, before gaining the 'ridge' at about 7000ft. Those for whom rock hopping was not a specialty, could use a rough trail on the left near the stream and vegetation. The steep climb to the 'ridge' is safer if one takes the wider gully slightly to the left; the left side actually has a bit of soil which means less chance of screaming ROCK ! (On the ascent we took the narrower gully to the right to avoid losing elevation, and there was one serious scream with potential for similar harm.) After a snack, the choices were many. With the arduous part finished, we took the natural path past Heart Lake, picking our way to the dominant but easily reached ridge about 2km away. The lake was so inviting it justified a long lunch for some. Once on the ridge, (4 hours from the trailhead for the leading group) with great views and the prospect of a soft and level lay down, we succumbed to the tradition of lunch on the summit. The unnamed, small cairned peak 10 minutes to the south was reached by almost all. Gene attained "gentleman of the peak" status by returning to encourage and assist those past what looked intimidating but was easily managed. Approaching rain and bad weather hastened our descent, and thus we passed on exploring the large cave on the southern most Whillet ridge, or checking out possible approaches to Whillet. But we did get everyone home at a comfortable hour. Although we were a bit nervous about the hike up the gully being more arduous than the switchbacks up Monica, we were warmly rewarded by the comment, "I've been to Monica and this was better". However, these two hikes are definitely not comparable in difficulty!

The 19 of us were Brenda Barth, Maurice DeSt.Jorre, Terry Hall, Don Harasym, Maureen Kowalchuk, Caroline Laface, Jan Micklethwaite, Shannon Naylor, Al & Pat Sheppard, Terry Simpson, Jo & Gene Van Dyck, Jill & Dave Watson, Mary Woodward, Leah Zoobkoff, Marlene (early coordinator) & Joe Johnston (hike leader and trip writer).

Coordinators notes: We and several others have helped Kati and Bruce with this trail, thus we have a sense of responsibility to guard this unspoiled area. Please use discretion to over emphasize the arduous access or forget details if you have doubts about those asking for access information. Since the hike, we have used this access to climb Whillet. It's tough, but call if you are interested.

### **Western Battle Range Camp, July 16-23 (maps 82K/14 Westfall River and 82K/13 Camborne)**

The Battle Range, noted for its fine granite, has long been part of Interior Range climbers' lore, as it remained almost completely unvisited until after World War Two despite the determined efforts of such stalwarts as Holway, Butters, and Palmer. Even the name reflects struggle as it is said to commemorate a legendary battle between a prospector and a grizzly. The heart of the range, the Melville Group, is bounded on the west by the Incomappleux River, on the north by Battle Brook, on the east by the Duncan River, and on the south by Houston Creek. Parties almost always fly in, and most are based at Battle Abbey in Butters Creek, or Houston Lake near the headwaters of Houston Creek. Our party camped in the westernmost sector of the range, below the unclimbed or infrequently visited Illusion, Grendel, and Beowulf and near the access used by the first party to penetrate the heart of the range and climb its highest peak. Norman Brewster, Andy Kauffman, and Elizabeth Kauffman made a multi-day expedition on foot from Camborne in the Incomappleux valley to reach the summit of Mt. Proteus (3198 m.) on July 16, 1947. For Brewster's excellent account of this and preparatory adventures, see CAJ 31: 1-20, 1948. If you don't recall Kauffman as a climber, you may remember his book *The Guiding Spirit* (Footprint Publishing, Revelstoke, BC, 1986), an account of the Swiss guides in Canada which he co-authored with Bill Putnam.

For this, the first of the Jones and Seagram Flying Circus camps, three climbers (the husband and wife team of David Jones and Joie Seagram, Richmond, BC and Hamish Mutch, Creston, BC) flew on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, from Golden to our campsite at GR 626-467, 7300'. The remaining three (Steve Horvath and Paul Allen, Rossland, BC, and your recorder, Kim Kratky, Nelson, BC) flew at noon from the Kellie Creek bridge at about km. 28 on the Incomappleux River road north of Trout Lake. By the way, this is the river on which Quebec Everest veteran Yves LaForest disappeared along with two companions during a descent in inflatable kayaks last July. During our six days available for climbing, we lost three to rain but still managed to accomplish the following: new route on Beowulf Peak (2830 m.) and probably only the fourth ascent; first ascent of unnamed 2610 m. located 1.1 km. west of Beowulf; second ascent of Illusion Peak's south summit (2772 m.), and first since 1892; first ascent of Illusion Peak's north summit (2769 m.); first ascent of a minor peak north of Illusion North; and first ascent of the west ridge, first traverse, and fourth ascent overall of Obstacle Mtn. (2769 m.). Details follow.

### **Day One Beowulf Pk. and u/n 2610 m.**

We depart camp at 6:30 under clear skies and stroll up the unnamed glacier to a level point north of and below the Grendel-Beowulf col. Here, we rope up and split into two teams: Paul, Hamie, and Steve; and David, Joie and I. After ascending two-thirds of the distance to the col on good snow, we are faced with a 'schrund that traverses the face. Our party goes left and tackles 15' of steep, nearly featureless rock with water running on it (mid class 5 for sure) that gives onto 6' of vertical snow before the angle of glacier above relents. The others go right and successfully negotiate a filled-in portion of the 'schrund followed by snow over ice (stimulating without crampons or screws). Reaching the col west of Grendel (8850' 635-448) more or less simultaneously, we traverse an intervening peaklet (bit of 4<sup>th</sup> class on the east, snow walkoff on the west) and then scale Beowulf's east ridge mostly as a scramble on good 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class granite to reach the 9285' summit by 10:50 (4 hrs. 20 min. up). We find two cairns without records and surprisingly locate a fragment of faded cloth, likely the same found by Linwood

Erskine and Morton Baker (Harvard Mountaineering Club) during the first recorded ascent of July 1946. The HMC party found a cairn and assumed the cloth was placed by the Topographical Survey, but there is no record of any earlier ascents. After an hour and 45 min. of lounging, we descend west on easy rock, traversing the peak's two lesser summits at 628-447 and 624-447 before negotiating easy rock and snow to reach the summit of u/n 2610 m. (621-448; one hour from Beowulf). This is a stretch as a separate peak, but it is listed in the guidebook. Finding no cairn, we build none. We then descend easy snow on the north, trudge across our unnamed glacier, and reach camp by 3:20 for an 8 hr. 50 min. day. The east ridge is a new route, and we also make the first traverse. Heck, it's probably the first ascent since that of Brewster and the Kauffmans in '47; we're not talking about frequently climbed peaks here.

### **Day 2 Illusion Peak, north and south summits**

Feeling even more frisky, we leave camp at 6:40 to dispel an illusion, or at least clarify uncertainties. For one thing, this peak was originally called Battle Mountain; secondly, W.S. Drewry of the Topographical Survey may have reached the summit in 1892, but his report is unclear; and finally Brewster claims in CAJ 31 that the peak had seen three ascents prior to 1947 but gives no details. Our route to the south summit takes us east and north over easy broken rock and snow to the top composed of some minor pinnacles in 2 hrs. 10 min. (3<sup>rd</sup> class all the way). No cairn or survey marker found on the 9094' summit (635-469). Continuing to the much more impressive spire-like Illusion North, we pass to the west of the connecting ridge by rapping over a 'schrund, traversing north on snow, and re-gaining the ridge via a short pitch of low class 5 on granite. Four or five leads on very pleasant granite ramps and in short chimneys (no more than class 4) of the south ridge get us to the small dome-like summit by 1:15. Finding no cairn, we build one, and GPS the peak as 3 m. lower than the southern summit. Did Drewry reach either of these two points after thrashing through the dreadful bush of Battle Brook to the north? Possibly, since permanent snow would have extended much higher 112 years ago and given him access via north and east slopes. Retracing our ascent route via down climbing and rappel, we then exit the connecting ridge by a 60 m rap to the west onto snow, follow our footsteps, turn the 'schrund we had rapped by ascending snow on the left side, and endure a light drizzle for the last 20 min. of our return to camp by 5:15. Not a strenuous 10 ½ hour day, what with belaying and raps. Still, we decide it is a first ascent on Illusion North and the first ascent of Illusion South in over 100 years. We all concur with David on this; after all, he did write the guidebook.

