The Kootenay Mountaineer

The newsletter for people with year-round pursuits.

Fall Equinox, September 2014

Message from the Editor

Jimminy Cricket, you people were busy over the summer! As I start to assemble this issue, I'm thinking that I'm going to have to move the "Guidelines" from the column at the right to the bottom of this column just to make room for the table of contents. Luckily, the President doesn't seem to have much to say this issue. (That is a joke, Doug.) However, the President did ask to make sure that everyone knows how hard the "Huts Guy" works on our behalf by sending me this picture…



Graham Jamin hard at work bucking up firewood at Copper Hut for the upcoming winter, August 6th, 2014.

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.

The Mountaineer is now published on the sun's schedule - equinox and solstice times, approximately matching the mountain seasons.

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Trip Reports

Milford Peak

June 20, 2014

There is still snow on the Mount Buchanan Forest Service Road to Blue Ridge and Milford Peak above 6,000 feet.

Six KMC hikers participated in the experience.

Terry Turner



Terry Turner



Terry Turner

Gray's Peak

June 21, 2014

A few weeks before this hike I had not a soul on my list but, in the end, I had eleven companions.

Everyone congratulated me on the weather I chose for the hike but I don't have that kind of power. The day was well chosen though, as we had sun the whole day which is quite unusual for a Gray's Peak hike. The snow was much scarcer than last year due to the sunny spring weather. We did encounter snow in patches a few hundred metres up the old trail and this continued over an elevation gain of 200 metres. Snow was quite stiff at this point but as we worked our way into the open towards the first headwall, it softened and it became easier to kick steps.

We reached the col in 3 hours and most of us proceeded across the glacier to the base of Gray's. It always amazes me what a leisurely jaunt it is to the base of the peak. It seems so easy after the stiff climb to the col. We progressed up the snow face on the north side of the peak with the first of the party making excellent steps for the rest.



Phil Best



Phil Best

Our ice axes certainly came in handy for this part of the climb.

The rock at the peak does have room for eleven, perhaps even a couple more.



Phil Best

We had a lovely lunch which included the obligatory planning for the next week's hikes. We were pleased to see our twelfth member resting on the rocks below.



Nadine Ebner

We made our way down through the col and snowfield, even finding soft snow for a bum-slide by some of the party. It was a leisurely trip down as we waited in the usual "all for one, one for all" spirit.



Nadine Ebner

For some of our party this was the first time on Gray's and it is always a pleasure to share this awesome peak with others.

We were: *Nadine Ebner, Phil Best, Bill McNally, Steve Ross, Ross Bates, Eliane Miros, Steven Miros, Zuzana Zack, Vicki Hart, P'nina Shames, non-member Gene Van Dyke and myself, Dave St Denis.*

Mt. Grohman

June 29, 2014

The Mt Grohman trip went at 08:40 June 29 from the yellow gate on the Grohman Creek FSR. A bumpy 18.5 km to the end of the road below the main Mt Grohman basin saw nine KMCers begin walking at 09:37 and reach the summit via the SW ridge at 11:25. After an hour lunch break, during which we watched numerous rain squalls zip by, we proceeded west and south to the RedBull international brainless snowboard challenge site and descended on soft but usable snow to the vehicles at 2:30 pm.

We were: *Mike Brewster, Joan Harvey, Ray Neumar, Ross Bates, Leon Arishenkoff, Louis Marie Trépanier, Vicki Hart, Daniela Gadotti, Zuzana Zach*

141 fewer than expected !

Mt Vingolf

July 13, 2014

I had planned to lead a more adventurous overnight exploratory hike this weekend but life's realities made me resort to the tried and true Mt Vingolf.

A combination of meetings at Hills, on the drive in, and at the trailhead resulted in seven of us starting our hike to Shannon Lake at roughly the same time. The Shannon FSR is in good enough condition that a Honda CRV made it OK.

There are 2 routes up Vingolf, the North ridge and the West ridge. The North ridge is easier so we opted to use it for the up and down. The crux is the steep gully leading up to the ridge. My friend Kip wore his sandals to this point. I was hoping to see a first ascent of Vingolf in sandals but Kip chose to put his toes before glory. Kip's feat (pun) lost some of its lustre on the way down when his daughter walked at least 2 km in bare feet and only re-shod herself after a direct parental order.



Bill Sones

Other than getting to the top (where the previous summit party was last year's KMC group), highlights included lots of spawning cutthroat trout, a thrush nest, a moose on the road, escaping the heat wave and meeting new hikers. Special congratulations to Brenda who proved that persistence pays when it comes to achieving new summits and vistas.

We were *Zuzana Zach, Brenda Haley, Leigha Anderson, Kip Drobish, Marcie Mair and the amazing 12 year old barefoot mountaineer, Kolibri Drobish.*

