



Kootenay Mountaineer

The KMC Newsletter SEPT/ OCT 2005 Issue 5 Next deadline: Nov.20

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KMC Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.



Date: **Friday, November 18th**

Location Carlito's Grill, in the Banquet room at **Travel Lodge**, in Castlegar (Formerly the Fireside Motel, next to the Shell Station), 1810 8th Ave. There is ample parking around the back of the building.

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

Cost of the meal is **\$16.50** per person and includes coffee or tea, tax & tip.

Buffet will include salads, roast beef, vegetarian lasagna, chicken, mashed potatoes, rice, vegetables, pastries, fresh fruit platter.

Please call before Wednesday, November 9th so we can confirm attendance numbers to the Chef.

Contact esmiros@netidea.com or Steven/Eliane Miros at 365 5707

KMC T-shirts will be available for purchase as well as KMC logo sew-on crests/badges.

North America's Unique Mountaineering Context

When we compare mountaineering legacies among the continents, Europe carries the banner of alpinism's birthplace and core arena, Asia is the realm of ultimate peaks almost beyond the mountaineering concept, and South America, Africa and Antarctica have their diverse and exotic great ranges. In North America, mountaineering came of age bearing aspects of all these elements, but what's unique in our heritage is the context of wilderness. Mountaineering in North America started with ventures into wilderness; as we grew familiar with certain ranges we went farther afield; when wilderness seemed to be running out we acted to preserve it. In North America, mountains mean wilderness.

Mountaineering's strongest quality is to write great terrain into our souls; this is the fruit of engagement. When climbs inscribe their essays into us; wilderness adds another dimension to the text. Most of our notable ascents have been a long way from roads or easy viewpoints to scout conditions, with no fixed anchors, no huts, no rescue potential and no neighboring parties - conditions that demand a deeper commitment and broader competence than ascents in well-tracked mountains.

Accepting the logistical and emotional challenge of wilderness seems to have made us more cautious. Compared with the classic alpine legacy, North American mountaineering collected a reputation for heavier packs and lower technical standards. Sometimes, indeed, we have carried burdens for imaginary battles, but more often we have simply prepared appropriately for broader uncertainty. While we might speak of a love-hate relationship with the wilds- loving the sense of discovery while bemoaning the extra challenge- our instincts almost always have told us to keep the mountains wild. For North Americans, the desire for great climbs has mixed with a desire to discover a world apart.

From Ways To The Sky, A Historical Guide to North American Mountaineering, Andy Selters, The American Alpine Club Press, Golden, Colorado, 2004



Hiking Camp Photo Show

Date: Wednesday **October 12th**

Location: **Resker Hall on Waldie Avenue in Robson**

Members are invited to bring albums of prints, carousels of slides.

Everyone welcome.

We are attempting to locate a digital projector for CD's of digital images.

(Please contact Jennifer Smith at 368-xxxx if you have one).



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

Plans to Join the FMCBC and Buy Club Liability Insurance

Personal liability is an issue that is of increasing interest to the members of the KMC. Some members are considering quitting their volunteer activities with the Club due to liability concerns, and others have already done so. Last winter the Executive asked me to investigate this issue, and based on my findings, they voted at the September Executive meeting to join the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC in order to purchase liability insurance through them. This decision will be put to the KMC membership for a vote at our AGM in November, so please read this article carefully to understand what the Executive is proposing, and why they think this is what the club needs to do.

We are all exposed to personal liability when we volunteer. We live in a litigious society, and when someone is injured or killed, the injured person or their family will often seek financial redress in the courts. There are many recent examples in Canada where people injured skiing, climbing, or biking have sued individuals and organizations seeking compensation for their injuries. Most outdoor clubs in BC are already covered by liability insurance.

I sought the legal opinion of Harper Grey, a Vancouver law firm with a specialty in litigation, on this issue. It is their opinion, that through the Club's activities, virtually **all** club members have personal liability exposure. This applies to trip participants, trip coordinators, hiking/climbing/skiing camp coordinators and committee members, officers, and directors. Their advice is that the Club should protect its members with liability insurance.

While lawsuits and liability insurance have very negative connotations, it is important to realize that they are the mechanism our society has devised to address a wrong done to one person by another, either directly or indirectly, and either unintentionally or otherwise. Liability insurance for motor vehicles is mandatory and accepted. Insurance for our Club's mountaineering activities can be seen in the same light.

In our society, the realities of being permanently handicapped and unemployable without financial support are not pretty. Also, as lawyers say, it takes only a "moment's inattention" to cause a terrible accident. If someone were disabled in part because of a moment's inattention on your part, you would feel dreadful, and would be glad that your insurance was there to assist the injured party.

I have noticed a few common misconceptions among club members regarding personal liability:

•**"While I participate in club events, I don't coordinate trips or camps, and I am not on the Executive, so I don't have any liability exposure."**

Not true. If you dislodge a rock onto a fellow participant, don't come to the assistance of a fellow participant who is obviously over their head, or administer improper medical care after an accident, you could find yourself at the sharp end of a lawsuit.

•**"The members of the KMC are good people, they wouldn't sue me."**

While KMCers are great people, even strongly held beliefs can change in the face of a horrible reality like becoming permanently unemployable due to an accident and at the same time facing a lifetime of expensive medical treatment. Also, in the case of a severe injury or death, it is often the family of the victim who will initiate the lawsuit.

•**"This is not the US, the Canadian courts are sensible about personal liability lawsuits, so I don't need to worry about personal liability insurance."**

Wrong. Even if you are found to not be liable, it can cost up to \$150,000 to defend yourself against a serious personal liability lawsuit.

•**"I don't have much money, so I don't need to worry about personal liability insurance."**

You'd better also take vows of eternal poverty and unemployment. If you own your home, you could lose that. If you work, you could find your wages garnished.

Club trips and camps are core to the KMC; without them the club will die. To ensure that the Club can continue indefinitely with a busy trip schedule, and that the Club's volunteers and members are properly protected against litigation, the Club needs to purchase liability insurance.

I investigated two ways for the club to purchase insurance:

1. Purchase insurance directly from a broker

Due to the relatively small size of our group and the high- risk activities we participate in, I could only find only one company that was willing to insure us. They offered us a policy with \$2 million of liability coverage for the entire club for \$10,000 per year. This is equal to about \$25 per member with our current membership of 400, but the per person costs would increase should our membership decrease due to the increased fees.

2. Join the FMCBC and purchase insurance from them

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (the "Fed") is a federation of non-motorized outdoor clubs in BC. It is the only province-wide organization representing the interests of self-powered outdoor recreationalists, and works toward the "protection and preservation of the mountain and forest environments and continued access to recreation opportunities in these areas".

The KMC has previously belonged to the Fed, but our membership was not renewed as the cost was seen as too high and the Fed was seen as too Vancouver focused. The cost savings in purchasing insurance through the Fed makes the cost of Fed membership much more financially palatable (as will be explained below). Also, the Fed has changed in recent years and would very much like to expand their membership and activities to the Southern Interior. In a nutshell, times have changed as have our reasons for not being members of the Fed.

Membership in the Fed costs \$15 for each KMC membership – whether that membership is a single, family, or junior membership. The Fed has an excellent liability insurance policy, with individual coverage of up to \$5 million, that costs only \$6 per person. Compared to purchasing insurance directly, insurance through the Fed, is better, cheaper, and comes with the bonus of supporting the Fed, an advocacy organization working on our behalf.

KMC membership fees would have to increase to cover the cost of Fed membership and insurance as follows:

Membership Category	Old/ Present Fee	New/ Proposed Fee
Single	\$20	\$41
Family	\$25	\$40 plus \$6/person
Junior	\$10	\$31

While these are very large percentage increases, members are still getting tremendous value for less than the cost of a tank of gas.

I'd like to thank Kay Medland and Martin Carver for assisting in the writing of this notice.
Doug Brown.

Cycling The Pacific Ring Of Fire

A PAN-CANADIAN LECTURES SERIES, PRESENTED BY THE SACRED RIDE AND VALHALLA PURE OUTFITTERS

"Volcano-hopping" by mountain bike around the globe's largest ocean was an expedition of epic proportions undertaken by Canadian adventurers **Janick Lemieux** and **Pierre Bouchard**. This presentation is a multimedia documentary of the adventures they've endured during those 18 months spent in the saddle between Santiago and Jakarta... completing a "mostly" pedalled crossing of the South Pacific via hundreds of volcanoes scattered throughout archipelagos of Polynesia, Melanesia and Indonesia. Over 1,000 stunning images portray their fabulous journey as the adventurers provide witty and insightful commentary and observations, intertwined with melodies and rhythms of Montreal composer Martin Tremblay. This highly volatile, explosive and "subversive" cocktail of culture, nature and adventure will enthrall you.

Come and meet them as they share their tales and discoveries gathered during the second stage of this ambitious "*cyclo-volcanic*" quest: 11,000 kilometres astride their mounts from Patagonia to Indonesia via the South Seas' fabled isles of paradise and fire!

As part of Pedal Magazine's "*Cycling the Pacific Ring of Fire part 2: a mariner's journey!*", the two globetrotters on wheels will stop over in **Nelson** to present their inspirational and captivating expedition account at the **Capitol Theatre** (421 Victoria Street) on **Tuesday October 25, 2005 at 19:30**. Admission: \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Tickets available at The Sacred Ride, Valhalla Pure Outfitters and Capitol Theatre. Info and reservations: (250) 352-6363. www.capitoltheatre.bc.ca

KMC DRAW: The KMC has been given two sets of 2 tickets for a draw. The 15th and 28th email responses, mailed on or after Wednesday, October 12 to president @kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca will win. Only one sent-in email per family will be counted. On the email subject line, type "Ring of Fire Draw" to be entered in the draw. Good luck to all!

Come out for an evening of readings

by K.Linda Kivi and Eileen Delehanty Pearkes from their new book, **The Inner Green**, and join in the storytelling about our homeplace, the Columbia Mountains.

Nelson Launch: Saturday October 15, 7:30 pm at the Oxygen Studio of the Nelson Fine Arts Centre (next to Colour Your World in the alley)

Creston: Tuesday, October 18, 7 pm, Creston Public Library

Cranbrook, Kimberely, Invermere, Golden: tba - check out our website for more info: <http://community.netidea.com/maapress>

The Columbia Mountains jostle closely against each other in this unique Interior Temperate Rainforest just east of the vast Interior Plateau. Here, most of the precipitation falls as snow, which accumulates in bedded layers through winter. Three major mountain ranges assemble along north-south lines, parting only briefly here and there to host narrow lakes or rivers. Verdant, scenic and challenging, the Columbia Mountains produce nearly half of the Columbia River's abundant water, and obscure nearly half of the sky in the process. Also known as the Kootenays and the Upper Columbia Basin, the region trades open spaces for the firm shelter of mountains.

This powerfully felt and deeply thoughtful book is full of stories, adventure and observations about the Columbia Mountains of British Columbia. K.Linda Kivi and Eileen Delehanty Pearkes have explored their connections to the place and captured the essence of the ecosystems of the Interior Temperate Rainforest. *The Inner Green* is the kind of book I have been searching for - it is destined to become a classic of its kind. *Luanne Armstrong, writer and author of The Bone House*

This delightful book is about personal discovery and reverence for the Columbia Mountain region. If you want to explore one of the loveliest places on Earth, while gaining insights into its special beauty, its ecology and the people who inhabit it, this is a book you should read. *Joan Snyder PhD, Wildlife Biologist*

K.Linda Kivi is a naturalist and the author of three books, including *If Home is a Place*. She is a 15 year resident of the Columbia Mountains and lives on a land co-op in the Kootenay River valley.

Eileen Delehanty Pearkes has been exploring the Columbia Mountains for over a decade. She is the author of *The Geography of Memory* and lives in Nelson with her husband and two sons.

The *Inner Green* will be available in October at a fine bookstore near you!!

Published by MAA PRESS, Nelson, 2005 <http://community.netidea.com/maapress>

Valhalla Wilderness Society.

I would urge members to see the Valhalla Wilderness Society slides about the interior rain forest. They've spent 4 years preparing to save a huge area and publicize it. It's very worthwhile.

Jane Steed

MORE DOWNHILL SLIDE?

You read about it in the book Downhill Slide- reviewed in these pages. Now see it in progress at Kicking Horse Resort at Golden-unless you've been to Whistler or elsewhere recently. "H" refers to mega, artificial village implants in the alpine. I call it urban alpine and suffer cognitive dissonance, but I may as well get used to it. I spent two days there recently. It's all about "sophisticated luxury at altitude" grafted into superb mountain terrain with every amenity new or on the horizon. E.g. snowshoe trails, dogsled trips. Whither Jumbo? *Submitted by Jane Steed*

Mt. Solderholm Campsite Revisited

I got a note from Marg Gmoser. A few days after this year's hiking camp she and a friend did a backpacking trip from Burstall Pass through to the Sunshine ski area - seven passes in eight days. On the way they stopped in at the site of the Mt. Soderholm Hiking Camp. They camped at the outlet to the lake. The water level had

dropped so much the outlet was dry and the flow was underground. Marg reports that there is little evidence remaining to suggest that a camp was even there. She says she was amazed that the kitchen, storage tent area was so well rejuvenated as were the various tent sites and little trails. It's nice to know that even though our camp areas are heavily used for three weeks, the KMC does very little permanent damage to the environment. I'm sure other members of the club would like to know what Marg found.

Submitted by Laurie Charlton

Outdoors Improvement Tips!

These tips are collected from a selection of Forest Service comment cards left by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips:

- A small deer came into my camp stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed?
- Please avoid building trails that go uphill.
- The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please medicate these annoying animals.
- Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands.
- Escalators would be help on steep uphill sections.
- Found a smoldering cigarette left by a horse.
- Need more signs to keep the area pristine.

Submitted by Jane Steed

"Remember: Integrity is what you do when no one is watching."

Do You Want to Climb This Winter ?

Last year I organized KMC climbing nights at **Gravity Climbing Centre** in Nelson every two weeks through the winter season. These nights were relatively well attended, but, before I go to the trouble of organizing them again, I'd like to know whether club members are still interested in attending. Last year the cost was \$7.50 per session (a \$3 discount for KMC members) and I expect we will be able to get a similar deal again this year. So let me know by telephone (352-xxxx) or email (xxxx@shaw.ca) whether you are interested in climbing nights again this year. Sandra McGuinness

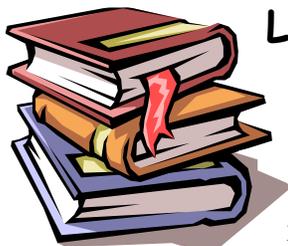
Book Review

Ways to the Sky, A Historical Guide To North American Mountaineering by Andy Selters charts the evolution of alpine climbing in the United States, Canada and Mexico, from the evidence of ancient native ascents to the latest cutting-edge climbs. Andy Selters highlights key personalities from exploratory climbers like John Muir and Lt. August Kautz to technical maestros such as Mark Twight and Marko Prezelj- on the most demanding mountain routes. He then points readers to the mountains where they can experience firsthand many of these historically significant routes. Andy Selters, a longtime mountaineer, mountain guide, photographer, and cartographer, has climbed extensively in North and South America and has established new routes in Pakistan and Nepal. He is also the author of The Mount Shasta Book and Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue.

Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Course

I'm offering a 32 hour WFA in Nelson in November. The dates are
Nov. 6th, 12th & 13, (8:30 to 4:30)
Nov. 9th & 10, (6 to 10 pm)
The cost is \$280.00

If you're interested, or would like to register, e-mail me at teogo@shaw.ca , (probably the best way to contact me.) Or, call 354-4231. Terry O'Gorman



Library News: A Book Review of *Alpine Climbing: Techniques to Take You Higher*

This book on alpine climbing by two professional guides (Kathy Cosley and Mark Houston) is a new book on the “how-to” market for intermediate alpinists with some rock, glacier and general backcountry experience. The book is nowhere near as comprehensive as the “bible” of mountaineering – *The Freedom of The Hills* – but this is not necessarily to its detriment. Rather than being a completely comprehensive coverage of alpine climbing, this book aims to motivate alpinists to move beyond basic rules based climbing to move quickly, efficiently and safely over the entire spectrum of terrain covered in a typical alpine climb.

In addition to the expected coverage of travel over glaciers, alpine rock and snow and ice; the book includes chapters on preparation and equipment, the alpine environment, and

decision making, risk evaluation and continuous learning (lumped under one heading - the making of an alpinist). By far one of the best chapters in the book is the first one “The Making of An Alpinist”. In this chapter, the authors clearly lay out all the things that go through the mind of an experienced alpinist both before, during and after a typical climb. In this chapter, you learn how to move quickly and efficiently throughout your climbing day, how to make decisions, and how to correct the inevitable wrong decisions, and, most importantly, how to learn, and continue learning across your climbing career. While this information might seem relevant only to alpine climbers, all of the information in the first chapter is actually germane to all backcountry enthusiasts, be they hikers, scramblers or skiers.

Each chapter is well illustrated with black and white photographs that clearly show the relevant concepts, and includes personal stories from the two authors, as well as an application section where each concept is applied to a variety of different climbing scenarios. The only section of the book that I found confusing is the section on crevasse rescue systems which seems unnecessarily complicated.

The only other criticism I have of the book is that some examples cover things that are almost never encountered while alpine climbing in the West Kootenays. For example, when was the last time you climbed a route in the Valhallas with fixed protection or enough traffic to wear the lichen off the rocks (certainly in the Bugaboos, but not in the West Kootenays). In fact, many of the examples are not germane to climbing in Canada at all, where route information is often poor to non-existent, approaches to climbs are as difficult as the climbs themselves, and remote is much more than a day away from the highway or cabin. Overall, however, “Alpine Climbing” is well worth the read – at the very least, it's not nearly so dry as *Freedom of the Hills*.

Two new acquisitions this month: *Canadian Alpine Journal 2005*. Thanks to Doug Brown for donation. Doug has an article on last year's KMC climbing camp in the journal.

A Guide to Climbing and Hiking in Southwestern British Columbia, by Bruce Fairley. Although the access information is getting dated, this book is still the definitive guide to climbing and hiking in the Coast Mountains.



Book Review

WHERE LOCALS HIKE IN THE
WEST KOOTENAY, Cathy & Craig
Copeland, 2005

They're back, and they're better, way
better! Originally published in 2000 as
"Don't Waste Your Time in the West

Kootenays" this hiking guidebook rapidly became known as the
"Don't Waste Your Money" book. I panned it vigorously in the
2000 Karabiner, but this new edition is a major improvement. You
may have seen it already – the cover features the southwest face of
Gimli, with rather juvenile graffiti superimposed on it. ("worry less
and sweat more" etc)

This is a leaner, meaner version of the original. Two hikes have been
added, Davis Creek and Seven Summits, while twenty of the more
tedious trudges have been omitted. The most obvious change, after
the smaller size, is the photography. There are now more than 100
colour photos, some of them full page. That's over two pictures per
hike. The book positively sparkles and vibrates with colour. The
paper quality is also higher, and the text leaps off the page at you, if
you can stop looking at the pictures. Full mark for the visuals. The
format and text are almost identical to the first edition, as one might
expect. Same excellent road access descriptions, same good hiking
instructions, and unfortunately the same condescending,
occasionally mildly amusing "opinions" which so nauseated readers
the first time around. Looking on the bright side, with 18 less hikes
there's 18 less irritating "opinions". A final minor improvement is
the addition of three rather sketchy trail maps.

So much for the good stuff, now for the hatchet job. The authors
came across as the great white Knights of the West Kootenay hiking,
and it sounds as if they discovered all of the trails by themselves.
Local hikers (KMC members no doubt included) are described, and
I paraphrase slightly, as "baboons who thrash and tumble through
vertical trail-less terrain" while the savvy authors glide gracefully up
the secret pathways, which the local yokels are apparently unaware
of, or are too stupid to use.

All of this brings me to my main criticism, which is that once again
no recognition or credit is given to the late John Carter, and his
pioneering guidebook "Hiking The West Kootenay". John's
contribution to local hiking is dismissed in a few words "Just one
thing was missing: a hiking guidebook. The only one ever written
was out of print long before we arrived". One gets the impression
that they never had the opportunity to read John's book, but...
John's book was published in 1993 and the Copelands' in 2000.
They lived in Riondel for five years – you do the math: 19 of the
first 20 hikes in the Copelands' book also appeared in John's book.
That's a 95% correlation, and an even bigger coincidence. If anyone
can convince me that the Copelands did not use John's book as a
major reference, I will gladly eat this review, and my copies of both
books as well.

Fifty hikes is a totally arbitrary number, and is still too many for this
area. Somewhere in the low 40s would be more realistic, but less
saleable. Mortar Lake in St Mary's Alpine Park is not in the West
Kootenays, and should be omitted. There is no justification for
including the four lake hikes in northern Idaho. I did two of these
while living in Creston, and they're not lakes at all, just large
puddles in the forest. Ditto for Plaid Lake. Don't bother with any of
these. While the three new trail maps are a small improvement,
there's still a long way to go. (no pun intended). Three pictures of

Mt. Drinnon is again too many, while Mts. Earl Grey and Redtop
continue to be mislabeled as Jumbo and Karnak.

While most KMC members will have done most of these hikes, and
many perhaps own the original edition, I still suggest that you
purchase the new version. That way you can now enjoy discarding,
burning or recycling the old one. Despite a few shortcomings, this is
still a very good guidebook, which you can proudly show to visitors,
or give as a gift to those not fortunate enough to live here. Just love
those pix. Available in selected ultimate, extreme, radical adventure
literary outlets. I got mine at Cole's.

GOTTA HIKE B.C., Skye and Lake Nomad, 2001

To celebrate 20 years of hiking together, Kathy and Craig Copeland
changed their names to Skye Nomad and Lake Nomad, so
exquisitely cute, and then wrote this guidebook which claims to
describe the best 43 hikes in all of southern B.C. Twenty nine of
these are in the Kootenays and Rockies, and are essentially a re-hash
from their previous Kootenay and Rockies guidebooks. Surprisingly,
one of these hikes is to Berg Lake at the base of Mt. Robson, slightly
north of Jasper. Vancouver Island is covered with a mere three
hikes, while the Lower Mainland fares slightly better with eight
hikes, mostly in and around Garibaldi Park. Only one hike in the
Chilcotin meets their "superior" standards, along with one
(Cathedral Park) in the vast area between Whistler and the
Valhallas. Chilcotin, Okanagan and Boundary residents might
disagree with this selection.

If you've been keeping score, that's only 42. The last one was
another surprise – Hudson Bay Mountain, near Smithers! I was
curious about this one for two reasons. Firstly I was not aware that
Smithers was located in southern B.C., and secondly because I had
taken part in the first ascent of this peak, way back in 1962. Male
chauvinists used to say that alpine ascents changed over time from
"the hardest climb in the range" to "an easy day for a lady". Curious
to see if this had happened here, I phoned a friend who lives in
Smithers. By coincidence he had done this hike two days previously.
He assured me that the hike described ends at the southern "tourist"
summit. The higher north peak is still rarely, if ever visited, and
continues to fascinate and frustrate the Smithers outdoors
community, being located just above, and in full view of the town.
For me the only good parts of this book were the three great photos
of the east face of Mt. Sir Donald. So, who's biased? Gotta hike B.C.
Gotta skip this one. Lotsa better books out there.

The Copelands (or is it still the Nomads?) write almost as fast as
they hike. They have recently completed yet another guidebook, 560
pages, 100 hikes, entitled "Gotta Hike Utah Canyon Country". I
have never seen this massive tome, and might have trouble lifting it,
but after reading their latest West Kootenay book, I assume that it's
pretty good. But who needs 100 hikes to choose from? My personal
preference for this area is still "Utah's Favourite Hiking Trails" by
David Day, now in its second edition. This is by far the best hiking
guidebook I have ever used, covering trips in both the northern
alpine meadows as well as the southern desert canyons, while giving
a whole new meaning to the term Day-hikes. Descriptions for many
shorter hikes can be found in the pamphlets available at all national
park visitor centers.

The Copelands/Nomads have each hiked over 20,000 miles, a very
impressive total, and they are definitely two of North America's
"premier" hiking gurus. It would be fun to join them for a hike, but
they wouldn't want to hike with a Kootenay baboon, and besides, I
could never keep up.

Hamish Mutch

Club Trip Reports

THREE SISTERS, June 19

This trip was scheduled then cancelled. Several of us decided to attempt the trip without the original coordinator. The drive to the trailhead is a high clearance 4WD. The trail is an old mining trail that goes from Sheep Creek to the Anaconda mine. We followed it to Panther Lake and then to the ridge between the Middle and the South Sister. We lost the trail in the snow but apparently it continues for some distance to the mine. We contoured around the Middle Sister and then climbed the North Sister where we had lunch. Four of our party decided to head home (it was Fathers' Day) and three of us decided to climb the Middle Sister. Both climbs were gentle scrambles. It had rained a lot for many days before this hike and Sunday was a welcome sunny clear day.

We were Dave Grant, Vicky Hart, Peter Jordan, Jan Micklethwaite, Jill Watson, Leah Zoobkoff, and David Cunningham.

MT. INVERNESS, June 26

This report starts the night before when Doug phoned me to ask if we were going to descend 1000' to the real peak from the high point. I looked at my map a bit closer and sure enough, the marked peak is an insignificant bump SE and 1000' lower than what I had always considered the top of Mt Inverness. I was saved from making this decision when Sandra called upon a higher power (Kim Kratky) who told her not to worry about what the map says. We also had to make a decision on which approach to take; the tried and true Alps Alturas trail, or driving up Martin Creek and then bushwhacking up to the S ridge of Inverness (as suggested by Maurice). We opted for the tried and true. This was fortunate as it turned out because examining the ridge from the top revealed it to be not that straightforward.

The road from Rosebery was in fair shape and the Alps Alturas trail had the usual amount of snow on it for this time of year. The weather was a mix of sun and cloud and not too hot. Our group, which varied in age from 24 to 71, made it to the "summit" in a respectable 3½ hours. I think a good time was had by all.

We were: Jenny Baillie, Doug Brown, Lou Chioccarello, Maurice De St Jorre, Brett Fee, Don Harasym, Sandra McGuinness, Jill Watson, Mary Woodward, and Bill Sones.

MT. LOKI, July 2-3

It started to rain while we were riding the ferry to the east shore of Kootenay Lake but we were undaunted and so plunged onto the trail that would quickly lead us higher and higher onto the ridge that leads to the base of Mt Loki. There were 11 of us and we drove north of Riondel 6 kms then up the Portman Creek FSR to where it ends at approx 4300'. (Stay left at the first branch then right at the second branch).

The trail is extremely steep. It is being used a lot and so is easy to follow. At 6400' there is a signpost that shows a second trail, which avoids the ridge by contouring around it. We stayed with what is familiar and followed the ridge trail. After 5 hrs with heavy packs

we found several very nice campsites and settled in for a pleasant evening.

We were up early (6am) and took about 1½ hour to the summit, which is a straightforward scramble. It took about the same time back to the campsite. On the way down we took the trail that contours around the ridge and appears to be faster though involves a fair amount of side hilling. It took approximately 3 hrs from the campsite to the cars.

The rain and thunder while we were climbing the trail helped to keep us cool. When we got to the ridge the weather cleared for the rest of the trip.

We were Doug Brown, Lou Chioccarello, Dave Grant, Vicki Hart, Peter Jordan, Shannon Naylor, Ray Neumar, Denise Robichard, Gene Van Dyck, Alex Walker, and David Cunningham.

Clearwater to Ymir, July 8

Three of us met at the hitching post on the road to Ymir. We drove to Clearwater Creek FSR. It took us 1½ hr to Huckleberry pass. This road is 12 kms in length and gains 1800'. We encountered a bear biologist at about 6 kms on the road. He explained his grizzly findings which somewhat alarmed us but we pressed on.

At Huckleberry Pass we gain an old mining road, which meanders down Huckleberry Creek at a pleasant grade. There are a few rough creek crossings.

At Ymir we stopped for a rest and a snack. We then rode the railroad bed back to Clearwater Creek.

From Clearwater to Ymir took less than 3 hrs. From Ymir to Clearwater took 1½ hr.

We were Carol Potasnyk, Curt Nixon, and David Cunningham.

Wakefield Trail, July 17

With Silver Spray trail still officially closed for the July 17th hike we chose the Wakefield Trail for what turned out to be a lucky alternative.

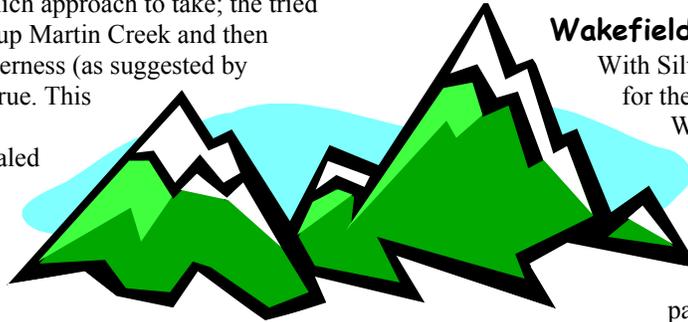
We waited in Silverton for some uncommitted hikers then headed on up the Four Mile Creek Road & Wakefield Creek Road and parked at the minisite just below the trailhead (960 m). Six of us climbed

steadily along the forested trail negotiating about ten deadfalls and one difficult avalanche path. We were rewarded with glimpses of the Valhallas, Slocan Lake and brilliant flowers that all held promise for those reaching the fire lookout.

As we approached the Idaho Peak Trailhead (2134 m), we were welcomed by a magnificent vista of flowers spread over the mountain meadows and avalanche paths. The approach to the lookout was like a walk through "heaven's gardens" as the flowers became more varied in colour and brighter in the warm noonday sun.

Lunch was eaten at the lookout (2280 m) and our souls fed with 360-degree views of the Slocan, Goat, Valhalla & Kokanee Ranges. Below, nestled along the shores of Slocan Lake, were the communities of Roseberry, New Denver, and Silverton. With great reluctance we left the lookout and retraced our steps. We had a great day with good weather, good company, and enough of nature's eye candy to last us until next time.

Hikers were Ted Ibrahim, Brenda Johnson, Andrew Martin, Leah Zoobkoff, and Pat & Alan Sheppard, coordinators.



Silver King/Stanley Loop, July 29

The Silver King/Stanley Loop is a cross country classic in Nelson, one of our oldest trails. However, there are many members of the club who have never ridden this trail. Since it is only a half-day trip, I thought it would be a good go for a half-able KMC leader.

