



# Kootenay Mountaineer

The KMC Newsletter Issue 1 January-February 2008 Next Deadline: Mar.31/08

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## Jumbo Update Winter 2008

By Rowena Eloise, Argenta, for the West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild. From Pennywiseads.com January 29, 2008

In a recent phone interview with Psyche Brown, Manager of Major Projects in the department of Resort Development, I learned that the outstanding issue to completing the master Development Agreement is "finalizing the impact of the development with the Ktunaxa(Kootenay) Nation and the Shuswap Tribe." The Impact Management and Benefit Agreement will be between the Province of BC, the First Nations and the resort proponent. Economic, wildlife mitigation and land claims issues are part of the Accommodations Agreement Package (AAP), says Psyche. "When the final details have been worked out with all the negotiating parties the whole Ktunaxa Nation will need to vote on the package, and the Shuswap will need agreement from their Tribal Council," she said.

When a First Nation accepts an AAP they are agreeing that their interests have been met in the proposed development lands. A First Nation may decide to not accept the final AAP offer, however the development will still move forward with the terms of the offered AAP, but the First Nation will not receive compensation which will include money, and new land as a trade off for the development land. Opposition to a development by a First Nation will not stop that development.

Psyche said, "the Funding Authority (Prov. Treasurer) has now provided approved dollar figures that can be offered to the Ktunaxa and Shuswap. There will also be some changes in the grizzly bear mitigation strategy, the specifics of which are as yet not known with this additional funding." She has not heard anything about the proponent doing another grizzly bear count study to see if the recent low numbers of Jumbo area resident grizzly bears are, in fact, an accurate tally. Dr. Michael Proctor's recent study indicated that the Jumbo area's carrying capacity for grizzly

bears is at only 54%. This means that the Jumbo area grizzly bear population is extremely close to being an endangered species at risk.

Ms Brown also offered that "the proponent and the province are working closely with RK Heli Ski trying to balance their Jumbo Valley tenure with the loss of that area due to the resort." It was a little over a year ago that RK Heli, which flies out of Panorama, took the Environmental Assessment Office to court with allegations that it had not given their tenure due diligence when granting the Conditional Environmental Assessment Agreement to the Resort Master Plan. RK Heli lost the case. Ms Brown tells me, "everything is going really well and that the province has a good relationship with RK." Essentially RK is being offered a modification to their tenure; the provision of compensation in other suitable (skiable) terrain.

It is when all of these issues are resolved that the Master Development Agreement will be signed into law. At that time the resort proponent will seek rezoning for the resort municipality. In the interim, "there are continuing discussions between the province and the proponent about governance," says Psyche.

## An On-Going Winter Exhibit

from the FRIENDS OF THE ROSSLAND RANGE:

### • FILM

"Professional Hermits Operate Canada's Highest Weather Station" a 1954 National Film Board of Canada short film about the men who lived on top of Old Glory Peak  
"The Builders of Red Mountain" a 1990 film by Richie Mann featuring the men who built Red Mountain.

### • PHOTOGRAPHY

"Celebrate the Legacy" a community photography exhibit of old and new photography of recreation in the Rossland Range. Over 200 photographs contributed by about 20 Rossland photographers.

The films run continuously (or on demand) with other Rossland film/slides and the photography is always on display at:

Rossland Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Rossland (7days/week, 9-5 M-W; 9-6 Th; F 11-5 SS; 2185 Columbia Ave) (films and photography).

Chamber of Commerce Business Centre (same hours as above)

Rossland Public Library (1-9 M-Th; 10-6 F; 1-5 SS; 2180 Columbia (photography only). During the summer months, the exhibit will return to the Rossland Historical Museum.

[www.rosslandrange.org](http://www.rosslandrange.org)



## Executive Notes

From January 15<sup>th</sup> exec. Mtg.

- The executive is encouraged to make more use of the executive mailing list, and would appreciate responses to information provided by email.
- Dave Grant will lead an effort to devise an official club risk management plan/protocol for use in emergency situations.
- The executive is recommending a constitution change to make "Membership" an executive position separate from the "Finance". Doug Brown will take care of this. The change will be ready for voting on at the next AGM in 2008. Bobbie Maras will draft a policy section outlining the duties of the membership chair.
- Steve Langley will develop a plan to make the newsletter accessible electronically, and will give members the option of receiving a paper copy if requested.
- The Vice President duties should formally include being the FMCBC representative for the KMC. Dave Grant agreed to take this on effective immediately for the next meeting.
- Gross revenue for the cabins is in the order of \$1800 to date. All agreed that all funds generated by the booking system would be allocated to the maintenance of the Bonnington cabins.
- Trails will be proposed to the membership as a separate position for next year. The

cabins position is now very onerous. Doug will take care of this proposed constitution change.

- Doug Brown will represent the KMC in negotiating with Whitewater Winter Resort re access to the backcountry beyond the ski hill boundary by skinning up designated runs before and after hours.
- Executive acknowledges that Eliane will remain the official newsletter chair until the next AGM. Steven will share the position with Eliane.
- Agreement was reached that any two adults at the same address constitute a family.
- The club will attempt to organize a volunteer appreciation party, a pre AGM dinner, and the fall slide show this year.