The evening's drizzle evolves into three days of rain and low cloud, so by Thursday when skies clear we are ready for a stroll. Four attempt to reach unnamed 2689 m., a double summit north of Illusion at GR 645-488 and with no recorded ascent, but are turned back. Steve solos an intervening peak not visible on the map. Paul and I tackle the west ridge of Obstacle and have a grand day. Story follows.

### **Day 6 Obstacle Mtn. (2769 m., 9085')**

This was named by Kauffman, who thought it was the final barrier preventing access to Proteus. He was wrong. He, wife Betty, and Brewster attempted the west ridge, were turned back by a notch, descended, and gained the summit via southwest snow slopes on July 16, 1947. The only other ascents were by

Jones parties in 1991 and 1999. With instructions from David to find out what turned back the Brewster party on the west ridge, we set out at 6:10. We are even carrying a couple of pickets, as we figure we'll polish off the southeast snow ridge of Grendel (2785 m. and only one ascent) after Obstacle. Ha-ha! We plod east and unroped up our glacier to the base of its headwall. One lead of low class 5 gets us onto the barrier ridge at 639-454 at its lowest spot. We then do a 60 m. single-rope rap (half on rock) onto a glacier to the east, leaving a fixed line to Prussik up near the end of what we figure will be a long and tiring day. Right on that one. Next, we contour southeast and ascend, all on snow, to the Grendel-Obstacle ridge at 647-444. Here, we snack and dump the pickets and rain gear. Obstacle is in sight and we can see the cleft, but the summit looks far away. Refreshed, we descend easy alp land to the col at 7250' and begin the long west ridge of Obstacle. Easy grass and heather yield to 3<sup>rd</sup> class rock higher up till we reach the notch about 700' above the col. We can see why a party 57 years ago and several days' walk from civilization turned back. In fact, with only one 60 m. rope, we have to work our way into a position for a successful rap into the notch. Paul leads out onto an exposed granite horn right above the notch (descending 10' of a nasty, grotty 5.6 chimney is the crux). From there, we rap easily into the notch and exit by a couple of 5.4 mantleshelfs on good granite interspersed with easy class 4 (2 pitches). Beyond, we put away the rope and scramble endlessly to the northwest and lower peak (666-440; on 82K/14 wrongly shown as the summit). Beyond this, we have to scramble down some 200' on tedious blocks and continue up over more of the same to the actual summit by 1:10. As we lunch and gaze at old friends like Proteus (seeing five climbers on the tourist route), Moby Dick, and Scylla, we decide the following: "Gonna be a long day, dude," and "Let's find an easier way off this thing than descending the west ridge." Next, we examine the cairn and find records of the two Jones parties of the '90s and a rusted tin can, damaged by lightning. This contains a burned scrap of the first ascent record reading, "Washington, DC, Norman Brewster, July 16, 1947." We put all the documents in a new summit register, add our own data, fill in the missing bits of the FA account on a separate sheet, and decide to descend the first-ascent snow route. I fear this has melted out, but all goes well. We walk down 60 m. of rock on the east ridge, hop onto a southside snowfield and follow it down and southwest as it bends round to a snowy amphitheatre below our peak. Traversing west on snow above polished slabs, we then descend a few hundred feet to the base of a steep heather and rock gully that we stagger up to gain the Grendel-Obstacle ridge. During this period (3:00 to 5:00 pm), the heat and fatigue begin to gnaw at us. We have still to descend into and cross the northside snow basin, Prussik or climb the rock face to our barrier ridge (which hadn't looked very inviting on rappel in the early morning), do a 30 m. rap onto our "home" glacier, and plod back to camp, hopefully before dark. Exiting the Grendel-Obstacle ridge, we pass into shade, pick up the pace, negotiate all impediments, and return to camp without incident but with significant energy expenditure. Back home at 8:10, we flop down for cold beer and hot soup. Our 14 hour day of almost constant travel (7 hours up; 6 hours 10 min. back) has led us over some 12 km. of consistently rugged terrain with very little mindless horizontal trekking. In all, a fine conclusion to our camp.

The next day, we return to valley bottom heat, courtesy of Alpine Helicopters and Don McTighe. On the weekend, I phone Norman Brewster's son Mike, who lives near Nelson. He is delighted to hear our story. In fact, he is leaving almost

immediately for Vancouver to visit his dad, now in his mid-nineties. Mike's promise to pass on our story rounds off one of the best outings of the year.

Kim Kratky

### **Blue Grouse Basin - Mt. Fennel (2476 m 8123')**

The weather forecast for **July 25** was for hot and it was right on. Although the temperature went well into the 30's, we did experience occasional shade from passing clouds. New logging, or as forestry experts would say, removal of the canopy, is taking place along the access road. We left the trailhead at 9:00 am and, on the way, were pleasantly surprised to discover removal of the avalanche debris deposited in a couple of spots along the trail during the 03-04 winter. Thank you BC Parks! Anna and Norman Thyer decided to forego the final ascent while the remaining 13 managed to make it to the top arriving from the trailhead in three and a half hours. Bob Dean advised us that it would be 48 years ago in September 2004 when he made his first ascent of Fennel. After having a leisurely lunch, taking a few pictures and recording the trip in the register, we headed down. A more direct route using a draw to the right, found us back at the vehicles within two hours.

Participants: Bob Dean, David Grant, Terry Hall, Larry Hanlon, Hanspeter Korn, Caroline LaFace, Eliane, Francois, Jean & Steven Miros, Anna & Norman Thyer, Alex Walker, Leah Zoobkoff, and Don Harasym, Coordinator.

### **The Three Musketeers Work Party at Grassy Hut**

Kudos to Doug Brown, Gene Van Dyck and Patrick Sims for their wonderful work at the Grassy Hut on **August 4**. These three hardworking guys laid in a mess of firewood, re-hung the outhouse door, patched the roof, walls and floor of the cabin and hauled out the inevitable bags of garbage.

If you plan on using the huts please remember to clean up after yourself and use firewood sparingly. The KMC will be having a work party at the Copper Mountain Hut on September 15, 2004, any and all help is gratefully accepted.

### **Up & Over: Oscar Creek to Porcupine Creek**

Back in February, I skied up Oscar Bear FSR from Ymir, took a spur road to about 1,500 metres and skied through fairly open timber to the top of Jubilee Mountain. At the time, I noted that the old road that runs from Oscar Bear FSR to Porcupine Creek FSR over a pass east of Jubilee Mountain would make a good mountain bike loop.

On **August 6**, six of us left our vehicles near the Ymir transfer station at the beginning of Oscar Bear FSR at 8.50 am and rode east up Oscar Bear FSR. The road climbs continuously for about five kilometres with almost no level sections to catch your breath. Just after the 5 km marker, we descended a mildly overgrown spur road and crossed Oscar Creek. Almost immediately we reached a junction, where, after a brief snack and rest stop, we took the left fork. The road, overgrown and through a cut block at first, climbs a further 160 metres to a pass east of Jubilee Mountain. Just before the pass, the logging spur road morphs into an old mining road and enters mature timber.

