



# Kootenay Mountaineering Club

*The Newsletter for people with year-round pursuits.*

*Next Deadline: December 4th 2011*

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**ATTENTION:**  
KMC Annual  
General  
Meeting

### When:

November 18<sup>th</sup>  
2011

### Where:

Garage Restaurant  
Rossland BC

### Price:

**\$26.00 per person**

Details: P'Nina (the social convenor) has organized a chartered bus for those wishing to attend from Nelson. (Price yet to be determined)

### Schedule:

6-6:30PM - social  
6:30-7:30 - Food!  
7:30- 9PM - AGM



Photo: Zuzanna , Eric, Jocelyne with Rob and Leon on Crystalline

## REPRISE AT HUME CREEK CAMP

By Graham Kenyon

1984 came and went. George Orwell's nightmare was a no-show; or maybe he just got the date wrong. The fortunate few who that year savoured the pleasures of either of the camps high in the green meadows beside the headwaters of Hume Creek, gave little thought to the gloomy grey monotony of Orwell's urban world. My 17 year old son and I were part of a second camp, an unofficial family camp, arranged extemporaneously in a remarkable display of flexibility, which took over from the official KMC camp - only one hiking camp in those days. We were 12 people, four families with teenage kids, and the indefatigable Mary Woodward.

Fast forward now to 2011: Hume Creek 2, The Sequel! Mary along with Sue Port, the only other veteran of the '84 Hume Creek camp - the official camp in her case - were both in Camp 1 and will likely have their stories to tell. My son, now 44, and I were in Camp 2, a reprise but with the significant interval of 27 years between; long enough to quickly realize I could hardly recall any of our former visit. I had to dig out my old journal and the 1984 Karabiner afterwards, even some old photos from the depths of a closet, to discover how ambitious we were in those days.

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## September 30, 2011

Over 40 KMC members turned out for the annual fall slideshow evening at the Resker hall in Castlegar. KMC president, Dave Grant kicked off the show with photos of the David Thompson Columbia River canoe brigade.

They recreated history by paddling voyageur canoes 1800 kilometres along David Thompson's historic route from present day Invermere, British Columbia, to Astoria, Oregon over a six week period this past Summer.

This was followed by Sandra McGuiness' "testosterone free" musical slide show of a number of amazing mountain peaks, climbed and skied. Ross Scott then took the stage with his beautiful 2011 KMC Summer camp photo and video show, also accompanied by musical arrangements. These presentations were tough acts to follow!

At the intermission, we nibbled on a wide variety of delicious appetizers and desserts prepared by Ingrid Enns with contributions by Sandra McGuiness and Holly Ridenour.

Bill McNally showed photo's by Vicky Hart of a KMC trip to Mt Presley (including one shot of a scary exposed section, capably executed by the group!) and an entertaining presentation by Peter Oostlander on a family kayak trip in the broken island group. We finished off the evening with a very interesting arrangement of photos by Jocelyne Martin of a 200km long kayak trip in Desolation sound.

Ross won the "People's Choice Award" and took home a gift certificate by Revolution cycle. There were two gear swap tables with some great deals: Sandra McGuiness even gave away a number of items! Graham scored a free historic piton hammer *with* an attached piton! Special thanks must go out to Bryan Reid for providing for and operating the computer and projector.

In conclusion, a successful evening with great mountaineering friends! It was nice to see a lot of new faces as well.

Peter Oostlander

### Photos:

Ross Scott: Jocelyne, Zuzana and four amigos after a hard lunch at the summit of the "golfcourse"

Sandra McGuiness: Dave Toews and Terry Huxter arrive on Mount Geigerich at sunset

Dave Grant: The David Thompson brigade on the Kootenay river, approaching the US border

Vicky Hart: Ascending the East Peak of Mt. Prestley over 3rd class rock and snow

Peter Oostlander:

Ancient Sitka Spruce on Willis Island in the Broken Group

Jocelyne Martin: Kayaking in Desolation sound





# Trips Report

## Toad Peak

**July 31, 2011**

July 31, 2011 dawned clear as a bell. Access to Toad Peak parking area was quickly gained, up the trail and onto the ridge. Toad Peak provided great views of Nelson for our guests; then onto Red Mountain via the lower pass and ridgeline. We enjoyed the fabulous views of the southern Monashees, Selkirks and the Purcells then retraced our steps. Thankyou to Ted and those folks who volunteer to keep this trail open for all to enjoy! We were Jill Watson, Shannon Naylor, Sandra Jittler (guest), Tobias Stichel (guest ) Peter Jordan, Paul Allen, Kim Kratky, and Curt Nixon.

## Reco Mt

**August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Eleven went on this trip. Some met at Playmor Park and Ride and traveled to Retallack via New Denver while others met at Nelson Safeway and drove via Kaslo. We met at Retallack around 9:30 and then drove for about 25 minutes on the mining road that goes up 10 mile creek. The day was warm and the sun was hot and it took the best part of an hour to hike up the

road to the col. From there we followed the steep but easy ridge to the summit where we had lunch before returning by the same route. Jenny Bailey, John Bargh, Betty Bruce, Penny Clarke, Jennifer Cook, Bob Dean, Don Harasym, Ken Kirkland, Robin Lidstone, Alex Nichol, Pat Sheppard.

## Mt Jeldness

**September 24, 2011 - 1405 m  
(4610 ft)**

This mountain lies between Big Sheep Creek and Swehaw Creek near Rossland, BC. and was renamed Mount Jeldness in 1967, after Olaus Jeldness, a colourful character and Norwegian mining engineer, who arrived in Rossland in 1896.

