



Kootenay Mountaineering Club

The Newsletter for people with year-round pursuits.

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Edited by Foxit PDF Editor
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K & S

June 13, 2010

7 met at the Three Forks parking lot, a vehicle shuttle to Sandon was completed and the hike started at 3Forks. The following wildlife was observed on the 8 km trip: a new born fawn, and 2 large frogs.

Participants:
Diane Gamble,
Ron Harder,
Sheryl-Lynn
Haakstad,
Janis Gilbert,
non-members:
Nell Plotnikoff,
John Golik and
co-ordinator Carole
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It's a Long Way Home: Climbing the West Ridge of Long Mountain

At 2367 metres, Long Mountain isn't a big mountain, but what it lacks in height, it makes up in length, covering almost 3 km of north-south running ridgelines festooned with gendarmes and spires. The only recorded climbing route is via the long south ridge. For a few years, Doug and I had been looking at climbing the long west ridge, a narrow, twisting ridge that runs west down to Silverton Creek and merges into the west face near the summit. But, it was 2010 before we eventually got up the courage to brave the lengthy 1000 metre bushwhack that would take us up the west ridge.



Unfortunately, Silverton Creek FSR has an impassable landslip at km 9, which lengthens this already long day. At 7.45 on August 21, 2010, Doug and I set off hiking up Silverton Creek FSR to the base of the west ridge. The west ridge doesn't really become a ridge until about 1900 metres (6,300 feet), so a GPS is helpful to find the start. Particularly as the upper reaches of Silverton Creek FSR are covered by head-high alder and you can't see anything anyway.

After taking a couple of GPS readings at a couple of locations shy of the base of the ridge, we found ourselves on the south side of the creek that drains the basin immediately of the west ridge and could no longer delay north the inevitable bushwhack. Plunging into the bush at 8.15 am, we immediately, on Go with head high rhododendron growing between thick stands of slippery, green herbaceous vegetation, most of which seemed to contain nasty spikes interspersed with a few spruce and pine trees which were similarly well-armed. We cursed, struggled and thrutched our way up this for about 70 metres until we entered an older forest, note I say older, not old growth, because this forest was only marginally less thick than the cutblock. The same head high rhododendron, the same devils club and gooseberry, but added to the mix - for extra enjoyment - was a dense carpet of incredibly slippery pine needles. Thrutching our way up, I frequently found myself sliding back down the slope the

way my breakfast egg slides off my teflon fry pan.

After an hour, we had managed to gain perhaps 250 metres of elevation, and had noticed no perceptible thinning of the forest, perhaps higher we thought. Pushing on, near 1900 metres, the ridge begins to appear as do lots of large boulders and small cliffs. Interesting fourth class climbing up this section, with some strenuous and tenuous moves up slabs covered with slippery pine needles, the crux sections of which, almost inevitably featured thick rhododendron or spreading - and usually dead - trees to make the climbing spicier. As I scabbled up, I couldn't help but think, "I hope I don't have to reverse these moves".

Continued on page 7

Custom printed maps

ACC member Jim Cossitt has this bit of beta to share with ACC members: "At the recent ACC Starbird Camp I showed folks the custom map of the area I made from mytopo.com where you can get custom-made maps from most places in Canada and the US, printed on waterproof paper, with the exact area you want (regardless of what the map sheet has for boundaries)." Find out more at <https://admin.alpineclubofcanada.ca/link/to/2929-70169-138-02>
Mytopo
Toll free 1-877-587-9004
Billings, Montana 59101
www.mytopo.com/index.cfm

The geology of granite

"Granite. Climbers love it, even as it tears their flesh, steals their gear, and makes them feel oh-so-small. You know how granite feels under your hands and feet, how it smells, and the way it turns to gold in the last light of day, but here are a few things you probably didn't know." <https://admin.alpineclubofcanada.ca/link/to/2930-70169-138-02>

From Climbing magazine
www.climbing.com

VERY COOL!!

Why the highest mountains are near the equator

"Is it just a coincidence that all the world's tallest mountain ranges lie at low latitudes? Apparently not, as it seems warmer climates enhance mountain growth." Find out how at <https://admin.alpineclubofcanada.ca/link/to/2932-70169-138-02>

From The New Scientist magazine,
12 Aug 2010 issue

IS IT

just a coincidence that all the world's tallest mountain ranges lie at low latitudes? Apparently not, as it seems warmer climates enhance mountain growth.

Three things control how high a mountain range is likely to grow: the strength of the underlying crust, the magnitude of tectonic forces pushing upwards, and the amount of erosion wearing the mountains down. All of the world's highest ranges have strong underlying crust, but until now it wasn't clear whether the world's tallest peaks were dominated by strong uplift or minimal erosion.

Using satellite images, David Egholm of Aarhus University in Denmark and colleagues mapped all the major mountain ranges between 60° north and 60° south, plotting their land surface area against elevation. They compared this with the average altitude of the snowline and the latitude of each range. They also modelled the effects of glacial erosion.

At low latitudes, the warmer climate tended to push the snowline higher, and the mountains grew taller, they found (Nature, DOI: 10.1038/nature08263). "Erosion processes are more effective above the snowline where glacial erosion dominates," says Vivi Pedersen of Aarhus University. Peaks are rarely more than 1500 metres above the snowline, meaning that low-latitude ranges like the Himalayas (pictured) have a head start over high-latitude ranges because their snowline is much higher.