The route is easily found in the new Nelson Cycling Club trail map that you can buy in local bike shops (a shameless plug by a NCC executive member looking to bolster the club coffers). A better time to ride this trail is earlier in July as there are sections with wildflowers in bloom. Only a few daisies remained. The route is well signed and starts at the top of Silver King Road. We started at the Nelson Safeway and rode up to the rail grade, along that for a couple of kilometers, down through the cemetery and then up to Silver King Road. Although there is not a lot of elevation gain, it sure feels like it. Although it is not technically challenging, there are a few very short bits that more prudent participants chose to walk. However, they have less difficulty walking than the leader does. (For members who might be reading this report in Nunavut, Dave Cunningham was polite enough to let the leader be in front for the whole trip).

Although we didn't lolligag, we weren't racing either, and the trip took about 4 ½ hours to do approximately 18 to 20 km and about 500 m of climbing/descending.

Participants were David Cunningham, Jan Micklethwaite, Steven Miros and myself, David Mitchell.

SELKIRK and IDAHO PEAKS, August 3

We met at SLocan Junction at 6:30am and arrived at the lower Idaho lot shortly after 9:00. It was a beautiful cool and bright morning. To minimize the hot weather climbing we went to Selkirk first. Four people went part way and then went to Idaho Peak. The flowers were incredibly beautiful on Selkirk but past their prime on Idaho.

We were Bob Dean, John Golik, Caroline LaFace, Peter Mc Iver, Diane Paolini, Nell Plotnikoff, Sue Port, Anna and Norm Thyer, Mary Woodward, Ed and Hazel Beynon, coordinators.

Hanging Out With The Judge: MT. BEGBIE, August 5-7

"Prisoner at the bar, the jury have said you are not guilty. You can go, and I devoutly hope the next man you sandbag will be one of the jury." So said Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie to a defendant acquitted of assault after a barroom brawl. Although Judge Begbie was known as the "hanging judge" he apparently only issued a few death sentences during his time as a travelling judge imposing law and order among the hurly-burly of the mining camps of the Cariboo.

Mount Begbie is a very attractive peak southwest of and quite prominent from Revelstoke. The standard route up is via the north ridge (class 3) which is reached by way of a ledge from the glacier on the north side of the peak. A good Ministry of Forests trail leads to a campsite at about 6,600 feet due north of the glacier. Our group left Nelson on Friday night (5th August) and arrived at the Galena Bay ferry terminal just in time to see the 7.30 pm ferry pulling away from the dock - so it goes. Once on the west side of Arrow Lake, darkness made it a little more difficult to find the dirt road that leads to the trailhead, but, soon enough we had pulled into the parking area, met up with Cindy (who had driven out from Cawston) and were climbing into tents or the backs of trucks to sleep for the night.

After breakfast the next morning, we all hiked up the trail at our own pace arriving at the campsite just before noon. The campsite

has three wooden tent platforms, an outhouse and is close to a good stream. Brad, who arrived first at the campsite, snagged the most desirable platform, perched out above the forest with a great view of Revelstoke and the Selkirk Mountains to the east.

In the afternoon, Dave and Ray hung around camp, while the rest of us wandered slowly around the north ridge of Mount Begbie to a pass between Tilley and Begbie where there were a number of small tarns and one larger lake set in a pretty alpine meadow. During much of our walk we were buzzed by a small helicopter on sight seeing tours out of Three Valley Gap.

That evening, prussic cords were adjusted for length, crampons were checked for fit and a few of us set up a couple of different pulley systems for yanking victims from crevasses.

Sunday morning we meandered up to the glacier over ledges scattered with loose rock left behind by the retreating glacier. At the toe of the glacier, we put on crampons and walked up the bare ice until we reached snow. Roped up we crossed the snow to the ledge. Apparently, in times past, it was easy to step onto the ledge from the glacier, but glacial recession has changed the route so that it is now an awkward 4th class step on loose rock to gain the ridge. With the aid of an ice axe buried in the snow above the ledge, we set up a handline and one by one used a prussic for a safety and climbed up onto the ledge. The ledge, while broad at its furthest end, is narrow at the start and somewhat exposed, so we strung another handline along it (there are two sets of bolt anchors on the ledge that make this very easy) and clipped in as we crossed the narrowest portion.

Once everyone was at the base of the north ridge we coiled up the rope and gave it to Brad to carry in an attempt to slow him down! Peter brought up the rear and we scrambled up the delightful quartzite of the north ridge towards the summit. About 200 metres below the top we paused for some refreshment on a grassy bench before the final scramble to the summit.

Great views on top where we could pick out peaks we'd climbed previously (like Burnham and Odin) and peaks we'd really like to climb (perhaps Cranberry and Thor). Ray pointed out the location of this year's hiking camp in the Duncan Range to the east, and the site of the 2001 hiking camp at Blanket Glacier just south of us. Of course, the helicopter from Three Valley Gap rotated by a couple of times on its scenic circuit.

Descending the north ridge was quick – it took only one hour to get back to the bolt anchors on the ledge. Ray was a good sport and "volunteered" to be lowered off first and (hopefully) enjoyed the free hanging descent to the snow. One by one the rest of us rappelled down to the snow – a nice quick exit on to the glacier – I can't speak for the others, but I was glad to avoid the loose downclimb from the ledge.

Back at camp, Doug and I lazed around drinking tea, while the others (with more pressing time commitments) quickly packed up and started down the trail. The descent down the trail was a bit hard on my aging knees but a good trail still beats a rough bushwhack any day.

Climbers: Doug Brown, Dave Jack, Ray Neumar, Brad Steele, Peter Tchir, Cindy Walker. Coordinator: Sandra McGuinness.

Northern Section of the Seven Summits Trail, August 7

We met our Rossland and Trail contingent at the Old Glory trail head to do a vehicle drop, and then drove up to the Nancy Greene Summit. There we met up with the rest of our group from Castlegar, Nelson and North Dakota (potential new member and Nelsonite).

We walked up the logging road past old cut blocks and fireweed,

until the road narrows into a trail. Once inside the forest, we followed a few switchbacks which then led us over a ridge onto the west side of Mt. Lepsoe (still known locally as Berry Mtn.). The trail has an easy grade, which can even be skied in winter without skins. Old Glory suddenly appeared as we emerged from the woods, and gave us a view of its northeast side. Since some of the trail doesn't follow along the ridge tops, at lunchtime we took a hard left, and hiked up the hillside to the top of Mt. Plewman. Here, we stopped to enjoy clear views, food and conversation. Dave was especially pleased that we had "bagged" a peak. After a surprise chorus of "Happy Birthday" sung to Ken Holmes, we headed off again along Unnecessary Ridge. The wildflowers were plentiful, although my flower identification vocabulary goes something like this: "flower, flower, flower, weed, grass, flower, weed.....". Fortunately Hazel was able to enlighten me with the more formal flower names. Huckleberries were also ripe at this elevation and provided an alternative to our trail mix. We left the trail and descended to the highway along the Old Glory long trail to complete this 15 km. hike. The total Seven Summit Trail is 28 km. long and I think could be done in 7 to 8 hours, but we'll leave that for a future date.

Our group consisted of: Mary Baker, Hazel and Ed Beynon, David Cunningham, Dave Grant, Don Harasym, Vicki Hart, Ken Holmes, Kate and Jan Kyrstein, Jan Michlethwaite, Jeff Roberts, Daniel Schecher, and Bob McQueen (coordinator).

Whitewater Creek Trip, August 1964

I cannot relate this tale without remembering the beauty of the evening as Gerry Brown drove along the shore of Kootenay Lake towards Kaslo. The large, full moon hung low over the black mountains, reflecting across the lake and illuminating all the terrain about us. It was great to be heading towards the mountains and we hoped the beauty of the evening was only a prelude to what lay before us.

We turned west at Kaslo towards New Denver and camped in Retallack, close to the junction of Whitewater and Kaslo Creeks. During the night a porky gave me quite a scare. The flashlight found him not even a foot from my ears, and, by the way he screamed, I'd say we scared him too. After Gerry had spread his famous "Dog-off" all around, neither one of us- could sleep much, so we were up early and driving up the Whitewater Creek road before sun-up. About four miles up the road we found the trail easily by an old mineshaft. After about an hour of hiking on a good trail we emerged from the trees into a beautiful alpine valley. The snowcapped Whitewater Peak stood at the head of the valley with the glacier at its base. To the right, the trail cut a diagonal scar across an alpine meadow, in full bloom sweeping up the slopes of Mt. Brennan 9514 ft. (a formidable climb in itself). On the left was a heavy rock ridge reaching right up to the foot of Whitewater peak itself.

Another three hours up this exciting valley brought us to the glacier, where we roped up and climbed to the bergschrund below the left (S.E.) ridge of the peak. Here we had to leap about six feet across the bergschrund to the rock. At the top of the ridge, we stopped for lunch, enjoying the breathtaking view in every direction. To obtain the easiest ascent to the peak we made a descending traverse across the back side of the ridge, which was probably the most difficult part of the day, because of the wet and very rotten rock. Once this task was complete, we were able to tackle the peak itself. The first five or six pitches were nice climbing on good rock

with a fair amount of exposure. Then it was a scramble up the gully to the snowcap, and on 200 yards to the top.

The view that day was phenomenal. It was unique in that all our familiar landmarks could be recognized from this central location. In the north were the great mountains and glaciers toward Revelstoke; in the N.E. Howser Glacier; in the East, three pinnacles of the Bugaboo spires; in the S.E. Mt. Loki and the range bordering Kootenay Lake; South was the Kokanee Glacier; in the S.W., the Wolves Ears, Mt. Gimli, and Mt. Gladshiem could be pieced out of the Valhallas, and to the West the edge of the New Denver Glacier in the Arrow Lakes Valley. Looking much closer now, Mt. Cooper was the next peak to the north. Mount Cooper 10135 ft. was climbed only once by some Americans in 1962.

We descended the snowcap by way of the east ridge of the peak and finally onto the glacier at the back (north) side of the mountain, glissading most of the way. We crossed back through the col onto the main glacier again, following our tracks back down the valley.

The total time for the round trip was about eleven hours, but this could be cut down somewhat by ascending an easier route. It was an excellent trip for experience because almost all the important aspects of mountaineering were employed. We left the Whitewater country knowing that we would have to return in 1965.

By Norm Wagner *From the Kootenay Karabiner, Vol 2 1965*

Toad Mountain Trail Clearing, August 18

A small trail clearing work party of Bob Dean, Gene van Dyck, Robin Lidstone and Ted Ibrahim worked on improving the trail that was cut to Toad Mountain in 2004. The trail is cut to the first high point on the ridge to Toad Mountain. From this point, the ridge walk to the top of Toad is fairly clear and did not require any clearing or flagging.

To get to the start of the trail at 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 (ignore the turn at 7.2 km) 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 top of the Silver King mine we placed a sign showing that you keep walking along the road. The trail starts on the right, about 0.5 km along the road near the high point of the road – a further sign was placed to show where the cut trail starts. The first part of the trail was in good shape, but further up the first work party had split and we worked on establishing one trail with further clearing and extra flagging. The trail is fairly clear now but it is not a trail for running shoes but proper boots.

Ted Ibrahim

MT. VINGOLF, August 21

I had a hard time finding willing accomplices for the Aug 21 hike. There was a fair bit of late interest but by the time all the dust settled, KMC newcomer Caroline Dahlen was the only hiker to join me at Bonanza road Sunday morning. It was a beautiful sunny day and although I have hiked in the Shannon Lake area many times, I still find going there a treat.

The hike to the top of Vingolf took 8 hours (9-5) at a relaxed pace that included significant breaks at Little Shannon lake each way and lunch on top. We took the north ridge route up and the west ridge route down. Two parties have been to the top since the KMC trip last year. The summit register container isn't water proof any more because the glue holding the orange cap on has failed- so the next time someone goes up please bring a new container or some glue.

In spite of not seeing any wildlife (larger than a ground squirrel), Caroline considered the day to be a great introduction to KMC hikes and is enthusiastic to do more. It was a nice opportunity for me to see familiar territory through fresh eyes.

Bill Sones

GRASSY MOUNTAIN, August 21

After meeting at the last rendezvous point on the Bombi Summit at 8:30 am, ten KMC members drove 7 km north to the base of "South" Grassy Mountain. Those at the front of the 4 vehicle cavalcade were treated to the view of a deer bounding along the road. We parked (5 000 ft.), by the "Mount Walton" sign and proceeded west up a section of overgrown logging road and then north up the side of South Grassy to its summit.

From there it was an easy ridge walk to the west to Grassy Mountain. We reached the summit (6 800 ft.) at 11:30, having visited with a grouse family on the way. Due to fine weather we had good views of Grady Lake below and of Siwash, Copper, and Red Mountains to the northeast. We ate lunch on the breezy south face so the brisk wind would keep the bugs down.

After lunch the group dropped down into the valley to Grassy Hut and signed in. The logbook indicated that a few people had visited the hut over the summer. We climbed back up to the ridge to the west then ridge-walked back to South Grassy and down to the vehicles. It was such a fine day that we were reluctant to return to our homes in the valley bottoms.

Hikers were John Bargh, Hazel & Ed Beynon, Bob Dean, Don Harasym, Brenda Johnson, Vera & Norm Truant, and Pat & Alan Sheppard, coordinators.

Nilsik Creek Trail Clearing, August 27

This was a continuation of the trail clearing that we did last September. We met at 7am at Playmor Junction and drove about 38 km up Highway 6 to the Lemon Creek road. We drove 16.3 km up the Lemon Creek road before forking right to drive 1.7 km to the old trailhead (1255 m, NAD83: N49° 43.112', W117° 16.454'). This road is now in a condition to drive with a normal vehicle, provided you do not care about a few scratches; truck tires are probably advisable. The trail from this car park drops 25 to 30 m. to the main trail. We walked about 20 minutes along the trail to the right turn to the Nilsik Creek Trail and placed a sign on a tree to indicate the start of this trail. We did minor clearing on the trail up to the point where we cleared last year and then continued doing more substantial clearing further along until stopping at about 2pm. I think we were close to the end of the trail where it gets to the open area. The grid reference for our end point is 1935 m, NAD83: N49° 40.222', W117° 13.476', which gives a target for anyone trying to find the trail from the other side. The weather was excellent and the huckleberries were plentiful.

We were John Golik, Dennis Leveridge, Nell Plotnikoff, Anna & Norm Thyer, Gene Van Dyck, and Ted Ibrahim.

EVENING STAR PEAK, August 28

Eight hardy souls rolled out of bed in the wee hours Sunday morning to hike the newly re-opened Silver Spray Cabin Trail in the northeast corner of Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. At Nelson Safeway we loaded into two vehicles and headed along Highways 3A and 31 to just north of Woodbury Point where a parks sign directed us up the Fletcher Creek and Woodbury FSRs. By following the signs we reached the trailhead (13.4 km) to both the

Woodbury and Silver Spray Trails. The Woodbury Trail was still officially closed. The roads were clear but had deep water bars so while 4 WD wasn't necessary, high clearance was.

Once geared up we left the trailhead (3225 ft.) at 9:35, and proceeded along a level trail, crossed a bridge over the Woodbury Cabin Creek. From there the well developed trail followed Silver Spray Creek through a forest fire burn that extended from about 4700 ft. almost to the treeline. Fireweed and other plants have re-established themselves since the fire 2 years ago. Work crews have done a good job of clearing and rebuilding the burnt over parts of the trail.