According to the Canadian Ski Hall of Fame, Jeldness organized the first recorded Canadian ski competition at Rossland in 1897. He won this first downhill on Red Mountain on March 6, 1897. Early racing might be considered a free-for-all and clearly dangerous by today's strict safety standards as the racers all started together at the summit, hurling themselves down the mountain to the finish line on the main street of town. The racers controlled their speed by using their single long pole as both a rudder and brake, choosing their own route down the

mountain.

Jeldness was instrumental in creating the Rossland Winter Carnival which began in 1898. Included in the carnival were competitive events which included a race called the Canadian Champion Ski Race which descended 2,000 vertical feet. He won this event as well as another, the first Canadian Championship Ski Jumping contest.

He would repeat his successes, now called the Dominion Ski championships., winning both Downhill and Jumping events in 1899 and 1900, his last year of competition. In the autumn of 1898, he organized the clearing of three separate downhill runs and organized and formed what was, arguably, the first ski club in Canada.

The "Spirit of Red" Society is raising funds for the creation of a bronze statue of Olaus Jeldness, near the former bank of Montreal in downtown Rossland.

In the Fall of 2010, the KMC organized an outing to this low elevation summit, but ran into the some bluffs and cliff bands on the South East side, and the summit was not reached.

I felt that the KMC needed to finish the job and added the mountain to the 2011 summer trip schedule. There were just two of us up to the task; club member Daniela Gadotti and I drove down the historic Old Cascade Highway down to

Sheep Creek, where we parked the car. The Old Cascade highway was completed in 1922 and was the only connection to Christina Lake and the Boundary before highway 3 was extended in the early 60's. In most cases when we go on a hiking trip, we drive as high as possible and start out. This was the exact opposite, we drove up to the high point on the road and then down into the valley at 2200ft.

A Google earth map photo I brought along gave us a clue how to approach the summit, by walking 1.5km to an intersection of a gas and power line. This is the start of an obvious North-South drainage that leads more or less directly to the summit.



Olaus Jeldness

We energetically scampered up the West side of this drainage on the steep slope under sunny skies. We then crossed it about half way up to the East side and arrived at the false summit in two hours.

As the slope faces directly South and the valley

temperature was in the 30C degree range, we felt we were baked and fried up there. The landscape was desert like with few trees and dry shrubs and grasses, since there had been no appreciable rain in two months.

We added a summit register to the small summit cairn, containing a brief description of Jeldness and soldiered on to the actual summit, about 500m further north, where we had lunch. The views were somewhat interesting towards Santa Rosa and Old Glory peaks and the Sheep Creek valley below. I took some photographs of my friend's Jeff's property below, since he had driven me to the mountain the week prior, to scope it out. We then descended down the East side of the gulley and to our surprise this offered a continuous grassy descend pretty much right to the bottom. Well, that was easy! We had to stop several times to drink our water, and the two litres I brought along disappeared by the time we arrived back at the car after 4 1/2 hours.

Since we had some time left over, we drove to Jeff's property further up Sheep creek where the original Ben Shaw homestead still stands. Daniela freshened up in the cold and energizing creek, just above a newly built beaver dam and I refilled my now empty water bottles. After Jeff gave us a tour of his little paradise, we drove back up the 26km road to the Rossland Museum.

An interesting day with good company!

Peter Oostlander, organizer and reporter.

## Bike Ride

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

3 persons participated in a 232km ride, Graham Kenyon, Chuck Macklon and guest Kelly Poznikoff.

We left Shore Acres at 8:00am on July 14th from Kelly's house. Myself on a traditional road bike and gear, Graham with touring bike and authentic '60's riding cape, and Kelly riding a recumbent bike. The weather was overcast and cool, great for riding. By the time we hit Slocan we started to encounter light rain, when we approached the final accent to Silverton, the sky's let loose and it poured. By this time we had become separated for various reasons. Kelly and Graham connected again in Silverton and found a Cafe' to warm up in, while I kept riding on to New Denver. Thank goodness for hot showers, we all needed one to warm up. That's not really true, Graham was warm and dry when he showed up wearing his cape. In order to keep weight down we didn't bring food for meals so we ate dinner and breakfast the next morning in New Denver.

Knowing we had a short ride on day two, New Denver to Kaslo, 50km, we thought we'd have a

late start, which was a good thing as it took over an hour and one half to be served breakfast. We ground our way up the pass, under overcast sky's and cool weather with our recumbent rider Kelly doing very well. I had always heard that recumbent bikes weren't great for going up hill. Well so much for that rumor, Kelly was less than 15min behind at the summit. One thing is for sure, those recumbent's can sure move downhill. Didn't see Kelly again until we got to Kaslo. We spent a pleasant afternoon in the pub sipping beer and eating great food.

To start the third day off we had breakfast downtown Kaslo and started our long pedal home, 97km. We stopped for a coffee at Woodbury and then continued to Belfour where we stopped for a snack and a drink. It was smooth sailing from there to Nelson. After a break for lunch we carried on the last 25km to Shore Acres. All in all it was a very enjoyable ride and I would like to host it again next year. It would be nice to have a few more riders along.

## Jumbo Pass Hike

**August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

4 Person's participated in the hike, Terry, Andrea, Chuck and guest Rae

We met at the Glacier creek

campground at 8:00 and drove together to the Jumbo Trail head, a 1 hour drive. There was only one other vehicle in the park and we didn't encounter any other hikers until we had reached the summit. We hiked at a moderate rate and it took us 2.5 hours to reach the cabin.

