The Kootenay Mountaineer

The newsletter for people with year-round pursuits.

February 16th, 2013

President's Message

It's great to see many members enjoying the winter trips this season. It appears that the A and B trips are the most popular, particularly the ones on snow shoes!

We are trying to put together a Saturday or Sunday beginner's back country ski trip this month, and I would like to see how many members would be interested in that. For this day to be successful, it would be great if we could have a few experienced skiers that could help out. Please contact me if you would be willing to help out.

Our social director is working on a few exciting presentations in April and possibly one in May. We will keep you posted on the final details in the coming weeks.

It's hard to believe but in early march we will be starting to work on the April to November (aka "The Summer") schedule, but in the meantime enjoy that snow!

Thinking about the summer: If you would like to apply for the KMC hiking camp; here is the link for the form.

Trip Reports

Snowshoe trip to the Gordon Keir cabin at the Bonanza Recreation area - Saturday January 5, 2013

It is good to take a break every so often from peak bagging, hard pack and moguls with a simple snow shoe; meeting at the reasonable hour of 10 am.



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Article submission guidelines:

Plain text is great. No need for PDF or Microsoft Word files. Simply cut and paste your text into an email to newsletter@kootenarymountaineering.bc.ca. Attach your full resolution photos to the email. Lots of photos, please.

Submission deadline for the next issue is April 16, 2013

However, at 9:15 the evening before our trip I received an email from VP Doug Clark that the Gordon Keir cabin was infested with packrats. An alternate destination was suggested… Too late to call anybody, so I packed up masks, disposable gloves, cleaning and disinfection supplies and loaded it in the kid's backpack to keep it separate from the decadent treats, and hope for the best.

On arrival at the cabin, sure enough there was some evidence of the vermin's, so I asked Mark Hatlen to take the group on a loop around the cabin, while my daughters and I cleaned out the place and Norm Yanke started a fire. By the time the group returned, the cabin smelled much better. A freshly scrubbed hospital room comes to mind, mixed with a little smoke and a touch of … you know what I mean. Thank you Doug, you made me look good!



Did I say decadent? Once again, a fine collection of cinnamon buns, cookies, biscotti's and various strong beverages were packed in by the snow shoer's, by itself sufficient to eliminate all the lost calories on this trip.

Jocelyne Martin surprised us with a French King Cake she baked from scratch. La galette des Rois (literally "the flat pastry cake of the Kings") is a cake celebrating Epiphany, a Christian holiday on January 6. (note the date of our trip, Epiphany eve January 5th) Tradition holds that the cake is "to draw the kings" to the Epiphany. In order to crown a king, Jocelyne hid a hard bean in the cake. The person who would find the bean in their slice would become king for the day.



Ross Bates found the bean and became "King", and was suitably crowned with an aluminum foil crown. He abdicated the monarchy shortly thereafter and Chris Cowan was crowned, but not for long because it was time to do some more exploration of the kingdom!

We did this by snow shoeing up to the lookout point above Orion lakes after which Jocelyne entertained us how to make various summersaults down the slope. We turned around after that to make our way back to the cabin and the cars. A great group of KMC'rs made this outing very pleasant, and it was good to see a few new members on this trip as well.

Participants: Eliane Miros, Ross Bates, Mark Hatlen, Chris Cowan, P'nina Shames, Vicky Hart, Andrea Gardner, Valerie Evans, Diane White, Nadine Ebner, Norm Yanke, Jocelyne Martin, Heather Myers, Gina and Kate Oostlander, Peter Oostlander (organizer and reporter)

Visitor to the Kootenay

Reported by Doug Clark.

At 12:28 p.m., January 19, 2013, Eye Kongpan became the first Thai, 17 year old female, Castlegar Rotary Exchange student to summit Baldy Rocks @ Kootenay Pass, elevation 2250 m.



Ski tour, Mt. Lepsoe, Rossland Range, Jan. 13, 2013.

Submitted by Dave Watson

Eleven of us gathered at the Strawberry Pass / Nancy Greene highway summit parking lot in –18 c clear weather. After short, shivery introductions we headed south on the Seven Summits Trail up Lepsoe Mtn. passing close by Eagles Nest, Sunspot and Berry Ridge cabins and arriving at the top of Lepsoe in about 2.5

hours. Still a hazy sun lingered with great views as far as one could see and temp now at a balmy –15c. No wind, so it wasn't bad. We had a quick lunch before splitting up with one group, lead by Bob McQueen and Dave Grant, skiing down the steep north facing bowl while the other group lead by Dave Watson preferring to ski the West facing slope (arguably the best). Both slopes afforded excellent powder skiing so there were many smiles and no frostbite reported. The two groups, in radio contact, met back at the Sunspot cabin before heading back down to the parking lot. Trip total time, about 5 hours.

We were: Delia Roberts, Doug Clark, Adam Mjolsness, Bob McQueen, Diane Paolini, Dave Grant, Chris Cowan, Ross Bates, Jason Garvey and leaders Dave and Jill Watson.