Bill Sones

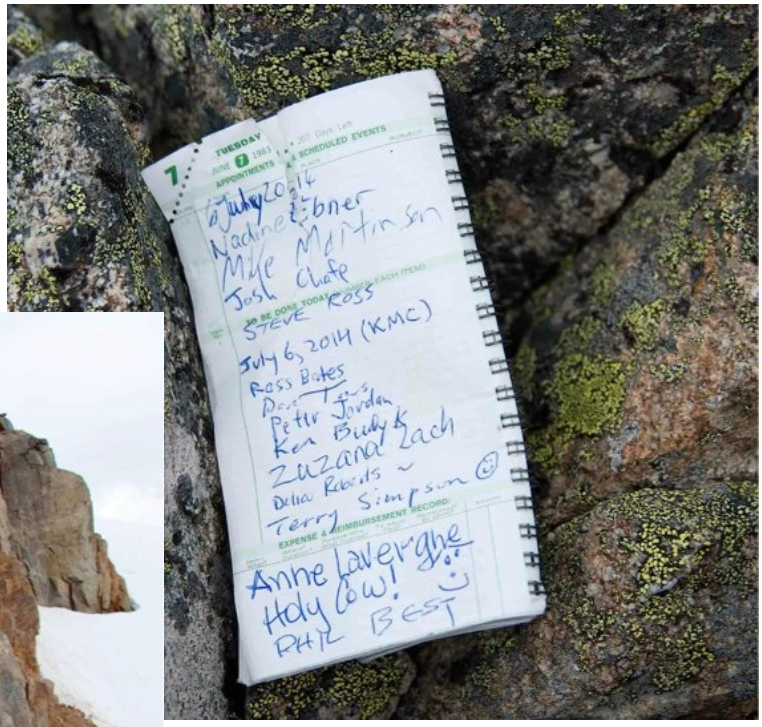
Mt. Cond

July 6, 2014

All photos Phil Best









Mt. Loki

July 20, 2014

Last message before hiking camp. Excited!

We were nine hikers on this lovely but hazy day. We started at the trail head about 8:15, after making a few pleasant breaks to dry a bit. We were ready to tackle the summit.



Everyone summited at 11:35, a very good time of three hours twenty minutes in my recollection. After a pause for watermelon that another group of hikers brought up. Hiking barefoot I might add, carrying a whole melon up there. Thank you unknown Kaslo person.



Down we came and were thinking maybe the 4:30 ferry was attainable but no, we had to wait for the 5:20, which left more time for swimming and chatting. What a lovely but hot day.

We were: *Dave St Denis, Anne Lavergne, Nancy Selwood, Guy Woods, Beth Desruisseaux, Tom Smith, Ken Budyk, Caroline LaFace, Christof Beck*

Goat Mt. (Grand Forks) that became Goat Mt. (Rossland range) that became Mt. St. Thomas

July 23, 2014

The intention was to organize a simple hike to Goat Mt. in the southern part of the Granby valley near Grand Forks. Caroline phoned and suggested that there was a Goat Mt. closer to her home, near Sheep Creek, so why don't we go there?

So, we met at the Bonanza pass parking lot the next morning and looked at the map. mmm... Goat Mt. was in the next valley, so the plans changed to see how far we could drive up the forest service road and try to get as close as possible to Mt. St. Thomas.

We stuck to the main road for 12 km and to our surprise ended up below the summit of St. Thomas 1.5 km and 200 meters up from where we parked. We hiked up to the summit under an hour where we found a large 800W solar array with communications equipment. There was a profusion of wild flowers, each type named by Caroline who knew them all, and with nice views towards Old Glory.

We took a slightly different route back to avoid the steep rock bluff we had ascended. We drove back the same way, except... someone had strung a rope with a profusion of flagging tape across the road about halfway down with a large sign which said that the road was closed and this was private property! This all happened while we were up on the mountain. Very strange, since this is an active forest service road.

We carefully manoeuvred the car through this obstacle and were fully expecting to run into the owner, but we never did. I was back at Christina Lake before lunch and finished up with a refreshing dip in the 26°C lake.

"Sometimes life takes you to unexpected places, as long as you are open to change"

Participants: *Caroline Laface and Peter Oostlander (organizer and reporter)*

Wolf's Ears

July 20, 2014









All photos Phil Best

Monica Meadows

July 26, 2014



Tim Clinton

Lead by Jennifer Cook, with Dave Brackett, Tim Clinton, Martina Derstroff, Phil Best, Lena Wickman, Angie Germaine, Sherolyn Haakstad, Lorraine Carlstrom, Tonia Polak, Louis Marie Trépanier

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Rossland Range

On Saturday July 26th five of us hiked the north end of the Rossland Range. With some car shuttling, we started at the Strawberry pass summit and finished descending the Plewman/Old Glory trail to the Old Glory trail Head. We summited Lepsoe, Elgood, Plewman and Old Glory.

The trip was 24.3 km with 1305 meters of elevation gain over 8 hours. This was Chris's Cowan's first trip out since he broke his leg in the spring. While we were all getting ready at the car Chris held up his new walking stick and someone said "But it's a cane"!



Dan Derby

Needless to say "But it's a cane" was repeated many times over the day and provided us all with a good laugh.

Chris chose to watch us summit Old Glory from the Plewman saddle then started down once we'd left the summit.

The weather was fantastic and the wild flowers were beautiful. We had a new club member out Brad Howard from Nelson. Even with such a long first trip Brad said he'd be back for more.

We were *Vicki Hart, Glenn Keto, Chris Cowan, Brad Howard and Dan Derby (trip leader).*

Mount Dolly Varden

July 27, 2014

Seven of us met at 7:30 in Rosebery, on a sunny morning, for the 1 hour drive to the Alps Alturis trail head. Every time I travel this road I wonder if it will be the last time before the inevitable washout. Nobody agreed with me, but I found that the driving to this hike induced more adrenaline than the scrambling.



