

# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1996

Next deadline: January 27

## TRIPS and EVENTS . . .

Trip destinations will depend on what access is available. Contact the leader for more information and to confirm that your equipment and experience are suitable for the planned outing.

**Jan. 13 (Sat):** Vivien Bowers (825-4392). Suitable for light touring and telemarking.

**Jan. 14:** Fred Thiessen (352-6140)

**Jan. 15:** Directors' meeting 7:30pm at the Lion's Head Pub, Robson (upstairs). The main topic will be responsibility and liability in regard to club trips and camps. Anyone interested is welcome.

**Jan. 21:** Roland Perrin (352-5480)

**Jan. 28:** Evan McKenzie (352-7801). Suitable for light touring/telemark

**Feb. 4:** Fred Thiessen (352-6140)

**Feb. 10 (Sat):** Dwain Boyer (825-4654)

**Feb. 11:** Dennis Holden (365-2715). Mud Lake to Bonanza via Michener Creek. Suitable for light touring/telemark.

**Feb. 18:** Roland Perrin (352-5480)

**Membership renewals due!**

FINAL NOTICE !!!!!!!

## Club Membership

All KMC memberships are due for renewal as of year end, so check the address label on your newsletter. If it is not Curr.Yr:96 or greater, your membership is expiring. The categories and rates have changed this year to \$30 for individuals, \$45 for families, and \$10 for juniors. If you have already renewed, check that the label has been updated.

## KMC Directors 1995-1996

### Nelson/Slocan Valley

David Mitchell	(President, Winter Trips)	354-4052
Bob Dean	(Summer Trips)	359-7759
Edward Ibrahim	(Conservation)	825-0085
Peter Macek	(Newsletter)	226-7576
Mark Hamilton	(Equipment, Cabins & Trails)	352-5824
Larry Smith	(Climbing Camp)	359-7965
<u>Castlegar</u>		
Susan Knoerr	(Past President)	365-7779
Drew Desjardins	(Vice-President)	365-3304 / 825-0072
Muriel Walton	(Secretary)	365-6519
Ron Perrier	(Karabiner)	365-2696
Peter Bullock	(Mountaineering School)	365-3969

### Rosland/Trail/Fruitvale

Garth Thomson	(Treasurer)	362-7649
Laurie Charlton	(Hiking Camps)	362-9461
Joanne Baldassi	(Entertainment)	362-9461



# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter is printed approximately ten times each year.

## EDITOR: Peter Macek

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## MEMBERSHIP

The club dues are:

Individual	\$30.00
Couple/family	\$45.00
Junior	\$10.00

Send dues to: Box 221  
Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

## SUBMISSIONS

I encourage all submissions of writing, cartoons, drawings, etc. Trip leaders should submit their writeups as soon after their trips as possible. Articles can be submitted in most written and electronic forms.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Suitability for publication is at the editor's discretion. Articles may be edited for clarity or for length. If you feel this may affect the integrity of your work, please attach a note to that effect.

## From the Editor...

My ambition to put out this issue during the holidays has somehow slipped a week...

I've taking this opportunity to put in a few articles that I hope are of interest, even if slightly less usual. Comments and contributions are always very welcome.

Best wishes to all for 1996 and keep those reports coming! (Now isn't that a typical editor's greeting!!)

## Club Business

The following is my summary of the reports that were given at the AGM on November 3 (which I didn't have room for last issue), and the monthly reports from the last Directors' meeting.

## Hiking Camps

- The new lottery system seemed to work well, and was used to reassign people because many more wanted to go to second camp than it could accommodate. The camps ended up with one vacancy, so no one is left on the list for next year. Laurie is looking at sites in the Lardeau area for next year's camps. Contact him at 362-9461 if you have any suggestions.

## Winter Trips

- All the trips last year were one day. This year's trips are being organized to give a greater variety, so they will not all be gnarly epics. There are 26 planned trips, 5 of them on Saturday.

## Treasurer's Report

- Costs were up this year, and after discussion, the membership moved to raise our fees in order to balance the budget. The new fees will be \$30 individual, \$45 families, \$10 junior.

## Equipment, Cabins, and Trails

- The Steed Hut is not quite finished, but there are plans to try to get it done during this ski season. A large part of this position in the future will probably be to work on maintaining access to the cabins for only non-motorized trips. George and Kirsten Apel were given small gifts at the AGM in recognition of the tremendous job George has done over the last six years, and to Kirsten for cheerfully putting up with it. Future priorities for the Cabins committee will include 1)Upgrading woodstoves and chimneys to meet the fire code and replacing oversize stoves with smaller more fuel efficient ones. 2)Finding an alternate, more efficient fuel. For a place like the Steed Hut, artificial logs are equal in cost to flying in firewood.

## Federation of Mountain Clubs

- FMCBC is working to try to resolve snow machine conflict, lobbying against Jumbo Pass development, and the growing concern of private land owners over possible liability. The Federation will also back us in regards to Kinnaird Bluffs.

## Nancy Greene Recreational Area

- This area, which the Club originally helped to have set aside, is heavily used by members, but is definitely not wilderness and so seems to be about to fall through the cracks of the provinces land use strategy. The Club passed a motion that a letter to the Forest Service be written to urge that the area be designated Special Use, not Integrated Use. This would mean that recreation would be strongly considered when logging plans are drawn up. See Ted's article below

If there are any KMC members with an interest in this issue and especially any expertise, the committee would love to hear from you. If you are a professional in this line of work, there is some money available, so don't feel that you will be asked to do endless volunteer work.

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## NANCY GREENE RECREATION AREA

The KMC Conservation Committee recently met and sent the following letter expressing concern about the changes to the former Nancy Greene Recreation Area. Club members are urged to write their own letters.

Inter Agency Management Committee  
c/o Cathy Scott-May  
401-333 Victoria St., Nelson V1L 4K3

Dear Sirs:

In our letter to Mr. T. Murray Rankin (LUCO) on 8th February 1995, we expressed concern about removal of recreational area status from the Nancy Greene Recreational Area, and that it should be retained at least as a Special Management Area. The Land Use Plan, however, has recommended Integrated status, as suggested by CORE.

Our Kootenay Mountaineering Club (KMC) club members, particularly those in the Rossland/Trail/Castlegar area, have expressed dissatisfaction with the Integrated designation, since they do not feel that it will give sufficient protection from road building and logging both now and in future. Already there is logging on the periphery of the Nancy Greene RA that is having a detrimental visual effect.

The Nancy Greene RA is a very important local area for hiking, back-country skiing, mountain biking and wilderness / wildlife experience. In recent years, the KMC has had hikes and back-country ski trips to Old Glory, Record Ridge, Mt. Kirkup, Mt. Plewman, Strawberry Flats, Paulson cross-country ski trails and Bonanza trails.

This area is also heavily used by individual members of the club. The West Kootenays have a rapid population expansion plus a steadily growing number of tourists and we think parks should be added, not removed

## Kinnaird Bluffs

As anyone who has climbed there recently knows, the subdivision is in, but the club's attempts to secure the Bluffs for continued access continues. The Kinnaird Bluffs Access Society, formed after the death of Eazy Engleman last year, is stalled and in a bit of a mess. The KMC has one director on the board (Bert Port), but if anything is going to happen, it will probably have to be outside this Society, and the KMC is probably the only organization that can get things to happen. Houses have not yet been built, so there is probably still a bit of time to reach an agreement, which the developer seems willing to negotiate.

The KMC has formed a committee to work on securing public access to the Bluffs. Presently, the members are: Bert Port (Chair), Peter Bullock, Drew Desjardins, George Apel, Mark Hamilton, and Jeff Krueger. Its tasks include:

- terms of termination of the old Kinnaird Bluffs Access Society.
- funding.
- creating a development plan.
- seeking advice from the Regional Planner, lawyers, and other planners.
- considering the new liability legislation
- looking into the B.C. Climbers' Access Society. This is a new provincial organization that is to lobby for access to BC's cliffs and mountains.

from this area.

We therefore ask that the Nancy Greene Recreation Area should at least retain its present Recreation Area status (presumably Special Management under the future designations) and not be downgraded to Integrated and should be planned as a future park, i.e. fully protected.

We further suggest that the largely unspoiled area to the west of the Nancy Greene RA should be added to this park.

Yours truly  
E. F. Ibrahim, Chairman  
KMC Conservation Committee

cc: K. Baker (LUCO), D. Butler & C. Porter BC Lands, Ministry of Forests, Premier M. Harcourt, Corky Evans MLA, E. Conroy MLA, Castlegar Nordic, Nelson Nordic, Black Jack Cross Country Ski Club, R. Freeman FMCBC (W. Hurst, R. Hellman, D. Mitchell, P. Carter, M. Walton KMC)



Snowpack is heading into the winter season with several exciting offerings. We have new telemark boot designs from Asolo and Scarpa, new outerwear from Patagonia, Sierra Designs, and Columbia including Convert snowboard gear. As always, our cotton clothing reflects the casual lifestyle we in the Kootenays are famous for.

Snowpack's ski program will reflect an increased commitment to skate skiing through sales, rentals, and instruction as staff member Dave Cressman will be using his Level 1 Nordic Certification to help get people skiing smoother. Kari Hill, another Snowpack employee, will be taking on the telemark instruction. With several years' experience, she'll have you free heel'n with the best of them.

Snowpack offers a complete selection of backcountry safety gear such as Pieps and Ortovox transceivers, probes, shovels, and skins. Rentals are available. We are competitively priced and do match prices with Mountain Equipment Co-op. KMC members will receive a 10% discount on regularly priced merchandise.

We at Snowpack are looking forward to a great ski season and being able to provide the quality gear, service, and commitment the Kootenays demand and deserve.

## KOOTENAY EXPERIENCE

### Three Times Everest

Thanks to all who attended the Three Times Everest slide show by Tim Rippel on October 19th. Those who attended were also treated to a fantastic audio visual presentation by Dave Gluns of Nelson. Dave compiled the best of his six years of Nepal treks to give us some insight to his world of Nepal.

### Reminder

Kootenay Experience is offering a series of Avalanche and Telemark Courses.

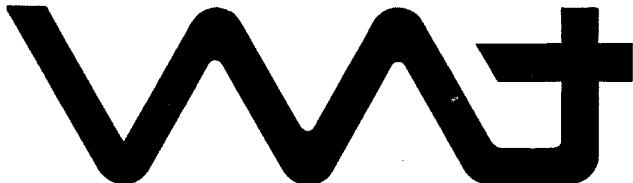
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### WANTED TO BUY:

Ski mountaineering bindings in good condition to fit size 9 men's boot and DF or new frequency avalanche beacon.  
Please phone Mark in Cranbrook at 604-489-2825 evenings.

### FOR SALE:

1 pair Crispi D-racer telemark boots. All leather with thinsulite inner boot. Used one season. Excellent shape. \$350.00. Phone Derek Marcoux at 352-2984



## VALHALLA MOUNTAIN TOURING

Located outside the northern boundary of Valhalla Park our comfortable backcountry cabin gives easy access to many alpine bowls. Our snowcat will take you safely from the valley to the cabin. The surrounding mountains provide some of the finest ski touring and telemarking on an average snow base of 3 meters. The guides and staff are fully qualified professionals as well as being hospitable, friendly people. We offer early season 3 day avalanche courses and a variety of booking packages.

RR#1, Box 43, New Denver BC V0G 1S0  
(604) 358-7905

## Winter Roads Update

To date, the following roads are open, no reports have come in with respect to the quality of skiing. Brackets at the end of the sentence are the licensee.

Market conditions, heavy snow and any number of variables can change how long roads will be open. Expect logging trucks Monday through Saturday, with 50 tonne loads on steep roads, they can't stop easily. Snowploughing equipment and pickup trucks can be expected anytime.

### Keen Creek Drainage

Ploughed to Ben Hur Creek (3800'). There is an unploughed r/w to the top of the Ben Hur Creek, this would be a long tour, but the skiing would be good once up there. (SFP)

Deer Creek drainage is ploughed 4 km. (4 000') up from the junction with Keen Creek to about the end of Jan. (SFP)

### Hoder Creek Drainage (TFL 3)

Watson Creek. This is the drainage flowing west from Mt. Freya and Ludlow. Road is ploughed 7 km. up this drainage to around 5000', to about mid Jan.(SFP)

### Koch Creek Drainage (TFL 3)

Berry Creek. This drainage flows east from the Mt. Freya/Heimdal area. The road is being ploughed in late Dec. & will be open into March. This will be high elevation logging around 5000'. SFP figures this will give the best skiing.(SFP)

### Snowater Creek

Road was ploughed to 5000' (around the last switchback or a bit higher) until Dec. 20 or so, when the contractor moved down to Conner Creek, which has poor skiing. Until it snows heavily enough to close the road, Snowater Road gives access to the Copper Mt. area.  
(Kalesnikoff)

### Grassy Mountain Area

ATCO will be logging the NE corner of SL 8, at the headwaters of McPhee Creek and Glade Creek at around 6 000' from Jan 1 - to breakup (14 km. north of the summit). This road will give very good access to the Grassy Hut and to Mt.Siwash. (ATCO)

## TRIP REPORTS

### DEVILS HORN (8650 FT.)

September 17, 1995

Fred Thiessen

Devils Horn is a small peak on the divide between Campbell Creek and Powder Creek, north of the larger lake at the headwaters of Powder Creek, on the east side of Kootenay Lake. We met at Kootenay Landing at 0640, and set off. The Powder Creek road was overgrown and very rough, but we finally reached the end of the road at 5400 ft. at 0845. Leaving the cars at 0900, we followed the trail to the lake, then scrambled up the slopes to the summit, which we reached at 1130. This summit gives great views of the Leaning Towers and the southern Purcell Mts. The geology appears to be some kind of quartzite, which makes for good rock, sharp too. We were back at the cars at 1500.

Observations on our outing included:

- 2 cougars
- 3, B-52's

-Quartzite gives very clean incisions and first aid kits are handy items in the pack.

We were: Kim Kratky, Robin Lidstone, Hamish Mutch, Knut Langballe, Fred Thiessen.

### MACBETH ICEFIELDS

September 23-24, 1995

Armin Hasenkox

With the September weather continuing to produce day after day of incredible sunshine things were looking bright as we prepared for the MacBeth Icefields traverse.

Robin and Ted met Armin and Bill at the Rosewood Cafe in Kaslo on Saturday evening arriving just as Armin and Bill finished a fine meal. This restaurant is definitely recommended. Pleasant atmosphere, pleasing decor and good food.

We left Kaslo and drove up the Glacier Creek road to the MacBeth Icefields Trail head where we dropped off Robin's "hybrid" four

wheel drive truck which had been slightly modified by his son Peter. We then continued up to the end of the north fork of Glacier Creek road where we met Jim, Dave and Ramin. After a pleasant evening sitting around the fire and ensuring we were properly hydrated for the long, hot day ahead we retired early so as to be ready for an early morning start.

The next morning we were up and hiking as soon as there was sufficient light at 6:10AM. The initial section of the traverse is a somewhat "character building" bushwhack. Luckily several previous trips on this route had taught the leader where not to go and after a short two hours we were through the worst of it and found ourselves in the alpine in an area that has come to be commonly referred to as Crystal Ridge. This was the location of a KMC Hiking Camp a few years back and is certainly worth the bushwhack into it.

From there we continued north-east gaining the glacier directly east of Mt. McDuff and then crossing it to just below a low point in the ridge directly north of Mt. McDuff. At this point everyone decided to pick their own route up the ridge with Robin/Ted climbing a col, Bill/Dave/Jim getting off the ice and climbing a rock rib and Armin/Ramin choosing a mixed rock/ice/snow pitch. Eventually all met on top of the ridge at 11:00AM for a leisurely snack while enjoying a view the MacBeth Icefields to the west and Ridge to the east. We then roped up and crossed the MacBeth Icefields from the northeast corner to the southwest corner where we climbed off the ice onto the rocks and enjoyed a warm and sunny lunch break.

After lunch we all scrambled down across the rocks to an old lateral moraine that leads down to the small lake at the top of the MacBeth Icefields trail. Robin, who must have been bored with the relative ease of this section of the hike, decided to take an "alternate" route which involved a 170 foot rappel.

The hike down the trail was uneventful with us arriving at Robin's truck at 4:30PM. We all climbed into the 4-wheel drive "race car" and were treated to an expedient and rather thrilling ride back up the north fork. Heckling from the backseat drivers, regarding the skill of British rally drivers, ensured that no time was wasted getting there. All in all it appeared that an enjoyable day was had by all. We were Robin Lidstone, Ted Ibrahim, Bill Lewis, Ramin Shercat, Dave Horner, Jim Wood and Armin Hasenkox (trip leader and reporter).

## **GWILLAM LAKES/ LUCIFER MOUNTAIN**

October 1, 1995

Roland Perrin

With heavy rain falling the day before the trip, many decided to pursue other activities. Fifteen of us met at the Credit Union early in the morning and as the fog gradually lifted in the Slocan Valley, we saw mountains covered with snow. The mixture of sun, snow, and fall colours made for excellent photographs and great beauty. As we hiked towards Gwillam Lakes the snow became deeper, the rocks slipperier and a decision was made to forgo an ascent of Lucifer Peak. We enjoyed the sunshine and the snow at Gwillam Lakes and then slowly returned to our vehicles eating some of the last huckleberries of the season.

## **COPPER MOUNTAIN**

October 15, 1995

Anna Thyer

After a week of almost constant rain, the sky cleared just the evening before our trip to Copper Mt. This may have been one of the first hikes this season pretty well all the way in about 1' of snow, which was greatly enjoyed by the 4 children (& of course the adults) with snowball "fights", rolling in the snow and on the way down a fast ride on the 'crazy carpet'. There was the challenge of identifying the animal tracks in the snow - yes, mama bear's definitely, baby bear's almost certainly & maybe a big cat, or wolf?

From the top the 360 degree view of snow capped peaks, the fall shades of yellow below, all bathed in sunshine, remain memorable. The normally "rough" road was even worse with snow on it. Towards the end all of us 16 "souls" had somehow climbed on to Bob Dean's trusty truck, to be transported the last km/mile or so, to where it said something like "road end". As we unscrambled from the truck, we were Inge & John Benda, their children Jonathan, Jeremy & Naomy-Lina, also Barbara & son Jay, Jonathan Smith (Great Britain), Henrietta (Denmark), Ted Ibrahim, Robin Lidstone, Mary Woodward, Knut & Jill Langballe and of course our very capable driver & sometime leader, Bob Dean.

## **PILOT BAY**

October 22, 1995

Jane Steed

Only two members, Earl and Jane enjoyed the Pilot Bay Trail hike. It was a flawless fall day - clear, crisp, and colourful.

## **SILVER SPRAY CABIN**

October 22, 1995

Ted Ibrahim

This was an extra trip arranged at the last minute to take advantage of the weather and have a hike at as high an elevation as was reasonably possible. Nine people met at the Kokanee Glacier road at 8am and then drove to the start of the hike up Woodbury Creek. No snow was encountered on the drive to the trail head but shortly afterwards we were walking in some snow. Although at higher elevations, a leg occasionally broke through the snow when crossing boulder fields, most of the time the snow was never too deep for pleasant walking, and the weather was excellent. For many of us this was our first visit to the new cabin and we were suitably impressed and took full advantage of it to relax for an extended lunch.

The participants were: Dave Mitchell, Bob Dean, Robin Lidstone, Drew Desjardins, Joan Grodski, Jonathan Smith, Henrietta ?, David Shadbolt, Ted Ibrahim.

## **LOST LAKE**

October 30, 1995

Sue Port

As the snow piled up at the scheduled destination of "Kokanee Lake and beyond", we settled for the lower level alternative of Lost Lake (below Commonwealth Mountain). We parked on the Barrett Creek Road at the bottom of the steep mining road to Lost Lake at 3500' and soon encountered snow, and a great array of tracks: bear, large and small ungulate (no identifying hunters among us), grouse, weasel, etc. At lake level, 6000', there were about 40 cm of snow. A good brisk walk on a mostly sunny day. On the trip: Ted Ibrahim, Mary Woodward, Jill Watson, Anya Logodi, Robin Lidstone, Sue Port(L).

## SELKIRK TRAILS AND DOVE HILL

November 26, 1995

Wendy Hurst

Starting from the Parking lot (park and ride) S.W. of the Brilliant Bridge, we cut down to the Kootenay River and walked along the floodplain in a S.Westerly direction until we linked up with the Easternmost arm of the College Trails Network. We followed the main loop around the Kootenay/Columbia waterfront and took the side trail up towards the Airport. We crossed the main highway and followed the track that parallels the north perimeter fence of the airport until we hit the golf course road. From there we followed the normal route up to the Dove Hill trail. In good weather (not soggy bush) it should be possible to drop from the top of Dove hill down the W.N.W. fall line of Dove Hill and come out where the Golf course road joins Highway 3 right opposite the car park. We returned back down the Golf Course road. The trip took 4 hours including a lunch break.

There were five club members and three "prospectives".

## HUMMINGBIRD PASS

December 17, 1995

Peter Jordan

This trip was partly avalanche practice, partly fun. We started off by blundering around below the Whitewater road for half an hour or so without finding the bridge. So we just followed our nose, and after crossing the creek, we found the old mine road on the other side, and made our way to Hummingbird Pass. Lots of new snow to break trail in. We had a practice session with Pieps - everyone succeeded in finding the buried Pieps in less than 5 minutes or so. A snow pit showed very stable snow conditions.

We continued to the top of Evening Ridge, where we had two short runs down steep bowls on the north side. Then we had an exciting run in perfect powder down the steep northeast face, and returned through Hummingbird Pass to our vehicles, just before dark. We were: Jim Wood, Curt Nixon, Dwain Boyer, Tim Boyer, Peter Jordan

## COPPER HUT

November 26, 1995

Boxing Day, 1995

Fred Thiessen

Who were those people, still stuffed with turkey waiting beside the road at South Slocan on that Boxing Day morning at 0730? They were: R & M Perrin, V Bowers, J Wood, S Mo, S, B & A Port, D Mitchell, B McEwen, D Marcoux and F Thiessen all wanting to ski off those dessert calories.

The Snowater Road was ploughed to about 1 680 m, so we skied to the Copper Hut, had lunch, then skied 2 runs into Hall Creek (steep, deep and stable) and came home. Some observations on what's going out there; south facing slopes are suncrusted above 2 000 m., north slopes and frost pockets have a big hoar frost crystals. The above should be kept in mind when the next weather (avalanche) system comes by.



## Long Johns

The following article from the Alpine Club's Avalanche Echoes by Deanne Mould was passed on to me by Fred Thiessen. I trust it's useful to some of you...

These days there's more excitement in putting on your long underwear than having it taken off for you! Because the technology be-

hind synthetic materials has radically evolved, your new long johns will feel almost as comfortable as those old cotton sweat pants.

You know your ol' polypro that felt like recycled cardboard when it came out of the drier, and smelled even worse! Well, let your mom have it for cleaning out the oven.

The new garments are nearly as "hydrophobic" as polypro, absorbing less than one percent of their weight in moisture, yet won't retain odours quite as badly. The nature of polypro was that it repelled all water but also kept water vapour from mixing with the natural oils of the body.

The most common material now is polyester which is often blended with everybody's favourite material - lycra - added for stretchiness and comfort. (Dupont, responsible for coming up with lycra, must be making a fortune!) However, a garment with lycra will also be more expensive because the stretchy material is so difficult for manufacturers to sew.

Heck, even the natural fibres such as silk can't keep up with the efficiency of the new materials. If you are a natural-fibre fetishist, you'll have to do some compromising, because synthetics simply last longer and work better.

Often polyesters will be treated with different chemicals to facilitate moisture disbursement. Keep in mind that none of the treatments are permanent and they will wash out in time.

The various polyester undergarments available are shirts, zip T's, tights, and zip vests. Look for soon-to-be-released bras and briefs in synthetic materials.

Distinguished as light-weight, medium-weight, and expedition-weight, the underwear is designed to meet different layering needs.

For instance, light-weight is a versatile component when it comes to layering and useful over a range of different activities. It's a "heavyweight" when it comes to sales.

The mid-weights are useful in that they contain bi-component materials which create a wicking effect. The components are a lofted polyester inner layer and a nylon outer layer. The inner layer is more absorbent, and the outer layer is more hydrophobic, which absorbs then repels the moisture away from your skin.

For expedition weights, the polyester is given more lofting so that it almost feels like pile. This material is very insulating and beneficial in extreme temperatures.

What's closest to your skin has got to be the most important part of your layering system. You know you're in good company when it's polyester that's next to you.

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## ANYONE FOR A CAR CO-OP?

**Norm Thyer**

We are lucky to live in an area whose mountain recreation opportunities are so close. The unfortunate thing is that for access to many of them, one needs a motor vehicle, and in many cases it needs to be a 4-wheel-drive vehicle with high clearance.