Powder Quest!

5 members of the powder clan did gather,
and travel to the kootenay pass
we checked our transceivers, traded uptrack stories,
and inspected that stranger
we call the snowpack
setting our skis loose;
we lead and tailed till we were tired
tall timber, perfect powder
and a quest fulfilled
we returned, more plans in the dragonfly
for another trip Powder Quest

We were: Nancy Selwood, Larry Hanlon, Bill McNally, Peter Oostlander and Curt Nixon (Delta Leader, PowderQuest)

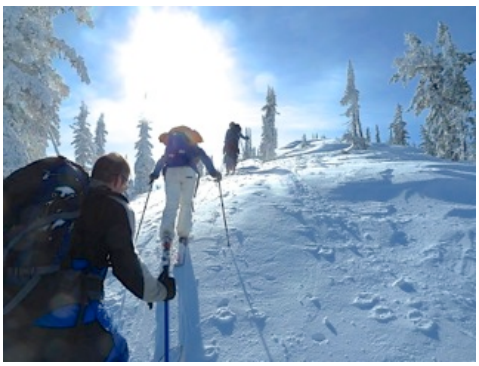


Photo attached is intended to instill a sense of giddiness in those who quest the white.

Lightning Strike/Baldy Rocks (C3) ski tour - Saturday February 2nd, 2013

The day began with the valleys socked in by the inversion layer, but higher up there was nothing but blue sky and glorious sunshine. The group met in Salmo before heading up to Kootenay Pass for a day of touring.

The popularity of the pass for recreation has exploded in recent years. We had more than 35 cars in the parking area. Fortunately none of them were going to our destination so we had the ridge all to ourselves. We headed up the road to the top and then followed Ripple ridge out to Lightning Strike.



There was little wind so we kept to the top of the ridge for the best views.

There had been some fresh snow the previous night, but the wind and sun had left the conditions a bit crusty although still ski-worthy. As it warmed during the day the snow became heavy, but the weather was so good we didn't care.



Keep to the left please, folks.

After lunch at the top, half the group skiied the steep gully off the South side of Lightning Strike, and the other half backtracked along the ridge to find a gentler slope down to the others. Then we climbed to regroup at the park boundary at the top of the road.

Four of the group had plenty of energy and split off to climb Baldy Rocks for a longer run down to the cars, and the rest contented themselves with traversing out at the same elevation before skiing down.

Participants were Jason Garvey, Chris Cowan, Steve Knight, Milada Pardoucova, Ron Groom, Rainer Muenter, Allen Tabor, and coordinator Ross Bates.

KOKANEE SKI WEEK 201

12 KMC members had a very enjoyable ski touring week in Kokanee January 26th to February 2nd.



The views we didn't get until fly-out day!

Low clouds during the week prevented us from getting to the glacier and other high alpine areas above tree line; however, the upside was that snow conditions were very stable providing us with some great skiing on some long and steep slopes. Although we didn't get any big dumps of snow, each night there was about 10 cm of fresh snow to keep the snow "refreshed".

Enjoyable and memorable runs included: NE slopes of Mt Robert Smith above Tanal Lake; Beaujolais area West of Keen lake; Slopes of Griffin and Commission Creeks; Smugglers ridge both sides including "Field of Dreams"; Happy Valley; Slopes from the summit (almost) of Tanal Peak to the bottom of Keene Creek (almost); East and West slopes of Upper Keene Creek; slopes east of Grizzly Bowl above Helen Deane lake with three adventurous souls skiing the long run from Stegasaurus Ridge to the bottom of Keen Creek and breaking trail for two hours all the way back to the cabin.

Other memorable aspects of the trip were the fine meals, and the company of an excellent bunch of skiers.

We were: Bert and Sue Port; Terry and Liz Huxter; Linda Johannson; Chris Chart; Ron Stockerl; Ken Roy; Peter Jordan; Elena Cigala-Fulgosi; Doug Clark and Ken Holmes.



RockNRoll Night Ski



Simultaneous flashes in the Rock'n Roll cabin - January 26, 2013



The skiers' group ready to depart from the Rock'n Roll Inn. Left to Right: Cameron Carter, Joan Posivy, Andrea Gardner, Norm Yanke, Chris Cowan and Jean Rene Leduc. Not in photo: Brenda Haley and Don McLachlin who were on snow shoes and needed a head start! Peter Oostlander (photographer)

Andrea Gardner

Artwork that was inspired by my first snowshoe trip with KMC. The trip was to the Gordon Kier cabin, part 2 of the simply decadent series. It was an awesome trip, with the snow, piled on the trees, transforming the landscape into a winter wonderland!



Blueberry Winter Queens

Kayaking the West Kootenay

by Ron Perrier

Kayaking in fresh water may seem dull for the average sea kayaker. The differences are lack of tides (and thus tide pools), marine life, and the swell of open ocean. Big lakes have all the same propensity as the ocean to develop significant wind waves. As wind is more likely to funnel down mountain valleys, they can still be dangerous places. All the lakes, due to their length, have significant fetch. Many deaths have been recorded on all the lakes. Watch for the "black line" indicating the front of sudden weather systems.

