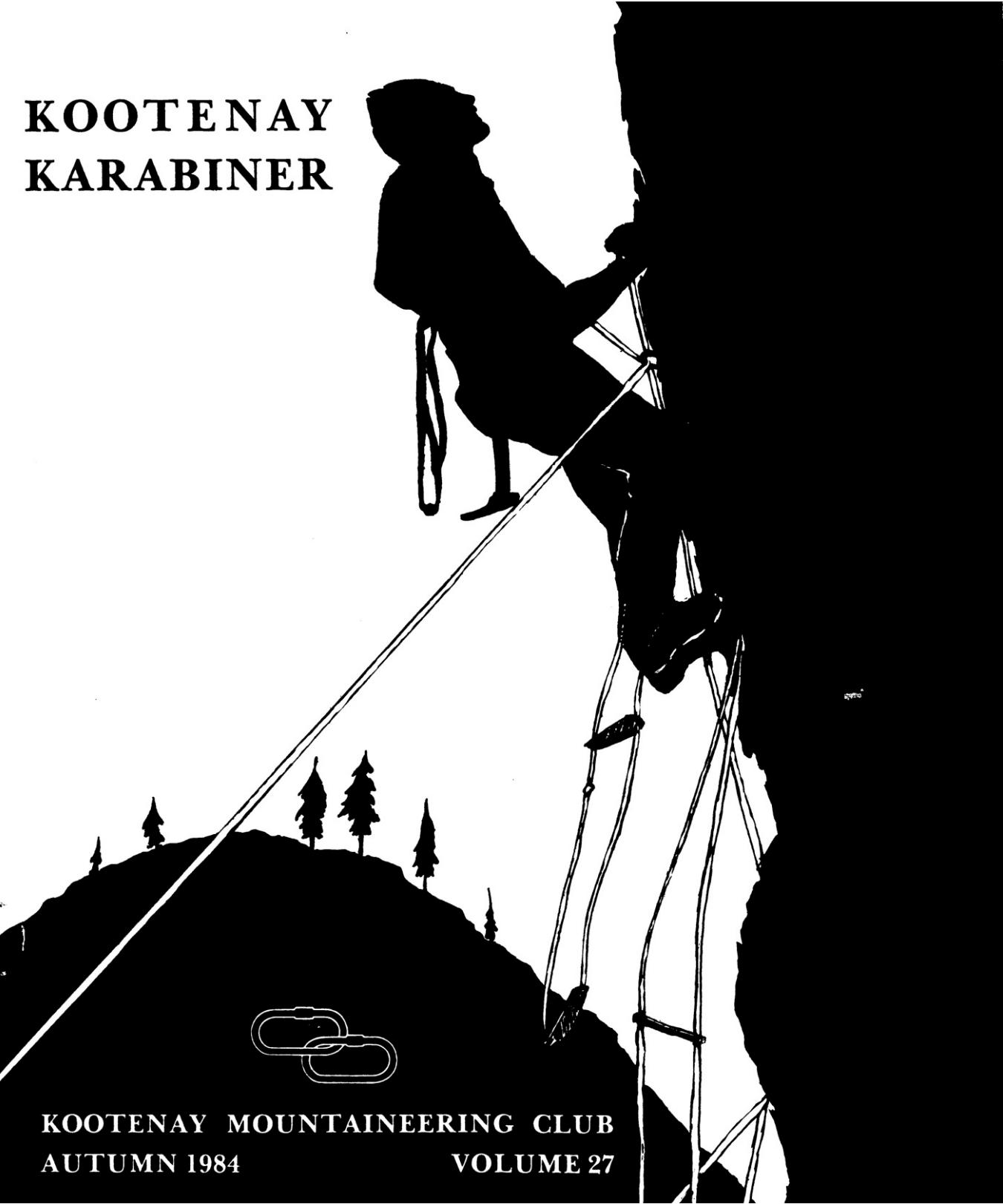


KOOTENAY KARABINER



KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
AUTUMN 1984

VOLUME 27

KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Officers | 1 |
| Table of Contents | 2 |
| President's Report | 3 |
| New Edition of AAC | 4 |
| Rescue Beacons | 5 |
| Climbing Camp 1983 | 6,7 |
| Albert Peak | 8 |
| Map | 9 |
| Ski Touring in the Valhallas | 10 |
| Peru/Bolivia | 12 |
| Map (Vowells & Bugaboos) | 13 |
| Climbing Camp 1984 | 14 |
| Camp Notes | 14 |
| Bugaboo Spires | 15 |
| Unnamed & Wallace | 15 |
| Kelvin | 16 |
| Unnamed | 16 |
| Pigeon Spire | 16 |
| Brenta | 16 |
| Wallace | 17 |
| West & Centre Peaks | 17 |
| Archduke & Tamarac | 17 |
| Peter Tchir & Hamish Mutch | 17 |
| North Howser | 18 |
| Ski Touring, Forster Creek | 19 |
| Tonquin Pass Poem | 20 |
| Traversing the Northern Valhallas | 21 |
| Mt. Dolly Varden | 23 |
| Map (1984 Hiking Camp, Hume Creek) | 24 |
| Hiking Camp 1984 | 25 |
| Mountaineering Accidents | 26 |
| Link Poem | 28 |
| A Visit to the Chehalis | 29 |



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1984 has been a good year for the Kootenay Mountaineering Club. I would like to take this space to extend my thanks on behalf of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club for the hard work that many of the executive members of the Club have done in making 1984 a successful year.

First, I'd like to thank Anne Dean for the excellent job she did once again on the KMC newsletter - the glue that holds us together; and also Mary and Allan Baker for seeing they arrive at our homes. The newsletter which has previously been printed free of charge thanks to the generosity of a large employer in the Trail area, has fallen under the restraint knife and the costs of getting the newsletter xeroxed are amounting to \$6.00 per member per year. Obviously membership rates will have to increase if no alternative printer (for free) can be found. Any suggestions?

Rock School was a big success. Thanks to Gary Williams and all the instructors for the long hours put in. This year the Club departed from tradition and held the Snow and Ice weekend at the Woodbury Glacier.

I don't think in recent years that we've seen such an enthusiasm for the trip schedule. All trips with a few exceptions went off as planned, due in part, I'm sure to the excellent summer and fall weather. Next year we would like to have two parallel trip schedules - one for hiking and another for climbing or general mountaineering.

Both annual camps were again very popular and blessed with perfect weather. In fact statistically fully, 1/3 of the club membership was involved in one of the camps. As the hiking camp was over-subscribed, two camps were scheduled back to back which proved a very satisfactory arrangement. Thanks again Fred Thiessen and John Stewart for carrying the brunt of the work involved in organizing the annual foray.

Neville Jordinson is finishing off two years as the Social Chairman and will be hard to replace. Most events were quite well attended, but the variety of events we can hold is only limited by our own imagination and desire to socialize as a club I'm sure the new Social Chairperson would welcome your input, ideas and help.

This year the KMC is witnessing the passing of an era with Bob Dean, after 10 years at the job, is

relinquishing the club purse strings to some other dedicated soul with deep pockets and short arms. The Club treasury remains healthy and subject to resolving the problem of added copying costs for the Newsletter should remain so. Other than a small donation to the Woodbury Creek Cabin our cash outflow has been minimal but we're certainly open to suggestions for good uses for the money.

I'd like to welcome back John Carter into active participation with the Club as the Cabins and Trails Chairman. Besides being a regular contributor to the Newsletter John has kept us well informed and up to date on the status of cabins in the area. He organized the work party in September which, in a small way, contributed to the completion of Woodbury Hut. Hopefully sorties like this can find an annual slot on our fall trip schedule.

John Stewart has ably handled the Conservation portfolio the last two years. There are moves afoot on both the Provincial and Federal level which may both enhance or hinder our present and future enjoyment of the mountains. Heli-hiking, heli-skiing, parks proposals and funding cutbacks are all areas of concern to us and John has taken an active interest on behalf of the Club in these areas. But when was the last time you drafted a letter to Victoria?

To Craig Andrews both thanks and congratulations on the unenviable task of trying to solicit copy for the Karabiner from types such as I who possess neither writing nor punctuality talents.

What has been a very successful year in the pursuit of enjoyment in the mountains is not without its dark clouds. The hated gates are still blocking the access to Bannock Burn Creek one year later and hence to Mulvey. Surprisingly the road up the creek is in excellent shape (when so many washouts were suffered elsewhere) according to two successful member who managed to skirt the gate with dirt bikes. The Parks Branch are generous with their sympathy on the problem but seem powerless to do anything about it. A trail up Mulvey Creek is definitely not on due to the grizzly habitat so it's helicopters or dirt bikes - take your pick.

In spite of this disappointment it's been a banner year for the Kootenay Mountaineering Club. Your active support is necessary to ensure next year is even better. Happy hiking and good climbing.

Don Mousseau

NEW EDITION OF THE AAC, ACC CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE INTERIOR RANGES OF B.C.

Many years have elapsed since the last editions of the "The Climber's Guide to the Interior Ranges of B.C.", which now appear in two volumes, one for the northern areas and one for the southern.

As planned to date, the new edition will be in three volumes, divided into western, central and eastern areas. More page space is necessary to include new peaks climbed, better description and increased numbers of routes on many. The new edition is not merely a revision; it is a complete rewrite and update starting from the original literature and personal interviews where possible. For the first volume, the central section (Rogers Pass to the Valhallas, and the small groups of the northern most Purcells) is being prepared.

The workers in this project are:

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Concord, N.H. 03301 (U.S.A.)

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In the Kootenay area, people interviewed to date have included Craig Andrews, Mike Brewster, Helen Butling, John Carter, Bob Dean, Leo Jansma, Jim McLaren, Bert and Sue Port, Howie Ridge, Dave Smith, Jack and Jane Steed, Fred Thiessen and Peter and Ann Wood. We wish to thank these people and the K.M.C. for their help and generosity in contributing copies of the Kootenay Karabiner.

The principal function of this guidebook is for the collection of unpublished climbs and accesses. Those accounts appearing in print even if vague, can generally be traced but unpublished ventures may be lost permanently. Those persons wishing to help should include the following data: the day, month and year of the climb, the full names of the party, the length of time required, the description of the technical difficulty (especially the most difficult move, rated if possible), the overall agreeable (or disagreeable) nature of the climb, the approach, glacier travel, snow and ice sections, danger and protection (on technical climbs). The climb should be described very thoroughly; overly long descriptions may be condensed for publication, but very short descriptions cannot be expanded because of lack of data.

