



Kootenay Mountaineer

The KMC Newsletter JAN/FEB 2006 Issue 1 Next deadline: Mar.10/06

SAY "NO" TO JUMBO RESORT

We have arrived at what might be the ultimate moment when the Regional District is being given the responsibility to say yes or no to this mega-resort among the grizzly bears and in what still survives as a remote, lonely wilderness setting in an increasingly crowded southern British Columbia.

The information is all below including a sample letter you can draw from. We have essentially until the end of February to get our letters in as the 60-day comment period is already underway. If you can spare some time in your full lives, please send a letter (with the important cc's) to the addresses below. The political players *may* well be in our favor this time round, but we will still need yet another huge outcry to stop this big mistake. Thanks.

What to put in your letter? You can use the information below or go to www.jumbowild.com and go onto the 'Take Action' page to send a letter.

1. Ask Regional and Provincial politicians to keep the Jumbo Valley for public recreation and wildlife, not speculative private profits and real estate.
2. Ask the directors of the Regional District of East Kootenay to stand strong in opposing permanent development in the Jumbo Valley.
3. Two key ministers who are new to the issue, the Hon. Olga Ilich (Tourism, Sport and the Arts) and the Hon. Pat Bell (Agriculture and Lands) need to hear that after nearly 15 years, the public still says NO to Jumbo Glacier Resort. Also on our list of people who need to hear your opposition is a Manager of Major Projects, Psyche Brown, from the Tourism and Resort Development Division of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts, the Provincial Ministry reviewing the Master Plan for the proposed resort.

Addresses:

1. Board of Directors, RDEK, 19-24th Avenue South, Cranbrook, BC, V1C 3H8 rdek@rdek.bc.ca
 2. Psyche Brown, Tourism & Resort Development Division, 3rd floor, 145 Third Avenue, Kamloops, BC, V2C 3M1
Psyche.Brown@gov.bc.ca
 3. Honourable Olga Ilich, Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts, Room 342, Government of British Columbia, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4
olga.ilich.mla@leg.bc.ca
- CC: Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Government of British Columbia, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4
pat.bell.mla@leg.bc.ca

Sample letter to send to Regional District of East Kootenay Directors– feel free to expand, contract or otherwise modify:

Dear RDEK Directors,

I am writing to ask you to retain the current zoning for the Jumbo Valley that supports public recreation and wildlife and rejects permanent infrastructure such as the Jumbo Glacier Resort. When it comes before you, I ask you to reject the application to rezone the area to develop a 6000 ha. resort and a real estate project in the heart of the Purcell Mountains.

Industrial tourism development such as the Jumbo Resort proposal is out of balance with local, regional and international values. Thousands of people who live and recreate in British Columbia's Kootenay region continue to oppose the Jumbo resort for economic, environmental and social reasons. Though the proponent continues to advance this resort, these reasons have not changed.

The development compromises regional opportunities for responsible, well-planned tourism. I encourage you to heed the RDEK's regional growth strategy and ensure that future tourism development is concentrated in and around existing communities, thus preserving the wilderness and wildlife habitat on which BC's growing sustainable tourism economy is based.

Wildlife and remaining wild places are BC's marketing niche and eco-tourism advantage. International tourists come to BC precisely to enjoy this precious wilderness and wildlife, both of which are scarce commodities worldwide.

I understand that the Regional District will have to make a decision regarding the controversial Jumbo Glacier Resort. As a member of the Regional District of the West Kootenay community, I would like to state my opposition to the development.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on an issue of global interest and immense local significance.

Sincerely,

PLEASE WRITE NOW !!! THIS IS NOT A DONE DEAL !!!

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Avalanche Course Report

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* Photo on last page originally appeared in Karabiner Fall 1967.

David Thompson Bicentennial

David Thompson, explorer, fur trader, cartographer, naturalist and more, including probably the first European Kootenay mountaineer, traveled the region between 1807 and 1812. Thompson traded with the areas First Nations and sought to locate and map the 'Big River of the West', the natural trade highway to the Pacific Ocean, the Columbia River.

Visit the David Thompson Bicentennial's Initiative website at www.davidthompson200.org

Gates and No Trespass Signs on Backroads

For the most part, FSRs are not gated. Having said that, they can be and the legislation that is most often used to gate a road is:

-The Wildlife Act. These closures are usually do to with the Regulations associated with the Wildlife Act or endangered species. Most closures (but not all) are shown in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations. More often than not, the closures under the Wildlife Act do not involve gates and hunters have to walk into the area, if you are not a hunter (not carrying a gun) you can go past these closures.

-Closures under The Forest and Range Practices Act, S58 are for recreation or environmental reasons. When this occurs, you should always see a sign that says closed under the authority of FRPA, S58.

-Closures also take place to protect the roadbed. This can be done under FRPA as well. These are usually in the spring to keep traffic off a road to prevent damage during break-up.

-When active logging is occurring on the road. In some cases, the road is the landing

for cable yarding and the road is closed, as it is an industrial site.

-A Forest Service Road (FSR) is dedicated r/w owned by the Province and managed by the MoF. Not all roads out there are FSRs. They are only FSRs if it says they are, in all likelihood, if there is no sign, it may not be a FSR. FSRs are seldom signed where they officially end, normally only at the beginning. And the information in the Backroads Maps book is not always correct. Some roads are thought to be FSRs and they are not. Examples of this situation are the roads leading to the Lyle Creek and Whitewater Creek trails, which are not FSRs. In many cases, we have FSRs that cross private land, when that occurs, the land owner has every right under the Trespass Act to post the r/w boundary through the private land as no trespassing. An example of this situation is the Idaho Peak FSR that crosses an extensive amount of private property; the landowner in this case has the right to post their land.

In summary, if you are on a FSR, as the public, you have the right of passage to travel that road unless there is a legislative closure under the Wildlife Act, FRPA or the Workers Compensation Act. If the road is crossing private property, the landowner has the right to post their private property as "No Trespassing", but not the road. There is a lot of private land in this part of the world belonging to companies who are managing the land as a private tree farm and they would have every right to gate, as it's private land. That being the case, it is signed as private to advise trespassers that it is private land and they are assuming all the risks associated with trespass.

The new 1:100 000 scale maps unfortunately do not show the private lands like the old ones did. If you had an older trail map sheet, the private land is well shown.

Not all roads are FSRs. Roads that are not FSRs may be:

* Authorized under the Land Act (e.g. roads to microwave towers), these roads are not public roads and there may be closures on them as they are not public roads.

* Non-status roads, owned by no one. (e.g. the road to Kootenay Joe ridge). In this case, if the road is through private land, the landowner may deny access.

* Authorized under the Mining Act. As for the roads under the Land Act. e.g. all the roads around mines, they are generally closed to the public.

* Subject to Agreement between a

landowner and a forest company. These are essentially private roads and the landowner has the right to deny the public access as the use of the road has been negotiated between the licensee and the company and the public may be denied access. An example of this situation is the road leading to the Whitewater Creek Trailhead at Retallack. In this case Slocan Forest Products had an agreement with the landowner (Mr. Leontowitz) to build and use a road through the private property for logging. At the conclusion of logging and reforestation, the agreement lapsed and road became a private road on private property. In terms of access, if you are talking about a BCFS site or trail, the local office may well info. Our files are available for perusal; there is no FOI request required. If you are talking FSRs, district offices have files of where the FSRs start and finish, and the local contact for MoF can be contacted. This information was a cooperative effort between MOF engineering staff and Fred Thiessen, It is correct with respect to content. *Thank You for this information Fred.*

Forest Recreation Regulations- Unauthorized Trail Construction

Many of our KMC members do a great job of constructing new informal trails in the area and refurbishing those that already exist. For your information, under Section 57 of the Forestry Act we have the right:

3(1) for the purposes of section 57 of the act, the construction, rehabilitation, or maintenance of a trail does not include

- a) Marking a route with ribbons, Cairns, or other directional indicators, or
- b) Minor clearing of brush, downed tree or repairs to a trail.

Despite Sec 57 of the Act a person may construct, rehabilitate or maintain a trail without the authorization of a minister if doing so is the only way of minimizing a risk to personal safety.

If a formal trail is to be established then the process for obtaining authorization is documented under Section 57 of the Act and the required items regarding the trail are explained.

Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival
February 17th – 26th More info. at www.vimff.org

Snowmobile Accountability?

B.C snowmobilers will probably have to purchase a license each year for their snowmobile. The present government and the Coalition For Licensing and Registration of Off Road Vehicles are working to make this a reality. It is the law in all other areas of Canada.

In the early 90's a Kootenay discussion group comprised of snowmobilers, heliskiers, other backcountry users and the government met to discuss ways of resolving conflict between winter recreationalists in the backcountry. It was quickly determined that in order to get any kind of handle on the conflict, it would be necessary to identify who was actually causing the conflict. It was recognized that the actions of a very small number of "renegade" snowmobilers could seriously affect access for the rest of the snowmobile community. It was generally agreed that an annual license and appropriate enforcement would go a long way in this direction.

The B.C. Snowmobile Federation position on licensing is that if it is inevitable, (and most are convinced that it is) snowmobilers had better be proactive about the issue. A number of organizations have banded together to keep up the momentum for legislative change. The membership of this new coalition consists of both non-motorized conservation group, motorized recreation associations representing ATV's, snowmobiles and off-road motorcycles along with business and government. Formally called the Coalition For Licensing and Registration of Off Road Vehicles, this body has been active for the past 2 years. You can visit their website <http://www.orvcoalitionbc.org/> to get up to speed on their progress.

By Clayton Prince in "Why License Snowmobiles"? in the B.C. Snowmobile Federations Snowmobile B.C Magazine, Winter 2005-2006.

The Influence of Human Factors in Avalanche Judgment and Decision-Making (Part II of Laura Adams' article) can be found at **Selkirk College site**

<http://selkirk.ca/discover/staff/detail/index.asp?StaffID=2&show=recent>

The original article was published in Avalanche News Vol.75 Winter 2005/06

Outdoor Recreational Trip Plans

This site allows you to register an outdoor recreation trip plan. Safe Trip Canada offers adventurers the ability of filing a trip plan to make it easier for rescuers to find them in case of emergency,

<http://www.safetrip.ca/>.

The service is free. Trip plans are apparently monitored continuously, rescuers are only notified in case of an emergency, and reports are first verified. If you don't register back from your trip, they will try to contact you for an hour, and if unsuccessful, will contact the appropriate rescue organization. It looks to be quite useful for those of us who venture out in woods without someone at home to raise the alarm should we not return as planned.

From Doug Brown

SAFETRIPS

<http://www.safetrip.ca/>

Land Conservancy of British Columbia

The Land Conservancy of B.C. ("TLC") has purchased the gravel pit between Stawamus Chief and Shannon Falls Provincial Parks. The property was to have been the base for the Stawamus Chief tourist gondola. The purchase, from the Behrner family, became final in autumn 2005. The property was the only private land on the east side of the highway in the area, and there was a high risk of inappropriate development. The gravel pit will eventually be integrated with Stawamus Chief Provincial Park, but for the next few years will be leased back for use as a staging area for the highway project..

The Access Society thanks TLC for its work, and Mountain Equipment Co-op for the impetus and for seed funding. The Access Society has donated \$2,000 to TLC to support its work. TLC (www.conservancy.bc.ca) and has acquired or protected nearly 40,000 hectares of important lands around B.C. New members and donations are welcome, to support TLC's efforts to protect B.C.'s natural and cultural heritage. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to 5655 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5E 2T2. **CLIMBERS' ACCESS SOCIETY OF B.C. ACCESS NEWS - JANUARY 22nd, 2006**

RAPP Concerned citizens can report polluters and poachers 24/7 using a new toll-free telephone line and web-based service -anonymously and without risk of confronting the offender.

The Report All Poachers and Polluters - RAPP - is based on the principle that someone other than the criminal has information that can help solve the crime. Just like the police use Crime, Stoppers, the B.C. Conservation Service needs public assistance in catching people who break fisheries, wildlife or environmental protection laws.

To report a poacher or polluter: call 1-877-9527277, toll-free, or use the web-based form that is found at env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form.htm.

From Castlegar News, Jan. 18, 2006.

Trans Canada Trail Challenge 2006

There will be 2 Trans Canada Trail Challenge events in 2006. These events follow successful editions staged in 2003, 2004 and 2005. More than 1200 people participated in these four events; many have done so in all of them.

They will represent two different regions of the province. The Osprey Lake to Princeton event takes place on July 9.. It follows a 52-kilometre course of the Kettle Valley Railway. Participants choose to walk, bike, ride, or run. In the Lower Fraser Valley on June 25 they will have the opportunity to combine cycling and walking on a 53-kilometre route from Haney Centre to New Brighton Park in Vancouver. The level of difficulty for both courses is considered easy to moderate for a trail experience.

The focus of the events is to fulfill the spirit of the Trans Canada Trail by being non-competitive and personally challenging. They also: provide educational opportunities through the assistance of an interpretive guide; involves the communities along the trail; and provides strategies and services for the benefit of participants.

This event is hosted by Trails BC. All proceeds go towards trail construction and maintenance of the Trans Canada Trail. Go to www.trailsbc.ca for more information and to register online.

The 2007 KMC Ski Week at Kokanee Chalet has been booked for March 10 to 17 David Mitchell

Goodbye Preservation, Hello Recreation

In the American West the age of preservation has ended and that of recreation has begun. Preservation is predicated on what is now a more than century-old, class-based value system. It began as conservation in the age of Theodore Roosevelt, when it was easy to separate sacred space and that fouled by humans, and even easier for those who fouled that space to accept the distinction and throw their energy into preserving places that were beautiful and remote. No wonder conservation and preservation were watchwords of the American elite for the first half of the 20th century and beyond.

These values turned into environmentalism, a heady set of ideas during the 1960s and 1970s, when Americans embraced a vision of the world that was frankly complacent and just a little bit flushed with its own affluence. Environmentalism placed an incredibly high premium on the idea of wilderness, tacitly implying that prosperity had created a world in which all who deserved affluence had attained it. At the end of the American industrial economy, this premise led to great pressure to add existing wilderness.

These principles have now grown stale and even archaic. Environmentalism is a set of values, not the Ten Commandments. As a value system, it has to compete for adherents. In the 1960s and 1970s, its version of authenticity held center stage. Of late, it hasn't.

It's not that young people today don't understand what these values are; they do. What they don't understand is why these values are better than what they think is important. Today's young people have a different idea of what is authentic. They are post-literate, twelve-images-per-second beings. The IMAX in high definition gives a better view than anything they can do themselves. And they don't have to get cold or wet. From the point of view of an awful lot of young people today, why not? Why endure when technology can provide a visually better experience without the discomfort?

This is a profound and remarkable change that substantially alters the physical and psychic landscape of the American West. It means, among other things, that recreationalists, motorized and otherwise, have won. Wilderness is dead; not as reserved land, but as a movement or a viable political strategy. It's constituency is aging and it is losing political support to recreation by leaps and bounds.

As a result of political change, wilderness advocates can no longer get a hearing; twenty years ago, they simply swaggered to the table, pulled out maps and the rulebook they'd written, and achieved results.

Now they are supplicants, coming hat-in-hand, pleading their case, and threatening legal action. As annoying as federal agencies may find lawsuits, they're evidence of a loss of political power and support. In the 1980s, public outcry overturned Secretary of the Interior James Watt's administrative reforms of policy; Watt himself was ousted. Today, advocates resort to threats and the figurative bomb blast of a lawsuit. What is this, Guatemala? In the U. S., throwing bombs, real or otherwise, reveals a lack of power.

Recreationalists have become the new conservationists, and with that comes a great deal more responsibility than the recreational community has ever before assumed. Having easily juxtapositioned themselves as victims of the excesses of wilderness advocates, recreationalists of all kinds must now assume the onus of power.

This is especially true for motorized recreation, the fastest-growing dimension of the outdoor world. Recreationalists prize scenery, beauty, and the challenge of the outdoors; they just tend to

do so more and more with technology. In this they are no different than the rest of us. We all use technology, cell phones, iPods, and everything else, to make our lives easier and more pleasurable. Since Gore-Tex, recreationalists have done the same thing. The capability of technology has grown immensely, effectively allowing the 47-year-old me to do things now that I could not do on my own in my 20s.