This requirement can be a problem for some of us. We do most of our driving on highways, and a vehicle that is short and manoeuvrable enough to handle steep, rough roads may not be ideal for highway use. 4-wheel-drive vehicles can be expensive too, and owning one as well as a highway vehicle is beyond many people's means.

The cost of owning and running a car involves far more than buying the occasional tankful of fuel. By the time one has taken into account depreciation (i.e. purchase price averaged over the car's lifetime), insurance, maintenance and repairs, keeping a car can cost as much as all one's basic living expenses other than rent or mortgage payments. So, for a typical season's activities, the cost of keeping a rough-road vehicle could easily approach \$100 per trip, which is probably far more than one spends on other items of equipment.

These are just the costs to the owner. The costs to society generally, and to the environment, are just as onerous. The automobile is probably the most harmful non-military technological device in existence, causing deaths from accidents and pollution, producing garbage, consuming land, consuming energy, and also consuming a big fraction of people's income, plus government expenditures on the required infrastructure which are probably far greater than provision of alternative transport. Auto-Free Ottawa estimates that every person who does not own a car still pays \$2000 to \$5000 a year in subsidies to the car culture, and Northwest Environment Watch claims that each car in greater Vancouver costs society an

estimated \$2700 per year beyond what its owner pays. It is estimated that a million animals are killed each day on highways in the USA, excluding invertebrates.

Even if we can't eliminate motor vehicles, we should try to minimize their proliferation, whose rate now exceeds population growth to the point where they outnumber licensed drivers in the "Pacific Northwest".

Are there any alternatives to car ownership that will allow one free access to the mountains?

While private ownership allows use of an asset to the owner, it also denies use to other people. An idea whose popularity is growing in some places is a car-cooperative. Such a system exists in Berlin, Germany and Eugene, Oregon, for example. Instead of each member owning a car, the group owns a few cars that are available to members. This results in a considerable reduction in both public and private expenses.

Existing systems of this sort are in urban areas where public transport is available as an alternative to car use. However, perhaps the idea could be adapted for our situation. KMC members could form, or apply for membership in, a cooperative which would own a vehicle suitable for back-roads use, with 4-wheel-drive and good clearance. A 4-seater with space for baggage could be a good size. (Unless members prefer to drive individual vehicles in the name of independence and to promote economic growth, at the expense of pollution and parking-space congestion.) It could be kept at a convenient location, managed by a small committee, and be available for both club and private trips, with priority for club trips, and especially leaders who want to reconnoitre for a trip.

A detailed discussion is not practicable here, but information and advice are available from existing co-ops. If anyone is interested in discussing this possibility further, please get in touch with me.

Norman Thyer  
6115 Sproule Creek Road, RR2 S22 C7,  
Nelson, B.C., Canada V1L 5P5  
Tel: 604-352-5265  
E-mail: nthyer@web.apc.org

ing the following excerpts from a Le Monde article (of Aug 26, 1995) passed on by Kim Kratky...

## Counting the cost of saving daredevils

This August, the news has once again reminded us that "adventure sports" are also risky sports: three teenagers drowned when they went "canyoning" in the Alpes-Maritimes (...the descent of a steep river gorge partly walking, partly swimming, and partly abseiling); seven speleologists disappeared - luckily only temporarily - down a pothole in Haute-Savoie and a paragliding enthusiast and a mountaineer were killed.

... The 13 survivors of the disastrous canyoning expedition...had to be winched up into helicopters. The cost of mustering 50 rescuers and four helicopters was well over 100,000 francs (\$26,000)...

There is an increasingly widespread feeling that it would be fair to ask such hotheads to contribute to that cost, which at present is entirely borne by the state and local authorities, in the hope of persuading them to behave more prudently.

"Individuals are free to take risks themselves, but not to force rescuers to take them as well, nor to get the French taxpayer to pick up the bill"...

The current craze for high-risk sports reflects changes in society... Every weekend at the height of summer, 15,000 to 20,000 people go canyoning. There are thought to be 200,000 potholers in France.

While the number of sea and lake rescue operations has remained surprisingly stable since 1981 (about 800 a year) similar operations in mountain areas increased spectacularly from 1802 in 1981 to 3249 last year.... Public safety helicopters in Chamonix are called out 20 to 30 times a day.... Even experienced people, who prepare themselves properly, nowadays find it extremely difficult to call off an expedition if, for example, there is a change in the weather. Perhaps it's because, subconsciously, they realize we'll come and get them wherever they go.

Finally this month, in keeping with the theme of the upcoming directors' meeting - leader responsibilities and club liability, I am enclos-

# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1996

Next deadline: March 1



## TRIPS and EVENTS . . .

**Feb. 25:** Armin Hasencox (354-4555)

**March 2 (Sat):** Don Olsen (362-5194) Old Glory-Plewman Basin

**March 2 (Sat):** Earl Jorgensen (352-7775)  
**Light Touring** Clearwater to Ymir townsite. Note that this is a change from Sunday.

**March 10:** Dave Horner (352-3223) Suitable for light touring and telemarking

**March 17:** Peter Jordan (352-5225) Mt. Heimdal (Hoder Creek) if road conditions permit. Fairly challenging if the summit is attempted, B to C-3.

**March 24:** Mark Hamilton (352—5824)

**March 31:** Leader to be announced. Contact David Mitchell (354-4052)

## Mountaineering School

Once again we look forward to a great year of climbing, starting with the KMC Mountaineering School at the end of April.

The mountaineering school is a ten week introduction to back country adventures involving ropes and rescue knowledge. It covers rope handling, belay techniques, protection placements, and basic rescue procedures. Everyone is welcome to this course which focuses mainly on one to one instruction. "First come, first served" so get your application in early!

I am also interested in organizing other events such as avalanche courses, ice climbing techniques, and perhaps a more condensed version of the rock school, for people who just want a day to brush up on their skills before the summer. Please let me know if you are interested in anything like this.

I will be contacting all the previous years' instructors soon but if I miss you or you would like to help out please phone me - Pete Bullock at 365-5886 This is a new number. (Fax number is the same). □

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

\* Information and application forms  
for:  
• Hiking Camp  
• Mountaineering School

\* Summary of 1995 summer trips



# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter is printed approximately ten times each year.

## EDITOR: Peter Macek

Site 7, Comp 10, RR#1  
Slocan Park, BC V0G 2E0  
phone: 226-7576  
fax: 226-7576 (Note change)  
e-mail: pmacek@selkirk.bc.ca

## MEMBERSHIP

The club dues are:

Individual	\$30.00
Couple/family	\$45.00
Junior	\$10.00

Send dues to: Box 221  
Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

## SUBMISSIONS

I encourage all submissions of writing, cartoons, drawings, etc. Trip leaders should submit their writeups as soon after their trips as possible. Articles can be submitted in most written and electronic forms.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Suitability for publication is at the editor's discretion. Articles may be edited for clarity or for length. If you feel this may affect the integrity of your work, please attach a note to that effect.

## From the Editor...

Welcome to the annual "collectors' issue" of the newsletter. Because it is membership renewal time, circulation has dropped from 220 to 130. So congratulations for getting your act together!

There will be room in the March issue for Trip Reports, so thanks for sending yours in, and keep them coming.

## Donation

In behalf of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, I would like to thank Dave Elliott and Snowpack for the generous support of \$250.00 to be used to complete the Steed Hut. Mark Hamilton, Director of Cabins/Trails.

## Karabiner - Important

The next issue of the Karabiner is coming together, but Ron is in desperate need of volunteers to help type the material. In the budget cutting effort last fall, the Karabiner amount was cut radically, so there is no money available to pay for typing. If anyone out there has a bit of time to help out, contact Ron Perrier at 365-2696.

## Club Business

The following items come from the directors' meetings in January and February.

### Snowmobiles

There is a province-wide push for registration of machines. The snow machine clubs generally recognize that this is necessary, so it may happen. Continuing efforts are being made to define how the back country is to be used. The BC Land Act and Forest Act can restrict use and are being applied in the Jumbo Creek and Starbird Glacier. David Mitchell (354-4052) is our representative on these talks.

### Kinnaird Bluffs

Talks are continuing. The developer would be willing to exchange the Bluff property and access for land elsewhere, and so is negotiating with different levels of government. The KMC has applied to Mountain Equipment Co-op for money to defray costs.

### Brilliant Bluffs

Two potential developments are planned for these bluffs:

- BC Tel Mobility wants to put a tower on top and a power line up above the dam.

- The new power station at Hugh Keenleyside Dam would entail a power line to Brilliant Dam and then up to connect with the grid. The "least visible" route would go right over Mt Sentinel. Documents are available for viewing at the public libraries (although I understand the deadline for submissions was Feb 9.) Respond to Derek Griffin, Chair, Keenleyside Project Review Committee, 836 Yates St., 2nd floor, Victoria V8V 1X4. Fax (604) 387-2208. Phone (604) 387-1543.
- 

## Club Responsibilities and Liabilities

Peter Macek

The January directors' meeting was organized to discuss the thorny issues concerning responsibilities and liabilities around club trips. The following are my interpretation of what was discussed and what I thought the majority views were. I must make clear that consensus was not reached on everything and that further discussions and decisions must follow.

### Liability

No clubs carry liability insurance and liability is not an issue unless we are sued. A lawsuit would have to show negligence or lack of "reasonable and prudent care in accordance with the standards of the day."

The legal opinion seems to be that signed waivers are a good idea, hold up in court, and are something that many clubs do have. (BCMC, Alpine Club of Canada, and KMC for Hiking Camp.) The most logical time to have a waiver signed is when the member pays his/her annual dues. To be valid, it must be clear that the signer has had an opportunity to read the waiver.

### Trip Guidelines

The existing guidelines were felt to be excellent with the exception of provisions for splitting the group into smaller parties. The guidelines must be seen to be legitimate and be followed by trip participants and leaders. In the past, a participant who refused to follow the guidelines was refused membership in the club.

### Leadership

It was clear by the "standards of the day" criterion that we have trip leaders and not coordinators and that there is no difference between a hike and a climb; the guidelines apply to all trips.

Good leadership can be learned and the club should probably be doing leadership training and screening of leaders. The KMC must be enforcing that the leaders and participants are following the guidelines.

Leaders who invite participants to discuss the goals of the trip (how frequently stops are made, what route is taken, etc.) at the beginning of the trip will find that the participants are more apt to abide by them.

### Trips

The rating and description of a trip should be accurate and clear. There was a feeling that we tend to under-rate trips. Calgary's rating system was recommended as a possible model. Any specific information regarding the destination or equipment required should be communicated to the participants through the newsletter or when they phone the leader.

The leader is responsible for checking equipment and competency before the trip starts off and should turn someone back if there is a lack of required equipment or experience.

Each trip has a destination. If a participant wants to go elsewhere, he should be informed that he is no longer on the trip. The group must stay together unless a subleader is recognized who will take responsibility for the subgroup. It was suggested that such decisions could be made in a meeting an hour into the trip.

If conditions change, the leader must have a way of communicating with the subgroups, and recognize that the group is only as strong as the weakest and slowest participants. The question was asked whether participants always know that a decision is being made.

The conclusions were that the KMC needs to make some policy decisions and work harder to develop a "safe culture" around trips, so that the guidelines would be seen as logical and legitimate.

Thanks to Paul Allen, Bert Port, Fred Thiessen, and Norm Thyer for attending and contributing.

At the February directors' meeting the matter was discussed further, and three things were decided. All trip leaders are to be mailed an information package that includes a copy of the responsibility guidelines and a trip sign-out sheet that has on it a waiver. Trip participants are going to be signing this waiver before the trip leaves the parking lot. It was further decided that included in the guidelines would be a statement that participants would regroup about an hour into a trip to reevaluate conditions and to decide about possible splitting up of the party.

Further comments are welcome. □

## Equipment

### Transceivers

Fred Thiessen has 8 club transceivers available to club members. Could the person who has the other 4 please contact Fred at 352-6140.

### Climbing Equipment

Peter Bullock (365-5886) has the club climbing gear, available for club members.

## Hiking Guidebook to the Kootenays

Great news. John Carter is talking about reprinting his hiking guidebook to the West Kootenays. KMC members are encouraged to contact John with any comments or suggestions. John can be contacted at his store, the Osprey Nest at 352-1942. □

## Lost, Found, & For Sale

### For Sale

Dachstein DC Tour alpine touring boots, size 11-11 1/2, good condition, \$175, 825-4654. Dwain Boyer.

### Lost

Hiking camp stool parts have gone missing. Anyone who knows where the tops and some of the legs are, please contact Laurie Charlton at 362-9461.

### Lost

The draft version of the Summer schedule has gone missing somewhere in Rossland. Bob Dean would like to get it back! 359-7759.

## Winter Roads Update

As of Jan. 28th, the following roads are reported to be open. Brackets at the end of the sentence are the licensee. Market conditions, heavy snow, and any number of variables can change how long roads will be open.

Expect logging trucks Monday through Sunday, with 50 tonne loads on steep roads can't stop easily, so drive carefully. Snow ploughing equipment and pickup trucks can be expected anytime.

### Keen Creek Drainage

Ploughed to Ben Hur Creek (3800'). There is an unploughed right of way to the top of the Ben Hur Creek. This would be a long tour, but the skiing would be good once up there. (SFP)

### Hoder Creek Drainage (TFL 3)

Berry Creek. This drainage flows east from the Mt. Freya/Heimdal area. The road will be open into March. This will be high elevation logging around 5000'. SFP figures this will give the best skiing. (SFP)

### Grassy Mountain Area

ATCO is logging the NE corner of SL 8, at the headwaters of McPhee Creek and Glade Creek at around 5700' to breakup (17 km. north of the Bombi summit). This road gives very good access to the Grassy Hut and to Mt. Siwash. (ATCO)

### Giveout Creek Road

ATCO is logging in the 8 km. area of this FSR. It doesn't really give good access to any skiing close by, but if a traverse is planned from Copper Mt. to Toad Mt., it allows for a vehicle to park at either 1.5 or 5 km. for a pickup. □

# Avalanche Danger Scale

## Avalanche Safety Basics

Always practice safe route finding. Remember that all avalanches may be lethal and even very small slides may be dangerous if they carry an unwary back country traveller into or over terrain traps like cliffs, rocks, trees, or creeks. However, please note that no matter what the hazard, there are avalanche safe areas in the mountains. Contact local authorities for current information. Remember: any geographic, aspect, and elevation distinctions listed are approximate and transition zones exist.

Danger Level	Avalanche Probability	Recommended Action
Colour	Trigger Size	
—WHAT—	—WHY—	—WHAT TO DO—
LOW GREEN	Natural slab avalanches highly unlikely; human triggered releases unlikely; sluffs possible.	Travel is generally safe; normal caution advised.
MODERATE YELLOW	Natural slab avalanches unlikely; loose or human triggered slab avalanches possible.	Use caution in steeper terrain on certain aspects.
CONSIDERABLE ORANGE	Natural or loose avalanches possible; human triggered slabs probable.	Use increasing caution. Be aware of potentially dangerous areas.
HIGH RED	Natural and human triggered slab or loose avalanches likely.	Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended; safest travel on windward ridges or lower angle slopes without steeper terrain above.
EXTREME RED with BLACK BORDER	Numerous natural avalanches certain and slabs easily triggered by humans.	Travel in and near avalanche terrain should be avoided; travel only in low angle terrain well away from avalanche path runouts.

# KMC BASIC MOUNTAINEERING COURSE 1994

This basic course is a general course intended for beginners. The course will include general aspects of wilderness travel, mountain hazards and safety, rock climbing, glacier travel, and crevasse rescue.

## Schedule

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Lectures           | April 24 & May 8 at Selkirk College   |
| 2. Rock Climbing      | May 15, 22, 25, 29, 2 at Kinnaird Bluffs, Castlegar                         |
| 3. Lecture            | June 6 at Selkirk College   |
| 4. Snow Practice      | June 9 at Ymir Bowl   |
| 5. Snow & Ice Weekend | June 15 & 16 at Glacier Creek (may have to change, depending on conditions) |

## Requirements To take this course you should be:

1. A KMC member
2. 14 years of age minimum
3. In good physical condition

## Fees

Club Membership:	Family	\$45.00
	Single	\$30.00
	Youth (14-18)	\$10.00

Course \$95.00 (includes rental of harness, helmet, ice-axe, crampons)  
(A deposit will be required for rental of equipment)

If you are interested in enrolling in this course, please complete the application form and send a cheque or money order payable to the Kootenay Mountaineering Club to: Peter Bullock  
3301 4th Ave, Castlegar, B.C. V1N 2T2

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Pete at 365-5886

THERE IS A LIMITED ENROLLMENT                  DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 12, 1996  
(cut here and mail with cheque)

## **Application for KMC Mountaineering Course (print)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Adult \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_

I am prepared to sign a KMC Indemnity & Release of Liability at the first session.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



## 1996 KMC HIKING CAMP - HOPE CREEK

### LOCATION:

Base camp will be located at the headwaters of Hope Creek in the Badshot Range of the Selkirk Mountains. The campsite is located on a ridge between the Lardeau River and Lake Creek which runs parallel to the Duncan River. The camp will be located at an elevation of about 6400 ft. There are many small lakes in the area and lots of opportunity for ridge walking. While there are no major peaks in the area there are several peaks 7500 - 8000'.

### MAPS:

82 K/6, 82 K/11 (1:50,000) Maps are available through the Government Agent's Office.

### ACCESS:

From Kaslo, about 60 km up the Lardeau River towards Trout Lake.

### DATES:

Camp 1: July 27 - Aug. 3; Camp 2: Aug. 3 - Aug. 10; Camp 3: Aug. 10 - Aug. 17

### FEES:

Total: \$250. This includes a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00. Full fees are payable upon registration. Applications accompanied by post-dated cheques will be considered as of the post-date. Make cheques payable to **KMC Hiking Camp**.

### TO REGISTER:

Return the completed registration form and **SIGNED** waiver form along with a cheque for the full fee to:

Laurie Charlton  
Box 621  
Rossland, B.C., V0G 1Y0

Please note that the waiver form must be signed by all members of a family who plan to attend camp. An application will not be considered until the signed waiver form and full payment is received. Phoned registrations will not be accepted.

### AGE RESTRICTION:

The minimum age for participants is 15 years as of the date of camp. Members 15 - 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Waivers for juniors must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Children 19 years of age or older are not included in a family membership so they must complete a separate application form.

### PRIORITY:

Vacancies will be filled by lottery on March 15. Anyone who applied for camp in 1995 but was on the waiting list will be assigned to camp if they apply in 1996. If a camp roster is full, additional applications will be placed on a waiting list in the order drawn in the lottery or of receipt after Mar. 15. Only those who have joined or renewed their membership prior to Feb. 1, 1995 will be included in the lottery. Following this period, vacancies will be filled by members who have paid their fees after Feb. 1.

### CANCELLATIONS:

The deposit of \$50 is not refundable. The remaining fee will be refunded if notice is received prior to June 15, 1996. The total fee will be forfeited for cancellations received after June 15 unless a suitable replacement is found. Cancellation vacancies will be filled from the waiting list. If there are no names on the waiting list, the member is responsible for finding a replacement before a refund will be issued. Contact Laurie Charlton before taking action.

### ABOUT HIKING CAMP:

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club does not act as a guide service through it's hiking program. Rather, it merely facilitates transportation of members into remote, rugged wilderness areas where one's activities must be governed by the level of experience each possesses in such an environment. Hiking Camp is not for the inexperienced person new to hiking. As the camps are held in a wilderness environment, participants should have some off-trail, backcountry hiking experience, or be a strong trail hiker, to get the most out of camp.

**INFORMATION:** Laurie Charlton, Box 621, Rossland, B.C., phone 362-9461

## HIKING CAMP LOTTERY RULES

Applications for summer hiking camp usually exceed the available number of spots. Camp spots have been filled on a first come first served basis in the past. This results in a frenzied scramble by hikers to submit their applications as soon as possible upon receipt of the February newsletter. Frequently, some hikers are able to submit their applications before others have even received the newsletter. Some members who have applied, have been unable to get into camp for several years. There is some unfairness in this approach. In order to give all members as equal a chance as possible of gaining one of the available spots at the summer hiking camps, and to ensure that members miss no more than one camp because they are over-subscribed, the following lottery system will be used.

1. The registration form will allow each potential camper to indicate which camp(s) they can attend and the order of preference for those camps. Campers may apply for all three camps but will only be accepted for one.
2. Applications will be accepted until March 15. Only those members who have paid their club dues by Feb. 1 and who have signed the waiver and enclosed a cheque for the full amount of camp fees will be eligible for the lottery. No post-dated cheques will be accepted. No phone calls, early registrations, or other arrangements will be allowed.
3. Members who applied for the previous year's camp but were unable to go because the camps were full will be assigned to their first choice of camps for the current year.
4. Cooks will be guaranteed a place in camp. Cooks who are KMC members will get first choice to be cooks.
5. On Mar. 15, the names submitted for each camp will be placed in a container.
6. Names will be drawn to complete the camp rosters (including 1 place for the cook and as many places as are required to register members unable to attend the previous year's camp).
7. People whose names are drawn will be given their highest preference for camp if there is a place available. If not, they will be given their second or third choice if they have one.
8. Couples who register together will be drawn together unless they are prepared to be considered as singles for the lottery. **Note: couples who apply as singles may end up in different camps, or only one may be able to go.**
9. Couples drawn in the 20th position will be given the option of one partner going to camp. The other partner will be first on the waiting list.
10. If a partner of a couple drawn in the 20th position chooses not to go as a single, the partners will be placed first and second on the waiting list. The next available single on the waiting list will be assigned the 20th position.
11. When the camps are full, the remaining names will be drawn to complete a waiting list.
12. Leaders will be selected from camp participants who have volunteered to be leaders.
13. Applications received after Mar. 15 will be added to the waiting list in order of receipt.
14. Cheques from successful applicants will be cashed on March 16. Cheques from people on the wait list will be held until a spot becomes available. If no spot becomes available by the time of the camps, the cheques will be destroyed. Applicants who want their cheque destroyed at an earlier date will be dropped from the wait list.
15. Applicants will be notified by mail or phone whether they are in a camp or on the wait list (and their position number on the wait list).
16. If cancellations occur, the available spots will be filled from the wait list.
17. Applicants who are unsuccessful for the current year's camp will get first choice for next year's camp if they submit an application.

**KMC HIKING CAMP (1996) REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (If junior member)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (If junior member)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**IF THIS REGISTRATION IS FOR TWO OR MORE PEOPLE, ARE THEY TO BE CONSIDERED AS SINGLES FOR THE LOTTERY? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

CAMP 1: July 27 - Aug. 3    CAMP 2: Aug. 3 - 10    CAMP 3: Aug. 10 - 17

List camps in order of preference for the lottery: (You may enter the lottery for as many camps as you want.)  
First choice \_\_\_\_\_ Second choice \_\_\_\_\_ Third choice \_\_\_\_\_.

I will require a ride: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ I can transport passengers: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to be a camp leader: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ OR camp cook: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I have a truck which could transport food and equipment: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(Please note that Camps 1 & 3 need at least one truck to carry camp gear)

**INDEMNITY AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

THIS WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL APPLICANTS BEFORE REGISTRATION WILL BE CONSIDERED.

In consideration of my being permitted to participate in the events, activities, and/or functions (all of which are referred to as "the events") offered or organized by the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns release and forever discharge the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, their officers, managers, servants, agents, and volunteer leaders, (all of which are now referred to as "the Club") from any and all lawsuits or actions, claims or demands by any reason of any damage, loss, death, or injury to myself or to my property arising from my participation in the events notwithstanding that the same may have been contributed to or occasioned by the negligence of the Club.

I agree to save, hold harmless, and indemnify the Club from and against all lawsuits, claims, actions, costs, or expenses in respect to any death, injury, loss, or damage to myself or my property howsoever caused arising out of or in connection with the events and whether the same may have been contributed to or occasioned by the negligence of the Club.

I recognize and acknowledge that there are inherent risks and hazards and danger such as from avalanches, sudden changes in weather, falls on steep terrain, failure of climbing equipment, the possibility of becoming lost, as well as all other hazards associated with hiking, mountaineering, wilderness travel, and other pursuits of the Club and I agree to assume all such risks and hazards, and I further agree to bear all costs of rescue or medical attention rendered to me personally arising from the events.

I (WE) HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AND ACCEPT ITS TERMS.

Dated on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_.

# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1996

Next deadline: April 6

## TRIPS and EVENTS . . .

**March 17:** Peter Jordan (352-5225) Mt. Heimdal (Hoder Creek) if road conditions permit. Fairly challenging if the summit is attempted, B to C-3.