It is relaxing to not deal with tides and the carries are always short, usually less than 5 feet. Contrary to the general visual monotony of many ocean views, the scenery is varied and much more interesting. Rather than impenetrable forest, there is much more to do on the land and this more than makes up for the lack of marine life. Hiking is much more available and can form a significant part of any trip. Campsites are generally better often with nice sandy beaches. Large creeks enter all the lakes and many have wonderful waterfalls usually close to where they enter the lakes. Fog is unknown. The weather is usually better and marine radios and weather forecasts are usually unnecessary. Instead of marine charts, various topographical maps and Forest/Recreation maps are all that are needed.

The interior of BC is virtually all mountainous terrain. Between the Coast Mountains to the East and the Rockies to the West lie the Columbia Mountains. This range in turn is made up of three significant mountain subranges - from west to east, the Monashees, the Selkirks and the Purcells, all with gorgeous mountains, many over 9,000 feet and several over 11,000 feet. The West Kootenay lies in the middle of these ranges with the Monashees forming the west border and the Purcells the East.

The areas on either side of the West Kootenay are in significant rain shadows and are thus much drier. The WK contain one of the few temperate rainforests in the world. This produces a varied forest with many species of trees and a lovely forest floor with mushrooms, ferns, and mosses. Logging cut blocks seem much less visible. The summer alpine wildflower display must be one of the best natural flower displays in the world.

The WK is home to two large river systems, the Columbia and the Kootenay and the lakes that form in their steep river valleys are large and great places to kayak. Both rivers start in the Rocky Mountain trench between the Purcells and the Rockies. The Kootenay flows SE into the US eventually turning north to cross back into Canada south of Creston, BC. It soon flows into Kootenay Lake just north of Creston.

The Columbia River flows NW from its origin passing within a few kilometers of the Kootenay, and eventually forms a big horseshoe turning south over the top of the Purcells, crosses completely through the middle of the Selkirks and the Monashees from its west border. It has three large dams each backing up large lakes. These dams along with the Duncan Dam above the north end of Kootenay Lake play a significant role in flood control and water storage and are part of the Columbia River Treaty with the US. Arrow Lakes behind the lowest dam, the Hugh Kennleyside, is very kayakable. The Columbia River after this lower dam is one of the few free flowing sections left on the entire river. The Colombia, immediately after crossing the Canada/US border becomes Lake Roosevelt, the 150 mile long lake behind the largest hydroelectric dam in the US, the Grande Coulee.

In the middle of the Selkirks is 48 km long Slocan Lake, drained by the Slocan River which enters the Kootenay River half way between Castlegar and Nelson. It is the real kayaking gem of the three lakes.

The Pend D'Oreille River flows up from the US, crosses into Canada and enters the Columbia just before it crosses the border into the US. It too has three large dams on its lower part. The best reservoir is in the US behind the Boundary Dam and the resulting gorge is roadless and spectacular.

With 11 hydroelectric dams, the WK are a major source of electric power in British Columbia. The power grid supplying peak power needs to parts of the western US leaves from the WK.

The WK has a wonderful climate. Winters are relatively mild and have heavy snowfall with some of the best powder skiing in the world. The freshet or spring melt starts in May and lake levels reach their highest generally in the first few weeks of July. On Arrow Lakes almost all beaches disappear and they are much smaller on the other lakes at high water. Summers are usually hot and dry, there is relatively little wind except on Kootenay Lake, and biting insects

are uncommon. I would suggest that all the water in the lakes is safe to drink (especially if sourced away from the shorelines). The same goes for most creeks emptying into the lakes away from human habitation. I have drank it all my life with no problems but to be sure, one may want to purify it.

Probably the best part of the WK is its relative isolation and small population. Usually there is no one else on the water. Halfway between Calgary and Vancouver, most tourists miss it. Traversed along its south edge by Highway 3, this road goes over the two highest highway passes in Canada on either side. From the north, free ferries on Arrow and Kootenay Lakes provide the only access. The closest large city is Spokane, Washington and three border crossings lie in the WK. With a population of slightly more than 80,000, few people live on the shores of the lakes and each lake has large sections with no road access and thus pristine wilderness. The three largest cities, Nelson, Castlegar, and Trail, each have less than 9,000 people. Nelson must be one of the most attractive small towns in the world. Sitting on the west arm of Kootenay Lake, it has a well developed alternative life style. This area was one of the main refuges for American draft dodgers especially during the Vietnam War and they have formed a vibrant part of many communities. Forestry, mining and cannabis cultivation (illegal) are the main economy. Tourism is relatively poorly developed and it seems that most locals want to keep it that way. Reflecting the generous and trusting nature of WK citizens, hitchhiking is easy throughout the area making shuttles practical.