GPS vs. map and compass

"This study examined the effectiveness of a (GPS) system in comparison to paper maps and direct experience of routes. Results showed that GPS users traveled longer distances and made more stops during the walk than map users and direct-experience participants. Also, GPS users traveled more slowly, made larger direction errors, drew sketch! maps with poorer topological accuracy, and rated wayfinding tasks as more difficult than direct-experience participants." Read the full study at <https://admin.alpineclubofcanada.ca/link/to/2769-70169-129-02> (Source: Vancouver Island Section e-newsletter)

Bringing safety to the backcountry

"A broken leg is rarely life-threatening in the city, but it is life-threatening in (the backcountry)," (ACC member Dr. John Peachell) says. "What's different about wilderness first aid is it's not only the victim who is affected by the problem. When it's 15 below, everyone is at risk for hypothermia. Every year, rescuers get killed trying to help people in the outdoors." Read the full story at <https://admin.alpineclubofcanada.ca/link/to/2822-70169-133-02>

RECRUITING FOR KMC EXECUTIVE POSITIONS



*A*re you getting a lot out of your KMC? Do you participate in a lot of daytrips, extended trips, and courses? Could you find time to give back to your club?

The KMC is recruiting now for several executive positions for 2011. The term of service is Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2011, but many executive members have found it rewarding and productive to stay on past their initial year. Positions to be filled for the 2011 year include: Memberships, Summer Trips, Website, and Treasurer. Please consider if you might be able to give some of your time and skills to the club. Details of each position will follow. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact the current chairperson of the position in which you are interested.

MEMBERSHIPS CHAIRPERSON

Duties of the position include receiving and maintaining the details of the members, and providing these details to the other chairpersons involved in maintaining the club lists. These details include: application form data, emails, payments, waivers, newsletter and privacy preferences. Depositing membership payments to the bank, and attendance at quarterly executive meetings is also required, as well as communicating with the membership regarding problems or updates. The memberships chairperson must also scrupulously protect the privacy of the members, in regard to their personal information, waivers, and payment details. This position has undergone a major transition this year to commence membership registration via the website for 2011, making the duties of this position far less onerous than in prior years. This position will well suit someone who is fond of keeping order and lists, who can respond to requests in a timely fashion, and is very comfortable using email and computer applications, although website knowledge is not required. Please phone Linda Johansson, the current memberships chairperson, at 551-5683, to discuss the position.

TREASURER CHAIRPERSON

Duties of the position basically include receiving receipts from executive members for expenses and sending reimbursement back, organizing the payments received and sent out according to their account, organizing receipts and storing past records, and settling the finances throughout the year. It is preferred that the treasurer attend executive meetings, and during those meetings report on the finances, particularly how each account category is matching to the projected budget. At the AGM, the treasurer will give a report of the expenses to the Club and answer any questions associated with the monies collected, spent and saved. The treasurer will use Quickbooks to manage all expenses and deposits, and it is easiest done if managed regularly as monthly statements come from the bank. This position is best suited for someone who is good with numbers, Quickbooks, organizing receipts and someone who can response to requests for payment in a timely fashion. Instructions on use of Quickbooks will be provided, as well as tips on how to properly report on the year. Alison Roy will happily answer questions regarding the position at aldech@shaw.ca.

Trips Report

Evans Creek

May 1st, 2010

We had 8 people on our trip to Evans Creek campground along the west Shore of Slocan Lake on Saturday May 1.

Given that no one seems to be bothering with trail maintenance anymore, the trail is turning into more and more of an obstacle course. This requires walking on logs, slithering through deadfall, and generally doing some basic combat training. (In fact, I think we should organize an impromptu work crew to go and clean up the trail as far as Evans if anyone is keen?)

Our group comprised a number of keeners who sprinted off down the trail for Evans Creek. I arrived after blasting down trail to find the campsite deserted. (The rest of the group had gone along to explore the waterfall and returned a while later for lunch.)

The day was cool and slightly overcast, and there were a fair showing of wild flowers including some Calypso orchids.

In attendance were: Dale Cedar (guest), Tom Johnston, Diane Paolini, Jill Watson, Terry Simpson, Mary Prothro, David Cunningham and yours truly.

Skatebo Reach

May 9th, 2010

Eleven hikers met at Glade General

Store; carpooled across the Glade Ferry and parked just north of the Glade Creek Bridge.

The dry rot has taken its toll on the bridge to the point where no one wanted to drive across it. The group started out at 9:30AM and walked south down the road to the erratic boulder at the trailhead. The weather was clear but the temperature was cool especially on the shady (east) side of the river. The lunch stop was at the mouth of Big McPhee Creek in the warmth of the noon sun.

There were several dead falls on the trail both north and south of this creek. Numerous songbirds sang out as hikers passed along the trail and a wild turkey, osprey and red tailed hawk were spotted. Many spring flowers were also in evidence beside the trail including shooting stars, clematis, trilliums, and blue camus. Just south of the Brilliant Dam we took the newly opened Brilliant Canyon trail down to the Brilliant Road Bridge, under it and to the park and ride.

The new segments of this trail need more development as they are unstable and precipitous. Pat and Ted provided shuttle vehicles to move drivers back across the Glade Ferry and passengers back to the Glade Store. By 3:00p everyone was on their way home. It was a good spring hike with good company.

Hikers were Ted Ibrahim, June and Don Harasym, Hazel and Ed Beynon, Andre Piver, Kate Woodhouse, Kjeld Jenson, Robin Lidstone and Pat and Alan Sheppard.

Balancing Rock

May 22nd, 2010

On Saturday, May 22, 2010, four of us (Vicki Hart, Lou Chiocarrello, Li Chu, and myself, Shannon Naylor) set out hiking up the Balancing Rock Trail, which begins just outside of Creston on West Creston Road. The trail took us up from valley bottom to about 4000ft, passing through a lovely marsh with huge skunk cabbage along the way. From the end of trail (at a viewpoint), we bushwacked up another 1000ft (this is on the NE side of the mountain), to the summit which is at 6600ft. The bushwacking was easy and the snow which we encountered for the last 1500ft or so was hard packed. We lounged at the top for about an hour in the sun watching the clouds and storms all around us before heading down the same route. The summit is not in the alpine but there are some nice views anyway.

In attendance: Vicki Hart, Lou Chiocarrello, Li Chu, and myself, Shannon Naylor

5-Mile Basin

Despite the impending weather, 6 of us set out from the Whitewater Lodge. We took the old T-bar route and headed almost straight up from its end. We followed the ridge to the start of the rocky ridge leading to Half Dome. The usual route was covered in snow and some felt it too exposed. We tried going straight up on the rock, which was slick with moisture so instead we decided to traverse below this rocky ridge in 5 Mile Basin.

