

Director Reports:

President: Doug Clark

The KMC celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. We did ourselves proud by initiating, and seeing several members achieve, the 50 summit challenge. While the challenge will continue for awhile yet, those that achieved the 50 summits are:

Peter Oostlander

Dan Derby

Nadine Ebner

Caroline LaFace

Steve and Eliane Miro

Gene van Dyck

Bill McNally

Congratulations to these folks. That was a huge accomplishment and time commitment. A significant number did 25 and 10 summits. We'll post the names of all in an upcoming newsletter.

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC held its AGM in Castlegar in June. The KMC welcomed the FMCBC directors with a Friday evening back yard bar-b-q. Thank you to those who billeted the FMCBC directors from throughout the Province. They were most appreciative of the KMC's hospitality.

The same weekend, KMC held its spring social and celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Old Castlgar theatre where Dave Quinn, a Kootenay guide and outdoor adventurer, gave an interesting and informative presentation on ski touring and Kootenay environmental issues. That weekend the club also sponsored an Orienteering event at Selkirk College where 30 individuals enjoyed that challenge and the KMC led two local trips which were well attended by both KMC members and the FMCBC directors.

Unfortunately, the same weekend was the funeral of a KMC favorite, Mary Woodward. The club paid tribute to Mary at the Old Castlegar theatre that night by presenting a collection of photos of Mary throughout the years along with a tribute from her long time friend, Jenny Baillie. As a footnote, the photos were loaded on a memory stick and forwarded to Mary's family.

2014 also saw the passing of long time and active members, Al Sinkie, Dave Adams and Felix Belzyk. Their camaraderie and leadership will be missed by the club.

The fall social was held at Resker hall in Robson and was a great success. Those of us who don't get out much, enjoyed seeing the pictures and hearing the stories of several members' adventures over the past year. Thank you to the presenters; we enjoyed living vicariously through your travels. Thank you to P'Nina for doing another great year for the KMC socials.

The year also saw the insurance boondoggle whereby the FMCBC did not have the insurance it was told it had. This led to a merry chase for a couple of months until a new insurer was located who provided the insurance FMCBC thought it had in the first place with no increase in price. A basic description of the insurance coverage will be placed on the club's website. There are still discussions going on about e-Waivers and waivers for minors.

On a related insurance matter, it has just come to light that KMC members must be on a sanctioned club trip in order to be covered by the insurance policy. When informed in sufficient time, the trip directors will add a 'short-notice' trip to the club's trip schedule. Executive will discuss this matter at its next meeting and approve a method that if followed will allow members to be covered for short-notice trips. It's important to

understand that you may not be covered if you and a couple members, on short notice, decide to meet to go out for a day of adventure that is not on the KMC schedule.

The 2013 AGM voted to spend \$5,000 on upgrading the KMC website. Tim Clinton took on the website director role when Elena Cigala-Fulgosi left the area for employment reasons. Rather than hire an agency, Tim chose to do the work himself. In addition to this assignment, Tim produces our Newsletter 4 times/year.

Our membership numbers are up from 336 in 2013 to 352 this year. As part of this portfolio, Nadine Ebner coordinated a survey to find out more about the membership and what they thought about the club's activities. Turns out we are getting older. Over 75% are more than 45yo. This is something that really needs to be addressed and we encourage the membership to offer their suggestions. Perhaps, we can start by inviting younger non-members to join our trips. However, the survey told us that our membership, by a large margin, is quite happy with the club's activities and trips. Ross Bates our treasurer performed the membership role when Nadine left the executive. This duty was more recently assumed by Jocelyn LaFace.

The Mountaineering school was active and well attended by our members. Through a liaison with Summit Mountain Guides developed by Peter Oostlander, a discounted course fee was made available to members to attend three Avalanche Skills courses, which 40 members attended. Beginner back country skiing lessons organized by Peter Oostlander and Graham Jamin were very popular.

The summer trip schedule had 96 trips posted of which 80 proceeded with 642 participants. This too was a significant increase from the previous year. Winter trips were well attended, too, with 295 participants in 36 trips. The Kokanee ski week went off without a hitch. Good weather and camaraderie were enjoyed by all 12 members.

The hiking camp at Marvel Pass was fully subscribed with a waiting list. This endeavour is one of the club's highlights year after year and we are indebted to the member volunteers for the great job they do in getting the participants in and out safely every year.

Club members participated in trail clearing work that Al Sinkie had begun from Jumbo parking area towards the Horseshoe glacier. Other trail clearing work was done on an ad hoc basis. In 2015, the Trails director will solicit your input on which trails need to be built or improved. We want to do trail upgrades in a planned manner that meets the wishes of the members. Exec sees this as not only work that is needed, but also as a good team building exercise for the club. We want to encourage all to participate in Trails Director Leon's initiative to firstly nominate trails that need attention and secondly to lend a hand to do the work.

The cabins are becoming busier and busier with each succeeding year. Hut revenue set a record in 2014 at \$12,590.00. A major unplanned, but in Exec's opinion, fully justified expense for safety reasons was purchase of a satellite phone for KMC's use in tending the huts, and at hiking camp and ski week. Graham Jamin will maintain the phone and is developing guidelines for its use by club members.

With respect to Conservation, Jumbo Valley Resort remains a concern and Peter Jordan, Conservation Director, will speak to this later in the meeting. In November 2013, Fred Thiessen was asked by the Executive to develop the KMC's response to the Ministry of Forestry's request for comments on the draft Visual Quality Objectives for the Kootenay lake area. Fred provided a thoughtful response for preserving and retaining the unspoiled views around the lake. The KMC appreciates Fred's efforts in this regard.

Financially, the club's bank account is healthy with nearly \$19,000 in the hut reserve and nearly \$25,000 in the club's reserve. Details of the budget will be provided by the Treasurer for the meeting's review and approval.

On a personal note, while I have been involved with many service clubs and committees over the years, the KMC Executive is the most enthusiastic and competent Board with which I have ever been involved. I encourage you all to step up and take a turn on the KMC Executive. It will be a rewarding and even a personal growth experience.

Look ahead to 2015

The KMC should anticipate leveraging the experience gained by the multi-summiteers into an exciting trip schedule next year. Please help keep the club's enthusiasm surging ahead by leading and participating in trips.

You can expect more refinements to the website from resident genius, Tim Clinton. We ask you to take a look at it. Navigate your way around and try using the forum Tim developed to sell items, exchange info and update trail conditions, rather than sending emails.

The Mountaineering School initiative developed by Peter O. provides members with an excellent opportunity. Please make use of it to increase your back country skills and awareness. You could save somebody's life – maybe your own.

Trails Director, Leon A., is undertaking to get your input into which trails the KMC should tackle and then he will need your muscle power to help do the clearing and/or construction. We view this as an important initiative for 2015 and hope to see a good number participate. Many hands make light work.

The executive discussed the need for a cookhouse shelter at Kananee Glacier Park. One does not exist and whenever the weather turns foul, campers seek shelter in and use and overcrowd the lodge's facilities. Dan Derby is taking the lead to look into partnering with Parks and other outdoor clubs to determine the feasibility of accomplishing this in the most cost effective manner. Should a significant expenditure be involved, it will of course be brought to the AGM for a vote.

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club will be as good as you make it. Please help make it a good one.