The most detailed maps are the 1:50,000 series topographical maps but it would be quite expensive to buy all to cover each lake. Less satisfactory are the 1:250,000 series maps – 82E, 82K, 82N, and 82F cover the entire area. Satisfactory and free is the 1:250,000 Arrow and Kootenay Lake Forest Districts Recreation Map produced by the BC Ministry of Forests.

Kootenay Lake.

Kootenay Lake is big, some 105 kms long and up to 5 kms wide. The Purcells are to the east and the Selkirks to the west of the lake. The West Arm of the lake flows west from near its centre, and just past the city of Nelson forms the Kootenay River again which enters the Columbia 50 km north of the US/Canada border at Castlegar. There are 6 hydroelectric dams between Nelson and Castlegar. The lake is world renowned for its lake trout fishery. A particular subspecies, the Gerrard trout is a gargantuan species of rainbow, averaging 7-9 kg with the record of 23.4 kg. Its size is at least partly due to the fact its main diet is the land locked kokanee salmon.

This huge lake can make for challenging kayaking as it develops significant wind waves usually by the afternoon. The water remains relatively cold throughout the season and thus swimming is not that pleasant. The valley is wide providing better views of the surrounding mountains with some of the best sunsets and sunrises in the WK. Four 1:50,000 maps cover the entire lake. From north to south they are 82K/2 – Lardeau, 82F/15 – Kaslo, 82F/10 – Crawford Bay, and 82F/7 – Boswell. 82K and 82N 1:250,000 maps provide much less detail (there are sixteen 1:50,000 maps in each 1:250,000 scale map).

Due to its large size with well over 200 km of shoreline, it would be difficult to do it all in one go. It took me many 3 day weekends over a few seasons to see the whole lake. The West side of the bottom half and east side of the top half are almost roadless. Camping can be more difficult on the sides of the lake with roads due to the many private properties.

North end – west side.

Highway 31 runs along this entire shore but is rarely next to the water. The Duncan River enters the North end, adding silt and producing shallow water. It is easy to get high centered here.

The tiny community of **Lardeau** (N50°08.58’ E116°56.8’) has 2 boat launches and Davis Creek Provincial Park (PP) on its south end. The Davis Creek Trail starts just north of the highway bridge and is a steep one hour climb to a small grove of very large old growth cedar trees. Gerrard trout can be seen spawning in the Lardeau River in late April/early May.

Lost Ledges PP (N50°06.19’ E116°56.15’) has a good boat launch on its north end and nice campsites many on the water. I once parked here for 4 days and brought home a pack rat that had taken up residence in my engine compartment. This is the last camping on this side of the lake until the small town of Kaslo, 22 km south.

Kaslo (pop. 1,029) is in a gorgeous setting on the shores of the lake with other worldly views of the Purcell Mountains on the opposite shore. The striking peak to the SE is Loki, which only recently has had a

trail built to the top. Kaslo has all services including a nicely restored hotel and the SS Moyie, a restored sternwheeler that is a worthwhile visit. The Kaslo Jazz Festival, with the stage on the lake, is held the first weekend of August every year. Camping may be possible in the park near the sternwheeler. This is a good place to launch, camp at Lost Ledges, continue over the north end of the lake and then down the East side where there is much more camping. Then return to Kaslo to your vehicle for a nice 3-4 day trip.

Fletcher Falls Rec. Site (N50°0.22' E116°53.89'), 8 km south of Kaslo has a day use area and a small semi-open campsite on the lake. Parking is on the highway so it is likely that you may be the only camper. Woodbury Resort and Jones Boys Marina, another 8 km south has a restaurant and store. **Ainsworth Hot Springs** (N49°44.06' E116°54.42') has a jetty and a resort with the most popular hot springs in the WK. There is a warm pool and a horseshoe shaped tunnel with hot water pouring off the roof, private "alcoves", and a nice place to sit out of the water in a natural recess. Take a refreshing dip in the cold pool. This is a well worthwhile diversion from kayaking.

Coffee Creek PP (N49°41.76' E116°54.30') has a good forested campsite on the lake. The road access was washed out by a flood several years ago so again boaters are likely to be the only campers. There are two other potential campsites between here and the West Arm at Balfour. One is at N49°40.33' E116°55.0', the second at the top end of Queens Bay just west of McEwan Point at 49°39.30' E 116°55.84'. One of the best launch sites on this side of the lake is in the community of Balfour at N49°37.70' (this can be somewhat difficult to find; simply wander around the roads to the most easterly part of this small town, there is ample free parking here). Just inside the West Arm, Balfour is the west terminus of the Kootenay Lake Ferry, the longest free ferry in the world at 9 km.

North end – east side.

Argenta is a small town right at the North end and has a good boat launch again with good parking. It's original settlers included many Quakers. There is a nice beach at N50°07.95' E116°54.50'. A road ends at the tiny community of Johnson's Landing (pop. 35). A huge landslide came down Gar Creek engulfing 3 homes and killing four people in July, 2012.

Fry Point at N50°03.53' E116°52.63', has a large campground on its north side. It is owned by the NW Society of the Unitarian Church, which was formed solely to purchase the land and preserve it. There is a caretaker present throughout the summer and a fee is charged. Fry Creek has a dramatic canyon upstream from the point with a foot bridge. The Purcell Wilderness Conservancy comes down to the lake shore for 6 km here.