The snow just below the ridge was soft and had easily sluffed, so we decided to go to the top of White Queen. Part of the enthusiasm for White Queen was the weather, which was looking like rain or snow at any time.

As we reached White Queen the sky opened up with wind, hail, wet snow and then rain. We had lunch in the trees below the summit and then we headed down. Halfway down, the rain stopped. A hike in any weather is better than no hike, and it was Mary Woodward's birthday, which we celebrated at the top and then later at Oso Negro.

We were David Cunningham, Dave St. Denis, Jill Watson, Terry Simpson, Mary Woodward, and trip co-ordinator Ray Neumar

Cascade Summits Cycle (aka – The Tour de Sweat) – June 12

After talking about this ride for most of the spring, I posted this trip as an invitation to complete the 62 km cycle from Rossland to Christina Lake over the old Cascade Highway. Informally known in Rossland as the “Tour de Sweat” because of the 4200 vertical ft climb over 2 mountain passes on gravel road, this trip tests both the physical and mental commitment of the rider, because of the long slow gradient up the two passes.

I eventually got a total of 6 riders to participate and at 9:00 a.m., we set off from the Rossland mining museum and up the Cascade highway. The weather was sunny and warm and the first leg of the trip to the Cascade Summit was completed in 1 ½ hrs. After dropping 2400 vertical ft into the

Big Sheep creek valley, we left one member to visit friends, while the remaining 5 started up the second leg to the Christina Summit. This is a 15 km leg, with a 3100 ft elevation gain, not extremely steep, but consistent. The hard part was that members who got off and walked their bikes were travelling as fast as those that stayed on and peddled up the grade. Quite a shock to our mental image that we were



riding fast up the hills.

We reached Christina Summit at 2:40 p.m. (well all of us except for Roy, who beat us to the top by 40 minutes....I had heard that KMCer's get faster after they hit 70. Turns out that it's true).

We then enjoyed the 3800 ft vertical drop into Christina Lake and other than a close up discussion with a rapidly moving errant mule deer, it was an uneventful and very quick descent, with us reaching the vehicle at 3:40 p.m.

Special thanks to Jan Micklethwaite for arranging the vehicle shuttle that made this all possible.

We were Roy Hopland, Mike McMann, Dave Cunningham, Peter Oostlander, Pat Simms and Dave Grant, co-ordinator.

Ymir Mountain

June 13, 2010

It was a crystal clear day, the first we had in weeks. I was so excited that I made sure all the folks from Nelson and Balfour showed up a whole hour early!! After getting some really bad looks from Vicki, four of us fled to Sidewinders for a

coffee to go, and reconnected with Vicki and Gene at the WH20 parking lot.

As we tied our hiking bootlaces for the third time, Terry and Dianne from Rossland showed up at the correct time and we were all soon hiking quickly up the motherload ski run. Progress up Prospector Ridge was excellent, with generally good stability.

Through Qua Pass and up West Ymir; past Dog Leg and First Choice -snow stability decreased with increasing elevation. Lunch was spent on top with the million ladybugs; entry in the register complete and we were off again along the East Ridge to the shoulder about 100ft below the summit. Stability became a concern and some interesting glissading was had to gain the snowridge just northeast of Kuba's shoot. We then traversed the upper Ymir Bowl below Half Dome with great stability and returned to the parking lot well adventured. Interesting circumnavigation!

Thanks for the company and a

chance to show you some great ski lines: We were: Vicki Hart, Terry Simpson, Dianne Paolini, Gene Van Dyck, Martin Carver, Evan Mackenzie, Dave Mitchell and I. Curt Nixon, Trip Leader.

Kokanee Glacier Traverse – South Esmeralda, Cond and Kokanee Peaks

June 30, 2010

We met at the Kokanee Glacier road at 8:00AM on a beautiful summer morning. After a bumpy ride to Gibson Lake parking area, we are hiking by 9:00AM.

The trail was snow free and dry to the basin below the keyhole, then firm snow to the keyhole which, we reached by 12 noon. A short walk on the snow to the top of Esmeralda Peak (9150') by 12:15PM when we had lunch.

From the summit we descend Esmeralda via the east facing snow slope and thus to the top of Cond Peak (9190') by 1:00 PM. Sign the summit register on the Cond and then push on to Kokanee Peak by contouring around Cond on its north side on firm snow.

The top of Kokanee Peak(9150') was reached at 1:45PM when we stop for a drink and snack. We had some wild fun "bum skiing" on the descent from Kokanee Peak to the Grays/Kokanee col. David Cunningham donned his orange colored "pumpkin speed suit" for the descent.

The col was reached at 2:35PM, then more "bum sliding" to the basin below the col. A final short bush walk and we are out to the Gibson Lake parking lot at

4:20PM. A fine 7hr 20min trip; 4600' vertical gain and 14km travelled. A three peak day under a clear and sunny sky.

Participants: David Cunningham, Joan Harvey, John Liddington, Juerg Martig, Mary Woodward, and Gene Van Dyc (co-ordinator)

Record Ridge

July 4th, 2010

10 hikers gathered at the south end of the 7 Summits, hiking to the Pass and then scrambling up to a chilly view point for a short lunch break. We returned the same way for a total of 15km, enjoying some rare(to us) wildflowers, one being the Mertensia (thanks to Digital Photography and Hazel Benyon for the ID)

Participants were: Janis Gilbert, Greg Osadchuk, Judy Banfield, Pat Sheppard, Andrea Vowell, Kathleen Rezaneq, Liz and Terry Huxter, Mary Collodel and co-ordinator Carole Page

Mt Aylwin

July 18th, 2010

Since the big forest fire of 2007 burned part of the Enterprise Creek valley, I had noticed a steep, now denuded ridge, which led directly to Mt Aylwin from the south. For a few years after a fire, burned areas are often good travelling, before the bush starts to come in. So I decided to give it a try.

The weather was forecast to be hot and sunny, but as we drove up the Slokan Valley in the early morning, we noticed clouds building. The

Enterprise Creek road is blocked at 5 km by a debris flow, so we took bicycles, and rode them for another 4 km to Westmont Creek and the start of the ridge. From here, the narrow ridge rises 3000 vertical feet straight up, starting in a steep cutblock. The going on the ridge was really good - no bush at all, sometimes some knee-high fireweed, and very little windfall. There was a bit of easy rock scrambling up a narrow step halfway up. Views were good the whole way, through the ghost-like burned tree trunks, west to the Valhallas and southeast to Kokanee Glacier.

As we started, thunderstorms were brewing in the Valhallas. All day we heard the constant rumble of thunder, which gradually spread into the Mt Brennan area to the north, and Kokanee Glacier to the south. But somehow the lightning and showers left us alone. At the top of the ridge, an easy traverse led us into the pretty alpine valley on the south side of Mt Aylwin. The route up the east ridge was easy, with a short bit of steep snow. Then at the apparent summit we discovered the true summit was a little further north. It is quite steep, and involved some exposed scrambling on solid granite. We didn't linger long, as we were worried the lightning and rain might come our way. We had only a brief light shower on the way down, and the ridge was dry and non-electric for the descent. Definitely a knee-burner! As we biked down the road, a downpour finally caught us only 5 minutes from the car.

It took us about 5 hours up from the car, including a half-hour or so of biking, and 3.5 hours down. The route up the ridge is recommended, but probably only for another year or two. The road is in good condition for biking, with a nice surface and moderate grades, so

bikes are a good way to approach other hiking destinations like Blue Grouse Basin and Tanal Lake. You don't even need a mountain bike as long as you have good tires. With the government's post-Olympic financial hangover, it's unlikely the road will be opened any time soon.

We were Dave Toews, Peter Tchir, Larry Hanlon, and Peter Jordan (l & r).

Siwash Mountain

2318 m

July 14th, 2010

We met at the west end of Blewitt Road at 7am and then drove up Blewitt Road and then up Rover Creek FSR to the turn past Snowater Lodge. The road past Snowater Lodge has deteriorated and needs a high clearance 4wd vehicle. Our route was to the col and then ridge walking up (and down) to Siwash. There was some snow, but not in places that would require an ice axe. The return was much the same as the hike out covering all five peaks. The weather was ideal with moderate temperatures and a mixture of sun and cloud; not too hot for hiking but warm enough not to need to put extra clothes on at lunchtime.

We were Terry Simpson, Jill Watson, Jenny Baillie, Robin Lidstone, Janice Gilbert and coordinator, Ted Ibrahim.

Idaho Peak

July 21st, 2010

Eleven KMC membes set out for the Wakefield Trailhead, (4 000 ft.) at 9:00A, after riding up a winding

mine road from Silverton. At 10:00A they stopped for a 10 min. break at an old mine site, (5 576 ft.). Views to the south were good on this sunny and clear morning.

The group hiked on up through cool moist forest and through three snowless avalanche chutes. By 11:00AM they reached the Idaho Peak Trailhead at 7000 ft. Three vehicles were parked in the nearby lot. The hikers took a short break then continued on the Idaho Peak Forestry Lookout, arriving at 12:00 noon, (7 479 ft.) Lunch was eaten while absorbing the 360- degree view, which included at least three mountain ranges. New signage along the trail and at the Lookout provided geographic, biological and historical information about the area.

Two of the sign boards showed and identified the mountains viewed from their location. The group also met a couple from Leeds, England who were touring Canada and had hiked up the Wakefield Trail as well. At 1:00PM the eleven hikers descended down the ascent trail to reach the vehicles at 3:00PM.

By 3:30PM good byes had been said and vehicles departed. It was a day of good weather, refreshing breezes, breathtaking scenery and good company.

Hikers included: Ed Beynon, Edward Ibrahim, Ken Kirkland, Terry Simpson, Jill Watson, Diane Paolini, Dave Grant, Jan Micklethwaite, Suzanne Blewett, and coordinators Pat and Alan Sheppard.

Gimli Peak

August 7, 2010

The trip to Gimli Peak started with 8 participants meeting at 7:00 a.m. at the Slocan Valley park and ride and coordinating rides with Carole Page's Gimli meadows and Mulvey Basin overlook group. After driving up the highway to Slocan City and then onto the Little Slocan and Bannock Burn forestry roads, we started hiking at 9:00 a.m. under clear blue skies.

The day was hot and the trail steep, but we made it above tree line in a little over one hour. Once above tree line, we made our way up the scree slope to the ridge on the east flank of Gimli. Members of the group stopped at various points to admire the views and even enjoyed a little meditation and some book reading on the way up. 5 members of the group summited around 12:30 p.m. and then quickly scurried off the mountain to avoid a nasty looking black cloud that was rapidly approaching. Following a quick descent down the ridge, we headed for the parking lot, arriving at the vehicles just as the clouds opened up and drenched any of those who had dallied to take a picture or two on the way down.

We were Mary Woodward, Gene Van Dyke, Jennifer Cook, Jennie Baillie, Lisa Quattrochi, Morgan Lindsay, P'nina Shames and Dave Grant, co-ordinator

Toad Mountain/Red Mountain

August 25th, 2010

We met at the Hitching Post at 7am. The start was early because the forecast was for 33°C in Nelson.

To get to the start of the trail at the Silver King Mine you drive 1.7 km up the Giveout Creek Road and turn left. At 2.15 km you keep

right and at 4.0 km there is a cabin with a metal roof. Keep right at 6.9km. At 7.3 km you turn right (ignore the turn at 7.2 km) and at 10.25 km you turn left and reach the Silver King Mine at about 11.7 km. You drive up to the top of the Silver King Mine (12.4 km) and park. From the 7.3 km turn, a high clearance vehicle is needed.

Twelve of us started from the



trailhead at about 8:15am. The trail is still in good condition and is obviously being fairly well used since we cleared it in 2004. It looks as if someone else is doing some maintenance. We arrived at the top of Toad at about 10:30am. Half the group stayed at the top of Toad, while the other half continued on to Red. While we managed to find a fairly clear route down to the col between Toad and Red, the start of the climb up Red was much more of a bushwhack than I remember. Fortunately, the day did not get as hot as forecast and remained pleasant all day.

We were Bert Ratcliffe, Carole Page, Bob Dean, Ray Neumar, Ken Kirkland, Janis Gilbert, Kathleen Nichol, Alex Nichol, Kate Woodhouse, Sherolyn Haakstad, Sandra Haakstad and co-ordinator, Ted Ibrahim.

Continued from page 1 Long Mountain:

At about 2100 metres, the ridge becomes narrow and gendarmed, but, unfortunately, the rhododendron, shrubs, and, small trees - live and dead - don't give up. For what seemed like hours, but was probably about 300 vertical metres, we worked our way up and down gendarmes, climbing slabs and cracks, traversing narrow ledges, fighting with rhododendron and dead pines on the crux sections, clearing small holds of slippery pine needles, and kicking off loose rocks. How long could this go on?

Eventually, about 1.00 pm, we got onto an easier section of ridge, and were dismayed to find ourselves still 300 vertical metres from the summit. Clearly, we still had a long way to go. In the interests of expediency, we traversed off the west ridge onto the west face and finally escaped the tentacles of bush. Scrambling up the west face - thinking "what will this be like if it rains" - up slabs, boulders, and short steps, we could see the remnants of the west ridge to our left still covered with long lasting scrub and rhododendron.

Higher up, the west ridge merges with the west face and we continued scrambling up, a mix of fourth and third class terrain. The summit block is a steep, black lichenized jumble of boulders and bluffs, but we found a fourth class route up, and a long time after setting out (5.25 hours), we eventually hauled ourselves onto the surprisingly flat and spacious summit. With storm clouds massing to the west, and rain already over the Valhallas, our first thought was "is there an easier way

off?," followed by "how long do we have before it starts raining?"

Regrettably, no easy escape route presented itself. The north ridge looked overhanging, the south ridge looked long and festooned with its own series of gendarmes, and the direct west face descent looked just plain nasty, it seemed as if we would have to retrace our steps. We carefully downclimbed the west face, a slip here would mean a long, but fast descent, not really the sort we were after. Back on the west ridge, we downclimbed to a prominent notch. Peering over the north side, it looked as if one long single rope rappel would get us down the long steep wall below and into a gully which appeared to lead out to easy talus slopes in the basin immediately north of the west ridge.

While I slung a huge tooth on the ridge, Doug dropped the rope down confirming that a single rope rappel would reach, and quickly threading the sling, we dropped the rope down and rappelled off. A short 40 metre downclimb from the end of the rappel, put us out into a talus field, with all the technical terrain behind us.

It was still a long walk down, we got enmeshed in an avalanche slope for couple of hundred metres in between boulder fields, and the bushwhack down was really no better than the bushwhack up. I kept looking at my altimeter watch to see how much elevation we had to lose and it constantly looked like a long way. But, we did eventually stumble out onto Silverton Creek FSR and hobbled down the road back to the truck with sore knees and sore feet. I'd completely shredded my climbing pants on the route, and they were hanging in tatters about my legs. My arms were similarly flayed, and I looked as if I been dragged through the proverbial privet bush (or slide

alder patch) backward. But, we had climbed Long Mountain, possibly by a new route.

Route notes: Drive Silverton FSR to the landslip and park. Hike up the road for a couple of kilometres to reach the base of the west ridge - a GPS helps. We started up at GR852263 (NAD27). Expect lots of fourth class scrambling along the west ridge with exposure. Near 2300 metres (about GR865257, NAD27) traverse out onto the west face and climb fourth class terrain up towards the summit. Near the summit, move towards the north side of the west face and make some fourth class moves up slabs and blocks to reach the summit. To descend, retrace your route to a prominent notch on the west ridge, this is near the start of the fourth class scrambling as you descend (or near the end of the fourth class scrambling as you ascend). Rappel down a steep wall to the north from a large tooth on the ridge (sling anchor). Scramble class three terrain down to the talus slope below and bushwhack out.

(<http://www.zimbio.com/North+Cascades+National+Park/articles/7/Cascade+Bushwhack+Rating+System>),

To celebrate 125 years of national parks in Canada - and raise further awareness for the parks - the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is inviting you to create a short (under 2 minutes) video about one of Canada's national parks. It's very easy: Just tell the world why you think the park you've chosen is so amazing - and you could win great prizes! And you don't have to record the video from the park - you can film at your home or anywhere else you like. You can even use your smart phone or webcam. The deadline is Oct 12 - but it's in your best interest to submit as early as possible to be considered for the weekly draws and to accumulate more votes for your video. Enter at: <http://celebrateparks.ca>

More about the prizes:

Grand prize: A guided trip for two (as part of a group excursion) down the world-famous South Nahanni River in Nahanni National Park Reserve, NWT, provided by Nahanni River Adventures. Includes airfare from a major Canadian city and a one-year family pass to all Canadian National Parks.)

2nd place: A customized HD flip video camera and a one-year Parks Canada family or group pass. 3rd place: \$100 Mountain Equipment Co-op gift certificate plus a one-year Parks Canada family or group pass. Weekly Prizes: Each week, one lucky entrant will be chosen randomly to win a \$50 gift certificate to Mountain Equipment Co-op.

Bonus Prizes: The maker of the top-voted video for each of the 42 national parks will receive a one-year Parks Canada individual pass.

NEW FOR 2011! WEBSITE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION!

This year the KMC executive has been working with member Stephen Langley, website professional, to build a system for membership registration over the KMC website for next year. Website registration has a number of advantages for members, including instant registration and address/ phone number/ email updating, instant payment with your credit card or Paypal account via secure Paypal system, instant access to current trip lists and newsletters, registration from home at any time of day or night, and saving of postage and paper. For the executive, it has the advantages of greatly decreasing the number of manpower hours involved in registering each paper application, maintaining books of paper waivers, depositing membership cheques, and maintaining addresses and emails. It also will allow the instant generation of membership lists for our store discounts, Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC memberships, email lists, and newsletter lists. Our projected start date for the new registration system is December 1, 2010. Don't like that nasty interweb? Don't worry, electronic registration won't be mandatory, and paper forms will still be available. We simply hope that the vast majority of the membership will choose this eco-friendly way of renewing. Stay tuned for further updates! And a huge thank-you to Stephen for donating his time and expertise to this project. Great job, Steve!

REMINDER: Membership renewals for 2011 begin on December 1, 2010. Please hold off sending in any paper renewals prior to the launch of the website registration.

Keeping our Heads in the Clouds Mt. Loki

August 29th, 2010

The day started early with a meeting at the Nelson Safeway at 05:45! After yawning for a few minutes we decided that 2 on our list were not coming, so we drove on and caught the Balfour ferry at 06:30. We enjoyed coffee and the beautiful lake on the way across, and headed through Riondel on Eastman Road until it turned into the gravel Powder Creek FSR at the bridge. There we watched the yellow km signs, and right after 6km we turned right up the Portman Creek FSR, and followed it all the way to the top, making sure to turn left at the fork, seeing the small white hand-painted Loki sign.

Another small white sign marked the start of the trail near the top of the Portman FSR. We parked near the trail-head and started up the new and improved trail. This start shaves off nearly 1000m of elevation gain compared to starting down near the lake in the old way. We were hiking by 08:15, and spent the next 75min coming up through the forest and the gully, up the steep ascent to the notch. We did not, however, get the customary and rewarding view of the summit from the notch, as the clouds and mist were surrounding us, and the rain that had been falling since the start of the hike was becoming very low density and starting to drift around us!

We contoured around and then down to the saddle, had a snack, and got the group together. Seven decided to press on, despite colder temperatures and more wind, and four decided to just see how it went, turning around when they felt they'd had enough of snow-covered slippery rocks and wind. We continued up the next steep section on an excellent trail, and went to the right, on the uphill fork where there was a choice. We soon came to the first short rock slab, which was easily negotiated, and started across the scree slope. Everyone commented on how unique and beautiful the rock formations and colours are at that point!

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On the other side, which soon found us on the ridge. Peekaboo views through the clouds hinted at the amazing vista hiding there. We continued up the ridge on the distinct trail, and soon found ourselves at the base of the first rocky scrubby section, with the first false summit in front of us.

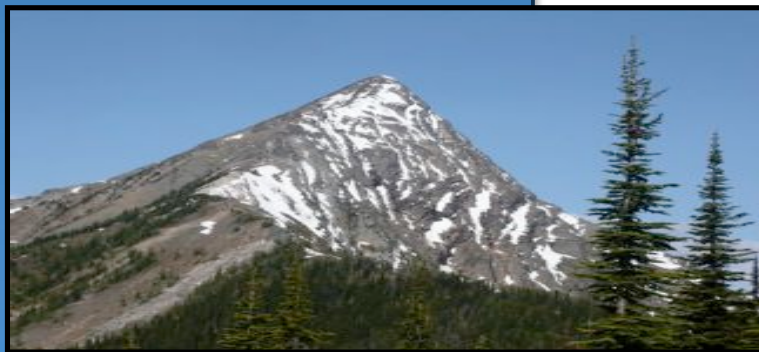
Snow and slippery lichen made for slow travel and anxiety for some of the party, so we had lunch and a false summit meeting after this section. It

was noon, and some people had definitely had enough, so we split the party for safety and group management. Neil, John, and Suzanne continued on to the summit, and Linda went down with Diane, Connie, and P'nina. The descenders negotiated the slippery rocks in reverse while watching the summiteers

disappear in the clouds, backlit on the ridge – very beautiful! The temperature and wind improved with the loss of elevation, but we never once saw the summit all day!

The summiteers caught up with the descenders right at the end of the scree section, and we all descended the rest of the trail together, picking huckleberries, chatting, and getting soaked by the wet, heavy snow. We returned to the cars at 3:30,

and just made the 4:30 ferry back to our side. Good times had by all. The trip is approx 5km from trailhead to summit, with 1300m of elevation gain.



No injuries but lots of sore knees.

Trip participants were: Suzanne Blewett, John Liddington, Diane Paolini, Connie Parisotto, P'nina Shames, Neil Baker, and Linda Johannson. Carole Page also led a second group with Kathleen Nichol, Paula Barnes, and Ken Kirkland. Thanks to all for a great day.

Notice: Kokanee Ski Week

Dates: In on Jan.29 - out on Feb.5, 2011

The kokanee ski week is intended as a ski touring trip for 12 KMC members. All must be suitably equipped and have the skills and knowledge for safe travel and rescue in avalanche terrain. Participants should also have completed a recent avalanche awareness and rescue course. The cost, per person, is estimated to be \$875 and includes accommodation at the Kokanee Glacier Lodge and helicopter in and out from Nelson. Information about the lodge can be found on the Alpine Club of Canada web site at www.alpineclubofcanada.ca This is a self-guided, self-catered trip. A trip coordinator to deal with specific trip details, issues and needs will be selected from the successful applicants. Applicant names can be submitted to Dave Watson via email at jdwatson01@shaw.ca (preferred) or call 250-362-5660 any time up to and including October 15, 2010. Successful applicants and those placed on a waiting list will be notified within a few days following the draw. Full payment is due by October 30th. You can apply as a single or a couple. However, couples applying must indicate if you're willing to "split up" if your names are drawn last creating an odd number (13). Those left on the waiting list for the 2010 trip will be given priority for 2011 but must still apply.