We stopped for lunch on a large rock overlooking a Tarn and the spectacular view all around us. While resting we met a group of 10 hikers who had hiked up from the Invermere side. As we descended the mountain we ran into at least 25 hikers making their way up the trail. It was nice to see young families hiking together and enjoying the great outdoors.

We got back to the campsite about 4pm and enjoyed a drink and a swim together. I had brought my kayaks along and Andrea showed us some kayak rescue techniques. Thanks Andrea. Bye the way Duncan is a great lake to kayak on, didn't see another boat all day.

## Peak Bagging Around the New Denver Glacier

**July 30 to August 1, 2011**

The three peaks surrounding the New Denver Glacier - Mount Denver, Iron Peak and English Peak - have been on my "to-do" list for a long time, but the chilling reality that the trail starts at 1750 metres on the shores of Slocan Lake had been, up until now, a sufficient deterrent to actually putting boot to trail and hauling my arse up to the alpine. But, with a sunny weekend finally in the



Photo: Sandra McGuiness – at the Col

forecast, and an aversion to driving a long distance for a new trip, the Sharp Creek trail suddenly became appealing.

Four other KMC'ers decided to come along, only one of whom - Fred Thiessen - had been up the trail in the past. Fred had done a day trip to one of the peaks in the area (he can't remember

which) many years ago, and recalled that one of his companions, on getting back to the lake shore at the end of that long day, had exclaimed "I wish I were dead!".

We got ferried across Slocan Lake from New Denver and began hiking around 8.40 am. Almost immediately, the trail crosses a bridge over Sharp Creek. This bridge is tilted off its foundation at one end and was liberally draped with "do not enter" tape, but was actually reasonably serviceable and we all used it to cross Sharp Creek. The alternative would be wading across down near the shore line. Immediately the trail begins to climb and we began to sweat. Despite the trail being in the trees almost all the way, it was hot and sweaty work hiking west.

BC Parks had cleared the trail of windfall to 4,600 feet and the travel, though steep in parts was pleasant enough through a second growth cedar forest. Above 4,600 feet we encountered various impediments to travel. The two worst were a big blowdown that obscured the trail for about 100 metres near 4,800 feet (easiest to bypass to climbers left - south) and the complete and utter lack of any remnants of a trail through the slide path between 5,000 and 5,500 feet. We ended up a little too far to the west in this section and had not only dense slide path vegetation and stinging nettle to contend with

but sprawling alder as well. Luckily, Fred had a fairly accurate sketch of the route of the trail on his map and we knew that we need only persevere upwards to about 5,500 feet to intersect the trail as it traversed west.

Near 5,500 feet we encountered the trail-bed again and were easily able to follow it the remainder of the way to its terminus in a damp meadow at 7,000 feet. We decided to set up camp here and not lug our big packs any higher. Now that we were at camp and comfortable, the two of us who had hiked up in shorts could fully appreciate the electric like jolts that the stinging nettle was continuing to send along the length of our legs. We spent the afternoon and evening lazing around in camp. A half-hearted suggestion to scramble up Iron Peak didn't meet with much enthusiasm as we figured we had the whole of the next day to climb the three peaks in the area.

Next morning we set off with lighter packs and hiked easily up to the snow covered New Denver Glacier. Some step kicking by Fred brought us to a col on the east ridge of Mount Denver, a couple of hundred metres from the summit. Initially, we scrambled along ledges on the south side to gain a notch before the final ridge to the summit. Some exposed, but technically easy (class 3) scrambling on lichen rock on the east ridge led to the

summit. Looking east, a rocky summit along the ridge about 1 kilometre away appeared as high as our elevation, but our maps (NTS 1:50,000) clearly showed our location as higher. At home later, I checked BC Basemap which has spot elevations on both peaks and the summit 1 km to the east is shown as 4 metres higher. For a peak bagger, this kind of wooliness over exact elevations and summits is maddening. But not maddening enough that I'll haul myself back up from Slocan Lake again.

After making our way back along the east ridge, we descended the glacier and crossed to the base of the east face of English Peak. Easy scrambling up a combination of the east face and the northeast ridge took us easily to the top and we lounged about for another hour or so. We picked up some big snow patches to descend to the saddle between Iron Peak and English Peak and scrambled easily along the southwest ridge of Iron Peak to our third and final summit.

Clouds by now had built to cover the sky but rain did not appear imminent so we lounged about some more. Finally, some people wanted soup and some people (me) wanted tea, so we hiked straight down dirt chutes of the south face to camp - a route very expedient to descend but, I suspect, annoying to ascend.

Around 6.00 pm a cold front

finally swept through with intense rain and electrical activity. Except for Fred, who hung out under a big tree, the rest of us retired to our respective tents and spent the evening reading.

Our last morning involved a leisurely breakfast and packing up before we started hiking down. Fred and Doug managed to pretty much stay on what is left of the trail on the way down through the avalanche path and that part of the descent was much easier than coming up. Some of the steeper trail sections, however, were hard on the knees. We had time for a swim or splash in the lake - depending on how hardy you were - before the boat arrived to take us back to New Denver.