Most accounts are probably best sent to Fox or Whipple; Laurilla is doing the aerial photography and the Battle Range in the central Interior Ranges area. We hope to complete the manuscript for the central area by the end of 1984.

by Earle Whipple



RESCUE BEACON

The following is from an article by Ray Smutek in "Summit", Jan-Feb 1984 and was submitted by Steve Horvath

The U.S. Forest Service has collected case histories of avalanche accidents in the United States. These have been published in a two, soon to be three, volume report titled The Snowy Torrents. The data in these reports can be used to determine at least statistically, what your survival chances are if caught and buried by an avalanche. It all depends, of course, on how long your companions take to find you.

| Time | Odds |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 0 min. | 20 percent are already dead |
| 4 min. | Possible brain damage begins |
| 30 min. | Half recovered dead |
| 3 hrs. | 9 of 10 perished |
| 5 hrs. | Less than 1 percent survival |

Note that simply by getting caught and buried by an avalanche, you have lost 20 percent of your survival odds. Any avalanche big enough to bury you is also big enough to damage you, perhaps fatally. Head and spine injuries are the usual culprits. After four minutes, serious oxygen starvation may be beginning, especially if the snow was heavy or wet. At best, you just pass out, at worse, you suffer irreparable brain damage. Thirty minutes is the crossover point. You're as likely to be found dead as alive, a point verified by Canadian and European statistics. Beyond a half hour, your chances diminish rapidly.

To have any real chance of survival, you must be found almost immediately, but that is seldom the case.

Let's look at the options available for searching out a buried victim. Let's also consider an area 50 by 100 yards, the size of a football field.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Probing (70 percent) | 20 men, 2 hours |
| Probing (90 percent) | 20 men, 4 hours |
| Avalanche Dog | 20 minutes |
| Rescue Beacon | 10 minutes |

Probing is the traditional search technique, but it requires manpower and equipment. It is unlikely to produce a find soon enough to do you

any good. Avalanche dogs have a high rate of success but must sniff every square foot to the area. There is also some evidence that a certain amount of time must elapse before the scent can reach the surface. Finally, what if the dog is caught and buried by the avalanche?

But a searcher, experienced in the use of avalanche rescue beacons, can make a find in less than 10 minutes...

What about avalanche cords? In reviewing the avalanche accident reports, a curious fact emerged. There was not a single case history of avalanche cord use in the backcountry. But then how many people do you know who would be willing to trail a hundred feet of cord behind them all day? Would you?

There was one interesting report about a ski patrolman doing avalanche control work. He was wearing an avalanche cord when the snow released around him. When the avalanche came to rest, he was on top, but his cord was totally buried!

A local club also learned about avalanche cords during a rescue practice field trip. An avalanche accident was simulated by tying a cord to a dummy and burying the dummy and about 40 feet of the cord. The area was trampled to resemble avalanche debris and a timed search was initiated. The exposed cord was found in a matter of minutes, but guess how long it takes to dig a 40-foot trench in avalanche debris? It took the club group nearly an hour. The snow had set up so firmly that every inch of the cord had to be freed with shovels.

Comparing the search options with the survival statistics, only the avalanche rescue beacon emerges as a truly viable technique for the backcountry situation. In the hands of an experienced user, they can guarantee quick finds. When the Skadi rescue beacon, the first of its kind, was introduced, Swiss researchers estimated that one person with a Skadi could cover as much terrain as 490 searchers with probe poles.

The final choice is yours.

KMC CLIMBING CAMP 1983

If I don't get this report written up, Don Mousseau will never let me come to another KMC climbing camp. Then I'll miss the delights I tasted at last year's camp: orgies in glacier fed bathwater, indescribable mountain wine, and Fred Thiessen's garlic pancakes. All those good times we had waiting for the cornice to fall, waiting for the radio to transmit, waiting for Jack to clean up his act.

Okay, okay. On to the technical details.

LOCATION

Camp was in the Mummery group of the Rockies, just south of the Freshfield Icefield and about 42 kilometers north northwest of Golden. From Highway 1, turn onto the Moberly Branch Road, then the Blaeberry River road (see the Forest Service Recreation site brochure, "Golden and Area"), and follow it to the Mummery Creek crossing. We flew in our skis and gear from a meadow cum chopper pad near the crossing and hiked up the steep Mummery Creek trail to the camp site. The trail takes off from the road at the second switchback up from Mummery Creek. A steep trail. Very pretty, but steep. We sweated rivers. The poor sods who had to ride in the chopper wouldn't know about that.

Camp was on rock at 7300 feet on the north side of Mummery Glacier. Because of unsettled weather and the temptations of Elizabeth's clam linguini, there was no high camp this year.

CLIMBS

The peaks were in the 9000, to almost 11,000, foot range. The terrain was mixed rock and snow and of low technical difficulty. From camp, climbing expeditions set off in three directions.

Heading up the glacier (northwest) towards the Nanga Parbat-Gilgit col and onto the Freshfield Icefield.

Jones Mtn. (10,250') was climbed via the south ridge (mixed snow and rock). After dropping to the col between the peaks, the climbers ascended Karakel (10,250') by the steep and icy north ridge.

Nanga Parbat (10,680') was a snow walk up the northwest ridge from the col between it and Gilgit. Gilgit (10,320') was a rock scramble.

Mt. Helmer (9950') involved a long slog up the east ridge after cramponing up the icefall below

Mt. Barlow. There are probably easier tourist routes up Helmer, but the hero shots are better amidst the seracs.

The mass assault on Mt. Barnard (10,955'), at the southwest edge of the Freshfield Icefield, took place on skis. We climbed the snow to a col within 20 feet of the summit (so near... yet so corniced). Superb view down to Waitabit Lake. On the return, some climbed Bulyuea, and some found the ultimate telemarking slope below Mt. Trutch.

Heading north from camp

The steep hump overlooking camp was not a bad destination in itself for an easy day. Waterfalls and wild flowers on the lower slopes, then a scree slope to cross and a scramble up the rock nose to the ridge at 9500 feet. From the ridge you can drop orange peels on camp.

Mt. Barlow and the peaks beyond it to the north were sucked into a whiteout the day we tried them. However Mt. Cairn was climbed several times. One party descended the east side of the hump and crossed the glacier to a snow and rock gully about one kilometer west of Mt. Cairn's summit. They climbed the gully and walked along the snowy summit ridge to the top. Other parties were more efficient, climbing only part way up the hump before traversing across its nose onto the very tangled icefall. They picked a route through the icefall to the gully described above.

Heading southwest, across Mummery glacier

A 12 or 13 hour return trip, but a very satisfactory climb. Two different routes were used by separate parties to gain the upper glacier just below the peak. After crossing Mummery glacier, one party ascended a snow gully to the sharp, exposed east ridge. After 8 pitches (belaying on half of them), they continued another 3 pitches on steep snow and ice to the upper glacier at 9200 feet. From there they slogged through snow, gained the main summit ridge, slogged up snow, and were on top by 2:45 p.m.

Another party chose a snow gully beyond the rock ridge for a less direct and less technical route to the upper glacier. A third party climbed Mummery in such foul weather that God knows where they ended up.

The party that climbed Mt. Poland ascended from Mummery Glacier on a snow gully pointing towards the peak. From the top of the gully they descended a rotten ridge into the valley and then climbed to the Poland-Mummery col. It was a walk on mud and shale to the summit. No ropes required.

FOOD

Food for 16 people for 9 full days cost \$1200 (approx \$8 per person per day.) That total broke down as follows:

Dinner entrees (accompanied by soups, fresh salads and real veges) included:

spaghetti with meat or clam sauce

coq au vin

barbequed New York steaks

Hungarian chicken paprika with sour cream sauce and dumplings

boeuf bourgignon

ratatouille

shrimp creole

And cakes, puddings, pies, cookies, home-made bread....

| | |
|--|-------|
| Dry goods | \$500 |
| Previously baked food | 160 |
| Meat/cheese/bacon | 240 |
| Dairy/produce (included 12 dozen eggs) | 200 |
| Wine (10 litres each white & red) | 60 |
| Plastic tape for food boxes | 20 |

Coolers were kept in a snow bank/cave. Some fresh vegetables lasted until the last day.

Leftover food consisted of drink crystals (none of which were used) and high camp boil-in-a-bags.

Now for the good part. Garcon! Le menu, s'il vous plait!

Elizabeth's meals were superb, making the Gala Keg taste even worse. Breakfasts included:

buttermilk pancakes and bacon

scrambled eggs with tomatoes and bacon

hot cereal with stewed fruit and muffins

granola pancakes with ham

eggs benedict

PARTICIPANTS

Don Mousseau

Bert Port

Fred Thiessen

Brian Gagnon

Heather Graham

Eric White

Pam Olson

David Lemon

Peter Tchir

Jack Bryan

Carl Johnson

Delia Roberts

Terry Chow

Vivien Bowers

Gordon Frank

Elizabeth Fekete

by: Vivian Bowers

ALBERT PEAKS, 10,000', 9621'

July 14, 1984

Revelstoke, the Frontier Restaurant, 0600 hours. Bert and I discover a note on the door: "Fred, I'm sleeping in my car next to the logging trucks, Hamish." Sure enough, he was. All we had to do was arouse Hamish and wait. Dave soon arrived somewhat hungover, then Peter and Chris, Peter mumbling about the high cost of Parks Branch campsites.

After breakfast we drove to Greeley, turned right and drove up the new East Creek logging road to 6000 feet. Rather than camp on the landing we opted for aesthetics. This involved camping in the slide path at 6,000 feet below the two peaks about 1 km from the landing.

At our campsite we dropped our overnight gear, consulted the map to figure out which peak was highest, then set off. From our campsite it was straightforward, we ascended a snow chute and snow slope to gain the shoulder of Albert Peak at 8500 feet. From here we ascended the south facing glacier to gain the southwest ridge at 9000 feet. Warm, warm, warm. Hamish climbed to the summit in his bikini briefs. The ridge was an easy scramble.

Back at camp the price of our aesthetic location was the labour of leveling tent platforms with ice-axes.

We set off early the following morning for west Albert Peak. Our route was up from camp to the glacier between the two peaks. On firm snow we went to the end of the glacier and scrambled up the south ridge. A sheltered spot on top allowed for more tanning. Glissading and bumshussing quickened our descent. Easy peaks with great views.

