



**KOOENAY  
MOUNTAINEERING  
CLUB**

EDITOR A. Dean  
359-7759  
Crescent Valley, B.C.

**JUNE**

**NEWSLETTER**

"KNOWLEDGE COMES FROM TAKING THINGS APART  
WISDOM COMES FROM PUTTING THINGS BACK  
TOGETHER"

Please do send me your news early with clear instructions  
no later than the 20th of each proceeding month.

.....

## KARABINER

Jane Steed would like to remind all members that have not picked up their copy of the Karabiner at the Spring Dinner Meeting, that same are available at the following places:

Ian Jamilton, 995 5th Ave., Castlegar, B.C.	365-6749
Jane Steed, R.R. 1, Nelson, B.C.	352-2196
Eric Norton, Rossland, B.C.	362-5317

.....

### TRIP SCHEDULE

Don Mousseau

June 8	Kane Peak (Kokanee Park)	Julie Norton	362-5317
June 14,15	Mulvey Group	Bert Port	365-6056
June 18	Evening Canoe trip, Castlegar to Trail	Dave Adams	365-6749
June 28,29,30	Howser Towers (Bugaboos)	Ian Hamilton	365-6749
July 5,6,7	Frenchman's Cap (North of Revelstoke)	Ken Holmes	362-7723
July 6	Mt. Ruppel (Lemon Creek)	Bob Dean	359-7759
July 6	Cody Caves (introduction to caving)	Phil Whitfield	352-9936

For trip details contact the leaders. If a person arrives not properly prepared for a trip the leader may turn them away.

.....

### TRIP REPORTS

#### Mt. Brennan - Julie Norton:

April 19, 20/80. Bert Port, Fred Thiessen, Pat Taddy, Peter McIver, Carl Johnson, Eric and Julie Norton.

We toured up on Saturday and got to the small lakes below Mt. Brennan. We camped out in some of the soggiest, miserable weather. We were in a "white out" and a steady rain fall. Five of us used our tents, Bert and Peter snowcaved. Snow fell that night. The next morning was still clouded right in so we decided to turn back. The snow was much to soft and wet to provide enjoyable skiing.

Two weeks later Eric and Julie went back for a day trip into this area. We had to walk up much of the road carrying our skies but the rest of the

trip up the montain was great on good firm snow. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we reached the summit 5 hours after leaving the car. The ski-down was fantastic. We skied down from the summit back to the car in 1 hour. We very much enjoyed this trip and highly recommend it as a ski-tour. This mountain is perfect for skiing.

.....

The Bugaboos - John Stevens:

I still believe the most amazing thing about this trip was finding tennis courts 35 miles back in the bush.

With that under my belt I followed Ken Holmes, Bert Port, Peter McIver and C. Hatch towards the cabin on Saturday morning, May 17th. This entailed a small bit of slogging through slushy snow before we reached the moraine. When we reached the cabin it was a nice surprise to find, that we were the first and as it turned out, the only people using it. We spent the rest of the day sun-bathing as the snow was really rotten. Sunday the rest of the group went out on the glacier around Marmaluta and back between Pigeon and Hounds tooth.

I practised on my touring skies and went up to the col between Snopatch and Pigeon.

It was raining Sunday night and Monday morning was cloudy. We started up behind Pigeon but turned back when it started to hail and rain. After a hot second breakfast we all headed down in soft snow.

.....

Julie Norton reports that the road into the Farnham group and the Commander group (up Horsethief creek and then Farnham Creek) is in excellent shape. You can drive right up to the campsite and the old cabin.

Your are requested to send worthwhile news regarding conditions of Roads and Trails in the area to the newsletter Editor. This was discussed at the last Executive Meeting, held at Sue Fort's house, Monday, May 26th.

.....

HIKING AND CLIMBING CAMPS

Fred Thiessen:

The Hiking camp is completely filled (27 people) and I hope that our facilities can accomodate all the people.

The Climbing camp presently has 7 applicants. A cook is still required for this camp. If you know of anyone or would like to volunteer please contact Fred Thiessen.

Please remember that you must be completely paid up for either camp by June 30th 1980.

.....



**KOO ENAY  
MOUNTAINEERING  
CLUB**

EDITOR: Anne Dean  
Crescent Valley, B.C.

359-7759

# AUGUST NEWSLETTER

BOWLINES: - Kim Kratky

A recent accident in Colorado had caused some climbers to question the use of a bowline to tie into the end of a rope. As reported in OFF BELAY of April 1980 Pam Spence, an experienced climber, fell to her death when her bowline tie-in apparently failed, possibly by an inversion where the inside lower loop is pushed above the loop.

This week I received from the B.C. Government a memorandum "Wilderness Programs and High Risk Activities." The memorandum mentions the Spence accident and recommends tying in with a double figure-eight and a carabiner. OFF BELAY also opt for the figure-eight, or a bowline with a half-double fisherman's knot as a back-up.