Good Luck,
Dave Watson
Director, Winter Trips

KMC Summer Trips Schedule 2010

Date		Destination	Rating
Sept	4 Sat		
	5 Sun		
	6 Mon		
	11 Sat		
	12 Sun	Mt Woden & McKean Lk	C2
	18 Sat	7 Summits Trail	D1
	19 Sun		
	25 Sat		
	26 Sun	Ripple Mt	C2
Oct	2 Sat		
	3 Sun		
	9 Sat		
	10 Sun		
	11 Mon		
	16 Sat		
	17 Sun		
	23 Sat 24 Sun	Ward Ferry Trail	B1

Important Note:

Coordinators are encouraged to screen participants for fitness, skills, equipment

Classification of Hiking Trips:

Physical: **A**-easy **B**-moderate **C**-strenuous **D**-very strenuous

Technical: **1**-hike **2**-scramble **3**-scramble, perhaps with some exposure **4**-climb **5**-climb, continual belays

Classification of Biking Trips:

Difficulty: **A**- easy **B**-fairly easy **C**-strenuous **D**-very strenuous

- 1** - suitable for all bikes
- 2** - hybrid or mountain bike recommended
- 3** - moderate mountain biking skills required
- 4** - advanced mountain biking skills required; steep or exposed trails.

For more information phone the Summer Trips Chairperson, Vicki Hart 352-6145

REMINDERS: Mountain transportation is expensive – Share the costs. No dogs permitted on club trips.

KMC MEMBERSHIP 2711 Granite Road, Nelson, BC V1L 6V6

Single \$41.00, Couple/Family \$40.00 + \$6.00 per person, Junior \$31.00

KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
Executive Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2010

Present: Nancy Selwood, Peter Oostlander, Dave Watson, P'nina Shames, Graham Jamin, Kim Kratky, Sandra McGuinness, Kay Medland, Dave Grant, Norm Truant, Linda Johannson

1. Meeting Called to Order: 6:36pm

2. Minutes

Typo: Top of page 3 - "Kootenay" should be "Kokanee"

Motion: Kim: To accept the revised minutes. 2nded by Dave W. Carried.

3. Reports

A) President – Dave Grant

a) Web Director Position

There has been no interest shown in this position. Norm has agreed to continue on but has minimal time available. May have to go private. Options:

- i) Paid position
- ii) Selkirk Multimedia students
- iii) Web development training is paid for by the club for a member
- iv) CBT application to pay for this position or for the training
- v) In addition to the website, could look at Google group development which is an online community discussion board. Very basic

b) Friends of Rossland Range

Meeting held May 20th. It was a fact finding meeting. Participants were split up into groups for discussion. They have decide to apply for tenure in the fall but it is still in the planning stages.

c) Retail Discounts

Went to Valhalla, Snowpack, ROAM in Nelson and Powder Hound in Rossland and provided each with our membership list. They will give members 10% off except for climbing gear.

B) Vice President

a) Rack Card – Peter Oostlander

The second draft has been completed and circulated. Quotes from several sources will be obtained.

To Do: Sandra to send Peter high resolution pic of people in one of our huts.

Motion: Graham: To have 500 rack cards printed at the best price. 2nded P'nina. Carried.

C) Treasurer – Presented by Dave Grant

Alison will not be allowing her name to stand at the end of her term in November. Membership is down by \$1000 compared to last year.

D) Secretary – Kay Medland

Dave G. now has a key to the mailbox and will be picking up the mail. Reviewed revised Executive Communication Policy. Revisions to #1 are agreeable to all present. KMC Policy was also reviewed. Both are attached.

To Do: Kay to check the Society Act to ensure our AGM is in compliance.

E) Membership – Tabled

F) Recreation & Conservation

There was a Rivers at Risk Meeting in Nelson June 1st which had a number of speakers. There have been articles in the Nelson Daily News about Glacier Howser, The proponent has been gathering data on fish habitat. No timeline provided for it. BP is proceeding with a project in the East Kootenay. Sent an email to BC government opposing snowmobiling on Glacier but have yet to receive a reply. Columbia Valley Hut Society was successful in getting a closure to snowmobiles but has never enforced it. Apple proposing a project on Wood River that will involve 76 km of transmission lines and would reduce the river to 10% of its normal flow. At the request of a KMC member, a letter was written to the Alpine Club of Canada about KMC's involvement in the proposed Jumbo are projects.

To Do: Kim to send a letter to Gordon Campbell and MLA regarding proposed Wood River project

To Do: Kim to contact Alison and obtain a cheque for the donation to CAA.

G) Newsletter – Tabled

H) Cabins – Graham Jamin

Hoping to get some materials shipped up to huts by the gov't. Need to get wood choppered in before the fire season. The wood is used for heat not for cooking. Discussion ensued and solar panels and propane were suggested as greener alternatives but not seen as feasible at this time. The helicopter costs about \$2000 per hour to bring in supplies that will last for 3 years.

To Do: Graham to get work crew together for the huts.

I) Social – P'nina Shames

The AGM will be held in Nelson at the New Grand on November 19, 2010 and does not conflict with the Banff Film Festival. Suggested that venue rotate between Nelson, Trail, Rossland, and Castlegar. Committed to staying on for 3 years as social director. The price is \$25 per person. Suggested having a keynote speaker and it was decided that it must be limited to 30 minutes maximum. The slide show will be held on Friday, October 1st at the Resker Hall. Brian Reed will help out with the technical end.

To Do: P'nina to make sure price includes coffee, tea & desert and find out if the cost of the bartender is extra.

To Do: Sandra to send P'nina the contact info for local mountain celebrities/experts.

J) Mountain School – Sandra McGuiness

The school is finished for the year. There were 8-10 people for the Trip Planning workshop, 11 people for the Crevasse Rescue Review workshop, and 3 or 4 for the Scrambling Safety workshop.

K) Hiking Camp – Nancy Selwood

All camps are full and there are still people on the waitlist.