Campbell Bay PP N49°57.24' is SE of Verandah Point and has nice beach campsites. The Clute Lake Trail departs from the back of the bay. Two km south at N49°56.23' E116°51.51.66' is the Leviathan Lake Trail. There are pictographs on the lake shore at N49°54.39' E116°52.63' (directly opposite Kaslo), and at N49°53.90 E116°52.00'.

Garland Bay Rec Site is a semi-open medium sized drive in site (albeit at the end of a long logging road) with 2 campsites on Bernard Creek at N49°52.23' E116°51.55' and a non drive in site on the south side of the same point. These are heavily used in the summer.

Pebble Beach Rec Site N49°48.40' E116°51.12' is a small walk-in or boat-in site with a pebble beach!

The small village of **Riondel** has a community campground on the beach at the north end of town. There is a store, restaurant and a medical clinic. Avoid Galena Bay at the south end of town as it is rocky and further from the amenities. A famous Ashram with a large white dome is at Walkers Point and it is possible to camp under the large power line crossing the lake. The east side of the free ferry, part of Highway 3A from Balfour is at **Kootenay Bay.**

Pilot Bay PP occupies a small peninsula and the land across Pilot Bay where the campsite is near Sawmill Cove. It has many great hiking trails.

Tipi Camp, owned by a non-profit organization, is just NW of Cape Horn and boat accessed usually from Grey Creek where there is a store and boat launch. It hosts many groups through the summer including a great yoga retreat at the end of August.

South end – east side.

Highway 3A runs down this entire side of the lake significantly limiting camping possibilities. This section of highway has been voted one of the premier motorcycling roads in Canada.

Lockhart Beach PP. N49°30.64' E116°47.16'. Even though this is a "beach" park, there is no camping on the beach! The only camping is in the campground across the road, a long carry. The one time I have

camped here, I actually set up my tent on the beach and eventually stayed when the host gave in to our request.

The Glass House. A pioneer in the area built a fantastic house out of embalming bottles. It is worth a visit. The only place to camp on this part of the lake is on a nice open, small sandy public beach at N49°23.13' E116°42.57'. There is no table nor toilet. This is also a reasonable launch site.

Kuskanook. This marina is the only good launch site on this section of the lake. The parking requires a fee. This is 2 km north of Kuskanook PP.

Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area. Although this is not really kayak accessible and is best visited by car, it has great walks and blinds to observe birds.

South end – west side.

There is no road on this part of the lake but the CPR rail line follows close to the shore of the entire side. The water in all the creeks (except possibly Next Creed) should be very good. There is an interesting petroglyph panel at N49°17.04' E116°44.14'. From south to north, the available sights and camping opportunities are as follows.

Next Creek Rec Site. N49°18.16' E116°45.70'. This is a small boat accessible campsite that may be heavily used in the summer.

Tye Creek Rec Site. N49°19.65' E116°47.10'. There are two boat accessible lakeside campsites. There are houses here and the south site is also road accessible but through private land (contact Darkwoods Forestry Ltd in Nelson for permission). The one time I stayed here, the mosquitos (generally uncommon) were terrible.

Midge Creek Marine PP. N49°22.70' E116°48.30'. This is a large open campsite with a great sandy beach.

Drewry Point PP. N49°25.17' E116°48.50'. This campsite in the trees has good beach access on either side of the point and is only 4 ½ km north of Midge Creek.

There is another small but very nice beach with possible camping at N49°29.03' E116°50.38' almost opposite Lockhart Beach PP. Another good spot to rustic camp is a rock beach at N49°36.45' E116°53.68' about 4 km SE of the West Arm of Kootenay Lake.

West Arm. There is often considerable current at the entrance to the West Arm. It is 33 lake kms to Nelson. This makes for a nice but very long day trip where one has all kinds of opportunity to get a view of the highest priced real estate in the WK. Highway 3A follows the entire north side of this portion of lake. The south shore has the ferry accessible communities of Proctor and Harrop. In Nelson the best take out point is Lakeside Park right after the big orange bridge.

Kokanee Creek PP. This large lakeside campground is very busy in the summer and reservations would be recommended. It would make a good half way camp to split the West Arm into a two day trip.

Kootenay River. Immediately after Nelson the West Arm turns into a river and goes through Grohman Narrows with some turbulent water. Just after Highway 3A crosses the river is Taghum Beach on the south shore with a good launch and take out point and ample free parking. It is a nice kayak down to the first dam, about 9 km from Taghum Beach. There are four more dams and then the only other reasonable place to kayak is the 17 km stretch between South Slocan and the Brilliant Dam just before Castlegar. The only put in is just downstream from the Glade Ferry. Mostly lake, there are a few places with appreciable current especially in the upper end. The beauty of hydroelectric power is that it is simple to amp up power production for peak periods, when the current will be greatest.

Slocan Lake.

