



## **Kootenay Mountaineering Club Executive**

### **Director's 2014 Annual Reports**

#### **1. Secretary**

Over the last year as secretary I now have a better understanding of our clubs issues and opportunities. Working with our webmaster all club AGM and Executive committee minutes are posted on the members section of the website. I continue to work on organizing our old paper files to maintain our records and history. Projects I've been working on include;

- Updated Emergency Event Guidelines
- Updated and filed our Society Annual Report with the province of BC
- Working on a proposed Shelter at the Kaslo Lake wilderness camping area in Kokanee Glacier Park with BC Parks.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Derby, Secretary, Kootenay Mountaineering Club.

## 2. Cabins Report for the 2014 Annual General Meeting

Over the summer all the cabins have been cleaned, and well stocked with firewood for the winter season. The only construction upgrades this year were new bases for the outhouses that were put in up at Huckleberry and Steed.

**Steed Hut** – This year we used a Lama helicopter with a long line grapple system to sling wood into the hut. Quite a slick way to bring it in but it seems the net slings are still the most efficient. Hopefully we have stock piled enough wood to last at least three years.

**Copper Hut** – It's been a few years but a rat found its way back into the cabin. Thanks to Peter O and his hole patching skills, I'm hoping the problem has been dealt with.

**Huckleberry** – Rat problem up at Huckleberry seems to have been resolved by moving the firewood to a new wood shed next to the cabin. As well, our brushing around the cabin seems to be effective.

**Grassy** – Just firewood and a good cleaning.

<b>Revenue</b> from cabin bookings for Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2014: - \$12,590.00 *an all time high		
<b>Expenses</b> for the same period:	Hut	\$8,071.49
	Trail	592.40
	PayPal	418.21
	Mountaineering School subsidy	<u>1,084.65</u>
Net Income:		<b><u>\$2, 423.25</u></b>
The main Hut expenses this year were - Kootenay Valley Helicopters...		
	- Calgary Satellite .....	\$4,161
		\$2,385

The Calgary Satellite purchase was for an Iridium 9575 Satellite phone. The primary reason is for safety while falling and bucking firewood in the backcountry It will also be available to the various camps put on by the KMC as well a booking system will be set up for club members who may want to rent it for club trips. Final details still need to be worked out.

Many thanks to the members who came up and helped out on the work crews over the summer. As well thanks to my wife Jude – she always gives the cabins a great scrub down and keeps track of supplies.

Submitted by, Graham Jamin, KMC Hut Guy

### **3. Trails, trail/road access report**

Al Sinkie became the director of the trails/road access portfolio at the 2013 AGM. He unfortunately passed away in January. Leon Arishenkoff had agreed to assist Al and attend executive meetings on Al's behalf, but agreed to fill Al's vacancy, pending formal approval at this year's AGM.

The only posted trail clearing endeavour occurred in September on the Glacier Creek road extending from the Jumbo Pass parking lot. It was well attended by both KMC members as well as non KMC people who came along to commemorate Al's vision for opening the decommissioned road for easier access to the moraine trail to Blockhead Mountain.

Numerous trail clearing/road brushing endeavours occurred throughout our region by both members as well as non members. Unfortunately, this information does not get posted on the KMC web despite having a specific place created for it. This is a request for members to utilize the web and post trail info as it is very beneficial to all KMC members.

Going forward into 2015, brainstorming sessions will be arranged for this spring, during which we want to identify the trails the club wants to maintain or construct and the roadways that need to be brushed for access. Many members have 'wish lists' and once formalized into a plan, dates for work parties will be posted on the Summer trips schedule. Tools and equipment will continue to be borrowed from forestry and, if a motion is passed at this AGM, an industrial/commercial type brush cutter and chainsaw, along with safety equipment and some good loppers, will be purchased to give us the 'firepower' to do the work.

Leon Arishenkoff

#### **4. Hiking camp report for 2014 AGM**

The KMC held its annual Hiking camp this year in the Southern Rockies at Marvel Pass. All three camps were full and there were 17 people on the waitlist. There was a lot of interest from club members in returning to marvel pass which is probably why there were so many applicants.

