



Kootenay Mountaineer

The KMC Newsletter July-August 2005

Issue 4

Next deadline: Sept 10th

Inside

➤ **Information:** Heli-Ski Firm Trying to Block Resort, Bear Sprays VS Bullets, Changing Times in Mountaineering

➤ **Conservation :** Jumbo Update, Threat Of Wilderness?

➤ **Activities:**

Trip Reports Fry Crk Canyon, Old Glory, Balfour-Garland Bay, Gray's Peak, West Creston Crags (x2), Red Mtn, John Bull Mtn, Mountaineering Workshop Report, Mt. John Carter

Other trip reports Mt Kemp, Little McPhee Crk-Aaron Hill-Bombi Summit, Climbing Skaha Bluffs, Mt. Loki, Seven Summits Trail

Jumbo Update

Despite bold promises that the final decision on Jumbo Glacier Resort (JGR) would rest with the people of the East Kootenay, the provincial government recently made an effort to claw back control, requesting that the Regional District of East Kootenay Board (RDEK) of Directors participate in crafting the Land and Water BC Master Development Plan for Jumbo Resort. The RDEK voted overwhelmingly on Feb. 4, 2005 to reject the request, citing a clear conflict of interest and a desire to ensure that the final decision on the proposal is made by the people of the East Kootenay and not the province through Land and Water BC. This decision was a small victory for democracy and for Jumbo Wild!

LWBC does not have the final say in whether or not JGR will go ahead - this decision still remains in the hands of the Regional District of East Kootenay... Once LWBC completes a Master Development Plan, the developers will have to seek a rezoning of the land in question. Presently the regional growth strategy does not permit such zoning, nor does the current zoning. So, the developers will have to convince the RDEK Board of Directors and the people of the Kootenays that Jumbo Resort is a good idea before zoning can be changed. *From the Jumbo Creek Conservator, Spring 2005*

Write Letters to The Regional District Of East Kootenay!!! There is still time to influence the decision!

Heli-Ski Firm Trying To Block Resort

One of the pioneering heli-ski operators in British Columbia is taking the

provincial government to court over the environmental approval of a proposed \$450-million ski resort. *RK Heli-Ski Panorama Inc.* says the Environmental Assessment Office acted unfairly and exceeded its jurisdiction when it approved plans by Glacier Resorts Ltd. *The Globe and Mail*

R.K. Heli-Ski Panorama Inc. Files Pétition.

Panorama, BC (Thursday, June 9, 2005) – RK has filed a petition under the BC judicial review procedure act seeking various declarations and an order quashing the Environmental Assessment Certificate issued last October for the Jumbo Glacier Resort development project in the East Kootenay. The petition alleges that the assessment report filed in respect of the Jumbo project and upon which the ministers relied in issuing the Environmental Assessment Certificate is flawed, as it did not fairly detail the damage that will occur to RK's business if the Jumbo project proceeds. The issuance of the Environmental Assessment Certificate last year meant that Jumbo Glacier Resort passed the first hurdle in gaining overlapping tenure rights to the Jumbo Valley and Farnham Glacier areas, with the ability to operate in territory now used by original tenure holder, RK. For additional information or clarification please contact RK's lawyer, Robert (Bob) Wickett at 604-443-1242 or email, rwickett@maclaw.bc.ca.



THE VALLEY OF FLOWERS 03 8
WHITEWATER CREEK.

Bear Spray vs. Bullets - Which Offers Better Protection?

At first glance, this question may seem like a no-brainer. After all, aren't guns made to kill, while pepper spray (so-called "bear spray," when it comes in big cans) does not? Unlike an attack by a human assailant, who may be able to use your own weapon against you, that safety/survival argument for using pepper spray doesn't apply to a human-bear encounter... or does it?

When it comes to self-defense against grizzly bears, the answer is not as obvious as it may seem. In fact, experienced hunters are surprised to find that despite the use of firearms against a charging bear, they were attacked and badly hurt. Evidence of human-bear encounters even suggests that shooting a bear can escalate the seriousness of an attack, while encounters where firearms are not used are less likely to result in injury or death of the human or the bear. While firearms can kill a bear, can a bullet kill quickly enough -- and can the shooter be accurate enough -- to prevent a dangerous, even fatal, attack?

The question is not one of marksmanship or clear thinking in the face of a growling bear, for even a skilled marksman with steady nerves may have a slim chance of deterring a bear attack with a gun. Law enforcement agents for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have experience that supports this reality -- based on their investigations of human-bear encounters since 1992, persons encountering grizzlies and defending themselves with firearms suffer injury about 50% of the time. During the same period, persons defending themselves with pepper spray escaped injury most of the time, and those that were injured experienced shorter duration attacks and less severe injuries. Canadian bear biologist Dr. Stephen Herrero reached similar conclusions based on his own research -- a person's chance of incurring serious injury from a charging grizzly doubles when bullets are fired versus when bear spray is used.

Awareness of bear behavior is the key to mitigating potential danger. Detecting signs of a bear and avoiding interaction, or understanding defensive bear behaviors, like bluff charges, are the best ways of escaping injury. The Service supports the pepper spray policy of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, which states that bear spray is not a substitute for following proper bear avoidance safety techniques, and that bear spray should be used as a deterrent only in an aggressive or attacking confrontation with a bear. Like seatbelts, bear spray saves lives. But just as seatbelts don't make driving off a bridge safe, bear spray is not a shield against deliberately seeking out or attracting a grizzly bear. No deterrent is 100% effective, but compared to all others, including firearms, proper use of bear spray has proven to be the best method for fending off threatening and attacking bears, and for preventing injury to the person and animal involved.

Living with Grizzlies Fact Sheet. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region. For more information about bear spray and its effectiveness: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/wildlife/igbc>

Alone or With Whom?

"To climb with a friend is a pleasure; To climb alone is an education." *Count Henry Russell*

"There is nothing which has been so severely dealt with, condemned in such unqualified terms, as solitary climbing... I consider that no one should wander alone who has not had a long and careful apprenticeship... I would advise no one to ski alone...

But there is one thing that I think should be condemned, which as a rule escapes any adverse comment. That is, lack of care in the making up of parties and in the assignment of leadership. Good-nature towards an uncertain climber, shown in including him in a party, may mean entire disregard of the safety of all. No organizer of a serious climb should allow personal consideration to induce him to invite an incompetent friend to join: nor should a (false) sense of etiquette cause him to cede post of leader to another when he knows that the safety of the party may be thereby endangered. I think that it is in this direction, in the formation and discipline of guideless parties, that criticism can do most good; death dogs the steps of many a

party of three or four, when the wary old wanderer pursues his solitary way in comparative safety." Walter Larden in Recollections Of An Old Mountaineer From The Kootenay Karabiner, Vol. 3, Fall 1965.

Changing Times in Mountaineering?

