

# Kootenay mountaineer

The KMC Newsletter

Sept/Oct 2007

Issue 5

Next deadline: Nov 31st

## BCWF Approves Off-Road Vehicle Conservation Statutes

August 1, 2007 - The BC Wildlife Federation, the oldest and largest conservation organization in BC, applauds Minister Rich Coleman and the Ministry of Forest and Range for the recently announced amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act that will protect sensitive eco-systems in BC by providing new statutes and a severe penalty structure for irresponsible use of, and for environmental damage caused by inappropriate use of, off road vehicles. "Many BCWF members are motorized recreation users, and much like the vast majority of off-road recreation participants, our members are aware of the need to protect sensitive eco-systems and wildlife habitat", said Andy Pezderic, Land Use chair for the Federation, "and we fully support this amendment".

"One does not have to wander far off the highways today to see damage to grassland, alpine, or riparian eco-systems that was caused by off-road or 4 x 4 vehicles", said Wilf Pfleiderer, president of the BCWF, and, "it often takes decades for this damage to heal, erosion problems and the spread of noxious plants often follow on these damaged sites. These new statutes will not be a hardship for responsible off-road recreational users, but will provide some much needed teeth for government to enable curtailment of inappropriate and damaging use."

The BCWF supports one-time licensing of ORV's, which would include the use of a license plate or decal to identify individual machines. Pezderic, an ATV user himself, said, "licensing of ORV's along with these new amendments would go a long way toward making ORV recreation a sustainable sport for all to enjoy, without participants having to bear the stigma generated by the few irresponsible users."

For Further Information, Contact: Paul Adams, Executive Director 604 291 9990 extension 230 or cell 604 308 1914 or [paul@bcwf.bc.ca](mailto:paul@bcwf.bc.ca)

## BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB'S 100 YEAR CELEBRATORY BANQUET:

COME ONE COME ALL TO CELEBRATE AT THE GROUSE MOUNTAIN CHALET THIS COMING OCTOBER 28th..TICKET PRICES ARE \$60 EACH AND CAN BE OBTAINED BY SENDING YOUR CHECK TO (MAKE CHECKS OUT TO BCMC): DONNA SCANLON, #30 12165 - 75Ave, SURREY BC, V3W 0W7

**Rossland Mountain Film Festival**, Nov 15-18.  
[www.rosslandfilmfest.com](http://www.rosslandfilmfest.com)

**Banff Mountain Film Festival**, Nelson Showing Nov 22-24, Contact [Snowpack](mailto:snowpack) 250-352-6411, or [sales@snowpack.ca](mailto:sales@snowpack.ca)



## Camps Photo/Slide Show

KMC will be hosting their annual slide show on:

**Friday October 19<sup>th</sup>** starting at 6:30PM

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



We will have Coffee (caf and decaf), Tea (normal and that herb kind), cream and sugar, Donuts and muffins... so leave some room for these.... And we'll have lots of photos from the Climbing, Skiing and Hiking Camps, etc. All who are in the pictures and participated in these activities are expected to chirp up whenever during the slideshow... it will make for lots of fun.

If you have slideshow, hiking, or climbing material you would like to show off please bring them to the event. I will have a laptop and projector to show the pictures I have... if you want to show yours with your own stuff or show them from my computer you are welcome to do so.

Any questions on the event contact me.

## KMC Annual General Meeting And Election of Officers/Directors

Date: **Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**



**Location** Banquet room at **The Fireside Inn**, in Castlegar, next to the Shell Station), 1810 8<sup>th</sup> 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 **\$20.00** per person and includes coffee or tea, tax & tip.

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

**Please email/call before Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>** so we can confirm attendance numbers to the Chef.

Contact Steven/Eliane Miros.

Positions coming up for election are:

President, Vice President, Director Climbing Camps, Director Hiking Camps, Director Mountaineering School, Director Equipment, Cabins and Trails, Director Newsletter.

# Inside This Issue:

► **Information:** BCWF Approves New Off-Road Vehicle Statutes, Waterline Wall Climbing Area, Mtn. School Tech Tips: How to Bivouac Comfortably

► **Activities:**

Course offers: Red Cross Wilderness & Remote First Aid Course  
Oct.13-14 & 21 days + evenings Oct.10, 17 & 18

Mountain Navigation Course: Oct.20, 21

Camp/Photo Slide Show: October 19<sup>th</sup>

AGM Dinner/Meeting: November 30<sup>th</sup>

Club Trip Reports: Valkyr Traverse, Reco Mt., Bannock Ridge, Mts.Ruppel & Arlington, Haystack Mt., Seven Summits Trail, Mt.Sphinx

Other Trip Reports: Kendall Catwalk, Mulvey Basin, Mt.Iconoclast, Mt.Carlyle, Gimli base, Alps Alturas, Gimli, Dunn Pk.,

2007 Bonnington Cabins Report

Hiking Camps 1, 2 and 3 Reports

Flying Circus Climbing Camp Report

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## FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK

### **Forty Six New Routes, Two Minutes From Downtown, By Vince Hemsall.**

*Ask long time locals, newcomers from across Canada or those who travel here from other parts of the world – Interior B.C.'s rock-climbing scene, well, rocks. And it just got better. To the Slocan Bluffs, Kinnaird and Penticton's Skaha you can add Castlegar's Waterline Wall. With the help of Kootenay climbing veteran Hamish Mutch, the new climbing area has been bolted and mapped, with more routes to come...*

**I**t's 7:30 in the morning and Neil Ives and I are at the new Waterline Wall climbing area watching a family of wild turkeys forage in the field next to us. I mention that it's hard to believe we're a mere two-minute drive from downtown Castlegar and he replies, "That's what sets this area apart from others in the Kootenays – the access is really easy but it's got a sort of remote feel to it."

Ives is one of four developers who have been busy this past year putting up new routes at the Wall, which is named for the utility water line that runs under the access trail. This gravel trail is actually a city "right of way" and it links the two halves of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, just west of Castlegar's Columbia Street. In years past it has been a popular destination for birdwatchers, dog walkers and cross-country skiers but it wasn't until the fall of 2006 that climbers began to visit regularly.

That year, three Selkirk College students (Aaron Kristiansen, Kyle Ridge and Ives) and Hamish Mutch, a Kootenay climbing veteran, began developing in earnest, cleaning vegetation off the cliff, which is located on property owned by a Salmon Arm holding company, and bolting sport climbs. The area had seen some ascents decades earlier when mountaineers practiced placing pitons in the more obvious cracks, but it wasn't until Kristiansen was introduced to the cliff by an aviation student, who spotted it while on a flight, that interest really took off.

"We couldn't believe this area hadn't been developed already, considering the quality of rock and the easy access", says Ives.

There are now 46 routes on six walls that range from easy traditional crack climbs to harder sport projects in the 5.12 range. The variety of climbing at Waterline is only partly responsible for the exponential increase of climber visitations in the past few months, however.

"Since we put out the guide book to help offset the cost of bolting, this place has gone off", Ives says. The 24-page guide costs \$10 and the proceeds go towards hardware, which, given the cost of bolts, hangers, chains and drill bits, averages out to \$85 per route. There are still many more lines to be developed at Waterline Wall and Ives says the increase in popularity will only spur him and the others to create more. "This place is fresh out of the oven", he says, "and we still have a lot more to do."

#### **WATERLINE WHEREABOUTS**

Drive West from Castlegar on Hwy 3 toward Grand Forks. Turn left on 14<sup>th</sup> Ave and drive to the end past the baseball diamond. Follow the dirt road and park on the left. The first wall is 200 metres past the gate. Guidebooks are available at The Powderhound in Rossland, the Chamber of Commerce in Castlegar and Valhalla Pure Outfitters in Nelson.

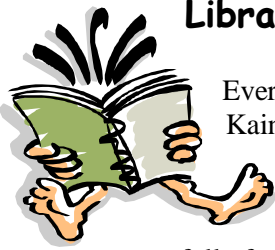
*This article was published in **The Weekender, August 24, 2007.** It is reprinted with their permission*

*The following information was submitted by Hamish Mutch.*

"This area [Castlegar's Waterline Wall] is very popular. Close to 200 guidebooks have sold in the last few months. Sometimes as many as 30 people come there on a weekend.

KMC members Hamish Mutch, Kyle Ridge, Doug Brown and Dave Jack have been very active there, and have participated in establishing 16 of the 48 routes now recorded.

Stephen Langley, Daniele Montandon, Linda Johannson and Sandra McGuinness are also frequent visitors."



## Library News: All Things Canadian

Ever wondered who did the first ascent of Mount Robson? Or wanted to know all about Conrad Kain? (yes, these first two are related) Been interested in the natural history of BC's Columbia Mountains? Or wondered about Canadian women in mountaineering? The KMC library has a plethora of books and journals on all things Canadian, from the best of the *Canadian Alpine Journal* to the definitive *Pushing the Limits: The Story of Canadian Mountaineering* (look carefully for a picture of a much younger Hamish Mutch – no pun intended).