Bill Sones

I tried to maximize our Alps Alturis experience by traversing Mount Dolly Varden. So we followed the trail to its terminus in the bowl between Dolly Varden and Marten. From there we scrambled up the east face 1000' to the summit. There are several possible variations, but the general theme is; walk up the low angle snow as far as possible, try to hit a ramp of brown rock, think zigzag, aim for the summit (don't go too far west) and unless you like scrambling up vertical

loose boulders, avoid the enticing N ridge from col route (been there done that).

We enjoyed a leisurely lunch, stimulating conversation and impressive views from the summit and then followed the summit ridge a few hundred meters south to a point where it was easy to descend down to the trail. We arrived back at our vehicles 6 hours after leaving them.



Bill Sones

Having hiked this area many times over many years, I have perhaps become a bit desensitized to its spectacular rugged beauty. So it was nice to hike with a group new to this area and be reminded by their enthusiasm how lucky I am to live where I do.

Thanks to *Ken and Shauna Budyk, Delia Roberts, Phil Best, Brenda Haley and George Bergevin* for joining me on this near perfect day (not even any bugs).

Bill Sones

Whitewater Mountain

July 29, 2014

All photos Phil Best







HIKING CAMP 1

August 19-26, 2014



Wild downdrafts and deteriorating weather made for a dramatic chopper ride in to Marvel Pass. But the well-oiled Camp 1 machine soon had the kitchen tents up and camp organized. No snow for the coolers this year, so we rigged up a tarp over a shady spot, and used the stretcher to haul wet blankets up from the lake to keep the coolers coolish.

The week had some unequivocally nasty weather, which kept down the bugs and reduced the number of annoying helicopter overflights. Yet there were also plenty of opportunities for good roaming. Hikers tackled Byng, Aurora's sub-peak, and the pile of rubble that is Gloria. They got blown off Marvel's ridge and went exploring round the lump south of Aurora in a blizzard. When Assiniboine shed its resident cloud cap there were fabulous views of it from the natural viewing platforms beneath Marvel and Gloria – the latter was re-named Fat-Ass (inniboine) Outlook.



Hikers enjoyed short walks to Cabin Lake and waterfalls, and longer treks to Wonder Pass and Assiniboine Lodge. Skinny dips in the lakes, ptarmigan sightings, jokes and tall tales told in the evening around the incinerator while feeding it garbage. The flower folks compiled their list, and Peter McIver somehow saw birds (bluebirds, boreal chickadees...) that nobody else did. When one group whistled to catch an errant hiker's attention, a marmot popped up. Actually, marmots popped up a lot. Some camp veterans thought this was the most beautiful camp location yet.

The cook tent was action-central, with the irrepressibly bouncy Dave St. Denis welcoming anyone and everyone who wanted to hang out and keep warm. But he had his limits, occasionally bursting out of the tent with a soliloquy such as, "No, I will not make croutons!" Or, after losing two crib games in a row, "That's it! I'm going to make soup." When a group hike up Gloria turned into an unplanned 10-hour mini-epic, preventing Dave from making it back in time for dinner prep, Maureen Jansma and others ably stepped in to conjure up the meal.

This camp seemed to gel right from the start, with groups mixing and mingling, heading off to hike, or squeezing into the supply tent for rousing card games while outside the winds howled. The chores got done, Glenn Cameron was a deceptively low-key yet effective leader, and we were fortunate to have Leo Jansma's helicopter wrangling experience. Everybody pitched in as they were able, veterans and newcomers alike. With the warm and generous Cameron family in residence, the rest of us became Cameron wannabes.



Apart from a potential toilet paper shortage (we eked out the week), the most exciting incident was back at the cars when a set of keys was accidentally locked in the vehicle. Even then the group pulled together, staying for an hour to watch the drama and offer unsolicited suggestions, finding wires to poke with and various break-in tools, and eventually smashing the passenger-side window. Duct tape was involved, of course.

All in all, a wonderful week. As Peter noted in his email to the group afterwards: “The place was outstanding, the food superb, the company exceptional, and the leadership perfect!”

Just like he said.

SONG FOR CAMP 1

Performed on the final night with back-up singers and choreography (to the tune of ‘Big Bad John’)



Every morning at the camp you can see them arrive
Some are cheery, some limping, some need coffee to thrive.
Getting greyer, hiking slower, but still giving it what they’ve got.
‘Cause everybody knows that they’re a hardy lot in Camp 1.

CHORUS: Oh ye-eah, we’re Camp 1!

Hiking snow, wind and hail until their toes turn numb,
Ain’t no scree slopes they ain’t traversed, ain’t no mountains they ain’t clumb.
Cheryl loses the odd toenail, Peter’s duct-taped boots are DONE.
But everybody knows they really have more fun at Camp 1.

The cook – now he’s our hero, a happy, bouncy thing.
“You should listen to me ‘cause I am cook and ‘round here, Cook Is King!”
His crib game sucks, but the grub is good and Tigger keeps on humming.
And everybody knows that those sausages will keep on coming at Camp 1.

As the weather turns appalling, Ray’s jokes turn that way too.
The supply tent shakes with laughter as the “Things” game trends to “pooh.”
Camping in snow is a special treat that Bonnie likes a lot!
‘Cause everybody knows that when it’s cold, the bugs are NOT at Camp 1.

The flag flies o’er the biffy but there’s a crisis down below.
Too much talk of “pooh,” it seems, and now the TP is running low!
Our fearless leader does the math, decides we’ll tough it out.
‘Cause everybody knows survival is never in doubt at Camp 1.