**March 24:** Mark Hamilton (352—5824)

**March 31:** Last scheduled ski trip Leader to be announced, Contact David Mitchell (354-4052)

**April 7:** First hike of the Year Pulpit Rock A-1, Rita Wege (354-1685)

**April 14:** Yellow Pine Trail A-1, Renata Belczyk (365-5134)

**April 19:** Ron Perrier will be doing a slide show for the general public at the NEC.

**April 21:** Marsden Road Loop A-1, Christine Sutherland (352-7755)

**April 26:** Spring Potluck at Robson Hall. See details in Newsletter

**April 28:** Pilot Bay A-1, Jane Steed (352-2196)

MAY 5 9 AM CREDIT UNION

### John Duncan Carter, 1945-1996

"John, how could you do this to us? You were our mentor, our wilderness conscience, our dear friend. Your energy, enthusiasm, perseverance and love of the outdoors made so many good things happen."

These and many similar sentiments were

expressed by friends and colleagues after John's death on February 26 in an avalanche in Kokanee Park. He was skiing alone, having left a large party from the Slocan Chief up on Smuggler's Ridge, and was heading down towards Kokanee Lake to meet friends coming in to join him in the A-frame for a few days.

Everywhere we go in our local mountains his work will remind us of him. First come to mind all the cabins, trails, and campgrounds in Kokanee Park, and then the high trails to the alpine, such as Monica Meadows and Macbeth Icefields, and the easy trails enjoyed by thousands at Syringa Park, Champion Lakes, and on and on. Plus all those sturdy bridges which removed the terror of creek crossings for many of us.

When he wasn't working in the outdoors, or hiking, climbing, skiing, or paddling in it, he wrote about it. His trail guides, most recently Hiking in the West Kootenay, allowed many others to follow in his footsteps.

He had a long and strong involvement with the KMC. The first article we could find in the Karabiner told of a climb in New Zealand in 1967, and the first trip he led was, typically, "Clear out Woodbury Creek Trail" in September 1969. He served on the Board from 1970-77 and 1984-85, as Chairman of Summer Camps, Mountain Rescue/Mountaineering School, or Cabins and Trails. He rarely had time to camp or hike with us after the early years, but his mountaineering knowledge and that long, fast stride will be remembered by all who were privileged to go out with him.

We extend our sympathy to his family and to all who loved and respected him.

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

\* Summer Trips Schedule

\* Responsibility Guidelines



# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter is printed approximately ten times each year.

## EDITOR: Peter Macek

Site 7, Comp 10, RR#1  
Slocan Park, BC V0G 2E0  
phone: 226-7576  
fax: 226-7576 (Note change)  
e-mail: pmacek@selkirk.bc.ca

## MEMBERSHIP

The Club dues are:

Individual	\$30.00
Couple/family	\$45.00
Junior	\$10.00

Send dues to: Box 221  
Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

## SUBMISSIONS

I encourage all submissions of writing, cartoons, drawings, etc. Trip leaders should submit their writeups as soon after their trips as possible. Articles can be submitted in most written and electronic forms.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Suitability for publication is at the editor's discretion. Articles may be edited for clarity or for length. If you feel this may affect the integrity of your work, please attach a note to that effect.

## From the Editor...

Another very full Summer Trips schedule is included in this issue. Whether you will be taking part as a leader or a participant, note that the Responsibility Guidelines have been revised, so take a few minutes to read over them.

Thanks to Sue and Bert Port for the farewell to John.

## Spring Banquet

April 26, 1996

## Robson Hall

Speaker will be Lesley Killough, giving a slide show about the areas where the club often hikes as well as information about the geology of the Lardeau area where hiking camp will be this summer.

The potluck this year will be:

Main Course	A-K
Salads	R-Z
Desserts	L-Q

For more information, contact Joanne Baldassi at 362-9461. Next month the Newsletter will have a map.

## Road Deactivation

Members are invited to see the maps and reports on road deactivation and access for Koch, Burton, Fauquier, Rialto, Renata, Ladybird, Blueberry, Silverton, and Lemon Creeks. Viewing at Forest District office in Castlegar 8-4:30. Call George Edney 365-8627 for information or an appointment.

## Climbing Camp

The Climbing Camp coordination triumvirate (Fred, Kim and Larry) has decided to venture south to Peru during June and July. Therefore, we will not be around to organize climbing camp. If someone else would like the job, please give me a call. If not, hasta el año (see you next year). Larry Smith 359-7965.

## Snowmobile Backcountry Use

Work continues on trying to reach agreement. The provincial Snowmobile Committee has put together a report with recommendations (including snowmobile licensing) to the provincial government. Public comments are requested by April 18. Information is available from David Mitchell at 354-4052.

## Pieps

Lee Schaeffer has Pieps for rent 365-7779

## For Sale

Troll Scanalp seat climbing harness. Small size, never used \$30.00. Knut Langballe 352-6657

## Wanted

The South Bonnington scouts would like a junker climbing rope to cut up and use for knot tying practice. Anyone got one in their basement? Contact Pete Wood 359-7107

.....

## TRIP REPORTS

### NILSIK / LEMON CREEK LOOP

July 16, 1995

Drew Desjardins

By 7am on that pleasant Sunday morning, 15 people had gathered at the Slocan junction Credit Union parking lot for what was to be, for some, their longest hike of the season. On our arrival at the upper parking lot of the Lemon Creek Trail, we were glad to see that our last two participants had made it over the 6 Mile Lakes road with out mishap. We started up the Lemon Creek trail at approximately 8:50am in various groups, with two — who shall remain nameless - taking a wrong turn before we got to the main trail 100 ft below. By the time we reached the Nilsik Creek trail all nameless had returned.

The cut-off for this trail is just after the second (as counted from the upper parking lot) creek crossing and is marked by an old and almost overgrown inscription on a tree, the ORIFINO MINE. This lower section of the trail has a few blown down trees and is again in need of our attention. Once we gained altitude, the forest thinned providing views of the valley and the back side of Mt.Cornfield that are truly beautiful. While this trail is unmaintained, it is in very good shape and very easy to follow until you reach the dryer sub-alpine where the sparser vegetation sometimes makes the trail hard to locate. By this time, you can see the

pass between Sunset and Outlook Mountains.

Our group stopped at various creeks along the way to rest, and gather the troops, give the bugs something to eat, and enjoy the views again. Once we reached the open ground and could clearly see Sunset Mountain. six of us headed to the ridge line for a enjoyable scramble to the top (8,533 ft.) and a look at Crazy Jane Lake. The rest headed for the top of Glory Basin. Since the ridge walk took longer than expected, it was 2 pm when we headed down to rejoin the main party which was almost out of sight and heading for Sapphire Lakes. The boot-ski from the summit made the hike worth while,-with no added thrills for Mary this time.

Lunch at the second lake was a time to air our feet and enjoy the still partially snow covered lake. By 3 it was time to end that leisurely break. As we passed the last of the Sapphire Lakes the club Polar Bears had to test the waters to ensure that the lakes were still both cold and swimable. Since it was getting late and our bodies were getting weary we passed on the excursion to the old mine shaft and quickly headed for the cars, still 9 kilometres down the hill.

The crossing of Lemon Creek, although tricky, was accomplished without mishap but not so the dry creek bed that follows. As Maggie headed down the steep, hard packed, gully, she slipped, did a full flip, landed on her feet and collapsed in a heap. Luckily she suffered no serious injuries and was more upset about her ripped shorts than the blood dripping from her scraped hand and elbow. She was quickly bandaged up and we were on our way.

The remainder of the trip went without incident and we were at our cars by 6:00. 9 Hours., 20 kilometres. & 4000 + ft. What a way to spend Sunday. D. Desjardins, J. Watson, D. Postnikoff, A. Paulus, N & K Musgreave, G Thomson, S. Port, A. Kernohan, B. Dean, M. Dauphinee, M. Baker, J. Grodzki, D. Holmes, K. Forsyth, M. Woodward, T. Ibrahim

Note: Maggie was out hiking again the next week-end.

## OLD GLORY AND MOUNT PLEWMAN

December 30, 1995

David Mitchell

Four of us decided that we should enjoy the Nancy Greene Recreation Area while it still exists as such. We don't know what changes will come about and when. Our foursome consisted of Ric Baker, Curt Nixon, Zak McCormick and me. We started up Gibbard's Trail. (I believe that is what the Mount Kirkup branch of the Hanna Creek Trail that goes to the end of Unnecessary Ridge is called?) Even with the piles of snow that have fallen, the alder was sticking up and this part of the trip involved some ski-bushwhacking. We traversed Unnecessary Ridge, and skied down into the Esling Creek drainage between the ridge and Old Glory. On our way along the diagonal traverse of Old Glory's east face, we changed our collective mind and decided to yo-yo ski off the north side of Unnecessary Ridge and Mount Plewman. Visibility was poor and it was snowing very heavily, but the skiing was superb. The south faces were a bit wind crusted. As usual, the ride out along the Hanna Creek Trail was exciting, requiring a combination of jet-turns and strategic crashes to avoid sudden tree hugging.

## BERRY CREEK, MT HEIMDAL AREA

January 14, 1996

Fred Thiessen

Participants: 3 Peters (Tchir, Jordan & McIver) and one each of: R Perrin, F Thiessen, E White, D Toews, D & T Boyer, Mike ?, C Mansbridge.

We parked at 4800 feet or so in Berry Creek, ski toured up old logging roads to about 7000 ft below Mt Heimdal, turned around and came home, pretty much sums up the trip. Weather was stormy, snowing lightly in a wind, temperatures about -1 and visibility poor. The avalanche meter went off scale and was buried in the extreme part of scale, for treeline and above. It read moderate for below treeline.

In more stable conditions and better weather, this area offers some good touring. It takes about 1.3 hours from the Highway 6/3A junction to where you can park your car, and the Passmore turnoff is the quickest way. Road grades are gentle, so 4 wheel drive isn't essential, chains may be essential depending on conditions.

## HUCKLEBERRY HUT

January 28, 1996

Evan McKenzie

Four of us met at 9am outside Nelson and drove to the Porto Rico parking lot. We were skiing up the road before 10:00. It was a cold crisp morning and the trail along the road was well compacted by snowmobiles. One group of snowmobilers passed us on the way up. It took us almost 3 1/2 hours to reach the cabin. Robyn was quick to get a fire going and we had a warm lunch in the cozy little cabin.

After lunch, we continued on up the road for another three-quarters of an hour to an elevation of 5900 feet. We were just starting to get into good ski touring terrain and there were 75cm of soft powder to tantalize us but unfortunately we ran out of time to continue climbing. We needed another 1 to 2 hours of daylight to make Cabin Peak, assess the snow stability, and ski down. Next time, it would be better to leave Nelson between 7:00 and 8:00, depending on how long the days are.

We thought the trees below us back down to the cabin were a bit too tight to ski through, considering our skill level, so we opted to ski back down the road. When we got going too fast down the trail, we were able to glide into the deep powder to slow ourselves down. We left the cabin at 3:30 and were back down to the parking lot after about an hour. It was a chilly ski out as the cold snap was upon us.

Gary Irwin, Kevin Forsyth, Robin Lidstone, and Evan McKenzie enjoyed the outing.

## MT HEIMDAL (ALMOST)

February 4 (full moon)

Fred Thiessen

Meeting at 0650 at the Slocan Valley Park & Ride, we organized ourselves and set off to the headwaters of Berry Creek, just east of Little Slocan Lakes. Parking the cars at 4700 ft, we then skied to the headwaters of Berry Creek, and ascended the east slopes of Mt. Heimdal. For the last 100 feet, we punched steps to the ridge, then paused to figure out how big the cornice was in the poor visibility. We turned back just below the summit as it was unclear what was cornice and what was ridge. So we settled for the north summit (2712 m.) The ski down was most enjoyable and Robin com-

mented that this was very successful "Fred" trip in that he broke no ribs, the ski down was ok, and there was no icy crust to slide headfirst on.

We were: R Perrin, E McKenzie, R Lidstone, M Hamilton, B Hellman, P McIver, T Zimmermann, D & T Boyer, S Connelly, & F Thiessen.

## MOUNT PLEWMAN

January 21, 1996

Roland Perrin

Fifteen of us enjoyed a beautiful day skiing to Mount Plewman. We had ideal powder snow conditions. The previous day the snow gods had sprinkled some fresh powder over the mountains and the slopes had enough stability to ski safely. We skied to the top of Mt. Plewman and enjoyed several runs down Sheep Creek. On our final descent a few people got separated amongst the trees but we all gathered safely at the vehicles.

We were: Peter Tchir, Peter McIver, Dwain & Tim Boyer, Peter Jordan, Dave Toews, Dave Mitchell, Vivien Bowers, Fred Thiessen, Amy ?, Helen ?, Chris Mansbridge, Maurice De St Jorre, Dave Horner, Roland Perrin.

## YMR MT

February 10, 1996

Dwain Boyer

Five people showed up on a beautiful sunny day at the Whitewater Ski Lodge at 7:30. We went up the summit side snubbing the chair lift. Climbing was easy on a firm base with a skiff of new stuff. Reached the summit by boot packing carrying skis at 10:30 (elevation 7867). Had a snack and indulged in some witty and interesting conversations. Much to our surprise there was unscathed powder (a meter deep) on the run down the steep east face into Kutetl Creek valley. Having plenty of time the decision was made to climb Qua Mt (7200). We were able to ski to 6500 but had to hike to the top. When we got back down to the skis we went down the east side of Qua. All of the crew were equipped with heel locking devices so there was no problem when we had to drop off a 10 m cliff. With a seemingly endless supply of energy we did 3 runs on the east side of Qua. We returned by hiking across the east side of Ymir Mt, through the Ymir/Half Dome saddle and down the Ymir Bowl to the lodge. Arriving at 4:00 pm giving time to sit in the

lodge and drink some beers. I got out the map and calculated that we got in 8600 vertical. We were,

... eh well actually it was all a dream I had the night before the trip.

The skiing conditions sucked, the avalanche hazard was off scale and nobody called.

**...more reports next month...**

.....

## KMC Responsibility Guidelines for Coordinators and Participants

### Responsibilities of Party Coordinators attending club trips

#### **Before the trip**

1. Do not undertake organization of a trip beyond your capabilities. Change the objective or arrange for another coordinator.
2. Be familiar with the area (unless the trip is exploratory in intent). If you have not done the climb recently, a recce a few weeks before the trip is an excellent idea. Talk to people familiar with the area; check the guidebooks, old Newsletters, old Karabiners, CAJ journals, Parks Branch, Forest Service, etc.
3. Pick up or ensure the necessary equipment is on the trip: Ice axes, crampons, Pieps, first aid kit, and repair kit. Make arrangements for huts, campsites, and registration as required.
4. Notify a responsible person where you are going and when you will be coming back. Tell them when you return!

#### **Choosing and organizing the party**

5. The coordinator has full authority to reject anyone he or she feels is unsuited for the trip. For more difficult trips ask people unknown to you what their qualifications are and who they have climbed with.
6. Explain to people what the trip entails: how difficult, how strenuous, what equipment is needed. This is especially important for newcomers, who may not understand the need for proper boots or even raingear. Inform parti-

pants how fast you expect the party will be travelling.

7. The coordinator arranges the most economical use of cars. Each passenger should pay a reasonable proportion of the gas and oil expenses of the trip.

8. Make clear arrangements for the assembly of the party at an easily recognizable place at a definite time. Wait a reasonable time for late-comers.

### **On the trip**

9. Before leaving the cars, check that everyone, especially anyone inexperienced, is properly equipped. Those who are not should not start out.

10. Be sure that the sign-in sheet / waiver is read and signed by each participant.

11. Depending on the size of the party, a time or place for regrouping should be decided on before starting off. At that point, the group should re-evaluate the trip objectives with respect to a) weather, b) route, c) abilities, d) splitting of the group, e) other factors.

12. On many trips it is a good idea to appoint an endperson who comes last and makes sure no stragglers fall by the wayside. The endperson generally carries the first aid kit. In a large group a second coordinator may be desirable to cover the stragglers.

13. Set a pace that allows the party to stay together, both going up and coming down. Space rests so as to prevent straggling! With large parties, count numbers once in a while to make sure everyone is still together.

14. The coordinator doesn't need to remain in front providing he or she can maintain control of the party. The coordinator and all experienced members have a responsibility to give instruction to the less experienced. Team less experienced members with more experienced members.

15. All decisions should be made with a margin of safety. When in doubt, use common sense and accepted normal procedure.

- allow enough time for the trip; start early.
- rope up before a difficult section.
- turn back when necessary: difficulties, a weak party, lack of time, weather, fatigue, etc.
- watch for avalanche and rockfall hazard, and act accordingly.
- in wet or cold weather watch for hypothermia in poorly clad individuals.
- stay in touch with the group's feelings

and respect them.

16. The coordinator should stay at the cars until everyone is down.

### **After the trip**

17. Return club equipment promptly so next party can use it.

18. Send a trip report to the newsletter editor.

### **Responsibilities for members attending club trips**

1. Ensure your abilities are up to the trip's difficulty. Use the trip grading system on the schedule.

2. Phone the coordinator several days in advance to confirm your attendance, preferably by Wednesday evening at the latest.

3. Show up on time and be prepared physically, mentally, and equipment-wise for the outing you are going on.

4. Return rented/borrowed equipment promptly.

5. Share expenses.

### **In case of an accident**

1. The coordinator should consider the severity and implications of the accident, the remaining hazards, the terrain, and the availability of resources when deciding what to do next.

2. The coordinator should ensure that everyone's present safety is maintained and danger is minimized as is consistent with emergency activities.

3. If help is needed, the coordinator should organize an orderly expedition.

4. If conditions permit, witnesses should stay in the area to provide any necessary information to rescue personnel.

5. All party members should (1) inform the person(s) in charge of any special abilities; (2) ensure their own safety and, if their help is not required, stay clear of rescue activities; (3) cooperate with everyone involved in emergency operations.

6. If the accident is serious enough to warrant aerial evacuation, contact the nearest ambulance or RCMP detachment who will dispatch a helicopter with a first aid attendant.

# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 1996

Next deadline: June 10

## TRIPS and EVENTS . . .

- May 18-20 (Sat-Mon):** Liberty Ridge (Mt. Rainier) D-5, Mike Hryniuk (229-4239)
- May 19:** Red Mt B-1, Drew Desjardins (825-0072)
- May 25 (Sat):** Idaho L/O (via Wakefield Trail) B-1, David Cunningham (352-7434)  
**NOTE:** The date has been changed from July 7.
- May 26:** Connor Peak B-2, Carol Potasnyk (359-8112)
- June 1 (Sat):** Fry Creek A-1, Yvonne Tremblay (825-9238) **NOTE** that the leader has been changed.
- June 2:** Mt. Cond B-2, Roland Perrin (352-5480)
- June 6:** Alternative Recreation Fair, Castlegar Community Centre.
- June 8 (Sat):** Mt Abercrombie B-1, Mary Baker (368-5530) **NOTE:** date change.
- June 9:** Crawford Peak B-2, David Mitchell (354-4052). **NOTE** that the leader has been changed.
- June 10:** Directors' meeting, Muriel & John Walton's 2433 10th Ave., Castlegar (365-6519)
- June 15 (Sat):** Ymir Mt - Elementary Snow School, Norman Thyer (352-5265) \*see below for details. **NOTE:** date change.
- June 16:** Grassy Mt B-2, Felix Belczyk (365-5134). **NOTE** Old Glory B-1 has been postponed to Sept 1 and will be led by Anja Logodi (362-7247).

**June 22 (Sat):** Mt Akokli B-3, Kevin Forsyth (352-3602)

**June 23:** Haystack Peak (Purcells) B-2, Ray Neumar (352-7042)

**June 26 (Wed):** Outlook Mt (via Kokanee Creek) B-2, Anna Thyer (352-5265)

**June 29-July 1 (Sat-Mon):** Castle Mt B-4, Dennis Sims (447-6132)

**June 30:** Gray's Peak B-3, Howie Ridge (354-4909)

**July 1 (Mon):** Mt Roberts (Flag Trip) B-2: Jill Watson (362-5660)

**July 3 (Wed):** Ymir Mt B-3, Reid Henderson (352-2362)

**July 6,7 (Sat, Sun):** Triune Peak C-4, Fred Thiessen (352-6140)

**July 6,7 (Sat, Sun):** Monica Meadows B-1 + ?, Mary Woodward (825-4491)

**July 7:** Idaho L/O **NOTE:** This hike has been changed to May 26  
0800 Cr. Un.

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

\* Water purification

\* Alphabet for mountaineers continues by popular demand



# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter is printed approximately ten times each year.

## EDITOR: Peter Macek

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## MEMBERSHIP

The club dues are:

Individual \$30.00  
Couple/family \$45.00  
Junior \$10.00

Send dues to: Box 221  
Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

## SUBMISSIONS

I encourage all submissions of writing, cartoons, drawings, etc. Trip leaders should submit their writeups as soon after their trips as possible. Articles can be submitted in most written and electronic forms.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Suitability for publication is at the editor's discretion. Articles may be edited for clarity or for length. If you feel this may affect the integrity of your work, please attach a note to that effect.

## From the Editor...

Firstly, an apology to the skiers. Last issue, I inadvertently left out the last few trips. I hope you referred to the actual schedule and went in spite of my blunder!

The next issue will come out mid June and then again towards the end of the summer, so get your notices, etc in to me.

It is the start of another summer of climbs and hikes, so this year, resolve to get your trip reports in promptly!! Please.

## Trails

To those that want to be concerned...

Although as this is being written it is still snowing at higher elevations, it should not be an excuse to let ourselves forget about the trail clearing and cabin work that will proceed this summer. As a long time resident of the Kootenays, I'm eager to use my energy in order to provide better access into the mountains. I have not been around the Kootenays for a few years and would like to know where those overgrown trails and proposed new trails that I hear about are. Please let me know where they are and what sections you think need work. Phone me at work at 352-4609 or home at 352-5824. I also need to find 2 lopper shears that are out there somewhere, that belong to the KMC. In the next newsletter I hope to have a detailed summer schedule of the where/when of trail clearing.

Mark Hamilton - Director, Cabins & Trails

## Club News

### Spring Banquet

The annual spring banquet was a success with a fine supper and a very enjoyable slide show, although only about 25 people attended.

### Steed Hut

The hut is pretty well finished, although there is minimal firewood. It is important that club members visit places like the Bonnington Range huts to keep a "presence". Other groups have found that they are getting squeezed out of their areas and huts by the snowmobile crowd, so plan a trip to visit these fine areas.

### Karabiner

This year's issue is about to go to the printers. Ron proudly calls it as great as ever, so watch for distribution points in the next newsletter, so that you can get your copy.

### Hiking Camp

There is still one vacancy in Camp 2 and in Camp 3. Laurie is accepting applications from non-members.

## Elementary Snow School

This is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, meeting at 8:00am at the Apex parking area on Highway 6 between Nelson and Salmo, where the road to the Whitewater Ski Area branches off.

It is intended for people who, for some reason, have not taken the Basic Mountaineering Course or an equivalent. It will cover only some basic snow-climbing techniques that require the minimum of equipment, such as the plunge-step, ice-axe self-arrest, tying into a climbing rope and the boot-axe belay. We aim to practise these on a slope with a good run-out at the bottom.

You will need an ice-axe, mitts and good boots, preferably with a stiff sole, plus the usual gear for a day in the mountains. Be prepared to get wet from sliding in the snow, so you may want a change of clothes too.

If anyone can lend any old, "retired" climbing ropes that can be used for practice, they will be welcome. Volunteers to help with instruction will also be welcome.

Check with Norman Thyer at 352-5265 (or Bob Dean at 359-7759) a few days before, to confirm the date.

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### For Sale:

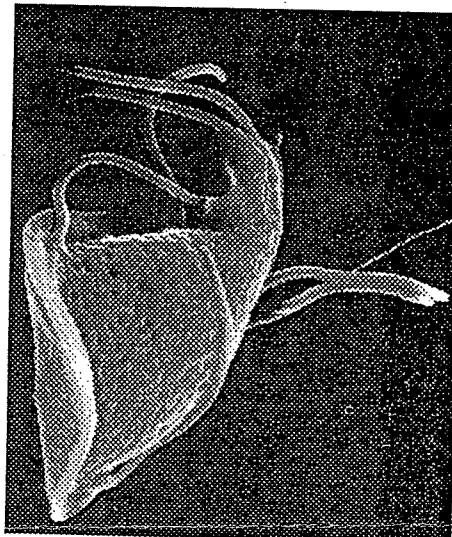
Brand-new Raichle hiking boots, size 10 women, size 8 1/2 men. \$65.00. Please call 365-5134.

### For sale:

Scarpa full shank mountaineering boots size 38, crampons, ice axe 75cm. Phone 352-9679.

### Change of address:

Peter McIver 2904 First Avenue, Castlegar V1N 3M2. phone 365-1191.



