



The Kootenay Mountaineer

The newsletter for people with year-round pursuits.

1st week of January, 2014

Message from the President

"...The new year is off and running. The KMC Executive hopes that the holiday season was peaceful and happy for all. Trip organizers, Peter Oostlander (summer) and Chris Cowan (winter), have been diligently ensuring that the trip schedule (the bread and butter of the club) is busy and interesting for 2014, the KMC's 50th year. More information will come on events planned for this significant anniversary as plans firm up. In the meantime, play safe..."

Message from the Editor

Only two trip reports, but an interesting issue nonetheless. We have two pieces of history, world travel and the upcoming hiking camp. Good stuff.

The question of the number of newsletter issues will be discussed at the upcoming Executive meeting on the 15th. If you have strong opinions, please email them to me and I will carry it to the executive.

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Article submission guidelines:

Plain text is great. No need for PDF or Microsoft Word files. Simply cut and paste your text into an email to newsletter@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca. Attach your full resolution photos to the email. Lots of photos, please.

In anticipation of a change in the publishing dates, next newsletter date will be announced via email.

Trip Reports

Cabin Ski Tour

November 24, 2013

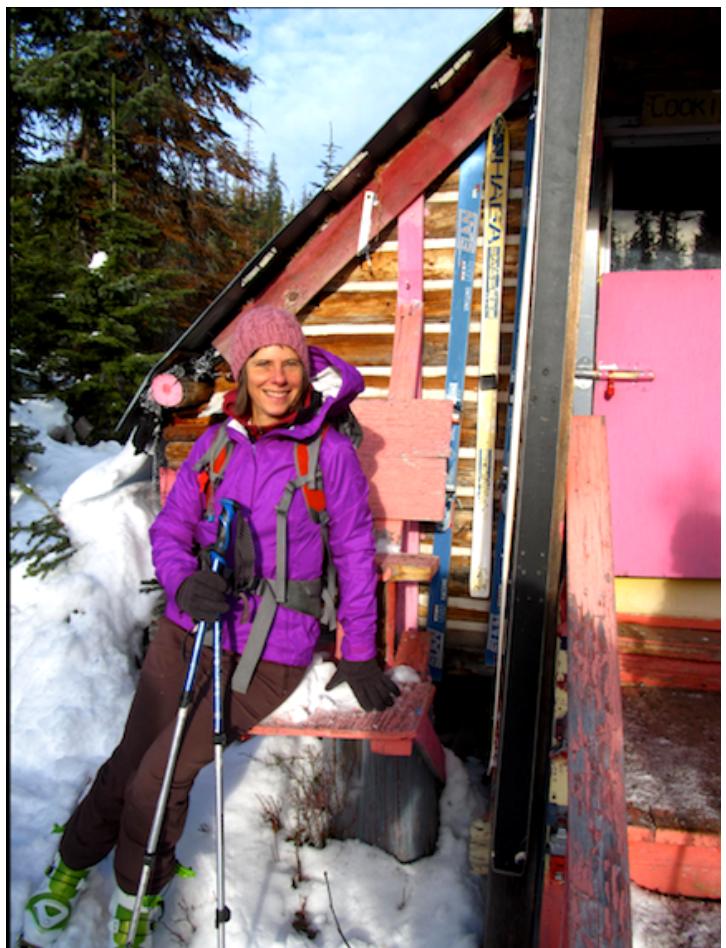
Hi Tim,

Sorry we missed your recent newsletter deadline. Here's our trip report for the Cabin Ski Tour at the Nancy Greene Summit, Sunday, November 24.

Twelve of us met at the Nancy Greene Summit and headed over to the Crowe Mt. side. Our goal was to see five or possibly six cabins, and in the end we claimed 6 1/2 cabins. More on that half cabin later. Although the snow wasn't very deep, and the trails were hard packed, most of us used climbing skins for better control. Our first stop was the Cookie Jar, a refurbished trappers' or miners' cabin, with bright pinks, reds or whatever old paint Cookie Lecluse could find when he revitalized it many years ago. His homemade stove with it's oven and artwork were a delight to see. It's often used by young families because of the close proximity to the parking lot.



Cookie Jar Cabin. Peter Oostlander photo



Vicki matches the cabin decor! Nadine Ebner photo.

Our next stop was Rock N' Roll, a newer A-frame cabin with lots of old LP's (remember those?) from the 60's and 70's hanging on the walls. Diane claimed she and Ron still had all of those albums at home.



Heading north we followed old logging roads, an old trail across clearcut land, a side diversion for some of us through a frozen swamp. Once out on Cliff Road we followed sled tracks into the turnoff for View Point Cabin. As we were heading into the cabin, we heard hammering nearby, so assumed someone was building a cabin. That's when we claimed the 1/2 cabin - we heard it! Hot sandwiches, and socializing in View Pt.,

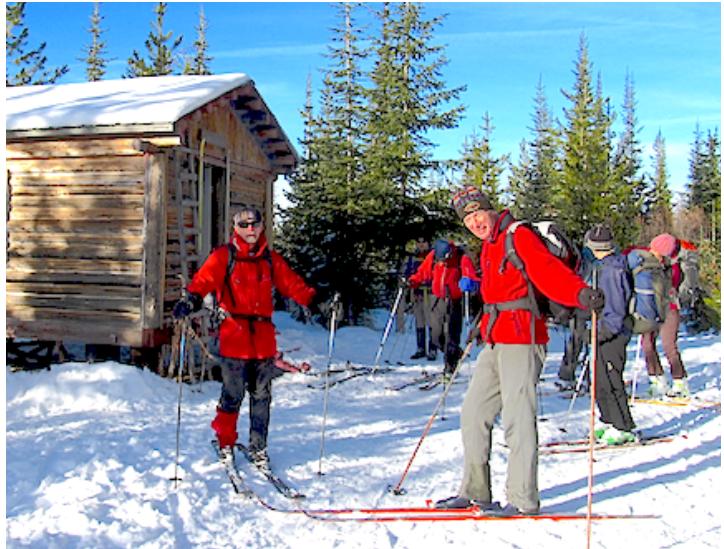
then a demonstration by Ken Holmes of his "Bothy Bag 2" survival shelter. Two people can pull the bag over their heads, keep out of the wind, and warm up, or at least get really friendly!



Ken demonstrating his Bothy Bag 2. Nadine Ebner photo

We headed south up the old spur on Cliff Road. Since we were making good time, those of us with skins decided to search out the higher little cabin, called Lost. It used to be buried in the forest and was hard to find, but recent logging makes it easy to find now.

Skins off for a tentative ski down the clearcut, with lots of snags hiding just below the surface, we made it down to the Mosquito Cabin without incident. On to Red Dog cabin, our sixth cabin which is an old classic log structure.



Red Dog Cabin. Nadine Ebner photo

From here it was a short trip out to the highway. Good weather, good group of skiers, we were:

Ken Holmes, Vicki Hart, Diane Paolini, Jill and Dave Watson, Nadine Ebner, Jeff Ross, Peter Oostlander, Mathieu Vallee, Roy Hopland, Eric Acherman, and Bob McQueen coordinator.

Thanks to Mathieu who had a GPS, our trip stats were: 14.4 kms, and 575 M vertical.

Simply Decadent #1

January 5, 2013

KMC snowshoe trip into the Gordon Keir cabin.

Attended by: Susan and Glenn Keto, Ingrid Enns, Ross Bates, Ed and Hazel Benyon, Marilyn Miller,

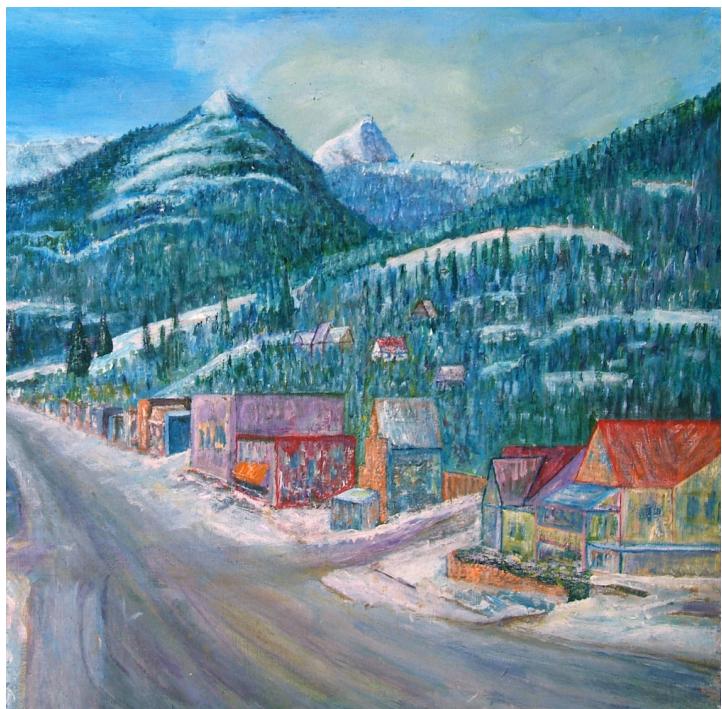
Eric Ackerman, Laurie Boven, Martina Derstroff, Kathleen and Alex Nichol, Jesse Gibb, Eric Marks, Sandra England, Kathie Robertson and not in picture: Peter Oostlander - organizer



Club Social and Slide Show



*Wapta Traverse, Balfour Hut and High Col,
Peter Oostlander*



Rossland

From the Warren T. Watson collection

"I started with a photo but I did not last long with the photo. I put it away and made up my own main street. It is an acrylic painting loosely based on Rossland, Roberts and the back of Red."

"About me. I used to be an aerodynamics engineer, but found that unsatisfying. My love of the outdoors, especially the Kootenays, led me to photography and painting. In addition to my art, I run a bridge club, play in tournaments and give lessons on bridge. I plan to teach art eventually when I find interested people."