In the last two months, the Canadiana collection has expanded vastly due to donations from Jane Steed. As yet, I haven't had time to catalog all these new books, but a quick browse through the boxes (there are many) shows some very interesting additions to the library.

### KMC Winter 2008 Ski Trip Kokanee Glacier Chalet March 8-15

The 2008 Ski Trip has room for 12 participants who will be selected by lottery. The trip is intended as a ski week, but other participants wishing to attend with snow shoes, light touring or cross-country skis are welcome. **PLEASE NOTE: All participants must be suitably equipped for, and have the skills and knowledge for safe travel/rescue in avalanche terrain.** When successful applicants are notified, proof of competency in avalanche terrain may be required.

A coordinator will be selected from the successful applicants. The role of the coordinator is to arrange food groups and logistics of travelling to and from the chalet. The coordinator is not expected to be a guide. Please indicate on your application if you are willing to be a coordinator. If 12 names are drawn and none are willing to be a coordinator, names will be drawn until a willing applicant's name is drawn. The last name drawn is dropped until a volunteer coordinator is drawn. Volunteering as a coordinator increases your chances of a successful application.

**The cost of the trip is \$783.00 with no price difference for Alpine Club of Canada members.**

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

To enter the lottery send an email to Dave Jack before **October 15, 2007**. I will notify all applicants the following week. Successful applicants will be asked to pay their fees in full before **October 22**. Unsuccessful applicants will be added to a prioritized wait list. In the event of non-payment of or withdrawal of a successful applicant the person who sits highest in the wait list will be given priority and notified of the availability.

If you a member does not have access to email and would like to enter the lottery please call me at **xxx-xxxx**. If I am not at home please feel free to leave a message.

## Mountain School Tech Tips: How to Bivouac Comfortably

By Sandra McGuinness

The word "bivouac" generally conjures up an image of an unfortunately benighted climber or hiker, huddled on a nasty, exposed, rock ridge in full force of wind driven rain or snow. But, there is another bivouac, the one at [www.bivouac.com](http://www.bivouac.com). The latter is the home of the Canadian Mountain Encyclopedia. This website, run by Robin Tivy, is a collaborative effort of dozens of mountaineers and hikers from across Canada, and provides a searchable database of over 15,000 mountains in Canada along with road and trail access information, climbing and hiking routes, mountain photos and trip reports. In fact, just about everything you need to know to go and climb that remote peak that's been on your tick list for the last five years.

Basic mountain information (location, climbing routes) is free, but access to the full Bivouac database is by subscription (\$25/year or \$50 for three years). Full membership gives access to all road and trail information, thousands of route and trip reports, and high quality photo essays. You can search for mountains by name, or you can search for routes, trips, roads and trails in your area, by typing in a search center (e.g., Nelson), and specifying a search radius (i.e. 50 km).

I have four annual memberships to give away. If you are interested in a free year's subscription to Bivouac, email me your name and contact information. If I get more than four people interested, I'll have my dog, Kumo – completely unbiased unless you send kibble – pick four names from a hat (or more appropriately a helmet).

## Red Cross Wilderness & Remote First aid course

Would you recognize the signs of Altitude sickness? Know how to splint a fracture, or rig an emergency stretcher?

This 40 hour course includes a CPR C /A.E.D. certification as well as covering the basics for backcountry emergencies.

Cost \$280.00 (including materials)

Dates: October 13/14 & 21 all day, as well as the evenings of 10th, 17th and 18th

To register, or for further information: Terry O'Gorman, 354-4231 (or, [teogo@shaw.ca](mailto:teogo@shaw.ca))



### KMC Executive

#### Notes

**Conservation** – There was a Jumbo Lodge meeting

held in Cranbrook where strategies were developed to try to go forward with Jumbo Wild. Scott Neidermayer, the NHL player, is a resident of Cranbrook and has come on board as a supporter. The memorial for Colleen McCrory was held at the beginning of September in Silverton and provided an opportunity to get together, reminisce, and strategize. Glacier Creek Blockade is still in place. The landowner involved has expressed concern about possible damage to the creek and the road. While the landowner cannot legally block the road, the provincial government is reluctant to obtain an injunction against him for a number of reasons. Andy Shadrack and Kim will be negotiating with the landowner. There was a Jumbo Wild celebration held the weekend of September 15<sup>th</sup>, but those from the West Kootenay could not attend via the Glacier Creek Road even though the landowner was allowing access for that purpose. The barrier was another blockage placed on the Duncan River Road before the Glacier Road turnoff.

**Hiking Camp** – The feedback about the camp location has been positive. The committee treasurer is in the process of reimbursing for camp related expenses. A deficit is not being anticipated. These will be ready for the AGM and will be accompanied by the club's annual financial statements that are sent to the Ministry of Finance.

**Winter Trips** – There is a need to discuss limiting the numbers on those trips involving dangerous terrain. This is to be discussed at AGM.

**Summer Trips** – Overall it was a good year though there were a number of

empty spots in July and quite a few cancelled trips due to smoke or fire. A list is being kept of how many is going out on each trip.

**Trails** – One trail repair was held in August. The original location was to be Lemon Creek but had to be switched to West Kokanee Face Trail. Four club members were involved in this repair. More are needed. The second repair was supposed to take place in September but had to be postponed. It is re-scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>. West Kokanee Face Trail is partially cleared and partially flagged. Bushwhacking is still required and there is still a great deal of work to be done. A lopper with telescopic handles was purchased which is ideal for getting up high when clearing trails.

**Cabins** – (submitted) No work parties involving club members were organized but Sandra completed work on all four cabins (Copper, Steed, Huckleberry, Grassy) during July and August that included cleaning the cabins and outhouses; cleaning up after one pack rat; hauling out left-behind food; replacing a pane of glass; carrying in fire extinguishers, a splitting maul and a new broom; making minor repairs; checking on the amount of firewood and stacked it; and making note of more major repairs. Generally, the cabins are in excellent condition. Work is still being undertaken with Steven Langley regarding the booking system. This year there has been a total of \$300 in donations of which \$243 has been spent on supplies and gas.

**Treasurer** – Preparations are underway to complete the financial reports for the AGM. Current financial statements were provided that indicate total revenue at \$23, 448.53, the total expenses at 23, 584.13 with a net income of -135.60. See Attached statements in this newsletter.

#### **UNFINISHED & NEW BUSINESS**

- **Slide Show:** Discussion ensued about the need to have a balance between ensuring there are enough pictures but not having too many between any one member. It was suggested that a limit be placed on 20 images per person – which could be revised pending on the number of people who bring pictures.

#### - **Membership Fee Structure:**

Information was presented about the fee structure that involved both varying the structure AND keeping it at the same levels. After discussing the breakdown of what the fees actually involve- **See attached breakdown sheet**- Executive

moved to keep the original fee structure  
- **Letter of Support Requested:** John & Muriel Walton have asked KMC for a letter of support regarding creating and maintaining a recreational reserve on Crown land at the confluence of the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers. There was unanimous support for the writing of this letter.

- **Summit Registers:** Should we continue to place registers on the summits. There is a cost of over \$13 per register and while a number are used quite effectively, several have either had water damage or have disappeared. The decision was to seek direction from the membership at the AGM.

### **FOR SALE**

CMH Volkl Explosive - last chance to get a now discontinued classic. 180 cm, Salomon bindings, last year's model in excellent shape. Asking \$ 300.00

Head iChip Slalom, 170 cm with Tyrolia bindings - top rated carver in excellent shape. Asking \$ 400.00

Phone Steven Horvath

# KMC Fee Structure

Mandated by the members at the AGM the KMC executive has reviewed the current fee structure.  
 The Executive recommendation is to "Keep the Current Fee Structure unchanged."  
 The fee structure will be voted on, at the 2007 AGM.

**2006 - 07 Membership**

210 Memberships ( Families = 76 , Individual = 128 , Non-Resident = 6 )

300 Total Individual Members = 166 Family Individual Members + 134 Individual Members

**Cost To KMC**

The three major KMC Expenses:

<b>Newsletter</b>	= \$3,361.62 / 210 =	\$16.01 / Membership
<b>Fed Mem</b>	=	\$15.00 / Membership
<b>Fed Ins</b>	=	\$6.00 / Member

**Current Fee Structure:**

	(based on 2)	
	Individual	Family
<b>Mem</b>	\$20.00	\$25.00
<b>Fed</b>	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Ins</b>	\$6.00	\$6.00
<b>Ins</b>		\$6.00
<b>Total Fees Paid</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$52.00</b>

<b>Newsletter</b>	\$16.01	\$16.01
<b>Fed Mem</b>	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Fed Ins</b>	\$6.00	\$6.00
<b>Fed Ins</b>		\$6.00
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$37.01</b>	<b>\$43.01</b>

**Fees Paid to KMC account after Major Expenses:**

<b>\$3.99</b>	<b>\$8.99</b>
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**Individual Pays: \$3.99 / Individual Member**

**Family Individual Pays:**

76 x \$8.99 = \$683.24 /166 =

**\$4.12 /Family Individual Member**

**Conclusion:**

Family Individual Member pays \$0.13 more.