It is something to think about.

TRIP REPORTS

The climbing season is in full swing - even the weather is finally co-operating. Good Luck to both the Hiking- and Climbing camp.

.....

Kane Peak - June 8/1980

(with apologies to Julie Norton from Earl Jorgensen)

Our thoughts were to join Julie on the scheduled trip up Kane Peak in Kokanee Park. On learning that the trip had been cancelled, Paul and Earl Jorgensen invited 2 young friends along and we set out for the Joker Mill sight up Keen Creek leaving Nelson at 6 am. It is a long tedious and rough road to the Mill sight from Kaslo. But from there an excellent trail leads to the Joker Lakes and then to the old cabin above the lakes. From that point we were on snow and so it was rather a straight line to the Peak. We were on top at 1 pm and enjoyed a very bright and hot day. On our return to the Joker Lakes only Paul was staunch enough to take a couple of dips in the lake. We did a lot of goofing off on this trip including a swim at Ainsworth. It is an excellent day trip, but be prepared to spend the whole day at it and enjoy it.

.....

Blue Grouse Basin - Kim Kratky

On Sunday, June 15th, Janice Isaac, Peggy Le Page, Bob Perchie and I made a visit to Blue Grouse Basin in Kokanee Glacier Park. As the Parks Branch had said, the Enterprise Creek road is in good condition. However, the Paupo Creek Trail, brushed out last year, is already becoming overgrown. As we stepped over deadfalls and pushed aside alder branches, the four of us wondered whether the Parks Branch would bother to maintain the trail this year.

Blue Grouse Basin itself was covered in snow, the creeks in spate, and the weather deteriorating as we made our way to the Insect Pk.- Hampshire Mtn. col. While Peggy and Bob savoured the view, Janice and I continued to the summit of Hampshire for pleasing vistas of Kokanee Glacier and Sawtooth Ridge.

Once again, we recommend this area as a delightful one for hikers and rock scramblers.

.....

Mulvey Basin: - Bert Port

June 14th we met at 7 a.m. at the Slocan Bridge and drove up the Bannockburn road, which requires 4-wheel drive or VW to pass over the dozen or so drainage ditches. Taking the last spur to the right, then a fairly horizontal road back to the left brought us near a large avalanche track; only a few minutes of timber separated us from it.

We were in an open basin of snow by 10 a.m. and ascended to the low point of the obvious ridge, which we traversed until under the faces of the Wolves Ears. Leaving our heavy gear there, we enjoyed a pleasant traverse to the east ridge of Gimli and a buzzing sleet storm. Carefully descending the wet lichen, we regained our packs, contoured around to the north col and climbed the East Wolves Ear. The descent to the cabin, reached at 6 p.m., was through heavy snow.

The next morning we were away for Gladshiem by 6:30 a.m., ascending the main couloir into the welcome sun on the ridge by 8 a.m. Two and a half hours of pleasant ridge saw us on the summit, where we spent a drowsy hour and a half for lunch. The couloir sped the descent, allowing us to reach the cabin by 2 p.m. After a brew-up we started the plod to the col (less difficult than expected) and reached the cars at 6 p.m.

For those who remember the struggle up Mulvey, a weekend such as this seems wonderful indeed!

The party consisted of: Robin Lidstone, Dieter Offerman, Earl & Paul Jorgensen, Jamie Steed, Dave Eggleston, Bert Port.

.....

Canoe Trip - Dave Adams

On Wednesday, June 18th, 20 Voyageurs in 9 Canoes made the trip from Robson Ferry down to Gyro Park in Trail. The total time for the run was 2 3/4 hrs, including a short stop on the gravel bar below Genelle. Most of us went on to the Colander for a Spaghetti feed, to round off what was, indeed, a very pleasant evening.

.....

Sphinx Mountain - E. Jorgensen

This is a delightful and short exercise on the east side of Kootenay Lake. The trick is to get on the WKP&L Company road up Gray Creek and stop at the summit. (Park at the shelter there) It is then 2 hrs. to the peak in a scramble, no rush. This peak, about 8500 ft. high, generally gives a good view of Kootenay Lake and the country side, except on our trip the threatening weather erupted with great fury just as we arrived at the top so we simply made a "U-turn" around the cairn and

went right back down to the shelter for lunch.

The party was a family affair with Carl, Paul, Eric and Earl Jorgensen and son-in-law Sam Ross. We left on the 8 a.m. ferry from Balfour and caught the 3 p.m. ferry at Kootenay Bay for the return; The trip is noteworthy at this time of the year for its showing of wild flowers which were very abundant and varied.

.....

Mt. Ruppel: - Bob Dean

On Thursday, July 3rd, a reconnaissance was made by driving up Lemon Creek, Crusader Creek and down Bettina Creek and Springer Creek. The road was reasonably good except for a length of several miles where Bettina Creek and the road follow the same path... this section was extremely rough.

