



# The Kootenay Mountaineer

A Kootenay newsletter for people with year-round outdoor pursuits.

2016 Summer Solstice

## Message from the Editor

My message for this issue is written while wearing my website manager hat.

Earle Whipple is a guidebook author and editor. He was also a KMC member for many years. A quick search of the Karabiner shows his name appearing (and articles written by him) in issues dating back to Volume 27, the Autumn issue of 1984, through to Volume 41 of 2000, which was the final issue of the Karabiner.

I can't say anything about Earle from personal knowledge, being a very recent member. There are many currently active members mentioned in the various Karabiner articles, so others could maybe fill in his portrait.

To be honest, I can't remember which of the current members got Earle and I in contact. Earle was preparing updated versions of two guidebooks. The publishing of actual printed copies these days is too expensive, and he wanted to make the updated versions available to replace the older versions that are floating around the internet.

The KMC website has lots of room, and these guidebooks cover our territory, so it seemed like an obvious thing to do.

The guidebooks are:

**The Southernmost Selkirks and the Northernmost Purcells of British Columbia: An Alpinist's Guide**  
and

**The Cariboo and Monashee Ranges of British Columbia: An Alpinist's Guide**

Earle has credited Kim Kratky as co-author/contributor of the Selkirks and Purcells book.

The webpage with the introductory text of both issues and links to download the PDF versions is

<http://kootenaymountaineeringclub.ca/mountain-info/guidebooks.html>

They are rather large PDF files of 68 and 83 megabyte respectively. They're free.

## Contents

Message from the Editor .....	1
Updated Guidebooks!	
Conservation Director Reports	
Hummingbird Pass - Evening Ridge ...	2
BC Parks policy .....	2
Layman's First Aid Kit .....	2
Trip Reports .....	5
Snowshoe to Granite Mountain .....	5
Yellow Pine .....	6
Fairy Meadow Spring Ski.....	7
Slopes Above Slocan Park .....	8
Columbia River Trail .....	9
Bike Tour - Pend d'Oreille Loop .....	9
Evans Creek .....	10
SmallWood/Bigwood Loop .....	10
Deer Point and Beyond .....	10
Hike and ... Borscht? .....	11
Robson Ramble.....	11
Mt Stanley .....	12
Mt Shields .....	13
Mt Hoover.....	13
Morning Mountain Bike .....	14
Mt Sherlock .....	14
KMC Rock Climbing .....	15
Decadent Tour to Sky Castle.....	15

## Article submission guidelines:

**The newsletters is published 4 times a year, roughly in line with the solar seasons.**

Plain text is great. No need for PDF or Microsoft Word files. Simply cut and paste your text into an email to [newsletter@kootenaymountaineeringclub.ca](mailto:newsletter@kootenaymountaineeringclub.ca). Attach your *full resolution photos* to the email. Lots of photos, please.

## **Reports from the Conservation Director**

Peter Jordan

### **Hummingbird Pass - Evening Ridge backcountry ski area**

This area has become increasingly popular over the last decade as an easily accessible destination for backcountry skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers. There are always several club trips scheduled each winter, and many club members use the area for frequent unscheduled trips. It is popular amongst skiers throughout the region, and it's becoming increasingly popular for visitors as well. Unfortunately however, the topography of the area is quite confusing, and it's not unusual for people to get lost in the Five Mile and Selous Creek valleys. Sometimes parties or lone skiers get turned around, and go down the valley in the wrong direction toward Nelson. This often results in an unplanned night out, and on many occasions there have been searches by Nelson Search and Rescue.

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club is working on a proposal to improve safety in the area by putting up signs and route markers. The plan is to have a large kiosk-type sign near the gate, just beyond the Hummingbird Pass parking lot at 10 km on the Whitewater ski hill road (actually it's more like 7 km). This sign would have a topographic map showing the recommended routes out of Five Mile and Selous Creeks. We plan to make this map available as a georeferenced "PDF map" on our web site, for people to download onto their smart-phones. We also intend to put several smaller map-signs, of the type used on cross-country ski trails, at key locations on the popular ski routes. In April, Fred Thiessen and I marked some locations in the Five Mile and Selous Creek valleys and GPS'd the routes.

The idea for this project was initiated by Kirk Jensen, the manager of the Whitewater ski hill. Nelson Search and Rescue, BC Parks, and BC Recreation Sites and Trails, are also involved as partners and supporters. The KMC is taking the lead in applying for funding from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). We had hoped to get funding from their Recreation Infrastructure grant program, but we recently found out that the project is not eligible for funding from that program. However there is another CBT funding program, Community Initiatives, which we can apply to in January. So

hopefully we can get a start on the project by mid-winter next year.