**Alternate Fee Structure:**

	(based on 2)	
	Individual	Family
<b>Mem</b>	\$18.00	\$28.00
<b>Fed</b>	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Ins</b>	\$6.00	\$6.00
<b>Ins</b>		\$6.00
<b>Total Fees Paid</b>	<b>\$39.00</b>	<b>\$55.00</b>

<b>Newsletter</b>	\$16.01	\$16.01
<b>Fed Mem</b>	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Fed Ins</b>	\$6.00	\$6.00
<b>Fed Ins</b>		\$6.00
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$37.01</b>	<b>\$43.01</b>

**Fees Paid to KMC account after Major Expenses:**

<b>\$1.99</b>	<b>\$11.99</b>
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**Individual Pays: \$1.99 / Individual Member**

**Family Individual Pays:**

76 x \$11.99 = \$911.24 /166 =

**\$5.49 /Family Individual Member**

**Conclusion:**

Family Individual Member pays \$3.50 more.

# Club Trip Reports

## Re: Kokanee Traverse -

In the "good old days" KMCers used to do it relatively regularly - at that time it was fairly easy/pleasant as one could stay on the snow on upper edge of glacier - N side of the ridge - for much of the way and it made the travel faster. The glacier has receded considerably since then making a non-snow travel trip rather demanding for one day.

Thanks to Steven Horvath for pointing this out.

## Valkyr Traverse, August 11-12

The Valkyr mountain range is located in the western Valhallas and runs north-south. There is a hikable ridge about 10 km long joining the major peaks from Naumulten in the north to Hilda in the south. In 2003 the Glasheen family built a backcountry lodge on the west slope of Naumulten which made the logistics of doing this hike easier.

At 1:00 pm Aug 11, eleven of us met in Burton at the winter staging area for Valkyr Adventures. After meeting Martin Glasheen and his son Ryan, we were driven for about 45 min up Stony FSR to a trailhead for the hike into their lodge. This hike took about 2 ½ hours at a leisurely pace through scenic mostly alpine terrain.

At this point the trip made a radical departure from normal KMC fare. We were greeted at the lodge by Shelly Glasheen and shown our rooms, complete with sheets and towels (for the hot shower). Then hors d'oeuvres were served after which people relaxed in the lodge, hiked close by or played bocce. Supper got full marks for both quality and quantity and shortly after (encouraged by the looming 5:00 am wake-up call) people started heading for bed.

We left the lodge at 6:00 am the next morning, and, fueled by Shelly's granola and eggs, most of us made it up the 900' to Naumulten peak (8118') by 6:45. From there it was an easy 3 km ridge walk (which included losing and then gaining 500' elevation) to the summit of Rollins.

The next stage was the 2 km ridge to McBride (8300'). This involved a 300' descent and a 500' ascent with a 200' bump in the middle. Occasional light scrambling was required and the final ascent was a bit steep and exposed. Two participants decided to avoid this ascent by going into the bowl with the intention of going around the east peak of McBride about 500' below the summit and contouring around to join us on the ridge leading to Prough. While in the bowl they decided they would rather regain the ridge between the 2 peaks of McBride via a muddy, rock strewn gully. All this took time and had me more than a little nervous.

This leg made it obvious to me that there was a large disparity in pace among our group. By the time everyone had assembled on the ridge just south of McBride, around noon, the speedy ones had been waiting 2.5 hours and had even enjoyed a nap. Because of our slow pace and the uncertain weather (cool, cloudy, the odd snowflake and afternoon showers in the forecast), I decided that the keen and well rested hikers (3 volunteered) should continue with our original route on the ridge system to Prough and Hilda while the rest of us would descend into Hilda bowl. Group splitting was possible because I

was in radio contact with our subgroup (as well as the Glasheen family).

The speedy three summited Prough and then Hilda (8600') by 2:30, a very impressive accomplishment considering the scrambling and effort involved. Congratulations Jen, Shannon and Caroline! On their way down to the pickup point on Tait FSR they met Ryan Glasheen, who, after summiting Hilda himself, drove them back to the staging area, via a 2hr stop in Fauquier where they corrected their hamburger and beer deficiencies.

Meanwhile back in Hilda basin, our group's revised plan to get to the Tait FSR pick-up point by skirting the east flank of Hilda at about 7000' and then contouring around to the south (thus avoiding the time consuming and exposed ridge route to the summit), was revised again. In the interests of time (getting slower) and safety (starting to rain) we decided to descend in a NE direction to the Burton Creek FSR where Martin agreed to pick us up (thank goodness for radios).

Fortunately Rudy was very familiar with this route as the trail was intermittent. We made it to the FSR by 5:00 and then had to walk 3-4 km to the vehicle as the road was washed out at km 15. By 7:00 we were back at our vehicles in Burton and met the other 3 group members who had just arrived from Fauquier. Everyone agreed that it was an interesting and enjoyable day, although, as is often the case with large groups and ambitious agendas, it didn't go quite according to plan.

Thanks to the following participants: Caroline Dahlen, Rudy Goerzen, Graham Jamin, Jen Kyler, Caroline LaFace, Kate Murphy, Shannon Naylor, Diane Paolini, Jill Watson, and Mary Woodward. Special thanks to the Glasheen family; Martin, Shelly and Ryan, for setting a new standard in hospitality and service.

Bill Sones, coordinator.

## Reco Mt., August 15

For this trip we got the good weather we had ordered, drove to Retallack and from there up to a corner just below the 'bad' part of the road.

There were fourteen of us and we hiked on the road up to the col and then to the summit. After an early lunch on the summit we descended, splitting up into three different groups.

Owing, presumably, to the hot summer, the flowering season had passed, but the hike was otherwise enjoyable.

We were Suzanne Blewett, Bob Dean, Rick Fredsborn, Dave Grant, Vicki Hart, Edward Ibrahim, Caroline LaFace, Robin Lidstone, Jan Micklethwaite, Ray Neumar, Nancy Selwood, Gene Van Dyck, Jill Watson, Mary Woodward.

## Bannock Ridge

On Wednesday **September 5th** six of us met at the Playmor Junction and drove to Bannock Burn via Slocan. Instead of staying on the 'Gimli' fork we took the left fork and followed it for a total of 17km (measured from the Little Slocan road). This fork has a number of steep switchbacks on it and it took us to over 6,000'. After leaving the trucks we hiked up to the ridge on our right (Bannock Ridge !!!) where we had a good view of Gimli and a number of the other peaks and then we climbed one of the two summits at the end of the valley - the lower one which had looked as though it were the higher one from down below. On the return to the trucks we encountered some

difficulty getting down off the very pleasant ridge we had followed from the summit.

The weather was excellent and the views were magnificent.

Participants: Ed Beynon, Bob Dean, Robin Lidstone, Alan Sheppard, Pat Sheppard, Mary Woodward.

## **Mt. Ruppel, 2376 m, 7795', Mt Arlington 2412 m, 7913', September 9**

A recent landslide at 5 km blocked the usual route up Enterprise creek road and made for some quick recalibrating to salvage a trip up to Mt Ruppel and Mt Arlington. Instead a route starting at 4 km of the Crusader creek road ( a branch of the Lemon crk FSR) was used. It followed an old mining road up Mineral creek to gain the back side of Mt Ruppel.

We met at the bottom of the Lemon Creek road at 8:00 a.m. and were hiking by 9:00 a.m.. The old mining road was in good condition, due to use by ATV's. We hiked from 4500 ft to 7400 ft on the road, then scrambled around the back side of Ruppel to attain the peak by 12:00 p.m. and enjoy lunch with a view. After lunch we managed to maneuver down the north ridge and across the boulder field below Ruppel to attain the ridge over to Arlington. We reached the summit of Mt. Arlington by 3:00 p.m., where after serious discussion, we decided the peak was on the south end of the ridge, though everyone climbed both ends to be sure that they had reached the highest point. We then descended down a steep gravelly ridge on the south side of Arlington to an old overgrown logging road, which has just recently been cleared by ATVs. A quick walk down the logging road and we were back at the vehicles by 5.45 p.m.

Another beautiful sunny day in the Kootenays. We were: Suzanne Blewett, Nancy Ferguson now officially a C3 hiker), Micha Forestell, Graham Jamin, Hanspeter Korn, Jen Kyler, John Liddington, Jan Micklethwaite, Marilyn Nelson, Terry Simpson, Mary Woodward, and Dave Grant, Coordinator.

