

KMC Executive 2016 Annual Reports

a) President - Doug Clark

As 2016 draws to a close, it has been a wetter and cooler year than 2015, hopefully boding well for the coming snow pack.

The Directors' reports are included in this document. Exec worked hard and are proud of their accomplishments. Please bring any questions and comments to their attention at the AGM in Castlegar on November 18th being held at the Element Club.

The mountaineering courses were well attended and the club's ski touring, hiking, scrambling and climbing trips saw more members than ever participate. Both Kokanee ski week and hiking camps were full, and fun was had by all. Our club membership number is healthy. Executive is satisfied with the results and pleased to see new and long term members stepping up to volunteer for trip leaders and hiking camp duties.

The club contributed to the purchase of the Kinnaird Bluffs to help ensure its future as an area for recreation and introductory climbing. The club also purchased some basic climbing gear (ropes and quick draws), which members may use on scheduled club climbing trips. The KMC also funded the building of the Lepsoe Basin Cabin in the Rossland range. In its first year, it has been heavily utilized by KMC members and is encouraging more families to enjoy the outdoors, and hopefully more youth to join the KMC and entice more to venture further into the back country.

The KMC and the West Kootenay Naturalists are jointly pursuing the Province to re-establish permanent summer access to the western portion of Kokanee Glacier Park along the Enterprise Creek road.

In April, KMC Executive requested Honourable Minister Thompson, the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources *to set aside Crown lands for non-commercial and non-mechanized recreational use*, as was successfully done in establishing the Rossland Range Recreation Site. Both the Rossland Range and the Kootenay Pass area are seeing increasing numbers of non-mechanized recreational users to the point where parking along the highways is over crowded and unsafe. The KMC asked that more of these designated areas be established before they are taken by commercial and mechanized back country users. We are encouraged by his reply which asked that the KMC collaborate with local Ministry representatives towards achieving this objective.

There are always challenges facing the club and 2017 will be no different. The four Bonnington Huts are already heavily booked for the 2016/17 winter. These huts have had a long and successful life but are showing signs of age. Exec has asked our VP, Sandra Fuller, to take on the task of examining options for the future of the huts and of the KMC's involvement in their

management. She will be seeking members' input in doing so. This assignment has become more urgent, as Graham Jamin surprised Exec by deciding to step down as Cabins Director. The Cabins Director position will be difficult to fill. Graham put in many days of personal time on the care and upkeep of the four Bonnington Huts. Exec expresses heart felt appreciation for the effort and pride Graham put towards the Huts assignment, but are perplexed and disappointed that he stepped down rather than attempt to resolve his concerns at the Exec table. However, the Bonnington Huts are a precious resource to the West Kootenays and we will move forward to ensure they continue to endure.

Dan Derby is also stepping down as Executive's Secretary. Dan's reasoned voice will be missed at the Exec meetings.

I wish to express my appreciation to all of Exec for their strong efforts in furthering the club's purposes of promoting conservation and developing fellowship in the mountains and many thanks to all KMC members who contributed to a successful 2016.

b) Secretary – Dan Derby

Agendas and Minutes are posted regularly on the member's only section of the KMC website. Our updated Society Annual Report was filed with the Province of BC as required. Changes to the BC Societies Act come into effect on November 28, 2016. The KMC will have two years to review and amend the KMC constitution to be compatible with the new Act.

I will not be letting my name stand for Secretary position in this year's election due to work commitments.

c) Membership - Jocelyn LaFace

Our membership numbers for 2015-2016 continue to be strong with a total as of October 30, 2016 of 364 memberships, comprised of 205 individual members and 178 couples. We even have had a few early birds who registered for next year. This is a slight decrease from last year's 388. One of the main benefits of membership is the variety of year-round trip options lead by our members. A big thank you to all of you who share your time and love of the area by leading trips. There are a lot of benefits of membership (trips, socials, discount) but are we missing anything? With so many members, let me know if there is anything you would like me to bring to the Executive or develop. Particularly, if any of the new members feel like we need to provide more for those new to the club, I'd love to hear your ideas.

Keep your eyes open for the membership renewal email for 2017. Our membership year runs by calendar year. I encourage all of you to use the online membership option. I will be travelling in New Zealand over Christmas. Paper applications will have a delay in processing until I return the

week of January 9th. Most of you are aware of the cut off date of the end of January to have your membership in for hiking camp eligibility. So, keep this in mind if you are interested in hiking camp and register early.