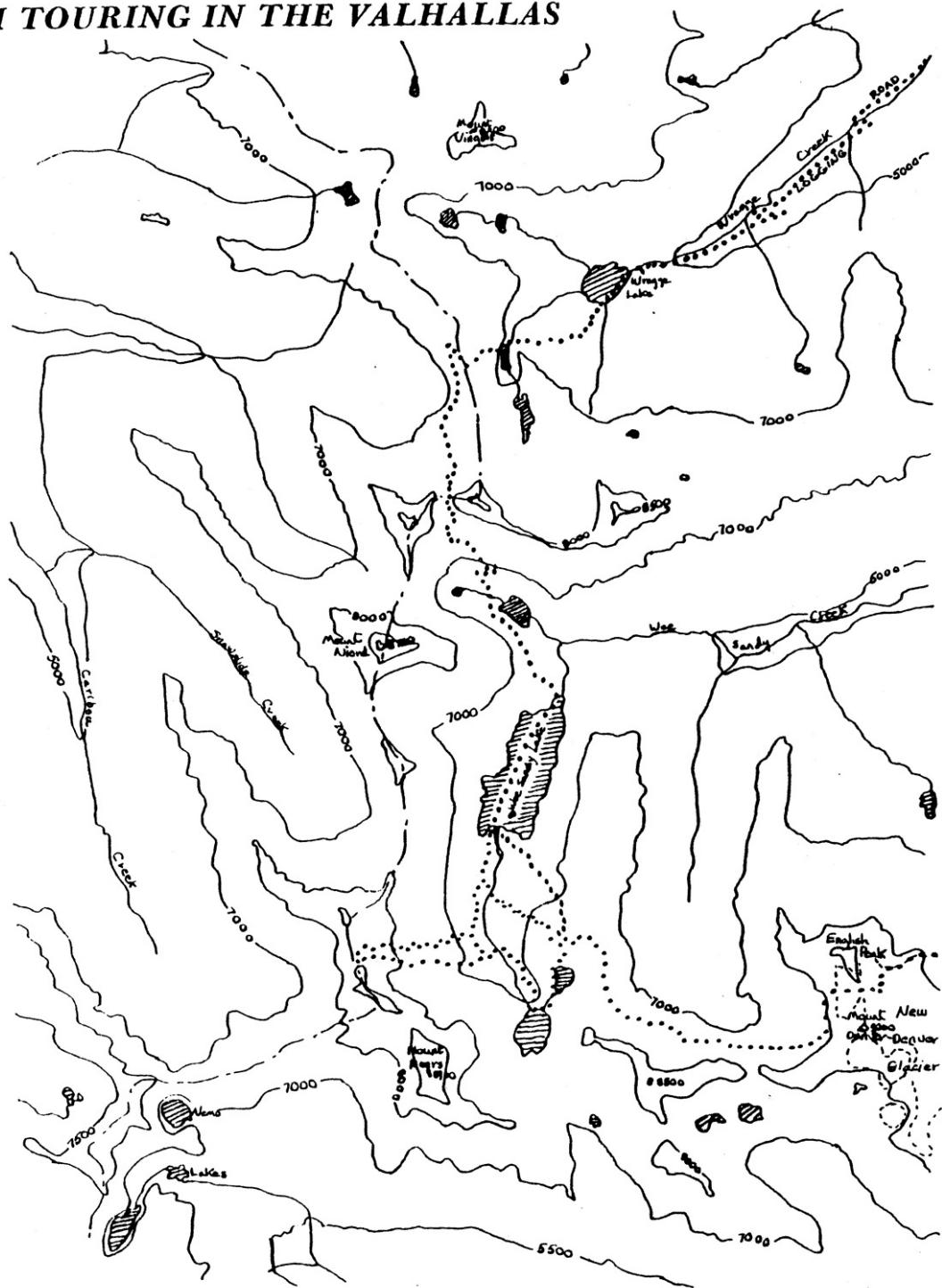
The road up Twin Creek crosses a very unstable slide path, the Forest Service in Revelstoke should be contacted to see if the road is open before trying to drive up it.

Party: our group of suntanners consisted of Hamish Mutch (best tanned), Burt Port, Dave Gluns, Fred Thiessen, Chris McIver, and Peter McIver (least tanned).

Fred Thiessen



SKI TOURING IN THE VALHALLAS



SKI TOURING IN THE VALHALLAS

We began our journey one morning in April 1984 in New Denver. Here we met our helicopter at the boat launching ramp and before long were climbing towards the New Denver Glacier where we were to begin our ski tour. Although some may say we cheated, the use of the helicopter saved us at least two days struggling up Sharp Creek with mammoth packs.

Saying goodbye to our helicopter, we now began the task of finding a suitable location for our tent. The weather had closed in and frequent gusts of wind and blasts of snow provided us with a forewarning of the days to come. A good location at approximately 7000ft, very close to the edge of the plateau, gave us a view not only of the glacier and all the peaks but down the valley to the upper portion of New Denver.

Anxious to explore the area, we gulped lunch and started out across the plateau below the glacier, exploring hills and dells while carefully watching the weather. A tour part-way up the glacier proved to be far enough, as visibility became minimal and blowing snow obscured our tracks. Good skiing down make up for the poor weather conditions and we were pleased on our first day. We all had ski mountaineering equipment and were glad for the heavier gear.

The following day we dug ourselves out from the 15cm snow fall and toured up the pass between Iron Peak and English Peak. We decided to ski down to a lake shown on the map that runs into Wee Sandy Creek and found good, steep, but fairly dangerous skiing. We encountered a very steep slope halfway down and "enjoyed" minor sluffs and avalanches! Our ascent from the lake followed the prominent south or right ridge to where we reached the pass again and from there we toured up the glacier. With slopes becoming steeper and visibility worsening, we stopped to dig a snow pit beneath Mt. Denver near the 8500ft level. The clouds parted for several minutes and we were off up the glacier between Mt. Denver and the peak to the north. A good place to rest and peel our skins off. Some skiing terrain could be seen at the head of Hoben Creek but it would be difficult country to reach easily. Our run back to the tent was great;

approximately 30cm. of powder and fairly good visibility. At supper hour we were treated to a lovely alpenglow throughout the area we were in and to the north in the Kane Creek headwaters.

The next day after we dug out from 20 cm of snow, we began dividing up food and camp equipment and arguing about who wanted to carry the wet tent! Our route followed yesterday's to near the snowpit where a short steep ridge was ascended between English Peak and Mt. Denver. Our route was before us; just around the large basin and over the ridge to Wee Sandy Lake! A descent of 1000ft put us in position to climb to our ridge. Our 50 lb packs became unbearable as we broke trail in 35 to 50cm of new snow up steep exposed slopes. Fortunately, conditions were reasonably stable.

The weather alternated between blowing snow and whiteouts to dazzling clear periods. One minute jackets and hoods up, and next minute stripped down to teeshirts! We ascended a very steep (not recommended) slope and hugging close to the cliff face reached the ridge, but not before tripping a small slab avalanche off from our ski track. There were our destinations the south end of Wee Sandy Lake; and the ski slopes behind the campsite; wow, yipee, wonder bar!

Now the sun was out, and although we were tired, we enjoyed the good skiing down off the ridge through the trees to the end of the lake. The tent

by John Carter





was soon up and our stove purring away. We even found water and excavated a site to ski right to the waters edge! The weather was clearing and what a location. Mt. Meers to the south, Mt. Niord to the west and an unnamed peak across Wee Sandy Lake to the northwest.

Again we awoke to 15 cm of fresh snow and, after the usual laid-back breakfast, we stumbled out of the tent to dig ourselves out. Today was an exploring day as we toured over, around and between numerous ridges and forested glens, all the while hoping to find a reasonable route up Mt. Meers. But, to no avail, although we could see a possible route up the northwest ridge directly above the largest lake at the head of the valley. Our journey took us around the lake and up to the ridge near where we had come down the day before. The weather began to clear as we skied the heavy powder off the ridge back to our campsite. A good day of exploring the area and enjoying the possibilities of a future cabin and ski touring area. Another lovely sunset put the final touches to a good day in a new area.

Early the next morning we were greeted with a beautiful sunrise which reconciled the rather cool, uncomfortable night we had. Shortly after breakfast, as we were putting our skis on, in flew Doug Williams to see if we were all okay, for he worried about us with all the fresh snow that had fallen. There are not many pilots who would make

that effort unless asked to do so! Our tour today was up the valley again, but south, and up the slopes to a ridge overlooking the large basin of Caribou Creek. A spectacular ridge in both directions, particularly the one to the northwest as this could be traversed on skis for a mile or so we believed. We skied part way down the slope, dug a snowpit and then proceeded to cut up the powder. Super skiing in a super area! Over 1½ miles on this aspect of super skiing the majority of the skiing season. We were ecstatic about this area as a ski touring region!

Returning to camp, after a rest, we toured the length of Wee Sandy Lake and broke trail past the lake for the next day's ski out. The northwest end of the lake provided wonderful views of the valley we had enjoyed for two days.

Our final day proved to be the warmest. Early in the morning we broke camp, and with packs lighter than three days ago, started slowly down the lake. Crystal clear sky, no wind and very warm. Although the snow was heavy to break trail in, we made good time to "Grizzly Lakes" north of Mt. Niord. Above the lake we worried the slopes would let loose and destroy us. But our good luck held and by 11:00 am. we were on the pass, almost sad to look back knowing that we would not return for some time and our ski tour was almost over.

We were forced to drop down somewhat to the west as the ridge to the east proved to be too steep to tour over. But before long, after a leisurely lunch, we were back on the height of land looking down now into Wragge Creek. Interesting skiing down the heavy wet snow slopes to Wragge Lake tested our reflexes and each of us left several large craters in the snow! At Wragge Lake we had a rest, admired the steepness of the almost box lake and then found the logging road. Slow skiing was an understatement; wet dirty snow and of course as we approached the snow line, intermittent patches of bare road and mud sluffs. Then bare road. Off with the skis, over the shoulder and ouch, walking on hard logging road with ski boots. But luck prevailed. Wayne McCrory was cutting shake bolts and gave us a ride to New Denver. Our trip was over; very successful in many ways. Planning began for the next one on the way home to Nelson! Trip participants: Dave Smith, Dennis Herman and J.C.

MAP REFERENCE.....82F/13/ and 82K/4

PERU/BOLIVIA

JULY 1984

by Dennis Holden

Well, if you have "done" Nepal and are still wanting to get high in some exotic land, the natural choice is Peru/Bolivia. In many ways, the regions are similar - the same hassles with customs, logistical problems, barren landscapes, rarefied air and lofty peaks. In many ways the experience is unique - llamas, condors and bowler hats.

It was in 1984 we decided to go South. Peter Spear, of Canadian Everest fame, gathered together ten avid trekkers, a mountain of gear, and arranged a plane for Lima. A little fast talking and faster footwork got us a connecting flight to Cusco minutes after our arrival in Peru.

One short night after leaving home we were sitting in the cold, rarefied air of Cusco (13,000') sipping coca mate. The next couple of days we spent acclimatizing to the lack of oxygen, the strange customs, and strange foods. We "did", of course, all the mandatory tourist sights including the biggie: a one day train ride to Macchu Pichu. "En passant" I would recommend to the keen kayaker the miles of grade five water in the Urubamba river.

Having become culturally and physiologically acclimatized, we decided to push on to Lake Titicaca and the mountains of Bolivia. Our base in Bolivia was La Paz. We made contact with the Club Andino and they put us on to Frans Gutierrez, an avid climber and professor of English at the local university. Our first adventure was a four day trek along an ancient Inca road to the East of La Paz. We started out in the snows of a 14,000' pass and finished in the jungles below the town of Coroico. Highlights of the trip included a condor fly by, a village of thieves, an unnecessary detour over a very rickety bridge and several boot loads of tenderized feet. Despite some minor difficulties, the trek was an outstanding experience. The truck ride back to La Paz is an aerial adventure not to be missed.