Electron micrograph of *Giardia* cyst,  
courtesy of Dr. Judy Isaac-Renton.

## Field Water Disinfection

There are several methods to remove enteric pathogens from drinking water, each with advantages and disadvantages. The specific environment and likely pathogens need to be considered, as well as space, weight and individual preferences.

### Heat

This well known method is reliable, but fuel limitations may present a problem. The 10 minute boiling rule will sterilize water and destroy heat resistant bacteria spores, which are generally not enteric pathogens. Enteric pathogens including cysts, bacteria viruses and parasites can be killed at temperatures below boiling, since thermal death is a function of both time and temperature.

### Thermal Death Points

<i>Giardia</i> and <i>E. histolytica</i>	2-3 min at 60°C
Enteric Viruses	within seconds at 80°-100°C
Enteric Bacteria	within seconds at 100°C

Much of the time required to raise water temperature to boiling point, cooking or brewing time works towards disinfection, so water is safe to drink by the time it reaches a full boil. For an extra safety margin, boil for one minute.

### Filtration and Clarification

Field filters that rely solely on mechanical removal may be adequate for cysts and bacteria but do not reliably remove viruses, which are a major concern in developing countries. Micro-organisms have some elasticity and may squeeze through thin membrane filters with pores smaller than the organism's smallest diameter. However most field filters are depth filters with maze-like passage-ways. Filters also remove particulate debris, improving appearance and taste, but they clog quickly if the water contains large particles.

Average smallest dimension	Microns
Parasitic eggs and larvae	20
<i>Giardia, E. histolytica</i>	5
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	3
Enteric bacteria	0.4
Viruses	0.01 (too small for field filtration)

Large particles will settle by gravity in 1-2 hours. Smaller suspended particles can be removed by coagulation/flocculation(C-F), by adding a pinch of alum (aluminum potassium sulfate) per gallon; mix well and stir occasionally for 30 minutes, then allow to settle for 30-60 minutes. Decant or pour through a paper filter to remove clumps of floc. This will remove contaminants that cause unpleasant colour and taste, some dissolved metals and most microorganisms.

### Charcoal Resins

Granular activated charcoal (GAV) removes organic pollutants, chemicals and radioactive particles by adsorption. It does not remove all microorganisms. GAV may be used to remove iodine or chlorine after disinfection; however one must wait until after the required contact time for disinfection.

### Halogens (Chlorine and Iodine)

These are excellent disinfectants for bacteria, viruses, *Giardia* and amoebic cysts. Major factors affecting disinfection are concen-

tration of the halogen and contact time with the water. An increase in one allows a decrease in the other. Minor factors are temperature (cold slows reaction time), and organic contaminants. In cold water the contact time should be increased, but in polluted water the dose must be increased. For clear mountain water use a concentration of 4 mg/L and allow extra contact time (at least one hour), especially if the water is cold. In cloudy water that will not settle by sedimentation, use at least 8 mg/L, or use alum to clarify the water first, then use halogen to disinfect.

Bacteria are very sensitive to halogens; viruses and *Giardia* are sensitive but require higher concentrations or longer contact time. *Cryptosporidium* cysts are extremely resistant.

Experimental data for 99.9% kill with Iodine:

Concentration	Time	pH	Temp.
<i>Giardia</i> and Amoeba Cysts			
3.0 mg/L	15min	7.0	20°C
7.0 mg/L	30min	7.4	3°C
<i>E. coli</i>			
1.0 mg/L	1 min	6.5-8.5	2°-5°C

Both chlorine and iodine are available in liquid and tablet form. Iodine is less affected by pH and leaves a more tolerable taste.

### Problems with Halogen use:

- unpleasant taste when concentrations exceed 5 mg/L
- potency of some products (tablets and crystals) is decreased by exposure to moisture, heat and air
  - liquids are corrosive and stain
  - actual concentration (after halogen demand) is not known.

### Taste may be improved by:

- adding drink crystals after adequate contact time
  - using charcoal (GAV) after contact time
  - reducing concentration and increasing contact time in clean water
  - adding a few granules per litre of sodium thiosulfate(non-toxic) or ascorbic acid(vitamin C) after required contact time.

## **Preferred Technique**

This will depend on group size, space and weight, source water quality taste preferences and fuel availability. Unfortunately optimal protection for all situations may require a two step technique of filtration or C-F and halogenation, since halogens miss Cryptosporidium and parasitic eggs and filtration misses some viruses. Heat is a good one step process but will not improve taste or cloudiness. Filters that incorporate iodine resins are also a good one step process.

For alpine camping with high quality source water, heat, mechanical or iodine resin filtration or low-dose halogen can all be used.

Water with agricultural runoff and/or sewage plant discharge should be treated with a two step process of filtration and halogen. An iodine resin microfilter is an alternative. A filter containing a charcoal element will remove pesticides.

Surface water in undeveloped countries should always be treated as highly contaminated. Heat is effective, but simple filtration is not adequate. Halogens are reasonable but will miss Cryptosporidium and parasitic eggs.

Cloudy water that does not clear by settling should be pre-treated by C-F, then disinfected with heat or halogens. This water will clog filters quickly.

In systems where the water will be stored for a period of time, such as on boats or a home without running water, halogens have distinct advantage. When only heat or filtration is used prior to storage, water can become recontaminated or bacteria can grow again. A high concentration of chlorine can be maintained for storage and portions dechlorinated for use. Iodine is not recommended for long storage as it is a poor algicide. Where water must be desalinated, only reverse osmosis membrane filters are adequate.

Summarized from "Field Water Disinfection" by Howard Backer, MD. For a more detailed discussion refer to Backer, H. Field Water Disinfection In: Management of Wilderness and Environmental Emergencies. Eds: Auerbach P.S., Geehr E.C. Chapter 29, p:805-829. CV Mosby, 1989

## **Recipe of the Month:**

### **Barn Biscuits**

- Norman Thyer

Mix the following dry ingredients:

2 cups flour  
1+1/2 cups rolled oats  
1/2 cup rolled wheat (wheat flakes)  
1 cup grated coconut  
1/4 cup white sugar  
4 tbsp milk powder  
2 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp salt (optional)  
1 tsp ground ginger

Mix the following wet ingredients:

1 large egg  
1/2 cup oil  
1/2 cup molasses  
1/2 cup or more water

Preheat the oven to 400-425 deg F.

Mix dry and wet ingredients.

Divide the mixture into 30 equal portions and deposit them on cookie sheets. Put them into the oven, and switch the oven off so that they won't get burned. Leave them in the oven till they are cool.



The wilderness of mountains around us was a symphony in modulated shadow

## TRIP REPORTS

### MOUNT SIWASH

February 18, 1996

Roland Perrin

With a recent dry spell and the road from the Bombi Summit open to 5800 feet, we took the opportunity to ski to Mount Siwash. Definitely it was not a day to enjoy the scenery with a visibility of about ten metres. After much reference to the map, the compass, and the altimeter, we reached Mount Siwash in a whiteout. Being uncertain whether we were really on Mount Siwash, we approached it from both the north and the south side. The return ski can best be described as an adventure and a test in patience, with a few people doing an extra detour to reach the vehicles. We returned to the cars eight hours from our departure; we were tired but satisfied with the day and we enjoyed each others' company. We were Tom Witton, Eric White, Dave Horner, Roland Perrin, Dave Toews, Fred Thiessen, Helen ?, Dwain and Tim Boyer.

### WHITEWATER TO NELSON

February 26, 1996

Earl Jorgensen

Being retired gives rise to the opportunity of trips other than the weekend. This day was part of the week of bright cool weather and so four of the "old goats" undertook this annual project. We left the cars parked off the Whitewater road at the access to Hummingbird Pass and departed at 9:00. (Not the usual alpine start.) Snow conditions were great, but we broke trail all the way in the powder. From the pass the route is up the ridge towards Evening Ridge, then to the col at the headwaters of Sellous Creek, where we had lunch. Then by compass travel west to the old antenna site at "Burns Meadows", now completely forested over. From there we skied onto the road that comes down, dropping onto the slopes of Anderson Creek and then crossing over and coming out at the Nelson reservoir. The trip down was great, but at the bottom the road was rutted and frozen, and the prudent move was to take off the skis and walk, ending

up at John Stewart's for late tea. Earl was so slow, he walked out in the dark and missed tea. (Earl thinks he should adhere to the saying "If you can't run with the big dogs, it's better to stay on the porch!"

On the trip: John Stewart, Garth Thomson, Ken Milner, Earl Jorgensen.

### CLEARWATER TO YMIR

March 2, 1996

Earl Jorgensen

This was a scheduled trip, and it too was a part of that glorious week of sunshine. We left the Camp Busk parking lot at 8:00 and had groomed track up to Qua Creek (courtesy of the Nelson Nordic Club), which is halfway up to the Huckleberry Creek Pass. We arrived there at noon, and had lunch in glorious sunshine. Two of the energetic members then climbed up on the clearcut slopes to crank out a few telemark turns, while the rest of us proceeded to make our way out to the road starting down Huckleberry Creek. In some places the sun had turned the snow into porridge and so balling up made for some slow going, but once in the shade of the trees, the trip down was very pleasant. We arrived at the car at 4:30, and enjoyed a beer, much delighted with an excellent outing. More people should try this trip.

On the trip: Tom Johnston (president of the Nelson Nordic Club), Brian McEwan, Susan Toch (prospective new member), Ken Milner, Earl Jorgensen.

### WHITEWATER

March 10, 1996

Dave Horner

The gods were not with us as the snows of early March were descended upon by wet stuff known as rain. Most had the good sense not to attend. However the three that did show up, including the leader, did have the wisdom to decide that skiing would not be much fun in addition to being very hazardous. As the trip was planned for Five mile Basin the venue was changed to Whitewater Ski Area where we dug some test pits and did a few runs and went home about noon. Participants were Dave Horner (leader), Jim Wood, and Susan Tauch.

## PULPIT ROCK

April 7, 1996

Rita Wege

Easter Sunday turned out to be a fine day for the first hike of the 1996 season and my first time as a trip leader. I decided to make it an afternoon affair, to allow people to attend church and family functions. We managed to collect a group of thirteen hikers by the time we made it to Pulpit Rock.

Although the morning started out gray and rainy, the afternoon proved perfect for the trip up Elephant Mountain. We made it to Pulpit Rock along with many families and their dogs. Eight of us decided to continue up the trail to the next summit. We enjoyed the first spring blooms of Glacier Lilies, Alpine Buttercups, and Bluebells on the way.

Many thanks to Bob Dean and Ted Ibrahim for clearing away numerous fallen trees from the trail past Pulpit Rock to the next summit last November. Their efforts should not go unrecognized.

Participants: Rita Wege, Reid Henderson, Norman Thyer, Jim Sharp, Stephanie Dean, Bob Dean, Knut and Jill Langballe, Evan McKenzie, Kent, Julie, and Lizzie

## YELLOW PINE TRAIL

April 14, 1996

Renate Belczyk

Our group met at the Lion Head Inn and when I arrived three young men were in the process of sorting out karabiners, ropes, and other assorted climbing hardware. I thought that maybe our trip had been upgraded from A-1 to D-6 but no, it was a different group.

Twelve people showed up on a beautiful spring day and we had a pleasant hike along the Yellow Pine Trail with wonderful vistas to the Arrow Lakes. The first spring flowers were out, among them the Snow Lilies, Blue-eyed Maries, Shooting Stars, Yellow Bells, and Spring Beauties.

Four of our group decided to hike up into the mountains while the rest followed the trail back to the highway. A walk along the beach brought us back to our cars.

Participants: Bob Dean, Jill Watson, Rita Wege, Jan Sheridan, Yvonne Tremblay, Leila Montgomery, Elaine Martin, Hazel Kirkwood, Reid Henderson, M. and W. Webster, and Renate Belczyk.

## MOUNT KELLY

May 12, 1996

David Mitchell

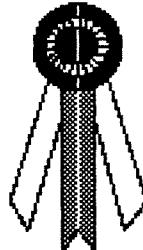
This trip was billed as as "A-1", but the complaints about the length would make me reconsider it as a "B-1". The trip was a walk up Query Creek road (between Salmo and Fruitvale), then along the north-west "ridge". The only possible decisions that could be remotely considered as route finding are to stay right (west) at the junction of the Doubtful Creek road and to follow the ridge to the right (north) when the road reaches the col where it tends downhill (approximately 11 km from the highway).

At the summit is an abandoned forest service lookout. We had a spectacular panorama of 64 shades of white: white snow, white sky, white clouds.

Not all who started out completed the trip. Even with the compacted snow from the snowmobiles, the snow walking caught some ill-prepared. Those who completed the 18 km stroll were Ted Ibrahim, Mary Woodward, Bob Dean, Norman Thyer, Ron Perrier, Jill and Dave Watson, Craig Nichols, Jan Michlethwait and me.

A prize this month to  
**Dave Mitchell**

who had his trip report to me  
within 24 hours of getting home!



## An Alphabet for Mountaineers

A continuation from several issues ago. These are borrowed from the Alpine Club newsletter, and originated on Usenet.rec.climbing.

**known point:** (navigation) figment of the imagination.

**landmark:** visual pattern similar to a water mark, only dry.

**layback:** what a climber looks forward to at the end of a day.

**line of weakness:** long involved explanation for not attempting a route.

**lunge:** skillful or desperate move, depending on who is doing it and why.

**mashies:** reconstituted freeze dried potatoes.

**matterhorn:** trumpet-like musical instrument favoured by Swiss mountaineers.

**mohair:** hair of a mo. See scree.

**mole foam:** frothy exudation that appears on the lip of a furious mole.

**moraine:** forecast for an extended period of wet weather.

**myth:** accounts of adventure related by a mountaineer.

**navigation:** science of becoming temporarily disoriented. because instruments don't lie, and because art is truth, mountaineers are never lost.

**off width crack:** remark made in a smartass manner.

**on-sight flash:** climbing naked with cameras nearby.

**organized:** state of complete chaos.

**orienting:** preparing for a trip to Asia.

**picket, snow:** rank and file member of Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme publicly protesting grievances in the dead of winter.

**piton:** antique metal work.

**rainfly:** pesky insect that only appears during wet weather.

**red-point:** a blood stain left by a cratered climber.

**rock band:** enthusiastic group of musical noisemakers.

**rockies:** very small stones.

**runner:** very fast climber.

**rurp:** sound made by a climber after downing a hasty lunch.

**scree:** sound made by a mo when its hair is being removed. See mohair.

**shock:** large fish that can bite your leg off. Chiefly of concern to sea cliff climbers.

**shawangunks:** gunks that belong to shawans.

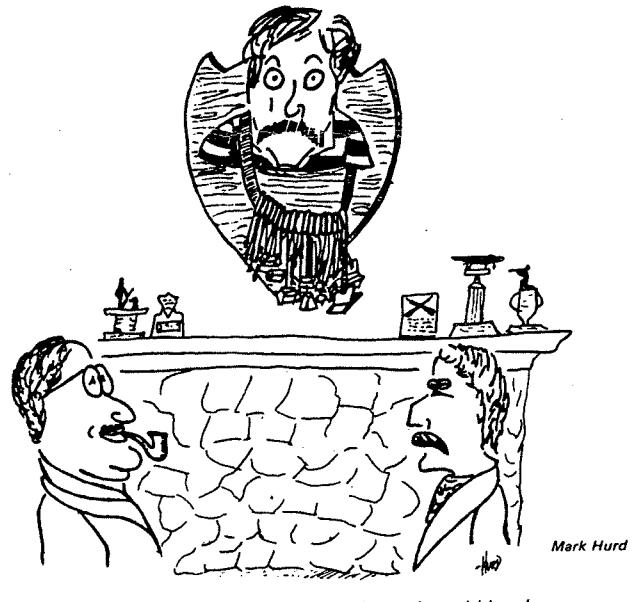
**ski mountaineering:** simplified way to move fast, fall a short distance, and remain uninjured. Usually.

**sling:** versatile strap dating to biblical times. When David the Israelite descended into the Vale of Elah, after a hard day climbing, he used a sling to slay the philistine Goliath.

**smear:** long, vertical mark left on rock surface by a climber whose friction move has failed.

**smokies:** little cigars, cigarettes, etc.

**snow bridge:** card game played on a glacier. As in other alpine endeavours, tricks are common, and there is always a dummy.



# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1996

Next deadline: September 10

## TRIPS and EVENTS . . .

**June 26 (Wed):** Outlook Mt (via Kokanee Creek) B-2, Anna Thyer (352-5265)

**June 29-July 1 (Sat-Mon):** Castle Mt B-4, Dennis Sims (447-6132)

**June 30:** Gray's Peak B-3, Howie Ridge (354-4909)

**July 1 (Mon):** Mt Roberts (Flag Trip) B-2: Jill Watson (362-5660)

**July 3 (Wed):** Ymir Mt B-3, Dave Adams (359-8112) **NOTE:** change of leader.

**CANCELLATION - July 6,7 (Sat-Sun):** Triune Peak C-4, Fred Thiessen - Fred's in Peru instead.

**July 6,7 (Sat-Sun):** Monica Meadows B-1 + ?, Mary Woodward (825-4491)

**July 7:** Idaho L/O **NOTE:** This hike was changed to May 26

**July 10 (Wed):** Mt Alwyn B-2, Ted Ibrahim (825-0085).

**July 13 (Sat):** Trail clearing, Mark Hamilton (352-5824)

**July 13,14 (Sat-Sun):** Eyebrow Peak C-4, Peter Jordan (352-5225)

**July 14:** Kane Peak B-3, Norman Thyer (352-5265)

**July 17 (Wed):** Slocan Chief Cabin B-1, Reid Henderson (352-2362) *0900 at Highway*

**July 20 (Sat):** Lucifer Peak B-2, Mark Hamilton (352-5824)

Annie 825-0026 Ted 825-0085  
Fred Jamin 352-2594

**July 21:** Reco Mt. B-2, Christine Sutherland (352-7755)

**July 24 (Wed):** Nansen Mt.B-2, Suzanne Blewett (ph.359-7759)

**July 27:** Start of First Camp

**July 27 (Sat):** Kootenay Mt. B-2, Ted Ibrahim (825-0085) *0700*

**July 28:** Long Mt. B-3, Mike Brewster (352-5666)

**July 31 (Wed):** Sphnx Mt. B-2, Yvonne Tremblay (825-9238)

**Aug 3-5 (Sat-Mon):** MacBeth & Lady MacBeth B-4, Peter Tchir (359-7440). *0700 Perry 0650 Superway*

**Aug 3 (Sat):** Mt. Yuill B-2, Bob Hellman (825-9571)

**Aug 4:** Keyhole-Cabin B-3, Joan Grodzki (825-0072) *— Inset Peak*

**Aug 7 (Wed):** London Ridge A-2, Bob Dean (359-7759)

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

\* Flower checklist

\* Current membership list



## KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter is printed approximately ten times each year.

**EDITOR:** Peter Macek  
Site 7, Comp 10, RR#1  
Slocan Park, BC V0G 2E0  
**phone:** 226-7576  
**fax:** 226-7576 (Note change)  
**e-mail:** pmacek@selkirk.bc.ca

### MEMBERSHIP

The club dues are:

Individual	\$30.00
Couple/family	\$45.00
Junior	\$10.00

Send dues to: Box 221  
Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

### SUBMISSIONS

I encourage all submissions of writing, cartoons, drawings, etc. Trip leaders should submit their writeups as soon after their trips as possible. Articles can be submitted in most written and electronic forms.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Suitability for publication is at the editor's discretion. Articles may be edited for clarity or for length. If you feel this may affect the integrity of your work, please attach a note to that effect.

### From the Editor...

This will be the last issue until September, so enjoy your summer! Thanks to everyone who has sent in articles, cartoons, and trip reports. The September issue will consist of summer trip writeups, so please make sure yours is in.

## URGENT

### Hiking Camp needs people

There have been four cancellations in Camp 2 and there still is a vacancy in Camp 3, so everyone is welcome to apply (memberships not necessary). Note that helicopter costs are calculated on the basis of full loads, so it is important that interested people are found. The camps this year are at the headwaters of Hope Creek in the Lardeau. Contact Laurie Charlton at 362-9461 if you want to go.

## In the Frame of Nature

### 2 day intermediate photography course with Larry Doell

24 - 25 August \$170

How often have you wished you could take pictures like a pro?

- See the art of composition
- Understand the technical aspects of photography
- Experience hiking in the alpine while shooting and learning with a pro.

You will discover a new realm of photography with Larry Doell in the presence of nature. For more information, contact Discovery Canada at 402 Front Street, Box 920, Kaslo BC V0G 1M0, telephone (604) 353-7349, fax (604) 353-7559.



## Karabiner

There have been several unexpected delays in getting this year's Karabiner to the printers. The intent was to start distributing them at the Spring Banquet, but now we will wait until people are back from summer holidays in September. Please watch the newsletter for the location where you'll be able to pick up your copy. Ron Perrier 365-7255.

# TRIPS and EVENTS CONTINUED . . .

- Aug 10,11 (Sat-Sun):** Mt. Louis C-5, Robin Lidstone (825-4260)
- Aug 11:** Gimli Peak B-3, David Shadbolt (352-5713)
- Aug 14 (Wed):** Lequereaux area B-2, Wendy Hurst (399-4157) Cr. Un. 0800
- Aug 16,17 (Sat-Sun):** Sugar Loaf Mt D-4 (Duncan River area) Kim Kratky (352-3895)
- Aug 17:** (End of Third Camp)
- Aug 17 (Sat):** Woodbury Hut B-1, Kathy Hendren (825-4357)
- **Aug 18:** Gwilliam Lakes A-1/Black Prince B-2, Rita Wege (354-1685)
- Aug 21 (Wed):** Crawford Creek headwaters B-2, Robin Lidstone (825-4260)
- Aug 24 (Sat):** Outlook Mt. B-2, Dave Adams (359-8112). All peaks via Nilsik Creek)
- **Aug 25:** Mt Harlow B-2, Peter Wood (359-7107)
- Aug 28 (Wed):** Toad Mt A-1, Reid Henderson (352-2362)
- **Aug 31-Sept 1 (Sat-Sun):** Jumbo Pass area A-1/B-2, Evan McKenzie (352-7801)
- Aug 31-Sept 2 (Sat-Mon):** Mt Templeman & Mt Abbott B-4, Peter Tchir (359-7440)
- Sept 1:** Grassy Mt B-2, Felix Belczyk (365-5134)
- **Sept 4 (Wed):** Wolf Peak B-2, Norman Thyer (352-5265)
- Sept 7 (Sat):** Slocan Chief Cabin B-1, Christine Sutherland (352-7755)
- Sept 8:** Pontiac Peak B-2, Ray Neumar (352-7042)
- Sept 8:** Mt Prestley B-3, Roland Perrin (352-5480)

- **Sept 11 (Wed):** Mt Brennan C-2, Mary Woodward (825-4491)
- **Sept 14 (Sat):** Mt Irvine B-2, Vivien Bowers (825-4392)
- Sept 14, 15 (Sat-Sun):** Burnham Pk C-4, Robin Lidstone (825-4260)
- **Sept 15:** Mt Ludlow B-2, Norman Thyer (352-5265)
- Sept 18 (Wed):** Mt Dryden B-3, Ted Ibrahim (825-0085)
- Sept 21,22 (Sat-Sun):** Chimney Rock B-5, Fred Thiessen (352-6140)
- Sept 22:** Blue Grouse Basin B-1/Mt Fennel B-2, Sue Port (365-6056)
- **Sept 25 (Wed):** Dominion Mt B-2, Anna Thyer (352-5265)

## John Carter Trail

Ken Wylie, a friend of John's, has suggested that the Gibson Trail in to the Slocan Chief cabin be named "The John Carter Trail". Discussions will be held with Parks. A committee has been formed that includes Ron Perrier and Karen Holden, to look into completing John's nearly-published trail guide.

### Looking for a partner?

Anyone interested in a partner for occasional climbing or canoeing, weekday evenings, call Peter Jordan, 352-5225 (pjordan@mfor01.for.gov.bc.ca)



## TRIP REPORTS

Not much room in this issue, but PLEASE get them in - several reports from the summer schedule are already overdue.



### MOUNT PLEWMAN

March 2, 1996

Don Olsen

Due to the hard conditions, a decision was made to stay in the Plewman basin area and pass on travelling to Old Glory (perhaps in June!) The trip started at around 9:00 using the popular access road through the clear cut to get into the basin. The snow conditions were very hard in Unnecessary Ridge and on Plewman itself. The sun and the wind had severely affected the snow over the week creating interesting designs where previous parties had skied. Despite the poor skiing conditions, the warm temperature, sunshine and light winds made for a good social outing. Will have to remember to investigate Murphy Basin next time conditions are like this.