The Executive has been discussing membership fees and a proposed change will be brought forward at the AGM. The outcome of any changes will be available after the meeting in the meeting minutes and we will update our membership page on the intranet to reflect any changes.

I hope you have all enjoyed and benefited from being members of the KMC this past year.

d) Treasurer – Ross Bates

Included with this report, are excel spreadsheets containing my year end financial report and a proposed budget for the upcoming year. One of the tabs notes several highlights.

e) Equipment & Trails – Chris Cowan

Access roads... this is always an issue in the spring. A shared document was placed on the website to keep people informed as roads became snow free. As the summer came on it wasn't practical to keep this going, and the Facebook page was seen to be used by many people to inform on changes to access roads that occurred during the summer. I think it will be useful to do this again next spring, for the period when there's still some snow around. The condition of access roads is an ongoing issue especially in the Valhalla and Kokanee Glacier park.

Club equipment are in storage at my place and available to members who want to use it. Was used a few times during the year by several members, notably by Leon et al on the new Cody Caves interpretive trail. Some clearing was done in the Mt Ferrie area, and also in the Siwash area. Clearing done there last year proved very worthwhile, since the promised logging hasn't gone ahead. Also, the new marked route for the Siwash horseshoe made for a nicer hike. All the equipment is in good working order.

Contact Chris Cowan if you want to borrow equipment to do trail maintenance/brushing, marking etc. as a KMC project.

Darkwoods - The KMC agreement with the Darkwoods' Owner (Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)) has been renewed for 3 years. It's similar to the old agreement with the exception that travel isn't allowed if Caribou have recently frequented the proposed travel area. KMC access is limited to 5 trips/year, weekends only and maximum trip duration of 3 days. Members must read and understand the Agreement and supporting documents before embarking on a trip into the area and be in full compliance with NCC requirements. The documents are on the KMC website.

I requested an extension to the current limit of 5 KMC trips/year into the area, but NCC replied that this concern was moot since KMC has not had more than a couple trips/year. It can be revisited if there's more interest in organizing trips into the area. All proposed trips should be advertised to the membership well in advance to give anyone who may wish to visit the Darkwoods the time to fit the trip into their schedule.

NCC is interested in developing routes in the area, but access road conditions are a bit of an issue.

Trail development: A number of trails have been suggested by members for upgrading. We did quite a bit of work on the old Lost Mountain Trail near Kootenay Pass. A route has been established and mostly marked. The required forms, maps and GPS files, and other info was sent to Recreation Sites and Trails BC manager, Justin Dexter. It's hoped to begin work on this trail in the spring, possibly in collaboration with the Salmo Valley Trails Society, which also expressed an interest in developing the trail.

Another trail worthy of an upgrade mentioned by a number of Nelson area folk is Mount Irvine, a nice ridge hike but apparently choked with deadfall. We plan to look into possibilities here.

f) Hiking Camp – Leon Arishenkoff

Certainly, a year with much controversy, but in the end, all 3 camps went ahead with the full complements of 20 people each. Despite being so close to the heavily used Rock Wall Trail, and the contact with a myriad of hikers, it was a beautiful area and participants made the best of it. The Hiking Camp Committee (HCC) had an almost complete change in directors in 2016 and welcomes Andrea Vowell as Registrar, Jude Stralak as Cook/Leader Coordinator, Peter Wood (original founder of hiking camps) and Peter McIver as Site Selection Coordinators, and Wayne Hohn as Equipment Coordinator. Huge thanks to Rob Richardson, Simon Mitchell, and Dave St. Denis for their past contributions.

The Hiking Camp Policies and Procedures Manual – which is on the KMC website – had a number of changes and ambiguities cleared up. Generally, they all fall in the realm of Registrar and the registration process. Specifically, it is of utmost importance that both registration forms and accompanying cheques are filled out, signed/initialled and dated as per the manual. Those that are not will be excluded from the draw. Within a day or two of the draw the cheques will be deposited. In the event of cancellations, the first person on the waitlist will be notified of an opening and will have 48 hours to accept or decline. Should he/she accept, their cheque will be deposited within 48 hours and the cancelling party will be issued their refund, less administration fee. Everyone should ensure they have funds in their account. If the person first on the waitlist declines the spot, he/she will retain their position on the waitlist but if contacted a second time for an opening and they decline, they will be dropped from the waitlist. If those waitlisted anticipate being unavailable to reply, they have the option of notifying the registrar beforehand that if a spot becomes available they will automatically accept it and their cheque

can be deposited regardless whether they get back to the registrar in the 48 hour period. Everyone applying for hiking camp are directed to read the manuals on the website.