Then, fully in shape, we boldly confronted the lofty peaks. Our first challenge was to drive up to the local ski hill (Nevado Chacaltaya 17,500'). Instead of driving back down, we descended the back side and met the Microbus in the mining town of Milluni. This was a wonderful 3,000' scree hop. Onward to the Zongo lakes and a Canadian-built hydroelectric station. We arrived, and despite the

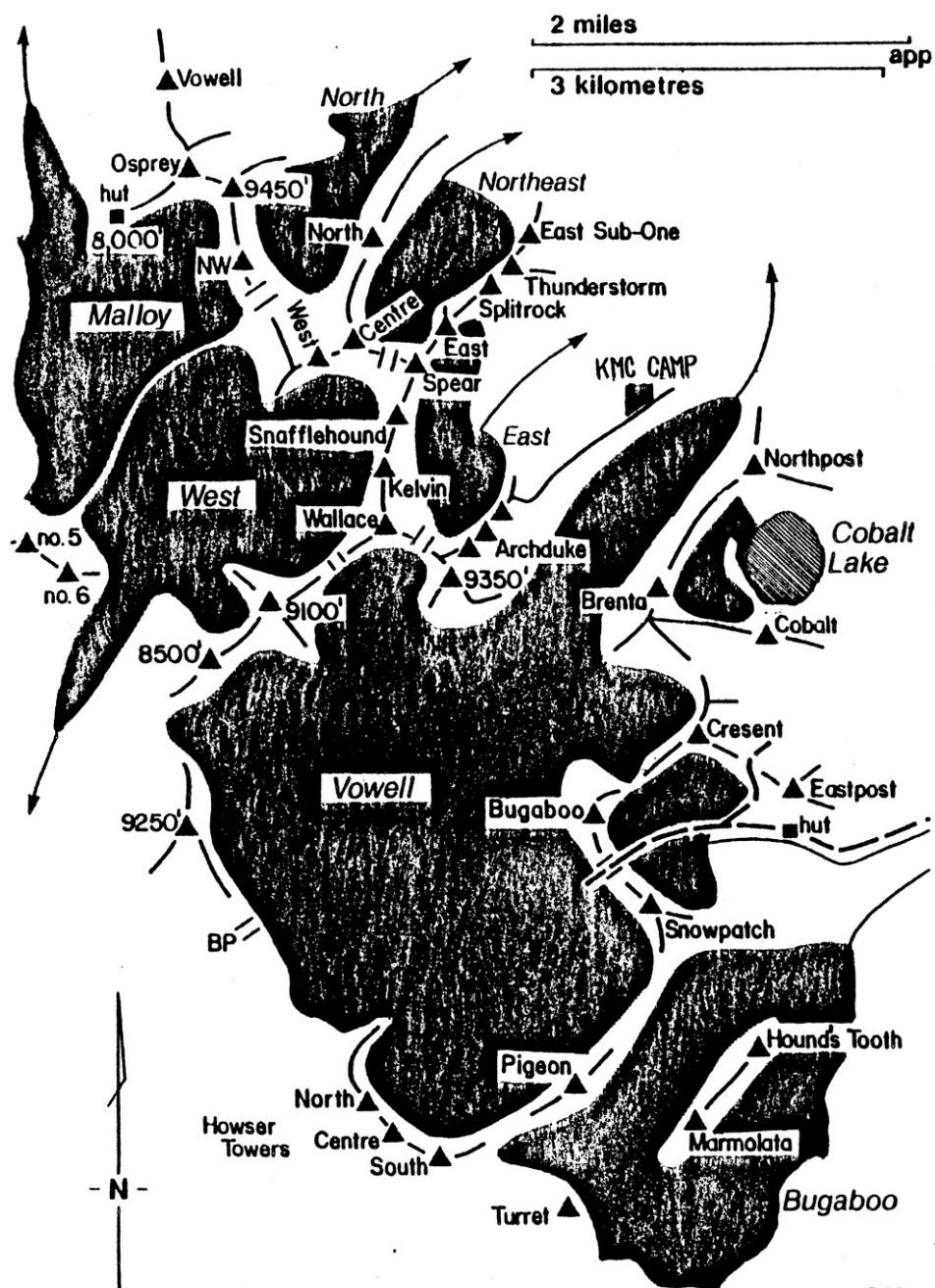
dense jungle fog, found suitable campsites. The morning broke clear and we could see Nevado Huayna Potasi (20,000') towering above us. Not wanting to be too bold about attacking our objective, we decided to spend another day sizing up the area. By noon the fog rising out of the Amazon had blocked our view, so we retreated to our tents. The following morning was clear and our intrepid leader recommended a cautious reconnaissance of the big peak. We climbed over good snow and ice to about 18,000' before panting to a halt. Lack of time, the possibility of more fog, and the rarefied atmosphere were the main factors in our decision to descend. En route to base camp we met large parties of French and German alpinists who were planning to camp at the 17,500' level and go on to the summit the following day. Since we had only one day left in this area, we decided to leave the peak to the Europeans.

Our next venture, was into a more remote area to the southeast of La Paz. Our party, now reduced to five, had become more manageable and more familiar with modes of backroad transport. The objective was Murrata, a snowy peak just to the North of Illimani. Nevado Illimani is the big 20,500' peak, clearly visible from La Paz. This trip went smoothly: a camp at the snout of the glacier, a climb through the icefall and a long breathless slog to the summit at 19,500'.

Three days later we were back in La Paz and four days after that, Vancouver. I stepped off the plane on to my boat and sailed into the sunset. The others returned to Calgary and other scattered locations. The total bill for the month was under \$1,500. The experience was priceless.



Vowells and Bugaboos



R.H.W.

SATURDAY THE HELICOPTER CAME LATE CLIMBING CAMP 1984

This year's camp was held in the Vowell Group (in earlier times called the Bobbie Burns Group) located just north of the Bugaboos in the Purcell Mountains. Road access was by way of the recreational road up Bugaboo Creek to the CMH Lodge. Most of us hiked in to camp on Saturday morning, July 28, on a trail leading to meadows NE of Cobalt Lake. From the meadows the party descended a nasty gully E. of Northpost Spire, crossed the icy tongue of the Vowell Glacier, and ascended a thoroughly disagreeable moraine to our campsite at Tamarack Meadows, elevation 7,300' (time to hike in, 4 hrs.). We returned by the same route on Monday, Aug. 6, in 3½ hrs. Heavy packs, cooking gear, cooktent, and cook were heliocoptered in courtesy of Alpine Helicopters. Because of firefighting commitments, the loads were flown in six hours late. The following people made up Camp '84:

Sam Brooke
Gordon Frank
Janice Isaac
Carl Johnson
Kim Kratky
Hamish Mutch
Peter McIver
Don Mousseau
Bert Port
Fred Thiessen
Pete Wood
Mark Hight
Susie Bagur (cook)
Peter Tchir
Pam Olson
Jeff Roberts

CAMP NOTES

The golden mantle ground squirrels foraged fearlessly around the cooktent. One fell into a pot of leftover stew and was discovered hours later, blissfully comatose. Laugher critters in camp were three mountain goats that scrambled across slabs near the cooktent at suppertime. With a running start, Peter Tchir was able to duplicate their route.

A series of ponds were used for drinking water, swimming, and clothes washing. To discourage rodents, garbage was stored in a large black plastic

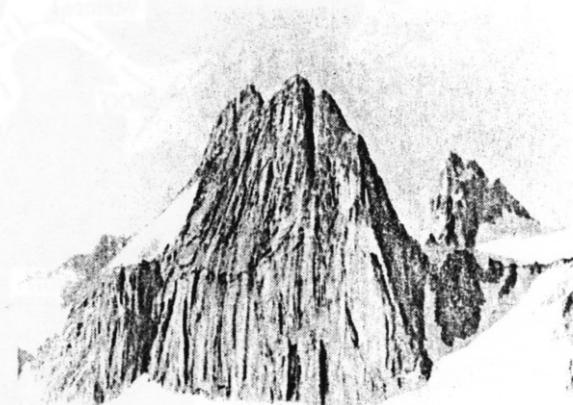
bag on an islet in one of the pools; artist Christo would have approved.

CMH heli-hikers were an over-rated threat. They never once descended on camp for a barbecue, contrary to warnings from the pilot. We would at least have shared our Marmite with them.

Gordon held the record for living farthest out in the suburbs of camp. He is also credited with originating the response to any of Janice and Pam's trips: "Did you actually climb it?"

A high camp set up on the Vowell Glacier was appropriately labeled "far camp". High camp resident Peter McIver had his stock of slings replenished by those of us who thoughtfully removed old webbing from selected rappel stations.

Best of all, we enjoyed fine weather almost every day.



BUGABOO SPIRES

Four of us- Peter Wood, Don Mousseau, Fred Thiessen, Gordon Frank- stumbled down the moraine from Tamarack Glen at 5:45 am. Not bothering to put on crampons, we slithered across the Vowell Glacier and travelled up the east side to the bottom of the icefall on the east moraine, several large boulders shifted slightly, causing a brief moment of excitement. We roped up under the west face of Bugaboo spire and travelled up the glacier to the Bugaboo-Snowpatch col with Peter in the lead, reaching the col at 8:45 am.

We had a brief rest at the col, where we were buzzed by a helicopter, which circled Bugaboo spire several times. We speculated that a search was in progress, and later found that we were correct.

The first part of the climb was an easy scramble up broken rock. The broad face gradually narrowed and we soon found ourselves on the crest of the south ridge. The scrambling continued until a steep section, where we roped for one lead and then continued on short ropes to a point about 200 ft. below the gendarme which blocks the ridge. We set up a belay station at this point. The pitch involved an awkward exposed jam crack along the side of a large block on the ridge crest. A second belay station was set up on top of this block, about 100 ft. below the gendarme, from where we studied the route above us. A short lead was taken to a notch directly below the gendarme where a third belay station was set up. From this point we turned the short pitch around the gendarme and continued on to the summit at about 2:00 pm.

While in process of negotiating the gendarme, we met a couple rappelling down. They had apparently spent the night on the summit after climbing the NE ridge and were the object of the helicopter search mentioned earlier. They were tired and thirsty so Don gave them his water bottle.

On the summit, Fred, Don and Peter sang one chorus of "Happy Birthday" for Gordon. After about one half hour on the summit we began the descent.

The rappel around the gendarme required some tricky traversing so as to stay on the ridge. Two more rappels and some short roping brought us back to the top of the south face. From there, we scrambled back to the col. We caught up to the benighted couple near the col and accompanied

them down, sharing our food with them at the col before departing for camp.

The return to camp was uneventful. We retraced our steps of the morning. We trudged up the moraine to be greeted with a hot meal, courtesy of some thoughtful souls at camp at 9:45 pm.

by: Gordon Frank



UNNAMED 9350' AND MT. WALLACE

Sunday 84 07 29

K. Kratky

J. Isaac

P. Olson

We approached 9350' (Wallace South) by snow rock slopes to catch the S.E. ridge. A third class scramble brought us to the summit. From there we dropped to the col between 9350' and Wallace and traversed below the S.W. ridge of Wallace to a low point and then scrambled over third and fourth class rock to gain the top of the ridge. A pleasant scramble led us to the summit where we encountered B. Port, P. Wood and P. McIver reading the area guide book. Following a short lecture by B. Port on how to interpret the guide descriptions (i.e. what does F8 III mean?) we all decided to descend via the ascent route. While party no.2 rambled off to further explore the Wallace ridge, we returned to the 9350'-Wallace col and proceeded to descend an extremely steep snow slope to reach the glacier between Wallace and the Archduke Trio. We returned to camp 8 hours after departing.

MT. KELVIN

J. Roberts
P. Olson
C. Johnson
J. Isaac
Arthur T. Pewtey

We set out to climb Wallace and Unnamed 9250' but at the Archduke-Wallace col were seduced by the long snow slope between Wallace and Kelvin and changed our objective to Kelvin.