## **Haystack Mt., September 12**

Today we were eleven meeting at the Sanca Creek FSR at 8:00a.m. One logging truck hurtling down the dusty logging road got our hearts pumping near the start. A good trail to the lakes and a bit of route finding to the ridge below the summit, then a pleasant scramble to the top. We had lunch on the summit while enjoying the views. Other peaks tempted us. There is more to do in that area.

Our only bear sighting was while driving along the lake: A beautiful black bear with her 2 cubs were cavorting on a front lawn.

The gang: Vicki, John L., Dave, Jan, Pat, Al, John B., Don, newcomers Diana & Henry, and myself Mary Woodward.

## **Seven Summits Trail, 29 km; +/- 4000' vertical, September 23**

The trail was frozen solid when we started the hike at 7:30 a.m. at the Nancy Green summit and did not get any warmer on the way up to Mt Lepsoe. The new section of the trail started at the parking lot and traversed by Surprise, Eagles nest and Sunspot cabins. This made for a much more gradual climb up

the east side of Lepsoe, until we rejoined the old trail just past Sunspot cabin and continued up to the ridge.

Once the mists parted at the top, we had a great view of Old Glory, Lepsoe, Plewman, Kirkup, Gray, Granite, Roberts and Record, though I often think the trail should be called the Seven Shoulders trail, as it never really summits any of the peaks mentioned above. We got so close that Gene and Lou had to climb Plewman, but common sense overcame the rest of us and we continued to mosey on along the trail.

The weather was cool and clear, with remnants of last weeks snowfall along side of the trail . We had lunch at the end of White Wolf ridge and were back to the cars by 4:00 p.m., (except for Roy who decided that he had an extra gear that the rest of us were lacking and got back at 3:30 p.m.). The hike allowed us to enjoy a beautiful fall day and was uneventful other than dodging the occasional mountain biker along Record Ridge.

We were: Lou Chioccarello, Caroline Dahlen, Henry Dembicki, Roy (speedy) Hopland, Maureen Kowalchuck, Bill McNally, Bob McQueen, Bryan Reid, Al and Pat Sheppard, Michelle Troughton, Gene Van Dyck, Jill Watson, and Dave Grant, coordinator.

## **Mount Sphinx, September 30**

We had an early season preview of winter on this trip. When I put out the bulletin on the KMC list-serve, I stated that I was uncertain of the trail's condition. I received several reports from members telling me that the trail was good, many well-wishers, and at least two messages to tell me that the summit was snow covered. I'm uncertain if this information was meant as an enticement or a discouragement.

The group of us caught the 8:10 ferry and drove to where the snow on the road made driving interesting. Driving through the snow-laden alders and clambering over the rocks was fun, but this was not a Jeep trip so we parked about 2 km from the trailhead. The trail, though snow covered was readily discernible and we got to the alpine without any difficulty. While the leader was a bit clumsy on the summit approach, Gene broke a nice side-hill trail in the snow to the top; long enough to regroup and stash a summit register after 3 hours of hiking. There was cold and blowing snow all the way to the top. It was so cold that the hosepipes on the drinking bladders froze solid. Gene suggested that we have our lunch lower down, out of the death zone. It was still cold but less windy. Perhaps being unacclimatized made it feel colder than it really was. Two hours after leaving the summit we were back at the cars. As we drove down the road, the rain got quite heavy. We were dry. If we hadn't been up so high, we would have been hiking in rain instead of cold dry snow.

David Cunningham, Maurice de St. Jorre, Vicky Hart, Joan Harvey, Gene Van Dyke, Polly and I caught the 3:40 ferry home with no waiting.

David Mitchell.

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves". — John Muir

# Other Trip Reports

These reports of “common adventure trips” are submitted by club members, they are not on the club schedule.

## Kendall Katwalk, 5400', July 13

This 12 mile return day hike gave us a good idea of what the Cascades section of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is all about. We had driven through the Snoqualmie Pass on several occasions and finally extra time allowed some exploration. This very popular trail is apparently one of the more scenic sections of the 2650 miles PCT.

The trailhead is well marked at the Snoqualmie Pass (exit 53) on the I-90 freeway between Spokane and Seattle. You must purchase a parking pass either at the trailhead machine or at the Ranger/visitor station a km away. We began at about 10am under cloudy skies. The temperature was less than the 35C we had been experiencing for the past few days. The humidity made it most uncomfortable. It wasn't that bad in light of the huge packs others had while backpacking this 67mi section of the PCT to Stevens Pass and beyond (252mi to Manning Park).

The excellent trail begins in semi-Coastal Rainforest and slowly works its way up via a very easy grade to the alpine on the southern slope of Kendall Peak. Immediately upon emerging from the forest and into the wildflower studded boulder field named the Kendall Gardens we were treated to a great view of Mt Rainier. There was a panorama west over Commonwealth Basin, Guye Peak and the appropriately named Red Mountain. The trail sidehills Kendall Peak in a northerly direction and eventually goes across an impressive 150m. solid granite section blasted out of an exposed cliff. This is the Kendall Katwalk.

As you cross the Kendall Katwalk views northeast into the next wilderness valley appear. The Gravel Lakes were below. From our lunch spot further up the trail we could easily trace the PCT for several miles as it continued along several alpine mountainsides before disappearing across a pass and into the next valley. Snow patches blotted the trail. Most of these peaks seemed to offer scrambling possibilities. The panorama was enticing, and it was here that the PCT captured our spirit. I think we could honestly say that it would have been interesting to join the pilgrimage from here back to Canada.

We quickly returned via the same route. Mt Raineer dominated the southern horizon for some time and the temperatures slowly climbed. We took about 6 hours for this 12-mile walk. Water along the trail was fairly plentiful but contaminated. Eliane, Jean and Steven Miros.

## Mulvey Basin

In late July Sacha Kalabis and I set off to climb the SW ridge of Asgaard and the W ridge of Gladshheim. We left the Gimli parking lot at the early time of 8 o'clock; that is 8pm Sandra, hehe. Our original goal was to hike all the way into Mulvey Basin that evening, but when part way up the trail Sacha stopped to fill his water bottle and commented, “uh oh, it sure would be a gorbby move to put your pack down to fill your water bottle and then not be able to find your pack again” we realized it was far too dark to accomplish that goal. We spent the night

at the Gimli bivy site, and were awoken by a couple of local mountain goats.

The next morning we headed to the base of the SW ridge of Asgaard. We enjoyed a very pleasant approach to the ridge. We belayed from where the ridge rises out of the col, and followed a straight line that lay just to the north side of the ridge proper. We alternated the lead over six pitches to the summit. A fixed pin is located part way up the climb, and I strongly believe it was placed there by my Dad on the first ascent of the route.

Sacha and I descended the E ridge into the basin and spent a very comfortable night in a place that has quickly become one of my favourite areas. In the morning we took our light packs and headed for Gladshheim. The gully leading to the ridge is nasty at best, and steep enough to warrant the use of crampons. Once on the W ridge the scrambling is very enjoyable, but it soon becomes apparent that considerable effort is going to be needed to climb this route. Route finding skills outweigh technical climbing skills on this route, however do not be fooled by the 5.1 rating that is listed on rockclimbing.com the climbing is far more difficult than this rating indicates. Highlights of this route are an amazing exposed traverse on the south face, and a scramble through a tunnel that takes you into the bowels of the mountain.

We retraced our steps with four awkward rappels on descent. After some enjoyable glissading down the gully we returned to our camp after 12 hours of steady going. Sacha and I also talked about how it seemed the sun was hunting us all day. The sun had beat down on us from the time we left camp until now, and it was still shining bright. Sacha convinced me to load up my heavy pack and make a push for the truck. I find it funny that on this trip both ways on the Gimli trail we were aided by headlamp. We returned to the truck, exhausted, after a 15½-hour day. Gladshheim is a great mountaineering outing. I am in awe of the few that have done it in a day trip from Nelson. Kyle Ridge.

## Mt. Iconoclast

In late July of 2007 we - Bert and Andrew Port, Paul and Scott Allen and scribe Steven Horvath spent a pleasant week from **July 22 to July 29** climbing and general mountaineering in this beautiful place.

We flew to Ventego Lake with Don McTighe on Sunday, July 22. It was a good thing that we flew in early morning as no sooner did I put my tent up that it started to rain. We had a perfect camp location right on the lake shore on an old shingle streambed that for the first time any of us could remember we neither had to move a rock nor level the tent site. Great opportunity to catch up on our reading and detailed inspection of food supplies as the rain continued to fall.

Rain continued overnight and into next day, however, it stopped long enough to allow the Ports and myself to check out the approach to Mt. David, while Paul and Scott got a bit wet attempting to circumnavigate Ventego Lake.

On Tuesday after the weather started to clear, we decided to get a better feel for the place and departed towards a saddle between Mt. Olive and Iconoclast. I continued up and up towards the start of Northwest Ridge of Iconoclast, while the Ports & Allens climbed the true north ridge of Mt. Olive.