We reached the pass at 11.30 am, not bad considering we had gained about 2,500 feet, and enjoyed (except for the massive cutblocks) views to some 7,000 foot peaks to the south. With judicious application of brakes we rode down the numerous switchbacks on the south side of the pass and reached the main

Porcupine Creek FSR at around noon. A quick 5 km cycle down the road brought us to the BNR and another 3 km of easy riding returned us to our vehicles at about 1.00 pm, just as the rain began in earnest.

Thanks to my trusting cycling companions (as usual for my trips this was my first time on this loop) for a great day out. Participants: David Cunningham, Jan Micklethwaite, Cindy Walker, Jill Watson, Mary Woodward, and coordinator Sandra McGuinness.

### **Jumbo Pass, August 18**

After meeting the hike coordinators (at Highway 31 and the turnoff for Argenta), 14 keen hikers set off up the Duncan and Glacier Creek FS Roads for the Jumbo trailhead. The last couple kilometers of road were a little rough; however some passengers hitched a ride in the back of the truck so all vehicles were able to make it to the trailhead parking lot. Although one member had just been to Jumbo a week before (she could not miss a hiking day), for many of the members it was their first trip to Jumbo. The trail climbs moderately and provides glimpses of Horseshoe Glacier, Mts Volley and Truce. Once we reached the pass, the panoramic view to the east was "in your face". Within a couple hours (or so) from the trailhead, the entire group had made it to the cabin. After lunch on the rocks overlooking the small lake and Jumbo valley, most of the group headed north 'just up there' to get a better look at the West Kootenay glaciers and the proposed site of the Jumbo Resort to the east. Some of the goats (human kind) continued to head further north and higher. One member collected a piece of 'Jumbo' to deliver to Mr. Santori with the message to save Jumbo! The group was chased back down with what looked like impending thunder and lightning storm. The hike coordinators were a bit lightning shy since the night before there had been several strikes around Lardeau and the north end of Kootenay Lake where at least 5 fires had started within minutes. Fortunately, the black clouds blew over and all was well. On the hike down the trail, most of the huckleberries (at least within reach of the trail) had been consumed. On this day, there were 31 people on the Jumbo trail, all from the West Kootenay side! The 14 KMCers who made this trip were: Glenn Cameron, Ron Cameron, Dave Dever, Katy Dmytruk, Edmund and Gisela Lehmann, Joyce Macdonald, Nick and Bobbie Maras, Bob McQueen, Bess Schuurman, Mary Woodward, and coordinators Joe and Marlene Johnston.

### **Saddle Mtn. (2301 m. 7549') August 14**

On Saturday, I left my home in Beaver Falls at 7am and picked up KMC members in Trail, Castlegar, Playmor Junction and New Denver. The weather was beautiful, clear and warm. We arrived in Nakusp at 10am. From the townsite Saddle Mountain Lookout is quite prominent and we were eager to get there. We traveled south to the Arrow Park ferry which we crossed over to follow the West Arrow FSR north for approximately 12km. We turned left onto the Saddle Mtn. lookout Rd. and followed the steep incline for another 6km. to the posted trailhead. There is a short dead end road to the left just before the trailhead providing parking for several vehicles.

The well-developed trail leads through some great old growth forest with little undergrowth, loads of fresh huckleberries, and an assortment of wildflowers. The elevation gain is 650m. to the lookout. Near the top there is a section of boulder/rock scrambling and the view from the top is well worth the effort. The 180\* view of the Arrow Lakes to the east, the Watshan Lakes and Mosquito Valley to the west are breathtaking vistas reserved for those that reach this lookout. Over the years since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the resident firewatchers chiseled their names into the granite and are still visible today. The lookout building is still intact and much the same as it was when operated by the BCFS.

We arrived back at the trailhead 5 hours after leaving it. We drove back to Nakusp where we welcomed a tasty supper at the "hut" on Main Street. Some went for a refreshing dip in the Arrow Lake. We headed home arriving finally at 8pm.

In total we were fourteen participants, all traveling together in the same van, which added to the fun and camaraderie.

Wendy Hurst, Anne Kwan, Raymond Masleck, Bonnie & Ray Neumar, Carole Page, Marg. Poohachoff, Laura Ranallo, Nancy Rennie, Julia Roberts, Norman & Anna Thyer, Elizabeth Zemmels, and Patrick Sims coordinator.



### **Gimli Peak (2806 m. 9206') August 15**

Fourteen came on the B hike and John Bargh took a group of climbers in. The cocoordinating worked well and the B group hiked to the campsite and some to the ridge overlooking Mulvey Basin.

Carole Page.

**Davis Creek Trail, August 21** The Davis Creek Trail starts from Highway 31 on the north side of Davis Creek and ends at Fishhook Lake. Four of us started the hike at 8:30 to avoid climbing during the heat of the day. The start of this trail is extremely steep For the first hour the trail climbed 1600 feet to a ridge. We were glad to come to the few lookout points; not only for the fabulous views of Kootenay Lake, the Four Squatters, Howser Spire and a blazing forest fire but for the chance to catch our breath. Marlene Johnston was one of the Lardeau residents who cleared this trail 5 years ago and helps maintain it. She provided us with a wealth of information about the trail and area. She took us on little side trips to view the length of Davis Creek to its headwall and an area that is frequented by mountain goats. We were not lucky this time in spotting any goats. Once at the ridge Marlene returned home and we continued on. The trail

became much more manageable at this point and only climbed 600 feet during the next hour of hiking. The last section of the trail before Fishhook Lake meanders through an incredible old growth cedar forest. To get a lunch spot with a view of this beautiful lake, we climbed out on a fallen tree which hung over the water. Only one boiled egg and some veggies landed in the lake as we ate but we were able to retrieve them before they sank to the bottom. After lunch we bushwhacked around the south end of the lake to take a look at the logging that was happening. The descent to the vehicle took 1 hour 20 minutes. This is a great forested hike for those with good knees. Since we could not find a view of the cascades on Davis Creek we stopped at Fletcher Falls on our way home. We were Brenda Johnson, Marlene Johnston, Nancy Rennie, and coordinator Carol Potasnyk

### **Peaks South Of Jumbo Pass (map Duncan Lake 82K/7)**

This was supposed to have been a KMC club trip to Mt. Cooper. As the weather for most of the week was dreadful and the forecast even more unpromising, the climbing trips scheduler filled the gap with a Jumbo outing on the only decent day, Tuesday, **August 31<sup>st</sup>**.

Kyle Ridge and I left Nelson at 6:30 and cruised to the Jumbo Trail car park, negotiating some dips south of the mainline junction that now seemingly limit access to high-clearance vehicles. After fending off four inquisitive horses (probably from Rainbow's End Ranch) that were intent on a treat, we set off at 9:40 and burned up to the pass in 1 hr. 25 min. Here, we had a brief chat with a hiker from the Jumbo Creek Conservation Society who had come up from the east side.

We then headed south over alpland and slithered up 600' of tiresome scree on a near-trail to the 8250' col west of Bastille Mtn. (273-773). Beyond, we continued south as per Hamish Mutch's instructions over a series of bumps to our first goal, the prosaic u/n 2629 m. (surveyed elevation, GR 268-765, 8625'), in 3 hr. 25 min. from the truck. After admiring Uncle Hamie's cairn (no record) and, as the kids say, "lurking" for 20 min., we headed off for the next peak, the rather more prepossessing u/n 2718 m. (surveyed, massive cairn, no record, 8917') at 270-755. This we gained by more ridge walking and an even more cruddy 600' of scree on the northwest face in 45 min. (4 hrs. 30 min. from the car park). After another half hour spent in study of glacial recession and contemplation of where Mr. Oberti's clients might ski in the summer, we headed down.