(the Editor: this is putting it very mildly, we had the VW bus loaded with children, no food and there was no way we could have turned back. At one point we stopped dead with one wheel in the air; at another we managed to cross a rotten bridge with the front wheels and as the back wheels drove over, some more boards gave way. In fact, for about 3 miles most of the children ran ahead of the bus and frequently had to stop so we could catch up..... I know, I was there!!)

The following Sunday, July 6th, eight of us drove up Lemon Creek to Crusader Creek and then up the road on the south side of Tagart Creek to about 5500 feet. From there we climbed south up onto the west ridge of Mt. Ruppel and followed this route to the top.

We descended via the north west ridge and hiked towards Arlington Peak. About halfway between the two mountains the party split into two groups of four each, one group heading down to the cars, the other continuing on to climb Arlington Peak and descending by way of the south ridge back to the cars. While we were up there a helicopter brought in one or two prospectors?, who were camping not far from the summit of Arlington Peak.

Our party consisted of Alan Baker, Bob Dean, Stephany Dean, Stacey Essery, John Mill, Sue Port, John Stewart and Anita Thyer.

.....

Mt. Meers: Dave Adams

July 12 & 13

A change of plan took us a little further North of our scheduled Devils Couch to the Wee Sandy Lake area.

Eight club members and one guest met at Crescent Valley at 2 p.m. After a short refreshment stop in New Denver we headed up to the Valhalla, then up Shannon Creek and into Snowslide Creek where we car-camped. We were away at 6 a.m. Sunday, and ascended the

Snowslide valley over many rock slides, but not too much bush, to the col between Mt. Niord, which we had thought of climbing but it did not impress us too much now, and the ridge of Mt. Meers which looked really good. We traversed along the east side of the ridge over Snow and rock to a suitable snow gully which took us up to some particularly grotty rock, and thense over the cornice to the summit ridge. Another 15 minutes put us on the top - about 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. from the cars.

We had magnificent views all around, especially of the Valhallas and the English Peaks.

Present were: Julie & Eric Norton, Peter McIver, Bob Dean, Marg. Stuart, Robin Lidstone, Peggy LePage, onice Isaac.

.....

#### SOCIAL EVENT

John Stevens asked me to announce the following:

The Syringa Creek Picnic will be held on August the 17th, from the time you are free to come - 3 p.m. until?????

Bring your own Eats, Drinks, footballs, wives, sweethearts, (not both...) instruments, children, insectrepellent and anything else that might add to the fun.

.....

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Kim Kratky -

The Canadian Hosteling Association have recently sent me information on their summer 1980 program. The following summer trips are offered: Several kayaking tours from Barkley Sound and Hot Springs Cove, both on Vancouver Island, and backpacking trips on the West Coast Trail, Mt. Ediza (northern interior), and Cape Scott (northernmost Vancouver Island). If you are interested, I have complete information and application forms.

The CHA also wand to remind us that they have a network of ten hostels between Banff and Jasper, open to members and non-members alike at rates of \$ 2 - \$ 5 per night.

.....



TRIP SCHEDULE

Aug. 10	Mt. Lequereux (Koch Creek)	Peter Wood	359-7107
Aug. 17	Glacier View Peak (Kokanee Park)	Steve Horvath	362-5365
Aug. 23 & 24	MacBeth Icefields	Fred Thiessen	352-6140
Aug. 30, 31			
Sept. 1	Family trip to Shannon Lake area has been <u>cancelled</u>		
Sept. 6 & 7	Mt. Thor (Goat Range)	Kim Kratky	352-3895
Sept. 7	Dominion Mountain	Stan Baker	359-7346
Sept. 6-14	Earl Grey Pass Crossover has been <u>cancelled</u>		
Sept. 13, 14	Mt. Dolly Varden (Goat Range)	Eric Norton	362-5813
Sept. 21	Mt. Bommerang (Kokanee Park)	Sue Port	365-6056
Sept. 27, 28	Mt. Asgard (Mulvey Group)	Rita Holmes	362-7723

For trip details contact the leaders. Note, that if a person arrives not properly prepared for a trip the leader may turn them away.

.....

**KOOENAY  
MOUNTAINEERING  
CLUB**

EDITOR: Anne Dean  
Crescent Valley, B.C.  
359-7759

OCTOBER 1980

# NEWSLETTER

IT IS MUCH EASIER TO RIDE THE HORSE  
IN THE DIRECTION HE IS GOING

W. Erhard

-----

Good Luck and Bon Voyage to:

Peggy LePage & Janice Issac, who are leaving for Peru,  
Ecuador and point South on October 3rd for about three  
months.

-----

Fred Thiessen & Peter McIver, who are leaving for  
Thailand and Nepal on October 24th for 1½ months.