So now, the shift begins. As all forms of technology allow people deeper and deeper into the backcountry and as wilderness advocacy goes by the wayside in a postindustrial society, recreationalists will have to police themselves. Instead of trying to push the frontiers of what they can do and how they can do it, in their own self-interest, they will have to find ways to put boundaries around the resources they treasure, so those resources will be preserved for their future use.

It is a paradoxical situation: the outsiders have become kings and queens of the castle. It is a whole lot easier to sit outside the tent and throw firecrackers inside; it is much, much harder to sit inside the tent and govern not only your enemies, but your close friends as well.

No longer do recreationalists grapple with opponents about which lands they can use. The entire recreational community must now develop an ethic of sustainability that will assure that the sports recreationalists choose continue for generations. Leadership that provides stewardship of the resources it uses and consumes and develops a political position that wisely manages power from the inside rather than sits outside carping is essential. Recreation now faces an internal struggle among its many constituencies to define its values, the do's and don'ts of a new land ethic.

It is a sea change in the American West, a reorganization of how we as a culture have approached the outdoors for the better part of four decades. It requires that those of us who love the American West find new ways to communicate with one another to preserve as much of it as we can, for use as well as for its own sake.

By Hal Rothman, 1-15-06

Printed with permission of Hal Rothman and New West.Net. Try the website at <http://newwestnet.com/> It has numerous Rocky Mountain issues.

*Hal K. Rothman is Professor and Barrick Distinguished Scholar at the Department of History at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Considered the one of the nation's leading expert on tourism, travel, and post-industrial economies, he is the award-winning author of countless books, including the widely acclaimed *Neon Metropolis: How Las Vegas Started the 21st Century* (2002), *Devil's Bargains: Tourism in the Twentieth Century American West*, (1998), *Saving the Planet: The American Response to the Environment in the Twentieth Century* (2000), which received the 1999 *Western Writers of America Spur Award for Contemporary Nonfiction*, and many others.*

This article came from Mr Rothman's regular column in New West.Net. New West.Net is a premier online magazine and interactive community focusing on covering the culture, economy and growth of the Rocky Mountain West. Launched in February, 2005, New West.Net offers commentary, original in-depth reportage and blogging from writers across the West."

The article came via Fred Thiessen

THE GOOD LIFE

By Angus McGarhil

A few years back, I took up cross-country skiing for therapeutic reasons. "No real expertise is required," my doctor told me, "if, you know how to walk, you can do this." He was right. In no time at all, I was gliding through the woods on a daily basis, catching the and sights 4 nature and generally becoming part of did world once more.

Most mornings, if I was early enough, I'd meet a rangy, old gentleman cruising in the opposite direction - always clad in the same grey woolly sweater and an Icelandic toque. His ski equipment looked like it might have come off the boat with 'Jackrabbit' Johansen earlier this century. He would have been in his late seventies and was a little hard of hearing even though he wore a hearing aid. We would stop; greet one another and yell amiably back and forth for a while before proceeding on our separate paths. On the return trip, savoring the swishing rhythm of our skis too much to stop, we'd merely nod in passing.

There were no rules to what the old fellow was doing, and he certainly wasn't training for the Olympics or anything like that. He was just skiing. He's gone now. I don't know where - or why. Maybe he's 'just skiing somewhere else. I hope so.

More recently, on TV of all places, I saw some excited youngsters asking each other,

"Is it coming today!?" A delivery van then loomed into view, and it crossed my mind they might be waiting for the latest version of Nintendo or some equivalent horror. But no, a major appliance of some sort arrived and the baims marched off with the huge empty carton it came in. They cut flaps for doors and windows, turning it into a fort, or a lodge, then climbed inside to form conspiracies - or whatever else kids do in their secret hiding places. It was only an Eaton's TV commercial but I found it heartening.

No one had to choose up sides, wear uniforms, be organized by adults, follow a bunch of silly rules or get screamed at by a 'coach' in need of his own vicarious adventure. Apart from someone having to fork out money for a new fridge (which they probably needed anyhow) adults weren't even involved. There was nothing official about the exercise. It was just fun.

It occurs to me that the very young and the very old may share a view of the world that those of us in between don't. Just the other day, a glossy publication called *Ski Cross Country* arrived in my mail. It's put out by an organization known as "Cross Country British Columbia" and is, in part; by the B.C. Government. It is targeted, I think, at the 'in-between' people.

Almost everyone in it is either competing, organizing, coaching, training, 'receiving or giving out an award, budgeting, following a 'discipline', or flogging the latest in ski gear. Hardly anyone appears to be breaking trail

or just enjoying the scenery. Most are skiing on machine-groomed trails and wearing skintight (aerodynamically proper) in Lycra in Day-Glo colors. Many are wearing numbers. No one is wearing a woolly old gray sweater.

I'm not against progress. These magazines, and others like it, are really very informative and there are thousands of 'in-betweeners' out there who need, and relish, this sort of thing. But if anyone, say forty or older, was thinking of taking up skiing for the first time and saw all this, there's a good chance they'd be too intimidated to even get started.

Just once, I wish someone would aim a glossy publication at the bumbler and stumblers of this world. Here's what it might say:

"Cross-country skiing can be whatever YOU want it to be. For about \$ 150 or less, you can buy all the equipment you'll need in a package deal at a sporting goods store. Don't let them blind you with science. You probably already own the appropriate clothing. If not, ask any logger where he shops and you can't go too far wrong. Snow's usually soft. Fall as often as you want - everyone else does. Laugh. Have fun."

It won't happen, of course. There's Profit in competition. Twits like myself don't spend much. Neither do kids playing with cartons or elderly gentlemen with hearing aids.

From the Kootenay Review, Dec. 1990.

Hardcore Mountaineering!

"I think today great mountaineering stories are less interesting in the eyes of many magazine publishers. They drive more hardcore stories about how tough it can be out there, writing about epics and super-humans. I fully believe that such articles shy many potential guests away from the guiding industry and also from going to the mountains, especially women. Many of these stories are widely exaggerated and seriously focus on heroism. I believe there are more people who like to read some great stories that talk about the beauty; serenity and the deep experience mountains have to offer. I am convinced that such positive stories would promote the entire mountaineering industry". *Ruedi Beglinger's response to "Do you think the media's portrayal of backcountry skiing affects the industry?" from an interview by Lynn Martel in Kootenay Mountain Culture Magazine, Winter 05/06.*

Will the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Expand Into the Kootenay's Flathead?

The proposal has been on the books for nearly a century: to gain National Park status for this remote, seldom-visited corner of British Columbia.

The "Flathead," as the area is known, is home to the highest density of grizzly bears in the interior of North America, as well as strong populations of other carnivores such as lynx, wolf, wolverine, and marten. High densities of moose, elk, and deer winter in the rich valley bottom near the Flathead River, and mountain sheep and goats ply the myriad of high meadows that define this land. Plant communities from the coast, the prairies, the southern and northern Rocky Mountains converge here too. The Regional District of East Kootenay has indicated it would like to explore the possibility of a National Park in the Flathead, as has the City of Fernie, the local Ktunaxa (Tu-na-kha) First Nation and local forestry giant Tembec, which holds timber cutting rights in the proposed park area. The federal government lists the area as one of interest for national park creation, and the Kootenays are waiting for the provincial government to give the go-ahead for a National Parks Feasibility Study.

Proponents say a proposed 40,400-hectare park in these remote parts would be a perfect fit with the existing Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Will the expansion happen? The decision rests with B.C.' provincial government who apparently feel that the residents of the East Kootenay aren't ready to set aside that much land for a new national park.

For more information on the proposed Waterton-Glacier Peace Park expansion go to www.wildsite.ca

From Dave Quinn's note in Kootenay Mountain Culture Magazine, Winter 05/06 issue

SLIDE SHOW

— COYOTE BUTTES



On **Friday, March 10**, I will be giving a slide show at **Castlegar Selkirk College**, Room Sentinel 113.

The show covers a small area straddling the Utah/Arizona border between Page, Arizona and Kanab, Utah. Some of the areas covered in the first half include Rainbow Bridge, Antelope Canyon, Stoney Mountain Road, Wahweap Hoodoos, Cottonwood Wash Road, Paria Canyon, Buckskin Gulch, Toadstools, Whiterock and Cobra Arch. The second half concentrates on Coyote Buttes, possibly the most photogenic area in the continental US and one I've been to eight times. This special permit area allows only 10 visitors per day and consists of petrified sand dunes with multihued colors streaming through the layers. The most popular area is called *The Wave* and pictures of it are instantly recognizable.