Participants: Doug Brown, Candice Randall, Cindy Walker, Fred Thiessen, Coordinator: Sandra McGuinness

## Ymir Mt (2398m/7867ft)

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Some met at the Hitching Post near Nelson at 8am, & then met with the rest at the bottom of the Whitewater Road at 8:15am. We hiked up from the Whitewater parking lot up the Silver King side. It was very wet going up the Hummer. From the top of the chair area, we

went up the old clearing for the fire road, only leaving it near the top of the ridge for minimal bush whacking. When we were on the ridge, we met our first patches of snow. We walked along the ridge to the top of Half Dome; all the steeper, scrambling, sections were clear of snow. The group decided that it did not want to scramble down to the col & along the ridge to Ymir, so we dropped down & went round the back of the col, mostly traversing on snow. The final bit to the top of Ymir was on rocks. After lunch on the top, we dropped down the other side of Ymir to the first low point into the bowl. We kept as close to the edge as possible, which probably resulted in more bush whacking than necessary. Part way down we found an unexploded avalanche bomb. We took co-ordinates with a GPS & reported it to Whitewater. We dropped into the bowl at this low point & travelled down the upper bowl on snow, then over to the lower part of Sluice Box & back to the vehicles. We were Joanne Stinson, Jocelyne Martin, Ken & Shauna Budyk, Tobias Stichel and leader, Ted Ibrahim

## Kootenay Mountaineering Club, Camp 3

August 6-13, 2011

Participants: Don Hagen (leader), Suzanne Blewett (cook), Mary Baker, Laurie Charlton,

Penny Clarke, Sherolyn Haakstad, Chris Hatch, Helen Hatch, Wendy Hurst, Ted Ibrahim, Carl Jorgensen, Peter Krack, Gerry LaRouche, Andre Piver, Alan Sheppard, Pat Sheppard, Kal Singh, Tom Smith, Ron Stockerl, Terry Turner.

On June 12, Camp 3 participants had their first organizational meeting at the Haakstad/Smith residence in Vallican. The most important item on the agenda was to determine the pre-camp chores. Fortunately, a few of the women were eager to prepare some of the food dishes such as the curried chicken, spaghetti sauce beef stew and borscht. I won the trip to Save On Foods in Nelson to help Suzanne shop and package the non-perishable food items.

Everyone was required to bring two dozen home made cookies. Wow, that was a real pressure cooker. I tried to persuade a few lady friends to bake them but my wife had already told them not to until I put up the closet doors. I procrastinated until the day before departure when I borrowed a chocolate chip cookie recipe. The firstbatch that came off the assembly line resembled a dark brown spotted poker chip. The directions said a rounded TSP (tablespoon or teaspoon?). That's when realized I should have hung those closet doors sometime during the last 21 years. At 9pm I made a second batch measuring a large



rounded tablespoon and managed to get two dozen sub-rounded, welded slabs out of the 5-6 dozen recipe. That's when panic set in so I called my wife in King Salmon, Alaska. "My cookies are falling apart"

"I love you"

"I love you too ... I said my cookies are falling apart"

"Did you let them cool?"

"Where is that in the recipe?" (I think we both realized that it was the first time I followed directions in 37 years of marriage). I suddenly noticed a direct relationship between a hardening cookie and my dropping blood pressure ... what a relief !!

Transportation issues were solved by email and individuals elected to carpool with an overnight stay at three different locations; the Drifters Bunkhouse in Meadow Creek, the cabin at Coot Lake (Km 67 on the Duncan Lake road) or Badshot Lookout (Km 74). At 6:45am on Friday, I called Ron as I heading out the door and our two vehicle convoy left Riondel at 6:45am for the first ferry sailing across Kootenay lake. Suddenly I thought ... what did I do with the compost? Probably left it on the front porch. What is the worst than could happen? Perhaps a bear generated "calling card" deposited on my door step. Another thought crossed my mind. Hopefully I can get my rustbucket truck and precious cookies through Kaslo before the "fuzz" sets up an untimely

road check. I wouldn't have been concerned if I was heading south to Creston since the patrol cars are always parked at Tim Hortons until after 10am.

The trip was uneventful and we arrived at the Badshot Lookout Resort a few hours before the other convoys.

Everyone seemed to be enjoying dinner and socializing until the sun went down and we were attacked by tiny bugs that resembled flying teeth which induced the "Duncan River wave". I was just dozing off about midnight when Andre arrived and lit up the campsite as he attempted to find a flat spot to park. The Drifters Hostel and Coot Lake convoys joined the group early Saturday morning. John Christensen with Airspan Helicopters arrived at 9am and after the mandatory instruction, the Camp 2/3 exchange went off without a hitch.

Arrival at the campsite is always an exciting event. After the food coolers were safely stored, everyone rushed off to find the best campsite. Most selected Crestview Heights followed by the Flats and Mount Royal. Two built in the suburbs of Hatchville and Jorgetown. Then it was time for a few hours of getting acquainted with the landscape. The final order of the day was the camp meeting for the Tri-Duty lottery followed by the usual Tri-Duty trading.

The KMC camp was located at N50d 48.532, W117d 04.974, elevation 6,400 feet (1,950m) near the headwaters of north flowing Hume Creek. The hiking/climbing activities were concentrated in a 32 square kilometer area in the southeast corner of the Westfall River map sheet, NTS 82K/14, scale 1:50,000. Local relief is about 3,000 feet, the highest elevation recorded is Mount Tetragon, elevation 9,544 ft. (2,910m).

Geologically, the area is largely underlain by Late Precambrian regionally metamorphosed pelitic rocks of the Horsethief Creek Formation. These rocks consist largely of a north-south trending interbedded sequence of gray to dark green argillites, phyllites, quartzites and slates. Synclinal folding was noted on Mount Tetragon and Krinkletop Peak. Evidence of Pleistocene glaciation is evidenced by abundant striae, plucking and numerous lateral moraines. (Please note that the geological section is brief so the reader will not drift into a deep slumber).