We were Dave, Hugh, Andy, and Don.

remnants of good powder between the snowmobile tracks. This trip to a very beautiful area reminded us of the increasing issue of skiers vs snowmobiles. With the new, more powerful machines, there is almost nowhere they can't go, which means there are very few undisturbed destinations left to weekend ski tourers. While Berry Creek is not a high priority area for ski touring, there are plenty of our favourite destinations which are. It is time we started thinking of lobbying for some sort of zoning of backcountry areas, and identifying the important ski destinations so that when the inevitable carving-up of territory happens, we can present a good case.

We were: Roland Perrin, Dave Toews, Robin Lidstone, Jim Wood, Amy Stevenson, Steve Milne, and Peter Jordan.

### MOUNT HEIMDAL

March 17, 1996

Peter Jordan

The weather was beautiful and sunny, and there was 10-20 cm of fresh snow. For some of us, this was their third trip, and finally one where we had good weather. We drove up the Hoder-Berry Creek road to the winter logging site at about 1600m, and skied up through several km of logged slopes to reach the valley on the SW side of Mt Heimdal (the other side from the previous trips). This gave very good access to the alpine bowl and pass just west of the peak. Unfortunately about this time a herd of snowmobiles arrived, wiping out most of the good snow in about 1/2 hour, and performing all kinds of foolhardy feats blasting straight up steep avalanche slopes. At the col, it was cold and extremely windy, so we settled on the 2382m bump to the west, instead of Mt Heimdal itself which was a long, bleak-looking, windswept ridge. Coming down, we found some

### VIOLIN LAKE

May 11, 1996

Mary Baker

After checking participants for fishing rods, bathing suits, and motorized transport (all of which are prohibited at the lake, part of Trail's water system), we set off. This hike is a real A-1, following a dirt road for four miles up to 1400 at the lake. Due to the recent damp weather, we saw many toads and some snails, which I had never before seen "in the wild". On our return to the two cars we driven down to the trailhead, even the participants who had taken the backyard tour down from Warfield "to get enough exercise" were eager for a ride back uphill to their cars, so it must have been long enough for a Saturday stroll.

Participants were: Janice and Bob Hall, Hazel Kirkwood, Muriel and John Walton, Tara Dichmann, Anja Logodi, Carol Potasnyk, Bev Gordon, Melanie Streuve, Elaine Martin, and Mary Baker.







KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
Membership Address List - JUN 18/96

SAMOYLOFF, POLLY; R.R.#1, SITE 6, COMP 6, CASTLEGAR BC V1N 3H7	365-6474
SCHAMER, LINDA; BOX 3153, CASTLEGAR BC V1N 3HS	365-0280
SCHUURMAN, BESS; 916 GORE ST., NELSON B.C. V1L 5C9	354-4275
SELWOOD, NANCY; BOX 741, NELSON BC V1L 5R4	352-2173
SHADBOLT, DAVID; BOX 356, NELSON BC V1L 5S9	352 9547
SHAMES, P'NINA; 1116 HOOVER ST, NELSON BC V1L 4Y2	447-6132
SIMS, DENNIS & PAMELA JENKINS; BOX 46, CHRISTINA LAKE B.C. VOH 1E0	
SINGH, KAL; BOX 568, CANMORE ALTA. TOL 0MO	
SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION COMMISSION; BOX 8, SLOCAN PARK BC V0G 2E0	352-2193
SLY, DOUG & GALA; 325 HIGH ST, NELSON BC V1L 3Z9	359-7965
SMITH, LARRY & ALISON BURNS; BOX 6, SITE 5, RR #1, SLOCAN PARK B.C. V0G 2E0	352-6108
SMITH, SYLVIA; R.R.#1, S-1, C-42, NELSON BC V1L 5P4	
SNOWPACK OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES LTD.; 333 BAKER ST, NELSON BC V1L 4H6	367 9154
STAPLES, GARY; BOX 278, MONTROSE BC V0G 1P0	229-4317
STEACY, TED & MARILYN; BOX 32, BALFOUR BC V0G 1C0	352 2196
STEED, JANE; R.R.#1, 2.9, NELSON BC V1L 5P4	352 3273
STEWART, JOHN & KATHERINE; #9 - 1220 MILL ST, NELSON BC V1L 4T4	352-3742
STROO, ANNE & EUGENE; R.R.#1, S-1, C-29, NELSON BC V1L 5P4	352-7755
SUTHERLAND, CHRISTINE; BOX 707, NELSON BC V1L 5R4	224-7670
SUTHERNS, ANN; #24 COLUMBIAN HSE, 6000 IONA DR, VANCOUVER BC V6T 1L4	389-0155
SWINKELS, FRITS & MARIEKE; #306 2920 COOK ST, VICTORIA BC V8T 3S7	
SZCZERBINSKI, EDDY; 187 6me RUE, MONTMAGNY PQ G5V 3K1	514 263-4617
TCHIR, PETER; BOX 16, SOUTH SLOCAN BC V0G 2G0	359 7440
THATCHER, TIM & FAMILY; BOX 547, ROSSLAND BC V0G 1Y0	362-7207
THIESSEN, FRED & PATTERSON, BARB; 167-B TREVOR ST., NELSON BC V1L 2W2	352 6140
THOMPSON, TYLER; 3413 SOUTHRIDGE DR, CASTLEGAR BC V1N 3X7	365-3480
THOMSON, GARTH & PAT; BOX 221, ROSSLAND BC V0G 1Y0	362-7649
THYER, NORMAN & ANNA; RR #2, S-22, C-7, NELSON B.C. V1L 5P5	352-5265
TOMICHE, BEV; BOX 1658, ROSSLAND B.C. V0G 1Y0	362-9448
TREMBLAY, YVONNE; RR#3, NELSON BC V1L 5P6	825 9238
VOLPATTI, THOM; BOX 1192, ROSSLAND BC V0G 1Y0	362-5328
WAGAR, JANET & DEREK; BOX 1077, SALMO BC V0G 1Z0	357-9321
WALLACH, ELIZABETH; RR#3, S-3, C-30, NELSON BC V1L 5P6	825 9910
WALTON, JOHN & MURIEL; 2433 10TH AVE S, CASTLEGAR BC V1N 3A1	365 6519
WATSON JILL, DAVID & FAMILY; BOX 78, ROSSLAND BC V0G 1Y0	362-5660
WEGE, RITA; 718 STANLEY ST, NELSON BC V1L 1N5	354-1685
WHIPPLE, EARLE; 9 REED ST, LEXINGTON MA, USA 02173	617 862-6461
WILLIAMS, GARY; BOX 1384, ROSSLAND BC V0G 1Y0	362 5297
WILLSON, SHARON; 2828 9th AVE, CASTLEGAR BC V1N 2Z1	365-6340
WOOD, JIM; 324 BEASLEY ST, NELSON BC V1L 5M4	352-2924
WOOD, PETER; BOX 73, SOUTH SLOCAN BC V0G 2G0	359-7107
WOODWARD, MARY; RR#1, S-21, COMP 4, NELSON BC V1L 5P4	825 4491
WOOLNER-PRATT, DAVE; 211 CEDAR ST, NELSON BC V1L 2B8	354-4211
YOON, MARINA; #2 - 711 VERNON ST, NELSON BC V1L 4G3	354-4491
ZIMMERMANN, ANDRE; SILVER KING ROAD, GP BOX C-9, NELSON BC V1L 1C9	





# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1996

Next deadline: October 15

## TRIPS and EVENTS . . .

- Sept 21, 22 (Sat-Sun): Chimney Rock B-5, Fred Thiessen (352-6140)
- Sept 22: Blue Grouse Basin B-1/Mt Fennel B-2, Sue Port (365-6056)
- Sept 25 (Wed): Dominion Mt B-2, Anna Thyer (352-5265)
- Sept 28 (Sat): Panther Lakes A-1, Ron Cameron (364-1487)
- Sept 28-29: MacBeth Icefields Traverse C-3 (car camp), Armin Hasenkox (354-4555)
- Sept 29: Cabin maintenance, Mark Hamilton (352-5824). This will be fall cleanup and firewood cutting at one of the Bonnington Range huts.
- Sept 29: Silver Spray Cabin B-1 / Evening Star Peak B-3, David Shadbolt (352-5713)  
352-0112
- Oct 2 (Wed): Siwash Mt B-2, Dave Adams (359-8112)
- Oct 5 (Sat): Natural Bridge B-1, Pamela Jenkins (447-6132) Paulson Bridge 0900 Ted I.
- Oct 6: Copper Mt A-1, Rita Wege (354-1685)
- Oct 12 (Sat): Steed Hut B-2, call Bob Dean (359-7759)
- Oct 13: Grohman Creek A-1, Jane Steed (352-2196)
- Oct 20: Mt Robert Smith B-2, David Cunningham (352-7434)
- Oct 21: Directors' meeting

Oct 25: Hiking Camps slide show. Robson Hall 7:30. Call Joanne Baldassi (362-9461) if you have slides to show.

Oct 27: Kokanee Lake + ? B-1, Anna Thyer (352-5265)

Oct 30/Nov 3: Banff Festival of Mountain Films and Books

Nov 3: Slocan Ridge A-1 (& sauna), Bob Dean (359-7759)

Nov 10: Brilliant Bluffs A-1, Wendy Hurst (399-4157) 0930 Brilliant Bridge

Nov 15: Annual General Meeting. Trapper John's, Salmo. More details next issue.

Nov 16/17: Best of Banff film festival, Nelson

Nov 18: Best of Banff, Rossland

Nov 17: Pulpit Rock A-1, Mary Prothro (825-3434)

Nov 24: Rossland-Warfield old railway line A-1, Renate Belczyk (365-5134)

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- \* Summer trip reports
- \* Club news and reports



## KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Box 221 Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter is printed approximately ten times each year.

EDITOR: Peter Macek  
Site 7, Comp 10, RR#1  
Slocan Park, BC V0G 2E0  
phone and fax: 226-7576  
e-mail: pmacek@selkirk.bc.ca

### MEMBERSHIP

The club dues are:

Individual \$30.00

Couple/family \$45.00

Junior \$10.00

Send to: Box 221, Rossland V0G 1Y0

### SUBMISSIONS

I encourage all submissions of writing, cartoons, drawings, etc. Trip leaders should submit their writeups as soon after their trips as possible. Articles can be submitted in most written and electronic forms.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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### From the Editor...

Seems as if it's been a long time since I put one of these together - hope you missed it! I have more trip reports that didn't fit this time. They will be in the next issue (but do keep them coming!).

The newsletter is dependent on you for articles, cartoons, etc of interest, so don't hesitate to send anything that catches your eye.

## Karabiner

1995 edition is ready for all who were members as of September 1995. This year we are trying to save money by having distribution centres in each area.

- Castlegar: John & Muriel Walton (365-6519)
- Trail/Fruitvale/Montrose: Elaine Martin (H: 367-7335, W: 368-6445)
- Rossland: already delivered
- Slocan Valley: Peter Macek (226-7576)
- Nelson (Salmo to Kaslo): Dave Cunningham (352-7434)

These may be delivered or picked up at the appropriate home. We apologize for the mix up in pictures before the Hiking Camp and Climbing Camp sections - they were interchanged at the printers.

Ron Perrier

## Club Business

### Conservation

• There have been a couple of new applications for commercial back country skiing. Although they are not in our primary skiing areas, the fear is that they will push the snow-mobilers into conflict with us. A committee consisting of Dave Mitchell, Peter Bullock, Mark Hamilton, and Ted Ibrahim has been struck to try to come up with an over-all strategy.

• B C Tel Mobility has built its tower on top of the Brilliant Bluffs. The Conservation Committee had a meeting with them, and they agreed to set the tower further back and not have an access road. Ted feels the issue was resolved fairly well.

• Jumbo Pass. There was an 80 person gathering in Jumbo Pass to publicize opposition to the proposed development. The assessment process is once again moving ahead.

## Kinnaird Bluffs

A donation to defray costs was received from the MEC. Bert Port has resigned as chair, so the committee will meet to select a new one.

## Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Our membership in the FMCBC is being reviewed, and a resolution to withdraw will probably be presented to the membership at the AGM. It costs \$12 per member to belong, and if the club withdraws, individuals will still be able to join the FMCBC.

## Election of Directors

The following positions are up for election at the AGM: Treasurer, Secretary, Summer Trips, Winter Trips, Conservation, Karabiner, Entertainment.

## Silver Spray Cabin

The KMC and Friends of the West Kootenay Parks have donated a framed photograph of the old cabin. The picture is now up at the cabin.

---

## Change of Address

Ed Szczerbinski  
c/o 283 Des Erables  
Brigham, Quebec J0E 1J0

## Lost

Box containing hiking supplies. Upper road at Mulvey Basin mid-July. 362-5289

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## 1996 Mountaineering School

Once again we have a fully trained crew of mountaineers ready to get some climbing done. The nine week course ran smoothly, much to the credit of the volunteer instructors who came out to help and show their stuff.

Once again there was a full class of 20 people signed up for the course and about 6 more on the waiting list. Every class had a good showing of both students and instructors coming out.

The weather was pretty darn wet the first night out at the Kinnaird Bluffs, but it got steadily better as the weeks went by, with beautiful sunshine for the weekend finale up Glacier Creek.

The five days at the bluffs were spent covering protection placement, belay setup, and climbing techniques. After that we put our knowledge to the test and adapted it to snow up at Mt. Ymir. The students set up snow anchors, and tried out ice axe arrests in every configuration, sliding down the hill upside down and backwards with a few somersaults thrown in. Everyone made it to the top in time for lunch in the sun and prepared themselves for the 2000ft bum slide down to the trucks.

The June 15/16 weekend up Glacier Creek was well attended with 21 people. The road was nearly clear of snow to the top end and good snow conditions made for great walking. There were about 1.5m of snow on the glacier, with the hanging glaciers around dropping loads throughout the day. Saturday afternoon we setup in the icefall, and prussiked, pulleyed, and pulled students and instructors out of the crevasses as part of the rescue techniques. The entire crew made their way up the glacier to the south ridge on Sunday for great views and a snack lunch. Again amazing weather and good snow conditions on the glacier with an early start.

Thanks once again to all the volunteers and I hope all the new members from the school feel at home in the KMC and will continue to take part in the club's adventures.

Peter Bullock  
Mountaineering School Director

# TRANSPORT COSTS ON KMC TRIPS

Norman Thyer

When it comes to giving a driver a share of vehicle expenses on a KMC trip, it is difficult to estimate a reasonable amount in the absence of guidelines. Should the driver estimate the expense, or should the passengers give what they think is reasonable? There can be great differences in different persons' estimates.

Expenses amount to far more than fuel costs; insurance, depreciation and maintenance can be at least as significant too. Therefore I am trying to formulate some guidelines that are reasonable and not too complicated.

I have heard that when a private car is used on government business, the owner/driver is reimbursed at \$0.32/km. Probably this assumes typical highway driving with a moderate load, such as driver + 2 passengers.

We encounter some complications, however, as we often drive on rough roads that inflict more wear on the vehicle and probably increase fuel consumption. This extra wear is difficult to quantify directly. However, in general, the rougher the road, the longer it takes to drive a given distance. Therefore I suggest that costs be estimated using a combination of distance and time. [Actual driving time excluding stops.]

The exact combination of distance and time is arbitrary. Some possibilities are:

\$0.16/km plus \$12/hour

\$0.20/km plus \$9/hour

\$0.24/km plus \$6/hour

For a journey of 75km at an average speed of 75km/hour (e.g. South Slocan to New Denver), each of these would give a cost of \$24, corresponding to the standard of \$0.32/km. So for a typical load of 3 persons per vehicle, the total cost per vehicle for the round trip would be \$48, or \$16 per person.

As the weight of a passenger is around 5% of the weight of the vehicle, the total cost per vehicle could be increased by 5% for each extra person beyond 3, or decreased by 5% for each person less than 3. So in the above example, with 4 people, the total cost would be \$50.40, or \$12.20 each, while with 2

persons, the total cost would be \$45.60, or \$22.80 each, and with 8 people the total cost would be \$60, or \$7.50 each. [Evidently the 5% adjustment is a minor factor, except in the case of a van with many passengers.]

If the trip in the example was extended from New Denver to Idaho Lookout, with a long, rough road and an average speed of less than 75km/hour, then the three formulas would give different results; the first would give the highest cost, and the last the lowest.

So what is your opinion of this suggestion? Have you any other formulas to offer?

Editor's comment: seems like an interesting starting point, but wouldn't we have to start signing out computers as well as Pieps before trips?

.....

Planning your winter? Here are a couple of advertisements that may be of interest...



In the winter the Esplanade Range becomes a mecca for ski tourers, alpine tourers and telemarkers. The ski season runs from early December through to the end of April. An average 3 metre base topped with light, dry Selkirk Mountain powder will ensure that your ski dreams come true.

The Lodges are situated at tree line with powder skiing right outside your door. The terrain is varied with open bowls, gladed trees, and steep chutes that will satisfy all types of skiers. Try Sun Bowl, Million Dollar Holler, and the incomparable Paradise Ridge, 4 kms wide and 1500 to 2500 vertical feet.

Typical rates (Lodge, helicopter, custodian, tax) for groups of 8 to 12 are \$355/person/3 nights, \$450/person/4 nights and \$570/person/7 nights

Box 1050, Golden BC V0A 1H0  
Phone / fax (604) 344-7272  
e-mail goalpine@rockies.net



## Valhalla Mountain Touring

Located outside the northern boundary of Valhalla Park our comfortable backcountry cabin gives easy access to many alpine bowls. Our new snowcat will take you safely from the valley to the cabin. The surrounding mountains provide some of the finest ski touring and telemarking on an average snow base of 3 meters. The guides and staff are fully qualified professionals as well as being hospitable, friendly people. We offer early season 3 day avalanche courses and a variety of booking packages.

Owner Dale Caton adds a note, "If you have any interest in renting my cabin for a ski trip, I would come to a meeting with a slide show for 20 - 30 minutes"

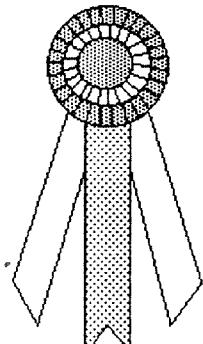
RR#1 Box 43, New Denver V0G 1S0  
phone: (604) 358-7905

.....

## TRIP REPORTS

The trip report prize this month goes to

**Norm Thyer**  
who e-mailed his report in  
within 3 hours of his  
return!



## IDaho LOOKOUT VIA THE WAKEFIELD TRAIL

May 25, 1996

David Cunningham

The plan was to walk up the trail which is south facing a month before it is possible to drive up the north facing side of the mountain. I had been informed that the snow is usually off the trail by the May long weekend and that the summit is often bare of snow due to sun and wind exposure. Indeed there are supposed to be flowers on the summit by the end of May. It was not like that this year. We encountered a lot of snow and crossed five avalanche chutes that seemed quite active.

One takes the Silverton Creek logging road and follows signs to the beginning of the trail. The trail is an old mining trail built at the turn of the century to be used by donkeys. It is about three feet wide and uses switchbacks instead of being steep. It arrives at the parking lot just below Idaho Lookout.

In spite of our struggles walking in the snow and finding the trail beneath the snow, we all seemed to enjoy the hike. There were wonderful views of the Valhallas and of the peaks of Kokanee Glacier Park. It was the first warm sunny day we had seen for a while. On the trip were Anna Reid, Linda, Diane Paolini, Jill Watson, Anja, Lynn and David Cunningham.

## CONNER MOUNTAIN

May 26, 1996

Carol Potasnyk

I would like to thank Bob Dean for scheduling my trip on our first glorious sunny Sunday after six weeks of rain.

Our group of nine started hiking the Snowater - Rover Creek road at about the 13 km point. Bob would have driven us to Snowater Creek (14.5 km) if it had not been for the shouts of terror and threatened mutiny of the passengers in his Toyota. After the truck was dislodged from the snow bank, we began our trip at 10 am. We ascended the mountain on the south west ridge which was clear of snow. The summit was reached at 1:00. On the summit there were huge cornices over the north face and fresh grizzly tracks in the snow. We enjoyed the views and warmth of the sun for 1 1/2 hours before we headed down. A ridge of snow provided great boot

skiing, body tobogganning and easy descent. As we scrambled over a rock slide, a boulder dislodged, injuring one of our party. Thanks to Drew and his well stocked first aid kit, the cuts were dressed and the casualty made it to hospital for stitches. We were back at the vehicles by 4:30. It was an eventful and very pleasant day out.

On the trip were Tara, Barbara, and Stephan from Rossland, Drew Desjardins, Joan Grodzki, Bob Dean, Andrew Martin, Ray Neumar, and leader Carol Potasnyk.

## CRAWFORD PEAK (2380M)

June 9, 1996

David Mitchell

If the number of telephone calls I received between Wednesday night and Sunday were any indicator, this trip should have been a cast of thousands! (well, maybe 20 or so). We ended up as a group of seven.

Mary Woodward led this trip by remote, as she was off gallivanting in Vancouver or somewhere. Her trip was rated as B-2, but as there was so much snow the route required a bit of ridge walking which offered a choice of falling off the ridge down the rocky cliffs or off the steep snow side. The exposure factor on this ridge and the snow gulley to the top would bump the trip rating to a B-3. This would have been a perfect ski trip!\*

The road up was washed out at a creek, but was under repair and passable. There was a fallen tree that we sawed and removed. (Are we liable for a big fine under the new Forest Practices Code for modifying a FS road?)

The weather was great, albeit a bit windy, and the snow was not mushy enough to sink in more than 5 or 10 cm. We followed the Forest Service trail, after spotting the sign post and registry in the snow at our feet, but climbed up to the aforementioned ridge, rather than traversing it along the trail. On the approach to the summit, the group split in two, the snow gulley climbers and the rock climbers. I forgot who won the race. On the return trip we practiced our boot-axe belays and followed the basin to the trail and back to the trucks.

The trip took 3 hours up and 2 down, which is about the right length considering the added time for ferrying home (except for east-side Hamish!)

We were Dave Cunningham (who wouldn't sign our waiver form), Ray Neumar,

Bob Dean, Hamish Mutch, Anne Berland, Chris from Slocan, David Mitchell, and not Mary Woodward

\* as a matter of fact, I wrote this report more than a month after the trip was completed, on July 15th, the day after Peter Jordan and I went skiing up Kokanee. Peter's trip to Eyebrow was postponed due to 3 meters of snow at Starbird Pass, but I digress.

## ELEMENTARY SNOW PRACTICE

June 15, 1996

Norman Thyer

I maintain that it is not the best occasion to try a self-arrest for the first time when you are hurtling out of control down a steep snow slope towards the edge of a cliff. On the grounds that an organized practice would be a better occasion, one was held on June 15. Four active participants came from Nelson - Anne Berland, Darrin Grund, Jim Wood and Dave Horner, plus potential mountain rescue volunteers Emma Wood and Timber Horner, and Garth Thomson came from Rossland to offer his knowledge and experience.

Ymir Mountain area was chosen as the site because of easy access to suitable snow at this season. Indeed, we found adequate snow within the ski area, and started our practice near the bottom of the runs from Mother Lode. The aim was to handle situations such as crossing a steep snow gully with only the minimum equipment of ice-axe and rope. After learning to tie in to a rope with a bowline or bowline-on-a-coil, we practised self-arrests from all four sliding positions, on belly or on back, with head uphill or downhill, using a rope to simulate the effect of a steeper slope.

Around noon, we went up higher and found a steeper slope closer to the top of the Mother Lode run, where we tried some belays, of the boot-axe type and the sitting-hip type in a moat by a tree. Thus we could experience the strengths and weaknesses of these systems, and also appreciate how a harness would be an improvement in comfort over a simple waist tie-in.

The Wood-Horner party had brought skis, so, having covered our planned syllabus by 2 o'clock, they proceeded uphill to get in a run down while the rest of us returned. We were lucky in having warm and dry weather.

## THE FIRST ASCENT

June 15-16, 1996

Olindo Chiocca

*"Ed, my boy, this is Everest - you've got to push it a bit harder!" (Sir Edmund Hillary to himself - final thrust for the summit)*

Step, step, step, up, up, up, I just had to keep going. It would have been easy to quit, but the incredible feeling of going for the top of a relatively minor peak was incredible. This is what I wanted. After having read Sir Edmund's biography and account of his quest for Everest, I knew I had to try the mountains, and thanks to the KMC, Peter and the rest of the gang of volunteers, it happened. But it didn't start there. Being born and raised in downtown Toronto, did not prepare me for any of this. In fact I was totally unprepared (my own fault of course) for this final stage of the KMC mountaineering course at Glacier Creek. My boots leaked, and with no gaiters, it was even worse. I tried to solve that problem by sticking my feet in Overwaitea bags, but by the time I arrived at my destination, my feet were totally immersed in water, and in fact floated on melted glacier ice. When trying to sleep, I discovered that the floor map I had borrowed was too thin. It worked for the first half hour and then the cold and wet of the snow came leaking through. To make matters worse, the inadequately prepared lumpy ground with its jagged icy peaks stabbed various parts of my body as I lay there making sleep impossible. So by the time morning rolled around (4:30 am - most people still call it night time), I was cold, stiff, wet, sore, and had had no sleep at all: I was ready for the ascent!!! After all, this is what I had waited months for.