Warren



'Kempare' - "...Jaguar shaman of the Waorani tribe in the Ecuadorian Amazon jungle, is widely revered for his ability to communicate with the forest spirits..."

"...The Waorani are being pushed from their traditional lands and lifestyle by resource exploitation. Similarities are seen to the experience of the North American indigenous peoples of the 1800's..."

Doug Clark



*The pursuit of snow,
Elena Cigal-Fulgosi*

A Mountain Climber's Summit Thoughts

Howie Ridge

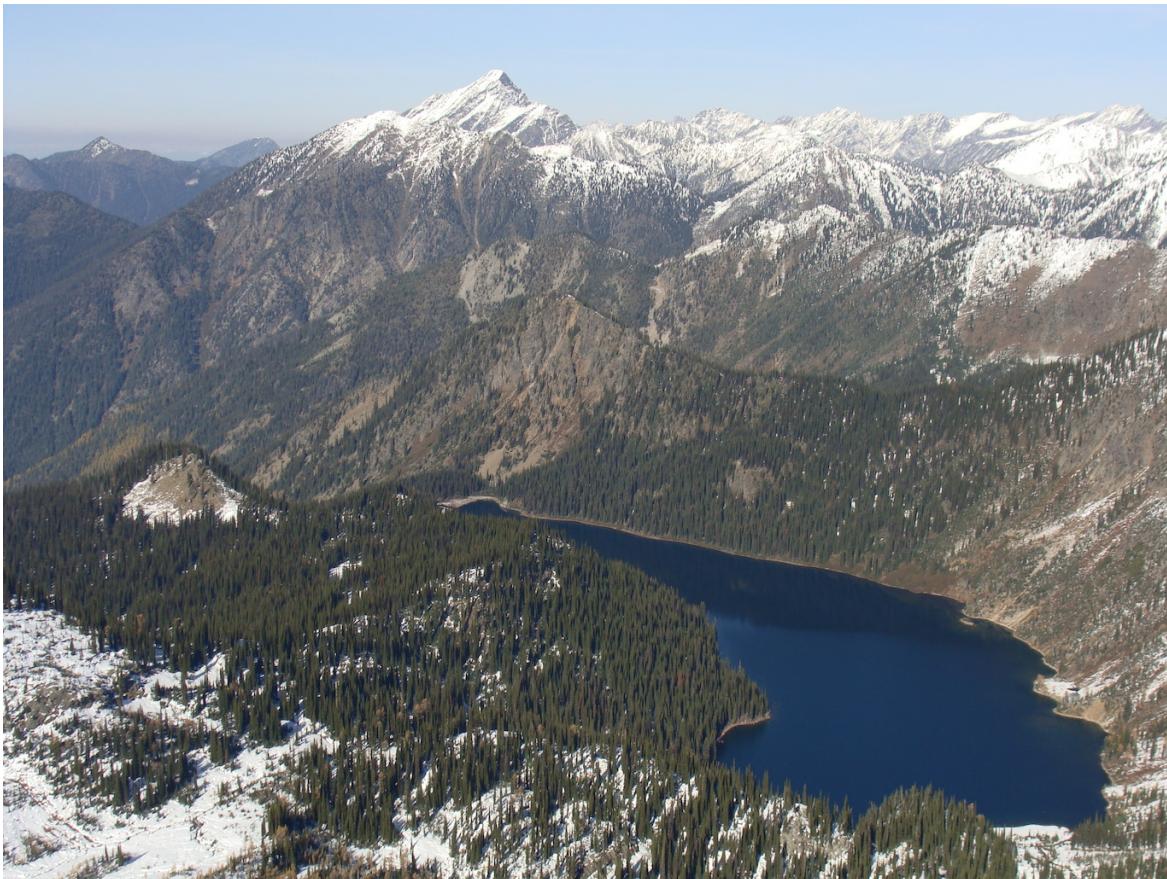
We photographed each other and the views, trying even as we took the pictures to impress the sight on our memories more indelibly than the cameras could on film. If only this moment could last, I thought, if no longer than we do. But I knew even then that we would forget, that some day all I should remember would be the memories themselves, rehearsed like an archaic dance; that I should stare at the pictures and try to get back inside them, reaching out for something that had slipped out of my hands and spilled in the darkness of the past.



From the Fall, 1969 Kootenay Karabiner

The Plaid Lake Dam - Local History

by Terry Turner



View looking north at Plaid lake with Mount Loki in background

Plaid Lake, located approximately 8.5 kilometers due east of the community of Riondel, is a popular destination for hiking enthusiasts and fishermen between June and October. Road and trail access to the southern tip of the lake from Crawford Bay is via the Crawford Creek Forest Service Road, the Spring Creek logging road and a trail which skirts the western edge of Mount Crawford. Very few hikers venture to the north end of the lake where a rock and earth water storage dam was built in 1926. After 88 years this historical monument will be removed in 2014 by Teck Metals due to liability concerns. The following is a historical overview of the Plaid Lake area and the significance of the dam.

The 1893 Perry's Mining Map shows Plaid lake was initially named Alexander Lake and was drained by Alexander Creek, now Tam O'Shanter Creek.

According to a local historian, the late Edward L Affleck, the name Alexander may have been derived from Lorenzo Alexander, who was a pioneer in the Ainsworth area in 1891. On many early maps, the lake

is not named but the major drainage was designated Tam O'Shanter Creek, presumably in reference to the Tam O'Shanter lead-silver mineral claim that was located in 1891, just south of the confluence of this creek and Kootenay lake. In the 1934 Geological Survey of Canada Memoir 173 by C.E. Cairnes, the name Tam O'Shanter Lake first appeared. According to the Geographical Names Section at the BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, the name Plaid Lake first appeared on maps in 1946. Samuel S. Fowler, is credited with naming Plaid lake in 1927 in association with Tam O'Shanter Creek. Fowler was the mining engineer at the Bluebell Mine at Riondel for the Canadian Metal Company between 1905 and 1924. He was also responsible for naming the community of Riondel after Count Edouard Riondel, President of the Canadian Metal Company, when a post office was established there in 1907.

In 1905, the Canadian Metal Company acquired the Bluebell Mine assets. The company built a 4 kilometer wood stave pipeline from Tam O'Shanter Creek, which provided 475 horsepower to operate the lead-zinc

concentrator at Bluebell Bay in Riondel. During the dry autumn and winter months, the mine was forced to close down due to a lack of water power.

When the Canadian Metal Company sold the mine to Samuel Fowler and Hank Eastman about 1926, they recognized the importance of Plaid lake as a water storage area and proposed building a dam to solve the water problem. A trail was built up Preacher Creek, a tributary of Crawford Creek, to transport



Bluebell Miners stand on the rock dam in 1926. (photo courtesy of Ann Fowler)



KMC member Ron Stockerl on dam in 2013.

supplies and men to the north end of Plaid Lake where they built a small cabin and the dam. Two men spent the winter at the cabin, regulating the water movement down Tam O'Shanter Creek to the intake of the pipeline, approximately six kilometers downstream, in order to keep the Bluebell Mine operating. The method of communication was by the detonation of dynamite in the canyon near the Tam O'Shanter Creek pipeline intake. When metal prices collapsed in 1929, the Bluebell Mine closed and a small crew was sent to the lake remove the dam's flood gate.

In the late 1940s, the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited (CM&S), later Cominco and now Teck Metals, acquired the Bluebell Mine. Although CM&S's name is not associated with the construction of the dam on Plaid Lake, Teck has taken on the task of removing the dam during 2014. This is the result of the BC Government review of old dam sites similar to the 80 year old dam that failed at Oliver in 2010.

Besides the remains of the wood stave pipeline, the Plaid Lake dam represents the last remaining monument or artifact associated with early mining at the Bluebell Mine on the east shore of Kootenay Lake.

Nepal From Inside

Mark Hatlen

Passed on by Leon Arishenkoff

Leon says: This is Mark Hatlen's first email from Nepal where he is doing a 3 month stint volunteering for an Australian based NGO that teaches English and life skills. He paid for his flight there as well as \$1k for his living expenses (who knows, perhaps the NGO gets a fraction of that too). For those that wonder why people from third world countries have poor English skills, part of the answer lies here. However, jokes aside, I am most admirable for Mark doing what he is doing.

Subject: Chitwan and teaching

Hello all, Namaste

Just a short update. I arrived in Padampokari on Wednesday after 3 days of jungle safari.

Padampokari is still in Chitwan. It was a 4 hour shy bus trip to actually go about 15 km. My first class was one hour morning class in a one room school between 7 am and 8 am then back to my home stay for more dahl baht, which is all I eat. I am really living close to the earth: very small village and they live off what they can grow. After breakfast it was off to day school which is nothing like what we're used too. My first class was grade 3 math and they simply show you to your room, no instruction, and you're on your own. It appears we're losing or lost our wifi... I will try to send and see what happens.

Well as you can tell the wifi went down. Saturday is the only day off from school so we were all sitting at riverside jungle resort enjoying the afternoon. There are 9 of us here all teaching in different schools from one room grass huts to two story cement schools with open windows for lighting.

The morning school between 7 and 8 am is just us and the kids neighbourhood based, with day school in the two story building. Most of the teachers don't speak English, so there is very little communication but we

do sit with them in the morning and between classes waiting for our next assignment.

I've taken the day off school today as I have a bit of a head cold. Sanjiv, my home stay guy, is driving me to the city so I can buy a bike – hopefully one that suits my size. All the bikes here are old and beat up badly. They did try to repair a mountain bike for me but it didn't work, just to much dust I think. Apparently a new mountain bike is \$12,000 Rupees which is \$120.00 Canadian money well spent on my wonky knees.

We've all been invited to a wedding tomorrow which is an all day celebration so looking forward to that. I will also be meeting the grooms uncle to plan a trek for

when I go to Pokhara in three weeks. I also plan on going to Lumbini the birth place of Buddha which is a weekend trip from where I'm at now.