The show is a fundraiser for the West Kootenay Camera Club and begins at **7:00 PM**. Tickets are **\$10 at the door**. Ron Perrier.

One Step At a Time!

Form an interview of Lorne Taylor, Former Albertan Minister of The Environment. The entire interview is in Prairie Peaks News, Dec-Jan, 2005.

In recent speeches, you have said that you view the environment as intrinsic in basic decisions of economic and social policy. What do you mean by this and how might policies change to account for this view?

The environmental policy and economic policy have to be integrated, or at the very least complementary. You can't protect the environment at the cost of the economy. And you can't protect the economy at the cost of the environment. You have to look at it holistically. All government and public policy needs to recognize that, and recognize that there is a social and cultural relationship as well... Government can't take sole responsibility for the environment. Government can set the rules and the parameters, but it is up to people to take responsibility for protecting the environment. People have to understand that their actions have an impact on the natural environment, and they have to make choices accordingly. That is why I believe the more awareness we can create with citizens, the better off we all are.

How do you view provincial and national environmental groups? Do you see them as effective advocates for the environment?

Depends on the group. Some are effective... I think the difference is in how they make their points, as much as **the** points they are trying to make... When you attack, attack, attack, you back people into a corner, and leave them with no choice but to come out fighting... What gets results is sitting down and talking to people and at least trying to understand where others are coming from. Build relationships. You need to respect other people's opinions, and be open to being part of the solution, not just admiring the problem and attacking others. And you have to be willing to make compromises. Again, some progress is better than no progress. Small steps are better than no steps.

"And Now to Development and Environmental Issues... Ah, Never Mind"

Whether in the petro-rich foothills of the Alberta Rockies or the fairway n' fountain sprawl of Southern California's San Jacinto mountains, the story is the same. The mountains, valleys and coastlines of the North American West are being plundered by progress, specifically growth and development. While it's a phenomenon evident to most who live in any of the West's booming cities, vacation, or retirement hotspots, this is a story- the biggest in the region's history, say academic observers -that simply isn't being told.

According to a two-year study launched by Missoula, Montana's Institutes for Journalism and Natural Resources (IJNR), the true gravity of this trend is barely being reported on by the media- not by newspapers, radio or TV. Called "Matching The Scenery: Journalism's Duty to the North American West," the 135-page report found that a mere 20 percent of 285 daily newspapers monitored in the U.S., Alberta and BC did a "good-to-excellent" job of covering the complex issues of growth, development and the

environment. Only three percent -nine papers produced a consistently excellent caliber of coverage year-round. "We found that most western dailies simply aren't keeping up with the pace, the scale, the intensity, and the ramifications of profound change throughout the West," says IJNR President Frank Edward Allen. "Most communities and citizens are being deprived of the information and insight they need to enable communities to carry on productive conversations," Allen adds. "How else can they make responsible decisions about the region's future?"

The blame for newsrooms' sub-par performance on development and environment beats rests on the significant shortage of reporters and increased constraints in the amount of time journalists have to research and write their stories. Both are symptoms of increasing corporate ownership of papers in North America and the resulting downsizing and cost cutting incurred in that trend, observes Allen. Over one half of the papers studied show no reporters assigned specifically to environment or natural resources stories for more than one third of their shifts.

Allen notes the IJNR effort didn't bother to take a closer look at other media for mainstream news. "We found commercial radio and TV in the West, with very few exceptions, to be chronically and woefully deficient in quality of news coverage," Allen laments. "So, such a study would have been depressing."

Beacon Basins of the West Kootenays

Not only do we have great snow in the Kootenays, but we now have three Beacon Basins in our area. Most people know about the Beacon Basins at Whitewater Ski Hill and the Kaslo Lake Hilton in Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park, now Red Resorts at Rossland also has a Beacon Basin. The Basins, developed by Backcountry Access (the company that makes the Tracker Avalanche Beacon), is essentially a series (usually 10 or 11) of avalanche transceivers buried under a piece of plywood in the snow and wired to a control box. Using the control box, the user turns on as many or as few beacons as they choose and then sets out for a practice session. Beacon Basins make it easy to practice by yourself or to practice multiple and deep burials. Use of the Beacon Basins at both Whitewater and Red are free, just go to the Client Services desk and ask to use the Basin.

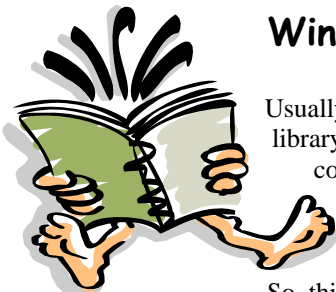
Are You Covered?

Checking Range, Transmit and Receive of all the Avalanche Beacons in Your Party

The usual way most of us check our avalanche beacons at the start of a tour into the backcountry is to have one person ski or snowshoe down the trail a little way and then switch their avalanche beacon to receive. As the rest of the group files by in single file with their avalanche beacons on transmit, the person out front checks each individual's transmit function as they pass him/her by. While this method is quick, convenient and familiar to all of us, it does not check the range, transmit and receive functions of **all** avalanche beacons in the party. It is not unusual for an avalanche beacon to continue to work in transmit function but not be able to receive. The time discover this crucial fault in your equipment is at the trailhead, not after one (or several) of your party have been buried in an avalanche. Below is simple method, taught by ACMG guides, that checks each individual avalanche beacon for transmit and receive and gives everyone on the tour a visual estimation of the range of all the different avalanche beacons in your party. The range will give you an idea of your search strip width in the advent that you have to perform a search of an avalanche site with your avalanche

beacon. This method works with both digital and analogue avalanche beacons.

Group up in a line with all avalanche beacons on receive and at full volume. One person, let's call him Bob, should turn his avalanche beacon to transmit and tell the rest of the group that he is going to move away from the line and that they should raise their hands when they can no longer hear his signal. Bob then skis or snowshoes away from the group until he sees that all hands are raised. Now, we have a good idea of the practical range of everyone's avalanche beacon (always less than advertised). Bob now turns his avalanche beacon to receive and the remainder of the party turn their avalanche beacons to transmit. Bob should turn the sensitivity (volume) of his avalanche beacon down until he is on one of the lower settings (the second lowest setting works well). With about 4 or 5 metres space between group members the rest of the party should ski or snowshoe past Bob who will check each individual's transmit function. Now you have checked the range, transmit and receive functions of all the avalanche beacons in your group and can go out with impunity and huck yourself off the steepest slopes around – well, only if you judge conditions are stable. Oh, and Bob should remember to turn his avalanche beacon back onto transmit.



Winter 2006 Library News: Not Another Boring Avalanche Book !

Usually in the winter season I plug some of the excellent books on avalanche safety that are in the KMC library. Books like Bruce Tremper's superlative "Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain", or the comprehensive "Avalanche Handbook" by McClung (from UBC) and Schaerer, or perhaps Tony Daffern's well-known "Avalanche Safety for Skiers and Climbers." But, despite all my well-intentioned reviews, hardly anyone takes these books out of the library.

So, this month, I thought I'd plug avalanche safety from another perspective, by promoting Vivien Bower's book "In the Path of An Avalanche." If you haven't read Vivien's book, you should. Not just because she is a long-time KMC member or because the accident that Vivien recounts happened in our own local mountains, but because this book is informative, educational, and more importantly, shows just how quickly even experienced mountain travelers can get caught in deadly avalanches. Vivien's book is in the KMC library, so come by and check it out, oh, and while your here, did I mention the KMC has some other excellent books on avalanche safety?

New books in the library this month:

- *Outdoor Leadership: Technique, Common Sense and Self-Confidence* by John Graham
- *Kananaskis Country Trail Guide* by Gillean Daffern
- *In the Path of an Avalanche* by Vivien Bowers.
- *Rock Climbing: Mastering Basic Skills* by Craig Lueggen.