The climb was a totally new experience for me and being tied to three other climbers over ten years younger, and one being almost twenty years younger than myself, I just had to keep pushing a little harder than I would normally have done. I kept counting the steps, looking, and hoping for the summit to arrive, but slowly it was the journey which became more fascinating than I would have expected. I started to pick up Lee Boyer's enthusiasm as we climbed. The thrill of seeing these mountains and mountain ranges unfolding was quite dramatic for someone who is used to seeing brick walls and hydro

lines from his window. The sky was an incredible deep, deep blue, the like of which I'd never seen. The sun cast a perfectly circular rainbow which some of us were lucky enough to experience. Just walking on a glacier for the first time was a rush. Checking out the crevasses, their depth and colour left me to grunting in incomprehensible syllables, as by that point I had used "incredible", "fantastic", and other similar words too many times. The cool clean air, combined with the hard work gave me a strong feeling of physical and mental accomplishment.

By the time we had reached the summit, it felt just like I had expected, cold and windy, and not having any clothing warm and light enough, I quickly cooled off and was looking forward to the descent. I quickly gathered up a rock as a souvenir of my climb, and we started to head down.

What an experience!! Although by the end of the two days I was exhausted, the more the time passes, the more I feel the thrills, and less the agonies of the experience. The climbing will continue...

## MOUNT GRASSY

June 16, 1996

Felix Belczyk

We drove from Castlegar to the Bombi Summit and from there about nine kilometres on a dusty dirt road. From this point we bushwacked straight up to the Grassy Ridge. The bushwacking was made easier by large patches of snow that still covered the forest ground.

The walk from the ridge to the summit was pleasant on soft snow and the view from the top rewarding.

We were: Wally Babakaiff, Greg Gage, Bob Dean, Diane Webb, Roy and Bonnie Neumar, Hazel Kirkwood, Mary Martin, Stephanie Dean, Jim Sharp, Andrew Martin, Hamish Mutch, Felix and Renate Belczyk.

## OLD TOM MOUNTAIN (8700 FEET)

June 23, 1996

Ray Neumar

Because of the gloomy weather forecast and poor back-road conditions, we chose to go to Old Tom rather than Haystack. 16 hikers and 6 vehicles were on the 7:40 ferry. As it turned out, the weather was fine with only the peak obscured in cloud. We hiked from

Canyon creek up the valley that borders on Old Tom's east bowl. The bushwack to the lowest part of the ridge took about 40 minutes..then we followed the snow ridge all the way. Snow conditions, slippery bare and loose rock and the final pinnacle made the hike interesting. Thirteen climbed to the peak. The descent was quick - with most hikers sliding down the bowl to the logging road below.

on the hike were Debbie Webb, Dennis Sims, Pamela Jenkins, Maurice de St. Jorre, Martin carver, Bob Dean, Kevin Forsyth, Wally Babakiaff, Ron Perrier, Danella Anderson, Olaf Böhn, Johnathan, Ted Ibrahim, Jan Micklethwaite, and Ray Neumar.

### MT ROBERTS FLAG TRIP

July 1, 1996

Jill Watson

Meeting at the Rossland library at 9am on July 1st. 16 KMCers and 40 locals set out for the annual Flag Trip. The route took us from the Cascade highway along an old logging road to the trailhead then up the steep east face of Mt. Roberts. The trail was reasonably marked and the slopes were well dressed with wild flowers. With everyone assembled on the summit by noon and the upper half of the huge 9 ft flag flying in the gentle breeze (the lower k\half was wrapped around Garth) we proudly sang the national anthem. Enhanced by the clear warm sunny day the vista of the surrounding hills was lovely.

After lunch we started our descent and with only one short detour (adventure) off the beaten track, we were back at our vehicles around 2:15pm. A very special thank you to mark Israel and Bob Dean who very ably packed the flag to the summit and to Gordie Wright who brought it back down again.

Watch out for a young goat by the name of Shane Davies who at 4 1/2 years young and 23" tall hiked up and down the mountain under his own steam.

We were Elaine, Carol, Diane, Lyn, Pat, Anja, Sue, Elise, Carolyne, Dave A, Garth, Bob, Ken, Gary, Dave, and Jill.

### MT ALWYN

Long 117deg 20min Lat. 49deg 52min.  
Elevation 2521m

July 10, 1996

Ted Ibrahim

Previous reports of this hike in 1971 and 1981 starting this hike in Alwyn Creek sounded very unpleasant, with a lot of bushwhacking. We decided that the best route appeared to be up Maurier Creek. We drove about 100 m past the 8 km marker on Silverton Creek and turned right for Maurier Creek. About 5 or 6 km up the Maurier Creek road we took a right fork to cross Maurier Creek and continued about 2 km to the end of the road, the last part being definitely 4wd. The elevation at the parking area was 1650 m.

We had an easy walk to the base of the snow through some open areas that were wet in places and through some mild bush. The snow up the valley to the east of Alwyn was in good condition and was only steep at the very top of he col. From the col to the top of Alwyn involved some rock scrambling, but did not present any difficulties to any of the participants. The weather was excellent with mixed cloud and sun and everyone agreed that the day had exceeded their expectations. We were Ray Neumar, Kristyn McIntosh, Andre Zimmermann, Maurice De St Jorre, Bob Dean and Ted Ibrahim.

### KANE PEAK

July 14, 1996

Norman Thyer

We had an early start, some of us meeting in Nelson at 6am, and picking up others on the way. It was already 9am when we started hiking from the end of the Keen Creek road, and 10.30 when we reached Joker Lakes. Beyond this point, we started to encounter snow. We took a fairly leisurely pace with several stops, and managed to keep reasonably cool in spite of the current heat-wave, as we veered left into the basin immediately south of Kane Peak.

Having reached the upper part of the basin, 7 climbers, in 3 groups, took a gully leading to a notch in the south ridge of the peak, while 2 took a longer, easier route to reach the ridge further south and traverse the snow behind the ridge. The climb up the east side of the summit was partly on snow, and

with the party split appropriately, we negotiated the few minor patches of loose rock without hazard.

We reached the summit at various times between 1400 and 1430. Of the two high points, the south one appeared to be slightly higher, and someone had apparently tried to raise Kane by building a two-stone cairn on it. In a cloudless sky, the view extended from the northern Monashees to the southern Purcells.

Because of loose rock in the gully, the longer approach had proved to be both quicker and safer for a large party. So we all returned by that route, and enjoyed a great run down the snow-filled basin, ending with a glissade into the valley.

It was after 7pm when we started back down the road, and by the time we had stopped for ice-cream etc. in Kaslo, it was around 10pm when some of us arrived home. So it was a long day, but I think we all enjoyed it. The participants, A to Z, were: Donella Anderson, Dave Cunningham, Bob Dean, Ted Ibrahim, Ray Neumar, Andy Reamer, Norman Thyer, Chris von Schirmer and Andre Zimmermann.

#### Slocan Chief Cabin

July 17, 1996 Reid Henderson

Due to earlier sightings of bears in Kokanee Park, an enquiry of the Parks Branch before the hike revealed that the trail was open after the removal of an 'adolescent' grizzly bear, and that we could expect snow beyond Kokanee Lake and as much as 170cm at the cabin.

Under the threat of afternoon showers, twelve hardy souls left the Gibson Lake parking lot at 10:00 with ice axes in hand for the same destination via the Keyhole.

We arrived at frozen Kokanee Lake at 11:30. The trail through talus on the west side of the lake had six sections of snow where it was necessary to use caution. From the north end of the lake to the cabin we were 'snow whacking'. People occasionally fell through the snow up to their thighs. Anna did an excellent job breaking trail for us but at 12:45 appeared to lead the 'mutiny lunch break' at Kaslo Lake.

We were at the cabin by 2 pm to meet Ray, David, and Bob. After a relaxing hour in the sun and a massage by Anna, we were parking lot bound at 3 pm. As we left, a helicopter appeared from a westward greying sky.

As Ray and David would not let Bob do any leading over the keyhole, by unannounced consensus we original twelve let Bob lead from the cabin to the north end of Kokanee lake.

Once off the snow, it was all downhill on terra firma. We were back at the parking lot by 6 pm. Much to our surprise, the trail had once again been closed due to more bear sightings. This time, Parks signage included multi-coloured ribbons and barriers!

We saw lazy old marmots, argumentative squirrels, and snowbirds. Flowers included columbine, glacier avalanche lilies, violets, buttercups, anemone, elderberry, heather, and forget-me-nots.

Of the 15 hikers, 10 were KMC members (2 of whom were on their first KMC hike). We were Janet Wager, Don Harasym, Doug Bennett, Hazel Kirkwood, Anna Thyer, Anita Thyer, Hanna Tesling, Don Gillmore, Anita Van Der Meer, Colin Kinsey, Ted Ibrahim, Ray Neumar, Bob Dean, David Cunningham, Reid Henderson.

## RECO MOUNTAIN

July 21, 1996 - Coordinator: Christine Sutherland Reporter: Norman Thyer

Most of us gathered at South Slocan at 7am or soon after, and by the time we reached Sandon, we numbered 16. Piling into Bob Dean's and Hamish Mutch's vehicles, we started up the Reco Mountain road, and eventually found the correct branch. There were occasional problems with fallen trees. Some all-terrain vehicles had gone up earlier (we met them later as they were descending) and their crews had sawn through the trees, but the gaps were big enough for our vehicles with only a couple of centimetres to spare. (It is lucky that Hamish's vehicle was the smaller version of the Bronco.)

We drove about halfway up the mountain, and at 10:30am, after Annie had applied a liberal dose of sunburn protection to her boots, started walking up the road. 25 minutes later, we deliberated on whether to leave the road and follow a grassy gully directly to the top of the mountain, but finally we all continued up the road to where it crossed the ridge. Thence we followed the ridge up to our left, over meadow densely covered with glacier lilies and spring beauties, and later amongst golden fleabanes, Jacob's

Ladders and saxifrages (?). Towards the summit, substantial remains of old cornices still clung to the ridge, and there were small patches of snow that appeared quite new. Across the valley, most snow had now gone from the basin on the north side of Idaho Lookout, apart from a thin white line along the road.

With cloudy conditions and some wind, we made our "summit conference" short. Most of us took one of Bob Dean's famous "short cuts" down a basin and gully, which brought us to the road a couple of minutes before meeting with the rest of the group, who had descended by the road after starting down a bit later. On the way, some of us had witnessed a conflict between two animals, probably a longtail weasel and a Columbian ground squirrel, in which the predator had chased its prey some way down the mountain, and finally started dragging it back up.

We reached Sandon again around 4pm without further incident. Participants were: Crystal Aielwicz, Mary Baker, Stephane Brienne, Bob Dean, Eleanor Dworschak, Ted Ibrahim, Fred Jamin, Marcus Jamin, Hamish Mutch, Pauline Riley, Karla Robison, Joe Schwartz, Annie Struel, Christine Sutherland, Norman Thyer and Chris von Schirmer.

## KOOTENAY MOUNTAIN AND WOOD PEAK

July 27, 1996

Ted Ibrahim

Long 116deg 49min Lat 49deg 14min  
Elevations 2456 m and 2435 m.

Last year we attempted this trip by driving up Blazed and Jersey Creek roads, but were unsuccessful because the ridge was too far to go because of the terrain, distance and time. However, we did see a road up Shaw Creek that seemed to give good access to Kootenay Mountain, if we could find how to get in. The whole area is Darkwoods Forestry private property and requires a permit for access. They confirmed that we could get in to Shaw creek by taking the Topaz creek road off the Salmo-Creston highway about 10 km west of Creston. Three of us met in Nelson at 7 am and after the long drive over Kootenay Pass, drove 30 km up the Topaz Creek road to end up south of Kootenay Mtn. at about

1875 m. The original plan to contour round to the ridge on Kootenay Mtn. was abandoned when we saw the bushwhacking required. We therefore walked up the ridge to the top of Wood Peak, which only had some mild bushwhacking, and then scrambled across to Kootenay Mtn., which involved dropping about 220 m. On the way back, we dropped to a lake south of the ridge between the two tops and then climbed up again to the Wood Peak ridge, to avoid dense bush. The weather was excellent, if a bit hot, but the flies and mosquitoes made us reluctant to hang around in one place for too long. Overall, we all found it a worthwhile and enjoyable trip. We were Norman Thyer, Dave Cunningham and Ted Ibrahim.

## LONDON RIDGE

August 7, 1996

Bob Dean

Most of us met at the South Slocan Credit Union at 8:00am and drove up to the Sandon turn-off parking lot where we met the others. From there we went in two vehicles up Kane Creek and up a long, over-grown road with many switchbacks, to the McAlister mine site at an elevation of approximately 5,800'. (coming down the road it took one hour). We then walked up to the ridge and continued eastwards, hiking over a number of 'humps'. The flowers were very plentiful and the weather was good. On the return through Silverton some of us had a dip in Slocan Lake.

Participants were Roger Legge, Dianne Wyton, Wendy Hurst, Kristyn McIntosh, Anita Van Der Meer, David Cunningham, Hans and Erika Korn, Megan Moorcroft, Lesley Killough, Bill Almolky, Kaayla Lea, Ted Ibrahim, Bob Dean.

## PONTIAC PEAK

July 28, 1996

Bob Dean

Since the Gibson Lake area of the park was closed seven drove up Woodbury Creek road, hiked to Sunset Lake and climbed Pontiac Pk. The road was rough and the weather was hot. (Elevation gain 2,700') Rita Wege, Lisa MacGregor, Al Fedoruk, Dave Mitchell, Ted Ibrahim, Peter Tchir, Bob Dean.

# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1996

Next deadline: November 15

## TRIPS and EVENTS . . .

- Oct 25:** Hiking Camps slide show. Robson Hall 7:30. Call Joanne Baldassi (362-9461) if you have slides to show.
- Oct 27:** Kokanee Lake + ? B-1, Anna Thyer (352-5265)
- Oct 30/Nov 3:** Banff Festival of Mountain Films and Books
- Nov 3:** Brilliant Bluffs A-1, Wendy Hurst (399-4157) Note change of date.
- Nov 10:** Slocan Ridge A-1 (& sauna), Bob Dean (359-7759) Note change of date.
- Nov 15:** Annual General Meeting. Trapper John's, Salmo.
- Nov 16/17:** Best of Banff film festival, Nelson
- Nov 18:** Best of Banff, Rossland
- Nov 17:** Pulpit Rock A-1, Bob Dean (359-7759) Note change of leader.
- Nov 24:** Rossland-Warfield old railway line A-1, Karen Holden (365-2715) Note change of leader.
- end of summer schedule - winter trips in next issue
- Dec 9:** regular Directors' meeting

## Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting and social will be at Trapper John's (Saimo) on Friday, November 15. Open for drinks at 6:30, with supper at 7:00 and the meeting afterwards. Price for the dinner will be \$16.00 per person.

If you are going, contact one of the following by November 12 at the latest:

Joanne Baldassi 362-9461  
Drew Desjardins 825-0072  
(leave message on machine)  
Muriel Walton 365-6519

People interested in carpooling from Nelson, phone Norman Thyer 352-5265

The following Executive and Directors positions are open for election: Secretary, Treasurer (Garth is not standing for re-election), Summer Trips (Bob is not standing), Winter Trips, Karabiner Editor, Entertainment/Social, and Conservation.

6 pm - 6.10

Dave M.  
Klein K.

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- ✿ Report on heli-skiing / hiking in Glacier Creek
- ✿ Rest of the summer's trip reports



# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Box 221 Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter is printed approximately ten times each year.

#### EDITOR: Peter Macek

Site 7, Comp 10, RR#1  
Slocan Park, BC V0G 2E0  
phone and fax: 226-7576  
e-mail: pmacek@selkirk.bc.ca

#### MEMBERSHIP

The club dues are:

Individual \$30.00  
Couple/family \$45.00  
Junior \$10.00

Send to: Box 221, Rossland V0G 1Y0

#### SUBMISSIONS

I encourage all submissions of writing, cartoons, drawings, etc. Trip leaders should submit their writeups as soon after their trips as possible. Articles can be submitted in most written and electronic forms.

#### EDITORIAL POLICY

Suitability for publication is at the editor's discretion. Articles may be edited for clarity or for length. If you feel this may affect the integrity of your work, please attach a note to that effect.

## From the Editor...

Not much to add this month, except that I am looking forward to seeing a lot of you at the AGM. Don't forget to let people know that you are going - I forgot last year.

And hey, DO write that trip report!! (at this time of the evening, I seem to have to say that in every issue.)

## AGM Business (cont)

The following proposals for By-Law Amendments have been submitted for discussion and a vote by the general membership:

**Signing authorities** (submitted by Garth Thomson):

Section B: Officers and Directors  
paragraph II: "signing officers ... shall be ... Treasurer, (and) Secretary, and one other Director appointed by the Executive."

*Reason to provide flexibility to allow two people with signing authority to conduct business between executive meetings.*

**Membership requirement** (submitted by Garth Thomson):

Section A: Membership  
paragraph I: "... Treasurer of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club. Applications from outside the region may be accepted if sponsored by a member and approved by the Executive."

*Reason to eliminate a long-standing concern that some prospective members who are well-known and respected climbing partners, friends, etc. of some members are not able to join them in their adventures due to a technicality. The concern that new members might join just to participate in an inexpensive camp could be controlled.*

**Membership requirement** (submitted by Bob Dean):

Section A: Membership  
paragraph I: "... Treasurer of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club. Applications from outside the region will be accepted."

*Reason the club should not exclude from membership people based on where they live most of the year; some of them regularly spend their summers here. The concern about Hiking Camp should be handled differently.*

The Executive will also present a motion to withdraw from the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (the FMCBC).

## Hiking Camp

The camps were very successful. A small surplus resulted, which will be held in the reserve fund. Laurie is looking for suggestions for a location for next year's camp. 362-9461

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## Karabiner

Please remember to contact the person listed if you have not yet picked up your copy of last year's Karabiner.

Castlegar: John & Muriel Walton (365-6519)

Trail/Fruitvale/Montrose: Elaine Martin

(H: 367-7335, W: 368-6445)

Slocan Valley: Peter Macek (226-7576)

Nelson (Salmo to Kaslo): Dave Cunningham  
(352-7434)

This year's issue is being worked on. Ron is looking for articles, on virtually any topic dealing with outdoor recreation. Ron Perrier 365-7255

## Cabins and Trails

All the cabins have been visited and cleaned out. Mark reports that there isn't a lot of firewood at the Grassi and Stead huts, so don't count on there being any later in the season. George and Armin went to the Huckleberry and Copper huts and got in lots of wood for those. Wood will start to be a major problem at the huts starting next year and we will have to start flying wood in (we hope that with the Forest Service's help). The stove at Grassi is still okay, but will have to be replaced next year.

## Developments in the backcountry

Glacier Creek - the commercial guiding outfit there has agreed not to do any heli-hiking and will not be building any more cabins. Some of the present illegal ones may be taken down in the near future. See Kim's report on page 8. Is this the latest? I'm not sure.

Hall Creek - the application for commercial cat skiing in the Hall Mountain / Copper Mountain area has been put on hold by the applicant as there was too much opposition.

The snowmachine backcountry conflict resolution paper should be out shortly.

## Change of address

Kathy Hendren  
424 2nd St. Nelson V1L 2L3      354-4219

## For Sale

16 x 14 wall tent. \$300 or offer. This is a ex-Hiking camp tent which was replaced this year for \$1100, and is still in reasonably good shape.

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letter to the editor

## Subject: Vehicle Costs

Fred Thiessen

Government pays its employees \$.37/km for private vehicles used on government business. This cost is for the "average" vehicle (mid sized American sedan) and is calculated to be the "breakeven" costs for running a vehicle. The \$.37 is intended to cover all the costs (maintenance, extra business insurance, depreciation, etc.) associated with running a vehicle. If Norm is looking for feedback, I suggest, "keep it simple".

Another perspective which the BCMC investigated a couple of years ago was the topic of liability and fee for service to recover costs. I forget all the details, but I think it went like this: if a vehicle owner charges to recover costs, he is acting like a "taxi" and there is the requirement for extra care and likely extra insurance. More things to consider (and to write about). Club may be wise to stay away from policy (which everyone promptly forgets anyway). Keep in mind that in "guidelines for trip participants" it already mentions that passengers should share expenses.



.....  
Spyglass Glacier (hiking camp)  
- photo Pam Jenkins

## TRIP REPORTS

### NANSEN MT

July 24, 1996

Bob Dean

Ten met at the Credit Union at Playmor Junction at 8:00 and drove up Enterprise Creek and then Timber Creek starting to hike at 10:00. All climbed Nansen and then headed towards Robert Smith which five climbed. They were Peter Tchir, Ted Ibrahim, David Cunningham, Ray Neumar, Ron Perrier. The others went only half way along the ridge. Anita Van Der Meer, Eleanor Dworschak, Christy Gordon, Tracy Neumar, Bob Dean

### SPHINX MT

July 31, 1996

Bob Dean

Thirteen caught the 7:40am main lake ferry and drove in two trucks up to the col below Sphinx. From there 12 of us went up the ridge to the top while one side hiked across to the col. 7 went up the second peak. Ted Ibrahim, Ron Perrier, Jan Macwaite, Ray Neumar, Tracy Neumar, Bob and John Dean, Eric Ackerman, Leslie Killough, Don and Heather Lyon, Holly Pommier, Brent Pinkney. The weather was good. We caught the 5:40pm ferry on the way back. There were not many cars on the ferry.

### GWILLIM LAKES / BLACK PRINCE

August 18, 1996

Rita Wege, Bob Dean

A large group of participants met at the Credit Union at Playmor Junction at 7 am to arrange car pooling to the trail head in Valhalla Park. Five hikers decided right away that Gwillim Lake would be their final destination and later two would join us for the return trip. The first part of the hike is rated an A-1 and follows a well maintained trail for six kilometres to Gwillim lakes. The trail climbs to Drinon Lake, contours around this lake and up to Drinon Pass where it descends 120 metres before climbing 250 meters to Gwillim Lake. Those hikers continuing on to Black Prince (rated a B-2) were already well on their way to the peak and we watched their progress. By the time we were ready to return to the parking lot the first of the hikers had made it to the top of Black Prince. The peak was climbed from the ridge next to Lucifer and they descended down the other ridge. Our return trip from Gwillim Lake was highlighted by the sighting of a mountain goat and pika. I was surprised that all the back country campsites at Drinon, Wica and Gwillim Lakes were empty and very few people were hiking that day. Another surprise was to find a four man Parks work crew cutting some dead trees near the Drinon Lake campsite. The sound of chainsaws wasn't expected on a Sunday.

Participants: Anna & Norm Thyer, Ken Milner, Bill Doerksen, David Shadbolt, Stephane Brienne, Andrew Martin, Darryl Fillmore, Klaus Gattner, Kristy Gordon, Tara Dichmann, Ted Ibrahim, Hans Korn, Susan Wade, Bill Almolky, Dave Woolner-Pratt, Chris Von Schirmer, Bob Dean, and Rita Wege.

## MT HARLOW

August 25, 1996

Bob Dean

Four went. We met at South Slocan Credit Union at 7:00 and drove up Hoder Creek until we came to a side road just before crossing the second bridge. We were able to drive on this road until we were stopped by a washout and bush. The remainder of the road was covered in alder. The bush was bad both ways although we found a better route on the descent, following a rock slide most of the way. Up at the lake three of us had gone on up to the ridge but the summit too far away to reach in the time we had left. When we were high up on the ridge we saw Peter Wood and Peter McIver on a neighbouring peak while back down at the lake we saw a large white glider circling silently, high above us. Ted Ibrahim, Norman Thyer, Klaus Gattner, Bob Dean.

## IDAHO AND SELKIRK PEAKS

August 28, 1996

Reid Henderson

"Murphy" got in the way of the scheduled hike to Toad Mountain: Atco closed the access road due to logging after my recce! (Thanks to Earl Jorgenson, KMCer for advising me.)

Ten anxious hikers met under a cloudless sky at 8 am near Taghum Bridge to determine where the "Mystery Tour" was headed. After ruling out other leader proposed A-1 options (i.e. Brilliant Bluffs, Copper Mountain, Lakeside Park for a picnic), we went where we did. Suzanne Blewett and Ted Anderson met us in Silverton (how did they know where we were going - Bob, Ted I., Anna?) to make an even dozen (8 were KMC members).