Camp 1 participants

Dave St. Denis (cook)
Peter McIver
Maureen Jansma
Leo Jansma
Bob McQueen
Katelyn Porter
Vivien Bowers
Cheryl Gwillim
Andrea Vowell
Ross Bates
Roy Hopland
Ray Neumar
Bonnie Neumar
Helen Foulger
Ron Cameron
Janet Cameron
Mary Prothro
Diane Paolini
Terry Simpson
Glenn Cameron (leader)

KMC Hiking Camp #3 Trip Report

August 2-9, 2014

by Terry Turner *most photos by Ross Scott (a few of the more than 500 he gave me), a couple by Tim Clinton, and the faux-trilobite by Terry T.*

Location: Marvel Pass, Alberta - BC border, GPS 50d 50.518N, 115d 34.885W, elevation 7,014 feet (2,138.4m)

Cast of Characters

Ron Perrier .....leader, travel consultant
Jude Stralak .....cook extraordinaire, bootlegger
Mike Brewster.....the wine server, mathematical genius
Alan Sheppard..... the navigator, bagpiper without bag or pipe
Pat Sheppard..... horticulturist?, the bagpiper's best friend
Ron Stockerl.....last minute man
Sandra England .....landscape designer
Neil Bermel .....workhorse, trilobite prankster
Elaine Miros .....the long distance sprinter
Steven Miros .....packhorse for long distance sprinter
Tim Clinton .....the porridge paddle whittler, designer/producer
Sherry Watson .....slept with head in Alberta, feet in BC
Andrea Morris .....eye popping, grass blowing queen
Liz Huxter .....discovered first trilobite, beekeeper
Terry Huxter .....the honey man, sketch artist
Sue Port .....flower expert, tent transporter
Bert Port .....winner of the first annual "peak-bagger" award
Ross Scott.....camp photographer, beer supplier
Sharon Turner.....shimmer girl, step dancer
Terry Turner.....the script writer

Introduction

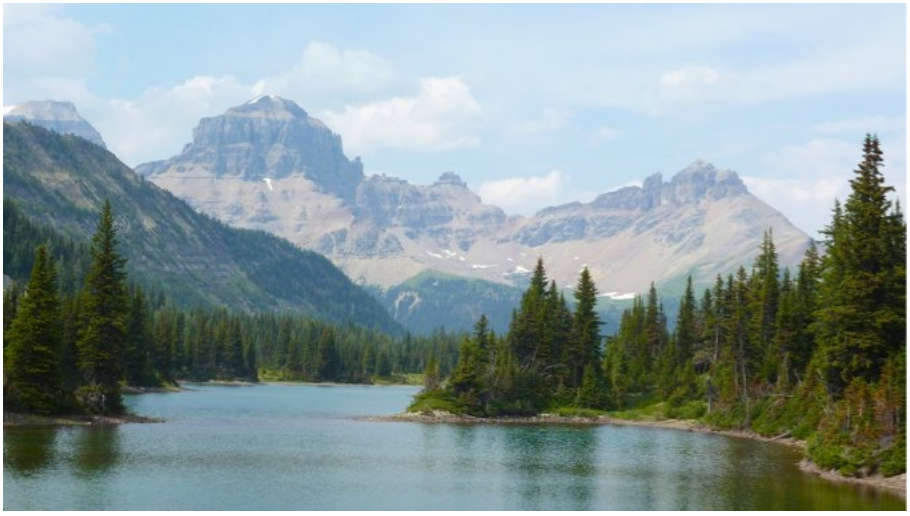
It was Friday, August 1st when 17 Camp #3 lottery winners, two guaranteed spot holders and one last minute substitute left the Nelson area with 480 frozen cookies and their camp gear. Destination: the sub-alpine tent settlement at Mavel Pass, BC.

Roughly half of the particpants stopped at a small village in the Columbia River valley named after a radioactive element, while the others continued up Settlers Road in a well spaced convoy to the heli-site. A few early adventurers, who forgot to bring a copy of the accurate travel directions, missed the last turnoff and toured the Baymag magnesite open pit mine before realizing their mistake.

The upper road above the helicopter landing site proved to be the preferred tenting site. The last couple arrived with what was initially mistaken as a parasail but turned out to be Sue carrying the red and white tent over her head while Bert followed close behind in the 4X4. The next morning, Mike noticed two elk and later a grizzly sow and cub in the clearcut just above the campsite. The bears were inhaling huckleberries and paid little attention to our presence.

Soon the "fresh from a good night's sleep" crowd appeared and all the gear and food supplies were sorted. The last task was to ensure all the vehicles were well chicken wired in support of the Porcupine Prevention Program.The chopper arrived and made several trips with the filthy, dearly departing Camp #2ers (just kidding) who tried to hug us and quickly ranted about all the places we should visit. Then it was our turn to enjoy that 10 minutes of excitement as we flew to the Marvel Pass site.

First impressions



The awesome view looking north at The Towers and Wonder Peak which were reflected in the small lake immediately in front of the cook tent. Were we in Alberta or BC?

Once the supplies were all placed, tents erected and lunches consumed, it was time to check out the area which included hikes to Cabin and Marvel Lakes. Eliane's borcht hit the spot at dinner time. Then there was the welcomed "non controversial" lottery. Mike seemed to be the most pleased with the post-lottery chore trading since he could now do all three tasks on the same day. The quiet evening was interrupted at 8pm by an electrical storm accompanied by thunder and hail. Everyone rushed to bed for their first sleepless night. For the next five days, eager hikers and climbers combed the valleys and mountain ridges for photographic memories.