### Committee Reports:

- Summer trips: The schedule will begin at the end of March.
- Winter trips: More leaders this year than last. Some transitional resistance to the new limit on group sizes in complex and challenging terrain. Dave Jack will assemble a list of coordinators who are tentatively available on short notice to lead a trip if a scheduled trip fills up. Dave will also send the winter trips schedule out once per month to the membership list serve.
- Conservation: KMC opposed Big Red Cats tenure amendment. Salmo/Slocan rafting proposal will likely be handed off to canoe club. Jumbo issue news is that Oberti's office in Invermere has closed, and advertising on the east side of the Purcells has ceased.

Treasurer: GIC's have matured so about \$9,000 is available. This will be re-invested in staggered GIC terms with some flexibility.

Hiking Camp: A big effort is on to have this year's hiking camp finances concluded by September 30, 2008 which is the KMC year-end. Executive agreed that it would make sense to move year-end, perhaps to October. Doug will look into this.

Membership: 109 memberships, 162 members, 51 family, 50 individual, 11 new, and 4 returning previous members.

Climbing Camp: Possibly near Mt Sir Sandford in last week of July. Steve will have details out for January newsletter. Nominal limit of 12.

Webmaster: Will update the contacts page.

Mountain School: Winter travel workshop ran over two full weekends with 25 participants. The Mountain School budget is \$1000 per year and this money will be used to subsidize courses for members.

Cabins: Booking system working well.

### New Business:

Dave Jack and Hamish Mutch requested \$250 to bolt beginner climbs at the Waterline Wall in Castlegar. The area is on private land. The executive is in favor of developing a beginners climbing area, but want some assurance that the landowners are in agreement. It was suggested that either the landowner or the Climbers Access Society of BC be contacted first.

The KMC 2008 Executive:		Contacts:
Chair	Doug Brown	▶Membership Annual Dues: Individual (19 yrs & up) \$41 Couple/Family \$40+\$6/person Send complete membership/waiver form to KMC Membership 2711 Granite Rd Nelson BC V1L6V3 To receive membership information by e-mail or to give us your address/e-mail/phone changes please contact membership@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca  ▶ Library Sandra McGuinness Address:3939 Malina Rd Nelson BC V1L 6X6 ▶ To be included in E-mail update Contact members-owner@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca ▶ To send E-mail to KMC membership: members@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca ▶ KMC President president@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca ▶ KMC website www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca ▶ Newsletter submissions Eliane/Steven Miros Tel Box 3195 Castlegar BC V1N 3H5 E-mail esmiros@netidea.com or newsletter@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca  ▶ KMC (Correspondence) Box 3195 Castlegar BC V1N 3H5 ▶ Newsletter Editorial Policy: We encourage all submissions of writings, cartoons, drawings, book & website reviews and trip reports. Suitability for publication is at editors discretion. Articles and advertisements may be edited for clarity and length. Advertising must be thought to be of interest to members in regard to the outdoors, especially locally. Will use discretion for commercial endeavors.
Vice	Dave Grant	
Treasurer	Norman Truant	
Secretary	Leah Zoobkoff	
Conservation	Kim Kratky & Martin Carver	
Winter Trips	Dave Jack	
Summer Trips	Vicki Hart	
Cabins	Sandra McGuinness	
Mtnrg. School	Sandra McGuinness	
Hiking Camp	Kay Medland	
Climbing Camp	Stephen Langley	
Website	Stephen Langley	
Entertainment	Bryan Reid	
Newsletter	Eliane & Steven Miros	

## SKAHA PURCHASE COMPLETE!

And other news in the CLIMBERS' ACCESS SOCIETY OF B.C. ACCESS NEWS – January 2008

**SUBLOT 18 PURCHASED:** The Land Conservancy of B.C. announced recently that the purchase of subplot 18 at Skaha was complete. This 304 hectare property, which is southeast of the climbing area, will provide permanent public access to and parking for Skaha. The entire area is to be managed as a Class A provincial park.

Key partners and donors in the \$5.25 million purchase included Mountain Equipment Co-op, the B.C. Ministry of Environment, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Government of Canada Natural Areas Conservation Program, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, the B.C. Trust for Public Lands, the B.C. Ministry of Transportation Environmental Enhancement Fund, the Nature Trust of British Columbia, a generous donation from the former owner under Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia, the Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia, the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep - Wyoming Chapter, and others.

**NEW PARKING & ACCESS (Spring 2008)** Braesyde parking lot closed on November 4th. It has been used for public and climbers' parking since 1992, thanks to the kindness of the Dunlop family. There is no current alternate access to Skaha that does not involve illegal parking, crossing private land, or both. It will take time to plan and fundraise to create an access road, parking, and other facilities at subplot 18. The Land Conservancy, the Skaha climbing community, and other partners, are working on an interim solution for spring 2008. We'll publish news about this as soon as it's available.

**THANK YOU!** The Access Society thanks all those in the climbing community and industry that contributed to fundraising for Skaha: Mountain Equipment Coop, other corporate donors include Arc'Teryx, Black Diamond, The Edge Climbing Centre, Cliffhanger (Vancouver and Coquitlam), Skaha Rock Adventures, several sections of the Alpine Club of Canada, and others.

The Access Society itself donated \$10,000. The MEC committed \$100,000 to match donations from its members, over and above its other contributions.

We also thank the families and friends of Caroline Cheung, Colin Wooldridge and Rita Ourom for donations in their memory to The Land Conservancy, and the Skaha climbers for all their work on access to the area over the last 15 years.

### VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL:

This year's festival will be February 22nd - March 1st, in North Vancouver. Speakers include Jeff Lowe, Conrad Anker, Steph Davis, Dean Potter, Jacqui Hudson, Jeremy Frimer and others. And lots of films, and fun. See [www.vimff.org](http://www.vimff.org)

**FMCBC's new email address and website domain:**

Effective immediately the new email address is

**[fmcbc@mountainclubs.org](mailto:fmcbc@mountainclubs.org)**

([fmcbc@mountainclubs.bc.ca](mailto:fmcbc@mountainclubs.bc.ca) is no longer active.)

## Of Airbags, Avalungs and Avalanche Safety

Avalanche airbag. It's a backpack with built-in balloons that inflate with compressed nitrogen by pulling a ripcord. Backcountry travelers wearing these packs might be swept along by an avalanche but are more likely to stay on or close to the surface, critical for rescue. "It's called the Brazil Nut effect," says Ed Adams, an engineering professor at Montana State University in Bozeman. "You open a can of nuts, they've been shaken around, and the Brazil Nuts are on top and the smaller nuts are on the bottom."

Artificial breathing devices have also been shown to improve survival time under an avalanche. There's still a lot of air in snow, especially newly fallen powder that may be 7 per cent ice and 93 per cent air.

"Canadians tend to ski and snowboard more among the trees, and 32 per cent of avalanche deaths in Canada are from trauma from hitting a rock or a tree," says Boyd, a mountain guide and emergency room physician in Banff.

"As humans, we want technology to solve our problems. We accept certain levels of risk. If we do something to increase our odds of survival, we might start engaging in riskier behaviors. We have to treat the mountains with the same respect we did before we started using these tools." Karl Birkeland, avalanche scientist for the U.S. Forest Service.

*From the **TheStar.com** Jan 13, 2008 article of the same name, by Leslie Scrivener.*

**VARSITY OUTDOORS CLUB (U.B.C.)** This club plans to include a section about past members in the upcoming 50th edition of its journal. If you are a past member, they ask that you post news about your whereabouts and activities to <http://docs.google.com>, or by e-mail to [christian.champagne@gmail.com](mailto:christian.champagne@gmail.com)

# February 2008 Mountain School Tech Tips: What's In Your Pack This Winter?

On January 13 2008, in Alberta's Rocky Mountains, a party of two backcountry skiers triggered an avalanche that buried one under a metre of snow, and left the other clinging grimly to a tree. Rod Plasman, an AST (Avalanche Skills Training) instructor was part of a group of nearby skiers that came to the rescue. When Plasman arrived on the scene, he found the buried individual had been dug out of the snow by his companion and another solo skier who had been passing by; but Plasman was surprised to find the unburied survivor sitting in the snow in a single pair of ski pants and an undershirt after removing much of his own clothing to try to warm his ski partner.

According to Plasman, the party of two did three things wrong, the first was skiing a dangerous snow slope in the first place, the second was exposing both skiers in the party to the slope at the same time, the third, was not carrying sufficient warm clothing to keep both members of the party warm in case of accident. George Field, Public Safety Specialist for Kananaskis Country concurs with Plasman, and recommends that "everyone should have an extra jacket, wind pants and a bivy sac .... with those things, you could dig a snow cave and have a miserable night, but you'd probably survive. Lots of people like to carry less gear so they can have more fun, but unfortunately, when things go wrong and you don't have enough gear, things can get really bad, really quickly. A down jacket doesn't weigh much."

So, what should you carry in your pack in winter? To answer that question I

surveyed four long time KMC members whose combined time spent skiing in the backcountry exceeds a century. As one of the old timers commented, long time skiers "have had a friend or themselves caught out and have learned to be prepared." Below is a compilation of the common items (in addition to the clothing you are wearing) that you should carry in a standard winter day pack.

#### Avalanche Equipment:

Avalanche transceiver  
Probes

#### **Metal** shovel

Snow saw – doubles as saw to supply firewood

#### Spare Clothing:

Down jacket  
Extra gloves/mitts, socks, long underwear  
Waterproof jacket/pants  
Face mask/neck tube

#### Emergency Equipment:

Headlamp and spare batteries  
Bivy sack/space blanket/siltarp  
Fire starter and matches  
Whistle  
Satellite telephone/cell phone/radio  
Knife

#### Navigation Equipment:

Map  
Compass  
GPS  
Altimeter

#### Repair Kit Items:

T wrench with phillips, robertson, flat head and posidrive bits  
Posidrive screws  
Screw hole plugs  
Self-tapping metal screws and long screws (to go through entire ski in worst case scenario)

#### Drill

Vice grips

Equipment specific to your binding but sufficient to attach the toe of your boot to your ski or snowshoe

Hose clamps, small piece of metal tubing (can repair broken poles), spare basket

Spare skin tip

Plastic zip ties (can be used to repair snowshoes as well)

Duct tape

Epoxy glue

Hay wire

#### First Aid Kit:

Sufficient to your level of expertise

Obviously, some of this equipment can be shared between the group. One or two first aid kits and repair kits are likely sufficient for most groups, but every person in the group should be carrying: (a)sufficient/specific equipment to attach their boot to their ski/snowshoe in the event of an equipment failure; (b) navigation equipment, and (c) enough clothing and emergency equipment (headlamp, siltarp/bivy sack/space blanket, etc.) to survive the night.

For a good test of your preparedness do two things on your next trip into the backcountry: (1) take off your skis/snowshoes and see just how far you can walk – or should I say wallow; and (2) sit for an hour on a windy ridge in your current clothing after the sun goes down. You might be surprised.