After the lottery the committee had a lengthy discussion on how to proceed with the wait list and it was decided that the only fair way to proceed was to follow the manual and not allow any voluntary switching until the waitlist had been exhausted. Terry Turner our camp registrar did an excellent job and I want to personally thank him for the great job he did under sometimes difficult circumstances.

We have made some changes to the waitlist policy for the 2015 camp which should alleviate some of the problems we experienced this year. The main one being that if you refuse a camp being offered you are not automatically removed from the waitlist and have to ask to be put at the bottom of the waitlist. You will own the number that is drawn and you will remain at that position throughout the waitlist period.

I would also like to thank all the committee members (Leon Arishenkoff, Joan Harvey, Mike Brewster, Simon Mitchell, Rob Richardson and Terry Turner for all their hard work. Organizing Hiking Camp is no easy chore and takes a lot of work and dedication to get 60 people into the mountains and back home safely.

Next Year's camp will be located at the Valley of the Moon Located in the Monashee Range and we are hoping that by announcing the location at the AGM we will have as much interest next year as we did this year.

Thank you for all your support,

Mark Hatlen, Chair Hiking camp

## **5. Mountaineering school (Peter Oostlander)**

During the past year the mountaineering school organized two Avalanche Skills Courses (AST 1) with Summit Mountain Guides: One for skiers and one for snow shoers. Several members took the AST 2 course as well.

Graham Jamin and I organized three back country ski trips for beginners that were well attended (20 members).

In the Spring, again with Summit Mountain Guides, we offered three mountaineering skills courses: Day Skills 1: Ice Axe & Crampon use, Movement skills & Rope handling; Day Skills 2: Crevasse Rescue and Snow & Ice Anchors and a Navigation Skills Weekend. Total participation for Summit Mountain Guides courses: approx. 40 members. There was not sufficient interest in the Wilderness and First Aid Course, scheduled for early June to make it go.

For the upcoming winter season we are repeating the backcountry ski trips for beginners and are pleased to offer the following courses:

### **Canadian Red Cross Wilderness and Remote First Aid - November 14, 15 & 16th, 2014**

#### **AST 1 – December 13-14, 2014**

#### **Companion Rescue & Refresher Course – December 14, 2014**

#### **AST 2 – January 22\*, 23-25, 2015** \*January 22 is half day (late afternoon/evening)

#### **AST 1 for snowshoers – January 31 and February 1, 2015 (tentative)**

Our club is subsidizing these courses to the amount of \$25 per member. We have a \$75 course subsidy limit for any one member per calendar year.

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

## **6. Summer trips and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary summit challenge (Peter Oostlander)**

The “summer” schedule is a bit of a loose term; it actually embraces the period from early June to the end of October. In the shoulder seasons, we can have ski or snowshoe trips as well as lower elevation hiking trips going on at the same time!

This past summer was one of our best ever in comparison with previous years. The numbers speak for themselves:

Year	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Scheduled	96	94	82	64		
Cancelled	16	17	20	8		

Trips that went	80	77	62	58	68	46
Total Participants	642	566	472	519		
Members	604	530	435			
Guests	38	36	37			

Thank you to the volunteers that helped us put it together: Vicky Hart, Bill McNally, Chris Cowan, Liz Huxter, Dan Derby and Doug Clark. Thank you all trip organizers to make this year such a success!

For our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, local artist Jennie Bailey designed a beautiful crest which we are handing out to all members.



We also came up with the idea to challenge members to ascend 10, 25 or 50 peaks in the West Kootenays during our anniversary year and give out special gold embroidered badges for that. 30 members earned these badges so far and we will be extending this program in to next year until we run out of badges. Many positive comments were received on this 50 summit challenge, and in part this contributed to the record number of trips in the summer of 2014.

So far this year, 12 new registers were placed on the top of mountains (8 last year). In addition 4 were replaced because of leakage, missing etc.

## 7. Membership Report

The year-on-year increase in membership numbers continued for the 2014 membership year. As of October 21<sup>st</sup> there were 352 members.