The most popular included:



The Dome and hikers seen from Photographers Point

- *The "Dome and Artist View Point"*: located 1.5 and 2.5 kms northeast and north of the camp, these two locations provided the most easily accessible and spectacular 360 degree views of most of the named lakes and peaks in the area. Even the butt side of Mount Assiniboine looked impressive with Lake Gloria below and the smaller Lake Terrapin to the east . The scenery made everyone with a camera look like professional photographers.
- *Cabin Lake*: probably the most visited site by KMCers and tourists who could afford a helicopter sightseeing tour in the area. Unfortunately, no documentation about the history of the cabin ruins was found. Someone mentioned that it was privately owned before the park was created. One day, Jude, Sharon, Sue, Liz and Terry H. wandered over to the lake to do some less strenuous sketching/ painting. They witnessed a romantic moment when a chopper landed close by, a couple exited, walked down to the lake and popped the bubbly. Suddenly they realized they were not alone and hiked back up the hill and flew away.
- *Wonder Pass and the Assiniboine Lodge*: A log jam at the creek near Marvel Lake made the crossing less risky than the nearby slippery log and guide wire crossing for many who made the trek to Wonder Pass. This trail was extremely busy with tourists from the lodge and backpackers heading east towards Bryant Creek. Eliane, Steve and Neil went to the lodge to enjoy a $7.00 beer. Ross went solo later in the week and brought back a gift of brew.



Bert and Terry H. on Marvel



Hikers on a high point. It's not Aurora.



Bert disappearing over the horizon towards Byng summit

- *Summits*: Aurora, Byng and Marvel were the targeted named peaks. Bert and Terry H. brought back a soggy registry from Marvel Peak to dry out and examine later. Bert, Terry H., Ron S. and Terry T. signed the Aurora registry and Bert was the only climber to complete the triple-peaker when he signed the Byng registry.

- *The Ramp and Photographers Point*: The eastern flank of Mount Gloria provided the most excitement when eagle-eyed, former geologist Liz discovered the partial remains of a trilobite.



Everyone was amazed to find out that it was probably 500 million years older than Bert. A couple of days later, Neil discovered another trilobite. Tired and retired Terry T, who was already feeling the effects of depression because he had failed to find the remains of one of his ancestors, noted that both trilobites were missing their cephalons (heads) and pygidiums (tails). Therefore, they would not command the same attention and value of the complete skeletal remains.



Less than 24 hours later, Neil arrived back with another ancient creepy crawly complete with all the bells and whistles. A close scrutiny disputed the authenticity when the give away was the happy smile on the cephalon (the head, not the tail), which closely resembled the smile on Neil's face. Terry T. seemed to snap out of his depression the following day when he discovered some euhedral quartz and calcite crystals.



Photographers Point produced some of the most impressive images of glaciers hanging off the backside of Mount Assiniboine and the Gloria/Marvel Lakes valley below. Ron P., Ross and Tim noted goats on the rocky ledges above. The many reflection ponds and mountain side seeps were surrounded by alpine flowers. Landscape designer Sandra was in her element.

- *The Owl Lake - Marvel Lake Loop*: Eliane, Steve and Neil completed the marathon and Neil noted exactly 50 fish jumping in Marvel Lake which led to some scepticism after the trilobite debacle. Later in the week, Alan led his group of faithful followers (Pat, Sherry, Andrea and others?) down to Owl Lake. No one seemed overly impressed and the only obvious excitement was arriving back in time for tea. It failed to make the list of the Top 10,000 Places to visit before you croak, but will probably appear in the next edition of Don't Waste Your Time In the Park.

After a day of wandering, there was always a friendly atmosphere during tea time while sharing the day's experience. An hour later, master Mike appeared with the vino and those in attendance were anxious to b.s. about everything except sex, religion and politics. Next came the delicious informal dinner where everyone was decked out in their best pair of hiking pants and bug jackets.





"Hey Jude" stole the show with her usual masterful creations of soup, salads, the main course and deserts including her "Tipsy Bread pudding" with the appropriate warning announcement. The cheerful attitude, enthusiasm and cooperation made preparation and cleanup much more enjoyable. Extra circular activities included card games such as Up and Down the River, Bridge, alpine dancing (including the twist, limbo, the bunny hop and a few celtic steps), grass blowing (an eye popping experience for Andrea) and a bag pipe demonstration by Al without a bagpipe.

During a torrential downpour a tarp provided shelter between the cook and supply tents. While some peered through the rear cook tent window, others washed dishes and prepared their lunches for the following day. Someone mentioned that it was like looking at the Cooking Channel reality show on a 40 inch television screen. The obvious difference was the amount of clothing worn and the language content.

Flora, Birdlife and other living Creatures: Sue, Pat, Sandra and others documented 76 flower species, including a rare White Rein Orchid. Although there were no bird nerds at camp, we were treated to sandpiper chicks scampering up and down the shoreline while Mrs. Piper chirped encouragement and warnings. A couple of ducks with golden eyes landed on the lake one night. Perhaps they were Golden Eyes :).