One thing that is perfectly clear in Nepal is the women do most of the work heading out to the fields early in the morning to harvest rice, cooking the meals, washing dishes, sweeping their dirt floors, and just about everything else.

Sunday evening, Nov. 24th

Sanjiv and I rode into Narayangarh and I purchased my bike which I donated to the home stay for future tall volunteers. The bike was built in India so quality is somewhat suspect but not very expensive. I also bought a soccer

ball for the kids in this community which only cost \$12.00 for an authentic FIFA ball that would have been \$60.00 at home. The wifi was down in Narayangra so could not email this update. Who knows, maybe I will deliver personally when I get home. I have decided to teach for half a day tomorrow I don't think I have the stamina for a whole day of wedding ceremony.

Monday, Nov. 25th

Morning school went pretty well. We tried to teach the kids about oral health and brushing your teeth, I think they kinda got it. It's all about speaking English, not Nepalese, which I do struggle with.



Day school is very very chaotic. I did three classes in a row and leave each one with a cluttered brain, today it was grade 6, 10, and 5, all English classes so that was good. I've decided if they give me another math class I will just change it to English. I would love for you guys to come down here and experience classes for one day!!! By our standards the schools are very disorganised, dirty, there are no supplies, no library, computers, or lighting. I don't know how kids do their homework as the power is out almost as much as it is on after 5 PM. But every day I ride home I have to admit I'm enjoying myself. But also looking forward to my next long weekend which is not too far away.

The wedding was excellent but too long for me. I'm home writing this update

and I can hear the music so the bride and groom have probably arrived. Hindu weddings take place at some temple and then the brides house before she takes her place at the grooms house for life. I tried to explain to some Nepalese men our custom which is anything and everything. They simply could not understand.

On a lighter note I have rats in my ceiling that keep me awake unless I wear earplugs and many ants on my wall. My home stay guy says "no worry it's the time of year" (winter) so it's getting cold, 16 at night and 28 during the day. I guess I can take a few rats.

Tuesday, Nov. 26th

Just a regular working day for me today, morning class followed by Dahl bhat (finally got the spelling right) then day school, 3 classes grade 2 and one grade 5. Power came back on around 8:30 tonight so charging everything looks like it was a good idea to bring along a power pack. I had my first coffee in a week today. It was instant and it even tasted good... no great, which says a lot if you know me and coffee. Dahl bhat for supper and now bed time as it is going on 9:00 and the power just went out again. Good thing for head lamps.

The place where I found coffee is a 3 min. bike ride from my school so my coffee addiction is back on. It would also be great if I never taught grade 2 again. Not much luck on that happening though.

Thursday, Nov. 28

Has been a couple of good days, I taught morning class by myself today which was pretty good, me and my lack of Nepalese and all these kids wanting to learn. I went through some exercises with them about how you feel when you're healthy and when you're sick with the flu as everybody has some form of Nepalese flu, cold or whatever it is. I just got over it. Pretty nasty for a couple of days. Four of us are heading to Pokhara tomorrow for the weekend. I pretty sure I will finally

be able to send this email maybe even add a few pics to it. Our home stay mom is off to Kathmandu so we're kinda on our own for meals for a few days so I had no rice for breakfast for the first time in two weeks. I had sliced banana cheese and white bread. It was perfect. I'm pretty sure I have lost at least 5 lbs since I arrived so I'm going to look for some protein this weekend.



It is amusing watching the Nepalese people in the morning all dressed in winter clothing sitting around fires in the morning when the temperature is only around 15 degrees C. I ride past them on my bike at 6:30 AM dressed in summer clothes and I get some very strange looks. I'm pretty sure they think I'm crazy.

Saturday, Nov. 30

Well, Saturday night and getting ready to catch the bus back to Padampokari as I bused to Pokhara for the weekend. It was another 5 hour bus ride but worth it. Five of us came and I'm carding the early tourist bus and the rest are catching a later regular bus. There is basically no way I have room for my knees on a regular bus. Had a great day today. Hiked up Sarongkot and

watched the young volunteers paraglide and then hiked back down. Actually ate some different food: lots of cheese and good coffee. I have a good chance of common here in two to three weeks to work in an orphanage. I also talked to some people from hope and home about doing the Annapurna base camp trek, they tell me I can do it anytime in December or January so will confirm that soon, I just have to be willing to do it in colder weather.

Hope everyone is enjoying winter.

Mark

Sent from my iPad

Leon says: FYI: I have talked to Mark by phone and he did state that many of his spelling mistakes are due to him writing his updates at night and invariably without power: I gave him some 'leeway' on that. Anyways, he sounded 'upbeat' on the phone and despite missing out on the 'comforts' that we take for granted he is having a great time! Read on....

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 7:40 AM

Subject: The continuing Nepal journey

We'll it was uneventful bus trip back from Pokhara, I actually was looking forward to my home cooked Dahl bhat... not too sure what that is saying??? I will be back in Pokhara in about two weeks, I think on the 16th of December. I'm back teaching tomorrow and exams start sometime this week. It is hard to get the right date as the Nepalese calendar is not even close to ours, right now in Nepal it is August 16, 2070 or maybe the 17th. It was kinda sad last week as all the kids had to bring money in to pay for exams and many didn't have the money. No money no exam. I am going into Narayangadh with a teacher this week to buy school supplies for kids that cannot afford it, I would like to



just give them out in class but if you give one kid something they all want it whether they need it or not. Also I don't know what I will be doing during exams. They apparently last over a week. Hopefully I don't get the kindergarten class.

I'm going to Lumbini the weekend after next Dec. 12. Looking forward to that.

Monday, December 2, 2013 western time

What a great day.

Morning class had 15 kids which is the most yet

and I had my hands full with the young ones. Morning Dahl Bhat actually had scrambled eggs with it so that was a treat. Day school was a breeze as they are getting ready for exams so we left early and went and had coffee, maybe even three. It is amazing how much you appreciate it when you actually have time to enjoy it. With the afternoon off I helped bring the rice in from the fields from harvest, it is done either on your back or straddling on the bicycles, I chose the bike. I did get some good pics but it seems to be impossible for me to email any pics from here. I guess if I knew Facebook better I could post some as some of the younger kids are doing it when we get some where with wifi.

I only have morning school for the next 10-12 days so I just might be doing some manual labour for the first time in a long while (don't tell anyone at work I said that). One thing I will do is take my bike and go for a long bike ride to see what is around here. It is flat for as far as you can see with small mountains to the south, then India and on clear days you can see the Himalayas to the north. It is still very foggy and misty in the morning. Riding a bike to morning class I arrive with my hair wet from the mist but by 9 AM the sun is out and it gets quite warm by noon. I do seem to get lost very easily here as there are so many gravel roads (paths) and everything is so flat and looks the same. No street names, but everyone seems to know Sanjiv so I'm not really lost – at least not yet. I will see what

happens when I go for a long bike ride. It is easy to phone Sanjiv but trying to figure out where I might be with no street names could be difficult I'm told. Might be an adventure???

Tuesday, December 3

Pretty quiet day morning school and the rest of the day off from teaching. The highlight was a rat that crawled into the electrical junction box and got fried sometime last night, so no power all day. The electrician finally arrived and fixed it at the same time as our normal evening load shed. The best part was the dog grabbing the rat and running off with the cooked rat. We were all thinking we might have Rat Dahl Bhat for dinner. Thanks Pintu. Our home stay guy Sanjiv says it might be time to do something about the rats.

We are going to be losing some volunteers in the next few days and won't be long

before I'm the most senior here, which doesn't take long as we keep coming and going. I only have 2 weeks left, a time is going by pretty fast. We are having a going away party tonight for Judi who leaves tomorrow, I think the girls are making rum punch or something like it. Looks like I'll be the D.D. And have to drive everyone home in the dark.

Thursday, December 5

We'll it has been pretty quiet the past couple of days, some people (volunteers) have left, new ones arriving, and no day school for one more week. The volunteers teaching at private schools are still working as it is only public schools that are doing exams right now, lucky me. Wednesday I walked for 5 hours and today 7, don't know how many kms but lots. I'm feeling quite drained right now getting ready for bed and it is only 7:30, Leon would be proud. I'm meeting many wonderful people whose only concern is whether I'm having a good time in Nepal. Also many buffalo ducks chicken cows goats dogs cats and also one horse. The rice harvest is over and people are very busy planting lentils. Tomorrow is going to be my big bike ride day. I'm pretty sure I won't get lost as I think I have it all figured out after walking the last two days, you just



have to know where the river is. I guess I will find out tomorrow.

The only other big thing over the next couple of days is my laundry, I'm being told I don't know how to wash clothes by hand. I'm pretty sure they're even laughing at me. Not too sure what I do wrong. I pump the water by hand, add soap, stir it and then rinse, simple yes??? But by their body language I think I'm supposed to scrub a whole lot more.

The hand pump in the back yard is the only water we have and I've been drinking from it for 3 weeks now with no ill effects, it is very warm and a little gritty but otherwise not bad. It is used for everything including washing, brushing teeth, cleaning dishes, butchering chickens and goats. There is a ton of water here every close to the surface which I'm sure is why it is so warm.

There is also a small electric pump on the suction side of the hand pump for filling our 750 litre container on top of our western toilet and shower building which works very well. That is when we remember to fill it up when we have power.

Saturday, December 7, 2013 or August 2070

I did my bike ride yesterday. Actually found the bridge that crosses the

river Rapti which is the main entrance to Chitwan national park. The army would not let us cross because we had no guides but did allow us to walk up to the bridge to take a few pictures. We then found an old beat-up road that follows the park boundaries on our side of the river. Five hours on a bike in this heat, I was pretty bagged last night, in bed before 8:00 PM, up early Saturday morning, the only day of the week with no school.