The KMC group reached the Silver Spray Cabin (6790 ft.) at 12:15 and ate lunch. At 12:35 the hikers scrambled to the southwest to Evening Star Peak. From this vantage point we could see Woodbury and Kokanee Glacier further to the southwest, Mt. McQuarrie to the north, and Mt. Loki far to the east across Kootenay Lake. We scrambled back down some loose rocks and boulders to the cabin. After a short break at this well-appointed cabin the group retraced the trail to the vehicles and bounced back down the road to Highway 31. Folks from Rossland who travelled the farthest were home by 8:30 pm. It was a long, challenging but satisfying day.

The intrepid hikers were Jenny Baillie, David Cunningham, Ulla Devine, Gudrun Rieter, Terry Simpson, Jill Watson, and Pat & Alan Sheppard, coordinators.

RECO MOUNTAIN, August 31

We had a good trip up Reco Mtn on Wednesday 31st August. We went in from the Retallack side and drove to within ½ hour walking distance of the col. At that point the road was partially washed out although it was still passable. After coming down from Reco four walked down the road to Cody and got picked up there. On the Cody side there was just one tree across the road. The weather cooperated nicely. Eight went on the trip. Bob Dean.

We're Almost There: Steed Cabin Work Party September 6

I assured Dan Reibin from Ministry of Forests (Dan himself is soon to be with the Ministry of Tourism in the latest Campbell shuffle) that my route from 2004 into the Steed Cabin involved little elevation gain and was relatively painless. However, I must be suffering from the early (or late ?) stages of "old-timers" disease as, by my estimation we gained about 540 metres (return) and suffered through some wicked bushwhacking through overgrown rhododendron; none of this made any easier by carrying in, between us, a 6 pound splitting maul, a 3 pound axe, a 15 pound chimney wedge, a chainsaw and jerry can of gas, a broom, and other assorted tools and supplies. My assurances to the 5 KMC'ers who accompanied me that "we are almost there" began to be discounted after the first two hours of our journey. Luckily, the plethora of ripe huckleberry bushes may have partially ameliorated the discomfort of the bushwhack.

Nevertheless, we did arrive at the cabin at around 1 pm and after a bite to eat and drink we got stuck in to the work at hand. Maurice and John tackled the chimney which had developed a pronounced lean over the winter from snow creep. Anna busily swept the cabin, the outhouse and cleaned all the windows inside and out. Ted caulked up some gaps in between the roof and walls, while Norman busied himself hauling firewood. Of course, Dan and Lenard were busy too, Lenard manning the chainsaw and bucking wood for winter, and Dan fixing the cabin latch between ferrying loads of

wood. And me ... well, someone has to supervise!

On the way home, we took a slightly more direct route and made it back to the vehicles in about 2 ¼ hours. The cabin is in great shape and ready for another ski touring season. If you haven't been to the cabin before, go in this winter – it's a beautiful place to spend a night or two.

Participants: Maurice De St Jorre, John Golik, Ted Ibrahim, Lenard Loverenow, Dan Reibin, Anna & Norman Thyer, and coordinator Sandra McGuinness.

Other Trip Reports

BOOMERANG MTN., July 4

Judging by the entries in the summit register (only one – a KMC party in 1999), it would seem that Boomerang Mountain, despite its proximity to good logging road access sees very few ascents. Quite a shame really, as it is one of the more interesting peaks of this cluster of four - Boomerang, Robert Smith, Nansen and Giegerich – lying west of Enterprise Pass.

On July 4, Doug Brown and I drove to about 1800 metres via logging roads in Timber Creek and parked at km 7.3, where a bridge has been pulled. We followed the old logging road north crossing two creeks along the way. After about 0.5 km, the road divides, one fork carries on to the north, while the other switchbacks south. We took the north fork for about another 100 metres before turning uphill (NE) and hiking up through the cutblock to the woods above. In the woods, the bushwhacking was pretty reasonable and we reached the alpine basin below Boomerang Mountain in about 1 ½ hour.

Here we got out our binoculars to pick out a route to the summit. On the lower part of the south face, a prominent crack/chimney runs about a third of the way up the face from climbers left to right. Above the crack, a gully travels pretty much directly up to the summit. This looked like a good route so we hiked up to the base, put on our helmets and started scrambling. The crack/chimney is the crux of the route and is an unexposed 4th class. Once out of the crack, we got into an easy class 2 gully which we followed up, curving slightly to climbers left at the top and popped out pretty much right at the summit cairn. 2 ½ hours with stops to the summit.

We returned the same way, the chimney/crack being considerably more entertaining to climb down than up and were back at the truck less than 2 hours after leaving the summit. Although we didn't use one, some people might find a rope handy on this route.

Driving directions:

Take Enterprise Creek Road for 11.9 km. Instead of continuing straight ahead to the Blue Grouse/Enterprise Creek trailhead, turn right onto Timber Creek Road. Reset odometer to 0 km.

- 0.3 km = go (L) onto the older road
- 1.2 km = stay straight, spur to (R)
- 4.0 km = stay straight, spur to (L)
- 5.4 km = go (L)
- 7.3 km = bridge removed, park here.

Sandra McGuinness

Snow Falling on Sapphire Lakes, July 9-10

The group departed from Gibson Lake at 8:35 and began hiking up the Kokanee highway. We stopped often to put our rain gear on and

then the sun would appear, we played this game all day. Our route up Kokanee Pass was not snow free and when we arrived at Sapphire Lakes there was more snow than I had anticipated. There were some areas snow free and so we were able to pitch our tents in a relatively dry area.

It took us just over 4 hours to backpack into Sapphire Lakes at a leisurely pace. A hot drink, lunch and we were off for a walk up Glory Basin, which was very glorious in the snow. We hiked up **SUNSET MTN.(8553')**. Again the clouds came in accompanied by lightening, thunder and eventually stinging hail.

Gene and I decided to scamper up the other side of the basin to **OUTLOOK MTN.(8501')** while the others headed back to camp. By this time the storm had passed and once again the sun was shining.

Back at camp we had dinner, drinks, laughs and finally bedtime. The snow began falling in the evening and by morning we had approximately 3 inches of fresh, wet snow. Our intentions for the day were to hike up Giegerich, Nansen, Robert Smith and possibly Boomerang Mt. The weather was not improving and so we hiked out a day early.

A fun trip with Robin Lidstone, Josephina & Gene Van Dyck, Mary Woodward, Leah Zoobkoff and the coordinator but not the leader, Vicki Hart.

SOUTH RIDGE OF NISLEHEIM

In mid-July, a friend from Golden was visiting Sandy and me for a few days of climbing. Our initial attempt at getting out saw us getting spanked by the weather at our camp below the Prestley-Midgard Col. After a day at home drying out, the weather forecast was good, but our friend had to drive home to Golden the next evening, so the hunt was on for a short day trip that included a fifth class route to a nice peak. Drew Brayshaw had written up the south ridge of Nisleheim on bivouac.com: he reported good rock and a rating of 5.4. Seeing as we could get pretty close to the base of the ridge on the Gimli trail, it seemed a suitable destination.

After a fairly early start, we arrived in the meadow below the Gimli bivi area around 9:00. The south ridge of Gimli was magnificent in the morning sun. We continued around Gimli following the trail that makes its way to the Gimli-Nisleheim col. A little below the col we started traversing west, aiming for the 3rd class grassy ledges that Drew wrote about. Unfortunately the ledges ran out 5-10 m above the snow slope we needed to traverse across. We were all feeling stiff in the cool morning and had no inclination to down-climb the fifth class slabs, so decided to do a rap. Sandy immediately found a rap sling, so we were comforted in knowing we aren't the only ones who don't think it is class 3.

The rap done, we continued easily across snow (ice axe) and up to the base of the south ridge of Nisleheim. Drew said climb 5.4 short walls and ledges on the left (west) side of the ridge. I started off, but quickly found that the left, still shaded, side of the ridge was covered with black lichen and running with water. Yuck! I was poodling big time within a few metres, so whimpered my way back down to try the ridge crest.

The crest of the ridge was in the sun and turned out to be dry and mostly free of lichen. I run out a full 60 m of slabs, cracks, and flakes – friction slabs, jams, stems, and a lay-back. The pitch provided good value for the 5.6 rating we gave it. The next pitch was another full 60 m of fourth class, with maybe a couple low fifth moves in the middle section (step up to a wet slab/corner). From the top of this pitch it was just a few metres walk to the top. We arrived at 12:30, 5 hours after leaving the truck.

After lounging in the warm sun on top for an hour, we down-

climbed the NW ridge that Kim Kratky described in last fall's newsletter. We elected to bypass the slabs we rappelled in the morning by dropping down a couple hundred feet on snow on the south side of Nisleheim, and then reascending to the Gimli trail. We continued down the trail, stopping to watch a pair making good time up the south ridge of Gimli, and reached the truck by 4:00. A very fine day out with a 2-star 5.6 pitch on great rock to a splendid viewpoint. And no bush!

Doug Brown

MT. HOLMES (2498 m., 8195')

Map Slocan 82F/14 July 17

Mt. Holmes, part of the Kokanee Group, is 5 km. northeast of Mt. Carlyle and lies between Keen Creek and Twelve Mile Creek. "Back in the day," as the kids say, it was accessed via a bridge across Keen Creek and a road up Montezuma Creek, but bridge and road have long ago disappeared. For some years the upgraded road up Twelve Creek was gated at the Kaslo River bridge, 18.5 km. from Kaslo. On May 29th this year, I found the gate was removed, and so drove to about 4800' (take switchback left at km. 1.7 and then stay on mainline) for an attempt on Holmes. Traveling solo, I gained a long north ridge, but turned back at about 950-348 (7100') after 2 hrs. 45 min., as deep clefts farther south looked impassable.

On a mid-July Sunday, I returned with Peter Tchir to finish the job. This time we drove to the end of the driveable portion of the Twelve Mile road at km. 6.1 (946-363; bridge broken out; passable for ATVs beyond this point). Starting at 9:30, we hiked up the road to the southwest for 10 min. past cliff bands and a narrow chasm in the creek (941-360). From this point, we headed straight up through steep, open timber to reach the crest of a north ridge (942-352), which we followed to 7550'. Here, we exited left or east onto grassy meadows and descended into a spacious alpine bowl northwest of Holmes. We then traversed southeast and ascended a snow tongue to a 7800' col at 943-339. After following the ridge east for 1 km. to the base of Holmes, we finished the climb with 350' of class 3 steep, crumbly black shale on the west ridge/southwest face.

On top at 1:45 after a 4 ¼ hour effort, we unsuccessfully inspected the cairn for a record, admired five lakes in the Montezuma basin to the southwest, commented on the mild and sunny weather, and speculated about ski-touring opportunities. At 2:30 pm, we headed down, re-tracing our steps to the basin and following it north to a rockslide at 6100', whence we re-gained the north ridge, thus avoiding its annoying portions. The ridge giving way to timbered slopes, we then slithered down steep, rhody-infested terrain to emerge on the road 100' upstream from where we had left it. As we meandered down the road, we were passed by two ATVs and a dirt bike descending from the Utica Mine site northeast of Paddy Pk. Back to the truck just after 5:00, we calculated a 7-hour day and a brisk 2½ hour descent. Excellent minor outing with a chance to explore an attractive, seldom-visited landscape.

Kim Kratky

MT. LOKI, July 30

I joined KMC in May of this year while still in Toronto in anticipation of moving to Kaslo in June. I was hoping to stay in the Kootenays for a long time and to get involved with KMC through club trips. Unfortunately my stay in Kaslo was limited to June and July and I was unable to participate in any club trips. I did, however, get over to Mt. Loki three times, the last time, July 30th, resulting in summiting. I first went to Mt. Loki this year in late June with a

Kaslo resident, Tom Duchastel, to build a traverse trail to Portman Creek. Tom has built a number of trails in the area and I believe he is the one who put in the flagged trail from the end of the Portman Creek FSR to the ridge on the western slopes of Mt. Loki's outlier. We put in the traverse trail from an old burn on a shoulder of Mt. Loki's western outlier, about 2000' (approx) above the trailhead. He put a sign on a tree there, which points to the ridge and to the traverse. The traverse goes across the mountain, south, well below the ridge to a bowl at the head of Portman Creek - about 45 minutes - one hour. From where the traverse intersects Portman Creek to the col is about a 400' - 500' ascent. This col is at about 7000' and offers a great view of Loki and the scramble up. From the col the traverse goes NE to the saddle which is part of the ridge route. This takes about 10 - 15 minutes.

I was too knackered after a day of trail building, and being out-of-shape to summit Loki that weekend. I could have made it up but coming down would have taken a very long time. Two weeks later I returned with some Kaslo residents, but this time the weather crapped-out and we had adventures in the rain, mist, wind, and a slippery descent. Got some good 'atmospheric' photos though. I made a third attempt on July 30th, this time successful. Drove to the trailhead on Friday night. Since I'm a lot slower than I used to be (this seems to come with age), I figured the key to success would be an early start. I left the truck at 05:40am, this time solo, since the other participants had all dropped out a day or so before. Went directly up to the ridge, then across the saddle and up to the summit. It took me about 7 hours up, with 2 rest/food stops, a bee sting, and a short nap. Naps are important. I spent about 1 hour on the summit, soaking in as much as possible the wonder of being there, being thankful. Coming down took 4½ hours since I didn't go back via the ridge route but used the traverse through Portman Creek.

I would recommend this route - up via the ridge, down via the traverse - to anyone wishing to climb Mt. Loki in one day. Unless you're really keen on camping out, this seems to me a really viable alternative. Make sure you bring enough water though as once the snow has melted in upper Portman Creek there is no water. The ridge trail has been improved and is getting lots of use. Some of the flagging is missing or deteriorating and could use replacing. The traverse trail could use a party of volunteers for a day with shovels and polaskis to level it out in some steep side-hill sections. It could also use some new flagging.

I first had the aspiration to climb Mt. Loki over 33 years ago when I first moved to Kaslo. After many adventures in between and three previous attempts (one from Bernard Creek 12 years ago) I finally had the good fortune to stand on the summit.

Ralph Troan

MT. PATRICK (2722 m., 8930')

Map: Dewar Creek 82F/16 August 14

Mt. Patrick lies just south of the southern boundary of St. Mary's Alpine Park in the angle between Dewar Creek and White Creek. Access is via the Manson Col route: turn east off the Dewar Creek road at the km. 8 sign, about that distance north of the Dewar/West St. Mary's junction. The 5.3 km. access road is a rough 4WD, HC LR route that gains 2300' to a sub-alpine basin at 6600'. This August the road had been brushed out and some washouts had been filled in—much better than in 2004.

After catching the 6:30 ferry, Peter Tchir and I drove to the junction at the end of the driveable portion of the access road, tossed out the rope and rock gear, and started hiking at 10:30. We followed the upper fork of the road to the east till in 10 min. it petered out in a valley. Turning south, we hiked up shale and talus as we decided

the north face of our objective was preferable to the northeast ridge and its gendarmes. We then passed a vestigial glacier and ascended about 400' of ribs, ramps, and steps of crumbly, metamorphic rock spiced with near-vertical dirt on the north face. Reaching the summit at 12:30, we inspected the large, flattened cairn and a mostly-illegible rain-soaked record and added our own entry. During the rest of our 65 min. stay, we puzzled over the purpose of a large lodge-like structure near White Creek far below and to the east. Eschewing a return via our ascent route, we headed down the twisty northeast ridge, which offered a sporty class 3 descent on decent rock, all ramps, prongs and gendarmes being easily overcome. Reaching the col in 45 min., we then continued north over an easy 8450' bump (483-163), descended its NNW ridge to a flat section, and at 480-168 encountered the trail to Jurak Lake. We followed this trail west and back down into the basin and, not surprisingly, rejoined our access road near its end. After improving flagging and cairns at the sketchy trailhead, we walked back to the truck by 3:35 pm for a 5-hour day. Leaving almost immediately, we easily caught the 7:00 pm Kootenay Lake ferry.