Near the Aurora West col, there were many sightings of ptarmigan and their chicks. A young Whisky Jack (sans alcohol) paid us a visit at the north end of the ramp. Other tweeties included pine siskans and chickadees (we think). And let's not forget the marmots and pikas that whistled the Bear Bait Beware song to the tune of Running Bear (Johnny Preston, 1960 Gold).

And speaking of bears, a grizzly sow and cub wandered through camp past Sherry's, Andrea's and the T's tents about 9 o'clock one evening. Everyone crossed their legs for the next 9 hours (so I was told).

Geology: The landscape is dominated by a gently folded sequence of limestones, shales and siltstones. One distinct marker horizon is a boulder and pebble conglomerate. There is some evidence of local faulting marked by carbonate cemented breccias and quartz stockworks. Lateral moraines mark the edges of pre-existing glaciers. In keeping with Park regulations, all the rocks, crystals and fossils can be broadly classified as Leaverite (Leave 'er right where you found it).



On Friday night, the Sunday "super moon" rested on Mount Aurora about 10pm as a week of memories came to a close. This was observed only by a couple of avid photographers since the others had heard someone whistling the Bear Bait Beware song and wanted to break their personal records for sleepless nights.

The weather was sunny and calm on Saturday morning. Everyone pitched in to pack up the tents and supplies and garbage. Liz and Sue paid special attention to packaging the biffy and Mike showed everyone how to put three cubic metres of camping stuff in a 2.5 cubic metre box. It looked like the first flight out was never going to get off the ground but soon we were down to the last two sling loads. The only glitch at the heli-site was a flat tire on Sharon's vehicle. Since her first husband had not changed a tire in 15 years, Neil and Bert pitched in and saved the day. It was most appreciated and cheques were in the mail within hours of departure. One quick stop at the Baymag mine to collect a few magnesite samples, then onwards to Tim Hortons in Invermere, Cranbrook and Creston before the bright lights of Riondel welcomed us home.







Closing Comments

On the KMC website, Ron Perrier writes in the "KMC Hiking Camp History":

"The amazing places we visit for three weeks that rarely have seen another boot print".

This was the sixth KMC hiking camp at Marvel Pass since 1998. Could it be the last? Quite possibly for the following reasons:

- Marvel Pass is easily accessible on foot from the Aurora Creek heli-site
- helicopter traffic is extreme, especially at Cabin Lake. How often have you ever hiked and smelled jet B fuel from helicopters landing and taking off?
- the large number of tourists and backpackers
- signage for park boundaries, bear awareness, hiking trails and distance/direction
- there was not the same sense of wilderness compared to previous KMC camps



Jumbo Pass

August 10, 2014

Led by Jennifer Cook with participants: Martina Derstroff, Ted Ibrahim, Ian Smith, Megan Lazaruk, Joan Posivy , Anne Lavergne, Kathlene Nichol, Alex Nichol, Angie Germaine, Jennifer Lehmann, Stefan Lehmann, Eric Lehmann, Sigrid Bagnell, Skip Bagnell, Sheila Sinke, Kate Miers, Tina Baldwin, Glenn Walace, Katelyn Porter.

Mt. Gladstone

August 14, 2014

Thought you might want to include the attached photo in the newsletter.



On the Mount Gladstone hike August 14th we celebrated Peter's birthday with the coveted "SUMMIT CAKE". Lucky for us he blew out the candles just prior to the gods opening the flood gates. By the time we arrived back at the cars we were wetter than when you get out of the shower, a nice August shower.

Dan Derby

Smile it's free!

Mt. Kitchener/Battleship

August 18, 2014



Glen and Dan on the snout of the Kokanee Glacier.

We had just come off the Battleship summit and had to prepare for the descent. We were fully roped up with ice axe and crampons to get from Kitchener Mt to the Battleship.

A fun day with me going only partially into a crevasse.

Mt. Shields - 1789m/5869ft

August 20, 2014

Ross Bates has been scouting out this seldom visited summit due North of the Paulson XC ski area on two previous car trips, and we felt fortunate to take advantage of his gathered knowledge to get close enough to this mountain to be able to hike to the top in a reasonable time. Thank you Ross!

We parked at 11U 0425547 5464485 at 5000 ft off Summs Road; after this point the road was too brushy for Glenn's brand new truck and we started hiking. We followed the road approx. 2 km to just before the road turns South and started our ascent at 11U 0425735 5465880 North East to the summit at 11U 0426572 5466627 approx. 1.5 km away.

The challenge was to avoid the numerous deadfall areas; this seems to be a problem we face more and more recently when we go off trail. Just before reaching the summit plateau we found some rock cairns, and a rough trail. However, Ross learned from a Kim Kratky trip report in a KMC newsletter that the trail that used to be there has long been grown in lower down.

There are two bumps on the summit. The first one has a very impressive 40 solar panel array (3.2 KW total), powering a cell phone tower complete with heli pad, and the second actual summit has two cone shaped radio repeaters.

The views of the lower Arrow lakes were fabulous and we could see all the way to the Hugh Keenleyside dam near Castlegar. In between the two bumps was a very attractive small drainage canal, surrounded by tall grasses. A perfect spot for bird or wildlife viewing. We made our way down more or less the same way, but found a better less bushy connection to the road a bit more to the West. A nice easy hike of about three hours including breaks!

Driving instructions:

Drive up Big Sheep FSR, across from the Paulson XC ski area, adjacent to the rest stop on the North side of highway 3. At 2.8 km keep right, at 6.4km keep left, at 7.1km keep right, at 9.6 km turn right onto Summs

FSR, at 9.8 km road veers left, at the next junction keep right, road gets brushy after a short distance, park and walk the last 2 km of road. Mt. Shields is visible as you round the curve after the bushy section.