The aim for upcoming membership year will be to continue this upward trend with both couple and individual memberships. Membership rates will remain the same for the upcoming 2015-membership year (January 1-December31). Remember to take advantage of discounts at local shops and for courses for even more value.

The following table highlights the statistics since 2011.

Year	Individual	Couple		Total		Change From Prior Year	
	Members = Membership	Member-ships	Members	Member-ship	Members	Member-ships	Members
2011	140	78	156	220	309	+ 8	+ 10
2012	158	77	154	235	312	+ 15	+ 3
2013	173	81	162	254	336	+ 19	+ 24
*2014	184	84	168	268	352	+ 14	+ 16

Numbers as of October 21<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### Key Membership dates:

October 1: Any first time members who apply after this date have their membership carried over for the following year.

January 1: New membership year starts

January 31: First priority for the hiking camp lottery go to resident members of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club who renew or submit their membership by January 31, and whose hiking camp registration forms and fees are received on or before March 15. See the website for more details regarding the lottery.

### Membership Direction Position Change:

Jocelyn LaFace has been acting as the Director – Membership since September, taking over from Ross Bates, who was doing double duty as he is also the Treasurer. A sub-committee has been formed to look at potential improvements to the membership database to make the processing of memberships and the automation of tasks more efficient. Tim Clinton has done an excellent job to automate a number of the existing tasks and the sub-committee will explore the potential areas for additional improvements to the membership area and approach.

### Jocelyn LaFace

## **8. Newsletter and Website Director's Report**

The work of the above two directorships is highly visible. There is very little to report otherwise.

The role of these two positions is to present the club to its membership and to the wider world, publicizing the club's policies and activities. It depends upon input from the club executive and the club membership. So, please, keep it coming, because the director is not an author. Corrections are always appreciated.

Website Statistics:

Web site visits during October 2013: **2697**

Web site visits during October 2014: **6278**

Of the October 2014 visits, most were of the Town Square Calendar. The PDFs of the Newsletter and Karabiner follow it.



## **9. KMC SOCIAL'S REPORT- 2014**

It has been another great year for social events.

The 2013 AGM was held in Nelson with a Mexican themed buffet. We had a great turn out of around 45 folks, and Peter Jordan presented Elena CF's entertaining slide show, 'Snow 12 months a year'.

This being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KMC, we used the opportunity, plus the fact that the Federated Mountain Clubs of BC elected to hold their AGM in Castlegar in June, 2014, as a time to fully celebrate all things mountain. The AGM weekend was full of business and social gatherings. The weekend was highlighted by a slide presentation, co-hosted with FMCBC, by Dave Quinn, CBC's outdoor guy, and an avid supporter of keeping the mountains pristine. The event was held at the Old Castlegar Theatre, with an almost full house, including more than 30 attendees from the public. The event replaced our usual smaller Spring Social. Sadly, the passing of long time KMC member, Mary Woodward occurred just before this event. Jennie Baillie gave a moving tribute to Mary at the slide show. Dave's slides and talk focused on the wild areas in our part of the province, and was both entertaining and informative. We also handed out at least 30 rack cards to folks that want to learn more about KMC. We even made a few dollars on this one.

The Fall Social on October 17, saw 37 folks come out to enjoy an amazing array of slide presentations. Everything from the Grand Canyon to Rogers Pass, to 2014 hiking camp, to skiing in Switzerland, to historical photos and drawings from the Karibiner were shown. The Fall Social has become a KMC tradition, with folks bringing their gear to sell, terrific goodies to eat, and tales of adventures to share with great slide presentations. It's a cheerful way to end the summer season and begin to get ready for the winter season.

Next year will be my last one as Your Friendly Social Convenor. I mention this now to plant a seed, and hopefully a tree will grow in the form of someone stepping forward to undertake this most rewarding function in your KMC.

Respectfully submitted, P'nina Shames

## 10. Winter Trip Report

– from the original schedule, 46 trips were planned;

total trips that went ahead: 34.

cancelled: 10. Mainly due to poor snow conditions were common early in the season.

no report received: 2.