Three hiking areas were defined by topography 1. The Lake District was easily accessible centered about 2 kms northwest of the camp. Most of this gently tilted alpine plateau lies above 7,000 feet elevation and hosts a dozen small lakes and ponds. A small stream exposed flat lying black slates with stepped rapids and a picturesque waterfall (50d



49.321, 117d 05.479, elevation 7,089 feet). Flowers were largely concentrated adjacent to the lakes and drainage. A few marmots were observed in the shattered rock outcroppings. A bird perched on a small isolated tree was photographed and identified by Ed Beynon as an American Pipit. On the highest point on the ridge (7,841 feet) were impressive views to the west of Spine Mountain, Marsh Adams Creek and the Sugar Plum Spire.

2. The Eastern Range extends east of the camp from Mount Crystalline in the north to Mount Tetragon in the south. The alpine slopes were accessible by a foot bridge across Hume Creek near the camp, a large log across a major tributary and bushwacking through 600 vertical feet of forest cover. Numerous spectacular water falls drain the snowfields on the steep mountainous terrain. One of the many tarn lakes has a major glacial sediment component where the color dictated its name Pea Soup Lake. Other lakes offered photo opportunities for reflections of water falls, snowfields and surrounding peaks. One waterfall draining Pea Soup Lake was named bridal veil falls due to its cascading triangular appearance over gently dipping metamorphic lithologies. The four named peaks from north to south are Crystalline (9,348 ft.), the Steeples, Cuestaform (9,046 ft.) and Tetragon (9,545 ft.). Many of the surrounding

peaks were named by structural geologist and American university professor Peter Robinson in the 1960s due to their shape dictated by the underlying geology. Mount Crystalline was summited by Sherolyn, Tom, Carl and Terry on August 12. Ron climbed Mount Cuestaform on the same day.

The north facing slopes of Crystalline and Cuestaform are occupied by glaciers with large crevasses above the headwaters of Crystalline Creek. The Bugaboo spires could be seen to the southeast. Two groups of ptarmigan 5-6 chicks were observed at 7,500 foot elevation beneath the Steeples.

3. The Southern Icefields forms the height of land between the Hume Creek basin and the Giegerich/Fitch Creek watersheds. Many peaks were identified to the south and west including Templeman, Spine,

Abbott, Piton and Willet. Two goats were observed by one hiking group crossing the snowfields. On August 10, Ron and Suzanne summited a 9,000 foot plus peak just west of GPS location (50d 47.033, 117d 03.756, elevation 8,749 feet). A cairn with notebook indicated that this peak had been previously summited by Suzanne on August 14, 2001 along with Kal and the late Hans Korn from the KMC Fitch Creek camp. It is now referred to as Mount Blewett. Several birds were photographed on the snowfields where they appeared to be feeding on spiders and other wind blown insects. Ed Beynon has examined the photos and believes they must be gray crowned rosy finch.

Photo: Ron Stokerl - Suzanne traversing ridge on descent from Mt. Blewett.



At lower elevations where rock was exposed in the central portion of this area was an extensive outcropping of chloritized argillite with large pyrite crystals (up to 2 inch cubes).

In the valley bottom a large meadow displayed an impressive array of flowers. Broken rock adjacent to massive glaciated outcrops provided shelter for many marmots.

Daily activities included breakfast at 7am, a trip to the biffy, fulfilling a list of duties, completing the sign-out sheet, hiking or resting, afternoon tea time at 4pm, happy hour at 5pm, a loud whistle followed by dinner at 6pm, preparation of the next day's lunch, discussions/arguments etc around a stinky camp fire and at least eight hours of sleep. Suzanne and her helpers prepared fantastic meals. Most of us didn't notice that the pineapple had been mistakenly placed on the upside down corn bread and the Cayenne pepper in the salad. We celebrated Peter's birthday and watched him blow out a single candle stuck in an apple pie.

A few found entertainment one morning when one walkie-talkie was placed behind the biffy while the other was held at the breakfast gathering. After entering the biffy and finding comfort with the snug surroundings, the device was activated and a message was

sent to the biffy's occupant. Gerry, a financial planner, was informed that the Toronto and New York stock markets had just plunged and the price of gold rocketed to \$1,800 per oz. Penny was advised of the impending sales on aisle 3 in Walmart and Andre was notified by the Nelson Hospital to attend a debate on "evolutionary psychology".

On the final day of traversing, a meeting was scheduled for 5pm for the Camp Cleanup Lottery. The four individuals who successfully summited Mount Crystalline returned to camp after 7pm and missed the meeting. Tsk, Tsk. They were presented with the lottery's most prestigious leftover award: the Restroom Retrieval and Reclamation Project.

The helicopter arrived promptly at 9am on Saturday and the campers, personal gear and equipment were moved back to the Duncan River staging area. The only unfortunate incident was the loss of two packs with Mary's and Helen's belongings which may have fallen out of the first sling load. There was a sigh of relief as the porcupines had left the vehicles untouched and even my rustbucket roared to life. After a few hugs and tears, the cavalcade headed back to civilization. With the exception of a couple of evening showers, the weather was incredible. A lack of fires due to the high rainfall during June and July left clear skies throughout the

week.