For further details of this attractive area, consult Janice Strong's excellent *Mountain Footsteps*.
Kim Kratky

MT. ADAMS (3741 m., 12,276')

Map: Mt. Adams, East, Wash. 1: 24 000) August 19

Mt. Adams, one of the Cascade volcanoes and second highest peak in Washington, is located southwest of Yakima and due north of Hood River, Oregon. This was Janice's trip, as she was prompted by accounts of the ascent made by Howie Ridge and Dave Adams a few years ago. After reading a few internet accounts (someone jumps on a cheap flight in Newark and jets out for the weekend to climb it), we departed on Wed., Aug. 17th, drove through the Washington desert to the Columbia gorges, and on to Trout Lake, on the south side of the mountain, where we camped at the county campground (a full day's drive of some 800 km).

Thursday morning, we registered at the Ranger Station in Trout Lake (US \$15 for a weekend permit; US \$10 if you daytrip the peak) and drove to the trailhead at Cold Springs (5500'), following the road map provided by the rangers (well-signed for "Mt. Adams south-side climb"). The access road is one-lane and good-quality two-wheel drive, although corduroy portions do make for slow driving. There is a campsite a few miles before the trailhead (toilets; maybe no water), and toilets and ample parking at the trailhead. However, there is absolutely no water at Cold Springs, and none en route to the alpine camp at this time of year. Howie remembered the hike into the so-called "Lunch Counter" where most people camp as a full day, so we departed from the trailhead at 9:20. Shouldering our moderately-heavy packs (ice axes and crampons but no rope), we walked through dryland forest up a dusty, disused road to a junction with the Round the Mountain Trail at timberline. Beyond, our route became a trail through scrub and then volcanic slag. The peak was shrouded in cloud, and we enjoyed mercifully cool and breezy conditions (Howie and Dave endured valley bottom temps of 107 F). Near the three-hour mark, we reached a camp with five tents near the defunct Crescent Glacier (8080', no water); here, we met two climbers descending who told us it would be an hour to the Lunch Box. Soon after, we left the trail and followed glissade tracks on moderate snow slopes in poor visibility. At 1:20, we reached a series of terraces that seemed to be The Lunch Box, although the other people we met didn't know for sure. After some scouting, we found a suitable campsite near water; there are hundreds of campsites, all with tidy rock wall windscreens. However, there are

no toilets, and the area is totally unregulated; be prepared to filter water. Earlier in the season, parties may have to melt snow for drinking and cooking water. After setting up the tent, we lounged around in the afternoon, reading and watching parties descending. Clearly, this peak is scaled by many non-climbers, who may climb only one mountain in their lives. Just at dusk, the peak cleared off completely, and we could see nearly to the top. "Good," I thought, "a cold, clear night makes for excellent cramponing in the morning." At 3:00 am, I got up for a pee, heard the sound of clinking ice axes, and noted with satisfaction the clear sky and full moon hovering over Mt. Hood to the south.

Up at 5:40 and away at 6:30 (no way were we interested in being on the summit for sunrise as some WSU students we met had planned), we made good time with crampons on hard snow as we headed up the somewhat indistinct Suksdorf Ridge, passing a half dozen parties. Global warming has affected this south-side approach so badly in the last few years that you can make most of the ascent on a slaggy trail, but we preferred the good going on snow. A kind of hourglass led us to the sub-summit of Piker's Peak (11, 657') by 8:40 am. After a 10 min. break, we traversed an easy snow basin, removed crampons, and followed a distasteful scree trail diagonaling up and to the left through a shallow couloir and onto the final gentle slopes which took us to the summit by 9:50 (3 hrs. 20 min. up). A lone climber had reached the non-descript cairn about 200' ahead of us; this turned out to be Chuck, a fifty-something sex educator for the Portland, Maine school district who had left his camp somewhat below ours at 3:00 am. During our 55 min. summit stay, we enjoyed views of Rainier to the north, Mt. St. Helens far below us and just to the west, and Mts. Hood and Jefferson to the south. The Vancouver/Seattle pollution was so bad that we could not see Mt. Baker.

Heading down at 10:45, we made an uneventful 1 hr. 50 min. crampon-free descent to the campsite on snow and the track. Many more parties were now coming up, including four young guys we met at Piker's Peak who were carrying up their touring skis and boots. I suppose you could ski this sun-cupped, bum-schuss-grooved, rock-studded horror in August, but who would want to? After a leisurely pack-up, we walked out to the car park with Chuck in 2 hrs. 20 min., whiling away the time by musing on the George Bush Presidency ("Only about half the country support him, you know. Still, that's pretty sobering, isn't it?"). It was now a very hot Friday afternoon, and we met many people with heavy packs struggling up toward the Lunch Counter. Our outing ended at 4:30, making for an 8 ½ hour day of climbing and summit time. Easy and non-technical, this south-side "dog route" could be day-tripped in about 12 ½ hours, but it was much more fun to camp. The most dangerous part is the drive from Nelson to Trout Lake. My friend Kai from Portland says it's an excellent spring ski ascent.
Kim Kratky

BLACK PRINCE MOUNTAIN, August 20

An amazing day in the Gwillim Lakes area in the Valhallas was enjoyed by seven hikers. Lunch we had on the summit of Black Prince, which we established once again as higher than Lucifer Peak. Ted's reckoning with G.P.S. gave a lower elevation than on his mountain list I have at home. I choose the elevation from his list, which is 9150' 2700 m. Always take the highest one I say! A perfect day.
Participants: Jenny Baillie, Nancy Ferguson, Ted Ibrahim, Peter Jordan, Alex Walker, Jill Watson, & Mary Woodward.

MT. LASCA (2379 m., 7805')

Map Kokanee Pk. 82F/11 August 26

On a drizzly Labour Day weekend of 2001, Fred Thiessen and I made the lengthy hike to Mill Lake in the Nelson Range. This gave me the idea that one could perhaps day trip Mt. Lasca via this route. So on a sunny late August morning this year, Peter Tchir and I started from the Mill Lake trailhead in Harrop at 7:20. Wearing the lightest of packs, we zoomed up to the lake in 3 hrs. 45 min. (see Don't Waste Your Time... for a jaundiced but creditable view of the trail). After a 30 min. lunch break, we headed straight up and west from the dilapidated cabin to a col at 6850'. Our plans to traverse toward Lasca thwarted by unpleasant bush, we instead followed a game trail over a 7150' bump at 984-839, descended 300' of open timber to a col to the southwest, and crossed burned slopes to the base of our peak where we found a picturesque tarn not shown on the map (GR 973-833). Grassy slopes led us into a prominent couloir on the east face, whence we exited to the southeast ridge not far from the summit. On top by 1:10 (5 hrs. 50 min. up; Howie Ridge would say, "That pup was farther away than I thought"), we inspected the cairn with no record and surveyed the extensive fire damage in Lasca and Midge creeks from the event of 2003. In fact, the burn reached right to our summit on the west side. After savouring the fine weather for 40 min., we returned to Mill Lake via the ascent route in 90 min. Another snack to gird us for the knee-destroying trail descent, and we were away. En route, we met local scientists Evan MacKenzie and Martin Carver and their assistants who were doing stability assessments for the community forest. Finally, at 6:50 pm, we reached the parking lot. It was an 11 ½ hour day with 6500' of elevation gain, about 28 km. of travel, and a 5-hour return from the summit. To paraphrase Hamie, "Glad I don't have to do that again."

Kim Kratky

EAST WOLF'S EAR, 8963' 2732 m., September 2

On Friday, September 2nd seven KMCers left the parking area at 9:00 am in search of the Wolf's Ear. We parked 3 km. on a high clearance road past the Gimli parking lot. We had climbing gear, ropes, crampons, and ice axes since we were not sure of the route we would take once we reached the Wolf's E. ridge. We hiked up the old Gimli trail and into the alpine arriving at the ridge that overlooks Robertson Basin shortly after 10:00.

From this vantage point we had great views of the basin including Dag and the Wolf's Ear. Off we took aiming for the Nott-E. Wolf's Ear col walking on grassy ledges and then onto rock. We scrambled up a gully full of loose rock to the gendarme that blocks the way to the summit. We were not too keen in climbing the steep snow that would take us to the ridge. We took a look at the south or left side of the Ear.

Out comes the rope and Peter climbs up the chimney and some grassy ledges from which point he belays me (Vicki) and Dave. We climb up a class 4 chimney that comes to an end. Up we pop onto the E. ridge and enjoy a pleasant scramble on solid rock to the summit.

Gene and Ray chose to explore the west side of the E. ridge staying on rock the whole time. On arriving at the summit Gene said he would not recommend that route! Lazed around on the summit admiring the views, taking pictures and waving to our 2 friends, Glen and Joanne on Nott Mt. We spotted 2 tents in the Mulvey Basin. We descended down our climbing route. Hiked down to the col and met up with Glen and Joanne. Retraced our route back to the vehicles for an 8 ½ hour day.

A fantastic day in the mountains, weather was sunny and warm. Stopped in Winlaw for a light dinner of soup, bread and water!! We were: Glen Cameron, David Cunningham, Peter Jordan, Ray Neumar, Joanne Stinson, Gene Van Dyck, and Vicki Hart (reporter and coordinator).

MTS MEPHISTOPHELES, ROSEMARYS BABY, TRIDENT AND BOR

On **Labour Day weekend**, we backpacked to Gwillim Basin and stayed for three nights. The route to the Trident area goes over the SE ridge of Lucifer and crosses the large boulder field below Trident and Rosemarys Baby. It is best to traverse at the same level to get to the Mephistopheles/Rosemarys Baby col. We climbed the west ridge of Mephistopheles first and then the other two, all an easy class 3 scramble. New registers were put on all three summits. We returned the way we came - all other routes require a rappel.

The next day, Hans climbed Bor. From the Black Prince/Lucifer col, he traversed the basin losing little elevation, ascending at the end to the SE ridge of Bor. It was class 4 over the ridge onto the east face. A new register was placed on the east summit - they looked the same height.

Some young fellows from Nelson exchanged the tube on Black Prince. The critters on the top of mountains (pack rats?) chewed through the orange test cap in four places. Somebody had put on several wraps of duct tape to seal the holes but this was chewed through too. Luckily the book was not wet. Unfortunately the 50 or so registers with orange test caps still on summits are in jeopardy and need to be replaced soon. Vicki Hart is now in charge of the registers and should be contacted if you are climbing anything. It snowed on Sunday night and we woke to a beautiful scene with light snow on all the summits.

Participants: Glenda Grover, Hanspeter Korn, Barb Stang and Ron Perrier.

McKean Lakes

As stated in the last newsletter the bridges have all been replaced and the road is open all the way. The trail was brushed out by Leo at the end of July and is probably the most maintained trail in the area. To refresh everybody the trailhead is 100 metres past the end of the McKean Creek bridge, which is at the 65 km mark, 4.4 km and four new bridges past the cement barricades that used to block the road, and 31 km from the beginning of the Koch Creek road.

This may be one of the most beautiful trails anywhere especially when it follows the continuous waterfall of the creek.

The road is permanently deactivated just past the bridge.

Ron Perrier.

A Long Day on GLACIER VIEW PEAK

With the Woodbury trail finally reopened, Sandy and I climbed on Glacier View Peak as a day trip on **September 5**. Rough calculations led me to expect an 11-12 hour day, although I secretly hoped we'd do it in 10-11. I'm sure there is a good reason why I, a passionate morning-hater, chose such a long day trip that required a savagely early morning rise - I just can't think of it right now.

The brain-addling bounce up the Woodbury Creek FSR enhanced my early morning nausea to the point where eating breakfast was not possible, so when we hit the trail at 6:40 I was once again forced to seriously doubt my sanity. The trail was initially in good shape, however once we entered the burned area, the extra sun afforded by the killed trees and the lack of hikers for the last 2 years had allowed the green vegetation to take over the trail. There was heavy dew the night before (isn't there always?), so we were thoroughly drenched

in no time. Despite the soaking, and accompanying whining, we made good time on the trail, and after two hours of marching, the trail was clearly on the final approach to the Woodbury hut, and heading the wrong way for us.

After a snack, we left the trail and headed cross-country trying to preserve our elevation by contouring around the head of the valley aiming for the rubble well below the toe of the Woodbury Glacier. The bush, wet and greasy vegetation, and small bluffs soon convinced us to take our lumps and descend a hundred or so metres to a flat meadow that afforded much easier travel. Anyone who follows us should attempt to leave the trail when opposite the large swampy meadow centered at 911157 (NAD83); the difficulty is that you can't see this meadow from the trail until you are well above it.

From the south end of the meadow, we made our way up the standard glacier excrement of talus, dirt, scree covered slabs, and general choss to the toe of the glacier. It was easiest to gain and ascend the glacier on its far west side. We strapped on crampons and started up the blue ice of the toe, but in a very short distance we encountered frozen fern snow and were forced to whip out the rope.

The only route described in The Climber's Guide to The Columbia Mountains of Canada is Kim and Janice's Northwest Ridge – Northwest Face route. Their description mentions a peak of nearly equal height to the east. I checked with BC Basemap, and spot elevations indicated that the peak to the east is actually 8 metres higher, so I believe that the route description in the guidebook actually directs you to a peak that is not the highest point of Glacier View – and it would be a non-trivial exercise to get along the ridge between these two peaks.

With this analysis in mind, I studied a photograph and various maps, and convinced myself that I had identified the tower that is the true summit; a march to the head of the glacier would take you to the broad and gentle looking east ridge. And so our route was chosen.

We followed a route mostly on the (climber's) right-hand side of the glacier on frozen snow up to 35-40 degrees. The ambitious could bring two tools and pick a line up the middle of the glacier that would provide steeper hard snow (to 50 degrees maybe) that I think would compare favorably with the popular north glacier route on Mount Aberdeen in the Lake Louise group. With a modicum of weaving and probing (the glacier is moderately crevassed), we reached the pass at the head of the glacier. We started up the east ridge enjoying 3rd class scrambling on good rock. But soon we were struggling a bit on some exposed fourth-class terrain that was definitely not part of the plan, and had us questioning our decision to leave the rope at the pass. After a few backtracks and a move out onto the NE face, we did manage to get ourselves to the top. Unfortunately, it was very clear that the next tower to the west was higher. The route along the ridge to that higher point was festooned with several nasty gendarmes which would have been at least mid-fifth class; the lingering bits of fresh snow was keeping the lichen wet in places, so we really weren't tempted to try the traverse ropeless. So much for all my careful planning.

Our only option was to descend to the glacier, traverse around the north side to under the summit proper, and hope to find a way back up the north face. It was now after lunch, and we had a long way to go before we slept that night, and thus weren't feeling too optimistic as we roped up on the glacier again. Once we walked around to under the wee col between the true summit and the summit we had just climbed, one option did present itself: some loose looking ramps and slabs that appeared to lead up to a snow and ice covered ramp that might take one to the desired col.