We started hiking at 10:45, were at the fire lookout on 7,479ft. Idaho Peak talking to the forest ranger by 11:10, and - declared by Anna as snack time - eating by 11:30. (Note: a 2 km, 25 min., 279 ft. elevation change hike from the parking lot). With Anna showing us the way, we headed for Selkirk Peak (7,650 ft.), just before noon. On the last bump before Selkirk, Rita, Anne, Don, and Reid decided to

let the other eight "bah the peak". The eight picked their way over the rock, wove their way up the steep slope and arrived at the top at 1:30 - all under the watchful eyes of the four ridge resters. With binoculars scanning the hillside for the descenders, we could see only seven! Recalling Bob's earlier comments: "we can lose 1% of hikers" and "sacrifice at the top", we wondered where was Anna? With the others half way down the slope, Anna arrived on 'our' ridge!

We saw: lots of other people on Idaho and no one on Selkirk, and lots of beautiful flowers (names unknown in both cases).

Back at the vehicles by 3:45 and after a group photo session, we were eating ice cream cones in new Denver by 5:00. Again a great day, a great group of people and a leader who believes in democracy (eh, gang?).

We were: Ted Ibrahim, Kristyn McIntosh, Judith Pedler, Margaret Stegman, Bob Dean, Anna Thyer, Suzanne Blewett, Ted Anderson, Rita Wege, Anne Stroo, Don Harasym, and Reid Henderson.

## JUMBO PASS

September 1, 1996

Evan McKenzie

Ten of us met at the entrance to the Glacier creek Park campground on the Duncan Reservoir at 9:00 (a two hour drive from Nelson) for the hike into Jumbo Pass. It took another hour to drive to the trailhead and we were hiking by 10:30. The weather was cool and cloudy and actually a nice temperature for hiking up the steep switchbacks at the beginning of the trail. The hike is a steady climb all the way to the pass and it took us just over two hours to reach our destination. From the pass we hiked over to the cabin, where we enjoyed our lunch with a warn fire and some hikers from the East Kootenays.

A large entourage of hikers from Invermere and Calgary visited Jumbo Pass this weekend as part of an awareness raising campaign and protest against the proposed mega ski development in the Jumbo valley and Glacier Dame area. We met several groups of hikers from the east heading down just before we arrived at the cabin.

After lunch, some of us hiked to the ridge where we could get views of the Jumbo valley. On route we passed through some beautiful subalpine meadows with flowers in full bloom at this late date. On the ridge we discussed the implications of the proposed ski development

before returning to the cabin to pick up the rest of our crew. By the time we had regrouped around 3:30, the weather had turned cold and was threatening snow. We set off for more hospitable conditions and were all down to the parking lot within two hours. On our way back to Nelson, six of us stopped in Kaslo for refreshments and dinner to break up the long ride home.

Participants were: Gary Irwin and friend Anthony from Calgary, Dave Cunningham, Norman and Anna Thyer, Ted Ibrahim, Maureen Hatch, Trudy Kirby, Donna Edwards, and Evan McKenzie. We also picked up Jason Kubian, who had camped overnight in the pass, for the hike out.

### SLOCAN CHIEF

September 7, 1996 Margaret Hornby

We were a mini United Nations: Louis Beavcage from Montreal, Carsten Scheiffer from Berlin, Leanne Kennedy from Sydney Australia, and Alison Rutherford from Scotland. Trudging along in the mists and rain of that startling landscape, Judy Gaudin-Riese from Vancouver remarked that it was like the setting of The Hobbit, others saw the similarities to the Scottish highlands. The Nelson crew: Bev Gordon, Crystal Anielwicz, Johnathon Benda, Kayla Dominelli, saw the familiar trail with new eyes.

The weather didn't deter us. Everyone pooled clothes; I ended up with a vest from Judy and a rain jacket from Bev. We were an example of how world should get along. At the cabin we sat in a row and massaged each other - guess who initiated that? And offered sushi and humus at lunch time? At the bottom we had a hard time saying adieu. Luckily everyone wrote their name on the Provincial Parks of the Kootenay map - Christine locked her car keys in her car and couldn't get her notebook; by the time she got them out quite easily by crawling in the back of her convertible. It was hard to say goodbye - but we know each other now, more than anyone could have anticipated. Maybe it was the rain; it cast a spell on us, like Brigadoon, I swear. No, it definitely was the group - I've never had such a great hike.

One more detail (I don't think Judy will mind); she said she was hiking some where and came to the top of a certain peak and was so overcome, that she sang O Canada.

### WOLF PEAK

September 4, 1996 Norman Thyer

Five people showed interest in this trip, but three withdrew before it started because of unfavourable-looking weather. We'll try another time.

### MT. LUDLOW

September 15, 1996 Norman Thyer

Cancelled because of wet weather.

### MT. DRYDEN

Long. 117deg 10min. Lat. 50deg 6min.

Elevation 2798m

September 18, 1996 Ted Ibrahim

The day was overcast and cool, and half the intended participants dropped out with early phone calls. We were making an early start because we were told that it would take about 5 hours up and over 3 hours down. We met at Retallack at 7:30 am and started hiking from the trailhead to Mt. Whitewater at 8:05 am. The route we were trying to follow was the one given by Kim Kratky up the SE ridge of Dryden. Near the east coll of Whitewater, the trail crosses an old miners water pipeline (at about 2300 m) and we contoured round with this pipeline and then dropped about 100 m going towards the SE ridge of Dryden. There was still low cloud but we were occasionally able to see the tops of Brennan and Whitewater, but not Dryden. We started up towards a snow tongue on the SE ridge, as advised by Kim. However, we soon realised that the snow was far too hard to kick steps (temperature was about 4 degrees) in and unfortunately had to lose elevation to scramble to a lower point on the ridge. The cloud lifted briefly, allowing us a view of Dryden. It was then a fairly straight forward scramble up the ridge that was very broad lower down but narrowed down near the very top, which was reached at 1:20 pm. We spent about 30 minutes on the top for lunch, hoping the cloud would clear, but it did not. We returned by approximately the same route, but we were better able to follow the Whitewater trail going down. Coming up, we lost the trail for a time after the toilet and had to find our way through a rock field before re-finding the trail. We

should have gone to our right to find the well flagged trail. This trail is broken by a steep loose slope with flagging at the bottom and the top. The cloud lowered as we came down and we could see less and less. We reached the car at 5:30 pm and we all agreed that the trip had been very worthwhile even though we had limited views. We were Robin Lidstone, Ron Perrier and Ted Ibrahim.

## BLUE GROUSE BASIN

September 22, 1966 Sue Port

On this second day of autumn, someone commented that he would have liked a bit more summer, and others chorused that they would like at least one day of fall! This was as we beat the snow from the slide alder which hung across the trail (a possible KMC trail clearing site next year?). Walking sticks have many uses.

We met at Slocan Junction at 7:30 (several no-shows, although there were patches of blue) and were hiking by 9:15. The Enterprise Creek road is suitable for any reasonable vehicle. It was a wintery, cold, grey day, with a few snow showers. We found 18 cm of snow in the basin, with a few asters and Tow-headed Babies poking poignantly through, and once we came to the end of the old trail at the cabin site it was treacherous going on steep meadow and rocks. Most of the party reached the ridge at the head of the valley but there was no question of continuing towards Mt. Fennel and we descended cautiously. However, being KMCers, all said they had had a wonderful day and looked forward to returning to this attractive, and seldom visited, area in more auspicious weather.

On the trip: Jill Watson, Don Harasym, Ted Ibrahim, Roberta Hamilton, Bert and Sue Port.

## NATURAL ARCH

October 5, 1996 Pamela Jenkins

There were eighteen of us including some KMC members, some B.C. Mountaineering Club members from the coast, and some Boundary Naturalists. We drove along the railway grade north of the Paulsen bridge, past Farron and through the Bulldog tunnel. Here we followed an old route down to the Arrow Lake coming out at Brooklyn. It took about an hour, and descended about 1500 feet.

At the lake we sat on some logs and had our first lunch. The trail to the Arch was constructed by Forestry and starts a few hundred yards north of Brooklyn. Perhaps an easier way to reach this trail would be by boat from Deer Park. One time, crossing the lake in a rowboat we had been confronted with rough water for the return trip.

The trail follows above the lake with ups and downs for some distance, crosses the gulley of the Natural Arch, climbs very steeply, comes around a ridge and suddenly the imposing rock formation is above.

The trail climbs up under the bridge. The final push to the top of the bridge is a tangle of tree roots emerging from the almost vertical slope, so these can be used like a ladder. We sat on the bridge to eat our second lunch. A few of us scrambled to the other side of the bridge to sign the register in a can.

We returned to the cars in stragglers, most of us getting out about 4:00. Seventeen had made it to the top of the bridge.

On the trip were: Mary Woodward, Ted Ibrahim, Anja Logodi, Dave Adams, Dennis Sims, Janet Wager, Mary Fortune, Peter, Margaret, and Betsy Waddington, Yoko Nishi, Rosalie Moore, Vera Medved, Pat McGee, Mike Kelly, Ron Kozura, Curtis Lloyd, and Pamela Jenkins (Sims).

## COPPER MOUNTAIN

October 6, 1996 Rita Wege

A lucky group of thirteen hikers met at Taghum Bridge at 9:00. It took us an hour to negotiate the 25 kilometres of bumpy May and Jenny Road up 49 Mile Creek. This road is for high clearance vehicles only. By the time we arrived at the parking area the sun was poking through the clouds.

We were following the road that leads to the top of Copper Mountain when Bob Dean headed a mutiny. He and most of the group opted for the more direct route straight up the mountain. Our groups met at the top of the mountain to enjoy the views. The next destination was a cabin built and maintained by the KMC and Forest Service. An entry in the cabin's log book for the previous day described the sighting of a grizzly bear and two cubs on the northwest ridge.

The afternoon was glorious. the group ascended the south ridge in warm sunshine. Upon reaching the top of the ridge, packs were

quickly discarded and people began to bask in the sun. After some welcome back massages we reluctantly made our way down to the vehicles and a bumpy descent to the smooth highway.

Participants: Reid Henderson, Darrin Grund, Ted Ibrahim, Keith Collen, Martin Zmavc, Lisa Macgregor, Katrina Bennett, Anna and Norman Thyer, Susan Wade, Bob Dean, Margaret Hornby, and Rita Wege.

## Conservation Update

### Heli-skiing in Glacier Creek

Kim Kratky

On Wednesday, October 2nd, I stood in for Dave Mitchell as the KMC's representative at the proposal by RK Heli-Ski of Invermere to request an adjustment to the boundaries of their commercial heli-skiing area. The meeting was held at the Ministry of Forests' District Office on Nelson's North Shore.

Representatives of the Ministry of Forests, BC Lands, and the Parks Branch were also on hand.

I should point out that under the new guidelines the proponent is responsible for persuading government of the feasibility and wisdom of his proposal as well as ensuring that all interested stakeholders reach a consensus. RK president Roger Madison outlined his proposal to heli-ski both the north and south terminal forks of Glacier Creek, the Horseshoe Glacier, the western side of the height of land from Mt Monica south, and the Macbeth Icefield. RK have already been skiing some of this area under a temporary permit.

Neither the Ministries involved nor the KMC have much of a problem with RK's winter proposal. Few winter tourers venture up Glacier Creek (RK's high season is January - April), and RK seems to have co-existed amiably with ski touring types in the past.

There were, however, several elements of conflict at the meeting. One was the part of the written proposal in which the operator spoke of intending to offer "heli-hiking, heli-smmer snowboarding and downhill camps, heli-cross country skiing, heli-fishing, backcountry cabins, backcountry lodge" (p. 1).

When Steve Flett, District Recreation Officer, and I objected strenuously, Madison cheerfully withdrew this section of his proposal and said he really had no intention of following through with such activities in Glacier Creek. A second flashpoint was the issue of "emergency shelters" (really cabins) in Glacier Creek for RK's skiers. As you may know, RK already have a locked cabin near the base of the moraine below the Truce Glacier. Their proposal indicated at least one more cabin, this one on the north fork. Again, Flett and I objected strongly to any new cabins and indicated we would like to see the current one removed. The KMC is in agreement with Forest's sources that a portable shelter would be acceptable, but that it would have to be removed by, say, June 1st. Finally, a spirited but good-natured exchange followed on the dread heli-ski stakes that seem to be everywhere on our mountains. Madison agreed that the shelters were a problem, explained the difficulty of recovering them at the end of a season, and indicated he was open to suggestions for dealing with the issue.

In summary, here is the KMC's position: okay for RK Heli-Ski to operate commercially in Glacier Creek during the winter and early spring; strenuous objection to any summer motorized commercial backcountry activities in the drainage; and a definite "no" to current and future commercial cabins in Glacier Creek.

What do I think will happen? MoF and the KMC seem to be in close agreement about what activities should be allowed in Glacier Creek. RK Heli-Ski appear intent on being a good corporate citizen. However, developments bear watching, as this drainage is becoming a destination for more and more backcountry users of all kinds. We should be especially careful in monitoring what happens to the cabin below Truce.

# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1996

Next deadline: December 8

## TRIPS and EVENTS . . .

**Dec 9:** Directors' meeting at Waltons' 2433  
10th Ave, Castlegar 7:30 (365-6519)

**Start of Winter Schedule** Note that anyone interested in going on a trip must contact the leader before showing up at the rendezvous.

**Dec 15:** Dave Adams (359-8812) ski touring

**Dec 22:** Roland Perrin (352-5480) ski touring

**Dec 26:** Fred Thiessen (352-6140) Fred's annual "Turkey Burner Tour"

**Dec 29:** Bob Hellman (825-9571) ski touring

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at Trapper John's in Salmo on November 15th and was attended by 29 members (and as usual we had a snow storm). The dinner and socializing were great and then we proceeded to business.

- 1) Garth presented the financial report, which was approved. The club ran a small surplus, due mostly to a surplus by the mountaineering school and the efforts by the Karabiner people to come in under budget.
- 2) The signing authority By-Law Amendment passed: Section B: Officers and Directors, paragraph II: "signing officers ... shall be ... Treasurer, (and) Secretary, and one other Director appointed by the Executive."
- 3) The proposed amendments dealing with extending the membership both failed.
- 4) The motion to withdraw from the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (the FMCBC) passed. This has two immediate implications:

\* some people may wish to join the FMCBC individually. The cost is \$12 and the address of the federation is

336 - 1367 W. Broadway  
Vancouver V6H 4A9

... continued on page 2

## Membership Renewal

Everyone's membership comes up for renewal at the end of the year and is indicated on the mailing label (Curr. Yr:96). Note that the membership fee has dropped by \$10 this year to:

\$20 Individual

\$25 Couple/Family

\$10 Junior (14 to 18 year olds)

While the Membership/Treasurer duties are being transferred, for the time being please send your money to the old address:

Box 221

Rossland V0G 1Y0

Renew early, avoid the Christmas rush and the possibility that you may not get all the wonderful issues of your newsletter!

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

\* Winter Trip schedule and responsibility guidelines

\* Avalanche probing techniques

\* Kootenay Land Use Plan



# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Box 221 Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter is printed approximately ten times each year.

**EDITOR:** Peter Macek  
Site 7, Comp 10, RR#1  
Slocan Park, BC V0G 2E0  
**phone and fax:** 226-7576  
**e-mail:** pmacek@selkirk.bc.ca

## MEMBERSHIP

The club dues are:

Individual \$20.00  
Couple/family \$25.00  
Junior \$10.00

Send to: Box 221, Rossland V0G 1Y0

## SUBMISSIONS

I encourage all submissions of writing, cartoons, drawings, etc. Trip leaders should submit their writeups as soon after their trips as possible. Articles can be submitted in most written and electronic forms.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Suitability for publication is at the editor's discretion. Articles may be edited for clarity or for length. If you feel this may affect the integrity of your work, please attach a note to that effect.

## From the Editor...

After discussion and voting at Directors' meetings and the AGM, the KMC has withdrawn from the FMCBC. We hope that the club will be more effective at channelling our money and energies to local advocacy, but if you agree that this is important, please get involved.

There will be one more issue before Christmas, so get your overdue summer trip report in and we'll wrap them up.

## AGM, continued from page 1...

\* the KMC will no longer send \$12 per member to the federation. There was a discussion at the AGM and it was recognized that we would be doing significantly more lobbying ourselves, but that this would probably not cost a great deal of money. The membership approved new fees of \$20 individual and \$25 family. This would build an advocacy contingency fund of approximately \$900 this year for lobbying and allow your directors to come back to next year's AGM with a funding recommendation based on more experience.

5) elections were held, with the following results:

- Secretary: Muriel Walton (365-6519) re-elected
- Treasurer: Elaine Martin 367-7335) with Joan Grodzki (825-0072) assisting with the membership aspects
- Summer Trips: position temporarily unfilled
- Winter Trips: position temporarily unfilled
- Karabiner Editor: Ron Perrier (365-7255) re-elected, with Joan Grodzki agreeing to help.
- Entertainment/Social: Joanne Baldassi (362-9461) re-elected
- Conservation: Ted Ibrahim (825-0085) re-elected.

The other directors are halfway through their two year terms:

- President: Dave Mitchell (354-4052)
- Vice-President: Drew Desjardins (825-0072)
- Hiking Camp: Laurie Charlton (362-9461)
- Climbing Camp: Larry Smith (359-7965)
- Newsletter: Peter Macek (226-7576)
- Cabins & Trails: Mark Hamilton (352-5824)
- Mountaineering School: Peter Bullock (365-5886)

## Karabiner

Any articles for the 1996 Karabiner should be received by early January. They are best on disc or via e-mail (to joan@netidea.com). Pictures for trips, hiking camps, or ones suitable for the front cover would be appreciated and should be sent to Ron Perrier 1840 8th Ave, Castlegar V1N 2Y2.

## **Change of address**

Philippe Lepage  
3010 Collins Hill Road, Kelowna V1Z 1P5

## **Equipment**

Fred Thiessen (352-6140) has 8 club Pieps, 8 crampons, 7 ice axes, and the rescue sled.

Bert and Sue Port (365-6056) have 6 Pieps.

## **Courses**

The following are being offered through Kootenay Experience:



### **Avalanche Awareness**

(limited to 12 participants) \$95  
Introduction to the avalanche phenomena, with emphasis on terrain and route finding for safe travel. You should understand these basic concepts thoroughly before you venture out of bounds. Includes Avalanche transceiver instruction and practice  
November 30 & 1st  
December 14 & 15th  
January 11th & 12th  
January 25th & 26th

### **Winter Camping**

(limited to 6 participants) \$95  
Backpacking on skis, igloo construction, trip planning and more.

February 8th & 9th

### **Advanced Avalanche Awareness**

(limited to 6 participants) \$95  
Following on from the Avalanche Awareness course which is a prerequisite. Further study on avalanche forecasting and safe skiing practices.

January 18th & 19th

### **Beginner Telemark**

(limited to 12 participants) \$95  
Designed to instil good technique for the absolute novice and the struggling beginner. You will be linking turns confidently after this course.

January 18th & 19th

February 15th & 16th

### **Intermediate Telemark**

(limited to 12 participants) \$95  
At this stage you should be able to link turns however there are still some points of confusion. You will have a greater understanding of the zen of tele  
February 22nd & 23rd

### **Introduction to Ski Touring**

(limited to 12 participants) \$45  
Focusing on the basic skills of ski touring and familiarisation with equipment we will make an ascent of a popular peak. Some time will be spent making turns in safe, and easy powder slopes. A perfect way to find the best places to ski in the Kootenays. Each session will travel to a different location depending on conditions. Some of the destinations include ~~Evening~~ Ridge, Sherpa Valley and Ymir Peak. Basic skiing skills essential. Some instruction available.

January 19th Sunday, January 27th Monday,  
February 10th Monday, February 17th Monday  
March 2nd Sunday, March 9th Sunday  
March 16th Sunday

## **Helicopter Ski Touring**

(limited to 6 participants) \$175 incl. Heli  
Cheaper than you think. We fly by helicopter to a remote peak and spend the day shredding unskied lines, touring up and skiing until we cannot ski any more. Many possibilities exist. Call for details.

Midweek dates please call and book.

March 2nd

March 23rd

## **Valhalla Winter Traverse**

(limited to 6 participants) \$595  
This is the quintessential ski traverse of the Kootenays. Highly technical, tricky route finding, incredible skiing in a remote, untravelled Provincial Park. experienced alpinist Barry Blanchard called it 'the best ski tour in the world'. This tour will extend over 8-10 days and should only be attempted by intermediate skiers in strong physical condition.

Early April 1997

## **Booking**

Booking in advance is essential for all the courses as they fill very quickly. 50% is required at least two weeks in advance with the balance due on the course date. No refunds are given unless the course is cancelled.

Kootenay Experience  
306 Victoria St., Nelson V1L 4K4  
phone: (250) 354-4441



## **Internet Mountaineering links**

The Alpine Club of Canada maintains a website with links to many other sites dealing with hiking, skiing, climbing, weather, avalanche forecasts, etc. Their address is:

<http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/mountain/links.html>

The Canadian Avalanche Center web site which is at:

<http://www.avalanche.ca/snow>

## **Equipment - Climbing Helmets**

The following was passed on from the ACC newsletter.

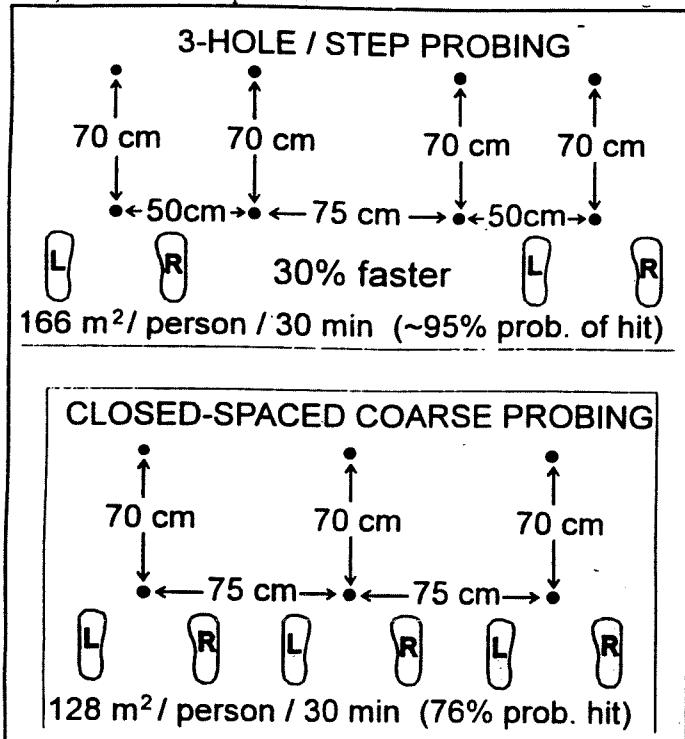
A number of different mountaineering helmets subjected to normal use were tested by the Technical Committee of the British Mountaineering Council (in 1995).

Plastic shelled helmets more than four years old were found to brittle fracture with low level impacts. Furthermore, many failed the UIAA crown impact tests after four years of use; more force is transmitted after crown impact in older helmets compared with new ones. The deterioration rate is dependent on use. They advise a two year lifetime for helmets that are used many times each week. They further caution that the safe range may be even shorter than two years. Composite shelled helmets (fiberglass and carbon fibre filled polyester resin) have longer usable lifetimes, between ten and twenty-five years for these, depending on use.

## Avalanche Searches

**How to find someone buried in an avalanche more efficiently. (ACC Newsletter Nov.96)**

According to an article by Tim Auger and Bruce Jamieson in the Summer 1996 issue of Avalanche News of the Canadian Avalanche Association, the most efficient way of probing to find someone buried in an avalanche is the 3-hole-per-step method. In this method, the probers space themselves fingertip to fingertip apart (approx 175 cm) and place 3 probes per step, each step being approx 70 cm distant from the previous one. The 3 probes are placed centre, just in front of a person, and 50 cm to either side.



Comparison of 3-hole-per-step probing and open-spaced probing showing position of holes in snow surface relative to prober's feet.

Auger and Jamieson summarize their work by stating - "Recent statistics indicate that the majority of victims are buried within 2 m of the surface and that the proportion of victims found alive decreases markedly around 1.5m."

It is our proposal that if the rescue leader is faced with probe-searching while live recovery is still a possibility, he should consider limiting the depth of probing in the interest of speeding the search.

Based on trials on compact level snow, probing 1.5m deep, 3-hole-per-step probing increases the probability of detection from 76% to approximately 95%.

Our field tests indicate that 3-hole-per-step probing also significantly improves the speed of searching. Setting up the probe line for this technique is easy using fingertip-to-fingertip spacing. The effectiveness of traditional coarse-probing is dependent on a high degree of discipline of the search party where maintaining correct spacing is important. However, with the 3-hole-per-step technique described here, if the searchers happen to wander slightly off line they will still be putting down a higher density of holes than traditional coarse probing.