A few of us caught the public bus into the city today to buy some supplies for our schools before some go home or like me move on to a different part of Nepal. I purchased 2 volley balls and net, a new badminton net, couple of footballs (soccer), eighteen dozen homework

books as well as pens, pencils, erasers and pencil sharpeners.

I don't know what the rest of you are doing right now but just thought I should let you know it is sunny and warm here, not too hot, just around 27 degrees C. Hope you're enjoying the last bit of fall. Don't forget winter is just around the corner. Oh, and I'm doing what many in Nepal do on a Saturday afternoon, hanging out in the shade.

Sunday, December 8, 2013 or 2070/08/28

Pretty lazy day today with only 3 students showing up for morning school. I did fix a vacuum cleaner that was donated to Amma, our home stay mother. It was not a very realistic item for the people of Chitwan as most floors are either cement or dirt. The only problem with the vacuum was a really plugged filter. Amma actually prefers her homemade broom. I will vacuum my room tomorrow though.

My highlight of the day was finding a store that had SNICKERS bars, I bought a whole box of them. 24 only cost me \$7.00. I think I'm in heaven. Hahaha there is a birthday party next door so will go and check it out with the rest of the family, although I know they will try to feed me more Dahlbat. I think I would rather sit in my room read a book and eat snickers bars.

Thursday, December 12, 2013

It has been a pretty quiet week with lots of biking and walking until today, this morning we caught a bus to Lumbini (birth place of Buddha). The bus was packed and Lumbini was overflowing with people and many many monks – they are everywhere. Five of us came here and we are in 3 different hotels. Apparently it is

like this every full moon. We have rented a cab to take us the 27 Km to the birth place tomorrow at six am. Then we have rented peddle bikes for the afternoon to try to get as much in as we can in one day as we catch the bus back at 7:00 am Saturday morning.



I am also putting the final touches on my ABC TREK. It will start on Dec 19th or 20th, so I will be trekking over the holidays. The trek ends in Pokhara which is where I will start my month of orphanage volunteering.

I hope everybody is well and getting ready for the holiday break, I have yet to hear a Christmas song and probably won't but I hope you're having fun as I certainly am.

Mark

Hello all,

I do hope you are all well and getting ready for the Christmas break, I'm sitting in a hotel room in Pokhara, enjoying my second day of hot water, an actual mattress on my bed as well as one English Channel on the TV, BBC world news. It was sunny here this morning but raining right now the first rain I have seen since arriving in Nepal.

Last weekend I was in Lumbini, the birth place of Buddha, it was a "guy" weekend retreat. 5 of us and we were going to sleep in one of the monasteries which you can do for free and just give a donation in the morning. What we didn't know was that it was also the beginning of a Buddhist world peace summit and there were literally thousands of monks in Lumbini. It was quite a site when we arrived Thursday afternoon. We had a lot of trouble finding hotel rooms. We rented a cab for 6:30 AM Friday and drove the 40 km to Tilaurakot, the ancient Capitol of the Sakya kingdom.

It is where Siddhartha walked out the eastern gate in his search for supreme knowledge. We also went to Gotihawa. It is the site of the Asoka pillar where Krakuchhanda Buddha attained nirvana. It is one of the major pilgrimage sites for Buddha. We also visited visited the Maya Devi Temple with the marker stone which pinpoints the exact birthplace of Buddha. I was also blessed by a Monk at this temple. It was kinda awesome. We rented bikes in the afternoon and toured around Lumbini. It is an amazingly poor community considering it is a world heritage site. There are many street beggars including women with what appeared to be 2 month old babies asking for money for milk, but if you offered to buy milk they declined. Go figure. Also many cows just wandering the streets, some with broken legs and some so old they could hardly move. Anywhere else in the world they would be put down. I do have to say though that if you come to Nepal you

should take the time and visit Lumbini. One day and two nights will do it.

The rest of the week saw me finishing up my teaching in Chitwan and getting ready to move to Pokhara. I decided that when I'm finished in Pokhara, I will go back to Chitwan instead of going to Kathmandu. I don't think I would enjoy 4 weeks in Kathmandu. 3 days sounds better, just enough time to do the tourist stuff before I leave for home. The time is just flying by here. Hope your winter is going just as fast.

Well, it is time to start packing for my trek which starts Sunday morning. My next update will be after I'm back which might take a bit longer as it is snowing above 4000 M, and if it continues we might be held up for a few days. I guess I will find out what it is like to sit in a tea house with no heat waiting for better weather.

Take care,

Mark



Sent: Sunday, January 05, 2014 9:47 AM

Subject: Nepal

Hello all,

Well I think it is about time I sent an update as to what life has been like for me with my 2 week break from volunteering. I left on my Annupurna circuit trek on the 22 of December after 3 days relaxing in Pokhara. The trek started in Syanja at 7:45 which was 15 min. Before our scheduled departure time. I did meet some executive types at breakfast who are building a run of the river power plant just up stream from our tea house. Chinese technology Nepalese money. They were quite interested in me when I told them about my background in power engineering. They also couldn't quite grasp that I was retired at sixty. Walking past their site I was amazed to see donkeys hauling pieces of penn stock, workers living under tarps wearing flip flops and being paid \$7.00 per day.

Our destination was Dharapani which is about 7 hours walking from Syanja. It was a beautiful day not a

cloud in the sky and very warm when in the sun which was pretty much from 9 till 3 PM. When we arrived in Dharapani the sun had gone down and it was getting cold so we decided to walk another hour to the next tea house. It was very very cold by the time we arrived I checked into my room pulled out my sleeping bag and climbed in for about an hour. It is an absolutely beautiful valley you walk up towering mountains on both sides waterfalls, villages, we even saw some monkeys. We gained about 900 metres elevation today and the plan for tomorrow is about the same but in half the time so much steeper. My knees held up pretty good today sore but fine after a couple hours rest.

Another gorgeous day, cold but not a cloud in the sky. Our destination is Chame, about a five hour trek. We are continuing to follow the river Marsedi I'm assuming right up to the head waters which is in

Manang two more days trekking from here. Our elevation here is 2660 meters and cold when the sun goes down. I have met quite a few Trekkers today from Ireland, China, France and England. I think some people like this time of year as there are fewer people and you have your choice of tea houses. The gal from the states works for Dolby sound and was the one who convinced the company to sponsor the Banff Mtn. Film festival. She also knows quite a few people from Nelson.

Today we headed for lower Pisang there is also an upper Pisang where some of the Trekkers decided to stay and take the longer route to Manang 8 hours compared to 5 hours from lower Pisang. The weather is perfect and showing no signs of changing although it is getting very cold when the sun goes down and is extremely cold in our rooms.

Manang is our rest day so we're spending 2 nights and it is the perfect place to spend an extra day – the food is perfect, the best apple pie and garlic

pizza I have ever had. They even have a movie theatre with benches covered in Yak fur for warmth. A few of us watched into thin air, a 8' x 10' screen, decent sound system and they even had a electric heater running for us. The next day we did an acclimatisation walk about 600 M above Manang.

From Manang we trekked to Yak Kharka a very short day, 4350 M, and starting to get very cold. There is now very little running water and bottled water is freezing in our rooms. The Nepalese style toilets are frozen and you need to get hot water from the kitchen to flush anything. It is also quite slippery in the toilets, not bad for the guys most of the time but not so good for the ladies.

I started this trek on my own eight days ago and now we have a group of about 25 not counting guides and porters and about 9 in our small group that have



My guide Ganesh and porter Shundra

kinda bonded and are sticking together. Today we were heading for Thorong Pedi 4420 M, but were feeling so good when we arrived we decided to push on and go to what is called High camp another 450 M, this would give us an extra hour of sleep in the morning 5:30 start instead of 4:30 AM.

Breakfast was at 5:00 AM and it was -29 C and very hard to get out of a warm sleeping bag. I was walking by 5:20, not the first to leave but well ahead of the pack. It is also where I really started to notice the thin air, my mind wanted me to move faster but my legs just couldn't respond. I did manage to pass everybody who had left before me and was the first to make it to Thorong La pass 5460 M and the only trekker to see the sun rise on the pass that day. The people we passed were having a lot of difficulty with the icy sections of the path, they also had no guide, where my guide just knew the way around the icy sections in the dark.

We did not spend much time at the pass as it was extremely cold with 20 to 30 KM winds blowing. It was the coldest I have ever been. A few of the guides also said they had never experienced temperatures that cold.

The next part of this trek was the 1600 M descent to Muktinath, the part I worried about most with my wonky knees. It did not disappoint me, I might have been the first to the pass but I was dead last coming down well over an hour behind the rest with my knees shaking by the time I arrived. It took a lot of Vitamin I to sleep that night. A only good thing it was sunny and warm at 2:00 PM in Mukinath. I also decided I would take a jeep to Jomson instead of walking as I didn't think my knees would take another day of descent. I also ate my first Yak burger which

was very good. The bus ride from Jomson to Tatopani, Beni and on to Pokhara is one you would have to experience to believe. I will tell you it was thrilling and I had a lot of fun.

I have been back in Pokhara resting and hanging out with some of the people I met on the Trek, which has been great. I start my orphanage work tomorrow which I'm looking forward to. I have also met a lady from Holland who is here to teach for a month, so have found someone to explore the Pokhara area with on our days off. Her sister is coming in 3 weeks to do a 5 day trek and I've been invited to join them. Yes I'm going. The golf course in Pokhara has been designated as one of the 10 most unique courses in the world so will also



Sunrise on Thorong La pass

play one round, I think it will be a busy 5 weeks coming up.

Take care,

Mark

Editor's note: Sadly, publication date means that we have to leave Mark there. I assume that he will certainly have more stories to tell.