### **Conservation reports - BC Parks policy**

BC Parks is seeking input on a "Public notification and engagement policy". This seems like a rather abstract high-level administrative thing; however, it will affect whether or not groups like us will be able to comment on proposals for development or land use changes in parks.

The draft policy applies to input that the public or interest groups can give, regarding permits for commercial recreation, "research", film shooting, land use changes, etc in parks. They would post applications on a public web site for 10 days. Also Parks would "consider undertaking public consultation ... in exceptional cases", e.g. accommodation facilities.

The KMC will be providing some input to this. In particular we will ask for at least 30 days posting, not 10 days (which is kind of "blink and you miss it" for volunteer groups like us). And we will also ask for required public consultation initiated by BC Parks for major developments (not "may" or "consider", which doesn't really commit BC Parks to do anything).



*Peak 4 (Earle R. Whipple)*

*From Karabiner, Volume 36, Page 31, in the article titled "Isolation - the Scrip Range".*

## Layman's First Aid Kit

People often ask me what they should carry in their first aid kit. As an average, first-aid trained user, there are a few items that are really nice to have. This kit is probably too big to live in your backpack, but at base camp or in the car it can be really useful.

Modularize your kit into sandwich sized zip locks according to below, and write titles on them with a sharpie (extra points for different colours). Then place all the zip locks into an appropriately sized bag, stuff sack, Tupperware, or see through Rubbermaid organizer.

Emergency: cpr mask, oral airway (#10 yellow), gloves, 1 large abdo pad. Quick Clot if you're fancy, skip it if you're not. Foil blanket. Trauma scissors (at MEC). Consider a CAT tourniquet (on Amazon).

Consider a burn gel pad or small blanket. Life savers candies (or another high-sugar, fast-dissolving candy).

Dressings: 2x2 gauze x 4 packs, 4 saline ampules (made for asthma nebulizers, large pink plastic tubes), large square bandaids, fingertip bandaids, steri strips - the large size (yellow), alcohol wipes, roll gauze x 1 roll (non sterile), 1 OpSite dressing - medium size which is about 4" square, small tube or packets of polysporin or similar antibiotic ointment. Triangle bandages x 2 (the larger, cotton white ones, not the small gauze ones). 1.5" cloth athletic tape, 1 roll.

Blister: whatever your favourite blister thing is. Mine is Blisto-Ban (at ROAM). Glacier pads also good. Moleskin. Alcohol pads. 1 OpSite dressing. Duct tape: wind some onto a stubby golf pencil.

Drugs: ASA chewable 80 mg tabs x 4: take all 4 chewed for chest pain; Chlortripolon antihistamine tabs x 2, Reactine extra strength antihistamine tabs x 2: in case of severe allergic reaction, swallow one of each, then chew one of each into a paste and spit it out onto the site of the bite/ sting, and cover with an op site and come to ER. Gravol tabs x 2, naproxen (Aleve) tabs x 4, tylenol extra strength x 4 (for injury can give 2 tylenol + 2 naproxen all at once if they're in pain), Tylenol 3, 4, Percocet, or whatever strong thing you might have: 4 tabs.

Outside the ziploc bags: small coil bound notebook, another mechanical pencil, 2 tensors: 1 small/ wrist and 1 medium. Sam splint 36" x 1 (watch the Sam splint

videos on youtube). Maybe a power bar or electrolyte drink tabs. Spot beacon or Sat phone (haha).

If in cell range dial 911 to activate search and rescue.

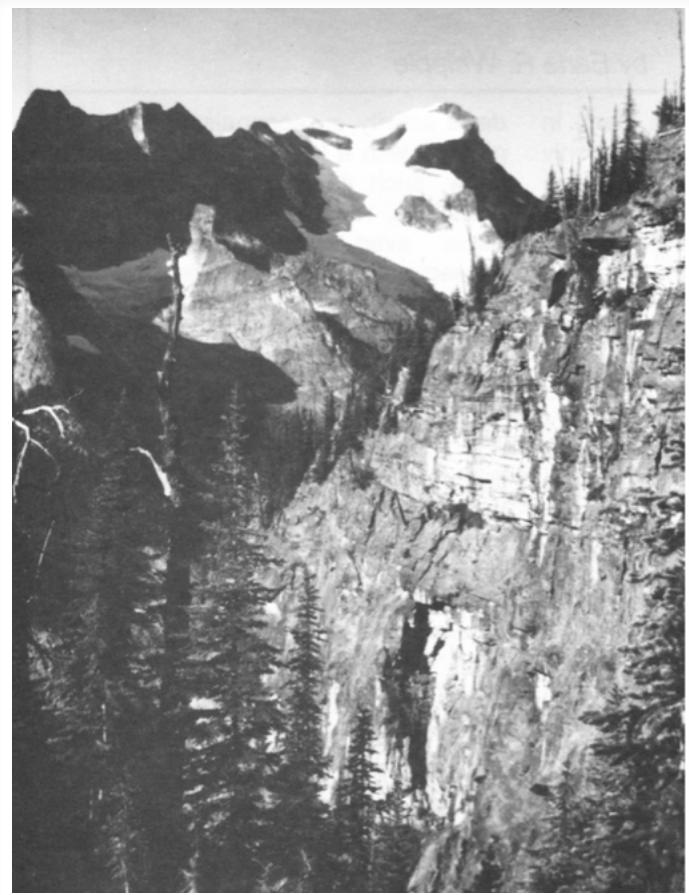
For your personal backpack kit you can trim it down a great deal:

Gloves, foil blanket/ bivy/ emergency shelter, abdo pad, one tensor, bandaids, steri strips, ointment, gauze, athletic tape, one triangle, SAM splint, whole blister pack, whole drug pack, notebook, power bar, communications.

Have fun! be safe!

Linda Johannson

MD, MSc, CCFP, FCFP, Dip. Sport Med, Dip. Mtn. Med.



*Mt. Odin from the Escarpment (Earle R. Whipple)*  
*From Karabiner, Volume 36, Page 29, in the article*  
*titled "Pathway in the Sky".*

## Trip Reports

### Old Glory Ski Tour

*Ken Holmes*

*March 26*

We had a beautiful day for the Old Glory ski trip this year. Ten people signed up. We skinned up the old road to the trail into Plewman basin and then climbed up to Unnecessary ridge to the knob called Saddleback Peak (2154m) on the Rossland Range map.



*Old Glory from Unnecessary Ridge*

On the ski down into the Old Glory basin, unfortunately Gene lost a ski, without brake, which hurtled down the icy surface. We spread out looking for it and were fortunate when Peter (O) found it in a tree well ... which many of us had already passed! It was a difficult ski to spot since it had a white top surface. The ski tip had broken but not all the way through so Gene was able to continue with the trip.

We then climbed up to the shoulder of Old Glory encountering a mix of hard surface and wind blown ridges which required us remove skis and boot pack for a final few metres to gain the easier angled shoulder which leads to the summit.

The normally icy shoulder, surprisingly, had a layer of soft snow and beautiful snow ‘sculptures’ plastered on the small trees.



*Picturesque snow sculpted trees*



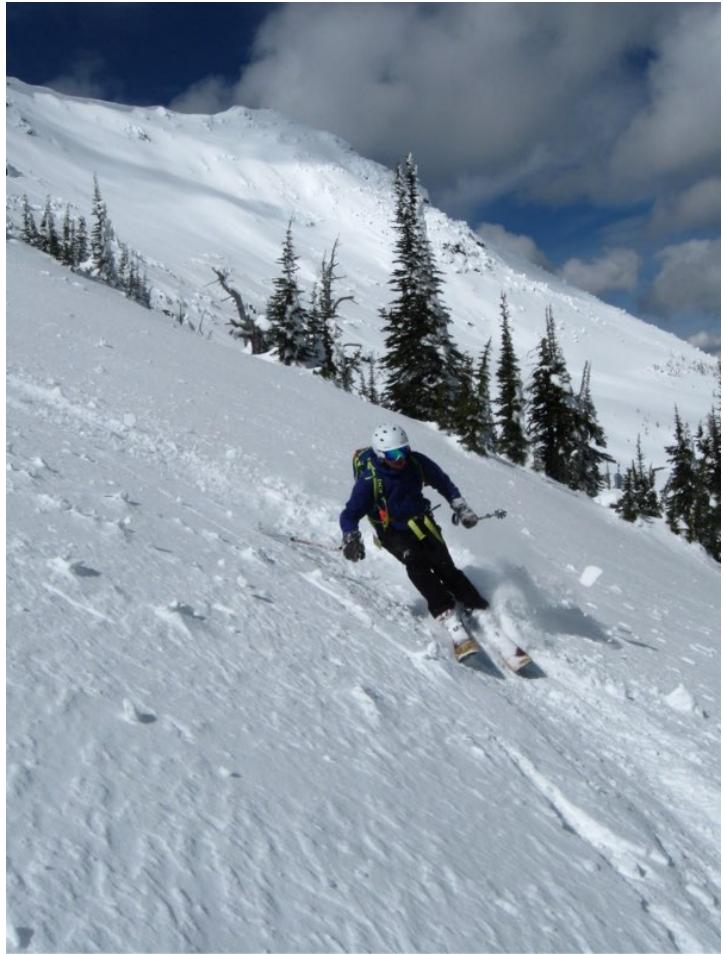
*Old Glory Summit*

The old forest lookout building on the summit was completely buried and showed no semblance of a building shape or form. Peter (J) considered climbing to the “new summit” but decided that an ice axe was necessary.



*Lookout building completely covered*

There was some discussion about whether or not to ski directly down the east face from near the summit but with the layer of fresh snow on an icy surface, we eventually opted for the safer route down the shoulder, dropping into the east slopes where the cornices ended.



*Delia in fine form enjoying her new skis.*

The steep skiing was really enjoyable and “sucked us down” to a point in the basin lower than we really needed to go, and from there we skinned back up to point 2154m for the long ski back down to the highway on variable snow.

Trip statistics ... 1450 m (4800 feet.); about 14 kilometres and 7 hours round trip. Highest point reached 2376 m (7795 feet)

*We were: Peter Oostlander; Gene van Dyck; Bill McNally; Jeff Ross; Peter Jordan; Dave Toews; Delia Roberts; Llewellyn Mathews; Adam Derosa and Ken Holmes (Coordinator)*

### Snowshoe outing



*The trip organizer on the very steep "Link's Line", close to the Granite summit*



*And then this happens!*



*The group*

## Yellow Pine Hike

April 10

At 9:30 am. Nineteen KMC members and one guest met at the Brilliant Park and Ride. It was a sunny day with a cool breeze. Club badges were distributed by Ross Bates and Eric Ackerman. Formal introductions were made at the second rendezvous point, the Syringa Creek Provincial Park boat launch, and included Tyler Harper, Nelson Star Reporter. The hikers geared up and left the boat launch by 10:10 am.



They proceeded across the road to the trailhead. A series of switchbacks led the group to a bench above the road. A short detour was taken along Syringa Creek to a viewpoint overlooking the Lower Arrow Lake. The company took a brief break there then descended back to the main trail. After twenty minutes the troop took a second detour to a second viewpoint with views of the Kettle Railway Rail Trail, Shields, and west along the lake.

From this point the trail dropped steadily with switchbacks to the park picnic site. Lunch break was from 12:20 to 12:50 pm. Tyler conducted some interviews and took a group picture for his paper. The band of hikers opted to return to the boat launch via the old road bed which is now part of the beach.



This old road predates the building of the High Arrow/Hugh Keenlyside Dam and is usually underwater. By 1:30 the crew reached the boat launch and the parked vehicles. Everyone said their goodbyes and the carpools left for the Brilliant Park and Ride. The bright sun, cool breeze, good trail, and very good company left people happy with this shoulder season hike.



Wildlife spotted included two mule deer and a beaver along Broadwater Road. The following birds were also identified: red napped sapsucker, American robin, junco, siskin, chickadees, yellow rumped warblers, towhee, winter wren, varied thrush, raven, ruby and golden crowned kinglets, song sparrow, and violet green swallow. Thank you Ed and Hazel Beynon for great bird spotting. Flowers that lent their beauty to the hike included: glacier lilies, balsam, oregon grape, blue clematis, shooting star, woodland stars, crane's beak, and syringa.



*Hikers included: Deb Gerrits, Janice Gilbert, Val Utgaren, Bobbi Maras, Cindy Kozak Campbell, Andrea Vowell, Jan Osborne, Elaine Martin, Sherry Watson, Diane Paolini, Ross Bates, Jill Watson, Irme Mende, Liz Krebbers, Eric Ackerman, Tyler Harper, Ed and Hazel Beynon, and co-ordinators Al and Pat Sheppard.*

## **Fairy Meadows Spring Ski Mountaineering Trip**

April 16th to 23rd

By Ken Holmes

I was lucky enough to win a week for 12 people in the Alpine Club of Canada lottery for the Fairy Meadows cabin in the Adamant group of the Selkirks. A strong group of nine KMC members and three non-members participated in the trip and we had a fine week of ski mountaineering.



*Group shot on Granite Glacier*

We had magnificent spring weather with sunshine and blue skies for most of the week with a short rainstorm passing through on the Thursday. Temperatures were extremely high for the time of the year with 26°C measured on the Granite Glacier one day. Snow was rapidly disappearing each day....more like early summer than spring.



*Relaxing on the deck in the afternoon sunshine with a beer was very welcome at the finish of the days skiing.*

Ski crampons were essential for travel from the cabin in the morning but by lunch-time the snow surface had usually changed to ideal spring skiing conditions. Later in the afternoon the snow became very soft and areas of snow close to rocks became hazardous to ski near, due to snow becoming isothermal and sinking, even under skis.

Ten named peaks were climbed during the course of the week including Colossal, Enterprise, Sentinel, Pioneer, Damon, Pythius, Sir William, Fria, Wotan and Ydgrasil (almost!). Four ‘keeners’ in the group climbed all ten of them whilst most others summited five or six with Pioneer Peak at about 10,700 feet being the highest; ascended by eleven of us, and Sir William, the most distant; summited by four of the group .



*Descending from Pioneer Peak with Sir Sandford in near distance (Upper left)*

The scenery in this area is outstanding with glaciers, crevasses, icefalls, large rock faces and ridges leading to big peaks. Looking over the areas of past KMC climbing camps in the Adamants and the Gothics, including Sir Sandford ... the highest peak in the Selkirks, brought back memories of trips long past, for some of us.



*East Peak of the Gothics with Sir Sandford in distance*

View of the main peaks of the Adamants from one of Mount Colossal's summits.

It was a fantastic week of ski mountaineering in almost perfect weather to end what has been one of the best ski seasons for a few years.

*We were: Fred Thiessen; Bert Port; Gene van Dyck; Andrew Port; Dave Toews; Ian Crosthwaite; Delia Roberts; Elena Cigala Fulgosi; Paul Allen; Terry Huxter; Andrew Holmes and Ken Holmes.*

## **Slopes Above Slocan Park**

April 21



One of the few locations where public land reaches Highway 6 in the lower Slocan Valley is between Slocan Park and Passmore. So eight KMCers set off on an “exploration” of this area to find out what the area has to offer. It is a low elevation, steep, early or late season hike that has great views. We saw lots of spring wildflowers and a soaring bald eagle. Our trip was a steep climb with an elevation gain of about 400 m in a kilometre, in and out of easy bushwhacking or open steep meadows. There is more opportunity to explore higher in this area and possibly get some mountain goat sightings which are frequently seen in the area from below.

*We were Sess Sakamoto, Doug Clark, Helen Foulger, Leon Arishenoff, Ed and Hazel Beynon, Irme Mende and trip coordinator, Rick Mazzocchi. Photos by Hazel Beynon.*

## Columbia River Trail

April 28

Seventeen KMC Members met at the Castlegar Tourist Information Office at 9:00 am. on a sunny Thursday morning. Introductions were made and instructions were given for the day. By 9:30 am everyone was gearing up at the USCC, (Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ), picnic ground in Blahadatnia, (Champion Creek). The hikers passed by the cemetery and on down river along the banks of the Columbia River to an overlook above the mouth of Champion Creek. Bright sunshine, fresh green foliage, and the shining river made for some wonderful scenery. From the overlook the trail turned and paralleled the creek to the road bridge over it.

The hike continued south along the road. By 10:20 the group crossed Jordan Creek. At 11:20 am a snack and hydration break was taken across the river from Sullivan Creek. Lunch break was taken from 11:50 to 12:20 pm opposite the mouth of Murphy Creek. At 2:00 pm the hikers crossed Billy Creek and by 2:20 the arrived at the shuttle vehicles that had been parked above Sunningdale at 8:30 am. By 2:30 all hikers had loaded the vehicles. By 3:00 pm most hikers arrived at the Castlegar Tourist Information Office and thanked their shuttle drivers. Meanwhile vehicles were picked up at the trailhead in Blahadatnia. Everyone was on their way home by 3:15 well ahead of the rain storms an hour later.

Wildlife spotted along the trail included wild turkey, Merganzers, and Canada geese. Flowers included wild onion, syringa, hawthorne, oregon grape, clamatis, and wild apple blossoms.

*Hikers included Irme Mende, Andrea Vowel, Helen & Rick Foulger, Ingrid Enns, Nancy Suuban, Paul Major, Alex Nichol, Anja Logodi, Ross Bates, Leo Jansma, Peter Oostlander, Sherry & Keith Watson, Chris Hatch, and coordinators Alan & Pat Sheppard. Special thanks to the shuttle drivers and to Peter Oostlander for taking and emailing pictures of dirt bike damage to this trail.*

## Bike Tour - Pend d'Oreille Loop

May 6th

Having had to cancel the day before because of poor weather, 6 of us were able to make it a "go" on the Friday.

We met at 9 am at the Waneta Plaza, Trail, and made our way south along the Columbia River, past the Trail Airport to the turnoff to the 7 Mile Dam. By then we had shed our warm outer layers and yippee, short sleeve shirts were in.

The first long grunt uphill passed with little conversation and much appreciated views of the Columbia River Valley from up high. The road then makes its way along the Pend d'Oreille River valley which is a very scenic and serene area. Many Canada Geese were busy down at waters' edge and as we neared the dam we could see 2 spillways open with torrents of water pouring down, creating huge rooster tails at the base.

Continuing uphill, the paved section of road ends and we turned Right at the junction with the Old road which leads to the entrance to Buckleys Campground, our lunch spot. This is a really nice spot to have lunch and a rest, with tables and shade. The ride out of here is very steep, but not too long. Our return journey was along the Old Road which is rough, hilly, winds around a lot and is lovely with blossoms, streams and gorgeous views. It also leads through farms where we spotted several fine looking horses and cows. Around this section, Dave decided it wasn't his engine that was lagging and he discovered a flat rear tire. Action stations and the problem was rectified. Back on pavement, we now made our way through Columbia Gdns. There was serious discussion about stopping at the local winery, however common sense prevailed and we pushed on, arriving back at our cars about 2.30 pm. 48 kilometres.

We all had a pleasant outing on a warm sunny day.

*Thanks to Helen, Rick, Eric, Bob, Dave, and Jill (coordinator).*

## Evans Creek

*May 8*

Eight of us set out on a beautiful Sunday morning on the Evans Creek Trail along the Slocan Lakeshore at 9:15am. The weather was slightly breezy and a perfect temperature with a high of around 23 during the day. We hiked at a nice pace and arrived at the Evans Creek Campground at noon.



We spent some time on the metal bridge over Evans Creek enjoying the majestic power of the creek during spring run off, then had a nice 1 hour lunch break on the beach. We picked up the pace a bit on the way out and hiked out in 2 1/2 hours arriving back at the parking lot at 3:30 to a wonderful treat.

Greg Sheppard had brought along a small aluminum fishing boat and Jan Osborne went with him and they had planned to meet us at Evans Creek for lunch and Jan was going to hike back out with us, but the wind on the lake picked up, so they didn't go up the lake in the boat. Greg and Jan did meet us at the parking lot with a cooler and Robin served us ice cold mimosas as a Mother's Day Treat.

It was a perfect day!

*Leader: Sherolyn Haakstad*

*Participants: Kathleen Nichol, Robin Sheppard, Abby and Andrew Wilson, Marty Prothro, Jill Watson and Ingrid Lange*

## SmallWood/Bigwood Loop

On Sunday, May 15, 15 members and three guests hiked the Smallwood/Bigwood loop near Beasley. It was a sunny clear day with sensational views along the river from Nelson to Thrums and mountain views of Siwash, Conner, Red and Copper.



*Marilyn Miller (leader), Eric Marks, Angie Germaine, Shannon Shapovalova, Mike and Holly Kosof, Hamish Mutch, Pat Bruce, Laura Sheppard, Ted Ibrahim, Rich Mazzocchi, Ev Lynou, Carol Patasnyk, Don Harasym, Bob Dean and guests: Marlene Wardle, John Barch, Narayani Shapovalova.*

## Deer Point and Beyond

*April 17th*

It was a beautiful day for our hike to Deer Point and Beyond with 16 participants. We gained elevation, staying relatively cool on the shaded trail as we caught glimpses of Christina Lake to our left. There were only a few trees to climb over but nothing this crew couldn't handle.

The Snow Lilies were out along with a spectacular display of Balsam Root all along the hillside. The bridge at the first creek crossing was a tad sketchy with a board perched precariously on a rock and all of the wire mesh ready to catch someone's boot tread but everyone carried on taking it all in stride.

After a steady climb up to the Deer Point Lookout, we had lunch admiring the beautiful views of a calm lake and its mirror reflections. Four of the group needed to return home so twelve of us continued to the end of the lake.





What would a KMC hike be without a bit of bushwhacking? However, it was short. This year there was only one brave soul venturing into the cold waters while the rest of us just dangled our feet in the lake. We kept a pretty good pace hiking out with everyone quite happy to get their boots off at the end. The hike was about 22 k, on a sunny day, with great company. Only a tick or two to keep us on our toes.

*We were Eric Marks, Al & Pat Sheppard, Terry Simpson, Diane Paolini, Jill Watson, Marilyn Miller, Leanne Vatcher, Sherry & Keith Watson, Cindy Kasak-Campbell, Ross Bates, Kathleen & Alex Nicol, Glenn Wallace, and Andrea Vowell (Leader)*

### **Hike and ... Borscht?**

*May 25*

It was a sunny morning to meet up in Grand Forks for a hike and bike trip. Thinking everyone was in their cars ready to head off, we left the rendezvous spot. Once we arrived where we were leaving the vehicles and bikes, we learned that two people weren't with us because they were using the "facilities" when we left. Consequently, they had no idea where to go once they returned to their vehicle to find no one there.

It eventually got sorted but not without lessons learned. We hiked a short distance through pastures and along a road to get to the trail head. Although the trail was on the steep side, we had lots of views of the Kettle Valley along the way. After the first half hour, the rest of the trail was quite a gentle up and down. The remains of Balsam Root, Camus and Delphiniums were in abundance as was the buzzing of conversation along the way.

We transitioned to our bikes, riding to town for some lunch at the Wooden Spoon, changing from the original borscht option. The food was delicious and the service

**The Kootenay Mountaineer**

prompt. As we were psyched to start the bike portion up the North Fork loop, dark clouds loomed and wind was gusting. It looked like a thunderstorm was brewing and once committed to the loop, it was a long way back to our vehicles especially if we were cold and wet.

So the altered plan was to ride back closer to where the cars were and see what the weather would do. Unfortunately, we started with 11, then there were 9, then 5, and as the huge raindrops started falling, there were 3 of us left. The decision was made to head back as well and save the loop for another day.

There were 12 cheery souls who did the hike and 11 for the lunch and bike.

*We were: Helen Foulger, Sandra England, Mary Prothro, Pat and Al Sheppard, Keith and Sherry Watson, Leanne Vatcher, Janis Gilbert, Eric Ackerman, Sonia McKinlay (non-member) and Andrea Vowell was the leader.*

### **Robson Ramble**

*May 30*

Eighteen members participated in this early season hike. This 11 kilometre ramble through a variety of terrain, including some bush whacking, is a good way to start preparing for the more strenuous hikes of summer.

Despite the dry spring, shooting stars, balsam root, spring beauty and a few other flowers were still blooming at this low elevation (not far above Robson). The weather was perfect for hiking. The lunch stop on the Lion's Head provided excellent views of Castlegar, Robson, the adjacent Columbia River, and the nearby mountain sides.



*We were: Ric Baker, Betty Brousse, Brenda Haley, Ken Kirkland, Mona Lynn, Ray McDicken, Alex Nichol, Kathleen Nichol, Erin O'Conner, Alan Sheppard, Pat Sheppard, Caroline Shimek, Keith Watson, Sherry Watson, Abby Wilson, Andrew Woodward, and coordinators Ed and Hazel Beynon.*

## Mt Stanley

2371m, June 3

*Eliane & Steven Miros*

The small group met at Robson's Lion's Head Pub (good hamburgers) and drove past Syringa Creek Provincial Park where the Deer Creek FSR starts. At approximately km 18 there is a junction where the well-marked FSR leaves its westerly direction (that continues to the community of Deer Park) and turns right (north).



We continued, on the Deer Creek MAIN FSR to its end at 35 km which puts you exactly at the foot of a large gently sloped avalanche chute leading directly up to the actual summit. This chute was pretty well the only "green" terrain for about a km plus in all

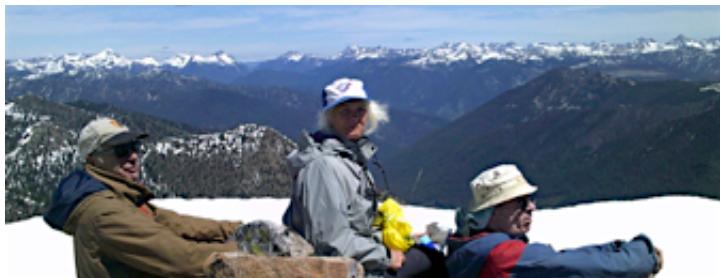
directions. The last 3-4 kms of this road is through these significantly burnt out sections of forest due to last year's month long August forest fire.

From road's end we began our trek through the burnt out terrain as well as immediately dropping 100 ft to cross a small but raging creek. From the creek it was up and up to the summit. About 2/3's of the way up we began to enter "charred" alpine openings, and easy scree.

The summit was essentially snow free with a gigantic cornice on its northern edge. The forest fire did not burn onto the north side of the mountain.