On Wednesday the weather was perfect so we set off in early



morning to climb our main objective, the 10,600ft. Mt. Iconoclast. We started by gaining the glaciated saddle between Iconoclast and David, then went around the north face and northwest Ridges of Iconoclast. We traversed the glacier counter clockwise, using our crampons for the only time during the week, around to the true northwest ridge which we then followed up class 4 chousey rock to the summit. The Allens and myself then reversed the route while the Ports successfully completed the traverse of Iconoclast by climbing the entire summit ridge of this complex mountain and descending down its north Ridge.

Next day we climbed the north ridge of Mt. David which turned out to be a pleasant class 4 on fairly solid blocky quartzite.

On Thursday we had another longish day. We climbed Mt. Olive by its north ridge and then continued down along the south ridge and gained the upper escarpment of Nordic Glacier which we then followed over a long west trending ridge to two of the three summits of Nordic Mtn.

Saturday was rest day. I climbed up the Southwest summit of Mt. David and had a long meditation [aka snooze and eat and gaze] summit session. Paul finally let Scott sleep in for the morning while Bert and Andrew strolled off to a small summit at the southwest end of Iconoclast.

Another successful trip in a beautiful place and great company. [and no bugs to boot].  
Steven Horvath.

## **Mt Carlyle, 8688 ' August 14**

Using my Suzuki we were able to drive to 5500 ft on the old mining access road up Carlyle Creek off Keen Creek. The claim owner at the Flint Mine appears to be working the mine to some extent accessing via ATV. If you are driving anything less than a tank or well tired ATV I would recommend not bothering to ford the creek at about elevation 5300 because just beyond the road gets rough. I am not one to quit early, loving a four-wheel drive challenge, but my wife would not appreciate me bringing the family vehicle back trashed. It was 3 hours from the car to the peak (got to love how consistent the 1000 ft per hour rule works summer or winter). Walked up the road to the Flint Mine (6500 ft). Then followed a well worn mine trail up through other adits on the mountainside to the start of the rock talus. We climbed over the NW SE ridge (8800 ft) descended a few hundred feet into an upper bowl of the drainage to the SW of Carlyle Creek, then traversed the west face of Carlyle and up the SW ridge to the peak. A wonderful hike with literally no bushwhacking. According to the log at the top hardly anybody had been up there this summer. Go figure!

Lee and Dwain Boyer and dog Tucker.

## **Gimli base, August 22**

Five souls hiked on this lovely sunny day, to the base of Gimli. We fantasized about capturing the peak, but the sunshine and beautiful views off the ledge at the base were too captivating.

This trip was enjoyed by Glenn Cameron, Marilyn Nelson, Dan Shames (visiting from Washington DC and looking for real hikes), P'nina Shames, reporter, and Tom Wayman.

## **Alps Alturas Area, August 24**

Thirteen hardy folks and Rosie the beautiful dog met at the Wilson Cr. FSR at 8 am to take the long and taxing drive to the trailhead on this beautiful sunny morning. Wildflowers were in abundance, and the vistas in all directions were glorious. Upon arriving close to the end of the trail, eight folks decided to try and ascend the ridge leading to the summit of Marten Mtn. Two made it to the very top. The ledges were shared with a small family of mountain goats. There was much laughter and conversation for the duration of the trip. All levels of ability were represented on this hike.

The brave and eager participants were: Suzanne Blewett, Glenn Cameron, Vicki Hart, Marilyn Nelson, Andre and Sarah Piver, Mary Prothro, Rafael (exchange student from Spain), Dan Shames (still looking for more great hikes while in Canada), P'nina Shames [reporter], Nadine Steele, Bill Sones, Bill's friend Ken, Bill's dog Rosie.

## **Gimli, August 31**

On the evening of August 30, Sacha Kalabis and myself left for the Gimli parking lot. The conversation on the drive in centered on our concerns about the weather forecast and the recent cool temperatures. We spent a warm, but restless night in the back of Sacha's truck. Crawling out of the truck at 5am we were welcomed by a calm, clear morning. However, I must say that weather concerns weighed on my mind all day. Dressed in our white sneakers we left the parking lot at 6am headed for the famous S ridge.

In the past Sacha and I have had some misadventures concerning water bottles. On a trip to Mt. Loki I forgot to fill my bottles up in advance, and as a result I packed empty bottles up an extremely "dry" ridge. On another occasion, before hiking out on a short cut I decided to dump my water out. My thinking being, "why the heck do I need to pack all this extra weight, especially if we are taking a short cut that will get us back to the truck fast?" Well of course the short cut turned into aimless wandering, which at times seemed like it would force us into an unplanned bivy. Fortunately we made it to the truck before dark and before I collapsed of dehydration. Upon reflection it seems that I have had most of the misadventures with water bottles, Sacha was just around to witness them.

Our trip to Gimli continued the water bottle misfortunes. I commented, "we don't need to fill our bottles completely down here, we can top them up at the base of the climb." My reasoning being, "there was flowing water there a month ago so of course there is water up there." We got to the base of the climb to not only find there was no flowing water, but that we only had 1 liter of water between us. We decided to fill our second bottle in a small, stagnant pool of water. On the way up the ridge we both sipped conservatively from our clean water bottle. When we reached the summit we both decided that there was no way we were going to risk some gastrointestinal ugliness by drinking out of our second bottle so we dumped it out. This means that we were not only really thirsty, but that we also carried a full liter of water all the way up only to pour it out; can you say gorbey.

The actual climbing was spectacular. Four of the seven pitches would be three star climbs at any crag. Each pitch has some uniqueness that makes it special, and all of this is situated in a fantastic alpine setting. For a number of reasons, not the

least of which was my nervousness around setting up a hanging belay, Sacha led all the pitches except for the second. Sacha is more experienced, and therefore faster, at placing protection and building anchors. Speed was important because there was a very personable couple from Alberta behind us, and the weather continued to deteriorate throughout the day. We climbed the ridge in 6½ hours, which allowed us lots of time to socialize on the summit, and afforded us many luxurious rests on descent. Kyle Ridge.

## **Dunn Peak, 8640' 2633 m., Sept 9-10**

Two KMCers headed out from Kamloops with a slow start knowing full well to go the full distance to summit and return was too much for a one-day outing. The weather was perfect. At Barriere we turned east onto the paved Barriere Lakes Road, at 18.5 km we went north onto the Barriere North Road for 10.4 km, then north onto the North Barriere Lake-Haper Creek FSR for another 18 km then left onto the Dunn Peak FSR for 6 km to the parking area at 5100 ft/1555 m. The last half km is high clearance 4-wheel drive. The trail was brushed out in 2004 and is well defined. We hiked about 1 ½ kms to Joseph Creek Pass then descended for a short distance before starting to climb up Joseph Creek for another 6 kms. We camped in a boulder field/alpine meadow below Dunn Peak at 6200' / 1890 m. We intercepted and talked to two other hikers/climbers that had tried to find a route to the summit from the west ridge. Fred decided we would tackle the south east ridge that had been climbed and documented many years ago. The next morning we started for the summit at 7:15 am by ascending upwards to gain a gap (col, 1 km east of summit) in the ridge (scree and boulders). A small remnant glacier on the north side of the ridge was easily passed. In early season, an ice axe would be useful. Once through the col, we descend about 80 meters, then traversed west on slabs / vegetation for about 500 meters (easy & straightforward), then traversed upwards through scree and boulder fields to gain the SE ridge (scree, boulders, and gravel). The SE ridge is an easy scramble until just below the top, and then the last 75 vertical meters are a delightful class 3/4 scramble on solid granite. If one is comfortable with exposure, no rope is required. We had a rope and used it for 2 short sections of about 10 meters. Dunn Peak is a stand-alone peak, which gives spectacular views of the distant Coast Range in the Lillooet/Lytton area and the Columbia Mts. from the Premier Range south to the Gold Range. We spent about an hour up on the very broad top enjoying the 360-degree view. There is a radio repeater and it's quite trashy, unfortunately. Time from the campsite to the top: 4 hours. We left the summit about 12:30 retracing our up route using the rope in the same sections we had climbed up on. Time from top to campsite: 3 hours. We took down the tent packed up and retreated back to the parking area arriving about 6 pm. It seemed like a long hike out and I was exhausted but very content that I was able to summit with Fred's assistance. We were Emilee Fanjoy and Fred Thiessen.

## **Bonnington Cabins Report**

Owing to extremely poor organization on my part, I did all my work parties to the four Bonnington cabins (Copper, Steed, Grassy and Huckleberry) solo this year. But, traveling and working solo, you can have some interesting experiences, and learn some new skills.