This gem of a lake provides the best kayaking in the WK. It is 39 km long and up to 2 km wide. Because it is very deep, up to 970 feet, it rarely freezes in the winter. Swimming is still good especially when there is little wind to disturb the thermocline. Its water must be the purest of any lake in BC and I routinely drink it anywhere except possibly around New Denver and Roseberry. Its clarity is superb, up to 70 feet down in the winter. Set in a relatively steep walled valley, there are great views of the surrounding Selkirk Mountains in all directions especially from the middle. The west side is roadless and the southern ¾'s is in Valhalla Provincial Park. Most people in kayaks or canoes stay on this side. It has a relatively poor fishery and the record 26 pound lake trout was very much an exception. I have taken four days for this trip each of the five times I have done it. I have also made several day trips to various beaches over the years.

I have always launched on the North end and taken out at the South end (obviously one can start at either end). Both have good road access and parking. Except for

the locals camping for a weekend on one of the beaches, one usually sees no one else doing this trip (which I always find amazing). Most large creeks on the West side have big waterfalls near the shore and sandy beaches. There are ten established campsites with picnic tables and pit toilets on this side of the lake.

West shoreline

(from north to south with mileages from the North end).

The put in at the North end of the lake is accessed by Bonanza Creek Road at the South end of the tiny village of Hills, a sparse collection of houses lining Highway 6. The land adjacent to the beach here is private with several homes on the site of an old resort. After launching, move your vehicle back away from the beach and park along the road.

Wragge Creek Rec Site. This road accessible campground is only 5 km from the put in. The vehicle accessible sites occupy a small peninsula with a few tiny islands off the SE corner. The main beach faces south. There is almost always a caretaker (my old friend Kim Roshinsky) present who collects a camping fee. There are 4 attractive walk in/boat accessible campsites in the trees at the south end. I almost always stay here my first night making for a short paddle that day.

Valhalla PP boundary. 10 km

Wee Sandy Creek. 10.5 km. This has a very nice beach and camping area. There is a trail to a lookout which continues for 13 miles to Wee Sandy Lake and Mt Nord. The trail is not used much and has a steep headwall at the end. The Holt Cabin is at about 9 miles.

Sharp Creek. 12.5 km. Beach and trailhead for New Denver Glacier Trail. This trail eventually turns into a bushwack. The glacier is very small.

Nemo Creek. 19.5 km. This is the premier stopping point on the entire lake because of its multiple beautiful waterfalls close to the lake accessible by a good trail. There are campsites on the beach and on top of the bench. The trail continues for 5 km up to some large rocks called the Rock Castles and a cabin. .

Coreys Ranch Beach. 22 km. Another nice beach and campsite.

Cove Creek. 25 km. Beach, campsite and usable cabin. Also a short trail.

Indian Point Beach. 27 km.

Ben Brown Beach. 28 km.

Evans Creek. 32 km. A large campsite is on the beach and in the trees. The trailhead for Cahill/Beatrice Lakes Trail is here and crosses the creek on a bridge above a large waterfall close to the lake. Little Cahill Lake is 4 km, Cahill Lake 6 km, and Beatrice 10 km from the lake on a good trail. The trail ends at Beatrice. Pebble Beach, at 35 km, is privately owned with several houses. There is a good pictograph at 36km.

Slocan City. 39 km. This is the end of the lake and the start of the Slocan River that joins the Kootenay River. A large sawmill occupies the east side of the beach. Take out more to the west at the boat ramp. Parking is free and ample. It takes 15 minutes to walk out to Highway 6 to hitchhike back to Bonanza Creek and your car. The last time I did this, I caught the first car and got a ride right to my vehicle. Slocan City has a grocery store, restaurants and a kayak rental company, Smiling Otter. This is also the trailhead for the Slocan Lake Trail that goes 9 kms to Evans Creek. Free of snow earlier than any other trail in the spring, it is an early season favorite with locals. The southern end of Valhalla PP is accessed from the Little Slocan Lakes Forest Service Road. There are world class hikes to Mulvey Basin (Bannock Burn Creek Road), Drinnon and Gwillam Lakes under the Devils Range (Hoder Creek Road) and McKean Lakes (outside the park up Koch Creek).

East Side.

There are few campsites or public beaches, the highway follows the entire side and most of the land is private.

Roseberry. 8 km. This is a small residential community with a good Mexican Restaurant. This is one of the few places on the lake (the other is near the hospital in New Denver) with detectable fecal organisms. It is built on the delta of Wilson Creek with a very superficial water table that requires expensive septic systems. Few homes deal with the special situation.

New Denver. 16 km. With 560 people, it is the largest town on the lake and has all services including a marina and campground with a good beach on the South end of town. New Denver was the largest Japanese internment camp during WW2 and its Nikkei Centre is a great museum commemorating that terrible time. Some residents from the camp still live in ND today. This area is very popular motorcycle touring country. The Galena Trail, a rail line now converted

into a non motorized trail runs from Three Forks above New Denver and then along the east side of the lake ending in Nakusp. The famous Garlic Festival is held in September.