-----

Myself, who is "flying over the North Pole" to Germany  
for 6 weeks. (Nancy Baker will look after the newsletter  
while I am away. Please keep writing as usual and Bob  
will deliver the material to Nancy).

-----

## TRIP REPORTS

### Mt. Fleance - Fred Thiessen

On Saturday, August 23rd we hiked up the Forest Service trail to a small lake below the MacBeth icefields, approx. 4 hours from the cars. On Sunday we ascended through a miserable storm of  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour duration, which cleared to allow us to reach the summit in clear weather around 11:00 am.

We returned for a large dinner at the Schram residence at around 4 pm.

It was the largest over-night trip I have been on, a total of 14 people. Some of the names - T. O'Conner, B & S McEwen, F. Thiessen, B. Patterson, C. Schram, Ziggy, J. Tisdale, Robin, and others, whose names I have forgotten.

-----

### The impossible Tree - Peter McIver

On Dominion day, Ann and I were hiking to Eva Lake in Mount Revelstoke park. The snow was just leaving the trails - we met a young, about 20 year old couple, who were returning along the trail which is almost flat and 4 miles to the lake. They were full of the beautiful day, and the fact that they were probably the first humans along the trail since Winter, "but there were bear tracks." We asked if they were returning from the cabin as they had overnight packs - they replied that no, they had tried to reach the cabin but at mile 2 there was a tree across the trail and it was impossible to get around or over!

I told my friend Howie of this, and as many of you know, Howie has an evil mind. He suggested the man must have forgotten something, but I don't think so far it was a very large tree.....

-----

### Mt. Cooper at last - Peter McIver

Together with many of our club friends, Fred and I had tried Cooper before and been weathered out, found the distance too great for the time available or had to cancel for other reasons.

This Labour Day we decided to give it another go, from Martin creek which is now of easy (although long) access via Dennis Creek (over 30 km of logging road). Driving as far as we could along the new road, at 5600' crossing Martin creek and up to the usual trail brought us to the cerque below Martin mountain in 45 mins. The route from there was straight forward over the Martin-Dolly Varden col 7600' (crampons needed in descent to 6600') over McHardy ridge to good camp site just below the pass 7500' - a hard 8 hr day.

Next day we travelled NE for 3 km to the E of Mt. Stubbs, and about 6800' level below the small S glacier on Cooper, which was climbed via 2 snow gullies, steep and requiring crampons. Visibility was poor with fog and cloud over the summit.

As we had left our pipe wrenches at camp (2 needed) we could'nt open the summit register - next party please note.

The weather had held to our surprise for two days, but was atrocious on the return, with snow, sleet and rain at different elevations and a strong wind and fog as well - the grass, talus and slabs were slippery. The trip is well worth taking, the country very attractive but it is hard work with a lot of up and down and sidehill over loose or lichen covered talus.

-----

TWO WOMEN FROM NANAIMO WOULD LIKE SOMEONE FROM THE K.M.C. TO ACCOMPANY THEM ON A TREK OVER THE EARL GREY PASS OR ON THE VALHALLA TRAIL, EITHER THIS YEAR OR NEXT YEAR. CONTACT:  
DOROTHY POLLITT, 28 PINE STREET, NANAIMO, B.C. PHONE: 753-6907

(Gentlemen, what a superb opportunity!)

-----

Film Festival - Kim Kratky

The fifth annual Banff Festival of Mountain Films will be held in that town on Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9, 1980.. Among last year's award-winning films were "El Capitan" and "John Muir's High Sierra." For further information contact: John R. Amatt, Chairman, Banff Festival of Mountain Films, The Banff Centre, P.O. Box 1020, Banff, Alberta. (Phone 403-762-3391).

-----

Energy Coalition to meet in Kootenays - Kim Kratky

The fall conference of the British Columbia Energy Coalition will take place this October near the site of the proposed Kootenay diversion, organisers for the event have announced.

The conference, hosted by East and West Kootenay groups opposing the diversion proposal, is expected to draw representatives from every area of the province. They will discuss the diversion proposal and an alternative energy policy for the province. The meeting will be held at the Blue Lake forest camp, near Canal Flats, on the weekend of October 17 to 19 1980.

-----

FOR SALE

1 PAIR GALIBIER SUPER GUIDES SIZE 8½ (narrow)

ALMOST NEW \$ 100.00

CONTACT ERIC NORTON 362-5813

-----

SOCIAL EVENTS

1st Annual Sewing Seminar and Social - Roberts Hamilton

There are some club members who make their own, or their families, mountaineering equipment and clothing.

As some of the ideas, finished items or methods of "construction" are good, we decided to have a seminar to exchange these ideas, examine articles already made (smelly clothing left behind at our house will be thrown out....) and see the types of materials used.

The evening will be useful for those who have made clothing, and also those who are considering starting to sew.

Leave your children at home - should you need a child model, we will wake one for you!!!