The HCC dealt with the switching issue at its last meeting. It was moved, seconded and carried that switching by mutual agreement between two campers assigned to any of the three camps will be allowed up to noon of June 1st. The switch is to be accompanied by immediate email advice to the two camp leaders affected and to the Registrar. The vote was 3:1 with the Chair abstaining.

Other issues the HCC discussed were helicopter safety and the importance of properly tagging gear. It seems that every year some participant ventures forth when they should be staying put or gear, food, clothing, tarps, etc. are not properly guarded against prop wash. This past year an untagged day pack resulted in an extra helicopter flight at a cost of \$400.00. Food and special diets were also discussed. Cooks have an onerous job and trying to accommodate various diets or even having others in the cook tent wishing to cook their own foods is unreasonable. Notwithstanding that some people have food intolerances, these should be brought up at pre-camp meetings and means to either accommodate or suggest alternatives to them should be addressed. Issues of flying out all garbage vs burning, environmental impacts, future camp locations etc. were all on the table.

On the financial side of things, this past year had us using a significant portion of our reserves and this was principally due to helicopter costs and equipment purchases. Going forward, there remain a few kitchen items to get plus perhaps better radios so as to allow communication between camps and staging area as well as helicopter pilot. As the financial statement shows, we still have a healthy balance and the goal remains to be on a breakeven basis going forward. Hiking camps remains a positive and enjoyable component of the KMC and it is the committee's goal to ensure this going forward. Concurrently, it would be nice to have younger members participate, as well as volunteer for committee positions.

At the time of this writing, a location for 2017 has yet to be picked but it will be announced at the AGM. We also have to confirm the process to be followed to avoid raising concerns with Natural Resources Officers. Once this process is identified, the manual will be changed to include it.

g) Conservation – Peter Jordan

The past year has been relatively quiet for conservation issues, after the apparent end of the Jumbo development proposal. Here is a summary of issues and projects the club has been involved with.

The Jumbo resort proposal appears to be dead, but is not yet buried. There were rumours that the developer might proceed with a smaller version (Jumbo Light?) that would not require an

environmental permit, but there has been no activity in the past year. See Wildsight's web site for any further updates:

<http://wildsight.ca/blog/2016/11/01/the-zombie-that-refuses-to-die/>

Last December, an application was submitted to the Lands branch for a commercial yurt-based backcountry ski tenure, in the Alpine Cr/Sitkum Cr/West Kokanee Cr headwaters area. The KMC provided input on this proposal, which was generally favourable, as it appeared to be a relatively low-impact development, and we felt it might forestall any further applications for heli-skiing in the area. The application was denied. Since then, Recreation Sites and Trails (a branch of the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations) has proposed that the area be designated a non-motorized recreation area.

In October, the Outdoor Recreation Council and the Federation of Mountain Clubs sent letters to the BC Minister of Environment, protesting the deteriorating state of our provincial parks, and calling for increased funding and staffing.

h) Cabins – Graham Jamin

It's been such a pleasure and honor to have been Director for Cabins on the KMC board for the past few years, unfortunately though it's time to step down. Over this time, I've worked with a number of very dedicated and wonderful folks on the board and am thankful for the camaraderie and being part of the many endeavors the KMC has taken on. But, the last couple of years have been more difficult and I have become more disillusioned by decisions made which I felt do not support our mandate of promoting mountaineering and local conservation. Recent events around a disagreement with Ministry of Forests furthered my distance from both our executive and Forestry representatives. This rift seems to be widening rather than being resolved, and feel that I've lost the collaborative spirit that is so vital to moving forward. Therefore, time to stand aside and wish the ongoing board members all the best.

Over the years it was a delight to explore and get to know the Bonnington Range, gaining an appreciation of the simple beauty of these little cabins, and feel honored to have contributed to a part of their history. Huge thanks to my wife Jude who has joined me on a many, many trips, providing so much help and support. Grassy was always her favorite but she really did treat them all equally. As well many thanks to our daughters, friends and members of the KMC who contributed many days to help maintain this treasure of a recreational resource – in our own backyard.

This past summer, all the cabins have been stocked with wood for the winter, cleaned up, some access maintenance and repairs as needed. Grassy hut got some special attention this year and thanks to a great crew we installed new bunks, a new counter, chinked the floors, replaced a number of rotted out foundation posts and flew in some extra fire wood for the next few years. Huckleberry Hut also got a bit of extra attention: cleaning out all the years of packrat

nests under the cabin and enclosing it in wire mesh. Also a small ski bridge over Lost Creek will make that crossing so much better than the puddle jumping it has been.