"Changes, albeit dramatic changes have occurred in mountaineering clubs over the years. Because of a number of factors, the climate is far less personal than in previous years. Unless clubs are aware of the changes and make adaptations to deal with such changes, they are in danger of losing much of the spark and spirit that makes them such a rewarding endeavor." *Ron Watters*

For a good many years, mountaineering has been largely insulated by perceptions and images. Those who have participated in the past never thought of us as an organization. They and we were a part of group of friends that would go on trips and learn about the outdoors. But that's all over now. It didn't occur quickly; rather, it happened over the span of twenty years. During that time period, the outdoor family just grew too big and too

diverse and much of the original familial bonds dissolved as the field became mainstream. For the commercial side of mountaineering, the change occurred nearly overnight. Fifth Avenue advertising campaigns made outdoor adventure the "in" thing, and the styles and varieties of outdoor clothing and gear mushroomed as new markets were created. Publications quickly followed suit. The old quirky but personable Mountain Gazette with its black and white photography was replaced by the slick, glossy Outside Magazine with expensive advertising and sardonic wit. Clients on guided trips also began to change. No longer satisfied with ordinary trips, they wanted--or they had been convinced that they wanted--adventures portrayed in films like River Wild. To stay in business, outfitters found that they needed to offer something more like Disneyland experiences than outdoor experiences.

Outdoor clubs were the last to experience these changes. Part of the reason the change came so late had to do with public perception. Mountaineering clubs were always perceived as a bit different, as an odd, independent bunch doing risky things. That attracted a certain kind of person, an individual who expected a few bumps in the road and who was willing to accept pitfalls as a normal course of the adventure. Participants lived, what pundits might have described at the time, an alternative lifestyle. Their adventurous nature was looked on with awe, if a little warily, by the general public. Things like climbing, backcountry

skiing, whitewater rafting were exciting from a vicarious standpoint, but they were things that normal folks just didn't do. Mass marketing of the outdoor experience has changed all that. Outdoor adventure activities have become everyday stuff. Because of this now universal acceptance, we've seen tremendous increases in the numbers of participants in the outdoors, but we've also paid a price. We no longer represent an alternative lifestyle. We are the mainstream lifestyle. We find ourselves being held to the same standards as other businesses. We have an entirely different participant. Participants expect more, they expect trips to run smoothly and there's less acceptance of personal responsibility.

How well we respond and in what way will determine whether we are able to save something of that old magic and family atmosphere which, though diminished, still lies at the heart of the club.

Common Adventure (CA)?

Going on trips into the outdoors ought to be done simply for the satisfaction and enjoyment of the outdoors. "Common Adventure" is a way of organizing trips. If we don't pay some kind of attention to common adventure ideas or something similar, then down the road we'll look back and realize we've lost the true essence of the outdoor experience. The reason we need to look at CA or something similar is because of increasing commercialization in the outdoor field. We expect to see commercialization in the outdoor equipment and clothing industry. We expect to see it in the guide industry. Commercialization is, of course, the way they attract business and make their livelihood, but should non-profit organizations and clubs follow suit?

A Common Adventure (CA) trip is two or more individuals working cooperatively for common goals, and sharing expenses, decision-making, and responsibilities as equitably as possible. When one looks at common adventure literature, it becomes obvious that the single most influential factor is legal liability (Watters, 1999)

CA and Guiding are built on different value systems. CA trips are structured so that participants are interactive and intimately involved in organizing and running the trip. By their intimate involvement, the participants become the trip. On a practical level, some type of pre-trip involvement is necessary. A planning meeting is held so that all members understand what the trip involves, and understand its goals and the risks. At the planning meeting, the group—not one individual—hashes out the where's, when's and what's of the trip. The success or failure of the trip, then, rests in the hands of the group and not the person who initiated the idea or the sponsoring club or institution (if there is one). In doing so, members of the group are taking responsibility for the trip and responsibility for each other. The best way to learn about the concept is for people to directly participate in

common adventure trips. Through common adventure trips, participants learn about cooperation, teamwork, and participatory decision making—all valuable skills in everyday day life.

The CA model involves all members of the group in decision-making. Democratic decision-making doesn't eliminate the need for a split second autocratic decision in time of danger (because of concern and empathy members of the group show for one another), nor does it mean that the group is without leaders. The boundary of CA is crossed when leadership is autocratic and the group members do not participate in decisions.

The Common Adventure Model of Outdoors Programming

Trip Initiator: The concept for the trip has to start with someone. One individual must come up with the idea of the trip and then announce it to others. In a CA trip, however, decisions are made on a consensus basis. Thus, CA trip advocates had to come up with an alternative word, a way of indicating that something different was going on. The word, which came into general usage, was: trip initiator. The trip initiator was the person who came up with the idea, and was the original owner of the trip. But when all the participants got together at a pre-trip meeting, the group took over ownership of the trip. In practice while a CA trip is underway, the trip initiator is often the one doing much of the leading, but she involved the group in decisions and was ready to move aside in situations when another leader might be more appropriate. It's a form of leadership quite different than traditional methods, and "trip initiator" became an important way in which the distinction was made.

Can the trip initiator act as a resource person or a facilitator to help explain and guide the CA process?

Yes. In fact when you look at the underlying value system, it is desirable to have someone present who helps guide the give and take process that takes place on CAs. The members of the group may not understand CA principles. An individual who can explain the process and serve as an example as the trip progresses is an invaluable resource to the group. Moreover, the personal value system of many individuals may be different from that of the CA system. In everyday life, there are not a lot of other enterprises, which match the processes that go on in CA trips. A little guidance by one or more members of the group can go a long way in making CA trips run smoothly.

Problems can result when groups don't fully understand how CA trips operate. For instance, one member of the group, motivated more by self-interest than the good of the group, might try to over-play his right to self-expression and attempt to get the group to accept his ideas. A trip initiator who is well

acquainted with the underlying values of the CA system can remind those individuals that independent expression and self-interest are always tempered by empathy for the other members of the group.

The democratic processes that occur on CA trips are never easy. Jim Rogers (interview, October 6, 1999) who has been involved in CA trips for many years says: "It's hard work. To tell you the truth, it's a hell of a lot easier just telling people what to do." Rogers couldn't have said it any better. Consensus decision-making is hard and often messy work. It is much easier simply being an autocratic leader and making all the decisions. Yet, by using CA principles, by being inclusive, individuals within the group learn invaluable lessons in how to work cooperatively with one another. The process fosters creativity and allows the group to make decisions and take actions, which are far stronger than if only one person made them. And, it makes the trip much safer since everyone is involved in the process.

The individual who helps facilitate the CA process does not necessarily have to be the trip initiator. As people go on more CA trips, they will better learn how it works, and as participants on future trips—and equal partners on those trips—they can help facilitate the process. The best trips are those in which everyone

knows how the process works and everyone works together. In real life, however, new people are always entering the picture. That's a good sign. It means the CA trip program is working, but it also means that one or more individuals must be present to explain, facilitate, and model the process. Ultimately, it's people who freely give of their time and who simply enjoy sharing the outdoors with others that make the best trip initiators.

By having all trips initiated by volunteers and providing no equipment or vans, legal liability is reduced. Many clubs are able to take advantage of the additional liability benefit of unassisted CA trips. The vast majority of clubs are composed of pure volunteers. The club's officers and volunteers receive absolutely no tangible benefit. Any benefit is purely intrinsic: the enjoyment of helping others and sharing their love of the outdoors. Because of the liability advantage more and more mountaineering, bicycling, river running, and general outdoor clubs are incorporating CA concept in their trip programs.

Can the trip initiator act as a leader? Not as an authoritarian leader, but yes if it's to help the group move toward its goals. It is a flexible form of leadership, responding to changing environmental and group dynamics. One of the great beauties of the CA trip process is that it provides a moderating effect on over-eager members of the group. Another fundamental difference with other programming systems is that the trip initiator is ready to step aside as situations on the trip change and another individual more appropriately fills a leadership role. For instance, if one or more members of

the group are injured, a nurse in the group might then take over leadership and direct the group in first aid and evacuation methods. If the group van breaks down, a person with a strong mechanical background would takeover.

Do trip sizes need to be small? As the trip size increases, it becomes less and less practical for the group to work as a team. Participation and cooperation are important. Everything increases in difficulty: planning, organizing, and shared decision-making. When a group grows to critical mass, common adventure becomes impractical.

Complete free and open access of CA trips has been tempered somewhat for two reasons: out of concern for participants (another value of the system) and the realities of the legal system. Mostly, assisted CA trips work best for beginning and intermediate trips where the perceived risk is higher than the actual risk-and risks are reasonable. When one gets down to it, providing or facilitating beginning and intermediate activities is the *raison d'être* of most club programs. They are there to enable people with similar interests to gather and recreate together, to introduce new people to the outdoors, and to provide outdoor learning opportunities. Highly experienced individuals with a desire to do risky trips can do those on their own with other like-minded people. They have the skills, knowledge and equipment. That isn't to say that CA principles shouldn't be used on advanced trips. In fact, it is on advanced, highly risky trips that common adventure techniques learned on easier trips can really come into their own and provide substantial and life-saving benefits. By using cooperative and participatory decision making skills, an advanced individual can reduce risks in dangerous undertakings. An organization or club is providing an important educational service to those few people who may go on and become pioneers of the sport.

Can limits be placed on who participates?

Yes. The CA model doesn't prohibit some thoughtfully applied restrictions. The central idea of a CA trip is that everyone understands what the trip is about and the risks involved.

Finally, CA trips can be limited only to those who are willing to sign a release or waiver form. Carefully prepared releases do stand up in court, and institutions and clubs can do much to protect themselves by requiring everyone to sign them. Some limits, however, are not acceptable. Some of the most restrictive applications often associated with the common adventure model were created due to legal concerns. In other words, apply the legal filter, but apply it rationally. Because of its voluntary and participatory nature, CA does afford an outdoor program the lowest form of liability-and at the same time provides the highest intrinsic worth to its participants.

*Printed with permission of Ron Watters
Condensed and adapted for the KMC.*

On Mountaineering Rescues:

"If we get into a mess, we must get ourselves out again, or we lose our self-respect. That is why it is vital that we support our rescue organizations and learn how to handle emergencies as they arise" C.J.Penn

From Helen Butling's book review of Teach Yourself Mountain Climbing in the Kootenay Karabiner, Vol. 2, May 1965

"I can recommend this Teach Yourself volume as it is by far the best I have seen, and well worth its modest price.

The worst possible thing to do, of course, is to teach yourself mountaineering; however, despite the general title of the series, this book does not advocate any such thing. In the very first chapter the author urges the beginner to join a local club and to get practical training from experienced companions or instructors.

The main instructions, however, are throughout equally applicable whether in the Alps, Rockies, or Selkirks. Above timberline rock, snow and ice are treated much the same in all these ranges. The main difference in B.C. is that of approach and access to the mountain, which can be quite a challenge, whereas it is seldom a problem in Europe. The book does not, therefore, deal with camping, woodcraft, or the gentle art of bushwhacking! It covers route-finding on the mountain but gaily assumes that the reader "will have made himself familiar with the guidebook descriptions"

Book Review

Where The Mountain Casts Its Shadow, The Dark Side Of Extreme Adventure by Maria Coffey , St. Martin's/H.B. Fenn, 229 pages (\$19.95).

Maria Coffey lives on Protection Island, off Nanaimo. She and her photographer husband, Dan Goering, collaborated on the nature/adventure books *Sailing Back In Time* and *Visions Of The Wild*. At an earlier time in her life, she loved Joe Tasker, a British mountaineer who vanished on Mt. Everest in 1982. For this book she interviewed mountaineers and the "climbing

widows" they leave behind when something goes fatally wrong. The beginning of the penultimate paragraph: "Ask mountaineers why they climb and invariably they say that it makes them feel alive...Ask those bereaved by climbing accidents if anything positive has emerged from the tragedy and, in one way or another, they usually echo the climber's sentiment. If they love someone, they tell him. If have a gift to give, they give it now...just in case. They take nothing for granted."

Review by Rebecca Wigod, in The Vancouver Sun, April 9, 2005

"The debate is no longer whether there is a global warming signal...The debate is what we are going to do about it." *Tim Barnet, Marine Physicist at Scripps Institute of Oceanography*

The Threat of Wilderness?

"Wilderness is a cultural construct, rather than an intrinsic biophysical reality. In order to understand the meanings and values associated with wilderness today, it is necessary to understand the cultural context within which the concept was originally imbedded...this largely involves an examination of western religious traditions and the effect these traditions have had on society's view of nature...Because wilderness holds a variety of culturally imbued meanings, it is necessary to understand its cultural origins. The Judeo-Christian origins of Western society generally are credited with portraying wilderness as a synonym for desolate, wild, and uninhabited lands manifesting God's displeasure. But wilderness also served an important function in Christianity as a place where one could prepare for contact with God. Such countervailing perspectives created an ambivalence that still prevails. Yet, despite the ambivalence, early Europeans and North American societies perceived wilderness as a threat.

Although a variety of factors, including increased scientific understanding of nature and the growing scarcity of wild country, have contributed to a greater appreciation of the value of wilderness (and) efforts to protect wilderness, there still remain deep-seated emotions about wilderness. As the antonym of civilization, wilderness retains an image for many people as a place of fear and foreboding and as an active challenge to civilization's survival. Perhaps deeply scored on the genetic code of humans are the fears of our ancestors as they huddled around the fire, listening to the sounds of the night around them, ever mindful of their precarious status and vulnerability. Today, it is civilization and society that surround the wilderness, its survival dependent upon our capacity to recognize the values it possesses and our willingness to ensure its preservation." *George H. Stankey* in his paper [Beyond the Campfire's Light: Historical Roots of the Wilderness Concept](#).

The Okanagan Section of the ACC newsletter can be viewed at <http://members.shaw.ca/accokanagan/ACCOK.html> If you cannot see it press F5 to refresh page

Responsible Tourism?

"...I'm well aware that there are a lot of insensitive developers out there who are entirely motivated by profit margins. They'd turn all our parks into golf courses, ski resorts and high-density time-share condos if they could get away with it...But that's not to say that there can't be responsible tourism development in areas adjacent to parks that may offer greater public access that won't damage the ecosystems. Such development, done properly, can enhance the park experience for the many members of the public who are not hardy backcountry hikers. Enhancing the enjoyment of the many can help preserve the wilderness experience for the few by increasing overall public support for parks... Ultimately, increasing the economic value of pristine landscapes results in a higher profile for parks on the political radar, too. Politicians who see value and public support are inclined to weigh decisions regarding parks toward their own self-interest."

Stephen Hume in The Vancouver Sun, July 24, 2004

Energy Fruit Bars

1c. bran-flakes cereal
1/4 c. wheat bran
1/4 c. wheat germ
1 1/2 tps. grated orange peel
1/4 c. orange juice
1c. mixed dried fruit , chopped
1 egg, beaten
1/4 c. vegetable oil
1/2 c. applesauce
1/2 c. honey
1/3 c. dry milk powder
3/4 c. whole-wheat flour
3/4 c. all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. baking soda

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 13x 9x2-inch pan.

In a medium bowl, combine cereal, bran, wheat germ, orange peel, dried fruit, egg, oil, applesauce, honey and dry milk powder; blend well. Let set 5 minutes. In a large bowl, stir together whole-wheat flour, all-purpose flour and baking soda. Stir in the first mixture and blend until all the ingredients are combined. Spread batter evenly in pan. Bake 15-17 minutes, or until golden. Cool.

Nutritional info per serving: about 117 calories, 3g. Total fat (1g saturated), 11mg cholesterol. 32mg sodium, 21 g carbohydrates, 2g fibres, 2g protein. *From AP, The Province, Tuesday, June 21, 2005*

Peakbagger.com

Peakbagger.com is a database table of over 10,000 mountain peaks, with about 100 information fields that could be filled in for each one. Every peak in the database has at least a name, elevation, country, continent, mountain range, latitude, and longitude. The database also contains a table of over 2,000 mountain ranges, arranged into a consistent hierarchy called the "PERMACS", plus many other pieces of information that support the core peak and range tables. The lists of peaks on this site are dynamically generated by queries against the database. Eventually, this site could allow hikers and climbers to enter their climb data, allowing them to generate and share their own dynamic peak logs and list completion charts.

The 8,000 m peaks (26,240ft.)

Everest, 8849m.
K2, 8610m.
Lhotse, 8515m.
Kangchenjunga, 8585m.
Makalu, 8462m.
Dhaulagiri, 8166m.
Manaslu, 8155m.
Cho Oyu, 8153m.
Nanga Parbat, 8125m.
Annapurna, 8089m.
Gasherbrum 1, 8068m.
Broad Peak, 8046m.
Gasherbrum 11, 8034m.
Shishapangma, 8016m.
Twelve climbers have climbed them all. The first was Italian Reinhold Messner in 1986. The latest is the first American, Ed Viesturs, who on May 12 accomplished the task, all without oxygen. He doesn't plan any comebacks except for perhaps Everest: "I have no need or desire to go back...Why climb 'em again? There's no desire. There's no need to go back...There are risks involved...People die in the mountains." AP from [The Province](#), Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Coalition Wants Rules For Off-

Road Vehicles The Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off-Road Vehicles consisting of the B.C. ATV Association along with several environmental groups and other groups representing 150,000 B.C.ers is pushing the provincial government to pass laws regulating all -terrain vehicles. They want

license plates on ATVs and motorcycles so that irresponsible riders can be reported. Every other province has this type of legislation. *Evan Bether in The Province, June 26, 2005.p. A19.*

EKES Goes FORWARD as wildsight

With the growing importance of the Columbia and Southern Rocky Mountains as a keystone to conservation in western North America, the East Kootenay Environmental Society has become **wildsight**. Our new **wildsight** identity will help us better communicate our vision to a national and global audience, and make the protection of biodiversity in our region an important value for people around the world.

For more information, please visit www.wildsight.ca.

Smart Cars?

A Smart car [for any other very small car. Ed] saves valuable road and parking space, goes faster than the legal speed limit, uses much less fuel than 90% of most vehicles and is safer than most cars and trucks. If 75% of Canada's population drove a Smart Car, we wouldn't need to increase our road widths. We also wouldn't need more

parking spaces. We'd just use smaller parking stalls. The Port Mann Bridge could be changed to seven lanes from five almost overnight. We would use less fuel, add fewer pollutants to the atmosphere, and have more disposable income. *From The Province.*

"Supporting, or even considering what the Green Party has to say?"

"I'm sure a number of NDP'ers regard the Green vote as an errant NDP vote... A Green vote ...was a vote for certain political values... People voting Green are making a political statement". *Norman Ruff, University of Victoria Political Scientist.*

"Critics will point to a drop in popular support for the Greens- from 12.4% in 2001 to around 9% this time...But rather than indicating a lack of interest in environmental matters, the drop may be directly attributable to flaws in the present voting system that virtually restricts competition to just 2 parties". *From The Province, In our Opinion: Referendum Result Is Enough To Start Program Of Reform". May 19, 2005*

"The election result - with one large exception- was representative, and set the stage for a much more effective legislature. (The exception is lack of representation for some 190,000 Green voters, who will once again have no one to speak for them in Victoria)." *Paul Willcocks in The Vancouver Sun, May 18, 2005.*

* The actual Green vote was 149,000 or 9.1% of the popular vote.

"To say that the Greens cost us this or that seat is more complicated than that". *Gerry Scott, NDP Campaign Manager*

"Whether they were compelled to vote for us or not, we have captured their imagination and got them to think how politics can be different in this province." *Adriane Carr*

"BC Green Party joins public opposition to the proposed Jumbo Pass mega-ski resort development in the Kootenays." *B.C. Green Party News Release*

Library News: Rainy Day Reading

Personally, I'm tired of watching the inevitable rain fall, the ineluctable growth of my lawn (that never dries out long enough to mow), and the inevitable decay of the summer climbing season without me actually having climbed anything decent. So, if you're like me – longing to get out on some good climbs but stumped by the weather – do the next best thing and read about someone else's adventure – you may just come to prefer it! The KMC library has a good selection of gripping climbing yarns, from Heinrich Harrier's



compelling "The White Spider" to Chris Bonnington's pompous "I Chose to Climb". Just don't get so engrossed in your newest book that you forget to run out and climb a mountain when (if) the sun finally comes out.

New in the library this month (thanks to an anonymous donor)

- M.J. Fayhee, *Mexico's Copper Canyon Mountain* – a personal narrative of a hiking journey through this spectacular canyon.
- *K2 video* – The story of the 1986 disaster that took the lives of 13 climbers.

"Accidents in North American Mountaineering"

This is a journal published annually by the ACC and AAC, which describes the circumstances of most mountaineering accidents that happened in the previous year. In these reports each accident is analyzed, to focus the reader's attention on its causes, and so suggest how such accidents might be prevented. We have issues from several years in our KMC library.

Leadership Workshop recommendations to be continually reinforced by KMC membership!!!

- Coordinators don't like last minute notice... participants must call 48 hours in advance if they want to go on trip.
- Each participant should call/email the trip coordinator, or get turned away at the meeting place.

Trip coordinators should screen participants; they must feel comfortable to turn them away; they can ask certain questions to gauge whether the appropriate level of skill and abilities is present.

Club Trip Reports

Fry Creek Canyon, May 25

A group of twenty (including myself) keen hikers showed up for this lovely spring hike. The creek was roaring, flowers were blooming, weather was perfect. We had lunch on the gravel bar just past the big rockslide. No goats hanging out on the slide today. It took approximately 3 hours up and three hours back.

Thank you all for coming and making this a special day.
Mary Woodward.

Old Glory, May 29

Eleven of us started hiking at about 8:15 am on a snow free trail from the parking lot at Hanna Creek. The forecast was for it to reach over 30°C in the valley so some of us took snowshoes in case the snow proved to be too soft when we reached higher elevations. There was some snow on the trail between the two bridges but then it was clear of snow until we reached about 1600 m elevation. When we were above the trees, the snow was softer than ideal because of the sun, but we were mainly staying on the surface. We reached Unnecessary Ridge at about 10:15 am. The main face of Old Glory facing us only had patches of snow and all of us decided to go directly up to the top, that we reached at about noon. Weather on the top was ideal, warm with clear sky and a light breeze. We started down just after 1 pm, four going down a fairly direct route and the rest going round on the trail. When we were back on the top of Unnecessary Ridge, I decided to put on my snowshoes since I thought it likely that the snow would now be very soft. This was a mistake. I have only used snowshoes in dry snow before and found that with wet snow and a steep slope, that the snowshoes slipped sideways. I will not bother taking snowshoes again for this hike again. We arrived back at the cars at about 4 pm.

We were Don Harasym, Renate Belczyk, Kay Medland, John Bargh, Leah Zoobkoff, Jill Watson, Terry Simpson, Eric Ackerman, Ray Neumar, Hans Korn and coordinator, Ted Ibrahim.

Balfour to Garland Bay - Return, June 3

The weather was dubious nevertheless two gals met at the 8:10 a.m. ferry. It was a very pleasant temperature for this up and down ride, partly on pavement, partly on gravel road. Saw 7 deer and very little traffic.

Lunch on the beach at Garland Bay. Back in plenty of time for the 3:40 p.m. ferry due to a bit of miscalculation on the leader's part. Janice Isaac and coordinator, Mary Woodward.

Gray's Peak, June 5

There was a lot of interest in this trip. I felt that since many people on the trip had climbed this mountain many times before

and were familiar with the route and the conditions that it was safe to have a large group.

The weather forecast was for clear weather in the morning with rain in the afternoon. All 20 of us made it to the summit and were able to enjoy the views before it started to hail. The weather let up for a short while and then it started to pour. We all got soaked. There was little snow until 7000' then we were on solid firm snow. On the way down the snow was getting sloppy and there was a lot of potholing. It was treacherous in the wet grass and mud below the snow.

We were John Bargh, Kjell Bronson, Martin Carver, Frank Fodor, Barb & Larry Hanlon, Don Harasym, Janice Isaac, K. Linda Kivi, Kim Kratky, Robin Lidstone, Evan McKenzie, Jan Micklethwaite, Ray Neumar, Curt Nixon, Alex Walker, Jill Watson, Mary Woodward, Leah Zoobkoff, and David Cunningham, coordinator.

West Creston Crags, June 11

Omitted from last year's schedule, and later deleted from this year's, West Creston was indeed an ill-fated trip. When the original coordinator, who shall remain nameless (initials S.McG.) decided to bail for steeper pastures (Skaha and Squamish), I was coerced into the position of surrogate organizer, and the trip was supposedly reinstated on the email listing. When no calls were received I wondered, was it me or the weather? Later I learned that the trip had inadvertently NOT been relisted, probably explaining the lack of phone calls. More bad karma. Appropriate apologies were extended and accepted.

Hopefully the Original Coordinator, who shall remain nameless (initials S.McG.) will face up to her social responsibilities, and reschedule this trip for later in the season. Her charismatic and magnetic personality should result in many carloads of eager KMCers heading for this choice rock climbing location.

On a more positive note, one new route was established here in April. Boldfinger (5.9) is a 4-bolt route between Blind Date Direct and First Time. Named (ostensibly) for the hidden finger pocket above the last bolt. Naming new routes can be as much fun as climbing them.

Participants, none. Reporter Hamish Mutch.

Chimney Rock, Priest Lake, Idaho, June 14, 1964

Friday night June 14th, saw Kim and Dave Deane, Gerry Brown, and Doug Wellock drive to a campground on the north end of Priest Lake. Next morning we worked our way ten miles up a logging road. This involved digging a road over one mudslide and cutting out four windfalls with a power saw. Then from the end of the road at the creek we bushwhacked for three hours through fallen trees and swarms of mosquitoes. This brought us to a collapsed forestry lookout, which still had an intact roof. Doug and Dave stayed here as Kim and Gerry walked on snow along a ridge to Chimney Rock. They snooped around, and then returned and we sacked out.

Early Sunday morning we walked an easy 45 minutes to the base. The rock stands on a ridge, there being 250 feet height on the west side and 800 feet of sheer face on the east side. Needless to say we



started up the west side, with Kim leading with Gerry, and Dave and Doug on the other rope. A few obstacles were passed but a rough short gully slowed things. Here Kim with a massive show of guts and endurance placed eight pitons and by various pendulums got up. Gerry and Doug followed with a little trouble and Dave retrieved the pitons with a little direct aid. The rest of the climb was up an exposed ridge of large boulders.

We rested on top sitting in a thin mist; the only cloud for miles. It cleared up just as we left but that didn't help the pictures. Two 110-foot rappels took us quickly down and we retreated to our camp by two o'clock.

On hiking out we found a road starting near the lookout which followed an easy grade right back to the cars. It arrives at the cars from the opposite direction from Chimney Rock but is quite a bit easier traveling than the bushwhacking of the previous day. We had an easy drive out and home, the total drive being five hours from Trail to the end of the road.

Kim and Dave Deane, Gerry Brown, and Doug Wellock.

From the Kootenay Karabiner, Vol 2, 1964

Red Mountain "Magical History Tour", June 18

The day's hike was a History 101 tour of an abandoned industrial site, on the south side of Red Mountain, near Rossland. These were the old mine sites with evidence of their railroads, old compressor and steam engines, and ore load out bins. A rusted streetlight and road sign base still attached to a tree, gave the sense that a network of roads existed at one time. We saw a number of old mine cars and hoist skips left on waste rock piles, and the Blacksmith's forge was still beside the Josie mine site. We wandered up the now forested hillside, following rail grades and old mine roads, past the Center Star, Le Roi, Josie, No. 1 and Gertrude Mine sites. After "bagging" the top and a short lunch break, we headed down to the Red Mountain Mine near the top of the T-Bar hill. It had extracted molybdenum from the large open pits on the west side of the mountain. One of our hikers, John Golik had actually worked at this mine as a millwright back in 1971, the last year it was operated. John became our tour guide as he explained the various mining, milling, flotation and drying processes used to extract the moly. We continued down the road, by now going through rain showers, and stopped briefly at the Jumbo compressor site with a nearby adit (tunnel). If you ever ski down the Jumbo run on Granite Mountain and miss the out of bound ropes at the bottom, you will likely end up here. Capping off the day with a bit of art, was the viewing of a large beautifully carved stone boulder.

We were, and I think still are, Renate Belczyk, Joan Garipey, John Golik, Glenda Grover, Barb & Larry Hanlon, Graham Kenyon, Sue Port, Laura Ranallo, and Bob McQueen (tour guide and scribe).

No Bull on John Bull Mountain

On **June 19th**, Doug Brown and I met Maurice De St Jorre and John Bargh at the Hitching Post in Nelson, and drove onto the Esso Station in Salmo where we met Delia Roberts and Lou Chioccarello. The Placer Creek FSR was pretty easy to find, although we initially drove past it after seeing a "No Entry" MOTH sign. These seem to have popped up on a few logging roads east of Kootenay Pass and are best ignored. The road is in good shape and is accessible by 2WD, although the final kilometre or so is bushy.

Parking is on a landing from which the trail to Placer Lakes is impossible to find. The key is to ignore the MOF hiking trail sign

and head due west from the landing keeping the same elevation. There is an old road here, although it is completely overgrown and not discernible as such. Within about 75 metres you should come across an old footbridge. As you continue west the old road becomes more pronounced and near the bottom of the clearcut, the trail turns a bit north and climbs gently to the lower Placer Lake. At lower Placer Lake cross the outlet stream on logs and pick up the trail going around the southwest side of the lake (not southeast as the "Don't Waste Your Money on This Guidebook" says). The trail on the east side of the Lower Placer Lake, although initially more defined is a false start and peters out. The trail to Upper Placer Lake is reasonably easy to follow except for one section where it crosses a boggy (for us anyway) meadow. Walk straight across the meadow and look for the trail on the other side. The trail pretty much ends at the east side (not the west as the DWYMOGTG says) of Upper Placer Lake. A very sketchy overgrown path does continue a little way along the south shore.

Unfortunately, we had none of these directions on our trip and were unable to locate the trail out of the landing. Instead, we headed up hill to the edge of the cutblock, and traversed slightly west in the woods, heading for Placer Creek, which I thought we could use as a handrail. We did actually manage to stumble onto the trail and followed it to Lower Placer Lake, but, at Lower Placer Lake we took the east side trail, which, of course, soon disappeared, leaving us to thrash up brushy terrain to Upper Placer Lake. From Upper Placer Lake we headed northwest, through one minor cliffband to gain the ridge that curves around the south side of Bluebird Creek. From here, we had a pleasant walk, first west to join the main southeast ridge of John Bull Mountain, then north east over one intervening bump to the top.

After so much rainy weather we all enjoyed sitting on the summit in the sun, and the views, although not outstanding, were certainly pleasant. To the southwest, the communication towers on Cornice Ridge were visible, while to the west we could see the Three Sisters Peaks and thought the traverse that David Cunningham, Vicki Hart and crew were attempting looked long.

On the way home, we followed the southeast ridge for about 2.5 km until we were on a minor 7,100 foot summit above and directly west of Upper Placer Lake. The only thing I could remember from the guidebook description of the trail was that it ended "on the west side of Placer Lake" so I was keen to descend to the west shore in hopes of finding the elusive trail. There was some skepticism expressed by the group about descending the east ridge of this minor peak to the lake, but all were convinced (brow-beaten?) by my glowing description of hiking the easy trail back to the truck and agreed to give the descent a go. The descent was easy enough, talus and boulders if you stayed off the ridge on the south side and easy steps on the ridge itself.

At the lake, we were happy to pick up the trail at the east side (not the west) and with a few fits and starts, managed to follow it all the way back to the truck. Seven hours over all with a reasonably relaxed pace.

Apparently, a quicker route to the top is via old mining roads in Bayonne Creek.

Coordinator: Sandra McGuinness

Mountain Skills Workshop, June 10, 11, 24

June 10. The Friday night session took place at Selkirk College in Nelson, covering briefly discussions on potential hazards, pre-trip planning and logistics.

June 11. With an early morning start, we departed from Whitewater Ski Hill parking lot, hiking up to Catch Basin. There we encountered enough of the quickly vanishing snow to practice self-arresting, building snow anchors and belaying.

June 24. Rescheduled from June 12 due to the bad weather conditions, we headed to Kokanee Glacier Park and ascended the trail to the Keyhole. Taking advantage of the steep snow slopes, running north from Esmeralda Peak, to practice short and long roping, repelling, belaying and building snow anchors. Participants: Chris Charlwood, Mike Davies, Rob D'Eon, Dave Grant, Vicki Hart, Dave Jack, Miles Minichiello, Don Pedersen, Denis Thibodeau, Cindy Walker, Leah Zoobkoff
Instructors: Marc Deschenes, Laura Adams
Reporter: Leah Zoobkoff

West Creston Crags, June 26

After all the rain we had, Saturday turned out to be quite hot and humid at the Creston Crags. A bunch of us KMC'ers took off at a reasonable hour and climbed for the most part of the day. This might be one of Hamish's secret stashes which he was kind enough to share with some keeners.

The 20 metre crags are hidden by bushy trees in a swampy area. I noticed a snake and a lizard hanging around, but no mosquitoes. Anyways, about the climbing. I am a novice climber so Sandra and I began climbing at 5.3 and worked our way up to a 5.8 route named Blind Date Direct. We also climbed two slab routes, Left and Right. Most of the routes are bolt protected and clean and quite fun. The crags seem to offer a variety of routes for the experienced climbers and for the not so experienced. Although we did not venture over to the more difficult climbs named Mr Twister, Painted Warrior (there is a pictograph on this route) the others seemed to enjoy these climbs.

A fun day with lots of tips and encouragement from my fellow climbers. I would definitely go back to the crags and I think the others felt the same way. A great time. Stopped at the store for ice cream and goodies and then cruised on home to Nelson.

Coordinator: Sandra McGuinness

Participants: Doug Brown, Andrea Bryant, Mike Curran, Sasha Kalabis, Hamish Mutch, Kyle Ridge, and Bill Morris who came later. Reporter: Vicki Hart

Mt. John Carter (2610 m), July 6

We used to call Mt. John Carter, Outlook Mountain, but in fact Outlook Mountain is two peaks further along the ridge and is lower than Mt. John Carter.

Six of us set off from Gibson Lake with light rain and low clouds, hoping that it would improve before we reached Kokanee Lake. It did not and most of us decided that going to the cabins would make a more suitable destination for the day. However, Maurice and Steve decided that they still wanted to try to get to the summit of Mt. John Carter. The rest of us went to the Slocan Chief Cabin, that was locked, even though it was completely empty. We ate lunch under the shelter of the end and we were then about to start walking to the Kokanee Glacier Mansion when we heard thunder. This was then followed by wind, rain and hail. We waited until the thunder and hail stopped and then walked to the Mansion where we had a cup of hot tea. We walked back to Gibson Lake in mixed conditions, but not as wet as the walk up. Maurice and Steve were back at the cars and had made it to the top of Mt. John Carter but

had not stayed long because the thunderstorm hit when they were close to the top; they only had brief views through breaks in the clouds.

We were Maurice De St. Jorre, Gene van Dyck, Robin Lidstone, Steven Miros, Mary Woodward, and coordinator, Ted Ibrahim.

Other Trip Reports

Mt. Kemp (2337 m., 7667') map Slocan 82F/14)

Mt. Kemp is a minor eminence northeast of Caribou Ridge and just outside of Kokanee Glacier Park. After two failures this month, I reached the top of this undistinguished lump on **May 25th**. As always, road access is a key. Drive the Keen Creek road (northern access to the park), turning left or south onto the signed Nashton Creek road just past the km. 5 sign. Re-set odometer and change to 4WD. Although the roadbed is good, this is definitely 4WD LR HC because of the fairly deep water bars. At km. 1.3, go straight (road right goes up Deer Creek); at km. 4, ignore a spur right; at km. 4.8, park at a wide landing not far from road's end. You are at 1660 m. or 5450'.

Starting at the unseemly hour of 11:20, I walked up the road a bit and headed up and south into the block. After 35 min. of bush whacking, I reached fairly rotten snow with some new accumulation from the weekend of May 21-22nd. Above 1900 m. the forested north face evolved into a narrower, horizontal ridge followed by a step leading to the base of a steeper, mostly open north ridge at 2100 m. At this point, where I stopped in a snowstorm and whiteout on May 18th, I put on my snowshoes and continued via this north ridge to the summit in a further 45 min (ascent time 3 hrs). During my 50 min. stay, I enjoyed views of Kaslo, Kootenay Lake, the western Purcells including Howser Towers, and the Caribou peaks of Trafalgar, Chipman, and Satisfaction. On descent I kept the snowshoes on much longer as I re-traced my route to the truck in 90 min. In all, a 5 hr. 20 min. day. Not much of a peak but an excellent viewpoint. I cannot remember such poorly-consolidated snow this late in the season; some predict it will never set up for good walking this year—just staying isothermic until it melts.

Kim Kratky

Little McPhee Creek FSR-Aaron Hill-Bombi

Summit, June 2

This trip retraced the old road that went behind the Castlegar Golf Course near the Brilliant Overlook, up to Aaron Hill, and connected to what is now called the Beavervale FSR (that ends at Ross Spur). Originally this was one of the old roads that provided access to the area west of Grassy Mtn prior to the building of the Castlegar-Salmo Hwy. It was probably used for both mining and logging. Rumour has it that a Doukhobour settlement existed somewhere in the area where the road crossed Little McPhee Cr. The construction of power line right-of-ways behind the golf course and heavy logging along Munsen road has hidden the route at both ends.

The trip began by following the Brilliant Canal construction road behind the golf course. At the first junction we took the steep, but well used road to the right. This power-line construction road

climbs 4km up to the "fenced-in" Selkirk College experimental forest site and continues on to the height of land where one can access the Brilliant Overlook. We actually shortcut up the hiking trail from the second fenced-in site, up to the power line clear-cut, then back onto the construction road. A short distance later there is a junction. The road to the right was built to place power poles and only goes a short distance further. The new road to the left is the one that continues around the mountainside in a clockwise direction and crosses Little McPhee Cr. We continued a few kms to its end where it became apparent that this wasn't the route we wanted but a road used to place power poles on "another" recently installed power line. It did however offer a great view of Siwash Mtn! We backtracked to a few hundred meters before Little McPhee Cr. where we noticed what appeared to be an old, slightly wet, creek bed. After assessing that this "might be it" and that our combined recollection suggested that "it wasn't that far on the old road from the creek crossing to the top", we decided to go for it. Or at least try it for a couple of kms. After 3kms of pushing our bikes uphill, over and under some hundred deadfalls we determined that this resembled what we remembered of the old route. Or at least it had better be, because we didn't want to 'bikewhack' back down to the golf course. As the land soon levelled off (and a familiar looking road on the left going in the direction of Grassy appeared) we knew we had made it to the top of Aaron Hill 1503m. A short distance later we emerged onto another power line construction road that took us to Munsen Road and Hwy #3. Twenty-five km of downhill coasting brought us back to Castlegar. The total trip was 50 kms and 6 hours, including exploring numerous dead-ends. We were Bob Shaw and Steven Miros (The two of us had done this route in the reverse direction exactly 18 years ago to the week. We didn't have a lunch or snacks with us back then either.)

Hangdogging With Hamish or Three Old Farts Climbing Skaha Bluffs

The endless rains of May and June were becoming depressing so Doug Brown, Hamish Mutch and I (Sandra McGuinness) decided to head north to the semi-desert country of Penticton and Skaha Bluffs climbing area. Skaha Bluffs are a collection of some 120 cliffs, 55 of which are developed for rock climbing giving in excess of 700 climbing routes. The crags are gneiss; predominantly exceptionally clean solid rock and feature, at times, steep and edgy climbing on fingery holds.

True to form while it rained over 10mm at our house in the three days we were climbing, we only got a short spatter of rain one afternoon at Skaha. We climbed a mix of routes from 5.5 to 5.10a, and, the three of us agreed, that while we climbed lots of stellar routes, we didn't climb a single bad one – testimony to the overall quality of routes at Skaha.

We climbed mid-week when the crags were quiet and had our choice of routes. Apparently, however, the crags can be a zoo on long weekends (May long weekend is particularly bad) and you may have to queue for popular routes at these times. Of course, with 699 other routes to climb, it might just mean walking a bit further. On hot days, south facing crags can be unbearable, but it is pretty much always possible to find a shady area to climb if you are willing to move around a bit.

The various crags and cliffs are easy to locate thanks to the well-maintained loop trail that takes you past all the major climbing areas. In fact, this is the only climbing area I've been to that has signs pointing out the various bluffs. There is a generous mix of

sport and gear routes, so, if you abhor bolts, you can still be happy leading gear routes at Skaha. Conversely, if sport climbing is your bag, you can clip away to your hearts content. For beginners, there are lots of easy routes in the 5.5 to 5.7 ranges, many of which offer excellent well-protected climbing, and, if you are up for 5.12c test pieces, you'll also be well occupied.

THE guidebook to Skaha is Howie Richardson's "Skaha Rockclimbs". Wittily (or hellishly opinionated) written and very well illustrated with photos of almost all the major crags and routes. It is available for loan from the KMC library.

Mt. Loki, (Via New Route) July 2

This was not a club trip but I think it may be a choice one in the future. Being my birthday wish and my fourth attempt to summit, it has been the highlight of my summer.

Four of us drove to the end of Portman Creek FSR. We car camped and left at 6 am. on the new Mt. Loki trail. We took the ridge route to the saddle at the base of the mountain. We were at the summit at 12:45 pm. Thunder, lightening and hail forced us to vacate the summit quickly. An exciting 12 hour day had us back to the vehicles, tired but happy.

Eleven KMCers came on the same day and camped in the saddle. There is No water on this route, so use the snow patches or bring lots. I am sure this information is now common knowledge. Blue flagging marks the trail, it goes to the north ridge. Go to the highest point on the ridge. You must stay on the ridge here. It is a Class 3 scramble. The trail drops down to 1st campsite. Follow up the ridge to the summit.

Yea! The weather changes everything, but we made it! Thanks to Emilee Fanjoy and Fred Thiessen for the pertinent information. The old route involved MEGA bushwhack! Our group: Frank Fodor, Heather & Brian Woodward, and reporter Mary Woodward. Lucky Me!

Seven Summits Trail, July 4

The Seven Summits Trail starts at the Nancy Greene summit on Hwy 3B. It skirts Mt Lepsoe, Mt Plewman, Old Glory, Grey Mtn, Granite Mtn, Record Mtn, Mt Roberts and Oak Mtn ending at the Cascade Summit on the old Cascade Hwy near Rossland. The Seven Summits Trail has been advertised as hiking/skiing/horse riding and mountain biking use. Much of the trail has only recently been completed and the only information I had on the whole route was a KMC ski trip report from 2 winters ago. This group planned and did the whole route in a day, but they kept an open mind to getting out at either the Old Glory Trail or Granite Mtn's Long Squaw run. The question nagging me this spring was if it was bikeable in a day? At the worst one could use the same exit options.

This trip was quickly arranged after Jean Miros and I had done an exploratory bike/hike up to the top of Mt Lepsoe. Frank Fodor proved on a very short notice, a willing "candidate" to help me try it out. The trail was supposed to be 28 km and we would not have a shuttle vehicle. This meant pedaling back up the highway to the truck, definitely another 30 km. At the outset Frank showed me his cell phone, taxi money ...ya right, and a big grin.

From the Nancy Greene Summit parking lot we pedaled the few hundred meters west to the gravel pit road. After close to 4km of pedaling up this gravel road (only one notable junction where you turn right) we were at the trailhead parking lot. The climb up Mt Lepsoe was considerable pushing until we were out of the basin. Once onto its south slope some riding was possible. From the Mt

Lepsoe section highpoint, we pushed through small patches of snow and then coasted (and used brake and an occasional uphill pushing) almost to Mt Plewman. It's a very beautiful part of trail. Coming off the shoulder of Plewman put us nicely onto Unnecessary Ridge. The descent along the well-worn ridge trail required considerable braking as well as bouncing around or over loose rocks. This was the worst part of the trip and required some dismounting on occasion. After Unnecessary Ridge was completed we then had the toughest uphill bike-push of the day along the west side of Grey Mtn. But from the pass it was an easy downhill coast to Granite Mtn where we emerged at the top of the Long Squaw ski run. A few hundred meters of uphill pushing brought us back onto the Seven Summits trail. It is a well-marked turn to the right. A very good job was done on this section of the trail and we were able to ride most of the way up and onto Record Ridge. We were impressed with the nice job a mini-excavator can do when it builds a small trail! From here the trail descends in varying grades of steepness until the ridge melts into a soft mountaintop. We had to dismount occasionally at a few points. The last part of the route is along a grassy open hillside down to the Cascade Hwy. The ride along the Cascade Hwy to Rossland Museum is 10 km, almost all downhill! The ride from the museum to the Nancy Greene parking lot is about 20km, all uphill!!!

Reflections- Frank and I do not know if the 28 km length of the trail includes the first 4 km of the access road from the Nancy Greene Summit. This was a considerable elevation gain and driving to the end of the road up in the Mt Lepsoe bowl would save considerable energy. We would not recommend cycling the route in the opposite direction as there would be more elevation gain and the descents we had in the southerly direction were often "fun". From the vehicle at Nancy Greene Summit to the Cascade Hwy was an aggressive 6.5 hours of not easy travel. At times you have views of many of the summits to be passed, and it looks far, even by way of the "crow". But, all in all, the "longness" slowly diminished and we had a great but trying day. Frank did mention

several times that after considerable work we were still heading south when the truck was in the other direction!! The 30km of riding on the road back to the truck is far by way of the butt. Having a shuttle would be best and it would be simplest to leave the second car at the Rossland Museum. There is no water on the route. Carry "lots" of water!! Except for Old Glory and Granite Mountain, this trail offers very easy access to the summits along the route. Most of the time the trail gains elevation by side-hilling to the approaching passes. The people who thought and planned it out did an excellent job.

Frank Fodor and Steven Miros

McKean Lakes/Woden Peak - Trail information

Apparently there is a trail that has been brushed out from Hoder Creek to McKean Lakes. Leo put the trail in a couple of years ago, -The trailhead is on the Drinnon Lakes road up Hodder Creek. -3 or 4 kms before the usual parking lot, take a left fork. If it's the right one you'll see a fairly new trapper's cabin over to your left. -Carry on and park before the bridge, which is washed out. -From there walk up the road (rough and gnarly) for maybe 5 kms, about an hours going. -A line of rocks across the road and flagging on the right indicate the start of the trail. -Follow the trail fairly well straight up to get to the alpine about 800 feet below McKean Pass that cuts the north ridge of Woden.

Note: the flagging and marked trail ends at the alpine. - From the pass drop down to the cabins and familiar territory; there's quite a bit of boulder hopping and pass the lake on the left.

Robin Lidstone

Cover picture: "The Valley of Flowers, Whitewater Creek" by C.J.Penn, from the Kootenay Karabiner, Vol.2, May 1965

A Mountaineer is one who seeks the freedom of the hills, full wilderness citizenship, with all its privileges and rewards, its responsibilities and demands. For though mountaineering at best is exhilarating, at worst it is frustrating, discouraging and punishing, even disastrous to those who ignore nature's stern and impersonal rules.

Freedom in the hills lies largely in the ability of a party, whatever the size, to handle every problem of travel and living, including emergencies, with nothing more than the members can carry conveniently on their backs, using their physical resources and the knowledge and judgment they have gained through experience. Implicit is the responsibility each individual must have to the environment, to the party, and to himself.

Mountaineering, The Freedom of The Hills, 4th Edition, Ed Peters Editor, 1987, 6th printing