After diligently manoeuvering the bergschrund, we ascended a mixed steep snow and loose rock route for about 300m. to the Wallace-Kelvin col. From this col, after roping a short exposed lead, we continued over third and fourth class rock, reaching the summit 5 hours after leaving camp.

The lunch stop entertainment featured Alpine Helicopters and helihikers enacting a dragonfly and ants routine on the West Glacier. We expressed our appreciation of the performance with the usual K.M.C. cheer. Following the Gmoser show, we returned to our summit conference concerning descent routes. A speak snafflehound traverse was considered and rejected because of deteriorating weather conditions. The guide book description of a descent involving a 200 foot groove in polished slabs leading on to the West Glacier and then circumnavigating Wallace was explored and abandoned.

Ominous thunderheads and the threat of approaching rain sent us unanimously back to our familiar but unappealing ascent route. Thunder-crashes and lightening jags turned our thoughts to the parties on Howser Towers who were about to be engulfed in the approaching storm.

Two one-rope and one two-rope rappels in rain and rotten snow brought us to the edge of the bergschrund from where we beat a hasty retreat to the waiting soup pot. Total trip time, 11 hours.

UNNAMED 9250

P. Olson
J. Isaac

Having been abandoned by all of the hotshot male climbers, we decided that the two women could do

just fine on our own. For humorous reasons, we selected a noble pyramid shaped peak, N.W. of Howser Towers at the head of the Vowell Glacier. The approach was an uneventful march up the Vowell Glacier toward the S.E. rock ridge. The ridge itself was a 3rd class scramble and we were rewarded by finding a coin at the summit. Obviously, others had deigned this a worthy objective. Descending via the snow-covered N. ridge, we skirted an enormous glacier-surrounded lake below Wallace Peak.

Since we could anticipate a dull slog down the blue ice and up the moraine to camp, we chose to detour around the eastern shoulder at South Wallace. This route proved to be a 3rd class scramble intermitted by short, steep snow slopes, and took approximately 2 hrs. longer than the regular route. Total time, 9 hours.

PIGEON SPIRE

K. Kratky, sherpa
J. Isaac
P. Olson

A three hour slog over the Vowell glacier brought us to the West ridge of our objective. We continued up the peak, following the standard route to the summit. J. Isaac was the first to set foot atop the peak. After a short lunch stop, we returned by the same route. Total trip time, 10 hours.

BRENTA SPIRE

AUG. 4

C. Johnson and J. Roberts climbed Brenta for the 1 and seven eighths time, having lost confidence on an earlier attempt. The climbers started at the gentle hour of 9:00 am. and returned before six in time for a swim before dinner. The summit record was found and the names of K. Kratky, J. Isaac and P. Olson were added as well. It was noted that Bert and Sue Port had both climbed this peak in 1969.

WALLACE PEAK

AUG. 3

After another gentleman's start at 10:00 am., J. Roberts and C. Johnson climbed Wallace through the notch on Archduke ridge and the Wallace- S. Wallace col. The weather was very nice and the scrambling enjoyable. Again we returned to camp by 4:00 pm for scotch and a bath before dinner.

WEST AND CENTRE PEAKS

AUG.4

In our desire to climb the highest peak in the Vowells, Hamish Mutch, Peter Tchir, Peter Wook, Gord Frank, Don Mousseau and I set off early one morning at 0530. Fortunately we were fortified with coffee.

Our route followed the now beaten path to the Archduke-unnamed 9350' col, then to Wallace-unnamed 9350' col. Why doesn't somebody name this peak anyway? (ed. note- It is named, Fred. It's S. Wallace Pk.) At the first opportunity east of Wallace we descended to the West Glacier and marched to West Peak.

We ascended West Peak via the south face which was horrifyingly loose at the bottom. Fortunately the rock improved as we moved up. We were on top for a pleasant picnic at 11:00 am. Not bad for a bunch of old guys.

Our plan from here was to descend the ridge towards Centre Peak. Well, needless to say, our hopes were soon dashed. After two rappels we decided to descend to the glacier rather than take forever downclimbing. A third rappel and some downclimbing soon saw us on the glacier.

The circumnavigation of Centre Peak was next on the agenda. After lunch at the Centre- East col we split into two groups, Gord and Peter to snafflehound (and an early dinner) and the rest of us to Centre (and a late dinner).

Being creative in our approach to Centre we went to the east of Centre, up a snow gully, some rotten rock and then to the north side. We then found the tourist route after a false start and proceeded up. Miss G. Engleharb was in fact correct- pleasant climbing to the summit. Our route finding dalliances put us on top at about 1700 hrs. Another late dinner. A short rappel then a long rappel down the north side put us at the base around 1800 hrs. or so. Boogie time, through the west-centre col.

The suggested means for climbing Centre Peak is to approach it via the West-Centre col, then proceed around the north side to the highest point in the snowfield. Quicker than circumnavigation.

ARCHDUKE AND TAMARAK PEAKS

JULY 29

The less ambitious crowd consisting of Don Mousseau, Carl Johnson, Jeff Roberts, Gord Frank and I set off on an exploring journey on the ridge west of camp.

Our journey started with a scramble out of camp with innumerable ups and downs along the ridge; the first part of the ridge culminated in a short airy au cheval traverse to the highest point on the ridge apparently named Tamarak Peak. A rappel on the west side of the peak and a short scramble brought us to our lunch point just east of the Archduke Trio.

At this point Jeff and Carl set off for unnamed 9350' (South Wallace Peak.) while Don, Gord and I set off to explore the Archduke Trio. This involved a short scramble with a minor amount of route finding to the base of the first pinnacle, Allegro. The pinnacle itself was about 75' of pleasant climbing. Airy to say the least, these pinnacles appear to be undercut and are about 700 feet above the glacier and about 150' thick at the base. A pleasant warm-up for the days to follow. Running out of time we passed on Andante and Presto and retreated.

On our descent we met Carl and Jeff and toddled to camp together.

by: Fred Thiessen

CLIMBS BY PETER TCHIR AND HAMISH MUTCH

1. South Wallace (9350)

New route, E. ridge, 6 belayed pitches

The crux is the obvious block step in the middle of the climb, which is approximately 5.6.

2. Snafflehound Spire

New route, N.E. face, 10 belayed pitches, mostly on easy rock, with occasional snow patches.

Class 4 to 5. Check for cornices.

3. Howser Spire via E. basin, N. ridge.

4. Wallace Peak

New route, N.E. face. Steep snow followed by 2 easy rock pitches. Easy and enjoyable, makes for a pleasant descent of the S.W. ridge.

5. Kelvin via Wallace col S. Ridge

6. West Peak, birdie 4

Centre Peak, double bogey 4

-see write up by Fred.

NORTH HOWSER SPIRE (11,150')

AUGUST 2, 1984

"NORTH RIDGE INTEGRAL"

The serrated bulk of the Howser Spires as seen across the Vowell Glacier from our camp seemed like a spectral backdrop for some savage film like Conan the Barbarian. How pleased and challenged I was when Don Mousseau suggested that I accompany him, Fred Thiessen, and Gordon Frank for a ramble in that direction.

The usual 5:45 am start saw us plod up the ice of the N.E. Vowell Glacier and across the flats to Howser's N. ridge. Ascending some 800' of snow slopes, we benefitted by steps already kicked. Gad-zooks! There was a party ahead of us-Bert, Peter M., Pete W., Sam and Mark who had started from a high camp W. of Snowpatch. Soon, our party divided into two rope teams, negotiated two ice pitches, and reached the rock of the N. ridge. After getting up some loose rock in gulleys and open books, we turned a big gendarme (one of many spectacular ones) on the W., and caught up with the high camp group. The ridge is festooned with attempts since the descent route is via the E. face.

Amid some unpropitious omens (Sam was ill, the weather threatened, Bert looked grim) we continued, Fred and I alternating leads on this route that is a treasure for the general mountaineer. We made 8-10 leads to reach the summit, negotiating slabs both dry and wet, traversing on both E. and W., clambering over exposed lumps of granite, puffing up a mantelshelf, bridging an icy gully, and enduring an intermittent rain and hail.

In mid-afternoon we trod the "sidewalk" to the North Spire's summit and sat down in a hailstorm to read the record. Ice axes began to buzz and Gord

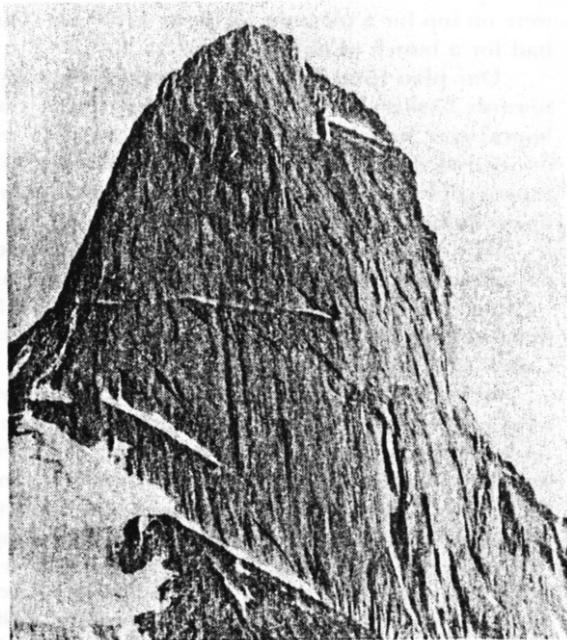
snarled at us to descend as we blithely read on-Peter T. and Hamish via E. face and ridge the day before, one ascent in '83, none in '82. Just as Fred, scrutinizing further details of an earlier party's route, exclaimed "Oh, I know her," a shiver of lightning and thunder sent us scrambling.

Two short rappels and careful down climbing got us to the E. ridge descent route, thoughtfully marked by Hamish and Peter. Five full rappels in inclement weather (at times the Vowell Glacier below was invisible) got us off the mountain by 1930 hrs. Our last abseil, on steep snow, was noteworthy for a 30' free descent into a bergschrund.

The long drag back to camp took another 2 1/4 hrs, putting us home by 21:45 to sop up stuffed peppers and soup ladled out by thoughtful people. As we sat in the comfy cook tent, we gave a thought to our high camp colleagues who had returned to their less comfortable site on the glacier.

An excellent day-all nine climbers reached the summit of a peak not often climbed; enjoyable climbing and problem solving. As the guidebook says "A fine route of moderate difficulty". Return trip-16 hours.(III F4; for those untutored by Bert, that's 5.3 III)

by: Kim Kratky



SKI TOURING IN FORSTER CREEK

Hearing that there was a small hut and good ski touring at the headwaters of Forster Creek our group decided to visit the area to see if it was true.

We assembled in Invermere on Friday night. Our plan was to have snowmobiles tow us in early Saturday morning. Well, as is often the case when snowmobiles are involved, nothing went according to plan. One delayed our early start to a mid-morning start. Our packs, Jeff and Bruce went in first, the rest of us were left to ski in. Unknown to those of us skiing in, the snowmobiles had tough trailbreaking and one machine had broken down. On our long ski in we passed one sick snowmobile. We were eventually picked up by the running one.