There were 269 members and 11 guests on the trips with an average of 8.2 on each trip. Leon Arishnakoff's snowshoe trip in the Slocan had the most participants at 28. Like last year, most trips were back country skiing, but snowshoeing continues to be popular and are well attended. A few trips were mixed ski/snowshoe. More cancellations than last year, but the weather was a bit weirder especially early in the winter.

**Some highlights** in no particular order.... Ross Bates early season trip to Champion lakes in November... good attendance (17). Simply decadent series (Peter).... very well attended and fun again. Mid-winter 25k XC ski tour at Paulson (Chris).... extremely cold, but a good time was had nonetheless by 6 hardy souls. We'll do it again! Leon's magical mystery snowshoe tour in the Slocan valley had 28 in attendance. Kokanee ski week.... by all accounts a great time was had, with great weather and wonderful skiing. Almost all of them want to go back again. AST courses; everyone agreed these were useful, challenging, fun, and well organized and presented.... Attendees felt much more confident about skiing afterward. 'Backcountry for beginners' organized by Peter Oostlander was a great confidence builder again.

Ski tours in the Rossland range, Kootenay Pass and the Whitewater area were once again terrific, thanks to the skill and enthusiasm of the ski tour co-ordinators including Peter J, Ken, Ross and others.

Getting good weather for the overnights in the Bonnington traverse, was a bit of a challenge; either it was too cold, or avalanche hazard was too high. The white lottery that is winter!

Many thanks to everyone who co-ordinated trips and helped organize the events. You make our club the success that it is.

On a sad note, I mention the untimely passing of Al Sinke, enthusiastic leader of several winter trips. We miss you!

Respectfully submitted...

Chris Cowan

Winter Trips director, Kootenay Mountaineering Club.

## 11. Conservation Report

The dominating story for the last year has been the proposed Jumbo Pass development. There's not much I can add that members haven't heard in the news. The short story is, the proposed ski resort is limping ahead very slowly, and opposition from a number of groups in the East and West Kootenays continues.

Under the environmental assessment certificate that was approved in 2004, and given a 5-year extension in 2009, Glacier Resorts Ltd. was required to "substantially start construction" by October 12, 2014. At the very last moment, they replaced several washed-out bridges on the access road, and poured a concrete slab which is supposedly the foundation of a building. Volunteers maintained a monitoring camp in the Jumbo Creek valley, keeping a close eye on the progress, or lack of it. A related issue is the creation by the provincial government of the "Jumbo Resort Municipality" (population zero) with an appointed mayor and council, which has been subsidized with \$200,000 of taxpayer money. A new story is that RK Heliski (whose guides have worked in the area for over 40 years) has raised the concern that the proposed day lodge location is exposed to an unacceptably high avalanche hazard.

Here are some links to information on the Jumbo controversy:

This article appeared in Explore in 2008, and remains one of the best reviews of the background to the resort development proposal:

<http://www.explore-mag.com/the-jumbo-glacier-resort-mystery>

The West Kootenay EcoSociety's web page: <http://www.ecosociety.ca/jumbo-valley>

The Jumbo Wild website: <http://www.KeepItWild.ca/>

KMC member Daniela Gadotti wrote a very interesting article on her experiences in the area this summer, in the Town Square forum of our web site:

<http://kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca/town-square/forums/topic/monica-meadows-to-be-slack-country-for-jumbo-ski-resort/>

In other news, there are some recent moves by the BC government which may threaten the integrity of our provincial parks. Bill 4, the Park Amendment Act, allows for "research" in parks, which contrary to most understanding of what research means, includes feasibility studies for developments including pipelines, transmission lines, etc. Recently, Kinder Morgan applied to the government to have the boundaries of four provincial parks revised (i.e. land removed from them) to facilitate its proposed pipeline expansion. Although none of these parks are in the KMC's area of interest, it's an example of the potential future threat that may exist to parks in the Kootenays.

Peter Jordan, conservation chair, 12 November