Participants: *Ross Bates (chief scout), Glenn Keto (driver), Dan Derby (navigation support), Peter Oostlander (reporter).*

Mount Stanley, 2371m

August 24, 2014

This trip was an attempt at a new, possibly easier ascent of Mt. Stanley. Previous club trips have been from either the Grizzly Creek FSR (approaching the mountain from the east) or the Greasybill FSR (from the northwest).

This access was from Syringa Creek Provincial park on the Deer Creek FSR. At approximately km 18 there is a junction where the well-marked FSR leaves its westerly direction to the community of Deer Park and turns right (north) . Continue on the Deer Creek MAIN FSR to its end for 35 km which puts you exactly at the foot of a large avalanche gently sloped chute leading right up to the actual summit (see attached photo). There was a very nice wood crafted Mt Stanley sign nailed to a tree.



We first dropped 100 ft drop down to cross the creek and then began the trod straight up the avalanche chute. Light to occasionally very heavy rain accompanied us. Needless to say the temptation to turn back was strong. About 2/3s of the way up we began to enter alpine openings and easy scree that kept us out of the wet shrubbery. The sun came out during the last leg of the scramble drying out our cloths.

We had great views in all directions. A trip 2 years previous by Vicky H and Sandra McG was the last registered ascent.

With a visual forecast of no-rain in the near future- which is what we began up with- we descended through meadows on the eastern slope eventually working our way through the lower basin's huckleberry infested underbrush where we were met by a bear in the parking lot.

Total time was about 4 hours and we are as of yet undecided if this was the better of the 3 routes. But, it was definitely an interesting one.

Dwayne D'Andrea, Eliane & Steven Miros

Slocan River Paddle

August 23, 2014

Five kayaks, three canoes, and a silky smooth river.

I didn't even look at a time piece to know how long it took to get from the Winlaw bridge to the Perry bridge, lunch, a quick tour around an oxbow slightly upstream, and then back down to Winlaw. There is something about gliding along a river that rewards even a stubble-jumper prairie boy like me.





A mountaineering club, you say?

Dave and Jill Watson, Pat and Al Sheppard, Toma and Kai Braumandl, Jennifer and Stefan Lehman, Jocelyne Martin, Steve Fountain, Tim Clinton, Doug Clark (leader and rear guard).

Mt. Siwash

August 24, 2014 (photos Phil Best)







Lade Peak, 82K/11W

August 26, 2014, photos and story Terry Turner
GPS Location N 50d 43.670, W 117d 19.017
Elevation 8,457 ft (2,578m)

This peak is named after the three Lade brothers (William, James and Vincent). They came from Nova Scotia in the early 1890s and prospected the Lardeau area for gold. In 1897, they located a number of mineral claims, including the Ophir-Lade, on a mountain that now bears their name. The claims were later worked by Goldenville Mines Ltd. This company erected a small stamp mill (crusher) in order to extract the gold. The mineralized area was very restricted and the property was later abandoned.



Access to the area is via a secondary road from the community of Trout Lake, east to Gainer Creek. A seasonal four wheel drive road leads northeast to Bunker Hill Creek. From here, access is by hiking and bushwhacking up an overgrown mining road along Gainer and Perry Lode Creeks to the valley between Badshot Mountain and Lade Peak. There is an intermittent trail around the north side of Lade Peak to the stamp mill. This historical mining artifact was free standing for almost 100 years before the wooden cribbing rotted and it fell over sometime during the past 12 months. The summit boasts spectacular views of many other named peaks including Badshot, Spine, Templeman, Mohican, Jowett and the Piton Peaks.

On August 26, 2014, KMC members *Ron Stockerl* and *Terry Turner* placed a register on the summit. Included in the canister is a laminated copy of the Lade brother's history which was prepared by Gordon Lade of Kelowna in 2002.



Mt. Gimli

August 31, 2014

Thursday August 31 was a scorcher, just the kind of day that 10 sturdy KMCer's would want to set out for a gruelling hike to Mount Gimli in the southern Valhallas. We got to the trailhead by 8:30 am and made the summit by noon.





It was my first attempt at Gimli so I tried to lead from the rear. However, we managed to take an early turn up a ridge and had to back track for 15 minutes or so. Nevertheless, reason prevailed and we found our way up to the exposed edge above Mulvey Lake, which still had some icy chunks floating in it.

It was on this part of the trail that we found that we had the company of the "Gimli Goat".



He was very cooperative to the photographers in the group, standing just so and looking just right.



The Gimli Step

We had a good trip down through very slippery scree and everyone agreed t'was a good KMC day.