*Sandra McGuinness.*

"Duct tape is like the Force. It has a light side, a dark side, and it holds the universe together." Carl Zwanzig

## **OUT OF BOUNDS?**

"There's a world of difference between going into a permanently closed area versus going out of bounds...The difference is the permanently closed areas are a no-go situation at any time, anywhere, by anyone...It's different from going out-of-bounds, they're on their own out there. So are they prepared? Do they have the skills and knowledge to stay away from avalanches and do they have a plan of how they're getting

in and getting out?" *Doug Forsyth commenting on why Whistler Blackcomb staff will be fired if they go into permanently closed areas. The Province, Jan 4, 2008.*

"An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered."  
G.K.Chesterson

## Waterline Walls -

### Your FREE!!! Update

When the second edition of the new Waterline guidebook came out in July 2007 it was already out of date. In the next three months more new routes were added, but at a slower rate. There were two main reasons for this slowdown. First was the obvious reduction in the amount of unclimbed rock available, and secondly the two big guns, Aaron Kristiansen and Neil Ives were directing their attention elsewhere. There are now 51 climbs at "The Line", nine more than in July. The purpose of this article is to record those nine new routes, which obviously are not included in the latest guidebook. The overall quality of a climb is indicated by the number of stars which it receives, from zero to three.

In my totally biased opinion, Waterline is as good as, or better than, any sport crag of comparable size anywhere. So what are you waiting for, besides better weather? The Waterline guidebook is sold [for the outrageous price of almost a dollar per page] at Valhalla in Nelson, Powderhound in Rossland, and the Chamber of Commerce in Castlegar. The following six routes were established by KMC members, Dave Jack and Hamish Mutch.

On "Raven's Wall, Right"

### Gobi Desert 5.10b \*\*\*

From the pedestal on Silk Road [2<sup>nd</sup> bolt], step left around the corner, and climb the barren face above. Large holds, succulent dates and beautiful belly dancers are, as always, only mirages. On this vertical desert, speed or a 10-day camel are a traveller's best friends. Finish with some pump moves through the black overhanging lip.

### Shark's Fin Soup 5.11a \*\*

Starts 30 feet right of Forbidden City. Strong fingers and a high pain threshold will stand you in good stead. Easy start, tenuous traverse, harsh undercling, balancey corner, big air, classic Waterline in-cuts, and it's all over--none too soon. Second helpings are optional...

### Outer Mongolia 5.10a \*

Look for this line about 50 feet uphill from Saffron. Short and sweet. A good warm-up, or easy lead at this grade. Almost as good as a cup of rancid yak butter 'n salt tea, or two weeks in a yurt with your favourite squeeze.

### Lhasa Steppes 5.7 \*\*

Located 30 feet right of Outer Mongolia, above the point where the trail cuts back to the left. 3 large steps [steppes] with lots of horizontal hand cracks. Probably the easiest climb at The Line, and a good lead for beginners. Hint, hint!

In "The Corners"

### Black Magic 5.10a \*\*\* [with Kerry Greenley]

On the steep and imposing wall left of Black Arrow. Follow the improbable line of bolts, with flakes, cracks, pockets and even small ledges appearing like "magic". An instant classic, this route has the fun-meter cranked to the max. Almost as addictive as the chocolates of the same name.

On "The Big Boulder"

### Deep Thought 5.9 \*\* [with Kerry Greenley]

30 feet right of Deep Throat. The closest to a slab climb that you will find in these parts. Zig, zag, zig--slab, face, slab. Fortunately easier than it looks. Prepare for the obvious rope-drag with some intelligent use of runners and draws. A worthy neighbour and warm-up for Deep Throat, finishing at the same chains, and

destined to be popular in its own right. Although named Deep Thought, it is doubtful if any of the first ascensionists have ever experienced one.

Despite being away for most of the summer, Aaron Kristiansen still managed to add two more new routes to his already impressive list:

On "Nurses' Wall"

### Med. Error 5.10d \*

Listed as project #4 in the guide, but now finished. Bolts and finger-sized cams, with the crux down low. Sorry, no prescription for this one. You takes your chances....could be a tough pill to swallow.

"Raven's Wall Right," again

### Harajuku Girls 5.11b \* [with Simon Wedel]

Bolts and gear. The obvious face and crack left of Gobi Desert. Aaron says that the crux lower section is as hard as wandering the streets of Tokyo in rubber pants and eight inch platform shoes. Now, how would he know that, I wonder. Hmmmm. The upper crack is easier. No chains.

One last addition is a combination route called **Gobi Girls, 5.11b \*\*\***

For a "hot time" in the desert, clip the first three bolts of Harajuku Girls, before transitioning right to continue up Gobi Desert. If you are lucky enough to find a shady oasis on your travels, better not eat the "dates".

Anyone wishing to view photos of these or other Waterline climbs, or to obtain more information about the area, visit: [www.rockclimbing.com](http://www.rockclimbing.com) and then hit Routes, Canada, B.C., Kootenays, The Water Line Wall. Finally, add it to your "favourites", for many happy hours of viewing. *Submitted by Hamish Mutch*

**Google Earth** seems to have added high-resolution images of the Rossland Range, (also Whitewater, Bonnington Range and Kootenay Pass) recently. It is now possible to pick out previously undiscovered glades and openings. A few new lines have been skied around Rossland in the last few weeks based on these images. If you look carefully you can pick out 'secret' cabins and the B25 wreckage!