*Trip leaders, holding hands on the way down  
(photo by PO)*



We had great views in all directions and enjoyed a leisurely lunch. Ross's next day destination, Mt Shields, was easily visible to our south and the southern views especially onto the Mt Faith group and Gladstone were unique. Views over the Hodder creek road and onto the Valhallas were impressive. Mt Speirs, Airy and the Norn's peaks (Kamikaze, Palisades and Ladybird) were close at hand.

When we left the summit we first headed southeast down to the significantly burnt out basin below and then a flanking maneuver southwest along the mountain. This terrain was all very burnt out and ash dusty.



It should be noted that besides the one good very healthy and fairly large bear observation on the road, we noticed numerous grizzly and other droppings in the avalanche chute greenery. We also saw several deer scurrying in the burnt out terrain. Seeing how the fire has affected the landscape was a big part of this outing. Besides opening up views, there was a beauty in being surrounded by tree skeletons and blackened soil without groundcover. And, life was already emerging from the burned-over soil. What will become of the trees and undercover over time makes one want to return and see it unfold. It should be mentioned that this route will undoubtedly be unsafe as these burnt trees begin falling. At least there won't be another fire here for some 100 years or so.

Total hiking time was less than 4 hours. We had the chance to see a few Bighorn sheep on the drive out.

*We were Ross Bates, Peter Oostlander, Eliane & Steven Miros*

### **Mt Shields**

*Peter Oostlander*

**2016-06-04**

Another reason to do KMC trips. The trip up Mt. Shields included ball room dancing on the summit.



### **Mt Hoover**

**2269m. June 5**

*Steven Miros*

Five KMCers showed up at Marsden Rd for what looked like was going to be a clear 35C day.

From a pullout at 23km-near road's end, the group made quick time up the steep burnt out section of forest onto the ridge above. A quick "breakfast" was had amongst grand views, after which we made good use of firm snow to reach the summit a few kms away. Our scouts, Nadine and Peter, had the luck of seeing a momma and a very small baby moose a short distance from the summit.



A good long lunch was had under very clear blue skies which amplified the views onto Mts Grohman/Kubin, the Valhallas, including straight up the Mulvey Basin, most of Kokanee's southern mountain slopes, the Norns and Bonnington Ranges.

The 2015 KMC group that reached this point were not able to retrieve the summit register for a sign in. This was not this year's problem as the summit was high and dry. This trip took place 2 weeks later in the year. As in the 2015 trip, we considered the possibility of returning along the snow cat tracked ridge to the small peak between Hoover and Kubin, but the 36C temperatures suggested otherwise. The next trip to Hoover should consider leaving a vehicle lower down the road as an enticement. Another option would be to begin earlier and climb Eccles as an appetizer. This slight detour would add about 4km of snow cat track walking to the total outing.



Our return was pleasant and the very steep lower environs of the mountain were negotiated without too much difficulty. All in all a very enjoyable outing with surprisingly accommodating snow and snow free road access travel conditions.

*We were Nadine Ebner, Vicky Hart, Phil Best, Peter Oostlander and Steven Miros.*

## **Morning Mountain Bike**

*June 5*

I would like to report a pleasurable ride by the small group that attended. Five of us rode up the wonderfully constructed Morning Mountain trails. It was a joy to enjoy the shade on a day that reached 35C in the valley. We enjoyed a relatively restrained showing of wildflowers, queen's cup, foamflower, wild ginger, veronica, twinflower and the occasional beargrass (the joys of slow speed mountain biking with plenty of rest stops). Four of us made it to the viewpoint at about 500m vertical above our starting point. Great views were had of the Valhallas, Baldface area, Kokanee peaks and our house. The downhill was exciting with two opting for the newly completed "new school" jump and berm fest trail called Turnstyles, while two of us opted for going down the up trail which was still plenty of fun and afforded us ample opportunity to work on our switchback technique and viewing the forest at a pace that wasn't a complete blur.

Cheers,

*Tom Braumandl*

## **Mt Sherlock**

*June 10*

*Leader: Glenn Keto Photos: Phil Best*



*phil best photography*



*phil best photography*

## KMC Rock Climbing

June 12

*Delia Roberts*

Five bold climbers met on the morning of Sunday June 12th at the parking lot at the end of 37th Street in Castlegar. Due to recent heavy rain the rock was a little wet, but by mid-morning the sun was out and the temperature perfect for climbing. We spent the day on the Whirlwind and Polished walls and in spite of the high quality of this area for introductory climbing, we had the area to ourselves. There was much encouragement and laughter to help the less bold expand their horizons.



## Decadent Tour to Sky Castle Lookout

June 12

*Leader: Leon Arishenkov Photos: Phil Best*