KMC HIKING CAMP 2014

KMC HIKING CAMP HISTORY

Ron Perrier

The Kootenay Mountaineering club had been holding summer camps since 1968 (Earl Grey Pass), 1969 (Mulvey Basin), 1970 (Royal Group), 1971 (Adamants), 1972 (Mulvey) and 1973 (Gold Range). These were often combined climbing and hiking camps attended by a wide range of club members. 1974 saw the first Hiking Camp.

Hiking camp is the best week of the year for me. We get to go to amazing places all over SE British Columbia, that usually have never seen another boot step. Hiking is totally off trail and can be rugged. The organisation is superb – everything seems to come off without a hitch. The core of the organisation is a hiking camp manual which is fine tuned regularly and covers most every thing one would ever want to know. A committee of one to 7 volunteers coordinates all the organisation: picking a site, holding the lottery and wait lists, coordinating leaders and cooks, and making a recci of the road and helicopter loading site. Pre-camp meetings divide up the twenty or so jobs necessary to get together all the food, wine, propane, and coolers. Then a helicopter zooms us into a paradise isolated from the rest of the world. The food is spectacular and copious, the company special, the alpine flower displays some of the best in the world, and the hiking and climbing as demanding as you want. Volunteerism is key to the whole process. Including everyone gives a sense of community. And all this for unbelievably low prices.

1974. Bonney Gem, Purcells. Now Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. In 1974, the club added a Hiking Camp to the club schedule. The Summer Camp Chairman at the time was Peter Wood, was in charge of, and went to both climbing and hiking camps. Ann Wood was the treasurer. Pete Wood is the Father of Hiking Camp.

The club had only one tent and it was used for both climbing and hiking camps with a necessary week between camps. That first camp was at Lake Bonney Gem in the Purcells. 22 attended and the heli site was at Johnson's Landing. The setting was beautiful with 2 tiny islands in a lake backed by Mt Lake. Cost was \$100 and the cook went for half price. She remarked on

the tremendous appetites of some of the members especially Peter Wood (I attended hiking camp with Peter this summer in 2013 and he still eats a lot). Mountains climbed included Mt Lake, Mammary, McLeod, McLanders, Fitzsimmons, Rasmussen and a first ascent of Mt Sawcxuk. An axe through a note on a tree from a trip to Bonney Gem in 1915 was found and brought back to Nelson. Eight walked out in the rain over two days via Carney Creek, Fry Creek, and Johnson's Landing. The rest flew out by helicopter. For the first several years of camp, any difference in amount paid and actual cost was refunded. When available I have listed the amount initially paid but the amount of the refund isn't often recorded.

1975. Gwillim Lakes, Valhallas. Now Valhalla Provincial Park. 21 people attended including 2 teenage boys. The camp lasted 9 days from August 9-17. Cost was \$120 including all helicopter travel. Refunds were to be issued to those who walked in and/or out depending on costs. If the camp was oversubscribed, the camp chairman reserved the right to make whatever selections were necessary – probably based on date of receipt of the camp deposit and KMC camp committee involvement. Weight limit was 45 pounds absolutely, excluding ropes and other climbing equipment. Peter Wood was both club president and camp chairman.

The trekking "hiking camp" was in Earl Grey Pass.

1976. Wilson Creek, Goat Range. Now Goat Range Provincial Park. Hugh Thompson suffered a severe laceration on the back of his leg from a falling rock and evacuation was necessary. With no method of communication, Peter Wood walked out to the nearest telephone and Hugh was airlifted to Nelson Hospital. The prominent peaks climbed were Cascade and Marion. On the appointed departure day, the weather socked in. Most had packed up their tents and slept in the cook tent. Four walked out the first day. When the weather was just as bad the next day, all the rest walked out except for four left behind to load the helicopter with the main camp stuff.

This summer also had a "trekking hiking camp" that involved backpacking along the Rockwall Trail between Floe Lake and Lake O'Hara. A group of six started at each end and exchanged keys in the middle.

1977. St Mary's Alpine Park, Purcells. Now St Mary's Alpine Provincial Park. Twenty participants,

August 6-13. Mts. Totem, Manson, St. Mary, Nowitka, and Trinity were all climbed. *A radio telephone was added to the camp* and people enjoyed making collect phone calls home. Final cost per camper after refund was \$94, two-thirds of which was helicopter costs.

1978. Demers Lakes, Valhallas. Now Valhalla Provincial Park. July 15-23. John Stewart was hiking camp chairman. Nineteen campers climbed Mts Bor, Urd, Demers, and Dorval. For the first time, a second satellite camp with two tents, stove and food was set up three kilometres south near Hird Lakes. Four camp members spent time alternately at the satellite camp. A second cook tent, stoves and kitchenware were purchased so that hiking and climbing camps could operate simultaneously and independently of each other. The scheduling of one camp effectively tied up the gear for three weeks.

1979. Wee Sandy Lake, Valhallas. Now Valhalla Provincial Park. July 28 to August 6, 10 days. 18 people flew in from New Denver. Mts Meers and Niord were the main destinations. A satellite camp was set up again 5 miles south that allowed access to New Denver Glacier and the headwaters of Nemo Creek.

The ingenious integrated table for the cook tent, still used today, was designed and built by Earl Jorgensen and used for the first time. With about 64 different ways to pack it together, this jig saw puzzle of a table always provides good entertainment at the end of camp. I imagine that the little yellow stools and ironing board appeared at the same camp. Cost \$140.

1980. Bonney Gem. Purcells. Now Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. Over 9 days, 34 campers attended in 3 groups depending on their length of stay. A satellite camp was set up at Eagle Nest Lake, a 10-hour walk from the main camp.

1981. Clint Creek, Pioneer Group, Purcells. This is the location of the camp of record, but it is never mentioned in the Newsletter or Karabiner. The advertised camp was supposed to be at Eagle Nest Lake, Carney Creek, Purcells. Cost \$200. An alternate camp was suggested a week before (July 19-25) 2 miles north of Kootenay Joe Ridge and 1 mile west of Winter Peak in the Purcells. It was to be held for those wanting a shorter camp with easier hiking and scrambling. Cost \$150 if flying both ways and \$125 if walking out. No reports were written up in either of the

club's publications about any these camps, neither of which I have ever heard of.

1982. Monashee Park. Now Monashee Provincial Park. Camp was on the north corner of Margie Lake. No camp reports.

1983. Gwillim Basin, Valhallas. Now Valhalla Provincial Park. Between 18 and 24 campers enjoyed a week. Most walked in and out. Mts Gregorio, Lucifer, Black Prince, Devils Dome and Bor were climbed. Two overnights at Demers Lake and three overnighted at Coven Lakes.

1984. Hume Creek, Purcells. Because of high demand, *two camps* were held for the first time and 33 total attended. Significant mountains climbed were S Christalline, Cuestaform Craggs, and Tetragon.

1985. Valley of the Lakes, N Purcells. For the second time, two camps were held in successive weeks and 45 attended, 19 in the first camp and 26 in the second. Four stayed for both weeks. The helicopter site was at the CMH Bobbie Burns Lodge and only two trips were required in the 14 passenger chopper to bring all the gear and people up. Camp participants were from Scotland, New Brunswick, Reno, San Francisco and Australia. A satellite camp was held at Sugarplum Spire. Some stayed for a second week at the satellite camp and groups of seven hiked over from the main camp. The helicopter appeared on Friday night and the camp had to be rapidly dismantled and flown out then no warning! Initial cost was \$180, actual cost was \$125 or \$113 if you walked out. The difference was rebated.

1986. Anemone Pass, Mica Creek area. Jeff Ross took over from John Stewart as chairman of hiking camp. A committee of 6 people helped to share the responsibilities. Because of huge demand for hiking camp, *a \$20 cancellation was instituted. Three consecutive weeks were held* with 19 in each camp. The only death to ever occur in hiking camp was in Camp one in 1986.

Patricia Lifely, the camp cook for the first two weeks of camp, slipped on a grassy slope, lost hold of her ice axe, and disappeared from sight down a gully on July 28th, the Tuesday of camp. Her death devastated everyone. She was easily the strongest woman in camp with a fine sense of balance and was a great telemark skier. There was an initial evacuation near dark on the 28th and a second one was called in for the 29th, both during snow squalls. Everyone was offered the

opportunity to leave and 11 departed leaving 5 at camp. A service was held near a cairn dedicated to her memory. On the Saturday, her fiancée flew in to view the site and to retrieve Patricia's daypack and ice axe. A memorial in the form of a framed photo of the hiking camp area was presented to the Nelson District Hospital by the KMC.

Despite the extra helicopter costs of \$1,062, the camp still broke even. Total cost was \$10,284.89 of which \$7,092.95 was helicopter cost.

The second camp write up by Larry Doell follows. It parodies the low, three-legged hiking camp stools made by Earl Jorgensen. They were so low that they weren't very comfortable but they were better than sitting on the ground like climbing camp.

CULT OF THE YELLOW STOOL

by Larry Doell

Webster's defines fetish as: A material object believed among primitive cultures to have magical powers.

It was a dusk on the first evening that the second hiking camp began its transformation into the Kootenay Mountaineering Cult of the Yellow Stool. It didn't occur at the more appropriate site of the Jeff Ross Throne room, but on the heather outside the cook tent.

There, glowing a luminescent yellow in the twilight, convened a score of what appeared to be three-legged aliens. Upon closer examination, they were identified as Earl Jorgansen Bunsmaster Stools, engaged in a somewhat cheeky discussion on the true nature of buns – some preferring French rolls and others, crusty Italian.

It wasn't long before the surrounding trees sported flocks of stool pigeons and the lake was transformed with swimming stools. With footstools underfoot, Naomi Lindstrom and Carolyn Mousel watched from their No-tell Motel as Carolyn's husband, Don, took Mrs. Gerein's little girl, Audrey, on a test drive in his flashy new Stoolbaker before returning to build his hopelessly utopian city of Stoolingrad.

Craig Andrews, in line with his profession as a stool teacher, deranged the cult into posing behind his daughter, Claire, who sat at the wheel of a Stoolbus.