Enjoy ☺ *Stephen Langley*.

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing." Sir Ralph Fiennes

# A CALL FOR UNDERSTANDING AND PRESERVATION

The word "wilderness" means many different things. Today more than ever such areas are necessary. In 1964 the USA passed the Wilderness Act. They described wilderness as lands that appear to be natural, where human changes are especially unnoticeable; lands that offer places of solitude or outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined kinds of recreation; lands large enough to preserve; and, lands that may contain scientific, scenic, or historical values. Wilderness has many callings. For some it is an attitude, an escape to solitude. For others, wilderness is a place to see birds, trees and flowers. For still others, wilderness is any piece of untouched land.

The Wilderness Act was a call for preservation and an order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the country, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition. We should always follow this lead and not develop all lands.

KMCers should know that long-time club member and hiking camp regular John Stewart, 81, died at his home in Nelson on Tuesday, December 4th. At John's request, there will be no service. Just a few days before his passing, I had met by chance John and Kay who were out for a walk on a crisp, sunny day. He will be missed.

*Kim Kratky*

## Free travel and medical insurance to the USA by MEC

For those members of the KMC, who also belong to MEC (Mountain Equipment Co-op). There is presently an offer of free travel and medical insurance to the USA by MEC in conjunction with Cooperators Travel Insurance. These two have gotten together to provide "Free" two day-one night travel insurance to the U.S.A. for members of the MEC. It covers you to \$2,000,000 as long as you have standard medical services plan coverage in Canada. If you do not have MSP coverage, then they will only cover you to \$3,000. You cannot be competing in any event(i.e. sports climbing competitions, snow board competitions, motorized vehicle competitions etc.) but you can pursue climbing, skiing, mountain biking, shopping etc.

I thought that this might be of interest to people who are traveling to the U.S. over the holidays. All that is required is your MEC membership number and a phone call to 1-800-449-4084 to register for the program. The coverage is good for a period of 1 year and is set up on your first phone call. This includes as many 2 day-1 night trips to the USA as you want to make in a year. Any longer trips will require extended coverage, which you would have to pay for.

For further details go to the Mountain Equipment Coop home page and click on Member Offers, and it will come up under NO COST TRAVEL INSURANCE. The link to

Cooperators insurance is presently not working but it will give you the general details. A phone call to 1-800-449-4084 will give you a live operator who will forward you a copy of the policy and set up your insurance while you wait.

This seems to be a great offer, and several members of the KMC executive have already signed up. I have a copy of the policy. If you are a MEC member and want to follow through with this, please contact the number above. If you want to look at the policy you can e-mail me at [granteng@netidea.com](mailto:granteng@netidea.com) and I will forward you an electronic copy for your review.

*Dave Grant.*

## Out of Bound Rescue?

"Our operators feel they should not be charging people because the first consideration is if someone's in trouble, we have to get them out of it...we don't want anyone out there to feel like they shouldn't call us because they can't afford a bill and can't afford a rescue."

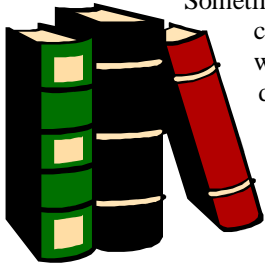
Comments by Jimmie Spencer, president of the Canada West Ski Areas Association regarding the controversial idea to force skiers and snowboarders to pay for their own rescues. This was turned down by the association that represents 99 ski resort operators in B.C., Alberta and Ontario. But the association, which only has the power to recommend a policy, said it's going to continue to allow individual member operators to decide whether to pass along costs they incur during rescue missions. The idea of ski resorts trying to recoup rescue costs was highlighted this season when an early avalanche season prompted a higher-than-average number of rescues.

From the article "Skiing body nixes skiers paying for their own rescues" in The Vancouver Province 2008 by Linda Nguyen, Canwest News Service Published: Thursday, January 24, 2008.

"The difference between a mountain and a molehill is your perspective."

Al Neuharth

## Library News: Navigation Books



Sometimes the difference between a good run and a great run, is finding the right aspect or gradient for the current snow conditions. While good navigation skills won't guarantee you a great run everytime, they will help you find the best snow conditions for the current weather conditions, or keep you off those dangerous slopes the avalanche forecasters are warning you about. If your map and compass skills are a bit rusty, check out one (or more) of these books about navigation in the KMC library:

- *Staying Found: The Complete Map and Compass Handbook* by J. Fleming;
- *Map and Compass* FMCBC training manuals
- *Be Expert With Map and Compass* by B. Kjellstrom

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## Points To Ponder

### Interference with avalanche transceivers?

Metal objects, magnetic items, cell phones and electrical devices can interfere with avalanche transceivers. In search mode, irregular readings and decreased range can also be caused by other sources of electrical interference, such as power lines, lightning, ski lifts and electrical generating equipment.