Club Trip Reports

Mt. Lepsoe ski tour, Dec. 4

Our group of seven headed off this morning for the summit of Mt. Lepsoe, also known as both Berry Mt. and Mt. Norway. A mountain with a split personality? We skinned up the old logging road and followed the Seven Summits Trail to the west side. After seeing the north side of Old Glory, we left the trail and set an up-track to the top of the mountain. It's a non-spectacular summit, but does have good views of Crowe Mt., Neptune and Mackie. With a temperature of about -12 degrees C, we sought shelter in the trees out of the wind for a quick lunch and socializing. Before heading back we were obliged to ski some very nice west slopes in boot top powder. Jeff had his turn counter on, and everyone had smiles from the run. Thom got the Red-Green award for his use of duct tape on his skins. We returned via our up-track with a detour to the Sunspot Cabin for a warm up and another snack. Then off down the "Highway" trail for a few more turns in the field near Eagle's Nest Cabin. With smiles on our faces, we were: Ross Bates, Maurice De St. Jorre, Llewellyn Mathews, Sandra McGuinness, Jeff Roberts, Thom Volpatti, and Bob McQueen, coordinator.

Mt Kirkup, Jan. 8

After days of depressingly high temperatures, rain and gloomy clouds only nine of the many skiers who expressed interest in this trip showed up on Sunday morning at the small Hanna Creek parking spot. Some would say we were crazy but we were ecstatic! The sun was out! There was new snow! Higher up it was decent powder! As the trip was listed as having a learning component most took a shot at trail breaking, route finding, snow pack analysis and helping each other. After lunch a second run provided more untracked glades. Skiing down though the closely spaced trees to the cars returned us to the pre-existing weather. Were we lucky or what?

Thanks to all for a safe and enjoyable day.

Participants were: Ross Bates, Renata Belcyck, Linda Johansson, Tom Johnston, Jan & Kate Kyrstein, Bob McQueen, Sue Port, and Bert Port, coordinator.

Mitchener Creek to Porkypine Cabin, Jan.21

Deep powder was the word of the day, which included a lot of trail breaking, but it was wonderful. The "flying mile" up to "Porkypine" was a real struggle going up and a breeze coming down. We met the cabin building gang at the "Griz" cabin and they treated us to red wine and sausages!

We were Hanspeter Korn, Irme Mende, Hazel and Ed Beynon, coordinators.

Beacon Basins and Blundering Around in the Bush

I admit to being very impressed at the number of people who turned up for avalanche transceiver practice on **Saturday January 28**. Despite the 10 or 15 cm of new snow that had fallen overnight at Whitewater and the fact that it was snowing heavily all morning, a very dedicated crew forsook all that white gold and spent the morning practicing transceiver searches at the Whitewater Beacon Basin.

As usual we had a range of different transceivers in use and, despite the advent of digital beacons (which I find simplify

searching enormously), most people are still using analog beacons. Our day started with a good old-fashioned show and tell – how does your beacon turn on/off and switch between transmit and receive. Then we ran through a quick method that can be used at the trailhead to check everyone's range, transmit and receive functions. We did some partner searches next, fine tuning our induction or grid methods for finding single beacon burials. Finally, the grand finale was the multiple burial scenario which, as usual, had its share of challenges, not least being coordinating 8 people to **completely** search the entire debris field.

I enjoy these outings because, not only does it force me to go out and practice (something I find hard to discipline myself to do at any time, but especially difficult when the skiing is good) but I get to use different beacons and I always learn some tips from the other people who come along. One of the criticisms of the induction search is that following the flux line can take the rescuer out into difficult (e.g. thickly treed) or dangerous (e.g. cliffy) terrain. This was highlighted on Saturday when Ray got sidelined off into thick trees while following a curving induction line. Perhaps a good reason to know and practice both grid and induction methods.

The Beacon Basin seemed a bit better laid out this year than last year, with a greater spread between the beacons, but searching for multiple burials was still very difficult and most people frankly admitted that searching for any more than two beacons might be insurmountably difficult.

After lunch in the lodge, the powderhounds went off to ski at the hill, while Leah, Don and I went off for a short tour that turned into a longer tour than planned when the tour guide (me) mis-navigated and was unable to find the return route I was searching for. We started the tour by traveling through Hummingbird Pass. This leads to the standard route up Evening Ridge, but Hummingbird Pass is a definite terrain trap. We noted many small (10 cm or so) fracture lines on the walls of the canyon that had released on a layer in the storm snow. While none were big or had run onto the trail we took standard precautions and spread well out through the pass. Beyond the pass, I aimed to climb back up gentle slopes and get back on the regular trail that leads to the mine site from the end of the cross-country trails. Travel was relatively slow due to a large amount (near 50 cm) of storm snow and deep ski/snowshoe penetration.

Navigating through this section of the West Arm Park is definitely challenging as there are very few terrain features that stand out and travel is entirely through forest. I inadvertently missed the creek that drains the valley between White Queen and Mount Beattie which should have been my backstop and ended up overshooting the normal route. As it was starting to get late, we decided to retrace our steps and return via Hummingbird Pass rather than chance getting caught out in the dark looking for the regular trail. This we did, arriving back at our vehicles just as darkness was almost complete – definitely not recommended, particularly in winter.

The moral of the story – practice, practice, practice with your beacon both grid and induction methods and always have a backstop when navigating through dense forest or nondescript terrain.

Special thanks to Don Harasym and Leah Zoobkoff for being patient with my navigational distress and everyone else (Bryan Reid, Ray Neumar, Hamish Mutch, Sue and Bert Port) for showing up at Whitewater to practice beacon searching. Coordinator: Sandra McGuinness.

The Mighty Mt. Elise On Skis

After a full day out at Kootenay Pass on **January 24**, we returned home and performed the ritualistic checking of myriad weather data. All signs pointed to a clear day on the 25th, which if true, would be the first sunny day in the Nelson area in about four years. Plans were quickly changed to facilitate a jaunt in the sun the next day. After the summer weather we experienced at The Pass, I expected horrid snow conditions, so a tour was in order; with 15 minutes available for choosing the destination, I picked Clearwater Creek, thinking some sort of circuit at the head of the valley would be worthwhile. Unfortunately for Maurice, his memory failed him yet again, and he eagerly agreed to join us.

Once we had plodded our way up the road to the clearcuts in the upper Clearwater valley, we could see the mighty Mt Elise standing proudly in the bright January sun. I had expected Elise to be yet another treed bump, but in winter it is a worthy and attractive objective with the top 400 metres or so very lightly treed. As it didn't look too far, it quickly became our goal for the day. We scooted through Huckleberry Pass and started up a cut block on the east side of Huckleberry Creek. After the cool of the Clearwater valley, it quite suddenly it began to feel frightfully warm in the sun, the snow became wet, and the trees started dropping bombs with disturbing frequency. After leaving the safety of the cut block, we tempted fate and played Russian Roulette by scurrying through the war zone of the tree droppings. Maurice calls to me "It is only a matter of time before we get hit", and I imagine some bad war movie. I take three glancing blows, but otherwise we escape to the cold north side of Mt Elise unbloodied.

Contrary to what the 1:50,000 would have us believe, the head of Huckleberry Creek is quite steep and dangerous with cornices running along much of the ridgeline. Thus, before the end of the valley, we changed our plans and Sandy broke a trail up to the northeast ridge reaching it right at a flat spot at about 871-669 (82 F/6). We found the upper ridge steep in places and quite fluted. At one point I was completely unable to continue higher on skis and tried boot packing - I was soon up to my armpits and only supported by my hands on my skis. After a short retracing of steps, I traversed south across the east face to easier, but still steep terrain - it was a good thing the avi hazard was low. It is not a big peak, but it certainly isn't a gimme from Huckleberry Pass in winter.

We arrived on top at 2:15, 6.5 hours after starting, with only 3 short, stand-up-and-stuff-some-food-in breaks. Maurice was feeling a bit weary and seemed to be experiencing a bit of a *deja vu*. "Now why, again, is it I come out with you two?" he was heard to ask.

After 15 minutes of eating and checking out the quite wonderful view, we headed back down the NE ridge to near the flat spot, and amazingly found good snow. We then turned off the ridge, and skied down the SE slopes of Elise. The snow on the south and southeast aspects was capped with a nasty breakable crust, but once we traverse north to east and northeast aspects the skiing was good. We are soon across the Huckleberry Creek and at the bottom of the cutblock west of Huckleberry Pass. After yet another food stop (fourth one in 8 hours!), we skinned back up through the pass; from there it was a pretty quick trip home. We were back to the truck at 4:40, just 2:10 after leaving the summit. A pretty long day for January, but a very enjoyable trip to a local and skiable summit.