Re-tracing our steps along the ridge, we chortled at our good fortune of enjoying fine weather and inspiring views in all directions. The highest peaks like Jumbo and Karnak had freshies above about the 10,600' level. In about 1 hr. 45 min. from the southern summit, we reached Jumbo Pass, where we were quizzed by a hut visitor about scrambling Bastille Mtn. Then we meandered down to the trailhead by 6:05 to finish off an 8 hr. 25 min. day. There were no horsies in sight, but some solicitous soul had wrapped my truck in porcupine wire, presumably the same used for his overnight visit.

On the drive out, we stopped to admire the unusually high water level in Glacier Creek, especially in the canyon below the Ranch. The only other item of note was the "Save the Westfall Caribou" banner that had appeared at the Glacier Creek/Duncan River road junction during the day. Back to Nelson by 11:00.

Kim Krakty

### **Toad Mtn. Trail Clearing, Sept. 4**

Eight people met at the Hitching Post, south of the Nelson junction to establish a new trail to Toad Mountain from the Silver King Mine. Some of the trail had already been flagged by someone (we do not know who). To get to the Silver King Mine you drive 1.7 km up the Giveout Creek Road and turn left. At 2.15 km you keep right and at 4.0 km there is a cabin with a metal roof. At 7.3 km you turn right and at 10.25 km you turn left and reach the Silver King Mine at about 11.7 km. You drive up to the top of the Silver King Mine (12.4 km) and park. From the 7.3 km turn, a high clearance vehicle is needed. From the parked vehicles you walk further along the road, keeping to the right and losing a little elevation initially before climbing. The trail starts about 0.5 km along the road near the high point of the road. The work party busily attached the flagged bush with loppers and saws and after about 5 hours had reached the first high point on the ridge round to Toad Mountain. At the point, there were the first signs of rain and we decided to return and improve the trail on the way back. Most of the walk around from the end of the trail should not require much significant bushwhacking. Although the developed trail is fairly well marked with orange flagging and a few cairns, you must pay attention to stay on it because of rocky outcrops and some twists in the trail. The more people that use the trail, then the better it will become established so I encourage members to use it.

We were Della Fenkner, Chris Lalonde, Bobbie & Nick Maras, Sandra McGuinness, Sue Port, Bess Schuurman and Ted Ibrahim.

### **MT. Vingolf (2560 m. 8400') Sept. 6**

Seven of us met at the junction of Highway 6 and Bonanza Rd at 8:30 on a cloudy Labour Day morning for a hastily rescheduled Mt Vingolf hike (the original Aug 22 was postponed due to rain). The road was in excellent condition so we were hiking by 9:18 (approximately). We made good time on the trail to Shannon Lake although the huckleberries did slow us down a bit. We made it to upper Shannon Lake by 11:00 where one in our group decided to do his own hike (slower and lower elevation).

We took the easier route up Vingolf, which involves going east from the upper lake through some steep trees and then walking across some flat meadows to the cliff band protecting the north ridge of the mountain. There is a well-positioned gully providing a route up to the ridge and then a very nice ridge walk to the top. We arrived about 12:40 (3.5 hrs from the parking lot) and discovered we were the first group on the summit this year.

After lunch Peter and I decided to take the West ridge down while the rest of the group returned on the ascent route. The west ridge (basically the right skyline when viewing from Shannon Lake) is a bit more exposed and involves some route finding so if you are trying it the first time it is easier to do going up from the col above upper Shannon Lake.

We regrouped at the upper lake and had an uneventful walk out. Although cloudy, we didn't experience a drop of rain. There was a bit of snow on the rocks above 7500'.

Thanks to David Cunningham, Chris Lalonde, Guy Lupien, David Mitchell, Peter Roulston, and Mary Woodward, for a very enjoyable day.

Bill Sones.

## Other (Non Club) Trip Reports

These non-club (other) trip reports are from KMC members. The destinations and dates are not scheduled by the club.

### **Mt. Nott To Mt. Dag Traverse (maps Passmore 82F/12 & Burton 82F/13; all peaks on Burton sheet)**

These peaks line the southern edge of Valhalla Provincial Park and overlook Mulvey Basin west of Slocan Lake in BC's West Kootenay. The traverse, which involves four peaks, some minor roped climbing, and one committing rappel, is not hard but is time consuming. Never having done it and blessed with two keener novice twenty-somethings to carry rope and gear, I thought this might be worth trying as a daytrip from Nelson.

On Tuesday, July 13th, we, Sacha Kalabis, Kyle Ridge, and Kim Kratky (an Old Goat), leave Nelson at a late 5:30 am and drive north up the Slocan Valley under gathering cloud. We then motor 12.3 km. up Bannock Burn FSR to the Mt. Gimli trail parking lot (1700 m, 5577' 535-094). An older road leads off NE to our trailhead, but Sacha doesn't want to drive his new Dodge pickup through the alder.

We set out at 7:45 am, youngsters carrying rope and hardware of course, and after 40 min. reach road's end and the flagged beginning of our trail (539-098, 1887 m). In about two hours we reach a rocky alpine ridge extending south from the Wolf's Ears (about 546-115); before us is Robertson Basin with our ridge traverse as a backdrop. We descend on snow a few hundred feet and easily plod up the first peak, Mt. Nott (2611 m., 8566', GR 551-127), by 11:10 (3 hrs. 25 min. up). An easy walk down Nott's east ridge gets us to the Nott-Batwing col, where we don harnesses and rock shoes under increasingly threatening skies. Two shortish leads on class 4 slanting ramps of excellent gneiss on the north face get us to the gentle upper west ridge of Batwing, as the acolytes get to do a lead and practice placing protection and setting up stations. Then, we plod to the 2643 m. (8671') summit by 1:55 (557-126; 6 hrs. 10 min. up). Here, we hold a consultation as beyond lies a committing rappel; since the weather looks indifferently stable and we have completed the hardest climbing, we decide to go for it.

Next, we descend steep exposed ledges of Batwing's east ridge to an overhanging brow above the Batwing-Little Dag col. A 10 m. rap gets us onto a slanting snow tongue about 20 m. below the actual col and on the south side. We then use the rope for the last time for a 5 m. diagonal ledge to access Little Dag's southwest slopes. Scrambling up into an amphitheatre on grass, rubble and rock ramps, we bend right to gain the south ridge and follow it easily to the summit of Little Dag (560-125) by 4:05 (8 hrs. 20 min. up; GPSed at 2723 m. or 8934').

After 5 min. on top, we descend the south ridge, easily gain the Little Dag-Dag col, and make a rising traverse right or east on easy, broken rock. As we near Dag's summit, we pause briefly to let a storm spewing thunder and lightning pass over to the north. Then it's on past a nesting ptarmigan to reach the cairned summit of Dag (2744 m.; 9003') at 4:50 pm (9 hrs. 05 min. up).

Things are looking good as I write our names and route in the summit record tube. The lads have a look over the 4000' north face, first climbed by Spokane's John Roskelly and Roy Kligfield in 1971 ("Suite Judy Blue Eyes Buttress") and only repeated, with variations, some three times. Merely

two worries remain: getting off the south ridge of Dag, which hasn't looked trivial from below; and reaching the truck before dark, say by 9:30.

Below the Dag-Little Dag col, we can walk down the broad gentle south ridge, following cairns to what we hope will be an exit spot. The only other time I climbed Dag was on Oct. 15, 1977, and my meagre records from those days say only that we had surprising trouble getting off it. Still, we find a huge cairn above a worn-looking 8' chimney ("Kinda sketchy lookin'," observe my colleagues), descend the chimney, work our way down boulders and slabs, and reach the grass of Robertson Basin. All right! Things are lookin' even better. We hike to the basin's middle, stop by a creek as the sun goes down, have a quick bite, and re-fill water bottles. It is 6:35.