The first cabin I visited was Copper cabin, where I discovered a packrat the size of a moose living in comfort and style among the shreds of pink insulation that were used to plug gaps in the wall. This critter had chewed everything in sight, including the cabin log book. It took quite a while to clean up after the beast and by the time I was finished I had a big pile of garbage to carry out. Luckily, some ATV'ers came along and could not refuse my well-timed plea to haul the garbage out to my truck on their ATV's. When making requests like this, it's best not to allow for any deliberation – I offered to strap the garbage onto one of the ATV's for them, which I did before they could say no. After cleaning up, I made a few minor repairs – replaced a pane of glass in one of the windows (a skill I had no idea that I possessed) and patched up some broken timbers on the deck, but the cabin is really in good shape and requires little work.

After Copper, I hiked into Steed cabin. Steed is always difficult to get into as there is no trail, and all routes require bushwhacking. This year, I went in via Munson Road out of Bombi Summit. A wrong turn on the road delayed me somewhat, so it was 11 am by the time I started hiking. The route in was direct enough, and only took about 1.25 hours, but it did involve bushwhacking through head high rhododendron where I had an encounter with a very agitated bear who huffed and puffed at me. Luckily, both the bear and I were anxious to avoid one another and we parted company without blood shed. As I crossed over the ridge into the basin where Steed cabin is situated I was serenaded by coyotes (I assume anyway), one of which was on the ridge to my right, the others were scattered about the valley below. Their calls were beautiful and haunting if slightly eerie. Apart from an imminent chimney collapse at Steed, the cabin was very neat and clean, and there was little for me to do.

Huckleberry is one of the easiest cabins to visit. Barrett Creek Road is a bit rough, but it doesn't seem to get any worse from year to year, and, as I was in training mode, I powered up the final hike to the cabin in half an hour. The cabin was immaculate, with a fresh stock of firewood, so again, I had little to do. However, I did nail a few boards down on the deck, swept and wiped everything off, and cleaned the windows.

Finally, on a beautiful fall Saturday I hiked into Grassy – in training mode again, so it took just an hour. The cabin was looking good, so again, I had minimal work to do. The usual sweeping, cleaning and stacking firewood, plus I filled gaps in the floor (this time I used roof cement), and repaired one of the front steps.

All the cabins are in good repair for the winter season and I hope people from the KMC can snowshoe or ski in and enjoy one or more overnights.  
Sandra McGuinness.

# Flying Circus July Climbing Camp



When Kim Kratky asked me if I was interested in joining him for a climbing camp in the Rockies I said yes without hesitation. During the heat wave in July Kim, Hamish Mutch and myself loaded up the truck and headed for Golden where we were meeting Bruce Fairley, David Jones, and Joie Seagram. After a 90km drive up the Bush river we had a pleasant flight passed Mt. Columbia to our camp at the base of Mt. Tsar.

One of the reasons for my excitement about participating in this camp was being able to spend time in the mountains with such experienced mountaineers. It then comes as no surprise that one of my highlights of the trip was a walkabout, planned bivouac with Hamish, Bruce, and David. The excursion began with us carrying heavy packs around the western flank of Mt. Tsar. Here we found an amazingly large glaciated basin where cascading icefalls, roaring waterfalls, sharp moraines and beautiful tarns were the theme. We spent the night in this basin with the plan of getting up early the next morning for what we hoped would be a couple of first ascents.

We headed out early that morning hiking away from Mt. Tsar to the southwest. It wasn't long before we split into two groups. Hamish and Bruce headed to south towards Mt. Turdite, and David and myself continued to the west towards Mt. O'Dell. We made it to within a couple of hundred vertical feet of the summit before we decided to turn around. We faced a long, narrow, exposed ridge consisting of less than ideal rock. Based on the hardware we were equipped with and the time remaining in the day we decided to retreat leaving what I am pretty sure is still an unclimbed peak. Other factors contributed to our decision, not the least of which I am sure was David's unfamiliarity with me as a climbing partner. David and I headed back towards Mt. Turdite where we met with Hamish and Bruce. Hamish and Bruce reported they had found a cairn on top, but David and I decided to climb it anyways.

David and I hiked all the way back to base camp that afternoon, while Hamish and Bruce stayed another night at our spectacular bivy site. This excursion was not just a highlight of the climbing camp, but of the entire summer.

Kyle Ridge.

## Hiking Camp Reports

### Camp 1

Location: KAIN CREEK

Dates: July 21-28

Submitted by Judith Mitchell.

Many of us felt close to heaven at Kain Creek. The creek originates in a beautiful alpine bowl surrounded by giant snowy peaks. Small streams from icefields cascade down the mountains and meander into lakes and waterfalls. The ground is carpeted with flowers including teal coloured gentians. As we absorbed this beauty we wondered how many other people had experienced this? A small brown speckled bird seemed determined to stay close to a small spruce by the cook tent and we would be startled by inquisitive ground squirrels or pikas hopping close by. Our camp spread out round the valley from Snogs Hill to Huxter's Heights, with the most spectacular view of the Rockies from Biffy Point in the south. The first night was tent testing as it rained hard and there was a fine mist and fog in the morning. A few of us had a little mopping and adjustments to make.

Ridge-walking in the fog on the first day one party lost the way despite having 3 GPS systems between them. Another group passed Leon on the ridge without knowing anyone was there. As Terry described it, "If you are lucky the mountains allow you to visit them. And on this camp the mountains at first gave us a cautious reception with storms and low clouds and nights of wind and pounding rain, only warming up to us on the second and especially third day when they offered us spectacular and exhilarating ridge walks." As the clouds cleared Jill and Mary discovered Box Canyon to the south of camp with 2 lakes, one with icebergs.

Spectacular and exhilarating ridge walks were discovered on the second and third days when Bob, David, Jan, Mary, Jill, John, Jenny, Ross and Ray climbed Bugaview to 9500' SW of camp, building a cairn and leaving a signing canister at the top. Jenny and Bob painted the amazing view of the Bugaboos, while the others followed the SW ridge analyzing the potential for exploring further. Leon and Terry explored the W ridge also building a cairn, and after lunch continued ridge walking to the north with Andre, Sylvia and Bobbie, boot-skiing down a steep screed slope, Nadine, Liz, Sandy and J. followed to see the amazing view of the Bugaboos from the W ridge and came down through incredible rocky outcrops, snow fields and scree. At the bottom Liz pointed out different rocks explaining how some of the sandstone, quartz and shale had formed and how some of the boulders were a mixture of all 3. Roy and Darla had explored Box Canyon and on return, Roy had climbed Bugaview from the south. Everyone had a great day with spectacular views.

That night we all survived the thunder, which exploded overhead with dense rain and hail. We were keen to get to the ridges and explore more of this incredible place. The morning was cool but the day was sunny. The intrepid 9 set off back to Bugaview to see if they could explore the ridges running SW and N with views of the Bugaboos, the Vowell Glacier, Warren Creek, connecting small turquoise lakes. Terry and Leon climbed Bugaview, and ridge-walked 90 degrees round the Box Canyon to climb the Faraway Peak, SE of our camp; one of the

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"When you get to the summit of the mountain,  
keep climbing." *Tibetan saying.*

highest peaks around, at 9300'. Roy led our group, Sylvia, Sandy, Nadine, Andre and J. to Bugaview. What a trip: meadows, scree, up a tight slippery chute under a cornice, then a beautiful shale road along the ridge, steps up a snowfield, more ridge-walking and finally a rocky goat path to the top. Great company, breathtaking views of the Bugaboos and below us beautiful turquoise lakes of the Box Canyon. We signed our names and took a photo at the summit, 9500'. A fabulous day with sun most of the time and with wonderful support we had pushed the limit of our abilities. Sandy was celebrating her 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We had beautiful weather for the next three days but some nights were cool. The Intrepid 9 climbed Faraway Peak and ridge-walked all the way back 90 degrees to descend by the chute, a 9-hour hike. The next day they went back up Bugaview to explore the western ridges and see how far they could go. Roy, Andre, Terry and Liz climbed up the NW face and ridge-walked 90 degrees west then south. Leon and Sylvia hiked Faraway Peak, which S. described as a very special time seeing a billy goat on top, watching them. Then Leon spotted twenty goats on the snow. What a show! The final day was spent paying homage, revisiting the most accessible peaks and ridges and meadows, saying goodbye to this mountain refuge. Jenny and Bob took Liz and J. up to a rocky ledge above camp to give wild watercolor lessons. Jenny generously provided paper, paint and brushes, not to mention inspiration.

The effort and planning that goes into hiking camp is amazing. The boxes of tents, kitchen equipment, food, and of course the biffy construction, have been refined and tested over many camps. Our great camp leader Bob collected all these items, loaded them into his truck and drove them to the helicopter landing. He connected with everyone in camp to confirm their arrival and make sure they could get to the helicopter site. Ray emailed everyone instructions on how to find Brisco and the Bugaboo Forest Service Road, and changes after part of the road was washed out. People were detailed to load and unload the helicopter and after six rides at 20 minutes intervals, we were at Kain Creek with our supplies. In another two hours tents were up and biffy erected, coolers placed in a snow bank; the place was ours. On the final evening we sang this tribute to Bob, written by Jan.