There are new propane camp stoves and lanterns in all the cabins. With increased use over the years the white gas stoves are getting more contaminated by bad fuel and misuse, as well parts are harder to get ahold of; so time to upgrade to a more reliable fuel source.

Revenue from cabins was: \$13,090 Expenses: \$8159

Overall revenue continues to climb by about \$1000 every year and from the number of early bookings made already this year I suspect that will be true this year. Approximately half the expenses were for helicopter costs; flying wood and materials into Grassy. Materials for the same upgrade, propane stoves and lanterns, repairs to the ATV, Sat phone rental and mileage contributed to this years costs.

My plans at the end of this season had been to continue, but instead I'll pass along my suggested chore list for next year. The Grassy upgrades should be finished up. The logs on the front gable end are starting to buckle out and need to be cinched in a bit. All the cables, bolts and tightners are in the cabin. There is also a prefabed pedestal up at Grassy that needs to be put together and the outhouse hoisted up onto it. At Copper Hut there is also a problem with the posts rotting out. These need to be replaced and put on concrete pads. Other to do's on the list would be new roofing at Huckleberry along with replacing the bridge crossing on Barrett Creek.

i) Website and Newsletter – Tim Clinton

The newsletter can only be as good as the submissions from members. Keep them coming.

If you feel that there are things that should be on the website or shouldn't be on the website, let me know. It would be great if you would write the content that you think should be there.

j) Entertainment – Laurie Helyer

Our spring social was held at the recently renovated Taghum hall which was a lovely venue. We were very fortunate to have Dave Quinn do a customized presentation entitled the Canadian High Arctic. Dave is an award-winning author and photographer and his presentation gave us a rare glimpse into the seldom-visited remote areas of the High Arctic. It was a fascinating presentation highlighting some of the human history, the stunning Arctic wildlife and the Arctic ecosystems and communities. The evening was greatly enjoyed by all of the 81 people who attended, which included 23 non-members who paid an entrance fee of \$5 each.

Our fall social was held at the Kootenay Gallery of Art in Castlegar and was a departure from the traditional slide show presentation. It was attended by 36 members and featured the art work

of 10 local artists. The exhibit was entitled `Building the World We Want`` and showcased some remarkable pieces. The venue lent itself very well to conversation and there was an enjoyable sharing of stories about our outings, plans for future trips and of course the art exhibit itself. A very social evening enjoyed by all.

Both events were well catered with potluck deserts and appies. Thanks to everyone for coming out to enjoy these celebrations and for bringing such a great selection of delicious food. I'd also like to thank all the rest of the executive for giving me this opportunity and for all their help and support in my new role as Social Director. I have really enjoyed my first year in this rewarding position.

k) Mountaineering School – Peter Oostlander

During the past year, the mountaineering school organized the following courses provided by Summit Mountain Guides (SMG), Big Red Cats, Peter Oostlander (KMC) and Doug Clark (KMC).

Course	Provider	Participants
Introduction to Digital Navigation – Nov 2015	SMG	26
Introduction to Backcountry Skiing – Dec 2015	KMC	13
AST 1 on skis – Dec 2015	SMG	7
Refresher and Companion Rescue – Dec 2015	SMG	9
Intermediate Backcountry Ski trip – Jan 2016	KMC	11
Introduction to Digital Navigation (repeat) – Jan 2016	SMG	17
AST1 on snowshoes – Jan 2016	SMG	8
AST2 – Feb 2016	RED Cats	1
Intro to Wilderness Navigation - Map and Compass – April 2016	KMC	11
Day Skills 1: Ice Axe & Crampon use, Movement skills & Rope – June 2016	SMG	3
Day Skills 2: Crevasse Rescue and Snow & Ice Anchors – June 2016	SMG	4
Introduction to Rock Climbing - Beginner program – June 2016	SMG	6
Introduction to Rock Climbing – Intermediate skills building – June 2016	SMG	6
TOTAL		122

In comparison, the previous year (Nov 2014 – June 2015) we organized 8 courses with 70 participants.

For the upcoming winter season, we are repeating two backcountry ski trips for beginners and are offering the following Avalanche Skills Training (AST) courses:

AST 1 – December 17-18, 2016

Companion Rescue & Refresher Course – January 8, 2017

AST 1 on snowshoes – January 21-22, 2017

AST2 – January 26*, 27-29 2017 * evening session

Our club is subsidizing the avalanche and wilderness courses to the amount of \$25 per member.