While an unsuccessful search was under way for an amphibious subject for a toad stool photograph, Power Bill Hurst was proselytising the new faith to mountain goats. Jack Steed was taking tomsstoolery to new heights, enjoying several peak experiences on his E. J. Bunsmaster.

The Kootenay Mountaineer

Mother Earthy, worried that the stools were going through life with only three legs, tried to interest them in occupational therapy classes.

Concerned that they were getting too much behind, Meadowlark Culley of an "Ode to a Stool" fame, arranged for them to be enrolled in stool classes, and would exhort them daily for remaining at the rear of the class.

Being as a rule, bottom feeders, Teri McLean worked hard at devising a suitable menu for them – everything arriving at an acceptable diet of butt roast with buns.

Jane Steed formed a choral group with Alice Korfman and Marylin Clark who affectionately became known as the Stolettes. They quickly absorbed the Trudy Andrews and Muriel Walton's duo, Rum and Corkettes, and led the cult around the campfire in the evenings on rousing renditions of such old chestnuts as "Tie a yellow stool 'round the old oak tree". Walter Branigan and Bab Korfman, taking each other in hand, focused on squeezing high soprano out of one another.

The total transformation was realised on Saturday morning shortly after John Walton pulled up his pants after posing for the Waiting for John in the John photo. There on the alpine tundra, with only the fou bird as witness, we all crouched on hands and knees with stools clutched to our heads and transcended our individual egos, emerging collectively as a herd of stoolaboos.

1987. Limestone Lakes, S Rockies. Cost \$170 with a nonrefundable deposit of \$50. The rest of the fee was refundable up to June 30th when full payment was due. A new cook tent was purchased. The old camp gear was made available to members who wanted to have "family camps". Camp 1 was a day late flying in and out because of pilot deficiencies. Negotiations with Frontier Helicopters resulted in a downward adjustment of \$1,172.64 to the bill plus a write off of \$446.72 for what was considered "pain and suffering". The outstanding features of the area were Island Lake, a large ultra-marine blue lake flanked by 10,000 foot peaks, stratified cliff faces, and huge fossil beds.

An age restriction of 15 was added. Members aged 15-18 had to be accompanied by an adult. Members who had renewed their memberships prior to February 1st were granted an exclusive 2 month period to register for camp.

1988. North Fork of Glacier Creek, Purcells. Ron Cameron, Joan Harvey, and Jim Keinholtz were now in

charge of hiking camp. Cost \$180. MacDuff and Eyebrown were climbed.

1989. Wildcat Creek, Rockies. This is a tributary of the Blaeberry River, 7 km west of Peyto Lake on the Banff Jasper Highway. Access was 45km N/NE of Golden. By June, all camps were full with waiting lists. On the first load in, the helicopter broke a skid and the move had to wait till the next day. The 14 passenger CMH Bobbie Burns helicopter got the entire camp up in 3 loads! Mts Peyto, Trapper, Mistaya and Baker were climbed. The nearby Mistaya lodge was just completing construction. That might affect any future camps here but it sounded nice with access to the continental divide above Peyto Lake.

The constitution was amended at the 1989 AGM to allow only residents of the West Kootenay to become “new” members of the club. Hiking camp had become so successful that the Hiking Camp Committee had wanted the change. The club executive was reluctant to make the change but were finally persuaded and the motion passed. In recent years, many people from outside the area had joined the club for the sole purpose of attending hiking camp. Their company, experience and contributions were appreciated, but locals members were not able to attend camp because of over-subscription.

Volunteering by camp participants makes the camps possible. They wanted to make sure that there were enough local members on the camps to do the transportation, shopping, cooking and myriad other jobs necessary. At some camps, the locals doing all the work constituted less than half the camp. All club members from outside the West Kootenay were able to retain their membership but only if it was renewed every year.

Helen Butling died in 1989. She was a driving force in the KMC from its origin and probably served on every executive position over the years. The Slocan Chief Cabin owes its existence to her work parties. She was also very active in the Alpine Club of Canada. She organised all the food for the early camps and her recipes form a foundation for many of our present recipes.

1990. Ghost Peak/Mt Cartier, Selkirks. Mike Brewster and Joan Harvey were in charge of camps. The camp was 11 km SE of Revelstoke at 6650 feet. Mt Cartier is visible from Highway 23, ten kilometres south of Revelstoke. Mts Cartier, Fang, Cave,

Drimmie, and MacKenzie (location of Revelstoke ski hill) were climbed. This was the first time, for ecological reasons, firewood was brought up by each camp. The cancellation date for a refund was advanced to June 15. Someone in camp 2 actually brought up a solar shower! Other campers couldn’t understand when it was possible to swim in the lakes. The Friday night of most camps was skit night. Everyone put a lot of effort into it. It is a tradition that has waned considerably in recent years. Camp I had costume night: Supper guests included the Great Pumpkin, Yellow Chick, Hagar the Viking, the spirit of Ghost Peak, Santa Claus, a New Guinea couple, an Owl, a Blind Leper, a bug in a net, and a hot water tank.

The executive passed a motion that fires on all club trips must be in a club burning device and that wood must be brought in by the users. A metal fire burning “device” was to be at least a foot off the ground. This was a compromise between those who thought there should be no fires and those who thought that campfires are an integral part of hiking camp ambience.

1991. International Basin, Purcells. International Basin was a great place with good mountains and lots of old mining debris. Cost \$200. A new supply tent was in camp.

1992. Edouard Pass, Purcells. Laurie Charlton took over as Hiking Camp chairman. This was a beautiful spot with good tent sites and something for everyone. Cost \$225.

Here is a note written by Vivian Bowers, then Newsletter Editor, in November, 1992.

IT'S ALL TRUE, the rumours you heard about climbing camp while sitting around the approved burning device at hiking camp! At climbing camp, they really do get up at 3:00 a.m. do marathon 18-hour climbs, shun rest days, form climbing cliques that discourage outsiders, and have egos the size of boulders.

AND IT'S ALL TRUE, what they say at climbing camp about hiking camp. At hiking camp, they sit on funny three-legged stools, camp leaders inspect participants' fingernails every morning, no one drinks anything stronger than tea, and everyone dresses up in silly costumes on the last night. ("As long as they make you dress up, you won't see me in hiking camp").

IT'S ALL TRUE!

Norman Thyer wrote an opinion about bringing technical climbing gear to hiking camp. It starts a debate that continues today.

Summer camps have become a major activity of the KMC. Twenty years ago, there was a single one-week camp every year. Now we have separate camps catering to "hikers" and "climbers", and even with three distinct hiking camps, there are always more applicants than vacancies.

With two distinct categories of camp, there is a risk of the club becoming polarised into two separate groups, climber and hikers. I have even heard suggestions that all technical climbing gear should be banned from hiking camps. In my opinion, this would only aggravate the polarisation, and exclude the needs of people whose interests lie between, or overlap, the two extremes of easy hiking and highly technical climbing.

One rational for banning technical gear from hiking camp is that its presence would tempt people to attempt exploits beyond their ability. My response is that people are just as liable to do that when they don't have the appropriate equipment, and, indeed, could get themselves into more trouble through not having it. I personally feel safer doing a technical climb on solid rock than hiking on loose rock. If I had to cross sloping, hard snow or ice, I would rather do so with crampons than trust to Vibram on millimetre deep footholds or resort to crawling on hands and knees.

Accidents rarely occur because one is too well equipped. Mostly they are the results of inadequate equipment or training, "acts of God", or, especially, bad judgment.

The sort of things one does at a camp are not governed solely by the equipment one has. Instead, the equipment one brings should be governed by the nature of the terrain. If there's a glacier within walking distance of camp, someone is sure to say "That glacier's safe. There aren't any crevasses." Or "You can see all the crevasses." and take a trip across it as if going for a walk in a city park. However, if I was called upon to go and rescue him/her, I'd want to be properly equipped. If camp participants are expected to do nothing more challenging than hike on trails or in meadows, the location should be chosen accordingly.

Hiking camp participants are told to bring ice-axes. At the 1991 Hiking Camp, there was at least moderately steep snow on most hiking routes. I wonder how many of the people who bring ice-axes to hiking camp are proficient at self-arresting on steep snow. It's too late to learn when you're hurtling down a slope toward rocks or a gully that

leads over a cliff. How many could belay a companion across an exposed snow slope. How many could rappel down if they found themselves at the top of smooth slabs when taking a "short cut" down the mountain? I think it is better to be prepared for such situations than to hope that they won't occur.

Rather than restrict our activities, shouldn't we try to expand them, to improve our skills of travelling in the mountains? Our club offers a Climbing School every year, where these skills can be learned. But how many people are discouraged from attending for reasons which are completely unjustified, such as stories in the "Karabiner" of hair-raising exploits on Class 5.14 cliffs, or the fear of hanging on a rope above a 100m drop, or by the prospect of having to buy and carry a huge rack of climbing hardware that, in reality, only a rock specialist would use?

Our club is a mountaineering club, but the tastes and abilities of its members vary widely. Some members are not satisfied with anything less than strenuous, highly technical climbs others are quite content to hike on trails and in meadows, and still others seek something in between; while not aspiring to 14-hour marathons on class 5.10 rock, some class 4 climbing with a bit of glacier travel would suit them fine. Can our camps accommodate them all without being polarised into the two extremes of a strictly hiking camp and ambitious climbing camp? Could we have a General Mountaineering Camp? A third type of camp in a third location would, of course, involve more equipment and organisation. Perhaps a compromise would be to designate the first week of hiking camp for general mountaineering, and later weeks for hiking only.

Let's have some discussion on this matter. Meanwhile, I suggest: Don't deliberately restrict your activity by leaving your equipment at home; bring it with you (within reason – remember the weight) and learn how to use it properly in improving your mountain travel skills, your judgment and your safety.