Silverton. 21 km. Another small community with a store, building supply, small restaurant and a good launching site at the south end of town. This would be the best launch site to get to Nemo Creek.

Point. Great summer beach hangout on the rocks.

Arrow Lakes.

This 207 km long lake is formed by the Hugh Keenleyside Dam just above Castlegar. It lies between the Monashee Mountains to the Wwest and the Selkirks to the East. The lake level fluctuates 37 feet between low water in April and high water in early July. In 2012 with a huge snowpack and the wettest spring in history, the lake was allowed to go 2' above high water. Most beaches disappear and thus camping recommendations are limited to the few sites above this level. When water levels drop, many gorgeous sandy beaches appear. The water is quite warm in summer and swimming is good. The lake is divided into Upper and Lower with the Narrows, just south of Nakusp separating them.

Upper Arrow Lake. This 85 km long section extends in the North from the town of Revelstoke on the Trans Canada highway to McDonald Creek PP. Launch just south of the center of town. Highway 23 parallels the West shore as far as the Shelter Bay Ferry after which it is on the East side. The highway is not close to the shore and when paddling, one has the feeling of being in wilderness. Upper Arrow Lake is covered by the 1:50,000 maps from north to south L16, K12, K5, and K4. Upper Arrow Lake ends at McDonald Creek PP, 10 km south of Nakusp just above the Narrows. I will list potential campsites with the distance from Revelstoke (even though they may not exist at high water but many appear as the water level drops).

Camp. 16 km - east. N 50°51.66' E 118°05.60'. It is a nice beach on the North side of a prominent point.

Arrow Head. 41 km - east. This is the site of an abandoned community and a trail that parallels the shore on the East side just before the North East Arm. The small community of Beaton is 16 km up the arm and offers little of interest.

Shelter Bay PP. 38 km. N50°38.20 E117°55.35'. This is the West side of the free ferry and has a boat launch. There is no campsite and usually a lot of people in the summer waiting for the ferry. This 5 km long ferry ends at Galena Bay on the east side.

Eagle Bay Rec Site. 45 km - west. N50°33.98' E117°57.05'. This is a nice boat access site with wind protection on either side of the point on the west side.

Halcion Hot Springs. 50 km. N50°31.44' E117°55.35'. This is a resort on the East side with a restaurant, a hot spring and non-primitive camping.

Camp. 58 km - West. N50°27.19' E117°57.67'. This is a good campsite especially if the wind is from the North.

Pingston Creek. 60 km - west. N50°26.31' E117°57.28'. A great place to primitive camp near a beautiful waterfall. There is good protection from a south wind here. A good launch point is at a log dump south of Halfway River across the lake.

Camp. 67 km - west. N50°22.70' E117°56.29'. A nice beach campsite.

Fostall Creek. 69 km - west. N50°21.50' E117°56.71'. This creek has another beautiful waterfall close to the lake with good camping. There is a trail to the falls and several houses just south.

Nakusp. 85 km. A small community (pop. 1,600) on the East shore with all services. The Burger Hut at the Southeast corner of town has great food. This is a good place to launch with free close parking. Nakusp Hot Springs are a short drive east of town. Nakusp is a hotbed of wild mushroom picking. Visible SW of town is one of the best hikes in the area to the top of **Saddle Mountain**. There is a ferry at the lower end of the Narrows. From the lake, access is a little cumbersome with a possible bushwack to the gravel road that parallels the shore and then a 4.5 km walk up a road to the parking area to start the hike. Views from the top are spectacular.

McDonald Creek PP. 85 km – east. This a full service campground with several kilometers of sandy beach, many waterfront sites, grassy meadows and a boat launch. Reservations are recommended in the summer.

Lower Arrow Lake.

It is 122 km from McDonald Creek PP to the Hugh Keenleyside Dam. I have included the Narrows in the description of this part of Arrow Lake. All distances are from McDonald Creek PP. The 1:50,000 maps that

cover the lake are 82K/4, 82F/13, 82E/16, E/9, E/8, and 82F/5.

Arrow Park Ferry. 10 km.

Needles Ferry. 44k m. N49°52,33' E118°04.81'. This is a free ferry on Highway 6. The town of Fauquier on the east side with a nice 9 hole golf course.

Tate Creek Recreation Site. 53 km – east. N49°47.66' E118°04.80'. This is a small forested campsite with a sunny exposure and a good beach at low water.

Edgewood. 56k m – west. N49°46.69' E118°08.25'. This is a small community with most services. It is the end of the road on this side of the lake. Eagle Creek PP is immediately south of town

Octopus Creek. 59 km – east. N49°44.98' E118°06.60'. This is a small open campsite and the end of the road on the east side. There is no road access to Lower Arrow Lake for 17 km.

Island Point Recreation Site. 74 km – east. N49°37.05' E118°08.08'. This site is just north of Hutchison Creek.

Blackberry Beach. 76 km – east. N49°35.89' E118°08.07'. A nice be ach site at low water.