Crossing the basin and climbing 300-400' of snow, we reach the ridge we crossed 9 hours ago. Then it's simply a matter of wending our way down a rocky slope and across grassy meadows to pick up the upper end of our access trail. A burst of energy surges through my fatigued body, and without further event we reach the truck at 8:55 pm (3 hrs. 50 min. from Dag's summit) to round off a tidy 13 hour 10 min. day. Kyle and Sacha exult, "Best trip of our lives."

I wedge myself sideways into the cramped back seat of Sacha's crew cab for the ride home. Buoyed by jalapeno cheddar Doritos and Classic Rock 101 from Vancouver, we reach Nelson by 11:00. Best trip of the year so far.

Kim Kratky

### **Mt. Loki (2771 m. 9090') July 19-20**

This wasn't a KMC trip. Many people have an interest in this mountain so I decided to write a brief report.

Our party was made up of Gene Van Dyck, Mary Woodward and myself, Vicki Hart.

This was a 2 day trip, so with overnight gear we began a long, arduous bushwhack at 8:00 am. The access road is north of Riondel and we followed it to the end and parked.

After 2 hours of steep terrain we finally gained the west ridge. Ascending the ridge required much scrambling up and down and it was quite brushy and had many windfalls.

We arrived at our campsite at 5:30, elevation 7400 ft. Our only water source was a patch of snow. The evening was sunny, warm with great views of Loki.

Day 2 the weather deteriorated. We awoke to thunder, lightning and rain. Eventually the storm passed and the weather seemed non-threatening. Gene and I took this opportunity to climb Loki and made the summit at 9:00 am.

After years of talking about this mountain, we finally made the trip. Probably will be the last time I will ever take this route!!

The ascent and descent took approximately 3 hours. The hike down to the vehicle took us 6 hours.

### **Mt Loki Access**

There is a new access to Mt Loki, which we discovered on the Labour Day weekend in our attempt to climb Mt Loki. Mt Loki could be climbed in one long day from the trailhead using this access or more practically in 1-1/2 days by camping out. There is no water on this route, so plan accordingly.

Here are the details:

- Drive north of Riondel
- 0 your odometer at the Powder Creek FSR Sign
- @ 6.1 km, turn right onto the Portman Creek FSR
- @ 10.9 km, take the left fork
- @ 11.9 km, take the right fork

- @ 13.5 km, end of road at 1400 m (4300'). About 45 minutes from the ferry.

At the very end of the road, follow a blue ribboned cut trail. This trail goes straight up for about 1.5 km where it ends at an old fire. From here, the flagged route continues straight up through rhododendron & huckleberry bush for another .5 km or so. The flagging ends on a ridge at about 2160 m (UTM 146 x 225). The trail is about 2 km long x 800 meters vertical, which equals steep. From the road end to the ridge is about 2 - 2.5 hours of travel time.

From here, follow the ridge (staying on the west side), gradually gaining elevation, then losing elevation once past the high point. Past, and a bit below the high point, regain the ridge and stay on the ridge, descending about 150 m to a well used campsite at about 2160 m (UTM 158 x 212). This campsite is only level spot around, it takes about 1.5 hours of travel time from the end of the ribbon trail to here.

From the campsite, follow the trail down to the pass and along the ridge leading to Loki. We made it to about 2450 m where we turned back due to icy rock from the freezing rain the night before. From where we turned back, 300 m below the summit, we were at the truck in 5 hours. Take some ibuprofen for your knees, the trail is steep.

NTS map 82F/15; the road is 2WD, high clearance.

Emilee Fanjoy, Fred Thiessen

### **Nisleheim Peak (2639 m., 8658'; map Burton 82F/13), Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**

The goal was to find something over 2550 m. that I had not climbed and that could be day tripped from Nelson. Dismissing the southern Purcells because of possible multi-sailing waits on the Kootenay Lake ferries on this long weekend holiday, I thought again of Valhalla Provincial Park. Nisleheim, overlooked because it is tucked between the impressive Midgard and Gimli, presents as a shapely wedge of Gneiss overlooking the Mulvey Lakes. Best of all, I hadn't climbed it. Kyle Ridge, Jim Kienholz, and Peter Tchir agreed on a fairly early Saturday outing to beat the heat.

Leaving Nelson at 6:40, we drove up the Slovan Valley looking for one of our fave coffee bars. Regrettably, both Cowpuchino and Sleep is for Sissies were not yet open. What are these guys, sissies? Chastened, we drove on, repeating most of the road access for the Nott-Dag traverse we had done on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

At 8:40 we were ready to hike from the Mt. Gimli trailhead, carrying very light packs as I figured we could scramble Nisleheim from some angle. Peter set a furious pace into the alpine, past the bivvy site for routes on Gimli's SSE ridge, and on to the Nisleheim-Gimli col (GR 533-128, 8250'). Here, we stopped to assess access: Nisleheim looked demanding from the south and east, so our plan was to traverse it on the north, then ascend the NW ridge (route of the first ascent). From the col, we descended a well-worn ramp on the north side that diagonaled west and down on excellent rock to give access to snow (this is the usual access to Mulvey meadows for climbs on Asgard and Gladsheim). However, the snow had already melted out to hard ice, something that usually doesn't happen till much later in the season. I decided we could bypass this by keeping to the moat between the shear rock of Nisleheim's north face and the upper lip of the ice. This worked quite well as we were able to traverse west to snow and onward to the NW ridge. The ridge itself yielded several hundred feet of occasionally strenuous class 3 on superb gneiss. Summiting at 11:30 (2 hours 50 min. up), we

inspected the substantial cairn and found no record, then lay about for an hour, picking out Valhalla, Valkyr, and Devil's Range peaks we had climbed. Visibility was mediocre because of smoke, but the temperatures were surprisingly mild. There was some talk of continuing on to Midgard, which two of us had climbed, but indolence reigned.

At 12:30, we headed down, retracing our ascent route, and finding one rappel sling on the lower part of our ridge. Back at the bivvy site, we stopped for a chat with Park Ranger Brian Ferguson and a look at a party of two slowly negotiating the SSE ridge. By 3:20 we were back at the truck for a fast but not-too-debilitating 6 hour 40 min. day.

Oh yeah, by late afternoon we did get a chance to savour the chocolate espresso milkshake at Sleep is for Sissies. They even have hemp ice cream (it is the West Kootenay, you know).

Kim Kratky

### **In Search of Mt. Baldr (map Kaslo 82F/15)**

No, that's just wrong. I know exactly where Baldr is; I just can't get to it, and the outing of Sunday, **August 9<sup>th</sup>**, was to prove no exception.

This **2799 m (9183')** peak, part of the Purcells' Leaning Tower Group, is located 5.5 km. NE of the coveted Mt. Loki. Baldr was first climbed by a Kootenay Mountaineering Club party in July 1972 (Knut Langballe, Sue Port, Sandy McElroy, and Peter Wood) and has seen few ascents since. On September 30, 1998, I tried day tripping it as a solo venture from Nelson and reached Mt. Hodr (225-238, not a gazzetted name), 1/2 km. to its NW before the thought of a return in the dark turned me back.