We short-roped our way up some rather loose and dirty terrain

(class 3-4) to the base of the frozen snow ramp. Here Sandy gave me a belay and I headed off up a rather entertaining corner at the left hand side of the snow ramp: one crampon and one hand on rock, one pick and one crampon on frozen snow. Enjoying the climbing again, I ran out 35 m of rope to the col, and Sandy quickly followed. It was a quick jaunt up the solid but scree covered class 3 slabs to the top. After quickly assuring ourselves that we were higher than all the other adjacent towers and that the geography matched the view that Basemap predicted from the summit, I snapped some quick pictures and we started our long descent.

We quickly down-climbed to the col, and in recognition of our mounting fatigue and the looseness of the rock, we did two 30 m. raps to get off the rock and onto the glacier at a point where the bergschrund was well bridged. After a quick nip down the glacier, and a stagger down the talus, it was less than two hours march back to the truck. Round trip was completed in 12 hours, but a strong party could easily take two hours off that time if they knew where they were going, and limited themselves to only the highest peak. Doug Brown.

Munson Road-Erie Creek Road, September 22

The first day of autumn and it definitely felt like it. I had often heard that the Munson Road and the Erie Creek road were connected. The past few trips to Siwash Mountain had me wondering if that brushy road going off on the right at 18 km on Munson Road might be it. The old lookout trail on the SE side of Siwash also alluded to an Erie Creek access.

Bob and I drove to the Bombi Summit, parked and began pedaling along Munson Rd. It was 14km up to the pass between Twin Peaks and Grassy Mountain. The road was steeper than I remembered it in a truck, but actually not too bad with a slow and steady pace (and a great perspective of the area that you don't normally get a chance to appreciate when driving at vehicle speed). From the pass we then descended 4 km to the 18km turnoff on the right side of the road. The Huckleberries on this stretch of road were great. The descent was cold and we had to put gloves on. Now I knew summer was gone!

The turnoff begins immediately with another branchment. We took the righter one. Both roads meet up shortly after the creek crossing a short distance below. It became obvious that this road had been in existence for some time but had fallen into disuse. Where it went before the existence of Munson Rd I really don't know. The road, easily bikeable, descended 4 km. Dominion and Commonwealth Mountains were clearly visible straight ahead (east of us). There were a couple of branchments going left (north), which we ignored, and one rickety bridge. We finally reached the Erie Cr Road in the valley bottom and went left on the road to cross another bridge. On the other side of the Granite Creek bridge there was a road (signposted Granite Mtn Road) branching left and following the creek upstream. This old mining road leads to the old mine, which is not a FSR. The other road that goes up from here and through Barrett Creek is an old mining road/ West Kootenay Power R/W road for the powerline that went from Puerto Rico to the mine in Erie Creek. I suspect one can also follow this creek to the small lake east of Siwash summit. Recent vehicle traffic on this section of the road was obvious and we began an easy 18 km descent down to the gas station a few km west of Salmo. There were a numerous turnoffs on the left that we ignored, including one exhibiting regular use by logging trucks. Stewart Pass was probably one of these branchments as well.

This was a very pleasant valley to visit, especially since it was all downhill riding. Unfortunately once we met the highway it was another 20 km up to our vehicle on the top of the Bombi Pass. Total time was under 5 hours, 60 km, with 2/3 of the distance being, Yuk, uphill travel. With snow and two cars, minus the hwy travel, this might be a good, but long, ski loop.

We were Bob Shaw and Steven Miros.

MT. FERRIE, September 27

Four hikers joined me for a nice late season hike up Mt Ferrie which is in the Harlow Creek area just north of Summit lake ski area. After enduring 20 km of fairly rough logging roads, we parked below the ski hut although due to recent logging you can drive a lot higher. I think it is about a 2000' climb from where we parked to the summit. There is no trail past the hut but it is quite easy on the bushwhacking scale and we made it to the top via the west ridge in time for a leisurely lunch in the sun.

We decided to descend via the south ridge and gully. This was a bit steepish which necessitated some minor cursing and a change in the trip rating from B2+ to C3. Once off the mountain, we got on a nice ridge system south of the peak, which we followed for about 2 km enjoying the views in all directions. When we got to be directly south of the hut we descended back to our vehicles.

Thanks to Jan Burks, Caroline Laface, Jill Watson, and Mary Woodward for a wonderful day.

Bill Sones

Tagging some 11,000ers: a trip to THE COMMANDER GROUP

Sometimes the passage of time makes past suffering seem like no big deal. Other times it seems to magnify it. I had made an attempt on Commander via Farnham Creek sometime way back in the late Pleistocene (stormed off before we left camp), and I remembered a long and tedious approach with unpleasant bush and a nasty creek crossing. Intellectually I knew it really wasn't that bad, but I never seemed to find the will go back and do it again for a few high snow bumps. It had to be done though, it was just a question of when.

Marvin, a friend from Golden, is the quintessential social butterfly. Being a curmudgeon before my time, I hope strangers I meet on the trail will be satisfied with a simple "G'day" or "Is the Cappuccino Bar still open?". Marv, however, can't help stopping to hear how their mother's health is holding up, and getting a report on little Bobbie's fourth birthday party (yes, they are strangers to him too). This August, he was doing the butterfly thing at Applebee camp, and learned of a new road up Farnham Creek. Rumour had it that it was constructed in cooperation with the Canadian Olympic Association and that RK Heliski had insisted that the road be gated. And soon.

A new road to dramatically reduce the suffering required to gain the Commander Glacier? That will soon be closed to the people who own the land (you and me)? Other plans were hastily cast aside and a trip to Commander was on. Cindy Walker had only been climbing 19 days in the last 21, and was keen to get out and do something for a change, so she joined Sandra, Kumo, and me on August 18 for the long drive around to Radium where we would meet Marv the next day.

We met Marv in Radium as planned and packed the five of us and our gear into the faithful Nissan. We drove the Horsethief Creek road to km 41.6; significant upgrading of the last 15 km of the road indicated that Canfor must have big plans for the valley. We ignored the "restricted access" sign and started up the new Farnham Creek road. A very solid ATV/snowmobile bridge crosses Farnham Creek at km 5.5, so one has to wonder about a gate on this new road that

will only keep out us self-powered types.

We parked the truck at km 10.5, one of the very few spots where Farnham Creek is visible from the new road. Here we loaded all our stuff on the dog and headed off on the ATV track beside the creek. The piston-heads had found some good spots to do some "mudding"; as always it was a treat to walk through the resulting mud bog. We soon reached the derelict cabin at the end of the old road bed. On we went, along the surprisingly good trail, crossing the east fork of Farnham creek on a fallen log 100 m upstream of its confluence with the main (west) fork.

After maybe an hour of walking we left the ATV tracks behind and started up the old moraine on the east side of the west fork of Farnham creek. The moraine is eroding at a ferocious pace on the west side, so the climbers trail is constantly moving east and is quite bushy in places. Two hours and thirty minutes after leaving the truck we arrived at the usual camping spot at around 6900'. Early in the season, it is possible to head west and gain the west tongue of the Commander Glacier and make your way up the broken glacier to the Commander-Guardsmen col, but with the summer melt well progressed, this route did not look fun. Our selected route climbed up the northeast ridge of The Cleaver until it was easy to gain the east tongue of the glacier. Stopping here would have required a ungodly wakeup time the next day, so after some deliberation, we saddled up again and continued on.

Initially the fading trail climbed steeply through the open larch forest of the ridge, but soon the ridge laid back. Above timberline, the ridge affords easy travel excepting one treadmill scree section. Since we left the 6900' camp, the ridge had been completely dry, but we eventually found water beside the glacier at around 8400' at the end of a flat section of the ridge – 1:45 from the 6900' camp. While we could have found some flat tent sites that didn't require excavation, we were determined to avoid a camp site subject to the inevitable katabatic winds from the large glacier immediately above. We settled on a sheltered hollow with a prefab kitchen that required a half hour of digging to create a couple of small tent platforms.

We left camp the next morning at 6:45 and easily gained the blue ice of the glacier a short distance above camp. Soon we were on snow and tied into the rope ... where we'd stay for the better part of the next 11 hours. The Commander Glacier is moderately broken over its entire length (hey, let's put a ski resort here, and ski in summer!), so while we had no major dramas, we zigged and zagged our way to up under the north ridge of The Cleaver. The overnight freeze made travel good, and the recent snow was still powdery. At times we were side-hilling across moderate slopes, so crampons were mandatory. The constant weaving around cracks made travel slow, but after about two and a half hours we found ourselves at the base of the south ridge of Commander.

With below freezing temperatures, and the wind was blowing strongly, it was quite cold despite the bright sun – I was soon shivering uncontrollably despite wearing every scrap of clothing I had brought. After 20 minutes of class 3 scrambling we reached the top of our first 11,000er of the day. The cold weather and aspirations for Jumbo and Karnak prevented us from lingering long on top. On the way down however, we did make a food stop in a sheltered alcove on the east side of the ridge where it felt at least 20C warmer in the baking sun.

Next stop was Jumbo, so we roped up again and marched across the col through 10 cm of freshies to the NE ridge of Jumbo. It was a simple, but exposed, amble up the corniced ridge to the summit. There is a rather chossy rock summit on the west end of the Jumbo massif that I was relieved to see was lower so we didn't have to grovel our way up. The rope had to stay on the glaciated summit, so

we were forced to tempt fate and retreat from the top without the obligatory summit handshake.

After returning to the col, we set our sights on Karnak, which required more zigging and zagging (which was getting tiresome) and descending ~100 m with more side-hilling on moderately steep icy slopes. After the descent, it was a quick march, in the now very hot sun, to the base of the rocky summit pyramid of Karnak. The scramble to the top was a bit more sporting than anticipated, but felt worse than the class 3 it was due to the frightful quality of the rock. A fresh rap anchor on top (which we didn't use) suggests other parties didn't think much of the rock either. Whining aside, we topped out on Karnak at 2:30, tagging our 3rd 11,000er of the day 7:45 after leaving camp.

We indulged in a half hour on top and savoured a most amazing view: I counted ten 11,000-foot peaks not including Karnak (which we were on) or Temple and Assiniboine (which were currently blocked by Commander and Farnham). After we had had our fill, we retraced our steps and trudged back to camp in 3:15, for a eleven and a half hour day. That's the most roped glacial travel I've ever done in one day!

When studying the maps at home, we had considered trying Mount Maye the following day. A close look at the peak quickly convinced us that "dreadful rock" (Interior Ranges South) was an understatement. Best done when snow covered. We then considered Farnham, but the thought of 3000' down and 6500' up was too much for our aging knees. So it was on the next day, a beautiful cloudless day with fall-like visibility, we walked back up the Commander Glacier and waddled to the top of The Cleaver (2:15 from camp). We lounged around on the broad summit for two and a half hours doing some serious rubbernecking. It was then a quick one hour trip back to camp (even with strained neck muscles).

We walked out to the truck the following day in two and a half hours – just as the weather was turning. Sometimes you just get lucky.

Driving directions:

From the 4-way stop in Radium, turn west and drive the paved road to the mill; the Horsethief Creek Road starts here.

0.0 km = signed start of road

1.5 km = cross Columbia River

2.9 km = straight (spur to R)

3.9 km = straight (spur to L)

6.9 km = straight (spur to R)

7.7 km = straight (spur to L)

9.6 km = stop sign, 4-way intersection with the West Side Road; go straight

13.3 km = Horsethief-Forster road to R

15.0 km = major junction to R

22.8 km = turn L, cross creek; private home ("Grotto") straight

25.3 km = Hamilton Creek road L

27.6 km = Gopher Creek road L

32.1 km = Spur to L; take R signed "Lake of Hanging Glacier"

35.6 km = McDonald Creek road to L

41.6 km = L to Farnham Creek road, large sign "Restricted Access" with directions to older road on west side of Farnham Creek.

46.6 km = go L

47.1 km = ATV bridge across Farnham Creek

52.1 km = park at side of road where creek is visible.

For pictures, check out:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/toquehead/sets/981821/>

Doug Brown

Hiking Camp Reports



Hiking Camp 1

Dates: July 16-23

Location: Mt. Llewellyn area (Map 82K/13)

The intrepid crew: Eric Ackerman, Alan Baker, Roy Ball, Gayle Buchner (cook), David and Joan Cunningham, Roy and Gloria Hopland, Luba Horvath, Bob McQueen (coordinator), Kay Medland, Mindy Medland, Jan Micklethwaite, Ray and Bonnie Neumar, Sue Port, Bess Schuurman, Jenny Smith, Cindy Walker, Mary Woodward.

At the pre-camp meeting I found that, being a "newbie", I knew only one or two people there, so I volunteered for Camp Reporter as a way of getting to know everyone. It sounded like a KMC Hiking Camp was going to be a lot about food! The salmon loaf was roundly voted down and a suggestion to replace our ration of cookies with fruit received a vociferous "no". The day before departure, I set out to bake shortbread cookies, only to find out at the last minute that Alan had used the cookie tray to drip Snoseal on. "Oh well" I thought, "If these cookies don't turn out well, at least people can use them for waxing their boots."

Only one person on the original list had to drop out. We awoke in Revelstoke on Saturday morning to steady rain and clouds right down to the town site. Joan Cunningham went for a walk from her hotel room and returned with a bad back, but decided she could still fly in. The rest of us met in a restaurant, but put off leaving several times; however, the clouds gradually lifted and the pilot came to the pickup point at 9:30 as planned. The rain turned out to be nicely arranged for our convenience; it quit raining for flying in and setting up, rained again in the afternoon and then quit for supper, so nobody got very wet. It was hard to find flat spots for tents, even for Roy Ball, who was testing out a new lightweight backpacking tent - so minimal, he said, that he couldn't turn over the pages when reading a book. Three keen folks went for a walk around the lake, getting back after 9 pm. as the moon rose over the lake through widening holes in the clouds.

Sunday was hot and sunny. The area looked limited at first, but we soon found that there were seven or eight hiking routes, more than enough to keep us busy for six days. A majority of the camp set off to reconnoitre the only peak named on the map, Mount Llewellyn, and discovered that it was a technical climb. On the way back, they sighted a Grizzly with two cubs. Alan and I tackled the peak at the end of the lake, finding to our delight that there was an easy route up the back. It was 23 degrees C on the summit with no wind, and I sat up there in just my shorts and T-shirt for over an hour in perfect comfort. We returned to find that Joan Cunningham's back had gotten worse and she was lying in her tent taking Demerol for the

pain. The evening ended with a sing-a-long with song sheets around a tiny fire on the edge of the lake.

Monday morning dawned sunny, but colder, with a light frost on the ground. It remained a sunny day, but was only 17 degrees on the summits this time, clouds came in and out, and there was the odd sprinkle of rain in the afternoon. Alan sat on a summit and played with the new GPS unit he had bought just before the trip. It told him that we were 101.25 miles from the nearest official TransCanada exit and 25 miles from Rogers Pass as the crow flies. He learned that if you put a GPS in your pocket and sit on it, it takes coordinates! Let's see, if we had coordinates for every place that every KMCer sat down every day for three weeks.....From our vantage point, we could see in the distance the large contingent of hikers who were doing the peak we had done the previous day, some going up, some going down, some basking on the summit, all as tiny dots without the aid of binoculars. There were lots of long glissade marks in the snow below the summit. Would a bum slide count as a moving coordinate?

Joan reported that her back was improving. Two days of sunshine were beginning to bring out the black flies, mayflies, and some mosquitoes. Despite the sunshine, there was a brief rain and even one clap of thunder, and clothing layers went on and off all day. Nevertheless, at least two very brave people bathed in the lake (frigid!) and several others tried the nearby tarns (which were also cold). Carrot cake was a huge hit at supertime. Food, food and more food!

Tuesday was a beautiful day with no clouds in the sky except a few light puffs in the afternoon. By the end of the day, Jan and Sue had counted 48 different flowers. On the high ridges, clumps of moss campion were in full bloom, some easily 100 years old. Unfortunately, Joan and Dave were flown out by helicopter just before supper. Joan needed a lot of help to climb in. Luba cheered us up after supper with her mensa jokes involving the blending of two words (eg. "The Bozone Layer" which is not expected to deplete soon).

Wednesday dawned with again no clouds in the sky, but our stalwart crew was starting to show signs of fatigue after three days of vigorous hiking. Only three people showed up at 7am for the start of breakfast. There was much mumbling about a "rest day", but at least twelve of us charged off for a moderate hike to the SE dome. As darkness fell, there was nobody left to see the full moon; everyone had headed off to bed at 8pm. I got to bed slightly later, having fallen head first into the creek when filling my water bottle for the night.

Thursday gave us another completely cloudless sky all day. Everyone was getting sunburned and sitting in the shade of the tents for meals instead of facing the view. South and east facing slopes were now a riot of colour and the lower slopes around camp were starting to show blooms. Some people built a slide on a snow chute and slid down on a toboggan made from plastic bags and a foamy; however, the snow was melting fast. Many places where we boot skied the first two days were now bare grass covered with the red algae left behind by the snow. Mosquitoes and horseflies were now out in force, prompting a few people to wear bug shirts.

Friday also dawned sunny and hot, but clouds moved in quickly at noon, and by 1:30 it was raining hard. Bob celebrated the change in the weather by having a dip in the lake! Waterlogged hikers appeared from all directions and we had supper in the cook tent with the zippers firmly closed. Ray read an article written forty years ago about preserving Kokanee as a park and asked us (unsuccessfully) to guess who the author was. It was Roy Hopland! We learned that

critters had eaten the handles on Roy Ball's walking stick and made off with both his sandals, only one of which was found.

Saturday dawned with rain and very low clouds. The helicopter came an hour late and had to circle for ten minutes to find a hole in the clouds. Cindy got us all doing yoga exercises on the helipad while waiting. It was a novelty to see people disembarking in shorts and T-shirts when we were wearing several layers plus rain gear! The weather cleared enough to get Camp 1 out and Camp 2 in. Typically, as we drove from Revelstoke to the ferry, we drove out from under the clouds into a sunny day. It had been a great camp, with a good location, good weather, enjoyable company, and a good variety of interesting hikes.

Jenny Smith.

Hiking Camp 2

Dates: July 23-30

Participants: Ross Bates, Vivian Baumgartner,

Hazel & Ed Beynon, Glen Cameron (coordinator), Della Fenkner, Roger Legge, Bobbie Maras, Holly Ridenour (Cook), Sylvia Smith, Jane Steed, Terry Turner, Muriel & John Walton, Teresa & Ralf Waters, Maxine Werner.

After a night in a teepee at the Revelstoke KOA (between the highway and the railway!), the quiet meadows at Mt. Llewellyn were welcome and tents quickly up before the first downpour! At last – away from man-made noise. For our little community of 19, solitude is a necessary ingredient. Days 1 and 2 were cool and damp but subsequently we enjoyed brilliant, cloudless early blue skies and dramatic billowing towers of afternoon clouds. The alpine flowers were at their best – great varied carpets of colour to delight the eye, with the occasional bear dig. The most common were valerian, white and pink heather, saxifrage, colts foot and paintbrush. Our botanists discovered 2 new saxifrages that are not in local flower guide and they recorded 119 species. Wildlife included Columbian ground squirrel, chipmunks, pika, Goldeneye ducks, graceful goats and deer. Twenty-six species of birds were seen. A special experience is the golden eagle soaring low over our heads. Ptarmigan chicks ignored passersby and grey-crowned rosy finches were heard. The area abounded in little swimming holes that warmed during the week. Incredibly refreshing! Some swam to the tiny islands in the larger horseshoe lake. Unfortunately it offered no fish to our lone fisherwoman Patsy.

Hikers pretty well covered the immediate terrain but generally concluded Mt. Llewellyn not feasible from here. Many enjoyed a boot ski. Roger gained 4 summits, a personal best, but boot skied into rocks!

The area is unique geologically according to our resident geologist-story-teller Terry. It is complex structurally in faulting and folding. Limestone formations act as channels for streams that suddenly appear and disappear. There is evidence of glaciation in moraines and tarns. Two areas of interest to rockhounds and some fascinating rock formations caused by erosion and collecting quartz crystals.

Beautiful days and great views – particularly noteworthy Albert Glacier, Gregoire Peak and Albert Peak, seen by Joanne and Glen.

We all feel blessed to enjoy this unique alpine environment before being hurled back into our varied lives, and grateful to those who work so hard to make it happen.

Jane Steed

Climbing Camp Reports

Location: Conrad Icefield And More

Date: July 24-31

Maps: Bugaboo Creek 82K/15 & Howser Creek 82K/10



Climbing Camp Report 1

On the fly-in to camp on Sunday, July 24th, our party of five arranged to be dropped off at alpine meadows north of the Conrad Icefield (2341 m., 7680', 039-310). Our plan was to take several days traversing the icefield to the south en route to the main camp at Bill's Pass, just north of North Howser Spire. Our concerns were getting down from Conrad East Neve to the Malloy Glacier and getting through the big hole near the headwaters of the north terminal fork of East Creek just north of Bill's Pass.

After a very short flight up Conrad Creek from the Vowell Creek staging area south of the confluence with Conrad Creek, Fred and I shook the kids out of their spellbound wonder at the sublime landscape and suggested we should do some crevasse rescue practice. And so the following party headed out at 2:50 on

Day 1 Chad France, Campbell River; Sacha Kalabis, Winlaw; Kim Kratky, Nelson; Kyle Ridge, Nelson; and Fred Thiessen, Kamloops. Instruction in the rudiments completed, we concurred that an ascent was still possible and headed off across the glacier toward the west summit of Mt. Thorington, which I thought might be unclimbed. About 2 km. of plodding led to a couple of steeper snow ramps giving access to the base of a junky west rock ridge indented by a shallow couloir (019-286). By 6:30 we had easily reached the top of Thorington's west summit, a flat, east-west ridge 200' long with twin cairns (3021 m., 9911', GR 021-285, no summit records). During our brief stay, we gazed across to the west and northwest at the peaks of Tetragon, Crystalline, and Deluge, which were much closer than I had expected. We returned without event to camp via the ascent route by 8:50 pm (2 hrs. return, 6-hour day).

DAY 2 Determined to travel as far south as possible on the icefield toward Mt. Conrad, we departed at the crack of doom, 8:00 am. At 10:30, we dumped our heavy packs at 8900' (ca. 2700 m., 035-285) on the glacier and ascended snow and crossed a 'schrund to gain the southwest ridge of Thorington's east summit. We continued on rotten, exposed class 3 rock to reach the summit at 11:50 (3036 m., 9961', cairn, no record) and savour the excellent weather that was to be a feature of the entire week. After a short 20 min. break, we downclimbed, unroped, as Chad pulled a couple of old rap slings (surprising even to see them on this peak so remote from the Bugaboos and anywhere else) and zipped back to our packs to re-commence the heavy hikin' by 1:25 pm. We plodded south, electing to stay high near the southeast-trending height of land above Giegerich Creek. After turning a snowdome on the left, we were

forced to downclimb, roped, a steep half-pitch of rotten rock. This completed, we continued south, only to be faced with another rock hump at 048-267, which may have been Giegerich Overlook. Clearly, even the 1:20 000 trim map was not showing the terrain accurately. We retreated south a bit on the glacier, descended 200' of steep snow of an east face, and jumped the bergschrund at the base with a 10' vertical leap. Fred was in his usual good form as he cautioned the lads, "Now, this part isn't in *The Freedom of the Hills*." The party having lost elevation again, I was beginning to drag as, from ca. 2800 m., we ground our way up a long snow slope to reach a gravel outcropping at 053-264 (2994 m., 9823'). At 5:20, we cleared a couple of tent platforms on the gravel, set up the tents, and decided on an ascent of Conrad West Neve Pk. before supper. Staying roped and carrying only our ice axes, we made a quick 20 min. foray to this 3067 m. or 10062' snowdome. Back at camp by 6:30, we prepared supper, melted snow for water, and exulted in the spectacular view. This 9 hr. 20 min. day of two peaks climbed was by far the hardest for me, and I felt truly whipped as we turned in.

DAY 3 After a surprisingly mild night, we made another beastly early start at 8:20, bound for Mt. Conrad, some 2.5 km. to the southeast across the Conrad West Neve. Wearing crampons all the way, we veered left of a snow rib behind camp, made a slight descent to some flats, and left our packs at the base of the long, north rock rib coming off Conrad (069-250, 9600'). Continuing at a brisk pace, we made a long, gentle ascent to the summit rocks, dumped the crampons, and scrambled to the top by 10:05 (3279 m., 10,758'). Not finding a cairn, we concluded it must have been buried under snow (Mt. Conrad is named after Conrad Kain; he made the first ascent of this, his last, peak in August of 1933, when he guided the husband and wife team of I.A. and D.P. Richards to the summit; I.A. was a noted English literary theorist). The weather was clear and somewhat balmy as, during our 30 min. stay, we enjoyed views stretching from Assiniboine and the Goodsirs in the southeast; to Farnham, Truce, Cauldron and Macbeth; and on to the Battle Range and Sir Donald to the north. After a crampon-free descent to the packs and a lunch break, we started off at 11:30 for a stroll to the east neve, Mt. Malloy and the Malloy Igloo. After stopping just west of Malloy, we scrambled up its junky west face via a grotty couloir and a snowpatch to reach the south ridge, which took us easily to the summit by 12:55 (25 min. up from the glacier, 3023 m., 9918', cairn with no record). Back on the glacier, we re-roped and ambled south across the neve toward Last Chance Pk. (100-244) and found an easy descent of 1400' on snow past where "the crevasse ate Bert on the Rogers Pass-to-Bugaboos ski traverse." Now on the Malloy Glacier, we made a short trek across flats of blue ice to the superbly-situated Malloy Igloo (2426 m., 7959', 108-262) by 3:05 to finish off a 6 hr. 45 min. day. Built on granite slabs next to a clear, rushing stream, the fiberglass dome is beginning to show its age; still, we enjoyed very much the chance to cook and sleep under a roof. A note in the hut log from ranger Jeff Volp explained that Parks BC are asking visitors whether the shelter should continue to be maintained. My review of the last ten years of the log showed 31 winter parties (most on the Bugaboos-Rogers Pass traverse) and only 8 summer parties. We murmured in appreciation at the entry of the guys doing the McBride-to-Kimberley ski traverse (day 50!).

DAY 4 Feeling frisky and well-rested after an easy day of mostly downhill, we departed on a day-trip with minimal gear at our usual time (8:35), bound for Osprey and Vowell peaks. Rounding Osprey on the south, we headed up and north on rock and snow to Pernicular Pass (2780 m., 112-269) and then ascended 230 m. of slidey, -3/4 size granite gravel of the east face to the summit of Osprey (2911 m., 9550', cairn, no record—a familiar story) by 10:00

am. The map and guidebook show the actual summit as a 2907 m. point a short walk to the north—we didn't bother. After a 20 min. break, we descended snow and rock of the northeast ridge for an approach to Vowell Pk. from the south and east (we hadn't much liked the look of the first ascent route that traversed the west side of Osprey to the Vowell-Osprey col). From our northeast ridge, we found an easy exit onto a glacier (not shown on 82K/15) lying east of the Osprey-Vowell col. Now roped, we made a diagonal descent underneath the 2748 m. col (109-277). As the glacier had pulled away from the rock, access looked steep, unpleasant and rotten from this side. Instead, we continued down and east on snow to a point at ca. 2600 m. where a southeast face scree approach to Vowell's east ridge looked, if not beckoning, at least do-able. Fred, Chad, and I, thinking the way to the summit would be nothing but slidey trash, dumped our rope and harnesses at the base of the scree. We all clattered up this rubbish to gain the east ridge at 2880 m. and continued on easy rock and snow to the east base of a daunting summit tower. Or at least we hoped it was the summit tower, and not just some pinnacle on the east ridge. From this point, Fred pioneered a way across the disgusting garbage of the steep, exposed north face as he excavated unstable dirt to make a rising traverse. This was followed by heading straight up some 60' on dangerous, loose, stacked material to the base of a solid-looking 20' chimney that we hoped would give onto the summit platform. Chad and I followed; he had a look at the chimney and said "5.8 for sure;" and we slumped dejectedly, thinking of the rope we'd left. Then we saw Sacha and Kyle, inching up toward us on their 7.8 mm glacier travel rope. Given a reprieve, we set up a belay. Chad then made short work of the chimney and belayed us all up, using as an anchor one of the rappel slings he'd scavenged from Thorington (that's not in *The Freedom of the Hills*, either). An easy 200' walk got us to the cairned summit (3002 m., 9849') by 2:25 pm. This time we found the record, which had only one entry, the first ascent done in 1959. Surmising ours was the second ascent and the first by this route, we took a quick look around and began planning our descent. From the belay station, we did a short rappel to the bottom of the chimney, Kyle and Sacha using their descenders and Fred and I the dulfersitz or body rappel (remember, we had left all gear below; always rely on the experienced guys to make the prudent choice). As Chad opined that this wasn't the place for him to learn the dulfersitz, we ran the rope through a sling and gave him a top belay to downclimb the chimney. Nothing remained but the concentration-inducing downclimb and traverse across the north face to the east base of the tower. Then we retraced our steps home to the igloo, passing within 40 m. of Osprey's summit. Back to the shelter by 5:35 after a 9-hour day, we luxuriated in a bath and sunbathing on the slabs.

DAY 5 Thursday, July 28th, we departed the igloo at a most civilized 9:20, since our only task was to reach the KMC main camp at Bill's Pass, just north of the Howser Spires. As we ambled along under the imposing west face of West Pk., we did have some concerns about getting into and out of the hole between us and the Vowell Glacier to the south. However, this went very well, as we kept left and descended near a watercourse with crampons on and finished up with 10' of belayed downclimbing on ice to reach easier terrain at about 119-240. Then we booted our way up 240 m. of easy snow, unroped, to reach the 2500 m. col west of Little Wallace (121-231) in 50 min. By 1:30 we had reached the main camp at 122-228 (2470 m., 8100').

DAY 6 This day our fivesome paid a visit to West Pk. in the Vowell Group (3127 m., 10,259'). Away at 6:50, we swung south and east around the glacial swamp near camp and walked north up a wide valley on easy snow and rock to the Wallace-Little

Wallace col (2760 m., 128-236), where we found a substantial cairn marking the descent route north onto the West Glacier. From this point, we made two 60 m. raps on hard snow and wearing crampons. We then easily turned a big 'schrund on the left or west to reach the glacier flats. Our two roped parties then headed due north to a point on the southeast face of West Pk. where the snow gave way to rock—a spot almost directly below the major saddle in the southwest ridge. A short pitch of mid-class 5 (slabby layback, mantelshelf, ball bearing gravel on slabs) got us onto fourth class rock. While the others continued with some belayed climbing, I forged ahead, searching out the best line to gain the southwest ridge of the 1939 first ascent party. Several hundred feet of exposed, gritty, not-very-clean granite forced me to think carefully as I worked up to the prominent saddle. Now on the southwest ridge and re-united, we continued on better, lichened granite, turning difficulties on the right and zigging back to the left near the summit dome. The climbing continued to be strenuous class 4 right to the top, which we reached at 12:40 (5 hrs. 50 min. up). The long, flat summit ridge yielded two cairns, but we failed to find the summit record, dashing my hopes that Fred would see his name from a KMC party of 1984. He couldn't remember having climbed this peak, but if you look in the 1984 *Karabiner*, you can read his article proclaiming the outing "not bad for a bunch of old guys" (he was 32 then). During our 50 min. break in the usual stellar weather, we reflected on the arduous first ascents of many of these peaks made by Georgia Engelhard, Francis North, and Ernst Feuz in 1939 (see CAJ vol. 27). Recalling the feats of Georgia, another one of our heroes, gives one a respect for what was done in the era before logging road and helicopter access. At 1:30, we began our descent, downclimbing to the saddle and then heading straight down exposed ledges and gullies on poor quality rock (I thought these Vowells were solid, but this southeast face was definitely not tidy). We finished off with a 25 m. rap to reach the snow only about 20 m. east of where we had left it on ascent. As we did all our downclimbing unroped, we reached the snow in a quick 70 min. from the summit. Now, beginning at 2:40, we made good time back across the West Glacier and continued roped up the 45 degree slope to the Wallace-Little Wallace col. Chad did yeoman work as he kicked all the steps in soft snow of the 130 m. slope in only 30 min. This access, which had been described to us as problematic and tricky, presented no difficulties at all. From the col, we turned the boogie meter up a little and hoofed it back to camp in 45 min. by 5:45 pm for a 10 hr. 40 min. day. In sum, an excellent general mountaineering outing.

DAY 7 Chad, Sacha, Kyle and Fred went to Pigeon via the standard west ridge, while I took a well-deserved rest day. Hamish Mutch and Steve Horvath arrived in base camp after their rambles in the Climbing Ridge area to the west.

DAY 8 Before flying out in the early afternoon, Chad, Sacha, Fred, Steve, and I made ascents of the easy "Little Howser" (2837 m., 9308', 121-219) just above and to the south of camp. As we waited to fly out, we got to chat with members of the ACC Okanagan Chapter who were coming in to Bill's Pass for a week's climbing. A special treat for me was to see Leon Bloomer, 79 and still going strong. Have a look in *The Columbia Mountains—West and South* for his first ascents of some of the molars east of Gadsheim—in 1953.

Kim Kratky

Climbing Camp Report 2

This year's KMC Climbing Camp was held **July 24-31** in the Vowells/Bugaboos, and was the best-attended camp in years.

Participants were: Sandra McGuinness, Linda Johannson, Martin Carver, Sandy Briggs, Kim Kratky, Fred Thiessen, Chad France, Kyle Ridge, Sacha Kalabis, Steven Horvath, Hamish Mutch, and me.

We staged from a large landing at the end of the new Vowell Creek FSR at 080353 (NAD27, 82K/15). On a beautiful sunny day, five of us (Sandra, Martin, Linda, Sandy, Doug; aka "basecampers") flew into base camp at Bill's Pass (82K/15 119230 [NAD83]), two of us (Hamish and Steve) flew into a camp at the north end of Climbing Ridge, and the rest flew into a camp north of Mt Thorington.

The Thorington Crew spend the next 5 days traversing from their fly-in spot to base camp, climbing Mt. Thorington (West), Mt. Thorington (East), Conrad West Neve Peak, Mt. Conrad, Mt. Malloy, Osprey Peak, and Vowell Peak along the way. A full account of their adventure is given in a separate report.

The Climbing Ridge Pair spent a few days getting "spanked" by Climbing Ridge (details of said spanking were sketchy), and then climbed a number of peaks including MacCarthy and Thorington. They arrived in base camp the day before we flew out.

Our Bill's Pass base camp location was one of the most spectacular I have experienced: amazing views in all directions, with the giant fang known as Bugaboo Spire, towering 2400 feet above the Vowell Glacier, the centrepiece. With the exception of some rain one afternoon, we had near perfect weather for the third year running. As a bonus, the high elevation and breezy conditions kept the bug count to zero.

On **Monday**, basecampers awoke to a clear and cold morning: frost on the tents and 5cm of ice on glacial ponds. We shouldn't complain though, as the hard freeze made for excellent travel on the glacier. Sandy, Martin, and Linda climbed the very enjoyable west ridge of Pigeon Spire. Incredible rock and a fine position make this a wonderful easy route (mostly 3rd class with bits of 4th and one pitch of low 5th). On the same day Doug and Sandra had a go at the Kane route on Bugaboo. Unfortunately Doug managed to get his knee rather stuck in a crack just below the famous gendarme pitch. A rescue was required that included lots of chopper time and rope work, and was not completed for five hours. Two Bugaboo Lodge CMH guides were first on the scene, but a rescue chopper with two

Parks Canada rescuers came from Banff to perform the actual extrication. Cooking oil flown up from the CMH Bugaboo Lodge featured prominently in the rescue, which unfortunately means I will forever be known as the lead actor in the famous Mazola Party rescue.

On **Tuesday**, my battered knee and Sandra's battered Psyche, limited us to walking up to the Bugaboo-Snowpatch col to retrieve an ice screw left behind the day before. The Pigeon Spire crew took a rest day, which was fortuitous timing, as we had our only precipitation of the week in the afternoon.

On **Wednesday**, Doug and Sandra ascended Little Wallace by taking a direct route from camp, and then carried on along the gendarme-studded SW ridge of Wallace to the summit (low fifth rock - rope used on a couple pitches - plus some entertaining snow climbing in rock shoes). The other three basecampers traversed Robert the Bruce (up SW ridge, down NW ridge) and then climbed Howard the Duck before returning to camp.

On **Thursday**, Doug and Sandra climbed the SW ridge of Pigeon Spire, Martin and Sandy climbed the peak immediately south of camp, known unofficially as Little Howser, by its NE face, and Linda took a rest day. The Thorington Five showed up at basecamp in the early afternoon.

On **Friday**, The Thorington Five gained the West Glacier by climbing to the Wallace-Little Wallace col and then doing two 60m raps down steep snow to the glacier. From there they marched across the glacier and ascended straight up the unpleasantly loose south face of West Peak. The five original basecampers toured over to Crescent Spire which was ascended via the moderate snow of its north glacier and the easy 3rd class west ridge. It has been said (Edward Whymper), that the best views are not from the highest peaks, and judging by the feverish rubbernecking I witnessed on Crescent, I would tend to agree with that sentiment. Front and centre was the NE ridge of Bugaboo that looked very deserving of its inclusion in 50 Crowded Climbs.

By **Saturday**, the snow on the Vowell Glacier had retreated 200-300 m up toward Snowpatch, many snow bridges had disappeared since, and travel on the glacier was getting tedious with deep sun cups and sloppy conditions occurring by early morning if not sooner. Chad, Fred, Kyle, and Sacha were not be deterred and headed off and climbed Pigeon. Doug climbed Little Howser, and Kim, Sandra, and Linda took a rest. Hamish and Steve ambled into camp in the late morning.

On **Sunday**, Chad, Fred, Sacha, Steve, and Kim whipped up Little Howser before Don came in his whirlybird to retrieve us at 1:00. Doug Brown.

Executive Notes



Conservation-

- Jumbo is still a strong concern. Check the Jumbo and EKES websites for updates.
-The Parks Lodges Strategy is unacceptable in a wilderness park such as Valhalla Provincial Park. We will pursue this provincial government endeavor.
- A 70 km transmission line is being proposed by a local "Kootenay Community Company" across the Purcells in the Glacier Creek area. Glacier Power BC LTD of Nelson.
More information to follow, but visit their website at <http://www.glacierpowerbc.com/>

Winter Trips- David Mitchell.

-The application for the winter ski camp week at Kokanee is in this newsletter. It is noted that it is imperative that all participants are suitably equipped and have the skills and knowledge necessary for safe travel and rescue in avalanche terrain.
-Start planning your winter trips for our schedule!

Trails and Huts-Ted Ibrahim (with Sandra McGuinness looking after Huts)

-Signage has been placed on the road to Toad Mtn. and the trail is getting better with light maintenance and use.
-Nilsik Creek Trail gets better all the time with the TLC of several members. Sections of the Lemon Creek Trail may unfortunately eventually slide into the valley. There are also large deadfalls.
-Enterprise Creek Trail is now in good condition.
-Once again, some of our members and MOF personnel did a lot of work on our huts. Grassy Hut will need a new roof next year (we have this roofing in "stock", just the help will be appreciated to put it up).
-The Bannock Burn trail to Wolfs Ears and Dag needs work.

Hiking Camp- Kay Medland represented the Committee.

- New site ideas are appreciated for next year!

-70 applied and there is now a waiting list for next year. We will watch "residency" as it pertains to priority on Camps.

Summer Trips -Martin Carver

-All Club Trips must be approved by our Summer Trips Chairman. Trips noted in the newsletter trips schedule are Club Trips. People can use the list serve to initiate trip outings. If someone proposes an outing that is not on the newsletter schedule, and that has not been vetted through our Summer Trips Chair, the trip is a Non Club Trip. If however approval is received, the trip is considered a Club Trip.

Climbing Camp- Doug Brown

-10 members and 2 outsiders attended.
-There is interest in establishing a mid-level hiking/mountaineering camp for next year. Rob D'Eon is working on ideas, and suggestions are always appreciated.

Website- Doug Brown

-It has 2500 visitors a month, with most hits for the newsletters.
-The email server causes problems and we may seek out another one.

Treasurer- report sent in by Mary Baker

-Financial report will be ready for the AGM. Make sure executive gets their invoices in.
-Accounting software would make the job easier.

Other Business

- Liability issues, loss of volunteer leaders for our activities in the face of litigation and the purchase of insurance were discussed. After considerable evaluation of insurance policies available for the scope of our KMC activities, it was decided that the best option would be with the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. This requires joining the FMCBC. The Executive is seeking concurrence on this recommendation at the AGM. Information is in this newsletter.

-Summit Registers. Vicky Hart will look after their placement and the record books. These books as well as the canisters themselves are not doing well in face of

the elements. It should be noted that several have been missing from mountain tops. The executive will review in the face of the documentation. We still have several registers available. Costs to the club have been approximately \$12 each. We would like to take this opportunity and thank Ron Perrier for taking care of the registers over these past few years.

-Kinnaird Rock Bluffs- Doug Brown will investigate the access issues.

-Leadership Workshop- Last fall's workshop was very successful and productive for those who attended and productive for the KMC in general. Plans are developing to hold this seminar that.

-An Avalanche Workshop is being planned as a two-day event. The first day with an ACMG guide to give a talk including a couple of case studies of avalanche accidents with some discussion. On the second day the participants will head out on skis/snowshoes to travel about a bit and review various travel techniques such as spacing across avalanche slopes, keeping the group together etc. Avalanche beacon search techniques could be done at Whitewater. The dates are tentatively December 10th and 11th. Sandra McGuinness will be setting things up.

-Paul Allen will represent the KMC on Land issues.

-There is concern over MOF roads being gated and No Trespassing signs being posted. The chairman will investigate.

Rosland Mountain Film

Festival Dates: November 17-20. It is called the Biggest Little Film Festival in Canada. It offers Outdoor Extreme Sport Films and more. For more information, visit their website at www.rosslandfilmfestival.com

Banff Mountain Film Festival

The 30th annual Banff Mountain Film Festival, World Tour will be held in Nelson, November 25, 26 & 27, 2005. Visit the Snowpack website at <http://www.snowpack.ca/> or call 250-352-6411 & saks@snowpack.ca for more info.

KMC Winter 2006 Ski Trip Kokanee Glacier March 11-18

The KMC has a week booked at the Kokanee Glacier Chalet from March 11 to 18, 2006. There is room for 12 participants, who will be selected by lottery. This trip is primarily intended as a ski week. However, other participants who wish to go using light touring or cross-country or snowshoes may attend. In any instance, **it is imperative that all participants are suitably equipped and have the skills and knowledge for safe travel and rescue in avalanche terrain.** When successful applicants are notified, proof of competency regarding avalanche knowledge may be required.

Of the successful applicants, a coordinator will be selected. The role of the coordinator is to arrange food groups, and the other logistics of traveling to and from the chalet. The coordinator is not expected to be a guide. Please indicate if you are willing to be a coordinator. If twelve names are drawn, and none have indicated a willingness to be a coordinator, names will be drawn until a willing applicant's name is drawn. (The last name drawn will be dropped until a coordinator is found). Volunteering for the coordinator's role can increase your chances of a successful application.

The cost of the trip is \$700. There is no price differential for ACC members and non-members because of a change in B.C. Parks rules.

Couples who wish to come can apply together, but must indicate if they are willing to come on their own, if their application is drawn last.

To enter the lottery, send your application with a cheque for the full amount to:
KMC Box 3195 Castlegar, BC V1N 3H5.

Names will be drawn on November 30, and successful applicants will be notified shortly thereafter. You will be asked to sign a waiver prior to the trip. Uncashed cheques will be returned to unsuccessful applicants.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

ACC Membership number (if applicable): _____

Are you willing to be a coordinator? _____ If couple, will you come alone? _____

Thank you and good luck!

David Mitchell, Winter Trips Chair

KMC Hiking/Biking Trips Schedule - Fall 2005

Important Notes:

1. Coordinators are encouraged to screen participants for fitness, skills, & equipment, and to limit group size as appropriate.
2. All trip participants must call the trip coordinator a minimum of 48 hours in advance of trip departure.

Classification of Trips:

Physical: A-easy B-moderate C-strenuous D-very strenuous

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

For more information phone the Summer Trips chairman, Martin Carver 354-xxxx

REMINDERS: Mountain transportation is expensive - Share the costs. No dogs permitted on club trips.

KMC Membership, 2711 Granite Road, Nelson B.C. V1L 6V3 (Single \$20, Couple/Family \$25, Junior, \$10)

Oct	2Sun	Blue Grouse Basin	C3	Ross Bates
	5Wed	Copper Mountain Cabin work party	-	Sandra McGuinness
	8Sat	Old Glory	C2	Jan Micklethwaite
	9Sun	West Creston Crags	B4	Sandra McGuinness
	10Tks			
	12Wed	Skattebo Trail	B1	Bess Schuurman
	16Sun	Galena Trail	A1	Don Harasym
	19Wed			
	23Sun			
	30Sun	Evans Creek	A1	Don Harasym
Nov	6Sun	Champion Lakes	A1	Ross Bates
	13Sun	Pilot Point	A1	Don Harasym

There are still a few blank spots in the schedule. If you can coordinate an outing, please call or email our Chairman, Martin Carver, at 354-xxxx or xxxx@netidea.com and give the date of the proposed outing, hike description (with rating) and location, your name, phone number and/or email.

Snowshoe schedule: As has occurred in the last several years, a snowshoe schedule is being developed for the upcoming winter season. We are, therefore, asking for volunteers to lead trips. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are willing to lead a trip or two and the preferred dates. Although Sundays have been the designated snowshoe days in the past, if you prefer another day of the week, no problem. Contact Don Harasym at 354-xxxx or email at xxxx@shaw.ca