*From Beaconreviews.com*

### Grizzly Attack: Run Away or Cower?

Don't run. Slowly back away, talk quietly, and don't make eye contact. If the bear attacks, drop facedown, spread your legs (making it harder to roll you over and maul your face), and protect the back of your neck. And next time bring pepper spray. (counterassault.com)

### Backcountry Thunderstorm: Seek shelter in a shallow cave or scrunch down?

Shallow caves hold moisture and, like lone trees and exposed ridges, are lightning magnets. And lying down in a tent exposes you to electrical currents. Instead, crouch on your sleeping pad. If you are in a group, spread out so you can

administer first aid quickly. If someone gets sizzled, they're not electrically charged, so administer CPR immediately if they are not breathing. Even before you set out, take a first aid course. (wildernessmedicine.com)

### Navigation:

In order to properly navigate, you must know three things: Where you are, where you are going, and the route you should take. Given any two of the three, the third can be calculated.

**Effective Route Finding** is an essential component of uphill guiding. A poor route will tire skiers and increase hazards.

Route finding on the ascent is often complicated by variable surface conditions, terrain traps, and changes (sometimes rapid) in the snowpack, which make the preferred route less than optimal.

These factors must be taken into account in addition to the usual hazard analysis and safety considerations.

"Nearly 2,000 people have climbed Mt Everest and at least 200 have died trying to do so". Reuters

"To live only for some future goal is shallow. It's the sides of the mountain, which sustain life, not the top. Here's where things grow. But of course, without the top you can't have any sides. It's the top that defines the sides. So on we go...we have a long way...no hurry...just one step after the next...." — Robert Pirsig,

Calling **COOKS** for hiking Camp 2008.

Contact Joan Harvey-  
[jpharvey90@hotmail.com](mailto:jpharvey90@hotmail.com)

This year's climbing camp will be in the Mt. Sir Sanford area, in early July. *Stephen Langley, Climbing Camp Chair*

# Club Trip Reports

## Whitewater Mountain, September 23, 2007

An unusual early snowfall had left everything above treeline covered, so we weren't sure how close we could even get to Whitewater Mtn, let alone climb it. We postponed the trip for one day to give the snow a chance to melt a little, and gave it a try. The weather was beautiful but the high peaks were still snow-covered, so we left the rope behind and decided to hike up as far as we could.

The road up from Retallack was in good shape, and so was the trail. The relatively new trail (bypassing the old trail from the mine, which is on private property) is well built and passes through a nice forest. After about 1.5 km it joins the older trail, which is a bit rougher but still in good shape. The fall colours on the avalanche slopes were beautiful. On reaching a big rockslide at 2000 m, the trail became indistinct. Some of us followed what looked like a recently cairned route across the rockslide, which was rough going. The others took a route further right, below the rockslide and up a steep moraine to the original horse trail; this proved to be the better route. From here, things were pretty much snow-covered, but we were able to follow the trail up to the height-of-land with Cooper Creek at 2200 m. From here we made our way through ankle-deep snow over the moraines, and up to the lake below Whitewater Mtn. Climbing the mountain was obviously out of the question, but we enjoyed the sunny afternoon poking around the giant serpentine boulders, exploring an ice cave at the edge of the glacier, and building a snowman.



*Peter Jordan photo (Mary Woodward, Whitewater Mtn.)*

We were: Suzanne Blewett, Vicki Hart, Ted Ibrahim, Jen Kyler, John Livingston, Mary Woodward, and Peter Jordan.

## Mt. Lepsoe, 2187m. (7175') December 15

With an ugly ice crust earlier in the week, we were in luck with 10 cm of fresh snow falling the previous night and a few more centimeters the day before that. Our objective was to visit all five cabins on Mt. Lepsoe near the Nancy Greene Summit. We followed much of the new section of the Seven Summits Trail,

but made a few side trips to visit the various cabins. Surprise and Eagle's Nest were easy going, but the scramble scale going into the Barking Spider cabin was a little higher. We think we've invented a new demonstration sport for the 2010 Olympics with Dead-Fall Leaping. It's similar to the Log Roll; the loggers had to manage a spinning log, but wore corked boots. By comparison, the logs weren't spinning for us, but we wore our skis, and some of us ended up spinning. Techniques varied. There was the "straight over", the "45 degree flop", a quite popular "parallel hop" and then the fateful "nose plant". Reaching our goal, we enjoyed a cup of tea in the tiny cabin and admired the Cookie L'Ecluse handcrafted stove, complete with aluminum skiers, and old binding pieces attached. Rejoining the main trail, we passed the Sunspot cabin and then stopped at the higher Berry Ridge cabin for our hot meal. This is a newly recycled cabin, made from an older collapsed structure. Homeward down the upper fields was a little exciting. The old crust broke in unexpected places, producing a few nose dives, but after that, the trail down was like skiing on velvet. Our enthusiastic group consisted of: Helen and Rick Foulger, Vicki Hart, Janice Isaac, Connie Parisotto, Dave and Jill Watson, and Bob McQueen (coordinator).

## Winter Backcountry Travel Workshop, Jan. 5/6

Twenty-five of us gathered at the Silverking Campus of Selkirk College on Saturday morning to find out what we should (and should not) be doing to ensure safe winter travel in the backcountry. Our instructor/coordinator for the morning, Sandra McGuinness, lucidly explained the use and limitations of the Avaluator Trip Planner in conjunction with the Canadian Avalanche Centre avalanche forecasts and weather forecasts. She covered terrain evaluation, route finding and the use of the Alpruth "Obvious Clues" index number in a lively interactive way, liberally illustrated with slides of our local backcountry areas, with a few Rockies shots thrown in to show us just how lucky we are to live in the Kootenays. Audience participation was generally good, so we were not accused of acting like "stunned mullets". The final part of the morning session covered group management and how to ensure the control and safety of groups from the time they leave the parking lot until their return.