This time, I was able to round up another partner in foolhardiness, Sacha Kalabis (well, no, he didn't know what he was getting into), and we left Nelson at 5:45 to catch the first Balfour ferry at 6:30 am. After a 45 min. drive north along the logging road north of Riindel, we turned right near the km. 13 sign and headed up the deactivated Powder Creek FSR. The usual story: 70 min. to drive 11.8 km. to road's end at GR 209-279, 5403'. By now, it was 9:15, and I was reminding myself that we should have car camped. I rationalized this decision by remembering the weather wasn't very good the day before. Off we raced with very light packs, following the good trail to the aptly-named Mosquito Lake in 25 min. The trail continues up the north side of the drainage to Tamarack Lodge, the fly-in commercial ski touring hut. As our goal was to the southeast, we removed boots and forded Mosquito Lake at a low spot, re-booted, and thrashed through the extremely annoying sub-alpine landscape south of the lake—folded ridges studded with alder and blow-down interlaced like pick-up sticks. I have made three trips through this (tells you something about my judgement or sanity) and still haven't found any decent access to the south-side peaks.

Once through this rubbish, we headed up steep alder slopes (again! It was either that or nasty, slidey scree gullies) below u/n 2709 m. Higher up, we ascended moraine, polished slabs of quartzite, and snow to gain the ridge west of u/n 2709. At this point we could see Baldr, some kilometers away and wreathed in cloud beyond the twin horns of Mt. Hodr. An incredulous look crossed Sacha's face as he asked, "That's where you want to go?" Although Baldr is technically easy, the obstacles are getting off the SE side of u/n 2709 and crossing what looked on the map like a barrier ridge on the west side of Hodr. We first tried a descending traverse along 2709's south face, but were stymied by cliff bands. This led to a re-ascent to the 2709-Hodr



ridge and descent into a grotty notch west of Hodr which I had passed through in '98 (220-244). Keeping that west ridge of Hodr in mind, we traversed and descended south, hoping to turn the barrier at about 7700'. When we reached this ridge easily from the north, we found a multi-hundred foot cliff band on the south side extending almost down to the spectacular rectangular lake at 7000' located 1 km. west of Baldr (GR 205-230).

By now, it was 2:25 and we had been going 6 hrs. 10 min. Calculating that we might descend this band, that we could reach Baldr in an hour and a half, that the return would involve lots of up and down, and that it would be dark by 8:45, I counseled retreat. Faced with Sacha's disappointment ("I don't like being turned back"), I suggested we scramble Hodr's west ridge. This turned out to be composed of very solid granite blocks, a walkoff on the north and very exposed on the south. Reaching the cairned summit at 3:30 (6 ¼ hrs. up), I felt totally whipped. During our 30 min. stay, I put in a KMC summit tube with details of the first ascent and the two subsequent ones and tried to force down some lunch which tasted like cotton wool. With Sacha leading the way, we began our return by descending the northwest ridge, passing over the definitely-lower northwest summit and several lesser eminences before descending a chaucy (read "rotten, loose, and dusty") gully to the left of the notch we had passed through earlier. Then we continued along the southeast ridge of u/n 2709 to its summit (GPSed elevation) by 5:05, stopping only briefly before descending snow and rock of the north face to pick up the snow of our upper ascent route. We went down a bit to the west of our up route and staggered through the nasty bush once again. Here, Sacha took a header in the alder and earned a nice battle scare on his shin. When we finally reached the trail, I counseled Sacha that we should now really boot it. Since the summit of u/n 2709, I had been thinking that we would have to hurry to make the last ferry at 10:20. By 8:25, we reached the truck (11 hour day; 3 ¼ hour descent from Hodr), and at 10:10 we glided into the ferry parking lot. Perfect timing. A satisfying but frustrating trip since Baldr had eluded me once again. Kim Kratky

### **Craig Peak (2443 m, 8015' map Boswell 82F/7)**

Craig Pk., 3.5 km. south of Haystack Mtn., is one of a series of minor-league protruberances along the east and south side of Sanca Creek on Kootenay Lake's East Shore south of Crawford Bay. On Sat., **August 14<sup>th</sup>**, Janice Isaac, Kyle Ridge, and I scaled this massive brute, an outing that we cannot really recommend. After crossing on the 6:30 ferry, we headed south on Highway 3 and gained the Sanca Creek FSR, which we followed to its end (2WD) in the parking lot at km. 15.5.

Starting at 8:45, we headed straight up and east through a nasty cutblock and into light timber that was not much better. After 55 min. of bushwhacking, we emerged at the base of a rockslide north of Jackson Pk. (327-753). A traverse left and easier terrain got us to a picturesque sub-alpine lake at 6450' (331-751). Heading east, we crossed the outlet stream, descended to an unmarked pond, and ascended a rock and grass couloir on Craig's west face. Now on the south ridge, we sprinted to the cairned summit (no record) in 10-15 min. (3 hrs. 10 min. up). During our hour on top, we huddled under rock overhangs to escape the fierce heat and admired lakes in nearby Kianuko Provincial Park (one of those places you've never heard of).

For descent, we inspected the west ridge but decided instead to re-trace our steps. This we did to the rockslide; from that point we took a diagonal to the northwest, hoping for better bushwhacking. After what I call a moderate thrash, we emerged

in the cutblock some 200 m. north or right of the truck, and if anything this portion was even worse on descent. I deftly kept some 40 m. ahead of Janice and Kyle so that her gasps and curses as she fell into yet another concealed trap were scarcely audible. Back at the truck by 3:15 (2 hr. 25 min. descent; 6 hr. 45 min. day), I mollified my spouse by switching on the air conditioner and motoring smoothly to catch the 5:20. Despite the blast furnace heat, Kyle and I were up for a cappuccino at the 24/7 bakery in Balfour before returning to Nelson by 7:00 pm.

Howie Ridge and Peter McIver climbed Craig by its west ridge (north ridge descent) some years ago and remember only moderate bushwhacking. That may be, but I'll wait a bit before tackling Craig's southern neighbour Jackson Pk.

Kim Kratky

### **Devils Range, August 2004**

Isolation. That one word describes Coven Lakes and the Devils Range. The only human signs were three fire pits at Cauldron Lake, four cairns (all at least 2 kms apart), one blue ribbon, and a few year old footprints on the side of Devils Couch. Evidence of game was also scarce with little scat and minimal trails.

I have long thought of backpacking here and this was Barb's first trip. After second hiking camp, we took two days off, drove to the Drinnon parking lot and slept in the back of my truck. Packs were heavy with eight summit registers, tripod, large SLR camera, film, filters, and enough food for six days. We had a lot more food and clothing than we needed.

I used the only available route description written by Peter Jordan and Fred Thiessen from their 1995 trip. I will give their instructions in italics and make my comments after each. The GPS was not useful, as it seemed to read 100-200 yards NW of our actual position. When sitting under a cliff, elevation errors were often over 800 feet. I was using a map with the supposed route marked, GPS, and slides (with a slide viewer) taken from Drinnon Peak and Asgard.

*"To get to Coven Lakes, follow the Gwillim Lakes trail through Drinnon Pass and descend to the small tarn named Warlock Lake. Leave the trail here and bushwhack NNE for about 200 m and descend the talus slope to Gwillim Creek. Cross the creek and ascend in a NE direction to gain the 7000' contour about 200 m south of Cauldron Lake."* There are good game trails that leave just before the outlet creek of Warlock Lake and after the creek that drains the east face of Gregario that take you to Gwillim Creek without bushwhacking. The upper game trail gives quick access to the boulder field above the tree line. However the benefits of staying high may be few as there is still bush to go through. About 400m south of the waterfall coming from Cauldron, cross the creek in a wet meadow and ascend through light bush to a point about 200m SE of the cliff of Cauldron at about 6800'.