Home-made wine is permitted and we would like to see both ladies and gentlemen at this event.

If you are interested and would like to join us for a pot-luck-supper and sewing up-date, call us so we know how many to expect.

HELD ON OCTOBER 25TH AT 6PM

AT THE HAMILTONS - 955 7th AVE., CASTLEGAR

PHONE 365-6749 IN ADVANCE

-----

Please send your most interesting slides from this year's

Climbing camp to: Kim Kratky, 414 Innes St. Nelson, B.C.  
Hiking camp to: Dave Adams, 1312 Grosvenor Place, Castlegar.  
Rockschool to: Sue Port, 1107 10th Ave. S. Castlegar.

You guessed!

There will be a SLIDE SHOW ON OCTOBER 29TH AT THE NORDIC HALL IN CASTLEGAR.

-----

THE AGM BANQUET WILL BE HELD AT THE HIGH ARROW ARMS HOTEL  
IN CASTLEGAR, ON NOVEMBER 22nd.

The bar opens at 6:30 pm.  
Dinner begins at 7:00 pm.  
Cost has gone up to \$ 9.25 per person.

Please phone and reserve your plate by Nov. 15th

Nelson: Kim Kratky 352-3895  
Trail: John Stephens 362-9446  
Castlegar: R. Hamilton 365-6749

-----

The following positions on the Executive are coming up for election:

Treasurer  
Trips chairman  
Social chairman  
Conservation Chairmen  
Karabiner Chairman

If you find yourself suitable, willing, capable and enthusiastic for any one of these positions, please stand for nomination

VOTING DAY - NOVEMBER 22nd AT THE BANQUET!!

-----

Last, but not least, mark DECEMBER 5TH on your calendar. A X-mas-party is planned at the Nordic Hall in Castlegar. Details will be announced in the next Newsletter.

-----

#### TRIP SCHEDULE

Oct. 5	Salmo Creston Area	Steve Horvath	362-5365
Oct. 12	Wee Sandy Creek (Valhallas)	Derek Willans	368-3772
		or	358-2449

-----

7



**KOOTENAY  
MOUNTAINEERING  
CLUB**

EDITOR: Anne Dean  
Box 96  
Crescent Valley, B.C.  
359 - 7759

NOVEMBER 1980

# NEWSLETTER

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club send wishes for a speedy recovery to the following people:

Helen Butling suffered a fall that resulted in a broken wrist and other injuries. She is, according to Fred Thiessen, mending nicely and will return to her home at RR#1 at the end of October.

Jack Steed, who shared a first ascent with Helen on the legendary Mt. Pambrun expedition, is recovering from surgery, and is at home on Johnstone Road.

TO BOTH OF YOU, WE SEND A "GET WELL SOON".

\*\*\*\*\*

## LOGGING IN THE NELSON WATERSHED

On Tuesday night, Sept 30th, 1980, I (along with some 25 others) attended a BCFS meeting at the ranger station at Four Mile, near Nelson. This gathering was one of several organized to discuss logging in the Nelson Forest District and apparently stems from orders that the Forest Service solicit public "in put" (how I hate that word), on logging decisions. As an interested layman I drew the following conclusions:

1. There will be more logging on the North and South Shores.
2. The public were intimidated and bemused by the experts.
3. The meeting was mostly window dressing.

Kim Kratky.

## 1980/81 MEMBERSHIP LIST

Please check your address, phone number listed in the recent list mailed to all members. If any error, please advise Bob Dean - 359-7759.

PLEASE CORRECT YOUR LIST FOR: Bert & Sue Port - 2713 - 10th Ave., Castlegar.  
Bev Mill - 718 Observatory St., NELSON

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BANQUET.

HIGH ARROW ARMS HOTEL, CASTLEGAR.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1980

The bar opens at 6:30 PM

Dinner begins at 7:00 PM

COST: \$9.25 per person.

PLEASE PHONE & RESERVE YOUR PLACE BY Nov. 15th.

TO: Nelson - Kim Kratky 352 3895

Trail - John Stevens 362 9446

Castlegar - R. Hamilton 365 6749

ELECTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE OCCUR

AT THE BANQUET - NOV. 22. Please consider standing for

nomination: TREASURER; TRIPS CHAIRMAN; SOCIAL CHAIRMAN;

CONSERVATION CHAIRMAN; KARABINER CHAIRMAN.

---

SKI MOUNTAINEERING WORKSHOP

TIME: Friday, Nov. 28, @ 7:30 PM

PLACE: Selkirk College, Room K 11.

AFTER: Ports or the Hi Arrow.

Iser or pin bindings, Skins, wax or waxless. Downhills or matchsticks or something in between. Which is for you? There will be examples and proponents of the various types on hand. Come along if you are new to the game, or just want to talk ski mountaineering. Bring your gear if you think it might be of interest to others.

CALL SUE PORT 365 6056 -- with any questions, suggestions, etc.