Pebble Beach Recreation Site. 78 km – east. 49°34.89' E118°07.31'.

Sunshine Bay Recreation Site. 82 km – east. N49°82.45' E118°07.05'. This is a small, forested campsite which can barely be accessed by a very rough road. There is a good beach at low water.

Bowman Point Recreation Site. 84 km – west. N49°32.0' E118°08.83'. This is a small, treed, boat access only site with a sheltered anchorage.

Renata. 96 km – west. N49°25.88' E118°08.08'. This excellent fruit growing town was mostly abandoned (there are still a few residents) after it was flooded when the Hugh Keenleyside Dam was built forming Lower Arrow Lake. Across the lake is a boat launch used by the residents of Renata to access their homes. Road access is difficult. There are two good hikes here to waterfalls on Faith Creek and Dog Creek.

Natural Arch. 100 km – west. N49°25.88' E118°06.08'. This amazing geological formation is the largest arch in Canada at 3 m wide and 6 m thick stretching 45 m across the gully. It is 34 m from the top of the arch to the ground. It is accessed only by boat from Deer Park. Land on the beach in front of several homes at Brooklyn at the mouth of Pup Creek. The trail is 1.5 km long and ascends 250 m.

Deer Park. This community with no services has many cottages and a few permanent residents. The gravel road access is good. Across the lake is the beautiful rail trail, the start of the Kettle Valley Railway rail trail that starts at Castlegar and ends in Hope, BC. It climbs steadily from Castlegar, has several nice trestles and after turning south goes through a kilometer long tunnel.

Tulip Creek Falls. 109 km – south. N49°21.82' E117°55.80'. This is a gorgeous waterfall a short walk from the beach.

Syringa Creek PP. 113 km – north. N49°20.98' E117°53.15'. This park has a large campground that is very popular in the summer and reservations would be necessary. There is a great beach at low water. One kilometer past the campground is a boat launch with good parking. This would be a good take out for any trip. From here on there are many signs of civilization with first a yacht club and marina, a subdivision, and then Scotties Marina all on the north side.

Hugh Keenleyside Dam. 122 km. It is possible to boat across the dam through a lock. Phone 250 365 to contact the dam staff. A powerhouse has been added to the dam on the north side. Past the dam are the communities of Robson on the north shore, and on the south shore a pulp mill, a sawmill and then the city of **Castlegar** with a complete range of services including an airport. It would be possible to take out in Millenium Park in Castlegar. Two great hikes (Mt Sentinel Grind and Brilliant Overlook) give tremendous views west up to Arrow Lake, east up the Kootenay River, south down the Columbia and of Castlegar.

Columbia River past the dam.

This is one of the only free flowing sections of the Columbia River left. Fishing here is world class with mammoth sturgeon, walleye and trout. It is a nice paddle with some riffles to the city of Trail, past which are some significant rapids. Lake Roosevelt at high water starts at the US border.

Pend d'Oreille River Canyon

This 209 km river flows through north Idaho, into NE Washington and then crosses into Canada for several kilometers before joining the Columbia River just above the US/Canada border. After the Snake River, it

is the largest tributary of the Columbia. The Pend Oreille River Water Trail has been formed with the aim of encouraging use of the river for recreational purposes. Maps for the entire trail can be seen on the web site www.porta-us.com/pages/water-trail. The most interesting part of the water trail is the 19 km from the town of Metaline Falls to the Boundary Dam just before the border in NE Washington. Here it forms a beautiful canyon that has no road access until the dam.

Drive Boundary Road (exits the Highway 31 in Metaline Falls) that leads to the Boundary Dam and leave a vehicle to shuttle back to your car at the end of the trip. The best launch site is at Metaline Waterfront Park in Metaline Falls. The reservoir of the Boundary Dam extends upstream from here. Cross under the bridge and go over the submerged Metaline Falls that can have very high velocity and turbulence. If this scares you, one can put in at the dam and paddle up lake and return the same way.

The highlight of the canyon is Pee Wee Falls, a very pretty waterfall that falls over a cliff into the reservoir. There is also a very odd cave at lake level (must duck down to get into it) that has a resident beaver. Visit the web site to find the campsites on the reservoir if interested in more than a day trip.

Editor's Message

As your editor, I have been redirecting much of my time to immersing myself in the past adventures by KMC members as they are recorded in the Kootenay Karabiner. I'm almost half way through, and it may take me a few more months to finish digitizing all 41 issues of the 36 year timespan covered by the publication. They will be made available on the Club website, and I would strongly encourage all new members similar myself as well as those members who don't date back all that time (yes, there are a few who go most of the way back) to download and read as many of them as they wish. They are a fascinating read. The Club has an incredibly rich history.

Images from Volume 1, 1964 of the Kootenay Karabiner







GUIDE: "THESE ROCKS WERE PILED UP HERE BY THE GLACIERS."

DEAR OLD LADY: "BUT WHERE ARE THE GLACIERS?"

GUIDE: "GONE BACK FOR MORE ROCKS, M'A'M."