#### References:

Boles, Laurilla, Roger, Putnam, William, Canadian Mountain Place Names, 2006  
Ressor, J. E., Geology of Lardeau Map-Area, East Half, B.C. Memoir 369

**Flower Inventory** (prepared by Pat with the help of Helen and Wendy)

- grass of parnasis
- flea bane? (subalpine daisy)
- paint brush (alpine, red, white)
- arnica (arrow leaved)
- groundsel (arrow leaved)
- pussy toes (showy)
- moss campion
- alpine fireweed
- bog orchid (green flowered)
- anemone (western, northern)
- bog laurel
- coltsfoot
- mountain sorrel
- lousewort
- heather (white, pink)
- mitrewort
- saxifrage (spotted, red stemmed, leatherleaf)
- sandwort
- golden fleabane
- ragwort
- silky phacelia
- partridgefoot
- globeflower
- mountain avenge
- marsh marigold
- purple penstemon
- butterwort
- rododendron (on slopes) or western tea berry ?
- mountain veronica
- spring beauty
- yellow violet
- foam flower
- white violet? = marsh violet
- alpine buttercup

#### Photographs:

To be placed on Facebook

#### Maps:

Campsite sketch map and traverse map under copyright

protection

### Participants' Highlights

Confidential

#### Writer's Query

Why can't we build a real fire using real firewood rather than a stinky log made of recycled coffee grounds?

#### Cookie Recipe

3/4 cup brown sugar, 3/4 cup white sugar, 1 cup butter, 2 eggs, 1.5 cups flour, 1 tsp baking soda, 1/2 tsp salt, 1 tsp vanilla, 2 cups quick oats, 1/4 cup wheat germ, 2 cups chocolate chips. Mix, place rounded teaspoon or tablespoon on cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes and 37 seconds, allow 1/2 hour for cooling before removal and consumption.

### Trip Mt Haystack October 2, 2011

This is the first time one of the participants of a hike that I organized for the club, wrote a trip report for me before the day was out! Trip coordinators, please note: this is definitely to be encouraged.

Participants: Peter Oostlander (Organizer, NOT reporter), Dan Derby (Reporter), Ingrid Enns, Sandra England, Daniela Gadotti and the three Mary's: (Mary Woodward, Mary Prothro, Mary England)

Yesterday I went on a hike in Kianuko Provincial Park with the Kootenay Mountaineering Club. The park is east of Kootenay Lake between Crawford Bay and Creston. We left the house at 06:15 to meet the rest of our group in Nelson then drove to

Balfour to take the ferry over to Crawford Bay. It's nice to not have to pay for a ferry. By the time we got to the parking lot it was 10:15.



The hike was perfectly timed for us to see the larch trees in fall colour.

The colours were absolutely amazing. We parked at 1700 meters (5600 feet) and climbed to the summit of Mt Haystack at 2680 meters (8800 feet) returning to the car 7 hours later. Unfortunately snow and fog rolled in for the last 150 meters (500 feet) of our ascent to the summit. Visibility from the summit was down to less than 20 meters (65 feet), this was unfortunate but all part of the adventure. As we started our descent within 20 minutes of leaving the summit the fog lifted and we had great visibility again. We arrived home at 20:00 as the drive home thru Creston was a lot shorter distance. Great day, I look forward to doing more of this type of hiking in the Kootenay's. I will definitely go back to this area in the fall again. Dan

### Mt. Roberts

September 10, 2011

7 KMCers and 2 non-members met at the Rossland Mining

Museum parking lot at 9 am then headed to the trailhead on old Cascade highway a few kilometers away. It was quite warm already and we were working out a good sweat by the time we reached a "trail proper" 40 minutes later. Ev

everyone's description of the trail was "it's steep like Pulpit Rock but twice as long." We got up to the flag pole around 11:30 am and enjoyed lunch with a view of Red, Granite, Old Glory, OK, Plewman, Record Ridge, etc. The trip took about 5 hours - blame extra hour on heat! We were: Ross Bates, Diane White, Tom Johnston, Andre Piver, Kathleen and Alex Nichol, Kathie Robertson, Dawn Clendenning(?) and Terry Simpson, coordinator.

### Reprise continued...

I am always impressed by the wealth of life experiences that KMC camps bring together. Sure, the mountains are magical places to be, the innate wildness and sculpted magnificence of the land above timberline, those endless vistas fading off into infinity, the sense of permanence, of being forever, all this is truly awe inspiring, it is why we are here; we should not need other people to absorb and wonder on what we see - and indeed there is pleasure in being alone - however, we



humans are a gregarious specie and for whatever reason it feels good to have others of similar persuasion with whom to share our experiences, either in person or through the telling. Conversations ranged from the elegance of Schrodinger's Equation in quantum mechanics, to the convenience of the Folgers coffee tin for female night-time relief, to the difficulties in removing wax spilt from a candle lantern – people still have those things? – into one lady's hair, to the thrills of hang-gliding, to doctoring in a Newfoundland Outport, to the bizarre fascination of Bridge and the complexities of digital photography beyond the point-and-shoot.

Leon's amazing discovery of a memorial message in a tiny 1" x 2" plastic pouch barely peeping out from under one of the billion rocks cluttering these mountains, and his subsequent tracking down of the Swiss skier "Constant Pharisia" warrants a separate telling.

So what did we all do, besides swat the flies, slather on sun block, stuff ourselves with Holly's tasty reheats, and carefully measure the wine so we had a whole carton and a half left over on Friday evening – something of a record I should note? Well, the leadership team, Brian and Nancy, certainly set the example with the most ambitious and successful expeditions to the Steeples, Crystalline and other distant explorations, their understated reports encouraging a swarm of others to test their mettle on the final day, with five summiting on Crystalline – six if you include Eric's buddy Captain Morgan front and centre in the triumphant summit photo. The adage that getting up is just half the fun proved itself again, with horror stories of 50m

chimney climbs, slipping on slithery shale over rotten cliffs, dead-ended cirques with no way forward or back, and desperate leaps over black-bottomed crevasses. No wonder they were late for dinner. Luckily there was still plenty of wine left.