---

CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 8:00 PM. NORDIC HALL, CASTLEGAR.

Please bring goodies, savouries for MIDNITE SMORGASBORD. BYOB.

MUSIC, DANCING, GAMES, FUN! BIG KIDS ONLY! WEAR YER BEST BRITCHES!

CRAMPONS NOT PERMITTED ON THE DANCE FLOOR. SANTA WILL VISIT.

more details - details - details at the AGM - BANQUET.

PLEASE PHONE KIM, ROBERTA OR JOHN IF YOU PLAN TO COME. (see Ph. No's above. )

---

A WORD TO THE WISE - Don't forget to drain the white gas type campstoves before storage for the winter. Dave Adams sez - motorcycle carburetors should also be drained.



## GRAY'S PEAK IN KOKANEE - A NEW ROUTE

by Howie Ridge

As one looks at Gray's Peak from Nelson it appears to have four summits, all about the same height, across its castle-shaped formation. The most right or southeasterly of these was to be our objective and the route lay directly up the center of the face, emerging just barely to the left, or West, of the summit of this most Southern block of Gray's Peak.

On a Saturday near mid June 1979 Ian Hamilton and I drove to Kokanee and left the car at the Park boundary about one mile down from Gibson Lake. Steep hillside on the left of an obvious creek leads to two small basins below Gray's Peak. The first basin is heavily timbered with large avalanche chutes coming into it and would be suitable for camping. The upper basin is mostly broken rock and snow filled for much of the year.

Ian led pitch one off the snow and up a series of rounded and grooved slabs. It was mostly friction climbing and was pleasant. I led pitch two into a rotten gully to the left of a small cliff band.. not very pleasant but easier than pitch one. From here we free climbed directly up the face on a series of ramps and ledges till we came to an 80 foot wall with a waterfall on the left coming off an upper snow patch.

Ian led this pitch which turned into an inside corner nearly vertical and affording minimal holds. This was the most difficult lead and I thought it was about 5.7 climbing. (However, I'm noted for not knowing anything about anything!)

I led pitch four across the snow patch and left up onto a big block. It was not difficult. Ian led pitch five up a short series of ledges and gullies to the final wall. This was an easy pitch also. The final wall of about fifty vertical feet was interesting causing me to do a huge spread-eagle spider stand about 10 feet above Ian's head, and at this point he remarked that Bert Port with his shorter legs would love the technique. A couple of thin ropes got my hands over the top of the ridge, which was only about one foot thick at this point and afforded an airy view of Coffee Creek several thousand feet below.

Ian led one rope length across the notch on the ridge to the summit of this South outrider of Gray's Peak. By choosing an alternate route down we were able to free climb to the snow and glissade back towards Kokanee Creek. The return trip to the car was about seven hours. This was certainly a new route and no indication was found of any party having been on the top.

\*\*\*\*\*

WEE SANDY HIKE - Trip Report from Derek Willans

Despite increasing cloud transcending on Slocan Lake on Oct. 12, a party of three KMC stalwarts launched a boat into the lake and set forth for Wee Sandy Creek.

WEE SANDY HIKE - cont'd

The party consisted of Jane Steed, Harry Neubauer, and Derek Willans, who all agreed that starting time should be a gentlemanly 9 AM. The first stop was the falls at the mouth, and then the trail was assaulted at 10 AM. It also started to rain about this time, but the forest umbrella did a great job keeping the rain away and the trail is extremely good so that wet bush was not a problem. Thus it was that the hike proved to be quite enjoyable. The bridge, or rather log, across the creek was reached about midday, the old trapper cabin shortly afterwards and then about the six mile point hunger got the best of us. Rather than pressing on to the end of the trail at about 8 mile, we turned around and made for Colleen McCrory's (president of the Valhalla Wilderness Society) house for a great cup of tea.

\*\*\*\*\*

PRESIDENT KIM KRATKY - draws the adjacent notice to your attention.....

PLEASE THINK ABOUT THE NEEDS OF THE CLUB WITH REGARD TO ELECTIONS OF : Treasurer Trips Chairman; Social Chairman; Conservation Chairman; Karabiner Chairman.

New members are welcome to stand for nomination, as are long time members.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS: Please send to ANNE DEAN, Box 96, CRESCENT VALLEY, B.C. on or before the 20th of the month.

Thanks to the contributors for this month. Although Anne is in Germany until the end of November, early December, the Dean family are holding together well.

SEE YOU AT THE BANQUET!

SEE YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

SEE YOU AT THE SKI MOUNTAINEERING WORKSHOP!



VEHICULAR CLOSURES

The Ministry of Environment in conjunction with B.C. Forest Service and the forest companies wish to advise people using logging roads in the Kootenays that they may see the following sign.