BOB

Six foot two

Eyes gray-blue

Oh what those

Six feet can do

Has anybody seen

Our Bob?

Long of leg

Sharp of eye

We don't need

No other guy

Has anybody seen

Our Bob ?

Now if you run into

A six foot two

Dressed in silk suits

He's just a knob

He's not our Bob

He should buy some hiking boots.

We're first camp

Bob's our champ

Sun or hail or

Slightly damp

Now everybody cheer

Our Bob, Yay Bob!

Yes everybody cheer

Our Bob, Yay Bob!

Another vital person was Jenny, our cook, who organized and created the week's mega meals as well as hiking with the best during the day. She started at 6.00 am and finished 14 hours later; "after the joy of exploring and the pain of all the questions in the kitchen." Her cooked breakfast and 5 course suppers were legendary. Leon and Sylvia were always helping her in the kitchen. As Liz remarked the great feast for this camp, apart from the food, were her generous lessons for those interested in watercolor painting.

The mountains bring wonder in their grandeur and perfection in their detail. Experiencing the rugged rock formations, meadows carpeted with exquisite plants and the ridge lines to the east fading away to the Rockies; we knew we were at the top of the world. Here we enjoyed the basic pleasures of cool swims in the mountain lakes, boot skiing on scree and snow, finger gripping rock scrambles, breathless climbs and awesome views, with acquaintances who are now good friends. To be at the edge of your comfort zone in such beauty is exhilarating. But the privilege and pleasure of exploring this ruggedness requires the shared knowledge other hikers in our camp, to challenge, encourage and help through the tight spots. As amazing and beautiful as Kain Creek is, it is the people who are truly awesome, and our connections the most precious. Fast was not always the way to the right path, but with a little re-direction from Bob and Ray, peaks were climbed, re-climbed and reclaimed again. Leon and Roy offered to take tentative hikers on hikes they might otherwise not have experienced. David had carried all J's heavy luggage uphill to the helicopter site before she had packed her tent. Ray found some beautiful quartz crystals and gave them away. Sandy and Nadine felt welcome at their first hiking camp, with everyone concerned with their enjoyment and comfort. Nadine marveled "at the graceful, confident hikers in the face of seemingly vertical slopes and softening cliffs of grainy snow, who make glorious ascents;

heights that continue to make my feet tingle". Both Andre and Nadine appreciated the loan of extra clothes to keep them warm. Bob's conclusion: " Hiking camp is one of the shortest gathering of community and family, but produces some of the best and longest memories."

There were many hilarious moments. We tried to eat breakfast and supper through mosquito nets. Bob and Ross were photographed rock climbing, Ross hanging with a hand supporting his behind, Bob suspended but in the next photo, flat on the ground. The mysterious holes, which appeared in Terry and Liz's tent, but turned out to be made by one fat mouse eager for Terry's gorp. Roy was surprised by a helicopter dropping off nubile young women onto the ridges. Jill comment: " a short hike means that we don't know where we are going but usually return exhausted 10 hours later! After hiking up the ridge to Bugaview peak then down a mobile vertical chute across, up, down to a far away ridge, we discovered there was another ridge between us and the Bugaboos. So we sat and had lunch with the best view in the world within reach, peace. But then - a helicopter buzzed overhead, unfortunately the solitude of the mountains was broken by the chop, chop, chop of the heli-hikers. John jumping up and down yelling "There's drama up on the ridge with 2 fellow hikers", and all I could say to Jenny, "there's too much happening around here!" Another funny moment was hikers yelling goodbye to the occupant in the biffy. On the final evening Andre and Nadine performed a hilarious skit about the budding relationship of the elderly Claude and Maude and we spent the evening, laughing and singing. Alas we cannot show Jenny and Bob's paintings but there were some inspired poems written at camp:

**Ode to Smallness, by Darla**

Steep sharp rocks,  
Cold water falling, falling  
Green green heather  
On the hill.  
Sunrise.  
Sunset.  
Distant mountain ranges.  
Pink  
Snow in patches, white goats.  
I saw a mouse swimming.

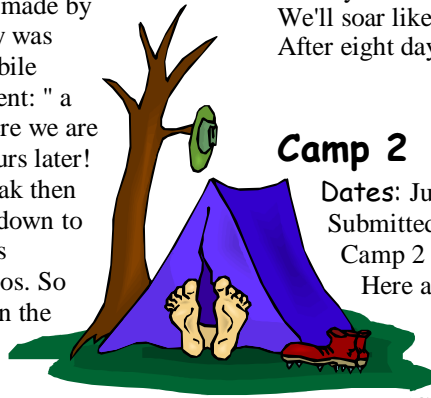
**Ode to the Biffy, by J and Darla**

It's iffy in the biffy when the red flag falls.  
It's miffy in the biffy when the next one calls.  
It's spiffy in the biffy when down goes the lime  
And nifty in the biffy when the Rockies shine.  
It's cliffy in the biffy when the moon is high  
Hailiffy in the biffy when the troops pass by  
And so with this little rhyme  
We pay homage to biffy time.

**Fledglings, A poem by William Worthless (alias Roy)**

We scale the heights with quaking knees  
Up on the ridge we dare not sneeze  
Where every step is filled with dread.  
The thought of going down the scree  
Is worse than being sick at sea.

Hurrah! That happy hour is here  
With gourmet food and much good cheer.  
Then to our cozy nests we creep  
To spend the night in well-earned sleep  
Alas! The summer sleeping bag  
Is no more use than some old rag  
And as the tent with water fills  
We dance all night with shakes and chills.  
At the week's start it's not much fun  
But we learn our lessons one by one  
And by week's end it seems quite clear  
We'll soar like eagles by next year.  
After eight days we all looked like mountain people.



**Camp 2**

Dates: July 28 – August 4

Submitted by Keith and Sherry Watson.

Camp 2 was the 1<sup>st</sup> camp experience for Keith and Sherry.

Here are some of their thoughts.

Can we cope for one week? – If we don't like it, we can't leave.

Will we feel safe in potential bear country?  
(Can we sleep)?

Can we keep up and do we have the skills necessary to enjoy (survive) a camp and will our backs, knees, and toes survive?  
Can we actually take everything we need and still have it weigh only 45 pounds?

The campsite was beautiful- an alpine meadow encircled by majestic mountains. Question 2 answered - we feel safe and secure here, we will be able to sleep. The biggest threat to our personal safety was the bites from the abundant horseflies, mosquitoes, and black flies.

Hiking, as usual, was up, up, and still up some more, day after day, do these people ever get tired? Do they have titanium parts? Bodies seem to be hanging in, we tested ourselves and seem to be surviving. The beauty of the scenery was the inspiration to get to the top and the bugaboos do not disappoint. Question 3 answered- much thanks to the patience and helpful hints of Joan and Mike to get through the steeper, rougher parts.

Food, food, and still more delicious food, a great cook Terry put the finishing touches on the meals and day after day a feast of soup, salad, main course, and dessert. Despite all of this, we still managed to loose a small amount of weight, 3 and 5 pounds. (Must be all that up, up, and more up.) Question 4 answered, we can take everything and have it weigh only 45 pounds because we definitely do not need to take any food.

The organization and smooth running of the camp is amazing Glenn our camp leader was a great guy and a great leader everyone pitched in and everything was done efficiently and with a sense of humor and comradery. It is apparent as new people that the camp has been perfected by years of trial and error in to this amazing coordination of jobs needing to be done and people assigned to them. This has resulted in what must be one of the best deals on the planet, the bugaboo lodge just over the mountain from our camp advertises \$2207 for 3 nights accommodations and here we had the same privilege of experiencing the bugaboos, with knowledgeable leaders, great food, a wonderful cook, entertaining companions for \$425 a

week. Enabling almost everyone the chance to enjoy a backcountry experience.

When we sat down to write this blurb, we thought about the camp and what we had experienced and what we had learned, we both agreed (something that doesn't happen all that often) that we were fortunate to have had the opportunity and the privilege to meet people who truly are an inspiration. People whose love and appreciation of the backcountry and enthusiasm for life, keeps them young, fit, stimulating, humorous, and a pleasure to spend time with.

Thank you to all our fellow campers, for making our 1<sup>st</sup> camp experience such a positive one.... Renata and Felix Belczyk, John and Muriel Walton, Ed and Hazel Beynon, Joan, Mike, Chris, Helen, Vivian, Patsy, Terry, Roger, June and Don Harasym, Graham, and Glenn.

## Camp 3

**Dates:** August 4-11

Submitted by Barbara Stang.

"We're late," Ron said as we pulled up to the helicopter-landing site. People were milling about, piling equipment, taping boxes, and dispensing yellow survey tape. And so I was thrown into the excitement and frenzy of preparation to launch Camp 3.