Participants: Doug Brown, Maurice De St Jorre, and Sandra McGuinness.

AVALANCHE COURSE REPORT

The KMC sponsored avalanche course took place the weekend of **January 27-29, 2006**. The course focused on avalanche phenomena, snow pack assessment, rescue and safe winter travel techniques. The program commenced with an evening workshop in Nelson covering the fundamentals of avalanche formation, snow pack structure and weather. Two subsequent back country days in the Hummingbird Pass area and at Kootenay Pass provided intensive insights into route finding, terrain recognition, snow stability tests and rescue techniques.

Participants were Helen Foulger, Dave Jack, Madeleine Martin-Preney, Murielle Perrin, Nick Shave, Lueke Kelly, Llewellyn Matthews and Don Harasym (Reporter).

The instructors, Marc Deschenes and Laura Adams did a great job describing the types of avalanches, avalanche terrain, snow pack characteristics, and appropriate gear and search and rescue considerations.

Don Harasym

OTHER Trip Reports

What's in a Name?

Going-to-the-Sun Mountain, Again.

Chimborazo, Chacaraju, Chomolungma, Chess Group, names which roll off the tongue like a magical mountain mantra. Well, maybe not the Chess Group. To me, the most beautiful and evocative name of all is Jirishanca, an icy spire in Peru's Cordillera Huayhuash. In the local Quechua language Jirishanca means "the hummingbird's beak of ice" -such imagery in a single word. Always a sucker for pretty names. I was hooked when I read Going-to-the Sun Mountain on the back of a postcard. I knew instantly that one day I would return and try to climb it. I just didn't expect it to take so long.

It all began in the old climbers' campground in the Tetons (as in old campground not old climbers) when I met this guy from Billings, Montana who said that he had a car there and was keen to go climb Devil's Tower. A short while later after a nasty fall, I said goodbye to the Tetons and hitched over to Billings, where it turned out that my acquaintance had no car and little interest in Devil's Tower. I stayed a few days and we did some climbs in the rimrocks above town, and then it was on to Vancouver.

I scored a couple of short rides and it was still early when a brightly painted VW van stopped beside me. The door slid open, and a wall of smoke wafted out. A beckoning hand appeared through the smoke, and a deep voice called "C'mon in man." I was half-stoned by the time I sat down, one of the frequently overlooked benefits of secondhand smoke. The van belonged to a folk rock band, on their way to a gig at one of the fancy hotels in Montana's Glacier National Park- a great ride of over 350 miles in great company.

We got along well and when we finally reached Glacier they asked me to stay with them. I would become an assistant soundman, sleep in a cabin, eat some regular meals and hang out with the band for a few days. It was all very tempting but after nine months on the road, Vancouver, still several days away, won out. We parted at dusk, and I hitched unsuccessfully for an hour or so before wrapping my sleeping bag in a plastic sheet,

and settling down in the ditch. In the early hours of the morning I was woken up by snowflakes melting on my face. Instead of staying with the band in a nice warm cabin, I was now shivering in a snow-filled ditch. Sometimes we make bad choices, really bad choices. It's better not to dwell on the big mistakes but this little one still needles me. It would have been a blast with the band, and what's a few days? In the morning I walked over to the nearby gas station for a cup of coffee, and bought that fateful postcard showing Going-to-the-Sun Mountain (GSM).

GSM gets its name from a Blackfoot Indian legend about their sun god Napi. Once upon a time he came to earth to help the Blackfoot in a time of trouble. When it was all over Napi scrambled up the side of GSM, strode along the summit ridge, and disappeared into the heavens. It's a nice story and it would be nicer still to know the Blackfoot words for GSM.

My first three attempts to climb this mountain, with two different companions, were unsuccessful, being turned back by rain, a grizzly bear trail closure, and snow. All of which are common at Glacier. The fourth try brought perfect weather and a smooth ascent. Like Napi, I scrambled alone up the west side. At the summit I flapped my arms vigorously and jumped up and down, but here the resemblance ended. It had taken over twenty years to get there and it felt great, but I still couldn't fly.

Last August I was hiking in Waterton with two friends when I suggested that they might enjoy a side trip to climb GSM. At 9,640 feet this is one of the highest peaks in Glacier, which always appeals to these lads. After the usual I.Q. -impaired q- and a session at the US border, we drove up Going-to-the-Sun Highway and parked at Siyeh Bend. To summarize from the guidebook: "Follow the Piegan Pass trail for two miles. Head up the dry streambed to the col between Matahpi Peak and GSM, passing through a series of cliffs, streams and scree slopes. Angle right under the upper cliffs until you reach a left leaning scree couloir. Struggle up this to the summit ridge which is followed to the top." Near the head of the couloir Murray's shoulder popped out, but we popped it back in again. On the last section of the hike we encountered another local hazard, the wind. Although it was a sunny day we wore our parkas, gloves and toques. The summit record indicated that while it was now mid August, ours was only the third ascent this year. Surprisingly, two other groups reached the top while we rested and hid from the wind. We descended slowly and carefully, like three old bulls. It was a good day, and after two ascents I think that I have finally got this peak out of my system, no matter how beautiful the name.

Glacier has lots of other great hikes and scrambles, with good trails, and virtually no bush, if you can avoid the rain, wind, snow and bear. Other scrambles, which I have enjoyed at different times, include the west ridge of Clements, easy with fun exposure at the top, and the north side of Reynolds. The latter is also quite exposed, with some class 4 sections. Most people don't need a rope, but it is probably a good idea to carry some just in case. Both of these hikes start at Logan Pass, which is so high that it's almost like cheating. It was on Reynolds that I wrote in the cairn, "2 hours, 2 beers, 2 candy bars" the epitome of a fine summer afternoon scramble.

Imposing Chief Mountain (named this time for a Flathead warrior) is another good bet. We did the west side route, but at eight and a half miles each way, this may be a little long. The Humble route is probably a better choice. Reference: A Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park. J.Gordon Edwards.

In order of appearance: Chad, the band, various generous drivers, Doris, Ute, Gordie and Murray. Thanks, guys!
Hamish Mutch.

By "George", we made it ! A Ski Ascent

In January of 2005, David Cunningham phoned me and said: "Gene, there are two types of people in this world – Those that have climbed "George" and those that haven't". David went on to inform me that he had climbed George that same day, thus making him one of the celebrated few to scale this obscure and remote peak 3 km. southeast of Kootenay Pass (GPS coordinates 0500122/5433375 NAD27, elevation 6963').

Well a challenge is a challenge and on **February 10, 2006** Ray Neumar and myself made an early start on skis from the Char Creek Cabin. It was a clear morning, the snow squeaky cold and a perfect day for a ski ascent.

Departing the cabin at 9:00am, we skied up to the head of Char Creek Valley, gaining the southeast ridge of "George" about 1½ km. southeast of the summit. A pleasant ski along the undulating ridge got us to the summit at 11:15am. A handshake and the exclamation "by George we made it!" evened the score. Having become members of David's "those that have climbed George type of people", we wallowed in the glory while enjoying our lunch on a windless and sun drenched peak. The views were outstanding. John Bull to the northeast, Mt. Irene to the east and The Craggs a stone's throw to the west. A beautiful snow covered panorama, shining in the midday sun.

A great ski descent via a ramp below the northeast face brought us into the upper basin of Char Creek. More good skiing in untracked powder, then a sled packed trail back to the cabin, which was reached at 1:00pm. A cup of coffee, pack our gear and ski out to the highway by 3:00pm.

A fine ski trip by Ray Neumar and Gene Van Dyck (narrator). It was unfortunate that David was not with us.

Another Kokanee Ski Week?

There are still other weeks available from the ACC for those expressing interest. Applications must be in by March 1st, 2006. Deposits (\$500.00 non-refundable) are due by March 8th, 2006. Duplicate requests will require a mini-lottery. There are no lottery entry fees. Contact the Facilities Administration Manager at the ACC if you have any questions regarding the 2007 pre-lottery.