*"Trend ENE to the immediate horizon gaining 300 to 400' on the boulder field and steep grass putting you above the cliffs. Then more or less maintain this elevation for about 500m, gaining 150' right at the end, keeping you above the cliffs."* Go ENE to the immediate horizon gaining about 200', then contour around maintaining that elevation to a boulder field where we put up a few cairns. Descend slightly across the boulder field to below the large cliff. Ascend about 50' at the end to stay above the treed broken cliffs and reach a treed ridge.

*"Then a grassy slope leads down to 7100' into a basin just south of the SW peak of Chariot Peak."* Follow the ridge that curves north and then grassy slopes to the boulder field at 7100' below the SW peak of Chariot.

*“Contour around and then ascend to 7400’ south of Chariot Peak. Continue going up if Chariot is your destination. We contoured at 7400’ until south of Banshee Peak.”* Continue above the boulders gaining elevation, cross a small creek and small cliffs to gain a broad grassy ledge that ends at a small creek and a boulder field below the high cliff that runs south from Banshee. Neither Chariot nor Banshee are visible from the route.

*“From here, gain elevation to cross the ridge south of Banshee at around 7800’ (more cliffs below). Once at the ridge, Coven Lakes are below in a NE direction. Peter and Fred contoured around following a goat trail that led them to Coven Lakes. This route was quite exposed and would be hazardous in wet weather or snowy conditions.”* We contoured around the boulder field to the ridge that ascends NE then E to the 7800’ level between cliffs to the ridge above and SW of Coven Lakes. When we returned, we tried to find their goat trail that went below the cliffs. After being cliffed out three times and wasting two strenuous hours, we finally ascended to the previous 7800’ ridge. Their route must be much lower or they were rock climbing.

The four lakes that comprise Coven Lakes are surrounded by granite cliffs that have the appearance of a volcanic caldera. There are many camp sites with no human sign. We stayed in the strip between the two large lakes. This is the best location for great photos of the Mulvey Group reflected in the clear waters of the largest lake. It was spectacular at sunset with wonderful alpine glow. Mosquitos and horseflies were irritating. The upper lake is quite murky as is the small tarn just above it. There is dark fine glacial mud up above and I think this is the source of the cloudiness.

After a late start, we climbed Devils Couch, the second highest mountain in the Devils Range. My camera died on the way up so I have no pictures from here on. We ascended the gully on the south face, mistakenly went up the east summit and then did the easy scramble to the west summit where we replaced the old register put up in 1974. The old tube was in surprisingly good shape but had 2 lightning burns and chew marks. I put the old notes in the new tube. They made very interesting reading. We were the 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> people on top. Some entries were: First ascent September, 1967: Bob Dean, Frank Nixon and his dog up Gwillim Creek. July, 1971: Mark Maddox, Vicki Eggerton, Greg Peake, Chuck Reed, canoed Slocan Lake, and bushwhacked up Gwillim Creek. On the return canoe trip, Greg and Chuck drowned in a canoe accident. August, 1974: KMC group at Coven Lakes, six climbed it. September, 1984 – two BC Parks employees, David Smith and Dennis Herman climbed it from Beatrice and Evans Creek. (Now there’s a hike!) August, 2001 – Bert and Sue Port climb it on Sue’s 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Devils Spire is passed on the way to Devils Couch. It is a rock climb and is rated 5.3 up the middle of the NE face. I doubt if it has a register.

On our 4<sup>th</sup> day, we set out to climb Satan Peak, Mount Diablo, and Banshee Peak. We went up the more easterly of the two gullies leading to the upper plateau. I climbed the E ridge of Satan Peak while Barb read a book. Rated an easy scramble in Columbia Mountains: West and South, it was described as a 3<sup>rd</sup> class scramble by Fred and Peter but they roped up for about 10 m of the climb! Their repel sling is still there. It seemed to me to be at least class 4. The summit register was present but the end cap was gone and so was the paper inside. I put up a new tube. It would be nice if someone could write out the known ascents and add them to the book. I descended the same route and we took 10 minutes to traverse over to Banshee and Diablo. We scrambled up to the col and both of us climbed Diablo by the

west ridge. There was no evidence of any summit tube. Barb stayed at the col while I climbed Banshee by the east ridge. It was only 15 minutes between peaks. The summit tube was there but the end cap was off and the paper was gone. There was a lot of rodent droppings on the top of the cairn, so I assume that the register is part of a pack rats nest. These were the three easiest registers that I will ever put up again. After descending, we traversed over to the edge of the cliff looking west towards Chariot. A rope would be needed to descend. We descended to Coven Lakes down the most westerly of the two gullies, packed up camp and started our return trip home. Failing to find the goat trail that leads below the cliffs, we were very tired by the time we set up camp by the small stream below the south ridge of Banshee. I was too tired to eat supper.

On day 5, we needed to decide if we were going back to the parking lot or ascending under the cliff of Chariot to the 8200 foot level below the SW peak of Chariot. We would then traverse in front of Devils Dome to camp in the basin south of Mephistopheles at about 7500’. After climbing and leaving new summit tubes on Mephistopheles, Rosemarys Baby, and Trident, we would traverse below Trident and Lucifer to descend into Gwillim Basin and the trail home. We were both tired and I wanted to find a better route than the one we had taken on the way in so we decided on home.

Nowhere else in the world would a place like this not have a trail and many visitors. This may be one of the many charms of living in the West Kootenay – complete isolation with spectacular beauty in our own backyard.

Barb Stang and Ron Perrier.

## **Burnham, Bees, and Bush – Redemption on Mt. Burnham**

After turning around short of the summit on Mt. Grady at last year’s KMC Climbing Camp, I felt badly in need of redemption on this fine Highway Peak. Unfortunately, without resorting to air support, Mt. Grady is frightfully difficult to access (can you say “Gold Range Bush”?). Mt. Grady is the western half of the double-summitted massif of Mounts Burnham and Grady formerly known as Halcyon Peak, so I looked to Burnham for my atonement.

On **August 15<sup>th</sup>**, Sandra, Kumo and I left Nelson planning to set-up an advanced base camp near tree line below Burnham’s East Ridge. A new dam and hydroelectric project on Pingston Creek has significantly changed road access in the area, but by noon we had negotiated the maze of logging roads across the lake from Nakusp, shouldered our packs, and started hiking.

I’m sure those who have experience with this sort of thing will shake their heads at our bushwhacking from 3600’ with full overnight mountaineering packs in the dreaded Gold Range bush. And with good reason. The bush of Gold Range is populated with all manner of genetic mutants – we enjoyed head-high devil’s club, rhododendron, raspberry, alder, and various other forms of man-eating vegetation. Of some consolation was the 5-foot tall blueberry bushes with ripe berries the size of grapes. Whining aside, we reached our camping spot after 5 hours.

The next morning we were off by 6:00. The first 2000 vertical feet were easy travel on meadow and low angle slabs; 9:15 saw us arriving at the base of the technical climbing.

The route was obvious: straight up the steep and imposing East Ridge. The ridge is composed of two steep steps separated by flat section; the rock was very high quality and the climbing was exceptional. The exposure and the views were tremendous: the

route towers over the Upper Arrow Lake , and affords splendid views into the heart of the Gold Range . We climbed the first step via: 30 m of class 4, 30 m of easy class 3 scrambling, 60 m up to low fifth (5.2-5.3), and 30 m up to 5.3. Some class 3 scrambling took us to the even steeper second step , which we climbed via: 40 m up to 5.3, 25 m up to 5.3, and 25m up to 5.4 – a bit of an off-width awkward chimney at the end was the crux. Easy class 3 terrain took us to the summit and much rejoicing. I was surprised to see not only a summit register, but also quite a few entries – since 1988, the peak had been climbed on average about once every 2 years. After lounging in the warm sun on the summit for an hour we headed home retracing our steps by down-climbing what we could and rappelling the rest (four raps, only one of which was a full 30m).