Already people were rooting through the coolers and I thought, "Boy Suzanne is going to be choked when she sees that." Suzanne however, was not late arriving, she was not arriving at all. Her absence was not too surprising. There had been an out of control fire blazing in the Slocan Lake area. Enterprise Creek was on evacuation alert when we left for the Bugaboos and since that is where Suzanne Blewett lives she opted to stay and take care of her home instead take care of us. As I write this, the fire is under control and it has been raining for 12 hours. Yeah! Oh the pictures in my mind of who would be cooking all those delectable meals we had prepared. Who would keep the coolers organized, greet us at breakfast and keep everyone in line? Who was going to hike with Hans? Who could ever take Suzanne's place? Judging by the speed and efficiency with which cooler contents were being transferred, being mentally catalogued and then taped snugly into their prospective homes, greater minds than mine had already taken the dilemma into account and under advisement of our fearless leader Don Hagen, were under control. Soon enough things were tagged, taped and piled. We had a chance to catch up with old hiking pals and meet new ones. Our loadmasters, Ted and Hans had things well in hand. They donned their fetching fluorescent X vests and directed people traffic and goods. Our pilot was a serious young man, who took no guff and efficiently transported us into camp. Flying up the Cain Creek gully we got a magnificent view of the Bugaboos, the umpteenth creeks that flow into Cain Creek and a disgusting logging operation site with downed trees lying about like pick up sticks on the landscape.

Up to 7800 plus feet, roughly 2400 meters we flew and landed on a heather knoll overlooking camp. After last years camp of rock, rock and more rock, people were delighted to see green meadows dotted with wild flowers, lakes and a multitude of brooks and mini falls. There we were met by a rather scruffy looking bunch of second camp hikers ready to go home to hot showers and softer beds. The weather had been great they said,

a bit cool and windy at times but generally good. Lucky them.

It was on one of the numerous trips of packing supplies down to the cook and supply tent that Mary McEwen delighted us by volunteering her culinary and leadership skills. She has probably made history as the youngest cook ever for a KMC hiking camp. Our cheers and applause echoed off the shale ridges letting the mountain goats know that yet another group of invaders had arrived in Shangrila.

Left behind by a cheeky bunch of camp 1ers was a map directing us to various destinations. We never referred to it but stuffed it into the bottom of the zip lock bag and got clean ones. Such unbridled enthusiasm emphasizes the need for man, or woman, to leave their mark - A rather canine pursuit. Camp 2 left us with an eighty-one variety, organized by colour, flower list to which we added only 3 flowers species. Oh woe, what was left for camp three to do to win favour?

Because of the cool weather, we had frost the first night, and the second and the third... It was decided that breakfast would be delayed by half an hour. We were a laid back bunch preferring the warmth of our sleeping bags to the harsh winds, and sub zero temperatures. Hikers rarely left camp before 9 o'clock, most left by 9:30 or 10 and some never left at all but chose to go back to bed and read. It seems everyone was content to share stories of their adventures of far away places, clutching their warm mugs of tea or coffee, and having thirds of the seemingly endless courses of food before venturing out. We heard stories of Nepal, Antarctica, the Rockies, South America, India, and Africa. The accents too around the eating circle were varied. We had French, German, American, English, Indian and Canadian - truly a multicultural camp. As well as a range in ethnic backgrounds we had a range in ages from 19 to 78.

Everything was so close by. The ridges were all parked in the back yard and could be reached in 45 minutes. Kal loved "the long, long, long walks." There seemed to be endless time. Perhaps another reason for our casual attack on the peaks was their lack of registers. We found beautiful cairns but all were registerless. What happened to them? Rumour had it that there were two and I wonder if that was information intended to mislead and to con the next camp or did those whistling marmots eat them? Or maybe the goats made off with them. It didn't get dark until 10, by which time we were all in bed. If one wanted to see stars, a 3 am biffy foray had to be made. It was reported to me that they were brilliant and that many shooting stars could be seen if one was dressed warmly enough to stay out and observe.

In my interviews with my fellow campers I asked them about their first impressions, lasting memories and their claim to fame.

Here's a list of some of their responses: the variety in colour of the Indian Paintbrush, from white through deep magenta; the pools created by the creeks, places to bath and lie right down; skipping rocks on the lake and having too many skips to count; the Wildlife - Whistling Marmots, ptarmigan mother and 5 chicks, sandpipers, dippers and grosbeaks and of course the majestic mountain goat, butterflies, respectful ground squirrels and very few pesky insects; the solitude which offered time to reflect and meditate; the company of old friends; pushing limits,

staying young by doing it and recognizing that the body has held together for another year; gorgeous scenery to photograph; the joy which everyone brings to the place because they love being here.

Although we didn't have an awards ceremony I want to officially award Carl and Ted the shaving awards. Carl for smelling good in the wilds and Ted for bringing cordless technology. Mary Baker and Libby Martin get the Tea Nanny award for being there to heat water every afternoon. Sheila was our Salad dressing queen; no salad was served without her approval. Laura, one of our neophyte campers, is renamed Hawkeye for spotting 21 mountain goats.

Philippe wins the veteran mountain man award and best sleeper for being our most senior hiker with the most mountain stories to tell and for sleeping through the thunder and lightening storm that raged around us. Murielle our colourful fashion mistress brightening up every event. Ron wins most changed hiker going from previous years most bagged peaks and logged kms to this years most hours spent in his tent reading and sleeping. Sara McEwen hands down gets the biggest help to the cook, therefore the entire camp's biggest help, plus she sang with Julie Andrews once and was just plainly a delight to be around. Kal gets the remind us of how one should see every day award. He praised our spot, being able to be here in body and to be able to still walk here, how well both white and red rationed their wine, the food, the chores...there was nothing that Kal found to complain about.

Ross, gets the latest to dinner award, with Ted, for arriving between his own meal and the desert course. They thoughtfully walked along the ridge so we could spot them, begin our meal instead of send the search party. Mary Prothro and Ross share my personal confidant award. Mary also receives the most relaxed hiking guide and caregiver award for seeing several hikers through "I can't believe I'm doing this" places. Hans definitely our hiking camp 2007 celebrity gets the award for hiking as far as he could in every direction all alone and always returning in time for dinner. And we're so glad he did. Laurie Charlton or unofficial leader Assistant gets the snow keeper award even though we didn't need it for the last 3 days. He also gets the Knows how to do everything award. I guess that's what experience does for you. Mary Mc gets all kinds of awards from being our youngest member, for taking on the cook position for braving the lake in winter weather, for bossing Ron around and anyone else who needed it and for doing a great job as impromptu cook. Don gets best delegator award for his unique and fatherly dispensations of biffy take down duty and for running a smooth camp while making it look easy. And Me? Well since no one else wrote a song I guess I get best minstrel award.

The entire camp gets an award for smiling through the cold chattering of teeth. The week got progressively cooler, then cloudy with winds and rain, then fog and finally on Friday night a snow storm which had us worried that we'd wake up to 15 cm of snow and no rescue. Every hike that week created wardrobe issues. One either had to wear everything, then take it off, or pack it along then put it on, changing so often that we seemed to spend as much time rearranging our clothing as hiking. We used every possible combination from light summer gear to winter clothing all during the same hike - a true test of preparedness.

This song, sung to the tune of Petula Clark's "Downtown"

When it got cold  
We dressed in all our warm clothes  
Every stitch of them  
Many layers  
We huddled in cook's tent  
Drinking warm pots of tea  
And hoping for a change  
In weather  
We were so glad  
Camp two had left some extra propane  
We zipped the tent door and  
Turned on all the burners  
Hoping to thaw  
Frozen toes, fingers and noses  
Flakes swirled around.  
Outside it was Christmas  
We planned emergency walkout  
We talked of hot springs  
And warm beds  
Suddenly  
Forty degrees seemed OK.

Pardon my repetitive mood but the weather events warranted the repetition.

Camp three's rendition of Janis Joplin's classic 70's tune "Mercedes Benz"

O Lord won't you send us a helicopter  
My friends are all freezin'  
We want this to end  
We've hiked and we've eaten  
Tried out our new tents  
O lord won't you send us a helicopter

O Lord won't you send us some weather that's clear  
We all want to leave here  
We want to go home  
Our toes frozen rigid  
Our lips cracked and peeled  
O Lord won't you send us some weather that's clear

O lord I can hear it a comin' around  
We're thankful to be here  
To hear this great sound  
We loved all the flowers and rocks that we found  
But man, are we happy to leave this here mound.

I know that for some people, camp is about where you've hiked, the orientation of the route, conquering peaks and demons and it is about that. But Camp is also about being dropped into a wilderness place with 19 other people. It is the people who help make the experience rich, whose antics you remember, who help you pass those hours when it's too cold to hike and who listen to your tales of adventure.

Thanks to all of you for making camp three such a special time.

<b>The KMC 2007 Executive:</b>		<b>Contacts:</b>
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