The 'golf course' was a popular spot, though 'Sound of Music meadows' seemed far more appropriate: I could hear that song, and the hills were alive indeed – a full circle of magnificence from our feet to the azure sky. The old photos of 1984 show more hanging glaciers glued to the black cirques across the valley. The sense of forever may be an illusion, yet climates wax and wane; it is we who are the flickers of geological time. Nonetheless, 27 years has wrought its change, it is harder now, I see my younger self in my son from an age that was unimaginable back then.

It was a good camp; we all had our epic moments that we will carry with us; we all had a good workout, the physical striving that keeps us young, the achievement that gives us reward, the fun that brightens our lives, the contemplation that refreshes our mind in an environment of natural wonder. Just another week in the mountains.

Camp 2 Participants: Brian Cooles, Nancy Selwood, Holly Ridenour, Ray Moore, Paula Barnes, Eric Ackerman, Mark Hatlen, Louise Hammerich, Leon Arishenkoff, Judith and Simon Mitchell, Graham and Andrew Kenyon, Rob Richardson, Marilyn Miller, Ron Perrier, Zuzana Zach, Diane White, Jocelyne Martin, Ross Scott

# Upper Wragge Lakes

Edited by Foxit PDF Editor

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August 5-7, 2011

Joanne Stinson, Beth Dauk and I met in Hills Friday afternoon for the drive up the Shannon Lake FSR to the Shannon Lake trailhead (5400'). The last 2 km will soon be reclaimed by alders if some brushing isn't done.



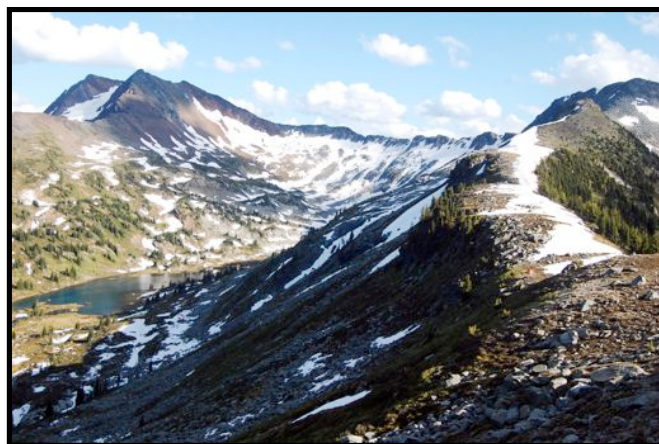
Our hike started with an 800' climb up to Shannon Lake. This steep, heavily treed section was the only boring part of our hike. Once at Shannon Lake the views were spectacular and just got better the further we went. The trail skirts the west side of Shannon Lake and then climbs from the lake's SE corner up another 800' to Upper Shannon Lake. We had planned to camp there, but the usual camping spot, in the meadow at the N end of the lake was a bit soggy. We found better tenting spots a bit higher to the W of this lake.

Next morning we got a sub-alpine start (~8:30) and climbed the gully S of Upper Shannon Lake almost to Vingolf col before turning right up another gully which took us up to S facing slopes at 7800'. Next was a steep 600m traverse W to the N-S ridge system. This is my favorite ridge. It runs S about 5 km to where it terminates on the slopes overlooking Wee Sandy lake. The ridge is narrow, requires some minor scrambling and provides constant 360 deg alpine views. If you are dedicated you can follow the exact ridgeline from one end to the other.

We arrived at Upper Wragge lakes in the early afternoon. The best camping spot (for sun-exposure and breezes) is on the aforementioned ridge about 600' above the lakes. Unfortunately there is no water on the ridge but we set up Beth's space blanket as a solar oven to melt snow. Joanne and Beth then hiked into the bowl to explore, wade and relax.

I spent the afternoon hitting most of the high points around the basin including getting within 70' of the summit of Skadi Peak (8600') via the N ridge. At that point the scrambling was getting serious and from my position in a gully between 2 peaks, I couldn't tell which one was the summit (the S one is). I made it back to camp just in time for a delicious supper (curried quinoa).

We got going by 8:00 Sunday and with slightly lighter packs made it back to Upper Shannon Lake by noon. There we became reacquainted with civilization in the form of hikers and dogs. By 2:30 we were back at the parking lot.



Despite the small group we all enjoyed the trip into such a wild, scenic and untravelled area. Thanks to Beth and Joanne for your enthusiasm and great meals.

Bill Sones



## Mountain School Tech Tips: Yes We Can with Apologies to Barack Obama

In 2008, Obama's US presidential campaign was focused around the slogan "Yes We Can". This catchy slogan got a black man with a name strikingly similar to US public enemy number one elected, so I figure it should pull some interest in this edition of the Mountain School Tech Tips.

Which brings me to the topic of this edition which could be titled either "How to have a hassle free trip" or "How to avoid the disparate group syndrome." The most frequent issue I hear from trip leaders is the problem of the disparate group: i.e. the KMC trip with some fast members and some slow members. These trips inevitably end up described as either a "clusterf\*\*k" or a "gong show" depending on whether or not you use profanity (personally, I prefer "clusterf\*\*k" as most descriptive). In any case, these trips with disparate groups are the number one reason that KMC members either refuse to lead trips or stop leading trips.