Facilities Administration Manager

The Alpine Club of Canada

Box 8040 Canmore, AB T1W 2T8

ph. ext. fax www.alpinehuts.ca

Mountain Landscapes

A series celebrating the spires and peaks of the Coast, the Selkirks, the Purcells and the Rocky Mountains. The imagery for the paintings depicts rocky crags contrasting with snow draped valleys. Internationally renowned Nelson artist Rick F. Foulger is exhibiting watercolour paintings from the series LANDSCAPES at Redfern House Gallery.

Redfern House Gallery, 402 Baker Street, Nelson, B.C. V1L 4H8

www.redfernhousegallery.ca www.foulgerart.com

www.nelsonbc.ca



Executive Notes

From executive meeting Jan.20

General business

-The point that non-members on club trips are not covered by club insurance was emphasized and that Trip Initiators should make that clear to these participants. This should also be noted on the Waiver and Trip Responsibilities forms.

-The KMC currently has several waivers on the outings forms with slightly different language for each use (Membership application, Hiking Camp, Ski Week, Daily Trip and Climbing Camp). The possibility of combining them into an all-inclusive one will be explored.

-Membership form will now have "Resident-Non Resident" category and its constitutional definition.

-“Friends” categories of the KMC are businesses/others who simply get newsletters. They are not “members”.

-The concern on membership fee structure/price discriminating between single and family memberships will be on next month's agenda.

-How and when to pay our Federation of Mountain Clubs (FMC) dues and insurance? The FMC is very accommodating on this matter. They buy insurance in April based on estimates we give them. We will pay 3 times a year as membership numbers change. As this is administrative detail, no motion was required to agree to this. There will be separate cheques issued for the insurance and the dues. A separate list of those wishing to receive the FMC's Cloudburst Newsletter will also be communicated.

-We have been asked by the FMC to appoint a Board member to represent “interior” concerns. Board meetings are held monthly and make policy decisions about the FMC. Standing committees report to the board. These committees and the (paid) executive director do the bulk of the work for the FMC. The costs (financial & volunteer commitment) and resulting benefit of this representation were discussed. It was generally agreed that since our KMC volunteer Martin Carver is a resident of both here and the coast, and is well versed in KMC concerns, that it would be a good idea to go ahead with this opportunity.

-Aside from Jumbo, three concerns have been identified as important areas that we should involve ourselves with through the FMC. These are the proposed Glacier Creek power plant and transmission line project, a land use plan for the West Kootenay/Boundary, and the growing concern that Tenure holders are behaving as if they own the land they have been tenured. In some cases, this can exhibit itself in various forms of corporate bullying toward the non-commercial backcountry user.

-The next KMC executive meeting, March/April, will probably have representatives from the FMC in attendance. Members will be invited to attend.

Summer Trips: Vicki reported that the bulk mailing to the KMC list serve got no response and that she has been most successful by arranging several trips by soliciting individuals.

Winter Trips- Dave. A second part of the schedule was published earlier this month through the list serve. No feedback has been provided or solicited by the Trip Coordinator so trip reports to the newsletter will describe participation. The Kokanee ski week is full although there has been some shuffling about of participants. Peter McIver is coordinating the week's logistics. There have been as many people on the waiting list as openings by participants dropping out. The Winter Trips report discussion was about either having 2 lotteries or an earlier draw date. But after awhile it became clear that there are advantages and disadvantages to any approach. What do other clubs do besides having lots of choices?

Hiking Camp: -Hiking Camp is focusing on a Mar. 15 deadline and the lottery on approx. Mar 22. Kay Medland described the problem encountered with the selection of this year's site near Sentry Mountain. The shrinking availability of access to the wilderness was demonstrated by an encounter with "Mike" of Sentry Lodge. Trying to arrange a helicopter for this summer's hiking camp in the vicinity of Sentry Mountain, Ron Cameron was asked by a prospective pilot to raise the issue with the owner of Sentry Lodge. This person, Mike, wrote a derisive message stating that there should be no KMC camp at the location, and threatened the helicopter pilot with loss of winter business if he was to provide the KMC with access.

This appears to be a symptom of "a lodge up every drainage" that excludes non-commercial backcountry access. David will contact Robin Fawcett of Water and Land BC Inc who is in charge of crown land use permits in the Sentry Lodge area to find out exactly what the permit allows. We are fairly sure that the permit applies only to the actual lodge and a small radius surrounding it.

See the application in this newsletter. The committee has developed a “To-do” list associated with the various responsibilities everyone in the committee is doing. This will make it easier for those joining the group in the future. The idea of burning deadfall was discussed however the prospect of 3 weeks burning in the high alpine nipped that. “Green” logs will be tried this year.

-Climbing Camp is still looking for a destination.

-Website- People will be removed from the list on Feb 15 if membership is not in good order. There was discussion on the club schedule. It was agreed that dates sans leaders names and times will be put on the website. Many web related questions are “is the club still active” and this may increase interest.

-Membership application is progressing normally so far. There are occasional corrections to be made on forms.

-Newsletter- a short discussion on emailing it. Or, a link to it on the website. We could have color pictures then.

-Equipment, Cabins and Trails- There is a new road going in up Bannock Burn that may facilitate access along a trail that we have been working on. Work is continuing on the trail 7km up Gibson Lake Road for access to Outlook Mtn. -
-The ice axes have been distributed to Don Harasym in Nelson, Eric Ackerman in Trail and Pat & Al Sheppard in Castlegar for easier access to.

-Concerns of the KMC membership can be emailed to:
where the entire executive receives a copy.

Remember to renew your membership! Application forms are available online at our club website at www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca and select “Membership”.

Alpine Club of Canada 1906-2006

This year is the ACC's Centennial. Find out more: visit their [Centennial](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/centennial/index.html) webpages
<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/centennial/index.html>

Red Cross Wilderness & Remote First aid course

Ever wonder if you'd recognize the signs and symptoms of acute mountain sickness, know how to splint a broken wrist, or improvise a stretcher? This 32 hour course covers essential wilderness first aid skills including: C.P.R., wound management, fractures, sprains, sudden medical emergencies, bites, stings and drowning, hypo & hyperthermia. Learn how to recognize, treat and stabilize in the field.

Dates: Part 1 Sat/Sun, April 22 & 23, part 2 Sat/Sun April 29 & 30 8:30 to 5:00 pm each day

Cost \$280.00 (includes texts, C.P.R. shield, taxes)

For information, or to register; Terry O'Gorman (), or

Winter Trips Schedule Part 2

Here is the second installment of the winter trip schedule. No ratings are listed as these will change with snow conditions and road openings. The coordinator or I will provide trip details a week or few days in advance of the trip. If no destination noted, it will be determined closer to the date.

There are still very few (i.e. only 1) snowshoe trips. We need lots of coordinators, so please call me at or e-mail

February 19 Ski trip Kyle Ridge

February 25 XC Ski trip Moose Meadows Ed Benyon & Hazel Kirkwood

February 26 Ski trip Ripple Mountain circuit Maurice de St. Jorre

March (date TBA) Bonnington Traverse Sandra McGuinness

March 5 Ski trip Ymir circumski Doug Brown

March 12 Ski or snowshoe trip Dave Cunningham

March 19 Ski trip Curt Nixon

March 26 Ski trip Roland Perrin

April 13-17 Ski trip Silver Cup Ridge Doug Brown & Sandra McGuinness

It is that time of year to get the **KMC Summer Hiking Schedule** prepared for the season.

The club and trip leaders are now covered by a liability clause. I hope more members come forward to coordinate trips; after all this is our club. If we all pitch in and lead a hike, we will have a fantastic summer hiking schedule.

Usually trips are scheduled for Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays, but feel free to coordinate hikes on any day. Your trip can be a day or even a multi-day backpacking trip.

All Club Trips must pass through the Summer Trips Chairperson, Vicki Hart.

Questions, please call Vicki at .

Note: The KMC's next executive meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday March 24th 2006. Representatives from the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. will be in attendance if schedules permit. KMC members are invited to attend. For more information on time and location, please contact Steven Miros Tel.