In the afternoon, Howie Ridge joined us to lead a session on what to do in the event of an avalanche; how to prepare, how to organize and how to act. After a brief classroom session, we then divided into two groups and went out to do transceiver searches in the grounds of the Silver King Campus in about 15 inches of snow. Deep burial could only be simulated in icy piles of snow left by the ploughs.

I found the program extremely useful since it was probably 4 or 5 years since I last attended a similar course. Things and "best practices" change, and it is always useful to look at ones' habits, preconceived notions and customs from a fresh point of view. Howie's division of a burial search sub-group into a transceiver person, a probe person and shovel person (if enough people are available) is so blindingly obvious, yet every group transceiver search practice that I can remember had all sorts of people wandering around with transceivers and probes in each hand with neither being used efficiently. The thought had never occurred to me before.



On behalf of the class, our thanks to Sandra and Howie for an interesting and valuable course that has us better prepared for at least this seasons' trips.

Those participating were: Axel Betz, Eva Boehringer, Dwain Boyer, Mike Brewster, Jenny Coleshill, Larry and Barb Hanlon, Joan Harvey, Janet Henderson, Jen Kyler, Paul Markin, Jocelyne Martin, Shannon Naylor, Ray Neumar, Will Neustaeder, Dominique Preney, Bryan Reid, Nancy Selwood, Al and Pat Sheppard, Joanne Stinson, Annie Taiatini, Cindy Walker, Jill Watson, and myself Maurice de St. Jorre.

Coordinators: Sandra McGuinness, Howie Ridge.

## **Sunday, January 6 Tour**

The second part of the program, a skis-on ski tour, was split into three groups, with the first on the following day, with the other two to come next weekend on Jan. 12/13 with Sandra again instructing and coordinating. Our group of 9 gathered at the Hitching Post at 8 am and went through a detailed pre-trip check and then off to the Hummingbird Pass parking lot. With 3 on snow shoes, 1 on tele and the remaining 6 on AT, we set off for Mt. Beattie in a controlled manner, applying what we had learnt the previous day, with frequent regroup stops, terrain and condition evaluations, and map referrals to ensure we all knew where we were. We reached the Beattie/White Queen Col marshy area around noon, and at this point, our snowshoe group, who were experiencing some difficulty with the deep soft snow, decided to return to the parking lot rather than continue to the summit with the rest of us.

On arrival there, we had lunch and made a detailed study of the surrounding terrain marking signs of avalanche activity and other relevant snow features around us. The plan was then to ski down into the West Fork of 5 Mile Creek and then return via Hummingbird Pass to the parking lot if conditions and group ability permitted, or bail out half way down and return via our uptrack if not. As it turned out, the latter option was taken and we were back to the cars by 3 pm.

Thanks once again Sandra for an instructive and enjoyable trip.

We were: Barb Hanlon, Larry Hanlon, Janet Henderson, Jen Kyler, Paul Markin, Al and Pat Sheppard, Leah Zoobkoff, and myself Maurice de St. Jorre.

Coordinator: Sandra McGuinness.

## **White Queen, 2180m. (7152') January 12**

Saturday, January 12, six of us went up White Queen. The trip was billed as a snow-shoe trip, but just three of us travelled on snowshoes. Two travelled on skis and one wore only her winter boots on her feet. The summit was cloudy, but a display of Bob Marley paraphernalia up high had a warming effect.

We were Barb, Curt, Larry, Polly, Vicki, and myself, David Mitchell.

## **Five Mile Creek, January 20**

The night before the trip, it was very windy as a cold front approached. With that and about 10 or 15 cm of new snow, we figured the avalanche conditions would be pretty bad, so we planned our day to stay fairly low and mostly in the trees. We left the cross-country parking lot at Whitewater at 7:30, and

magically levitated to the top of Canadian Belle without going on any of the runs. From here, we made our way up to the ridge top just below the southeast ridge of White Queen at 2040 m, and skied down through the open forest to Five Mile Creek at 1660 m. Then we traversed north through the burn to enter a tributary valley on the east side, which I had always wanted to explore.

In this valley, snow conditions were pretty windblown. The southwest facing slopes leading up to the divide with Lasca Creek looked really windblasted with lots of rocks showing, and the col to the south leading to Kutedl Creek was steep and avalanche-prone with a big cornice at the top. So we were content to climb up to a shoulder at treeline at 2050 m (E 491.7 km, N 5478.6 km). We had quite a nice run back to the valley bottom on a northeast-facing slope, although the wind-blown snow was variable. There were lots of shooting cracks and little sluffs below our ski tracks, so we took a pretty careful line. On our way back we climbed up a ways into the west-facing burn, until the slope started to get uncomfortably steep. We had a wonderful run down through the burn in perfect snow to the creek, and then finished the day with the long climb back out of the valley.

By now, it was clear and sunny, and the temperature was dropping fast. We met several groups of skiers finishing their day at Whitewater by skinning up to White Queen for a final run. As it turned out later, one of them apparently got separated from his group on the way down, and ended up trying to cross the creek at the bottom, fell in, and had to be rescued some time later.

We were: Maurice de St Jorre, Dave Jack, Graham Jamin, Jen Kyler, Curt Nixon, Cindy Walker, and Peter Jordan.