Our home for the next week was a 12 by 24 insulated cabin, eight feet off the ground, complete with wood stove, propane stove, pots, pans and cutlery.

A stormy Sunday prevented us from extensive exploring, our tour for the day took us to the end of the valley to ski the headwall below Thunderwater Lake.

Our second day of exploring took us onto the North Star Glacier, up to the col between the North Star and Catamount Glacier. Surprisingly there was little windpack; the skiing was good.

Another unsettled day saw us skiing across the valley from the cabin, in steep, deep powder.

The best was yet to come, for the balance of the trip we skied the Catamount Glacier or the slopes below it. These slopes offered the best skiing in the area. One bad-weather day kept us below the snout of the glacier, for the other two days we had good weather and were able to ski to 10,000 feet to a subsidiary peak of Mt. Harmon. The ski runs were fantastic, it was obvious why this area is popular with the heli-ski firms.

Our ski out on the Saturday was uneventful, taking about four hours. This area is very popular with the snowmobilers; we were passed by several groups on the way out.

Access: Forester Creek is opposite Radium in the Purcell mountains. The village of Radium water intake is at the bridge on Forester Creek(3700), the road in winter is plowed to here. The cabin is about 75 miles West of North Star Glacier Creek (6150) in upper Forster creek. The cabin is open to the public but is privately owned by Roger Madeson of Invermere. He should be contacted prior to using the cabin.

Party:

Jim McLaren
Delia Roberts
Jeff Roberts

Diane Volkers
Bruce(the moose) Hobson
Fred Thiessen
by: Fred Thiessen



TONQUIN PASS POEM

(EASTER 1984)

After steadily climbing
hardly noticing the grade,
the snow softening in the sun,
powdery from elevation,
our skis nicely biting,
we stop for lunch;
before the last steep pitch
of McCarrib Pass,
by a stand of Alpine Spruce,
(the very last before the high
wilderness of only snow and rock).
The sun is suddenly doused
by a thick cloud,
and it is cold.

We brew a tea
and wolf it sweet
and hot with buns
and oranges and cheese.
Here we meet
other skiers, faces
ruddy from days
in the sun and alpine air
and free of care who
tell our future:

 how far to the top
 and to the lake,
 what delights await
 us at the camp and how
 we'll feel as they do
 when we must begin our journey home.

C . A .



TRaversing THE NORTHERN VALHALLAS

Ever since I had begun hiking in the West Kootenay, I had been interested in seeing more of the country to the west of Slocan Lake. Various day hikes into the Valhallas with the K.M.C. and on my own had enabled me to sample some of the exciting areas that beckoned the hiker and climber. Of course fishing is popular in the Evans-Beatrice and Wee Sandy Lake drainages. And so in late September of 1983 I was fortunate to be able to join Dave Smith for 5 days and hike the ridges and basins of the Valhallas.

We began our trip by driving up the Slocan to New Denver where we met Wayne McCrory and drove up to Hills. Here we turned off highway 6 and drove up the Shannon Creek logging road until we reached the pass into Caribou Creek. Turning south we travelled another 3 to 4 miles along the steep valley. Within a couple of hours we reached the pass that gained us access down to Grizzly Lakes.

The route down the pass was very steep and quite slippery, the last 800ft. as grass and herbaceous plants abounded. We travelled around the lakes on the south side and were lucky to see a sow grizzly and two cubs swimming and playing at the edge of the larger lake. They were too far away to photograph. We continued along the south side of the valley and descended to the north end of Wee Sandy Lake. We found excellent campsites part way along the west shore where fresh water, sandy beach and flat ground enabled us to pitch our tent as light rain showers began. We even caught some fish for dinner!

The following day we continued along the shoreline and up the valley passing through a huge (15 acre) area destroyed by an avalanche off Mt. Meers. Hundreds of trees, some 24" in diameter, had been moved down and tossed around like toothpicks. We ascended the steep talus slope

slightly to the west of Mt. Meers and gingerly picked our way up to the ridge top. The last 300 ft. of rock was snow covered, icy and steep. It had now begun to snow!

The descent to a fairly flat ridge top was done in whiteout conditions. We would have descended into Caribou Creek had it not been for our compass and map. Visibility improved, fortunately, as we slowly traversed the height of land between Nemo and Caribou Creeks. We spotted several goats and golden eagles. By mid-afternoon we were overlooking Nemo Lakes and before long descending to them to set up our tent. We found the area surrounding the lakes very pleasant and spent the rest of the afternoon wandering around the area trying to stay warm. The storm had passed and temperatures were dropping.

Our third day dawned clear and cold. Ice on all the lakes and creeks. After lots of hot tea and granola we were on our way south along an obvious ledge route 500 to 700ft. below the ridge and peak tops. It proved to be an excellent morning with clear skies, dry rock, small tarns set amongst granite slabs and small meadows. Shortly, before lunch, we again finger-nailed our way up a very steep and dirty pass to reach the height of land between Nemo and Beatrice Creek. What a view! The Devils Range and the sharp spires and shear faces of the peaks between Demers Lakes and Evans Lake. After a leisurely lunch at 8000ft. we turned southwest and descended slowly into a lovely pass between a tributary of Snow and Beatrice Creek. What wonderful ski touring country! We ascended the pass to the west and scrambled along the skyline for several hours until we were near Avis Lakes. The sun was gradually setting over the Monashees as we descended down 1000ft. to Avis Lakes and our campsite. A beautiful setting amongst fall-coloured meadows and crystal clear lakes.



Again an unusually cold night! But a clear morning and excitement building as we anticipated an interesting scramble to reach Demers Lakes. A hot breakfast, a few more photographs, and we were off up the basin. Gradually we gained the rock ridge extending off the main ridge in a northerly direction. With luck we found a route down and onto a ramp leading up to the main ridge overlooking Ice Creek. From here we chose to follow the broken, sharp ridge which gave us some exciting moves and adrenalin pumps! We could have dropped down the south side of the ridge but that would have meant loosing some 500 to 800 ft. Now we were on the summit of a small peak gazing down at Demers Lakes. What spectacular scenery. Down the ridge to the first Demers Lake. A truly beautiful spot. We found evidence of large camps using the area and unfortunately, several large areas were totally ruined! Obviously too many people at one time and poor clean-up. At any rate we enjoyed our lunch break beside the sparkling waters..

Turning east, we slowly descended the picturesque valley passing three more dazzling lakes. Just before the third lake we negotiated a steep headwall which fortunately had vegetation on it. Not a pleasing route to come up. Below the third lake we wandered through a flat wet area before we reached another small lake almost hidden among the trees, moss and fallen logs. Below this lake we negotiated headwall; easier this time because it was less steep. At last we reached Beatrice Lake just as the sun was leaving this end of the lake. We travelled along the shoreline to Beatrice Creek where we set up camp.

A lovely sandy beach and some good fishing. We cleaned up and filled several bags of garbage left by other campers and generally improved the area. At evening time we noticed smoke and fire at the eastern end of the lake.

Another gorgeous morning but this time instead of up on top of a mountain, we were enjoying a large lake and sandy beach! After a leisurely breakfast we headed down the lake's northern shore. We met several groups of Selkirk College students on the start of their field exercise. It was their smoke we had seen. Near the end of the lake I managed to fall. Fortunately, I did not injure myself seriously but my knees were painful for a month after! We followed the trail down the valley

passing Cahill Lake and at lunch reached Little Cahill Lake. We thoroughly enjoyed the walk down the trail because the fall colours were at their best. Rich, deep, reds and yellows throughout the valley reflected off streams, lakes and granite slabs. By late afternoon we were near Slocan Lake and the end of our trip. Beautiful weather on most of our trip and fabulous scenery proved to make this one of my favorite tours. Our boat was waiting for us, courtesy of Wayne McCrory, and before long we were in New Denver picking up our vehicles. A wonderful trip but definately not for inexperienced travellers or for winter tourers!

John Carter

MAP REFERENCE.....82k/4, 82F/13, 82F/13E

MT. DOLLY VARDEN,

September 8,9

"A long drive and a short hike" was how the trip was described to the prospective leader. The former certainly seemed all too true as the Port family "rec'd" the access on Labour Day weekend, trying to follow an elusive red-pencilled road marked on our map. After wandering about on logging roads for much of the day we finally came across a very welcome "Dolly Varden Trail" sign.

So with at least the knowledge of where the trail started, 7 people met at Wilson Creek (Rosebery) at 6:30 pm, Saturday, for the one hour drive to our camp on the road near the trailhead. The day had been cold and wet but a garish sunset and glimpses of full moon gave us confidence for the morrow.

Rain in the early morning stopped long enough to lure us onto the trail at 8:00 a.m. - an excellent old mining trail well lined with ripe huckleberries. But the good times were soon over as we encountered inches of slushy snow at the first lake (6100') where the trail ended. An ice axe would have been a great comfort on the very steep and slippery meadows above, which were followed by much snow through which we trudged as we approached the upper lake (7600').

There was a foot of snow at the upper lake and the bitter wind and squalls convinced three to retreat while the others went to look at Dolly Varden, the summit of which was only 900' above

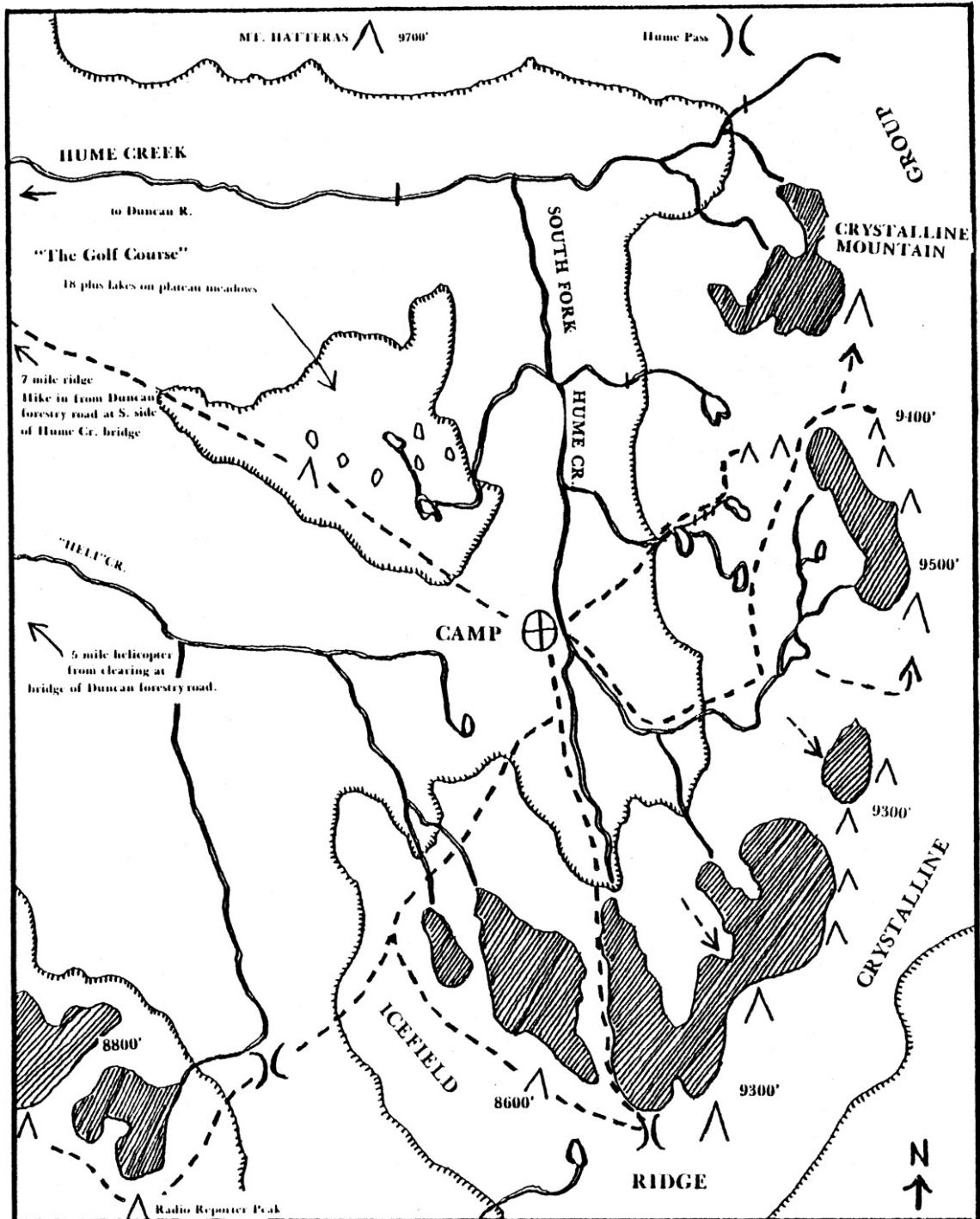
in the clouds somewhere. A few hundred feet of knee-deep steps and an ice - cemented ridge brought us to the summit ridge, which may indeed be a "moderate scramble" on a summer's day, but only invited retreat as thunder rumbled near.