With the 3-hole-per-step technique, 2 probers cover a width almost equal to 5 coarse probers. This deployment may have the added psychological effect of encouraging small parties (self-rescue situations) to energetically pursue probing because the spacing of the probers does not appear so hopelessly inadequate in comparison to the area to be searched".

## Anzac Biscuits

Recipe contributed by Jill Watson

1 cup oats  
1 cup flour (use half white, half whole wheat)  
1/2 - 3/4 cup sugar  
3/4 cup coconut  
4 oz butter  
2 tbsp Golden Syrup  
1 tsp bicarb of soda  
2 tbsp boiling water  
- combine oats, flour, sugar, and coconut.  
- combine butter and golden syrup. Stir over gentle heat until melted.  
- mix soda with boiling water, add to butter mixture, and stir into dry ingredients.  
- place spoonfuls of mixture on greased cookie sheet (allow for spreading). Bake in oven at 300° for 20 minutes.  
- enjoy!

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# KMC Responsibility Guidelines for Coordinators and Participants

## Responsibilities of Party Coordinators leading club trips

### Before the trip

1. Do not undertake organization of a trip beyond your capabilities. Change the objective or arrange for another coordinator.
2. Be familiar with the area (unless the trip is exploratory in intent). If you have not done the climb recently, a recce a few weeks before the trip is an excellent idea. Talk to people familiar with the area; check the guidebooks, old Newsletters, old Karabiners, CAJ journals, Parks Branch, Forest Service, etc.
3. Pick up or ensure the necessary equipment is on the trip: Ice axes, crampons, Pieps, first aid kit, and repair kit. Make arrangements for huts, campsites, and registration as required.
4. Notify a responsible person where you are going and when you will be coming back. Tell them when you return!

#### Choosing and organizing the party

5. The coordinator has full authority to reject anyone he or she feels is unsuited for the trip. For more difficult trips ask people unknown to you what their qualifications are and who they have climbed with.
6. Explain to people what the trip entails: how difficult, how strenuous, what equipment is needed. This is especially important for newcomers, who may not understand the need for proper boots or even raingear.
7. The coordinator arranges the most economical use of cars. Each passenger should pay a reasonable proportion of the gas and oil expenses of the trip.
8. Make clear arrangements for the assembly of the party at an easily recognizable place at a definite time. Wait a reasonable time for late-comers.

### On the trip

9. Before leaving the cars, check that everyone, especially anyone inexperienced, is properly equipped. Those who are not should not start out.
10. On many trips it is a good idea to appoint an endperson who comes last and makes sure no stragglers fall by the wayside. The endperson generally carries the first aid kit. In a large group a second coordinator may be desirable to cover the stragglers.
11. Set a pace that allows the party to stay together, both going up and coming down. Space rests so as to prevent straggling! With large parties, count numbers once in a while to make sure everyone is still together.
12. The coordinator doesn't need to remain in front providing he or she can maintain control of the party. The coordinator and all experienced members have a responsibility to give instruction to the less experienced. Team less experienced members with more experienced members.
13. All decisions should be made with a margin of safety. When in doubt, use common sense and accepted normal procedure.
  - allow enough time for the trip; start early.
  - rope up before a difficult section.
  - turn back when necessary: difficulties, a weak party, lack of time, weather, fatigue, etc.
  - watch for avalanche and rockfall hazard, and act accordingly.
  - in wet or cold weather watch for hypothermia in poorly clad individuals.
  - stay in touch with the group's feelings and respect them.
14. The coordinator should stay at the cars until everyone is down.

### After the trip

15. Return club equipment promptly so next party can use it.
16. Send a trip report to the newsletter editor.

## Responsibilities for members attending club trips

1. Ensure your abilities are up to the trip's difficulty. Use the trip grading system on the schedule.
2. Phone the coordinator several days in ad-

- vance to confirm your attendance, preferably by Wednesday evening at the latest.
3. Show up on time and be prepared physically, mentally, and equipment-wise for the outing you are going on.
  4. Return rented/borrowed equipment promptly.
  5. Share expenses.

### **In case of an accident**

1. The coordinator should consider the severity and implications of the accident, the remaining hazards, the terrain, and the availability of resources when deciding what to do next.
  2. The coordinator should ensure that everyone's present safety is maintained and danger is minimized as is consistent with emergency activities.
  3. If help is needed, the coordinator should organize an orderly expedition.
  4. If conditions permit, witnesses should stay in the area to provide any necessary information to rescue personnel.
  5. All party members should (1) inform the person(s) in charge of any special abilities; (2) ensure their own safety and, if their help is not required, stay clear of rescue activities; (3) cooperate with everyone involved in emergency operations.
  6. If the accident is serious enough to warrant aerial evacuation, contact the nearest ambulance or RCMP detachment who will dispatch a helicopter with a first aid attendant.
- 

## **Evolution of the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan**

**(KBLUP for short)**

Fred Thiessen

Over the past 6 years there has been a variety of land use planning initiatives which have evolved into the KBLUP. In 1990, government started the 'Parks and Wilderness for the 90's' process to identify potential parks. In 1992 the name of this process was changed to the Protected Areas Strategy. In late 1992 the Commission on Resource and the Environment (CORE) was requested to embark on a

land use planning process for the Kootenays. The Protected Areas Strategy was rolled into this process and after much work, CORE published its recommendations to government in a report released in October of 1994. After much deliberation and consultation on the CORE recommendations, government announced the KBLUP in March of 1995 which incorporated a substantial number of the CORE recommendations. The KBLUP was a very brief document which created the new parks and where integrated and special management lands would be. This brief document didn't really explain what it all meant and how the land would be managed.

So, what's happened since March of last year? Quite a bit as it turns out. Using government's directions in the KBLUP decision, building on CORE report information, Forest Practices Code Guidebooks and strategic targets assigned by government, government bureaucrats have been working away on an implementation strategy to implement the KBLUP. The implementation document is now out and it's a massive document, about 3 cm thick, which goes into some detail in strategic and technical terms on how government plans to manage public land in the Kootenays. The document is technical and heavy reading in places, and if you would like to read a copy, it may be viewed at local libraries and the regional and district offices of Ministry of Forests and Environment. Due to the cost of printing the document, copies are not available.

For recreation users of public land, the document won't likely state how your favourite area will be managed. However, if your favourite area is regionally important, it may be mentioned if you know where to look.

A quick summary of what the recreation components of the plan state:

- Outdoor recreation is recognized in the plan and provision is made for the provision of facilities and the maintenance of recreation features (what attracts us to do things out there, e.g. waterfalls, alpine meadows, trails, etc.). In chapter 4.
- Guidelines are provided for the management of some recreation features. Particularly, hiking trails, named backcountry river corridors, heritage trails, backcountry lakes and alpine areas. In chapter 5.
- The new parks are scheduled for master

planning and provision is made for public involvement. Direction is also provided with respect to how BC Parks will manage the new parks. In chapter 6.

The essentials of the plan are in the Forest District descriptions (appendices 1-7).

The KBLUP divides each district into zones (polygons) and each zone is given a management prescription. In each zone there is a recreation section which will give general direction or specific direction depending on the how important the recreation values are. For example, in the Kootenay Lake forest district, in the zone north of Highway 31A, between the highway and Goat Range Provincial Park, for recreation it states, "maintain opportunities for backcountry recreation by managing the alpine and subalpine areas of the Lyle and Whitewater Creek drainage for semi primitive non motorized recreation.

Another example for recreationists who use rivers in the Invermere forest district is the zone that includes the Kootenay and White Rivers. For recreation it states, "manage the Kootenay and White Rivers as backcountry river corridors consistent with the guidelines. Apply for a non motorized use restriction to Transport Canada". In the guidelines for named rivers the prescription states, "manage rivers for limited access and nonmotorized recreation; within 200 m of river, forest harvesting may not be clearly evident; no new permanent roads within 500 m of the river.

What's still to come on this weighty tome? Written comments will be accepted on the draft document until January 1, 1997. After comments are compiled and evaluated, it is anticipated that sometime in 1997, government will sign the document off and appropriate sections will be declared a higher level plan consistent with the Forest Practices Code Act.

Public information sessions are scheduled for late November and December throughout the region, the KMC and Columbia Canoe Clubs will be advised of times and requested to participate.

## TRIP REPORTS

Norman Thyer

I was shocked to read that hikers were offered humus for lunch at Slocan Chief Cabin on September 7. The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines humus as "vegetable mould". Well, it was rather a damp summer ... but couldn't we expect something better than a grow-it-yourself lunch? Let's have Jill Watson's cookie recipe!

### EYEBROW PEAK

July 27-28, 1996

Peter Jordan

This trip was delayed for two weeks due to the large amount of snow left from the spring. We lucked out with the weather, with two hot sunny days, at the cost of some heavy snow-slogging across the Starbird Glacier neve.

A late morning start from Nelson was sufficient for us to hike in to Starbird Pass on Saturday afternoon. There is a new logging road which goes up to about 6000 ft in the northeast fork of Glacier Creek. We made a poor route decision here - we could see the pass straight up the valley, but we didn't know if the valley bottom avalanche tracks would be too bushy for easy travelling, and we didn't know if the headwall below the pass would go. So from the end of the road, we skirted the edge of a newly-felled clearcut, and went straight up the valley side to the northwest tip of Monica Meadows. This was direct but bushy. From here, we followed the "normal" route to Starbird Pass, contouring around under Mt Monica. There is a thin traverse here, which had a steep, hard, snow-filled gully leading to a suicidal cliff, so we took out the rope and belayed across it. As it turns out, the best route is to just go straight up the bottom of Glacier Creek (the slide alder is not too bad), and get around the headwall on the north side, where there is a goat trail (so friends told me later). We eventually made it to Starbird Pass, where we found a snow-free patch about 150 ft above the pass at 8700 ft, which made a delightful campsite.

Next morning we got an early start to take advantage of firm snow, and attacked the easy but boring 3 km slog across the Starbird neve. From here, a straightforward climb up a 1000 ft couloir in the southwest face led to an easy scramble up the summit ridge. We enjoyed the view, which covered almost the full length of the Selkirks and Purcells, for half an hour or so, and then started down before the noonday sun made the couloir too dangerous. We had left our packs on the neve, anticipating that there might be a more direct route back. We picked them up and proceeded to a 9100 low spot in the ridge which forms the west extremity of the neve. From here, a quick 2500 descent down pleasant snow-filled gullies (too soft for good glissading) led us into a northern tributary of Glacier Creek. A short bushwack down the bottom of the creek returned us to our truck at a reasonable hour. This is partly in avalanche runouts which follow the creek bottom, but the bush isn't too bad, and the creek is easy to cross.

Eyebrow peak is probably the easiest and most accessible of the 11,000 foot peaks of the Purcells. The elevation is a bit uncertain. Ted Ibrahim in his listing last year, gives it as 10,900 ft. Kruszyna & Putnam's guidebook gives an elevation of 11,001 ft. The 1:50,000 map shows it as exceeding the 11,000



Schwadron

Outfitting for  
the season in  
1938...



## Winter Trips 1996-1997

There are problems with trying to set up the trip schedule weeks in advance. The trip coordinators and I have never been able to determine, with very much accuracy, where the trips should go and what rating they should have. An easy trip becomes an epic when we have to wade through knee-deep snow. Avalanche conditions change overnight. Determining which roads are open and how far usually requires exploring them the week before the trip. So I came up with two options. The first was to have prospective participants call a 900 number psychic hotline to see where the week's trip was going and what to expect. The second was to print up a list of names telephone numbers and dates with no destinations listed. I picked the latter option. There is a designation of LT for those trips not expected to be difficult, where light weight touring equipment is suitable. The other trips are not necessarily epics of Hymalayan proportions but I make no guarantees! An "s" after the date indicates a Saturday trip. Enjoy the snow!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Dec.	15 Dave Adams	359-8112	The Turkey Burner Tour
	22 Roland Perrin	352-5480	
	26 Fred Thiessen	352-6140	
	29 Bob Hellman	825-9571	
Jan.	5 Dave Toews	825-9346	LT Kootenay Pass
	12 Mark Hamilton	352-5824	
	19 Fred Thiessen	352-6140	
	25s Bob Hawes	428-5633	
	26 Dave Horner	352-3223	
Feb.	2 Peter Jordan	352-5225	LT
	9 Dwayne Boyer	825-4654	
	15s David Mitchell	354-4052	
	16 Vivien Bowers	825-4392	
	23 Bob Hellman	825-9571	
Mar.	2 Dwayne Boyer	825-4654	LT Michener Creek Falls
	9 Peter Tchir	359-7440	
	15s David Mitchell	354-4052	
	16 Dennis Holden	365-2715	
	23 Sue Port	365-6056	
	23 Roland Perrin	352-5480	
	28-31 Easter		
Apr.	6 Peter Tchir	359-7440	TBA
	13 Dave Horner	352-3223	
	20 Dave Toews	825-9346	
	27 Carl Johnston	354-4075	
			Kootenay Joe

# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1996

Next deadline: January 15

## TRIPS and EVENTS . . .

\* **Winter Schedule:** Note that anyone interested in going on a trip must contact the leader before showing up at the rendezvous.

**Dec 26:** Fred Thiessen (352-6140) Fred's annual "Turkey Burner Tour"

**Dec 29:** Bob Hellman (825-9571)

**Jan. 5:** Dave Toews (825-9571)

**Jan. 12:** Mark Hamilton (352-5824)

**Jan. 19:** Fred Thiessen (352-6140)

**Jan 25 (Saturday):** Bob Hawes (428-5633)  
Kootenay Pass. Light weight touring gear is suitable.

**Jan. 26:** Dave Horner (352-3223)

## Membership Renewal

Everyone's membership comes up for renewal at the end of the calendar year. The status is indicated on the mailing label and if you have paid for next year it will read "Curr. Yr: 97".

Your fees of \$20 individual, \$25 family, or \$10 junior should be sent to:

Box 221  
Rossland V0G 1Y0

## Snow Survey

The club has had a contract for several years from the Water Resources Branch to do eight snow measurements each winter. The data is collected on Record Ridge between Record and Granite at Rossland. Garth Thomson has been doing it and would like someone else to take over.

The contract pays \$480 per year, of which half has been going to the club, and the other half to the people doing the work. The survey requires 8 visits, of which 4 are up the Granite chairlift, 2 involve ski touring up because the chairlift isn't running, and 2 hiking up. Ski touring is required even on the chairlift ascents. Ideally, a group of two or three people would undertake this worthwhile excuse to get outdoors on a regular basis, and help the club at the same time.

Anyone interested or wanting more information, please phone Garth at 362-7649.

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- \* Membership List
- \* Road Report
- \* Stuff to take with you when going touring
- \* Avalanche danger ratings



## KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Box 221 Rossland, BC V0G 1Y0

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter is printed approximately ten times each year.

EDITOR: Peter Macek  
Site 7, Comp 10, RR#1  
Slocan Park, BC V0G 2E0  
phone and fax: 226-7576  
e-mail: pmacek@selkirk.bc.ca

### MEMBERSHIP

The club dues are:

Individual \$20.00  
Couple/family \$25.00  
Junior \$10.00

Send to: Box 221, Rossland V0G 1Y0

### SUBMISSIONS

I encourage all submissions of writing, cartoons, drawings, etc. Trip leaders should submit their writeups as soon after their trips as possible. Articles can be submitted in most written and electronic forms.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Suitability for publication is at the editor's discretion. Articles may be edited for clarity or for length. If you feel this may affect the integrity of your work, please attach a note to that effect.

### From the Editor...

Have a great holiday, and lots of good skiing! (This stuff has to be good for something besides shovelling!)

Many thanks to all of you who have helped make this job fun throughout the year.

### Erika Korn

The club wishes to express its deepest condolences to Hans Korn on the recent death of his wife, Erika. Erika passed away in mid-November after a long struggle with cancer. We'll miss her warmth, and there will be a sad absence at hiking camp.

## Climbing Camp

### Larry Smith

After a year's break (due to the organizers visiting southern climbs) climbing camp is once again scheduled to happen in late July/Early August. Traditionally camp is held on the 10 days prior to the August holiday Monday, which I believe occurs on August 4 in 1997. The only location suggested so far is the Clemenceau area of the Rockies, north of Golden. Big mountains, with big glaciers and therefore big crevasses. Clemenceau is the fourth highest peak in the Rockies at some 12000 feet. Other mountains in the area include Tusk, Apex, Shackleton, Duplicate and Pic Tordu which are all over 10000 feet. Access would be from up the Sullivan River (if the road is open) or from the Mica area. As these would be fairly long flights, the camp costs could be higher than normal. However, the climbing camp dictators are very democratic and welcome other suggestions as to where to go. Phone either Kim Kratky @ 352-3895 or myself @ 359-7965 or send me an e-mail (LRSMITH@MOR01.FOR.GOV.BC.CA). We plan to have a meeting to finalize the location later in the winter.

## Change of Address

Knut Langballe  
Lychesvingen 16, 1300 Sandvika, Norway.  
e-mail Knut.Langballe@BANE.NSB.telemex.no

Ed Szczerbinski                  tel: (613) 525-1717  
283 Des Erables,  
Brigham, Quebec                  JOE 1J0

## Hiking Camp

The hiking camp next year will be at Sugar Plum Lakes up the Duncan River drainage at about 6700 feet. This is approximately the same location as the site of the satellite camp in 1985, and will offer a wide variety of outings from pleasant meadow walking to scrambling to climbing. For those so inclined, this location will offer more mountaineering possibilities than at most hiking camps. Laurie will be giving more information when the application forms come out in a couple of months.

## Karabiner

Ron reports that the next issue of the Karabiner is coming along well. He is still looking for a vertical format photograph that would make a good cover photo. If anyone has a suitable slide or print, please contact Ron Perrier at 365-7255.

If anyone still hasn't picked up their 1995-6 Karabiner, contact the distributor in your area to make arrangements (see previous issue of the Newsletter for the names). Otherwise, they will get mailed to you, but that does end up costing the club quite a lot of money.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Tent For Sale

No one has as yet phoned up Laurie Charlton (362-9461) to snap up the bargain tent that the club is selling. 14 x 16 wall tent, \$300 or best offer. Don't hesitate, this will make someone a lovely Christmas present!

### Telemark Boots For Sale

- \* Scarpa T2 - double plastic. Size 40 (7 1/2 - 8)  
\$300.
- \* Crispi Special - single leather. Size 39 (7 1/2)  
\$200.

Both pairs are in excellent condition. Phone Peter Bullock at 365-3969.

## Winter Roads 1996/97

Fred Thiessen

Not many high elevation logging roads are open this winter. Since these are active logging roads expect logging trucks any time, any day. Roads may close at any time due to market conditions, weather and break up.

Before you go, you may want an update on the avalanche hazard. This can be done by contacting the Canadian Avalanche Center which updates its bulletin on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It's found by phone at 1-800-667-1105 or on the web at <http://www.islandnet.com/snow/aval.htm>

For weather, the web has it at: [http://www.dow.on.doe.ca/text/british\\_columbia](http://www.dow.on.doe.ca/text/british_columbia). It's updated at 0500 & 1800 hours.

### Slocan Valley

Shannon Creek to 8 km, at around 4500'. This is one drainage east of Shannon Lake. Although it's a long drive, it may have good potential. Open to break up.

Koch Face in the Little Slocan Valley. The Little Slocan Valley road is ploughed from Passmore to Slocan City. The only active logging is on the Koch Face, about 1 road. Doesn't sound like it's good ski touring terrain.

### North end of Kootenay Lake

Meadow Mountain: road is open to 5 km. This is too low for good ski touring.

### Around Nelson / Castlegar / Trail

Giveout / Gold Creeks area, just south of Nelson. Logging is occurring at 9 km Gold Creek Road and finishing on Dec 16. Until it snows you might get up there; it's not far from Toad Mountain.

Bombi Summit on the Salmo Castlegar cutoff. From about mid January to break up, Atco will be logging on its private land about 2 km north of the summit. This could provide reasonable

access to Grassy Mountain.

Rover Snowater, south of South Slocan. For the next little while, logging is occurring at 8 km (1100 m). When this block is finished, they will pull back to 6 km. It's too far down for day trips, but for overnight trips into Cooper Mt, it could be ok.

## Ski Trip Repair Kits

from the ACC Avalanche Echoes

### DAYTRIP

- candle
- matches
- fiberglass tape and duct tape
- galvanized wire
- 5 minute epoxy
- binding screws
- spare basket and ferrule
- vice grips
- pocket T multi screwdriver
- Swiss Army knife

(total weight 400g)

### EXTENDED TRIP

- spare binding cables
- one 3-pin binding
- wire (lots of thin and some thick)
- hacksaw blade
- pin chuck and 3/16 drill bit
- file
- nylon cord
- spare parts for bindings and tools to do specialized repairs
- misc nuts and bolts
- spare ski pole

(total weight 1kg)

### GENERAL REPAIR KIT

- sewing kit
- parachute cord
- Therma-rest valve and patch kit
- tent pole sleeve
- nylon repair tape
- stove repair kit
- fastex buckle
- lighter

(total weight 175g)

## TRIP REPORTS

### BRILLIANT BLUFFS

November 9, 1996

Wendy Hurst

Vehicles were left at the Brilliant Bridge "park-n-ride" and below the gate on the golf course road. Note that it is unwise to venture further if you're making this hike in the winter because even if the gate is open it may be closed when you come to leave. The traditional route was followed up the old logging road behind the Golf Course and along the well marked Brilliant Outlook trail. It was noted that the new BC tel tower is relatively unobtrusive, only becoming visible to hikers on the trail when you are quite close to it. The choice of this location may have been in part influenced by a submission from the Conservation Committee on behalf of the club. After lunch, the group split and a small party went down via the new trail that leads around and under the cliff face, rejoining the outward route at the Golf Course. The rest of the party returned by the traditional route. Thank you Garth for going back with them.

Six people phoned ahead, twenty people turned up. I didn't have release forms, didn't take names and unofficially designated my self as non-leader!!

### WEST FENNELL CREEK

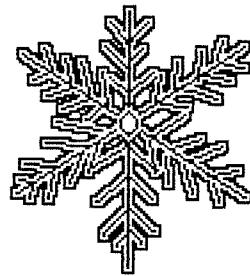
December 14, 1996

Fred Thiessen

Capitalizing on insider information from the Slocan Group who had just pulled out from the area we decided to go touring here before the next snow fall. Well, it snowed the night before and we went anyway, and it blew while we were up there but we kept on anyway. Parking at 5500', at the north boundary of Kokanee Park, we toured into the park just below Fennell Peak and there was a ton of fresh snow. We didn't leave the trees as the hazard was high, but we had tree skiing that doesn't get much better. On the way out, the blowing snow had obscured the road at the top end, which made for some interesting steering by feel driving. Further down, a number of trees across the road challenged us with the number

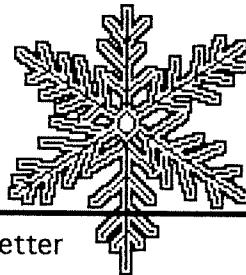
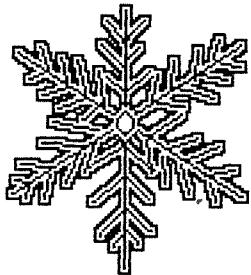
of tools we had on board. Axes, saws and towing chains were required, but fortunately we had them.

We were: D Marcoux, M Hamilton, R Perrin, and F Thiessen



## Avalanche Danger Ratings

Danger Level	Avalanche Probability	Recommended Action
Colour	Trigger Size	
LOW Green	Natural slab avalanches highly unlikely; human triggered releases unlikely; sluffs possible	Travel is generally safe; normal caution is advised.
MODERATE Yellow	Natural slab avalanches unlikely; loose or human triggered slab avalanches possible.	Use caution in steeper terrain on certain aspects.
CONSIDERABLE Orange	Natural or loose avalanches possible; human triggered slabs probable.	Use increasing caution. Be aware of potentially dangerous areas.
HIGH Red	Natural and human triggered slab or loose avalanches likely.	Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended; safest travel on windward ridges or lower angle slopes without steeper terrain above.
EXTREME Red with Black Border	Numerous natural avalanches certain and slabs easily triggered by humans.	Travel in or near avalanche terrain should be avoided; travel only in low angle terrain well away from avalanche path











KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
Membership Address List - DEC 8/96

WOOLNER-PRATT, DAVE; 211 CEDAR ST, NELSON BC V1L 2B8  
YOON, MARINA; #2 - 711 VERNON ST, NELSON BC V1L 4G3  
ZIMMERMANN, ANDRE; SILVER KING ROAD, GP BOX C-9, NELSON BC V1L 1C9

354-4211  
354-4491



**"You'll have to sign this  
waiver form."**