Trip leaders frequently express extreme frustration with their slower participants, usually in the form of "why can't these people accurately assess their own ability?" and "Why did they sign up for this trip that is obviously too much for them?" Well, answering those questions would require that we delve deep into psychological theory, an interesting area, but one which I have neither time nor space (nor your patience) to cover here. Suffice it to say, that over-estimating our ability is something almost all of us do, almost all of the time.

So, if we accept this precept, and accept also the common adage that we can't change someone else's behaviour, but we can change our own, there is much trip leaders can do to avoid the disparate group. The first thing you should do as a trip leader is TALK to all the people who are signing up for your trip if you have not hiked or climbed with them in the previous three months. Yes, TALK to them, actually pick up the telephone (outmoded now by email) and talk to them in person. Ask them one question and listen carefully to the answer. "Tell me what trips you have done in the last three months?" If the person has NOT done any trips similar to the trip you are intending to run in a reasonable time frame (taking 10 hours to hike up John Carter for example would NOT be a reasonable time frame), seriously consider whether or not this person is a good fit for your trip.

If you are planning a relaxed day out with no particular summit to reach, you might consider taking someone with whom you have never hiked or climbed before or who is slower than you'd like. But, if you really want to reach the summit of Mount Asgard, Mount Loki, Mount Who-the-hell-ever, in a reasonable time frame, do NOT take people who cannot recount to you similar trips completed in a time frame that you consider reasonable. If you are not sure, ask the person for a reference or two. I have done this on multiple occasions with people I have not hiked or climbed with and have never had anyone express any offense. As Obama said "Yes we can."

Telling someone that your trip is not for them is difficult. There is no way to get around that. Unfortunately, life is full of difficult things we must do like visiting the dentist, bushwacking to get to summits and telling people "I'm sorry, but this trip is not a good fit for you." I'd like to be more sympathetic, but really, suck it up and do it, you will save both yourself and the rest of your trip participants a lot of grief later if you do it now.

If you don't take the time to talk to people and screen out unsuitable trip participants and you find your KMC group spread out like Star Trek on the final frontier; instead of asking yourself "Why did this person sign up for this trip?" ask instead "Could I have prevented this from happening?" You might be surprised at the answer.



We are looking for volunteers to fill the various vacancies on the executive of the KMC that will become available this year.

**Positions available - 2 year term**

PRESIDENT - David Grant stepping down - Peter Oostlander has agreed to run, but others expressing interest can have their names put on the agenda for the AGM

VICE PRESIDENT - Peter Oostlander running for President - **Position vacant - volunteer required**

DIRECTOR, HIKING CAMP - Nancy Selwood stepping down - **Position vacant - volunteer required**

DIRECTOR, CLIMBING CAMP - **Position vacant - volunteer required**

DIRECTOR, MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL - Sandra McGuiness stepping down - **Position vacant - volunteer required**

DIRECTOR, MEMBERSHIP - Sherolyn Haakstad stepping down - **Position vacant - volunteer required**

DIRECTOR, NEWSLETTER - Kenneth Roy stepping down - **Position vacant - volunteer required**

DIRECTOR, TRAILS AND EQUIPMENT - Position vacant - position to be reviewed to see if it is still required.

**Positions available - 1 year term**

Director, Website - Sandra McGuiness stepping down - **Position vacant - volunteer required**

**Position available - no specified term length**

**Library** - Sandra McGuiness stepping down - **Position vacant - volunteer required, NOTE - we will need a home for the library, so please contact Sandra McGuiness if you are interested in this job.**

Those of you interested in participating in the executive, please contact Peter Oostlander at

The executive has done a great job over the last 2 years and working on it gives a good insight into the workings of a large outdoor club. I have really enjoyed working with all of the members of the executive and would highly recommend it.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Dave Grant

President KMC

## MEMBERSHIP FEE CHANGES

For the last few years we have received requests to equalize the membership rates between singles and couples. The executive is putting forward the following revised fee schedule for your review. The membership will vote on the revised fees at the AGM on November 18th. If there is a large lobby for some other form of fee breakdown, please outline your thoughts and pass them along to me at

### Proposed New fee schedule

**SINGLES (19 years & older)** - \$38 - made up of \$15 KMC membership, \$15 FMCBC membership, \$8 insurance

**COUPLES (including children 18 yrs and under)** - \$61 - made up of \$30 KMC membership, \$15 FMCBC membership, \$16 insurance

**JUNIOR MEMBERS** (age under 19 whose parents are not a member, **but who joins with the approval of the parents** and who is supervised and mentored by a **sponsoring adult member**) - \$30 - made up of \$7 KMC membership, \$15 FMCBC membership and \$8 insurance

The previous fee schedule was

**Singles \$41** - made up of \$20 KMC Membership, \$15 FMCBC membership, \$6 insurance

**Couples \$52** - made up of \$25 KMC Membership, \$15 FMCBC membership, \$12 insurance

**Junior \$31** -made up of \$10 KMC Membership, \$15 FMCBC membership, \$6 insurance

Note 1: The FMCBC charges the same for a single or couples membership, so we are passing along the direct costs to you the members.

Note 2: Insurance has gone up from \$6 to \$8 per individual this year and will probably remain at that level or increase from now on.

## **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:

S16a, C53, RR1,

Winlaw, BC

V0G 2J0

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

### **Library**

**Sandra McGuinness**

### **Newsletter**

**Kenneth Roy**

*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.*



**Kootenay Mountaineering Club**

P.O. Box 3195 Castlegar BC V1N 3H5

2010 -2011 Executives

**Visit us @**

[www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca](http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca)