

## Minutes – 47th AGM of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club



Friday, November 20th, 2015 at Black Rooster – Super 8 Hotel Conference Room  
651 18 St, Castlegar, BC

**Present:** Tim Clinton, Peter Oostlander, P'nina Shames, Peter Martyn, Chris Cowan, Ross Bates, Sandra Fuller, Leon Arishenkoff, Phil Best, Al Shepherd, Pat Shepherd, Jocelyn LaFace, Peter Jordan, Doug Clark, Linda Clark, Terry Turner, Bert Port, Sue Port, Keith Houghton, Bob McQueen, Audrey Gerein, Larry Doell, Dave Watson, Jill Watson, Judy Toews, Dave Toews, Eric Ackerman, Liz Krebbers, Dave St. Denis, Ed Beynon, Hazel Beynon, Mike Klassen, Wayne Hohn, Bobbie Maras, Dave Brackett, Colleen Humphries, Rick Thomas, Ranier Muentner, Maureen Muentner, Jan Osborne, Ron Osborne, Carole Masse, Dan Richardson, Peter Wood, Sheila Sinkie, Ross Scott, Ken Graham and Dan Derby

**Meeting commenced at 7:30**, President Doug Clark welcomed members to the 47<sup>th</sup> AGM.

**Approval of agenda** – moved by Al Shepherd and second by Peter Wood, motion carried.

**Approval of the minutes from 2014 AGM** – moved by Hazel Beynon and second by Sheila Sinkie, motion carried.

**Approval of the minutes from Special Meeting May 9, 2015 AGM** – moved by Dave Brackett and second by Sandra Fuller, motion carried.

**President's report:** Doug Clark read out his report;

**KMC Trips:** 2015 was a year of low precipitation – not good for winter trips but excellent for summer trips....until the forest fires and smoke started.

The KMC trips are the club's bread and butter. Club excursions into the scenic West Kootenay back country, along with the physical challenge they present, are the main attraction for members. The friendships that are fostered on club outings are often enduring and help cement members' allegiance to the club.

Peter Oostlander and Chris Cowan, KMC summer and winter trip directors, were diligent in assembling the 2015 schedules, ensuring a good mix for all levels. Nearly 100 trips proceeded, down somewhat from our 50th anniversary last year due to the lack of snow and the many winter trip cancelations. However, the total number of participants increased by more than 20%, illustrating increasing member enthusiasm for participating in the trips. Kokanee Glacier ski week saw the Alpine Club increase the weekly fee and allow an increase in registration from 12 to 15 participants. The extra numbers seemed to work out, perhaps because the park was one of the few places with great skiing. Chris Cowan is standing for election tonight as Equipment and Trails Director. If successful, he will step aside as winter trips director and Executive will appoint a replacement to complete the term.

As an aside, a Vicki Hart continued her summit register initiative and several members placed 10 new mountain summit registers. Now you can record your ascent and Henry David Thoreau type comments for others to enjoy on even more peaks.

**Mountaineering School:** Peter Oostlander also served as the Mountaineering School director. Over the past six years, in every position Peter has served, he has been relentless in trying to improve the club's product for benefit of its members. The mountaineering courses have been gathering more interest and attendance is increasing. These courses are selected to enhance member's outdoor experience and to help everyone return safely home.

**Membership:** Our Membership director, Jocelyn LaFace reports that the KMC has a total of 388 members. This is up from 352 last year and from 336 the year before.

KMC continues to be a member of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, which includes 30+ clubs across the province. FMCBC advocates on behalf of outdoor clubs and also obtains insurance for its member clubs.

Jocelyn, working with Tim Clinton, is now able to electronically forward our membership listing monthly to the stores that give KMC members a discount on their purchases. This compares to the previous once per year mailing of a paper copy to the stores. On the matter of KMC discounts, it should be mentioned that those members, who do not wish to have their names included on the KMC membership list, are making it difficult for themselves to obtain the KMC discount, as the stores determine eligibility by referring to the membership list.

On a sad note, Rossland resident and one of the KMC pioneers, Graham Kenyon, died during the past year. He will be remembered in an upcoming Newsletter issue.

**Treasurer:** Ross Bates will present the club's 2015 financial report and the proposed 2016 budget for approval at the AGM. These documents accompany this email. The KMC is in excellent financial shape and membership fee increases are not being proposed.

**Newsletter/Website:** Tim Clinton is both our Newsletter and Website Director. He put together 4 newsletters in 2015 and continues to refine the club website after completing major modifications in 2014.

**Secretary:** Dan Derby fulfills the secretary functions for the club. Exec's approved minutes are posted on the website.

**Conservation:** 2015 saw the nail in the coffin of the Jumbo Valley project...or did it? Rumblings of it returning as Jumbo Valley 'light' are being heard. Another concern of many members was the proposed heli-skiing tenure on the south boundary of Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. Conservation Director, Peter Jordan, outlined concerns on behalf of the KMC which were forwarded to the Province and keeps an eye on these and other environmental issues.

**Hiking Camp:** Hiking Camp continues to be a roaring success. The three one week camps in the Monashees' were filled.

Leon Arishenkoff and Mark Hatlen are stepping down from Executive this year. Mark was the Hiking Camp director. Leon represented Equipment and Trails but was often called upon to speak to Hiking Camp issues, as Mark traveled extensively.

**Trails:** We have begun to be more aggressive in removing vegetation impeding trail and road access. You can expect to see efforts increasing on this initiative in 2016.

**Entertainment:** P’Nina, KMC Entertainment Director, served in this position for a few terms and put together many memorable events over the years. From my observations, P’Nina worked hard to make these events fun, on a break even basis. She has decided to step down from Exec, but even though the AGM is her last function, she has included a 10 minute power point presentation on a member’s tour of Romania to ensure some entertainment is enjoyed.

As there is one year remaining in the Entertainment director’s term, Executive has happily appointed Laurie Helyer to fill the vacancy.

**Huts:** Graham Jamin, Cabins Director, maintains the club’s four huts in the Bonnington range with minimal assistance from club members. I don’t think club members appreciate how huge an attraction to out-of-region, out-of-province and out-of-country skiers that these huts have become - not only to recreational skiers but to commercial guided trips, as well.

The huts are providing KMC with a substantial source of revenue. In 2015, even with poor snow conditions, over \$11,000 revenue was generated by the huts. While 70% must be retained for maintenance and upgrading of the Bonnington huts, 30% can be put towards other worthwhile mountaineering ventures as decided by the KMC (with the Province’s permission). Some of these discretionary funds went towards the 2015 hut build in the Rossland Range Recreation Site.

**FORR hut:** Some members of Friends of the Rossland Range, who are also KMC members, approached executive with a request for funding assistance to build a new hut to replace two unauthorized and dilapidated huts in the newly minted Rossland Range Recreation Site. They were pleasantly surprised by the ground swell of support for the project, as the club voted overwhelmingly in a Special Meeting in May to provide the entire amount needed (\$10,700). KMC support for the project was also evident in the number of volunteers present during construction. Kudos to Dave Watson and Bob McQueen for taking the lead in this endeavor and completing it on time and on budget. I encourage KMC members to get out to Mt. Lepsoe to enjoy this well built structure.

The final report on the hut will be presented at the AGM. As well, the hut’s name will be decided at the AGM by vote of members present.

**Looking Ahead:** The upcoming winter trip schedule has already achieved its targeted goal of trip numbers, but more is better. Please consider leading a trip that you find enjoyable, whatever the level of difficulty...Again, trips are the best part of being a KMC member!

As will be seen in Treasurer Ross Bates’ report, the club is in great financial shape. Next year, the executive will start getting its head around how it wishes to use these funds. Member input will be needed in these considerations.

**Election of 2016 Executive:** As per our constitution, Executive has put together the following slate of nominees to fill the two-year term positions coming up for renewal. Nominees can also be put forward from the floor of the AGM.

President: Doug Clark

Vice President: Sandra Fuller

Hiking Camps: Nominee to be forthcoming from Hiking Camp Committee

Climbing Camp: Vacant - have not found any interest in filling this position

Mountaineering School: Peter Oostlander

Equipment and Trails: Chris Cowan

Newsletter: Tim Clinton

Membership: Jocelyn LaFace

**Last thoughts:** The individuals on of the KMC executive are competent and effective. As a result, my workload has not been onerous. Every director willingly rolls up their sleeves and gets down to business to move the club ahead and gives their support to other directors if needed.

Beyond executive, there are many members who make KMC a success. To mention a few, they include trip leaders, hiking camp committee (a huge job), car pool drivers, volunteers on brush clearing, those who take the time to bring their concerns and suggestions forward, and all those who show up for KMC trips with a cheerful, can-do attitude.

**Executive reports – Directors reports are attached at the end of the minutes as submitted.**

**Treasurer:** Ross Bates reviewed our 2015 financial statements for the Kootenay Mountaineering Club. Also attached is a proposed budget for the 2015/2016 fiscal year upcoming. The proposed budget is to be presented at this fall's Annual General Meeting for approval.

Selected highlights: The net ordinary income for the last year was \$626.48, a surplus over the budgeted loss of - \$1000. Revenues were higher than anticipated thanks to the growth in membership. The mountaineering school was a great success, with expenses well over budget as a result. The mountaineering school was partly subsidized by a transfer from the huts reserve. Hut bookings revenue was down 12%, probably due to the poor snow conditions last winter. Hut reserves decreased by \$1020.58, mainly due to a one-time contribution to the FORRS cabin. A more detailed hut reserve report is provided with the financial statements this year.

The club donated \$4700 from earnings and \$6000 from the hut reserve to fund the FORRS cabin.

**Motion 1:** to approve the 2015 financial report – moved by P'nina Shame and seconded by Larry Doell, motion carried.

**Motion 2:** to approve the 2016 budget – moved by Sandra Fuller and seconded by Larry Doell, motion carried.

**KMC Proposed Budget**  
Year Ending September 30, 2016

	FY 2015 Actual	%	Approved 2015 Budget	Proposed 2016 Budget
<b>TIME (months)</b>	12	100%	12	12
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Membership Dues	\$ 13,130.00	112%	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 13,500.00
Donations Income	\$ -	n/a	\$ -	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ 54.61	91%	\$ 60.00	\$ 300.00
Mountaineering School Revenue	\$ 2,915.00	146%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,600.00
Other Revenue	\$ -	n/a	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer from Reserve	\$ 1,000.00	100%	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	<b>\$ 17,099.61</b>	<b>116%</b>	<b>\$ 14,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,400.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Administration Expenses	\$ 338.64	68%	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Advertising	\$ -	0%	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00
Bank Charges	\$ 147.55	109%	\$ 135.00	\$ 20.00
CAC membership/donation	\$ 210.00	105%	\$ 200.00	\$ 210.00
Conservation Committee	\$ -	n/a	\$ -	\$ -
Donations	\$ 4,700.00	n/a	\$ -	\$ -
Federation of Mt. Club Fees	\$ 2,680.00	97%	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 3,130.00
Federation of Mt. Club Insurance	\$ 2,415.00	84%	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 2,730.00
Library Expenses	\$ -	0%	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00
Membership	\$ -	0%	\$ 250.00	\$ 200.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 0.06	0%	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Mountaineering School Expenses	\$ 4,415.91	147%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Newsletter Expenses	\$ 207.55	52%	\$ 400.00	\$ 300.00
PayPal Fees	\$ 406.09	102%	\$ 400.00	\$ 420.00
Registrar of Companies	\$ 25.00	63%	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
Social Expenses	\$ 427.02	36%	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,000.00
Supplies & Equipment	\$ -	n/a	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Website Expenses - maintenance	\$ 500.31	83%	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,000.00
New website design	\$ -	0%	\$ 950.00	\$ -
	<b>\$ 16,473.13</b>	<b>105%</b>	<b>\$ 15,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,100.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 626.48</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>-\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,300.00</b>

<b>Other Income/Expenses</b>				
Hut Booking Revenue	\$ 11,117.60			\$ 12,600.00
Hut Expenses	-\$ 3,782.21			-\$ 6,000.00
Trail Expenses	-\$ 979.37			-\$ 1,250.00
Hut PayPal Fees	-\$ 376.60			-\$ 450.00
Donation	-\$ 6,000.00			
Mountaineering School Subsidy	-\$ 1,000.00			-\$ 1,000.00
New Website design	\$ -			\$ -
<b>Net Hut Income</b>	<b>-\$ 1,020.58</b>			<b>\$ 3,900.00</b>
Ski Camp Revenues	\$ 14,100.60			\$ 14,100.00
Ski Camp Expenses	-\$14,100.66			-\$ 14,100.00
<b>Net Ski Camp Income</b>	<b>-\$ 0.06</b>			<b>\$ -</b>

**KMC Balance Sheet**  
Year Ending September 30, 2015

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Bank of Montreal Chequing	\$ 22,434.22	Accounts Payable	\$ -
Bank of Montreal Term Deposits	\$ 25,353.39		
Paypal Account	\$ 854.38	General Equity	\$ 4,734.24
Total Current Assets	\$ 48,641.99		
		Reserve - Climbing Camp	\$ 171.70
Accounts Receivable	\$ -	Reserve - Conservation	\$ 85.00
		Reserve - Environmental	\$ 240.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 48,641.99</b>		
		Reserve - Huts (beginning of year)	\$ 18,922.20
		Current Year Transfer from Hut Reserve	-\$ 1,020.58
		Reserve - Huts (end of year)	\$ 17,901.62
		Retained Earnings (beginning of year)	\$ 24,882.95
		Current Year Net Income/Loss	\$ 626.48
		Retained Earnings (end of year)	\$ 25,509.43
		<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 48,641.99</b>

**KMC Hut Reserve**  
As of September 30, 2015

					Opening Balance	FY2015 Gross Revenues	FY2015 Related Expenses		Net Change	Closing Balance
Dedicated Hut Reserve (Bonnington cabins only)					\$11,872.56	\$ 7,782.32	-\$ 3,782.21	huts	\$ 3,623.51	\$15,496.07
							-\$ 376.60	paypal fees		
							-\$ 4,158.81	total		
Restricted Hut Reserve (eligible KMC related)					\$ 7,049.64	\$ 3,335.28	-\$ 979.37	trails	-\$ 4,644.09	\$ 2,405.55
							-\$ 1,000.00	training		
							-\$ 6,000.00	FORRS cabin		
							-\$ 7,979.37	total		
Total Hut Reserve (combined)					\$18,922.20	\$11,117.60	-\$12,138.18		-\$ 1,020.58	\$17,901.62

**Elections** were conducted by President Doug Clark. The following positions were filled by acclamation;

President – Doug Clark

Vice-President – Sandra Fuller

Hiking Camp – Leon Arishenkoff

Climbing – vacant

Mountain School – Peter Oostlander

Equipment and Trails – Chris Cowan

Newsletter - Tim Clinton (one year term)

Membership – Jocelyn LaFace

### **New Rossland Range Hut**

i. Mt Lepsoe Cabin Project Report

October 2015 – Final

1) All planned work on the cabin was completed on October 2nd.

2) The project cost estimate was \$10,746. The project budget was established at \$10,700 to match the KMC sponsor funds.

Project funds expended:

- \$9976.81 - material invoices from suppliers.
- \$86.48 - out of pocket unplanned (fuel for timber delivery).
- \$340.84 - out of pocket construction material and rental equip.
- \$10404.13 - total expended directly on the project.
- \$-295.87 - amount under project budget (\$342 under estimate).
- \$+295.87 - authorized claim toward team personal expenses.
- \$10,700 - Total project cost.

3) Donations totaled an estimated \$5156 and included the outhouse, road work, woodstove, material discounts, material donations and donated equipment.

4) Volunteer time totaled 1770 Hrs.

- 363 hrs. - planning and design.
- 453 hrs. - procurement, pre-fab work, project admin.
- 954 hrs. - on site construction (36 days on site).

There were 23 volunteers. A core group of 5 contributed over 120 hours each.

A volunteer appreciation barbeque / pot luck gathering was held at the cabin on October 25th with approximately 30 people attending.

In summary the Mt. Lepsoe Cabin Project was completed on time and under budget.

A separate woodshed was not in the scope of the project but should be considered by FORRS for construction next summer. The cost would be low.

Submitted by Dave Watson for FORRS and the Mt. Lepsoe Cabin Project Team.

**Motion to approve final report**, moved by Eric Ackerman and seconded by Al Shepherd

ii. Naming the Hut - Dave Watson and Bob McQueen provided the rational for the two names that were to be voted on by secret ballot. The two names are;

- a. Lepsoe Basin Cabin
- b. Animal House



Members voted by secret ballot for Lepsoe Basin Cabin to be the name of the new Rossland Range Hut funded by the KMC.

**Motion to adjourn**, by Sheila Sinkie.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:07 pm.

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

## Directors Reports

**Membership:** submitted by Jocelyn LaFace, the membership numbers for the current year continue in the upward trend which has been seen over the last few years. As of November 8th we are at 388 members.

The promotion of the fifty year anniversary and the KMC information cards available throughout the area are likely strong contributors to the increasing numbers. This year there has also been an increased interest by younger potential members asking for more details about the club and a number of these have registered.

Renewal Updates and Reminders - Clarification to users that when they are renewing that if they select the option to not use their personal details (names, phone numbers etc.) than these details will also not be available on the membership lists including those that go to the stores for discounts. There are currently a few issues with the online membership system which should be fixed in the next few weeks. Requested that members wait a few weeks until the system is fixed to renew their membership. I will be sending out a reminder regarding the membership renewal once the system is up and running.

**Conservation:** submitted by Peter Jordan, the big news this year, of course, was the ruling by the BC government that Jumbo Glacier Resort's environmental certificate had expired, as they had not made a "substantial start" to the project. This is obviously a major setback for the resort's promoters, as they cannot continue work without it. However, there is recent news that they want to take advantage of a loophole, that an environmental assessment is required only for resorts with more than 2000 beds. They are reportedly planning to submit a revised proposal for a scaled-back resort with 1997 beds (down from the original proposal of over 6000 beds).

Some recent activities in provincial parks in the region: The park rangers in Kokanee Glacier Park have built a picnic shelter at the Kaslo Lake campground. Mostly completed in October, the shelter will provide an enclosed space for campers to cook and hang out in bad weather, which should take some pressure off the nearby cabin.

In the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, parts of the Earl Grey Pass trail at the Hamill Creek end are in bad shape because of the 2007 fire, and damage from the 2013 flood. A group of park users in Argenta and Kaslo were successful in applying for a federal grant, to do rehabilitation work on the trail over the next two years. This summer, some work was done by Parks staff on improving the first cable car crossing.

This spring, the KMC made a submission to the provincial government, expressing concerns about a proposal for a heli-skiing operation in the mountains bordering Kokanee Glacier Park, to be based in Nelson. We haven't heard any recent news, but local opinion appears to be generally unfavourable to the proposal.

A preliminary meeting was held with the Eco Society to explore possible ways to cooperate on shared goals. This could include helping to publicize each other's events, jointly sponsor some events, and include links to each other's news on our web sites.

A long-standing proposal for a national park in the South Okanagan gained momentum this summer, with the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC strongly supporting the proposal.

This month, registration of off-road vehicles finally becomes mandatory in BC.

**Cabins:** submitted by Graham Jamin, it has been a very full, very busy summer, but managed to get all the cabins cleaned, the cabin amenities all checked and replaced as needed, wood stocked for the winter and some trail work done. This year volunteer help was provided through family and friends as I was not able to plan far enough in advance to get it posted and organized as a club trip.

Overall the cabins are in good shape so I've been putting more effort into access. The old skidder roads heading up to the ridge above Grassy and into Huckleberry have become increasingly overgrown with slash alder making both summer and winter access more and more difficult. We were able to clear close to half of the worst of it at Grassy and a good start up at Huckleberry this year; to be finished up next year. Also continued to flag and clear the access path from North Munson Rd to Steed. A light brushing next year should finish it up.

Our yearend financial report will provide the figures for revenues and expenses. The major expenses this year were a smaller chainsaw for brushing, replacing worn out stoves and lanterns, ATV repairs and the Sat phone annual fees.

### Short Term Goals

One of the goals I had for this summer was to work with the different ministries involved and local snowgoer groups to provide some form of security for the Bombi and Puerto Rico parking lots. With winter quickly approaching I think the best we can accomplish this year is at least develop a plan of action for next spring.

There is a bridge crossing across Barrett Creek that probably won't last another spring runoff and very dangerous crossing with the ATV to get up to Huckleberry. Presently working with Forestry on plans to rebuild it in the spring.

An increasing problem over the years is that firewood is getting further from the cabins. Combined with a steady increase in use; bringing in the winter supply of wood is getting more difficult each year. The ATV has become essential to hauling wood, so brushing and maintaining access for using it (where this is doable) has been a high priority. I have been in contact with folks who also maintain backcountry huts and so far have not come up with a workable alternative for heating the huts.

### Long Term Plan

Not sure. It has been suggested that the KMC reevaluate the huts current use, and develop a future vision based on the interests of club members. I would strongly support this.

I wish to acknowledge the work done by the Friends of the Rossland Range and the folks who put in an extraordinary effort to build the Lepsoe Hut over the summer. Congratulations on a job well done.

**Newsletter:** submitted my Tim Clinton,

- Four newsletters.
- Many trip reports.

The editor would still like more real writing, photo essays, mountain philosophy, detailed route descriptions, GPS tracks and waypoints. Pictures of club mates, smiling, sitting on a summit while eating their lunch sandwiches are great, but my thanks to those who created descriptive and highly interesting reports.

**Website:** submitted my Tim Clinton, Kootenay Internet Communication Society served the KMC well for many years.

The actual move of website files from one computer to another is easy. The transition of the domain name from one to another is trickier because one can't verify the new site and work with technical changes that are required and still use the club domain name that connects to the old webserver.

For that reason, the domain name kootenaymountaineeringclub.ca was obtained as a freebie when buying the webserver services from the new service provider. The service account, the money paid for it, and the actual internet connection to the webpages were then closely intertwined with the new domain name. It seemed easier to

let it stay that way and reconfigure the old domain name to redirect to the new one. Any link that you have to any page that was on the kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca website will take you to the exact same page on the kootenaymountaineeringclub.ca website.

A domain name without the expense of an actual website is cheap, so kootenaymountaineering.ca was also registered for the club.

One more aspect of the domain name change is that all of the club email addresses such as president@..., hiking\_camp@..., etc. are now ...@kootenaymountaineeringclub.ca

The club has also obtained a security certificate that will show a little locked padlock when you connect via the https: protocol. This allows the membership registration process and the Bonnington hut bookings to communicate on a secure connection. PayPal is also requiring a secure connection for some of the communication with them.

**Equipment and Trails:** submitted by Leon Arishenkoff, The year started out with a call for submissions as to what member's felt were priorities. A great response was received with reopening trail into Robertson basin, the Lemon Creek to Sapphire lakes and the Enterprise trail to Blue Grouse Basin receiving the most responses. Unfortunately, no work was done on these trails to my knowledge. Club members did do some brushing to Toad Mountain as well as access to the Siwash 7 summit circuit.

Club trail clearing tools were consolidated and a couple big loppers purchased along with some power tool safety gear. A 16" Husqvarna chain saw was donated. Although approval was given at the last AGM to purchase a brush saw, one was not purchased and the Club has the one on loan from Forest Rec as well as a 12" Stihl chainsaw (along with more loppers and a Pulaski).

It was hoped that members would post access conditions on the Club website but very few do. Facebook appears to be the choice of those posting and requiring the latest info. Virtually every town in the Kootenays has some trail's group that is very active maintaining/constructing trails in their vicinity with many Club members giving their time to these groups.

Although the intent was to accomplish much in reality very little was done due to my own back issues. I really feel that much more could and will be accomplished with the next Trail's Director and encourage the membership to get out and support him.

**Hiking Camp:** submitted by Leon Arishenkoff, Treasurer of the Hiking Camp Committee. Mark Hatlen, past Chair, resigned March 2015 and Leon reported on the Hiking Camps at the executive meetings. At the conclusion of the season both the equipment coordinator and registrar, Mike Brewster and Terry Turner, respectively, stepped off the committee and are replaced by Brian Cooles and Eric Ackerman (respectively). Big thanks to Mike and Terry for jobs well done and for their commitment to the success of hiking camps. At the time of this writing, a nominee for Chair has yet to commit.

The 2015 camps were fully subscribed and were a revisit (1994 site) to the Valley of the Moon in the Monashees'. One new cook and two previous cooks filled their 'roles' with great acclaim. Despite 4 cancellations the vacancies were filled from a waitlist and the six people remaining on the list have guaranteed spots for 2016 provided they meet the conditions outlined in the manual. The 2016 camp will be in the East and tentatively looking at Wolverine Pass.

Going forward, fees will be \$500 per person and cooks will see their honorariums increased to \$200.00. The increased fee will offset the cost of storage (which is something new for the club), increased honorariums, as well as fund ongoing equipment replacements and or purchases. There will be some changes in the manual such as a no

drug policy and some wording re respectable behavior. Also the switching policy will be amended to allow for switching up to June 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for successful lottery applicants to change camps. Inclusion in the lottery will remain residents only but non-residents may still get into a camp should vacancies arise, provided they meet the conditions in the manual.

A Hiking Camp financial statement will be distributed at the AGM. Although it shows a healthy balance it is only due to participants' contributions and co-operative efforts.

**Social:** submitted by P'nina Shames, this has been a busy year for the KMC in terms of social gatherings. The 2014 AGM was very well attended, as it also marked KMC's 50th anniversary. Folks who remembered the early days of an independent KMC honoured the event with their presence. The turn-out was excellent with almost 50 folks sharing the celebrations. The Spring Social in early May was also well attended with a terrific and informative presentation from Delia Roberts, who is an outdoor fitness consultant, instructor, PhD and can be found skiing, hiking and biking the Kootenay slopes. Feedback on her presentation confirmed that folks learned a lot about the relationship between nutrition, endurance and decision making that will serve to improve the outdoor experience, whatever it might be. It should be noted that Delia's presentation was preceded by a special general meeting to decide on KMC's investment in the new cabin in the Rossland Range, so the evening was definitely full of excitement. The Fall Social, in mid-October, was very well attended, with almost 40 folks and eight slide presentations delighting viewers with everything from Nepal to Kilimanjaro, Mt. Kenya, and Chilkooot Pass to the Bonnington Traverse, to the saga of building the new cabin, to the Valley of the Moon 2015 hiking camp, to the east Purcells, and several local hikes and peaks.

This is my last annual report. I want to thank the very supportive executives I have worked with over the last six years. It has been exciting and daunting to be your social convener. I want to welcome Laurie Helyer to this position. She has already gotten her feet wet by helping on previous events. I know we can all look forward to many great hikes, skis, climbs, socials and other gatherings in the years to come.

**Mountaineering school:** submitted by Peter Oostlander, during the past year the mountaineering school organized the following courses provided by Summit Mountain Guides (SMG), Darcey Lutz (Red Cross), and Doug Clark (KMC).

Course	Provider	Participants
AST 1 on skis – Dec 2014	SMG	8
Refresher - Dec 2014	SMG	8
AST1 on snowshoes - Jan 2015	SMG	6
AST2 – Jan 2015	SMG	1
Day Skills 1: Ice Axe & Crampon use, Movement skills & Rope handling	SMG	9
Day Skills 2: Crevasse Rescue and Snow & Ice Anchors	SMG	10
Wilderness first Aid	D. Lutz	2
Intro to Wilderness Navigation - Map and Compass	KMC	26
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>70</b>

The club organized only one back country ski trip for beginners (9 members) due to poor early conditions (rain) and no new snow to speak of in February and March.

For the upcoming winter season we are repeating three backcountry ski trips for beginners and are offering the following courses:

**Canadian Red Cross Wilderness and Remote First Aid - November 6- 8, 2015**

**Introduction to Digital Navigation – November 21, 2015**

**AST 1 – December 5-6, 2015**

**Companion Rescue & Refresher Course – December 12, 2015**

**AST 1 on snowshoes – January 30-31, 2016**

**[AST 2 \(Nelson\)](#) Jan 21-24, 2016 or [AST 2 \(Rossland\)](#) Jan 29-Feb 1, 2016**

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

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

**Summer trips:** submitted by Peter Oostlander, The “summer” schedule is a bit of a loose term; so we have now formalized the periods for the winter (Nov 1 – March 31) and summer (April 1 – Oct 31) schedules. In the shoulder seasons, we can have ski or snowshoe trips as well as lower elevation hiking trips going on at the same time!

This past summer saw a large increase in participation to previous years. (+20% more than last year, +50% more than 3 years ago) The feedback we are getting is that trips fill up very fast for popular hikes. This indicates that we need to make a better effort as a club to provide a greater number of trips. Therefore, our new 2016 summer trip schedule target will be raised from 65 to 75. In order to do that, we need to 1) develop and mentor new trip organizers 2) do another round of trip acquisition requests by the end of June and 3) investigate member only, on-line networking portals facilitating “last minute” trips. Here are the numbers:

Year	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Scheduled	75	96	94	82	64		
Cancelled	5	16	17	20	8		
Trips that went	70	80	77	62	58	68	46
Total Participants	<b>776</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>519</b>		
Members	747	604	530	435			
Guests	29	38	36	37			

Thank you to the volunteers that helped us put it together: Bill McNally, Chris Cowan, Angie Germaine, Eric Ackerman and Mary Protho.

Thank you all trip organizers to make this year such a success!

**Summit Register Program:** submitted by Vicky Hart, nice to see some registers placed on some bigger mountains in areas that do not get many visitors. New registers placed on mountains are:

Mountain	Range	Placed by
Peters	Kokanee Range	Vicki
Payne	Kokanee Range	Vicki
Ferrie	Nakusp Range	Peter O
Sentinel	Valhalla Range	Peter O
Caribou	Monashee Mts	hiking camp
Slate	Monashee Mts	hiking camp
Cascade	Goat Range	Dan R
Pool	Badshot Range	Dan R
Chipman	Kokanee Range	Dan R
Akokli	Purcell Mts	Dan R

One summit register canister was replaced on Siwash.

**Winter trips:** submitted by Chris Cowan, First off, some stats.

	2014/2015	2013/2014
Total trips		
booked	53	44
cancelled	23	10
no report	2	2
went ahead	28	34
ski (27 booked!)	7	
snowshoe	15	
xc ski	1	
hike	5	
Max	45	28
Average	12.5	8.2
total	351	280
members	339	269
guests	12	11

Winter 2014-2015 was one of the worst, maybe THE worst, that any West Kootenay Skier can remember. This is reflected in the high number of trips that got cancelled, or postponed till good, powder, which opportunity often never came. That said, we KMC'ers are a resourceful bunch, and made the proverbial lemonade when handed a

lemon. Numbers are up from the previous season, thanks to the enthusiasm of everyone, especially our volunteer coordinators. Snowshoe trips and even hikes got organized and the latter part of the winter was notable for periods of lovely sunny weather with very hard snow, which was great for a hike with crampons and ice axe. Much fun was had in conditions more typical of a poor winter in the Coast Mountains.

Probably the higher average number is in part due to the large number of snowshoe trips, which tend to be less in need of limits being set on the number of participants, being generally a bit less challenging than many ski trips. Of the 23 trips that got cancelled, notice that 20 of them were ski trips! Let's hope the powder situation is better this year.

Kokanee Ski Week..... By all accounts an exception to the generally dismal snow scene.... The participants enjoyed pretty acceptable snow conditions, since they were up high enough to be above the snow level. Precipitation fell plentifully in the solid form if you got up high enough. Reports were of very good times, and many were eager to return again for 2016.

The 2015/2016 Schedule is well under way at this time.