Sounds like the kind of trip you would be glad to have missed? Yet perversely we all seemed reasonably pleased to have been there, delighted to have survived intact the treacherous trap - strewn descent and eager to return to this very accessible and interesting area, some warm and dry summer day.

Access: Main Wilson Creek Rd. (south side), Rosebery. Turn off to right after 2.2km (km 3 marker on road) onto "Monitor/Marten Rd." (not marked but so known to the Forest Service). Follow the main road which ascends a side valley, then traverses west around a ridge and high above Wilson Creek to finally descend into the pass between the headwaters of Monitor and Marten Creeks. Cross Marten Creek and continue about 1km to the trail sign (21.8km from leaving highway). Excellent road, suitable for any clearance vehicle. However, a couple of slumping sections could pose future problems.

Party: Kirsten & George Apel, Tom Bell, Janet Cameron, Bert, Andrew & Sue Port (leader & reporter).





HIKING CAMP 1984

A SURFEIT OF BEAUTY

You cannot lead your children faithfully to these narrow axe-hewn church altars of yours, while the dark azure altars of heaven - the mountains that sustain your island home, mountains in which a pagan would have seen the powers of heaven rest in every wreathed cloud - remain for you without inscription; altars built, not to, but by, an unknown God.

John Ruskin.

Location: In the North Purcells, N.W. of Bugaboo Recreation Area.

On 28 July, twenty hikers waited for the helicopter where Hume Creek meets the North Duncan Highway. The night before, some of us camped at East Creek (KFP) camp and had certain misgivings about bashing through a washout on East Creek. However, all the vehicles made it through and the next uncertainty was helicopter arrival. We'd been warned about firefighting commitments. At 3:00 P.M. we were glad to be air-lifted into a magnificent meadow at 6100'. One way to avoid the uncertainty of helicopter arrival is to hike in as Joe and Jim did!

Day one dawned overcast but dry and everyone took off - except one hiker, who had the misfortune to fall off a foot bridge under construction! So he dried off and got away later.

Being in an area of unnamed peaks is inhibiting. I can't tell accurately where people went - except for long ridge walks from which one could clearly see the surrounding landmarks, e.g. Mt. Templeman.

On Sunday night, a rainfall cleared the air and Monday dawned clear and crisp.

Nearly everyone got to South Christalline Peak 9300' and all who did were very enthusiastic about the trip which included such a variety of terrain. We passed one of the high drip-off points of the CMII heli-hiking. It seemed to me that to be dropped off at around 7,500' eliminates some of the nicest features of the alpine: the meadows, forestcover, exciting creek crossings, flowers and waterfalls, thus diluting the experience. We saw ptarmigan, a hawk owl and humming birds. Jeff established his high solo camp for photographing.

A remarkably large luxurious meadow about 800' above the camp was named Table Top. It became a popular destination and offered miles of roaming through rich flowers, terraced waterfalls, swimmable lakes and enough breeze to keep the flies away.

The heat of the first two days abated, nights were cooler and more characteristic of mountain evenings. Sunset came as a relief and we admired the pink glow on the snow fields.

Karen, Sue, Megan, Jack and Jane reached the south peak of Tetragon 9550'. Jack and Sue decided against going onto the summit.

"Hatteras Reflection Lake", so-named for obvious reasons, was another popular site. Mosquitoes were bad but Helen, Mari and Jane ventured to it.

Jim and Mike made the circuit of Tetragon and Cuestaform Craggs and descended the glacier in teeming rain.

Mike, Sue, Jim and Joe gained "The Steeples" via the west ridge, a first ascent, and on the same day, made a first ascent of the unnamed peak west of the two peaks of Cuestaform Craggs.

The next day there was great excitement about the brilliance, duration and variety of the Northern Lights seen that night. Unfortunately, there was no re-run.

On Friday a heavy mist rolled around the valley as day dawned clear and bright again. Camp was festooned with clothes drying. Many decided to have a relaxed day of quiet enjoyment, revisiting favorite spots. Jim and Joe left early. Mike hiked to the icefield south and west. He looked into the headwaters of Fitch and O'Brien creeks 8800' where he saw six goats and heard coyotes in the valley.

Wildlife included Canada jays, sandpipers and their nests, cowbirds, ptarmigan and chicks, cariboo, bear and deer tracks, porcupine, goats, ground squirrels, marmots, hawk owls and eagles.

One of the lasting images of that camp will probably be the bouquet of Indian paint brush. None of us had ever seen such a variety of hues in one species of alpine flowers. It graced our presence. I hated to see the end of the magical week draw near. One just doesn't want to return to the world of all that other stuff! At the same time I felt I could hardly absorb any more beauty! I felt full to overflowing. The best one can do is cherish the memory and look forward to next year.

List of Participants

Jeff Ross
Richie & Pony Deane
Helen Butling
Anne Hawkes
John & Kay Stewart
John & Kay Biller
Jim Kienholz
Sue Port
Joe Arcovio
Mike Brewster
Megan Moorcroft
Jack & Jane Steed
Kathy Jones
Mari Earthy
Karin Szasz

MOUNTAINEERING ACCIDENTS

by Dr. Peter King
Some abstracts from Peter's reading

Nothing is more sobering than to review statistics associated with mountaineering accidents, and yet often their facts are revealing. Two fairly recent articles, one written in *The Physician and Sports Medicine* titled "Mountaineering and Rock Climbing Accidents", the other "Mountaineering Accidents in the Sierra Nevada", contained in *The American Journal of Sports Medicine* look at a large survey of climbers and the accidents which occurred.

The former article, written by Dr. Lee Schussman and Dr. Lawrence Lut studied climbing accidents in Grand Teton National Park from 1970 to 1980. Over that span of time 71,655 rock climbers and mountaineers tackled the surrounding landscape and in the same period there were 144 accidents and 30 deaths. Despite increasing numbers of climbers, the incidence rate remained at two accidents per 1000 climbers per year. The latter article by Dr. Jon McLennan and Dr. John Ungersma took a slightly different look at climbing and set out to prove the relationship between poor acclimatization and injury. These authors looked at 215 accidents over a five year period 1975 - 1980 on Class V routes in the Sierra Nevada. Despite the dissimilarities both articles have a recurring theme: climber error remains the major factor in a large number of climbing accidents.

In the Grand Tetons, it was found, several characteristics were associated with the climbing accidents: the lead climber ascending steep rock, travelling on snow, inexperience, and error in judgement. It has often been held that a majority of accidents occur on the descent when climbers are fatigued. Both articles point out that this is not necessarily true and in the case of the Sierra Nevada study the authors relate their statistics directly to the incidence of acute mountain sickness (AMS).

Climbing error precipitated or compounded 39 percent of all accidents in the Grand Tetons. Amazingly the most frequent error was a failure to use adequate equipment. Commonly this involved a climber on snow and ice without a proper ice axe. Failure to properly use a rope accounted for 53 per-

cent of accidents and it was felt by park rangers that many accidents would have been avoided or lessened with appropriate use of ropes. Interestingly there was no report of equipment failure, although improper use of equipment resulted in several accidents.

Fatalities had different characteristics, a higher number (57 percent) involved climber error. Secondly, more often climbers were travelling on snow. The authors expressed surprise at this fact stating a large number of climbers slipped on snow and turned a relatively minor incident into a major accident. They felt proper ice axe technique or recognition of the potential dangers of such a fall and consequently use of a rope could have prevented both injuries and death. They concluded by advising proper use of equipment (especially ice axes, possibly helmets), adequate climbing experience for a given route, placement of more protection, proper use of ropes for protection and proper anchors could reduce accidents and injury.

McLennan and Ungersma looked at accidents somewhat differently and had some different but parallel findings and some additional advice. Climber error remains a large component but in the Sierra Nevada climbers they demonstrated that poor acclimatization and hypothermia played a major role in impairing judgement which ultimately lead to accident. To a lesser extent they found equipment failure and weather were also involved. The Sierra Nevada report took their study further and had some scathing remarks regarding evacuation, an always controversial subject. In only 75 evacuations of a total of 205 was behavior felt to be even loosely appropriate. In 99 percent of the evacuations by helicopter or fixed wing were felt to be unnecessary and could have been avoided by simple treatment with immobilization and conscientious evacuation efforts by climbing partners or mountain rescue groups.

The authors had a number of recommendations based on their findings. These included:

- Annual physical exams
- Aerobic and strength training programs - It was implied that better conditioning may decrease the incidence of AMS (although this has previously not been documented and in fact has nothing to do with susceptible individuals). It was also suggested that a low incidence of involvement in isokinetics

strength training was reflected in a high incidence of lower extremity injuries.

- Daily flexibility exercises - the study showed that there was little evidence of stretching exercises prior to a climb.

- Prevention of AMS (see table below).
- Prevention of cold injury
- Conclusion of each days activities prior to onset of fatigue.
- Basic mountain medicine training.
- Formal mountaineering training by a certified instructor.

Climbing mishaps are a fact. They are a risk we assume to do those things in the mountains and back country that we enjoy. Anything that can be done to reduce the incidence of accidents however is important and these studies will prove to enlighten us all.

METHODS FOR PREVENTION OF ACUTE MOUNTAIN SICKNESS

Acclimatization:

1. 48 hours spent at 6000' to 8000' prior to climb, or
2. Gradual ascent - 1000' increments with an occasional extra night spent at the same altitude.