I don't disagree with anything Norman says. Some of the issues though are: Carrying any climbing equipment puts one over-weight. It is hard enough to stay below 50 pounds. One solution is for the climbers, if they want a rope, to meet before camp and bring up one rope and rack. Each would have their own harness, helmet and crampons.

If one were to get into trouble, there are few people in most camps with the skills to anything very technical, like a crevasse rescue. That would be a lethal mistake

in virtually every camp I have been in, most often, as there is rarely a rope in any camp. In latter years, many of the “climbers”, as they age, now attend hiking camp and bring valuable skills. I have crossed many glaciers foolishly without a rope but if all the snow has melted and all ice exposed, there are few hidden dangers. Certainly crampons should be brought if there is any thought of having to deal with ice.

1993. Dunbar Lakes – “Shagri-la”, Purcells. 25 km east of the Bugaboos and 25 west of Brisco. This high valley at tree line featured two large, four medium, and 20 small lakes ranging in color from opaque pale glacial blue to the clearest greens. Mts Horeb (a technical climb) and Ethlebert were on the east side and the Septets formed the west skyline. It could be accessed by a short hike over Tiger Pass to a mine and road to the south. Cost \$225.

Full fees were payable on registration for the first time rather than a deposit and balance in June. A signed waiver form was required.

There was no lottery for the spaces at camp prior to 1995. The February Newsletters with the application were all mailed from the Nelson Post Office at the same time. But they arrived at some member’s house several days before others’. Laurie Charlton received several completed applications before he had even received his Newsletter in Rossland. It was first-come-first-serve. I personally remember driving my application and hand delivering it to Laurie’s house on more than one occasion. Consideration was given to giving priority to those who contributed to the club and camp. But that never happened. Merit based selection processes don’t work very well. Cronyism is always a threat. The lottery solved all these problems.

1994. Valley of the Moon, Monashees. The camp was on the east border of Monashee Provincial Park about 40km NW of Nakusp. Fawn Lake, just inside the park boundary, was only .5km from camp and the favourite bathing lake. Mts Gunnarson, Slate, Fosthall, and Caribou were climbed. It was considered by some one of the best hiking camps because of its long ridge walks and meadows connected by ledges and ramps. Jeff Krueger and Max Bankes walked out on an epic 2-day marathon.

This was the first year of the lottery, a great solution to the application process. The previous first-come-first-serve system was not fair and this gives an equal chance for everyone. Laurie Charlton wrote a detailed

seventeen point guide to the lottery system with the 1995 application form. It operates in 2014 exactly as laid out in his guideline with a March 15 deadline. The only change is that we now notify everyone by email instead of phone or mail.

Some of the idiosyncrasies of the postal system can cause problems. Ross Scott mailed his application in Rossland (where Laurie Charlton lived), but by the time it went down to Trail, was sorted and then came back to Rossland, it was received after the 15th and he was on the wait list.

1995. Rusty Ridge, Purcells. This area is 10km NE of St Mary’s Alpine Park and 30km NW of Kimberly. Camp was below Peak #7 on a long line of 12 peaks on a ridge. We built some huge cairns in camp 1.

In camp 3, Earl Jorgensen got lost on the Tuesday of camp. He had started out with the Waltons, Hazel Kirkwood and Jim Mattice but left them to continue on the ridge and climb the peak at the end. Coming down in the fog, he zigged instead of zagged, descended the wrong ridge, and only late in the day, realised that he was going the wrong direction. His only alternative was to spend the night out and he found shelter, wood, and water in the meadow. Although he was comfortable, those back in camp weren’t. Search parties started that evening. Radio contact was made with Nelson Forestry with some difficulty. The entire search machinery was mobilized – RCMP, ambulance, PEP, and a helicopter. The helicopter went over him three times as he was climbing back up the ridge out of the basin he had spent the night in. The helicopter brought him back to camp and he had a medical checkup including an ECG, all of which was fine. The camp ran a deficit.

1996. Hope Creek, Badshot Range, Selkirks. Between the Lardeau River and Lake Creek which parallels the Duncan. There were lots of ridge walking, no major peaks, but several smaller peaks in the 7500-8000 foot range.

A legal waiver signature was required for the first time in 1997.

1997. Sugarplum Spire, Purcells. The heli site was 84 kms up the Duncan. The area was in the north drainage of Hume Creek close to the location of satellite camp at Valley of the Lakes in 1985. Cost \$250. Camp 3 had two evacuations. On Sunday, Mary Woodward fell in some rocks, broke her wrist, and was helicoptered to

Revelstoke Hospital. A new and improved radio was used to make the necessary contact with the outside world. On Tuesday, Jenny Baillie, near the top of Mt Hatteras, pulled a rock over that ripped open her left calf just back of the knee. She was able to get down using ice axe crutches. The next morning her calf looked like “an uncooked chunk of meat”. Now with experience with the emergency radio, Jennie was in Nelson Hospital by 11 am.

Earl Jorgensen died in February, 2001. He was a very active and hardworking KMC member and introduced his children to hiking camps. Earl was the prime builder and planner of camp equipment. His yellow stools have been replaced but who could forget them. The short legs pegged into holes in the small seats – they took up as little space as possible. The old biffy seat and tent are, alas also gone, but Earl made the seat too. One of the reasons it was discarded was the complexity of putting it together. The folding tables in the cook tent are still being used although the end one is now turned sideways in front of the stoves because of the shorter tent. With 64 possible ways to put them together for the helicopter trip out, they are great fun on Saturday morning. The ironing board table is another of Earl’s creations. Could you imagine camp functioning without it.

He was well known for being “late” on at least one hike; some would call it “lost”. John Stewart, in Earl’s obituary in the Karabiner, made some interesting comments about hiking camp.

“Hiking and camping attitudes have changed in Earl’s 25 years in the Club. At 1976 camp, Peter Wood walked 10 miles and then drove 30 to summon medical aid. The whole camp walked out of the camp at the end when the helicopter was several days late and no sign of improving weather. Ten years later, when Earl was lost overnight, the poor radio-telephone prompted the angry amazement that the club would dare have 20 people far in the wilderness without instant help. Now it’s a reliable satellite phone (when the batteries work) and GPS.

1998. Marvel Pass, Rockies. Seven kilometres SE of Mt Assiniboine Provincial Park and west of Banff NP, it is on the continental divide and a great place (this is the projected site of Hiking Camp for 2014). Mountains climbed included Aurora, Byng, Gloria, and Eon. Eight people from camp 2, made sandwiches for two days and walked over to Mt Assiniboine and spent

the night in the cabins. The area in which the camp was held was closed one week after third camp due to a grizzly bear mauling.

1999. Copeland Ridge, N Monashees. Camp was at 6200 feet about 25 kms NW of Revelstoke in the headwaters of Hiren Creek. The helisite was the helicopter base and no chicken wire was required. This was the snow camp. Camp 1 never saw dry ground and from what I remember neither did Camp 3. You had to move your tent every couple of days as the snow melt around the tent caused a platform to rise inside. Anyone with a simple air mattress learned that they don’t work on snow or any cold surface. Sun protection was important as were good waterproof boots.

2000. Moonraker Peak, N Purcells. Camp was at 6900 feet at the headwaters of Canyon Creek about 18km due west of Golden on the eastern edge of Glacier NP. Mountains climbed included Moonraker, Dawn, and several unnamed mountains. The heli site was the Canadian Helicopters base in Golden so there were no logging roads for the second year in a row. The chopper flew over the Kicking Horse Ski Hill.

2001. Fitch Creek, Purcells. The heli site was 60km up the Duncan. This area is about 7km south of the Hume Creek camps. There were no named peaks, but many ridges and good hiking. The most memorable memories were the great views across the Duncan, the spectacular waterfall showers right next to camp, and the prodigious number of horseflies. Everyone ate every meal inside the cook tent. If you killed one, a thousand came to the funeral. And they are hard to kill. Hans Korn, Suzanne Blewett, and Ron Perrier climbed Tetragon, much closer to the Hume Creek Campsite than Fitch Creek. Cost \$275.

2002. Blanket Creek, Monashees. Drew Desjardins was in charge of hiking camp. Mts. Blanket, Castor, and Big Apple were climbed.

2003. Mt Soderholm, Rockies. Camp was at 6000’ SW of Mt Soderholm and 16km SSW of Mt Assiniboine. Views were of the Rockies to the east and the Royal Group to the south. Skyline Hikers from Calgary had a camp with 50 participants close by and a lodge was under construction on the plateau. Third camp was canceled because of forest fire danger. They were not given priority in the 2004 camp lottery as the fires were “an act of god”! This is the summer where large parts of Kootenay NP burned. Cost \$260. Expenses were high and fees just covered costs.

In the summer of 2005, Marg Gmoser backpacked through this area and camped at the hiking camp location 2 years previously. There was little evidence that camp was ever there. She was amazed at how well rejuvenated were the kitchen, storage tent area, tent sites and little trails. This camp only had 2 weeks of use not 3 as usual.

Ron Cameron became Hiking Camp chairman. A committee of 7 others did all the work for organising camp. A financial report is required by the Societies Act and needs to be ready by September 30, the club's year-end. Get all your receipts as early as possible into the hiking camp treasurer.

2004. Endless Ridges, S Purcells. 7900' on headwaters of Skookumchuk Creek with Doctor Creek and Peak to the north. The initial camp location was found to be inside the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy and was changed to here. There were no peaks, but an amazing array of ridges covered with larch and deep game trails (elk). Cost \$300 because of high helicopter costs. Hiking Camp had to cover all its own costs and cannot use general club funds.

2005. Mt Llewellyn, N Selkirks. 25 km east of Revelstoke. Cost \$325. The helicopter pilot brought us to one of his favourite lakes. The rock here was limestone. The creek that emptied into the lake came out of the mountain side. A camper in Camp 1 developed back pain and had to be evacuated on the Tuesday. Both Mt Kenneth and Llewellyn were technical climbs.