## **Mount Beattie-Five Mile Creek, January 27**

The trip was an alternative excursion down into Five Mile Creek away from the noise and bustle of the Whitewater Ski Resort. The seven of us took off from the Hummingbird Pass parking lot around 8 am and headed up to the old mine site above the Pass. From here we angled across the flats on the west side of Mt. Beattie on a compass bearing (N10E for those to whom such things are of interest) aiming for the north high point on Beattie, which we subsequently missed, but only by a 100m. or so.

After a brief rest, we skied down the aesthetic crest of a treed spur running east into Five Mile Creek for a leisurely lunch for the three of us lacking the energy to go up the other side, and a very brief one for the other four who ascended about 1000 ft. up the east side of the basin through the burn area until the gradient steepened. The latter group were however rewarded with some excellent skiing on perfect powder through the blackened forest.

Regrouped, we followed our downtrack back up to the north end of Beattie, and so down about 1000ft. into the West Fork of Five Mile, again excellent skiing that avoids the flat area west of Beattie. A long rising traverse brought us back to the track above Hummingbird Pass and so to the parking lot by 4 pm.

The group was Eva Boeringer, Micha Forestell, Dave Jack, Jen Kyler, Will Neustaeder, Cindy Walker, and myself, Maurice de St. Jorre.

## KMC Winter Trips Schedule 2007-2008

**Trip grading:** The standard designations of letters A through D indicate the level of difficulty. (Taking into account the amount of daylight), and the numbers designate the type of skiing. 1 is XC skiing in tracks, 2 is XC skiing off piste or requires trail breaking, 3 is moderate off piste skiing requiring alpine or telemark gear, with some travel in avalanche terrain, 4 is skiing in more challenging terrain requiring good alpine skills.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>ATES</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Number of Participants</u>
<u>December</u>						
Sat. Dec. 15	Mt. Lepsoe (X-C)	B-2	Simple	Bob McQueen		Maximum 8
<b>Climbing skins or fish scales are required for this trip.</b>						
Sun. Dec. 16	Nancy Greene (X-C)	B-2	Simple	Dave Watson		
Sun. Dec. 23	open					
Tues. Dec. 26	Turkey burner/Plewman	C-3	Challenging	Ken Holmes		Maximum 8
<b>This will be our first ski tour of the year. Come on out and burn off the Christmas dinner!</b>						
Sun. Dec. 30	Leaders choice	--	Challenging	Kyle Ridge		Maximum 8
<u>January</u>						
Jan. 5 and 6	Backcountry Travel	--	--	Sandra McGuinness		
<b>This 2 day workshop is aimed at teaching safe backcountry travel in avalanche terrain.</b>						
Jan. 6	Kootenay Pass	C2	Challenging	Dave Jack Bert Port		Maximum 8
Sat. Jan. 12	White Queen	B2	Challenging	Dave Mitchell		
<b>This will be a snow shoe trip</b>						
Sun. Jan. 13	Nancy Greene (X-C)	B2	Simple	Dave Watson		
Sun. Jan. 13	Leaders Choice	--	Challenging	Peter Tchir		Maximum 8
Sat. Jan. 19	Evening Ridge	B3	Challenging	Sandra McGuinness		Maximum 8
<b>This will be the first of several easy tours this year. This trip is aimed at newer skiers as well as those who would like a mellow tour.</b>						
Sun. Jan. 20	Mt. Kirkup (X-C)	??	Simple	Bob McQueen		Maximum 8
Sun. Jan. 20	5 Mile Basin(Tour)	C3	Complex	Peter Jordan		Maximum 8
Sun. Jan. 27	Leader's Choice(Tour)	--	Challenging	Maurice De St. Jorre		Maximum 8
<u>February</u>						
Sun. Feb. 3	Kootenay Pass(Tour)	C2	Challenging	Dave Mitchell		Maximum 8
Sun. Feb. 10	Nancy Greene (X-C)	B2	Simple	Dave Watson		
Sun. Feb. 10	Plewman Basin(Tour)	C3	Challenging	Dave Jack Sandra McGuinness		Maximum 8
Sat. Feb. 16	Kootenay Pass(Tour)	B2	Challenging	Howie Ridge		Maximum 8
<b>This is the second of several easy tours this year. This trip is aimed at newer skiers as well as those who would like a mellow tour.</b>						
Sun. Feb. 17	Leader's Choice(Tour)	--	Challenging	Peter Tchir		Maximum 8
Friday Feb 22	Full Moon Ski (X-C)	A1	N/A	Vicki Hart		
<b>Suitable for light touring or X-C skis</b>						
Sun. Feb. 24	Crowe Mtn(Tour)	B2	Simple	Dave Watson		
Sun. Feb. 24	TBA	C3	Challenging	TBA		Maximum 8
<u>March</u>						
Sat. Mar. 1	Nancy Greene	B2	Simple	Dave Mitchell		
Sun. Mar. 2	Mt. Waldie	C3	Challenging	Doug Brown		Maximum 8
TBA	Leaders Choice	--	Challenging	Kim Kratky		Maximum 8
TBA	Wapta Traverse	D3	Complex	Stephen Langley		Maximum ?
The Wapta Icefields is one of the best hut to hut ski tours in Canada. Set in the spectacular Rocky Mountains the traverse involves relatively safe glacier travel and is accessed from the Icefield Parkway. If you, like many others, have not done this classic traverse I strongly recommend that you book your spot soon.						
Sat. Mar. 29 <sup>nd</sup>	Mount Brennan	D3	Challenging	Ken Holmes		Maximum 8
<u>April</u>						
Open						