Appropriate hydration

Avoid over exertion by:

1. Frequent rest stops
 2. Light pack at altitudes greater than 10,000'
 3. Climbing pace 2/3 max heart rate
- High carbohydrate diet for first several days
Diamox (acetazolamide) only for
1. Individuals predisposed
 2. Rescuers requiring abrupt acclimatization

A LINK POEM

A linked poem from the south fork of Hume Creek in the Purcell Mountains. Fred Wah, John Walton Jr., Graham Kenyon, Craig Andrews, August 8,9,10, 1984.

And he said I was feeling
extremely potent up there. These ridges, this
shale talus slope
You
going down to the water, this
hillside saxifrage, here
these pussytoes windblown
on the hairline ridge. I
on the rock (these
mountain, mountain, mountains
slight powerful noises we hear our aloneness-
pure wind in the trees
this snow-lipped lake
word for footstep
buzzing oriental-flower life, these
lives.

And we climbed to the water
in a hard landscape;
broken pieces
of mountain
clinking
like fine china
under our boots.

this white heather, wind-blown
and chilled from time past
when the foggy mist we wore,
like grass the dew,
and the sun was not to be felt
as we hiked on towards unattainable horizons,
has taken on new life

New life in the shades of ancient times
fresh green against the grey grey slate
that years ago beneath the ice
was ground and smoothed.
Oblivious
life succeeds life
lichens, mosses, the wiry heath
tortured trees bent
from a hundred snows
And high above the grey mud

the grey dust of old snow to have suddenly to melt
to brilliant red and yellow sunlight when soft
exudes from the ice
to feed the lusty life
that waits below.

Ancient times' shadow
all night thunder-clapping rock
on rock the lichen-telling signs
of orange and yellow rust.

What waits below the mind
as well all told
the shade of words and things
we see each time
we look and think,

but a storm drove me down
off the ridge.

Down
granite greased
with wet heather and lichen.

Down
meadows brighter
in the rain than sun.

Down
past places passed before.

Down
the course of boggy streams.

Down
in the realm of dreams.

through alpine fir
like cathedral spires.

Down
to camp and a mocking sun
and I was sorry I had run.



A VISIT TO THE CHEHALIS

As we strolled along the trail beside Statlo Lake, fish rose sporadically and we snacked on an abundance of berries. We admired the views of Bardean and Ratney and wondered aloud whey there were 4 routes on the north face of Bardean, but none on Ratney. We reassured each other that this was probably because Ratney was farther away, and wandered on.

All to soon the trail disappeared. We thrashed through miles of slide maple and devil's club, traversed above stagnant pools, and wrestled with dwarf cedar. Was this still the same trip? At the opportunity we started up the cliffs below Bardean. After a hard struggle we admitted to a route-finding error, and began rappelling into the nearest gully. Around 6:00 we reached a good spot to bivvy, and promptly did so. Only half a day behind schedule!

Early next morning we were standing at the base of the north face of Ratney. Layer upon layer of overhanging boilerplates disappeared above us. Clearly a multi-day nail-up, in the best of Squamish traditions. We passed, and eyed the central buttress. No start, no finish, but looked good in the middle. We passed again, which narrowed our choice to the north east buttress, less aesthetic but still attractive.

Fifteen or sixteen pitches later we were on the summit. In the fading light we stared in awe at the great north face of Stone Rabbit, 2500 feet before disappearing behind a shoulder. A challenge for somebody's grandchildren. We prepared a hasty bivouac a few feet below the summit. We were now a full day behind schedule.

The third morning barely dawned at all. We awoke to a thick mist, mixed with a little rain, and had some difficulty in locating the north ridge, our planned descent route. Fortunately Bruce spotted a rappel sling (one of his specialties) and we were off. Seven rappels and lots of down-climbing later we were back on the glacier.

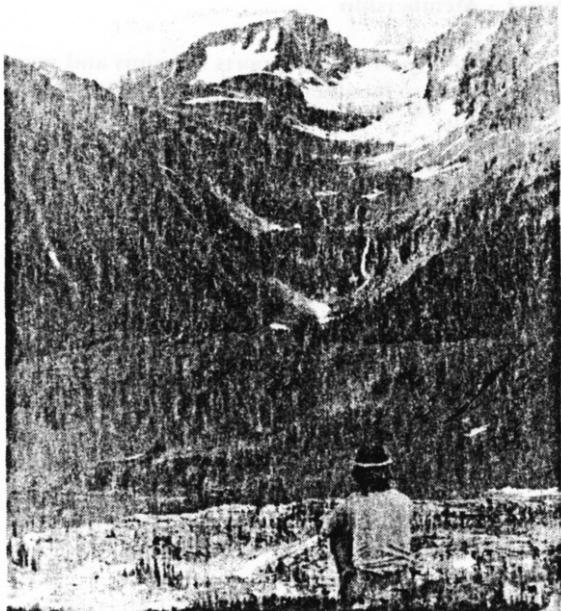
We crossed beneath a small ice-fall and headed down the avalanche grooves. When we reached the bottom we heard a serac break off, and watched a small avalanche roll toward us. It seemed a long way off until a few baseball-sized pieces of ice

whistled past. I swung my axe at a couple, but struck out. We smiled sheepishly at each other, and started down again. Simultaneously we heard a monster serac break off. One look and we ran like hell!

A final rappel brought us back to our first bivouac, where we ate everything in sight. It was now mid-afternoon, with a long bushwack still ahead. To avoid the bush, and a third bivvy, we decided to wade down the creek, and then down the side of the lake. Soggy, bu speedy! We reached the trail just as darkness fell.

Bruce Fairley and I made the first ascent of the North East buttress of Mt. Ratney in August, 1984. 15/16 pitches up to 5.7. Chehalis group, B.C.

by Hamish Mutch



bouldering and serac hunting
in the dark, we made it to the south side of the lake

the serac hunting was a bit of a challenge, but we made it to the south side of the lake

CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society is The Kootenay Mountaineering Club.
2. The purpose(s) of the Society are to promote an interest in, and development of, mountaineering; to further fellowship in the mountains, and to further the conservation of the natural values in the mountains by:
 - a) Organizing outdoor activities into the mountains, in particular, hiking, mountaineering and ski-mountaineering activities.
 - b) Instructing and assisting individuals and families in the sports of hiking, mountaineering and ski-mountaineering.
 - c) Expressing the views of the members of the society on the matters pertaining to the conservation of natural values in the mountains.

Part 1 - Membership

1.
 - a) Open to anyone who supports the aims and pays the appropriate membership dues to the Treasurer of the Club.
 - b) Categories: Senior - 19 years or over
Junior - 14 to 18 years inclusive
Family - including children under 19
 - c) Cessation of membership occurs upon non payment of the current annual membership fee or voluntary withdrawal by notifying the Treasurer of the Club verbally or in writing.
 - d) A member may be expelled by a special resolution of the members passed at a general meeting.
 - e) All members are in good standing except a member who has failed to pay his current annual membership fee or any other subscription or debt due and owing by him/her to the Society and he/she is not in good standing so long as the debt remains unpaid.
2. Fees
To be set at the Fall Annual General Meeting.
3. Proxy voting is not permitted.
4. All members over the age of 18 have one vote.

Part 2 - Meetings of Members

5. The President shall call two general meetings per year, one in the fall and one in the spring, of which the fall meeting shall be the Annual General Meeting.

6. Upon receipt of a written request by 10 percent of the voting members, the President shall call a Special General Meeting.
7. Notice of Special and General Meetings must be mailed to the membership at least two weeks before the date of the meeting.
8. A quorum consists of those members present at a duly called Special or General Meeting, but never less than three (3) persons.
9. The Executive shall meet not less than four times per year.

Part 3 - Proceedings at General Meetings

10. All votes shall be by simple majority, except for financial expenditures in excess of \$300.00, and by-law changes.
11. Seventy-five percent of the voting members present must be in favour for motions in either of the above categories to be passed.

Part 4- Election of Officers

12. The executive shall consist of the President, to be elected to a two year term at the Spring General Meeting, and the following positions, (two year terms) to be elected at a November General Meeting.
13. In all cases officers assume office at the end of the meeting at which they are elected. To provide continuity, half the Executive shall be elected in each year as below:

| Even Years | Odd Years |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Treasurer | Secretary |
| Social | Summer Camps |
| Trips | Mountaineering School |
| Conservation | Equipment, Trails and Cabins |
| Karabiner Editor | Newsletter |

14. Directors of the Club will not be renumerated except for expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred while engaged in the affairs of the Society.
15. The members may by special resolution remove a director before the expiration of his term of office, and may elect a successor to complete the term of office.

Part 5-Duties of Officers

16. The Secretary shall

- a) conduct the correspondence of the Society,
- b) issue notices of meetings of the Society and directors,
- c) keep minutes of all meetings of the Society and directors,
- d) have custody of all records and documents of the Society,
- e) and maintain the register of members.

17. The Treasurer shall

- a) keep such financial records, including books of account, as are necessary to comply with the Societies Act, and
- b) render financial statements to the directors, members and others when required.

18. The Karabiner Editor shall produce and distribute to members the annual publication.

19. The Summer Camps Chairperson shall be responsible for all aspects of all club summer camps.

20. The Social Program Chairperson shall co-ordinate social activities.

21. The Equipment Trails and Cabins Chairperson shall

- a) be responsible for keeping an inventory of club equipment including where it is stored, and making recommendations about replacement of new acquisitions,
- b) co-ordinate trail programs, and
- c) be responsible for maintenance of existing cabins.

22. The Newsletter Editor shall

- a) compile, edit, and distribute the club newsletter,
- b) be responsible for publicity of club activities and concerns.

23. The Mountaineering School Chairperson shall be responsible for the annual mountaineering school(s).

24. The Mountain Rescue Chairperson shall be responsible for the maintenance of an effective mountain rescue group, and liaison with the Provincial Emergency Program.

25. The Conservation Chairperson shall coordinate club activities in conservation.

26. The President shall have the authority to strike temporary committee, call meeting, and chair Special General and Executive meetings.

27. Executive Members have the specific responsibilities listed in paragraph (c). They may strike temporary committees as large as necessary for the
28. Each executive member shall submit an annual report at the Movember General Meeting.

29. The executive may authorize individual expenditures from general funds of up to \$300.00 annually without going before a general meeting.

30. The Society will not exercise borrowing powers.

31. Signing officers shall be any two of Treasurer, Secretary and another executive member to be nominated by the executive.

32. Procedure Following Resignation of the President or Other Executive Member(s)

a) In the case of the resignation of the President, the executive as a whole shall nominate a replacement.

b) In the case of the resignation of any other executive member(s) the President shall nominate a replacement.

c) An appointed President shall assume office until the Spring meeting, following the appointment; an appointed executive member until the Fall meeting following the appointment, at which time an election shall be held for the balance of the term.

Part 6- Nominating Committee

33. The President shall appoint a nominating committee of three members prior to any election. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Part 7- By-Laws

34. By-laws must be changed by a seventy-five percent majority vote at any duly called Special or General meeting. Motion of change must be circulated at least two weeks in advance.

Thanks to Fred Thiessen for seeing the Constitution Project through its many drafts.