2006 KMC HIKING CAMP - TWILIGHT CREEK

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club sponsors three hiking camps each summer, which are organized by a volunteer Hiking Camp Committee. Participants are determined by a lottery. The KMC does not act as a guide service through its hiking camp program, but facilitates transportation of members to remote wilderness areas where one's activities must be governed by the level of experience each possesses in such an environment. It is not for the inexperienced person new to hiking. Participants should have some back country hiking experience or as a minimum, be a strong trail hiker to get the most out of camp. The hiking camps uphold the friendly environmental policies of the KMC. An effort is made to keep these camps affordable for all members. It is a rustic, wilderness experience with few conveniences.

The preparation and in-camp activities are a cooperative effort, with all participants sharing duties. Each camp has a volunteer leader who coordinates procedures, implements and upholds policies of the Hiking Camp, and facilitates an enjoyable hiking/camping experience.

LOCATION: The headwaters of Twilight Creek are approximately 50km NW of Golden in the Selkirk Mountains. Twilight Creek is a western tributary of Cupola Creek. Our camp will be located at approximately 7400' near one of the lakes in the area. There are alpine meadows and ridges to enjoy. The highest peaks in the area are Seraph Mt. (9000') and Ventego Mt. (8900').

MAP: 82N/12 and website: <http://srm.www.gov.bc.ca/bmgs/airphoto/IMF/Index.htm> (find grid 082N - then map center 117 degrees, 39', 24" W, 51degrees, 31'15" N, type in scale of 1:31,000).

ACCESS: From a staging area along the Forest Service Road on the West side of McNaughton Reach (Columbia River). This FSR goes north and leaves the Trans Canada Hwy approximately 95km E of Revelstoke or 52km NW of Golden. Details will be provided later in camper's package.

DATES: Camp #1 - July 22 - 29; Camp #2 - July 29 - Aug.5; Camp #3 - Aug. 5 - Aug. 12

FEES: Total of \$425 per camper. This includes a non-refundable cancellation fee of \$50.00. Full fees are payable upon registration. Applications accompanied by post-dated cheques will be considered as of the post-date. Make cheques payable to **KMC Hiking Camp**.

TO REGISTER: Return the completed registration form and **signed** waiver along with a cheque for the full fee to - Kay Medland, KMC Hiking Camp, 313 Sylvia Crescent, Trail, B.C. V1R 1A4.

** Please note that the waiver form must be **signed** by all persons listed on the registration form. An application will not be considered until the signed waiver form and the full payment is received. Phoned in applications will not be accepted.

AGE RESTRICTIONS: The minimum age for camp participants is 19 years as of the camp date.

PRIORITY: Registration form must be received on or before March 15th. Members who applied for a camp last year prior to the lottery deadline, but were on the wait-list and did not get into camp, will be assigned to the camp of their choice if they apply for the current year, providing both their KMC registration and hiking camp registration were received before the deadlines. When a camp roster is full, additional applications will be placed on a wait-list in the order drawn in the lottery, or as received after March 15th. The lottery will take place March 22nd. Only those who have joined or renewed their membership prior to February 1st will be included in the lottery. Following this period, vacancies will be filled by members who have paid their membership after Jan. 31st. If camps are not filled by April 15th, applications will be accept from non-members.

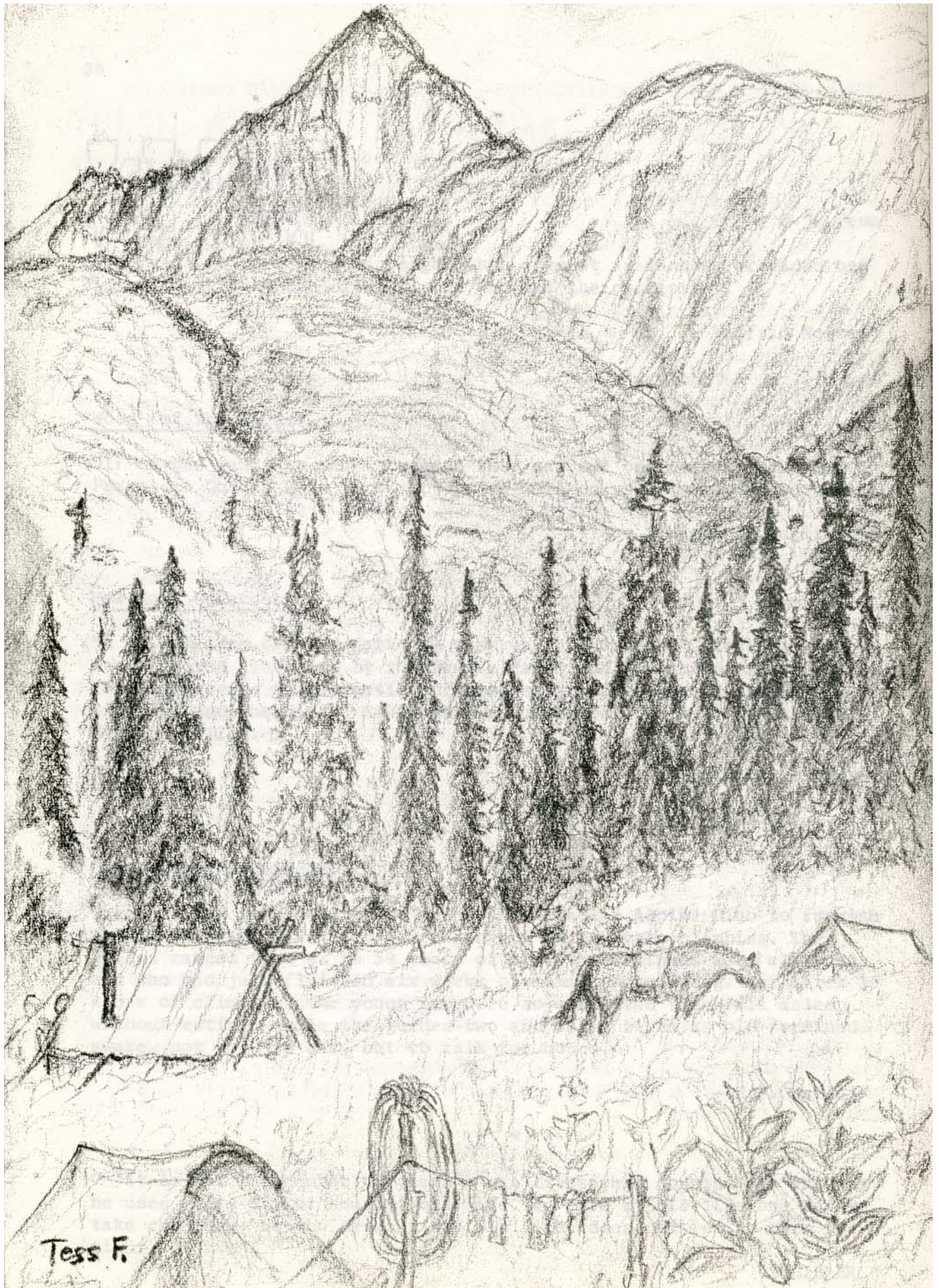
CANCELLATIONS: The cancellation fee of \$50 is not refundable. The remaining fee will be refunded if notice is received prior to June 1, 2006. Fees will not be refunded for cancellations received on or after June 1st unless a suitable replacement is found. Cancellation vacancies will be filled from the wait-lists first. If there are no names on the wait-list, the member is responsible for finding a replacement before a refund will be issued. Contact Kay Medland, Registrar **before** taking action.

INFORMATION: For information about registration, the lottery or waitlists, please contact Kay Medland, Registrar, , email: . For all other hiking camp inquires please contact Ron Cameron, Chair, 2054 7th Ave. Trail, BC, V1R 3C5, ; email: .

Other committee members: Mary Baker (), Janet Cameron (), Ray Neumar (), Mary Woodward ()

THE CAMP COMMITTEE APOLOGIZES FOR ANY INCONVIENCE CAUSED BY THE DELAY IN GETTING THIS INFORMATION TO YOU. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU READ THE INFORMATION CAREFULLY AND FILL OUT/SIGN THE FORMS ACCURATELY BEFORE SENDING IN TO THE REGISTRAR. ERRORS/OMISSIONS COULD RESULT IN DELAYS WHICH COULD DISQUALIFY YOU FROM THE LOTTERY.

DEADLINE FOR THE LOTTERY IS MARCH 15TH



Tess F.