The next morning we managed to thrash our way down through the bush in only 3 hours. Overall it was an exceptional climb, one of my very best in the Kootenays, which would be a frequently climbed Kootenay classic if it weren't for the painful approach.

For the full story with pictures (and find out about the bees) visit <http://members.shaw.ca/toquehead/burnham/burnham.html>

**Jumbo Pass - Diana Lake, The Judge (2737 m.),** Hamish Mutch and I were planning to do some climbing around the Jumbo/Toby Creek in the **second week of September.**

The weather gods changed our plans. When we got there, there was snow down to about 8000 feet level and during our first night a rather spectacular thunderstorm deposited what seemed to be generous amounts of snow to about 7000 foot level. So we went for a slightly wet hike to Jumbo Pass. The trail from the east side felt much steeper than the one from Glacier Creek side, but it is more scenic. There is a possibility to make a car swap traverse from West to East, possible KMC trip?

Parenthetically, as we were driving and hiking we just could not stop admiring Mr. Obertis' sheer chutzpah, and/or blatant lies re the feasibility of the Jumbo Glacier Ski resort and the access road.

As the weather did not seem to be auspicious, we crossed the continental trench hoping for drier conditions on the Rocky Mtns. Side. Dry they were not, but we managed to have a rather nice day, albeit through quite wet trail/underbrush in the morning, hiking to the Diana Lake [north of Radium] and then on to The Judge: a glorious ridge traverse to a peak above the Diana Lake basin. This is well described in the guide to hikes in Invermere area, except for road directions; one should follow the obvious main road [i.e. km signs] to its end.

The area may even have potential for KMC hiking camps; certainly it is well worth an overnight trip, especially if one was to combine this with other hikes in the Invermere guidebook.

Steven Horvath

## Bonnington Cabin Survey

A request for feedback on the use of the KMC cabins in the Bonnington range was issued in the 2004 March-April edition of the KMC Newsletter, so that we could determine whether the club should renew its agreement with the Ministry of Forests to maintain them. This request only drew responses from 6 members (3 couples). I then repeated the request on the KMC e-mail update system and received many more responses. The following is a summary of the uses of the cabins since December 2000:

Overnight Users: Huckleberry - 10, Copper - 9, Steed - 6, Grassy - 6

Day Users: Huckleberry - 7, Copper - 8, Steed - 7, Grassy - 11

There were some comments from these users, some positive about maintaining the cabins and expressing willingness to help but others said that use of the area and the cabins by snowmobilers and by Snowwater Lodge for heliskiing and snowcat skiing has discouraged them from using the cabins.

Since the survey, Sandra McGuinness (who has agreed to take responsibility for cabins) has been in contact with the Ministry of Forests. They have expressed interest in taking on more responsibility for maintenance and we will have a new agreement that can be terminated by either party at any time. Two work parties have also been conducted, one to the Grassy Hut and one to the Steed Hut. Both huts are in good shape, have had minor maintenance done and have been stocked with firewood for the coming season. The next work party is scheduled for the Copper Mt hut on September 15<sup>th</sup> and we will be working with the MOF who have tools, chainsaws, skilled labour and an ATV to transport our equipment.

Ted Ibrahim

**The "Jumbo Decision" date has been postponed to 18th October.** Evidently 'they' are not finding the decision easy. How about writing letters to those concerned asking for a REFERENDUM in the local area !!!!! Please write letters to the addresses below, the local papers as well.  
Only a few days left. Follow this link to get active links; <http://www.jumbowild.com/takeaction.html>

George Abbott  
Minister of Sustainable Resource Management  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria B.C.  
V8V 1X4  
[george.abbott.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:george.abbott.mla@leg.bc.ca)

John Les  
Minister of Small Business and Economic Development  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria B.C.  
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[john.les.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:john.les.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Bill Barisoff  
Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection  
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Premier Gordon Campbell  
Parliament Buildings  
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### **KMC 2004 Executive:**

Chair	Steven Miros
Vice	Paul Allen
Treasurer	Elaine Martin
Secretary	Ross Bates
Conservation	Kim Kratky
Summer Trips	Don Harasym
Cabins & Trails	Ted Ibrahim
Winter Trips	Dave Mitchell
Hiking Camps	Ron Cameron
Climbing Camp	Doug Brown
Social	Jan Mickelthwaite & Jill Watson
Website	Doug Brown
Mtn. School	vacant

### **Contacts:**

|| **Membership Annual Dues** || Individual (19 yrs & up) \$20 Couple/Family \$25 Junior \$10  
Send complete membership/waiver form to: KMC Membership Box 365 Robson BC V0G 1X0  
To receive information by e-mail or to give us your address/email/phone changes please contact  
[esmiros@netidea.com](mailto:esmiros@netidea.com) or [membership@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca](mailto:membership@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca)

|| **Library** || Sandra McGuinness

|| **Email trips/ messages update** || Contact [members-owner@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca](mailto:members-owner@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca)

|| **KMC President** || [president@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca](mailto:president@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca)

|| **KMC address (For business correspondence)** || Box 3195 Castlegar BC V1N 3H5

|| **KMC website** || [www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca](http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca)

|| **Newsletter submissions** || Eliane Miros [newsletter@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca](mailto:newsletter@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca)

|| **Newsletter Editorial Policy** || We encourage all submissions of writings, cartoons, drawings, book & website reviews and trip reports. Suitability for publication is at editors' discretion. Articles

and advertisements may be edited for clarity and length. Advertising must be thought to be of interest to members in regard to the outdoors, especially locally. Discretion will be used for commercial endeavors.

**Elections will be occurring at the AGM** There are several persons wishing to take a break from their executive positions, in particular **Treasurer**, **Summer Trips Chairman**, and the **Membership registration services**. We also require a **Vice-Chair**. Please consider becoming more involved in the club and putting your name forward for one of those duties. Descriptions of the duties are in the Constitution.... available on the website. Have a read!! If you have any questions call the appropriate person. There are many around to help you get going. Looking forward to welcoming some new members to take an active part in the Executive!!

### Membership Update

**New Resident members:** Dave & Abby Dever, Nancy Ferguson & Tim Leroy, Barb & Larry Hanlon, Liz, Terry & Emily Huxter, Cezary Ksiazek, Michael Kunashko, John Livingston, Kathy Moore/Dave Cornelius, Andre Piver & family, Julia Roberts, Cindy Shlakoff, Trudy Skands, Tom & Wendy Spence, Peter & Iris Steffler, Cindy Walker, Paul/Lucille Whalen

**New Associate member:** Regula Vickery

The **WINTER TRIPS & SNOWSHOEING SCHEDULES** will be started in the next newsletter. Please start looking at your calendars for dates on which you may be able to coordinate an outing. For skiing trips, contact David Mitchell  
For snowshoe trips, contact Don Harasym

From the Mennonite Community Cookbook, 1950,  
comes Mrs. Roy E. Blosser's recipe for Elderberry Pie:



### Elderberry Pie

2 ½ cups elderberries  
¾ cup sugar  
2 tablespoons flour  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
3 tablespoons lemon juice  
Pastry for 2 (9 inch) crusts

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Line a pie pan with pastry.  
Stem and wash elderberries and fill pie shell.  
Mix sugar, salt and flour and sprinkle over berries.  
Cover with top crust and fasten edges securely.  
Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes, reduce temperature to 350 degrees and bake 30 minutes longer.  
Makes 1 (9 inch) pie.