2006. Twilight Creek, A site near Sentry Mountain was the hiking camp committee's selection for this year's camp. However there is a lodge, Sentry Lodge, in the area. The owner of the lodge threatened the helicopter company with loss of winter business if they provided the KMC helicopter service to fly camp into the area. As a result, Twilight Creek became the default choice. This was the "rock camp", with little plant material until some trees and lakes were reached a few hundred feet below camp. The lakes provided great swimming. The flower count was one of the lowest – 71. Seraph was climbed by most, Cherub by a few.

FMCBC looked into this affair of a helicopter company being squeezed by a lodge. They negotiated with several branches of government and the Backcountry Lodges Association. An apology was received from that association. In the future, camp is to notify all tenures in the area far enough in advance to adjust our

plans based on tenure holder feedback. This sort of behavior will not be tolerated by the tenure granting authority in the future.

The idea of burning deadfall resurfaced but was rejected again in favor of us bringing up our own firewood. Three camps would remove too much biomass from the environment.

2007. Kain Creek, Purcells. NE of the Bugaboos. Many ridge walks, often shared with CMH HeliHikers (charging \$2207 for 3 nights), and good views of the Bugs from the west ridges. Cost \$425.

2008. International Basin, Purcells. Heli-hikers from the CMH Bobbie Burns Lodge walked through camp a few times. Mts Coney, David, and Sibbald were climbed. Graham Kenyon, who has attended more camps than anyone (I think), wrote another entertaining, humorous recount of camp. Satellite phone rental was \$600 for three camps.

2009. Limestone Lakes, Rockies. Camp was just west of Height of the Rockies Provincial Park. Amazing fossil beds and karst features were the highlight. We hiked on long game trails, the legacy of many mountain sheep. There was no snow and the coolers were stored in the creek. New cook and supply tents had internal frames. Nancy Selwood was the new chairman of hiking camp. Cost \$450.

2010. Mica, N Selkirks. Camp was about 10 kms east of Mica townsite. We had a new biffy tent with a seat on a three legged base. It certainly is easier to assemble (Earl Jorgensen's original biffy seat was another jigsaw puzzle) and the tent takes seconds to move.

2011. Hume Creek, Purcells. A return to the 1984 HC location.

2012. Carnovan Lake, Rockies. The original campsite was at the pass near the lake but that idea was nixed by the helicopter pilot because of high winds at the pass. The most amazing feature of this camp was, for the first time ever, NO INSECTS!

Simon Mitchell's account of the camp location follows.

I could hardly believe our campsite, perched on a scree slope. The helicopter landed on a rocky pimple from which our sleeping bags had a propensity to roll into the creek! Then came the hike to camp with some of our gear, up and down and through two creeks. This was followed by a session of mining rocks to make a tent site that was not quite level. It turned out that there were no completely flat spots and after a few days one

became used to balancing on one's right cheek in the biffy.

Ron Perrier, Mark Hatlen, and Neil Bermel made a shower for camp.

2013. Echo Lake, Purcells. Fortieth Anniversary Camp. Echo Creek drains north into Howser Creek. To the south over two ridges is the watershed of the North Fork of Glacier Creek. Camp is on the edge of a spectacular lake with a great backdrop of mountains. Sunsets are magical. Crystals are common in the white quartz slides. Iron pyrite. The only bugs a few horse flies on sunny afternoons. This is the second camp in a row without insects. Two great ridges extend to the NW and NE. No mountains have cairns. We are probably the first people to have ever been here.

After reading forty years of Karabiners and Newsletters to find out all this info, many things stand out about hiking camp. The amazing places we visit for three weeks that rarely have seen another boot print. A chance to see mountains throughout the Monashees, Selkirks, Purcells, and Rockies. Helicopter rides. Something for everyone – meadows, lakes, ridges, flowers, glaciers, moraines, wildlife, mountains of all difficulty. One of the best wildflower displays on the planet everywhere we go. The phenomenal, fine-tuned organization – 20 individuals, with minimal direction, prepare and buy everything we need to survive in relative luxury for a week, and then it is repeated by two more groups with equal efficiency. Volunteerism drives the basics of camp – everyone participates in a relatively equal way, costs are kept low, a sense of community develops. Our strong environmental ethic is intended to leave our camp site with only the remnants of our boot prints – plastic mats around the cook tent, replacing the sod over our biffy holes, straining our grey water, burning our own wood in a metal burner, even composting all vegetable waste in some camps. Spectacular, bountiful, home made food that, despite heavy exercise every day, usually results in weight gain. Wine. An incredible variety of fellow campers, most in the 50-70 age range, from all walks of life and life experiences. Some people who stand out are: The Camp 1 painting group. Graham Kenyon and Barb Stang's write-ups about camp are always a treat. The flower experts, Hazel Beynon and Muriel Walton (and many others), who have records of flowers seen for 30 years. They need to write a book. Geology experts like Leslie Anderton, Liz Huxter, and Chris Hatch. Bird experts like Ed Beynon and Peter Woods. The many

people over the years who have served on the Hiking Camp Committee and functioned as leaders and cooks. I don't think there is anything to change.

2014 KMC Hiking Camp

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club (KMC) sponsors three hiking camps each summer. This year the site will be at Marvel Pass in the Rocky Mountains.

The camp fee is \$450 per person.

Preparation and in-camp activities are a cooperative effort. Each camp has a volunteer leader who coordinates procedures, implements and follows KMC Hiking Camp policies, and facilitates an enjoyable hiking/camping experience. The hiking camps uphold the environmentally friendly policies of the KMC.

Camp participants are chosen by lottery. Those chosen to attend one of the camps will be asked to attend a pre-camp coordination meeting where food and logistics decisions and assignments will be made. It is also an opportunity to meet the camp leader and the other camp participants.

The KMC facilitates transportation and the set up and operation of the camps. The KMC is not a guide service. While at camp participants choose their activities based upon their experience, skills and the environment in which the camp is located. The camps are wilderness experiences with few conveniences and are not suited to the inexperienced hiker. It is strongly recommended that participants have some back country hiking experience, or, at a minimum, be a strong trail hiker. Campers must be at least 19 years of age on or before the first day of camp. All camp registrants must have an email address.

All notifications and communications will be done by email only.

Camp Dates:

Camp 1: July 19 – July 26

Camp 2: July 26 – August 2

Camp 3: August 2 – August 9

Location:

National Topographic Series 1:50 000 82 J/13

Grid Reference 001 - 320

Google earth 50 50 20 68N X 115 34 47 20W

The Lottery and Priority

- Only those who are resident members of the KMC as of Jan 31, 2014 and whose registration forms and fees are received on or before March 15, 2014 will be included in the lottery.

- When a camp roster is full, remaining registrations will be placed on a wait list in the order drawn in the lottery.

- When the lottery wait list is exhausted, vacancies will be filled by non-resident KMC members whose registration forms and fees are received on or before March 15th, 2014.

- If camps are not filled by May 15, completed registrations with fees from any KMC member will then be considered for any open vacancies.

- If camps are not filled by July 1st NON KMC members will then be considered. Applicants will be required to be paid members of the KMC to participate in the hiking camp.

A maximum of 2 people can apply with one registration form and will be drawn together for the camp of their choice. Note that if a 'pair' is on the wait list for a vacancy, unless there are 2 simultaneous vacancies, the 'pair' will be bypassed and the vacancy will be offered to the next single person on the wait list.

Should one or the other of the 'pair' choose to be considered a single, this needs to be confirmed to the registrar in writing by each member of the pair before either will be considered for a single vacancy.

Registrants not selected for a camp this year will be assigned to the camp of their choice next year if they meet the requirements for camp participation and follow the registration instructions including the deadlines for the timely receipt of forms outlined in next year's hiking camp announcement.

KMC HIKING CAMP 2014 REGISTRATION FORM

(Must be at least 19 years of age)

KMC Hiking Camp Committee reserves the right to cancel or relocate a camp, either before or after its commencement, in response to unforeseen circumstances.

CAMP 1: July 19 - 26

CAMP 2: July 26 - August 2

CAMP 3: August 2 - August 9

NAME #1 _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL (required) _____

NAME #2 _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL (required) _____

PLEASE NOTE: When two names are listed on this registration form they will be drawn as a pair in the lot. Anyone who wants to be considered as single for the lottery must complete a separate registration form.

Preference of camp for the lottery:

First choice: _____ Second choice: _____ Third choice: _____

1. The beverage I (we) prefer at dinner is: 5 oz White Wine ____ (#1) ____ (#2)
 OR 5 oz Red Wine ____ (#1) ____ (#2)
 OR 8 oz Juice ____ (#1) ____ (#2)

2. I (we) will require a ride: Yes ____ No ____

3. I (we) can transport passengers: Yes ____ No ____

4. I (we) have a truck which can transport food and equipment: Yes ____ No ____

(Please note that both Camps 1 & 3 must have at least one person with a truck to carry camp gear to and from camp)

5. I would like to be considered as a camp leader: Yes ____ No ____

6. I would like to be considered as a camp cook: Yes ____ No ____

Please read and initial the following:

I (we) understand that both camp preparation and in-camp tasks are a cooperative effort and that I (we) will be required to complete tasks both prior to camp and during it.

I (we) understand that Camp 3 participants are responsible for ensuring that all camp equipment is returned to its storage location, and that if I (we) am/are a participant of Camp 3, I (we) may be required to transport some camp equipment from the camp rendezvous back to its storage location.

I (we) understand that I (we) will be required to read and sign an indemnity and release of liability waiver prior to boarding the helicopter, and that my (our) signature will be witnessed by the camp leader or a hiking camp committee member.

#1	#2

Signature #1

Signature #2

CHEQUES ARE PAYABLE TO: KMC HIKING CAMP

Mail to: Terry Turner, KMC Hiking Camp, Box 201, Riondel BC V0B 2B0