L) Climbing Camp – Presented by Sandra

5 Members have signed up. This is Doug's last year as Climbing Camp Director.

M) Summer Trips – Presented by Dave G.

There are lots of holes in July and August. There were also a number of cancellations due to weather. Anyone who wants to do a trip please let Vicki know.

N) Winter Trips – Dave W.

The volunteer appreciation dinner was held in June in Nelson. 26 were invited, 17 committed to go and 15 showed up. Was unable to get Kokanee cabin for another week but Ken Holmes got in on the lottery and offered it to the membership. Paul Allen is trying to get Battle Abby for May 2011 in the East Kootenay. It is self guided and self catered. McKeen Lake is only taking expressions of interest at this time and Ruby is pretty well booked. The lottery for Kokanee cabin is held in October. There are 8 people on the waitlist from last year who have first refusal. There are only 12 spots in total.

O) Equipment & Trails – Tabled

To Do: Peter to contact Hans Korn about the next meeting.

4. Old Business

A) Online Registration - Linda Johannson

Stephen Langley has submitted a proposal for \$750. He will try to get it set up so that we can get it up and running and then will tweak it as needed. Paypal will be used. Minors and family memberships will be able to be done online but junior memberships will require a parent's signature. Discussion about also having Steve do the new club website. Also need to find out how many members are ready to pay online.

To Do: Linda to ask Steve to combine online registration and updating the website and obtain a quote.

To Do: Dave G. to send out information and conduct an e-vote.

5. New Business

A) Cabin Fees – Graham Jamin

Members and non-members pay the same fees but work party participants can use the cabins for free. Almost all non-members use the cabins.

B) Promotional Activities – Peter Oostlander

Suggest having a presence at the film festivals in Nelson and Rossland.

Motion: Kay: To develop a promotional materials to use at various events. 2nd Sandra. Carried.

To Do: Peter to put together a proposal.

C) KMC Safety Protocols on Club Trips – Sandra McGuinness

Need to develop club policy to run trips according to standard procedures on glaciers. Hiking camp will also need to adhere to this policy.

Important Club Information

Membership Annual Dues:

Single (19 yrs and older) \$41

Family (including child under 19) 2 people \$52; 3 people \$58; add \$6 for each additional person

Junior (age under 19) \$31

Send complete membership/waiver form to KMC Membership:

717 Hall St.

Nelson BC

V1L1Z5

To receive membership information by e-mail or to give us your address/e-mail/phone changes please contact: membership@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca

Want to Include something in the email update?

**members-
owner@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca**

Sending an email to KMC members?

members@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca

Want to get a hold of the KMC President?

president@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca

Newsletter Editorial Policy: We encourage all submissions of writings, cartoons, drawings, book & website reviews and trip reports. Suitability for publication is at editors' discretion. Articles and advertisements may be edited for clarity and length. Advertising must be thought to be of interest to members in regard to the outdoors, especially locally. Will use discretion for commercial endeavors.

Visit us @

www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca

MICA CAMP 3

Summer 2010

Hiking Camp



As I think about how to start this story of Mica Camp 3, 2010, I am uninspired by the thought of documenting the stories of who approached which summit from which direction or route, what adversity they encountered, or how many peaks were bagged. Suffice it to say that we did our share of peak bagging, cairn building, wild life spotting and flower counting. We did not see the baby eagles fledge, not on account of the pea soup London fog which obscured the cliff, but because they were still too young to fly. Maybe my writer's balk was caused by the weather, which blessed us with all variations except snow, or because the spirit of Patricia was with me, guiding me, and influencing me, that camp 2010 seemed more about an inner journey than an upward and outward one.

Hiking camp has always been more than just a place to come to walk, it is a special classroom. We enter 20 people with experiences that are personal, all our own, some benign, some dramatic, but all unique. We touch each other's experience in ways that seem mundane, ordinary, unexceptional, but because of our isolation in this wilderness place and our reliance on each other, the ordinary seems amplified.

"Why do we seek the simplicity of the meadows and mountains? For 20 people 20 reasons- all different yet all fundamentally the same"

What does each of us bring into camp that influences, changes or impacts the lives of those we touch? How does a 77 year old influence a 40 year old? As a mentor? Purely to share common pleasure of the outdoor experience or is there more to be learned there? Is it to encourage acceptance of self, to debunk ageism or to share wisdom?

How does the loss of a mate after illness or accident change one's life? Where does one go from here? No one can save us from those blackest moments, but old friends and family are balm for the battered soul and the mountain air, sights and sounds soothe and smooth the unwanted visions and thoughts.

What lessons do we learn about ourselves when faced with another's mortality? When given a second chance or wishing for a miracle, what better place to be than deep in nature and free to explore to the depths of one's ability? To watch and know of a fellow camper's challenge is to be touched by one's own transience. The value of seeing our legends struggle to keep doing the things that made them legends in our eyes, takes us to the brink of inspiration, to homage and beyond - to the desire to emulate. When tragedy strikes, creeps or looms, what better place to taunt it than in the mountains? What better place to bury loss, than where there is so much space that loss itself can get lost. Morbid? Melancholy? Not at all. I believe that when one peak is conquered another one beckons. What choice do we have when life shows its other side but to keep walking? When time moves too quickly where better to go than to a place where time stands still? When we land in camp we allow ourselves to tap into each other's souls with a word, a look and an experience that can be profound. If we choose to see, these connections can redirect, illuminate, comfort, encourage, discourage, acknowledge, validate, subdue, educate, charm, remind, or reward us and send us onto a path we had not anticipated. That encounter can be an "aha" moment. We are like a room full of balloons bumping into each other with no particular agenda, but when we touch we are redirected and float into a new direction.

What I see mashed between the reunions, the walking, the food and the weather, is that the joy and peace found here is special to us all. It soothes us, rejuvenates us and gives us reason to return. It infuses us with memories that outshine the ordinary and the heartbreaking, it reminds us of our connection with the earth and each other, and gives us a reason to plan for hiking camp 2011.

Barbara Stang