We were: *Phil Best, Peter Oostlander, Glenn Keto, Diane Paolini, Caroline LaFace, Geffory, Wayne Hohn, Ross Bates, Zuzana Zack, and coordinator Dave St Denis.*

Jumbo Pass

August 31, 2014

Photos Phil Best



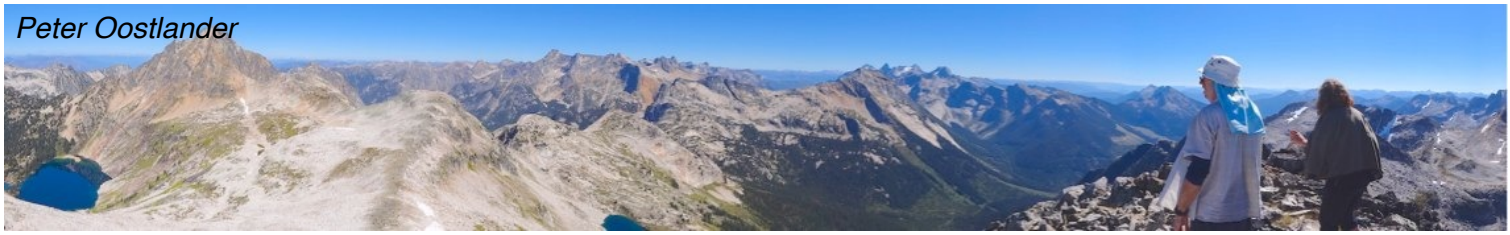


Mt. KcKean

September 6, 2014

push on to Stott peak, 5km South of Mt. Kelly. I had only visited Stott peak on skis a few years ago, and was surprised to find out that there is a fairly good ATV track all the way to the top that runs along a North/ South ridge with good views.

This was a bit of a disappointment to Ross, who had hoped for an energetic bushwhack. Only a few blades of grass touched his legs, so on the way back we took a small shortcut through low grade heather and huckleberry for his benefit. At this point Chris changed his forecast to a chance of snow or rain, since we had a good view of the approaching disturbance. We took the side trip to the abandoned line-of-sight two story microwave, antenna building on the top of Beaver lookout.



Members Ross Bates and Brenda Haley on the summit of Mount McKean

Mt. Plewman

September 6, 2014

According to Ted's GPS: Total distance - 15.7 km, total ascent - 888 m, hiking time - 5 hrs 14 min. Fine weather, fantastic view, good company, lots of huckleberries – another great day in the mountains.

We were: Doug Clark, Ted Ibrahim, Diane Paolini, Pat Sheppard and coordinator Terry Simpson.

Mt Kelly 1956m, Beaver Lookout and Mt Stott 1864m

September 10, 2014

The forecast for the day called for 30% chance of rain in the afternoon, but when we left the house there was not a cloud in the sky! Our weather forecaster and participant Chris Cowan promised no precipitation, so we met at Archibald Ck road and drove to approx. km 5 before the road gets too steep.

This was one keen group and we blasted off. It took us only 1hr and 20 minutes to hike to the top of Mt. Kelly in brilliant sunshine with excellent 360 degree views. This was definitely a record time as far as I could tell. It was only a little after 10 am, so a plan was hatched to

Sure enough, once we were back at the Beaver/Kelly pass, small snow pallets started falling to Chris' great delight. Indeed, it was not enough to get us wet.. We reached the cars after 5 1/2 hours, 17k m return, 1000 m elevation gain. (The 1924 geodetic survey marker on Stott Peak has "Beaver" inscribed, so at some point the name must have changed).



A great two peak day with fine company: *Ross Bates, Chris Cowan, Terri Simpson, Christoph Beck, Brenda Haley, Peter Oostlander (organizer and reporter)*

Mount Aldridge, 82K/11

September 11-13

This peak is located approximately 13 kms northeast of the ghost town of Gerrard at the south end of Trout Lake. Access to the area is limited to ATV transport up the Healy Creek Road for a distance of 25 kms. A spur road leads to the mine workings of the Abbott property (elevation 6,900 ft.). From here the hiking distance south to a lake near the headwaters of Lake Creek and at the base of Mount Aldridge is about 6 kms.

The best route to the summit is the arc shaped ridge from the south end of the lake and then in a northwesterly and northerly direction. Only the last 200 feet (60 meters) is a scramble.



Weather was a factor when we experienced a blizzard at 8,300 feet. Conditions improved and our second attempt was successful in building a cairn and placing a KMC register on the summit at GPS elevation 8,802 feet (2,683 meters). We saw a goat on the ridge and a grizzly searching for marmots at the lake.

Participants: Terry Turner and Don Hunt

Mt. Woden

September 13, 2014, photos Phil Best

A bluebird day to McKean Lakes and Woden Peak with *Delia, Vicki, Peter and Dan*, It was definitely a valhalla day!





31 More Trip Reports!

The Editor

If you have not been visiting the "Town Square" section of the KMC website, it might be worth the time.

Nadine Ebner has entered 31 trip reports over the last three months with links to her wonderful pictures in the "Trip Reports" section of the "Discussion Forums" area. That's way too much work for lazy me to transfer here, so go look for yourself if you haven't yet…

http://kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca/town-square/forums/forum/trip-reports/

Some Interesting Mountain Websites, of all sorts

Everest fly over

Spearhead Traverse, Bert Port

PeakFinder

Wildflowers and Scenery of the Canadian Rockies

BC-Alberta (Geokov Map Maker)

TrailPeak

Trails BC

Backcountry Lodges of British Columbia Association

Will Gadd

EpicTV, hardest, videos, tallest, rock climbing, bouldering, sport climbing, world, original, best, boulder problems, sport climbs, alpine climbing, deep water solo, free climbing

Sean McColl

Raphael Slawinski

Gripped

Lithographica

Alpine Club of Canada Blog

Goats!



The Gimli Goat (again!) Phil Best



Mother and two (look hard) youngsters on the "Ramp" above hiking camp. Ross Scott



Just below Old Glory summit. Peter Oostlander