We have a \$75 course subsidy limit for any one member per calendar year.

Volunteer trip organizers will receive an additional subsidy of \$25 over and above the regular member \$25 discount, already included in the posted rates. To qualify, you must have organized at least 4 trips in the past year. This program recognizes the importance of all trip organizers within our club.

I) Summer trips - Peter Oostlander

The “summer” schedule runs from April 1 – Oct 31.

Our goal for this year was to increase the 2016 summer trip schedule target from 65 to 75. We have accomplished that goal and reduced the number of instances where the trip reached its maximum number of participants set by the organizer. (the dreaded “trip is full” email). No solution has been found yet to create a “last minute” trip system.

Here is the trip and participation breakdown:

Year	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Scheduled	100	75	96	94	82	64		
Cancelled	19	5	16	17	20	8		
Trips that went	81	70	80	77	62	58	68	46
Total Participants	783	776	642	566	472	519		
Members	740	747	604	530	435			
Guests	43	29	38	36	37			

Thank you to the volunteers that helped us put it together: Phil Best, Marilyn Miller, Sandra Fuller, Valerie Utgaren, Helen Foulger, Mary Protho, P'nina Shames and Angie Germaine.

Thank you all trip organizers to make this year such a success!

Summit Register Program (Vicki Hart)

New registers placed on mountains in 2016:

Mountain	Range	Placed by
The Craggs	Selkirk Mts	Vicki H
Shields	Monashee Mts	Doug C
Mazinaw	Purcell Mts	Dan Richardson
Squab	Purcell Mts	Dan R

One summit register canister was replaced on Mt. Faith by Peter O.

Vicki H. did go into the Devils Range (Valhalla Mts) and checked on the registers for Lucifer, Rosemary's Baby, Trident, Mephistopheles and Black Prince. All are in fine condition; replaced a couple of booklets. A couple of climbers were on False Dome and noted that register is in good condition as well.

m) Winter Trips – Chris Cowan (stepped down mid-term) and **Phil Best** (appointed by Exec to complete term)

Chris:

The previous winter we had 339 members, with 12 guests. Notably though, there was one - not so challenging, but very fun - trip in that year with a very large number, 45, which skewed things a little bit.

Stats for winter 2015 – 2016:

Target for bookings...35

Number of trips scheduled...51

Ski trips – 31; snowshoe trips – 12; xc ski trips – 7; hikes – 1

Total trips that went ahead...39

ski trips – 23; snowshoe trips – 11; xc ski trips – 4; hikes - 1
total cancelled - 12

Average number of participants on trips - 10

Max. number on a trip - 27 (Al Sinkie Memorial snowshoe trip to Evening Ridge, led by Leon)

Total participants all trips – 368 (15 non-members + 353 members)

ski trips average – 8 (total number of participants: 179)
snowshoe average – 14 (total number of participants: 152)
xc trip average – 5 (total number of participants: 18)
one hike had 19 participants.

Notes: Once again there were a number of trips cancelled due to weather, mainly ski trips due to a period of rain and soggy snow. But the numbers were a vast improvement on last year for skiing, with 24 trips going ahead as against only a handful in the previous season's dismal winter. Only one snowshoe trip got cancelled. The "decadent series" once again was very popular, with numbers in the teens for several trips. We're pleased to report several challenging multi day ski trips that went ahead...The Wapta traverse, with 3 members, and the Bonnington Traverse, with 5 members. Thanks to everyone for organizing trips and helping with the schedule and making it a great winter.

Phil:

2017 Kokanee Ski Week;

- Trip remains full at 15. One participant has dropped out and been replaced with 2 remaining on the wait list. A trip member has volunteered to be leader.
- \$1000 (\$200 deposit + \$800) fees have been collected and forwarded to the KMC Treasurer.
- KMC Treasurer has been requested to forward the final payment of \$12,000.24 to Alpine Club of Canada prior to the Dec 6/2016 deadline.

2016/17 Winter Trips Schedule:

- As of October 24, 2016, there are 36 scheduled trips on the calendar, exceeding the club goal of 35.
- Several members have indicated that they will lead a trip(s) once they decide on their schedule and conditions. These trips will be posted on the schedule.
- Note that there is significant space on the schedule for early season trips.
- Multiple trips on the same date are welcome as they will allow choice, particularly as they are usually different types and difficulty ratings.
- Members should be reminded that there is some insurance coverage for KMC trips that are posted on the schedule. Informal 'Friend' trips are not insured by KMC.