NOTICE  
VEHICULAR CLOSURE

THIS ROAD HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR THE PROTECTION OF FOREST RESOURCES, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND WATERSHED QUALITY THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL OPERATORS

This sign indicates that the road has been "put to bed" because there is no longer active logging in the area. When a road is put to bed culverts are often pulled, special devices called waterbars are placed in strategic locations to divert runoff water from scouring and eroding the road bed. Many of these roads are sensitive to wildlife and are built on unstable soils which cannot withstand A.T.V. use.

These signs are of an advisory nature and are placed in such a manner that they can be moved once roads are stabilized.

With your cooperation we hope to prevent harassment to wildlife and protect our existing forest access roadways.

# KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

EDITOR:  
Anne Dean  
Box 96  
Crescent Valley, B.C.  
359 - 7759

DECEMBER 1980

# NEWSLETTER

## GREETINGS!

42 people attended the Annual General Meeting in November, enjoying a sumptuous smorgasbord banquet in candlelight. The food was delicious, and varied, and the atmosphere of the room in candlelight due to a power failure, hid the fact, for awhile, of the small attendance.

Elections were held, and we herewith print the

### 1980-1981 KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB EXECUTIVE

Chairman	Kim Kratky	352 3895
Secretary	Jim McLaren	352 5203
Treasurer	Bob Dean	359 7759
Karabiner	Ian & Roberta Hamilton	365 6749
Trips	Carl Johnson	354 4075
Summer Camps	Fred Thiessen	352 6140
Social	Dave Adams	365 6430
Cabins, Trails, Equip.	Julie Norton	362 5813
Newsletter	Anne Dean	359 7759
Mountaineering School	Sue Port	365 6056
Conservation	Derek Willans	368 3772

The following people have completed their terms on the Executive Committee. They deserve a "thank-you" from us all -

Trips - Don Mousseau  
Karabiner - Jane Steed  
Social - John Stephens

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT JOB, WELL DONE, FOR THE TRIPS WE ENJOYED, FOR THE WORK ENTAILED IN PUTTING OUT THE KARABINER (A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF US IN KMC), AND THE FUN TIMES ARRANGED FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

THANK YOU DON, JANE, AND JOHN, THANK YOU!

IMPRESSIONS OF THE AGM - from Ursula Stephens

I was at the AGM last week (Nov. 22) and found the turn out very disappointing. 48 people had phoned in to reserve a place, yet only 42 showed up. It is very difficult, not only for the social director, but also the Hi Arrow cooks when only 42 out of 134 members turn out. Lots of notice was given. Is it that people are afraid to be recruited to help on some committee? Is that not what a club is for? Without support from the membership, the club will fold, and I'm sure we don't want that. Granted the price of the meal has increased, but what hasn't? The food was delicious, well prepared, and there was lots of it. Maybe we should think of what the KMC means to all of us, and pull together.

NEWS FROM NEPAL - courtesy of Ann McIvor

Pete and Fred should be trekking in the Everest area now. They got their Nepalese visas with no problem in Bangkok, and were in Katmandu when last heard from.

They had a marvellous time in Bangkok which was warm & humid. They liked the place and found the people physically attractive, neatly dressed and very friendly. They travelled mainly by bus (truck) which was tricky as nobody spoke English and the street signs are in Thai. They also travelled on "long tails" commuter boats like Venetian gondolas driven by outboard motors, up the "Klongs" (canals).

They really enjoyed the food which is like Chinese food, but with different spices and very hot. They made friends with a Chinese man on one of the "long tails" and went to his house for dinner. The people eat with a fork & spoon from communal dishes.

The houses are small, unpainted and have very little furniture. They are a great contrast to the temples which are large, gold and red, and of arched architecture.

They visited orchid farms, the Royal Palace, a food market, the old capital Ayuthaya (ruins) and the Summer Palace of the old kings. They also went to Khoa Yai National Park where they saw deer civet cat, and rogue elephant. Pete saw 25 new species of birds there, and collected leeches on his ankles.

GUESTS AT THE AGM - Bill Hewes & Carl Thompson of the COLVILLE OUTDOOR CLUB attended the AGM, and had a display of pictures & brief presentation of their activities.

NEW ROUTE ON LUCIFER PEAK - Howie Ridge

Lucifer peak is in the Devil's Range of the Valhalla Mountains above Gwillim Lakes. It is 8900 feet high with a very attractive steep West Ridge.

On the 2nd to last Thursday in August, 1980, Kim Kratky and I did a day trip, first ascent of this route from the end of Drinnon Creek & Hoder Creek road. It was about 12 hours from the car to Lucifer & back. (And they said it couldn't be done!) I think the exact words were "Ridge must be daft"

The first lead was the hardest at about 5.3, and after 2 rope lengths, we scrambled up a series of brown ledges on the north side of the ridge. The last 2 rope lengths were easy and brought us directly to the summit cairn.

The day was perfect with no wind, no clouds and pleasant sun heat after a few days of unstable conditions. For me, it was the best trip of the summer.

1st ASCENT OF "ROB'S ROUTE" ON THE WOLF'S EARS - Howie Ridge

In June of 1979, Kim Kratky, Janice Isaacs and I had attempted the South East Ridge of the East Ear. We got up about 20 feet on overlapping steep friction slabs.

In September of '79, Rob Mill went with me to the same route. It was a cold windy day. I led, and with the increased security from Royal Robbins rock shoes, got up the first 80 feet to a big grassy ledge, then led half a rope length to the right of an overhang on the East Face. Exposure of about 300 feet and a cold wind forced Rob and I to rappel from the grassy ledge.

In August of 1980, Ian Hamilton & I returned to the route with much gear for the fine rock climb. Ian led the first pitch, and then we alternated as we retraced the previous attempt, past the overhang, and then left, back onto the crest of the ridge. The last lead moved up a corner, very obvious, on the South Face, directly to the East Summit.

We rappelled into the notch, and did two leads to the West Summit, then down climbed the West Ridge.

"Rob's Route" is pleasant, with the first lead the hardest at about 5.5 or 5.6, on friction slabs. Six leads in total, with the first and second hard to protect with chocks.

WEST COAST TRAIL - Ursula & John Stephens

This past August, we hiked the West Coast Trail, from Port Renfrew to Bamfield. The 45 mile trail takes the hiker through rain forest, extensive bogs, & along the beaches. Much of the trail can be walked on the beaches, if the tides are right.

We had some interesting experiences roping each other across surge channels, & roping up and down a few steep cliffs. It was worth the effort to stay along the beaches, since we saw fewer hikers, and much more sea life, including whales, sea lions, seals, and all the sea life in the tidal pools. There are some very interesting land forms & rock formations, especially along the water. Parks Canada prefers hikers to camp in the designated sites, which are often very crowded.

There are 6 cable car crossings along the trail, and 1 very shaky suspension bridge. Though we didn't go on any side trips, there are several off the main trail, such as the Nitnat Lakes area. The section of trail from Nitnat to Bamfield is very popular, and people frequently fly in for day hikes. Parks Canada has responded to this by upgrading the trail in the north, to a very 'developed' standard. The Southern section is much more rugged, with fewer hikers there.

If anyone would be interested in planning this hike, we would be happy to lend out the topo maps, pamphlets, books on the Pacific Rim Park, or show our slides.

CONSERVATION REPORT - Derek Willans

The following 2 articles are from OUTDOOR REPORTS, the magazine of the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C.

Land-use conflicts in the Purcell's, and in the Big Bend region (site of KMC's 1977 & 1978 climbing camps), are explained in these presentations.

BIG BEND REGION

1. The extensive wilderness lands of the 'Big Bend' (of the Columbia River) Region cover both the Selkirks and the central Rocky Mountains. They offer exceptional opportunities for recreation and preservation and portions exhibit potentials for both parks and wilderness conservancy protection. At present this huge triangle of crown land, approximately 4,600 square miles, is almost totally deficient in reserved areas. Only Hamber Provincial Park, abutting Banff and Jasper Parks in Alberta, is there. Hamber was once B.C.'s largest park at 3,800 square miles until reduced to a token of 95 square miles in 1961.

Now resource developments are changing the character of the region dramatically. Industrial developments have increased enormously in the past decade: logging expansions, the Mica Dam and development of the Revelstoke reservoir which totally tamed the Columbia River, and plans for a Noranda mine to be built on the Goldstream River.

The Big Bend Resource Council (Golden based) has been fighting for some form of wilderness preservation and for wise resource use since its creation in 1976. They have focussed their efforts on better integrated management to protect habitat for endangered caribou, on a proposal to create a North Selkirk Wilderness Conservancy and, recently on obtaining an extension to Hamber Park (see B.C. Outdoors, June/78)

The Hamber extension, between the Continental Divide and Mica Reservoir has significant glacial and waterfall features and a historic fur trade route. Timber is the only economic resource value and that is marginal. The Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing, in response to the Council's proposal, has authorized a park study to be carried out in 1981 with a decision to come in 1982. In the next two years, the Council will need continued support from provincial groups to ensure the success of this excellent park proposal.

Contact: Big Bend Resource Council  
P.O. Box 1946  
Golden, B.C. V0A 1H0



PURCELL WILDERNESS CONSERVANCY

2. In 1974, the 325,000 acres of the central Purcell Mountains were established by an N.D.P. Order-in-Council as the province's first (and to date, only) wilderness conservancy. This came about as a response to public interest in the region and because studies indicated the lack of resource conflicts - forestry values and mineral potentials were considered to be minimal. In the past year, however, there has been pressure to open up the area - internal documents indicated that the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources wished to undertake mineral inventory studies within the conservancy with a view towards excluding areas of high mineral potential and also the B.C. Forest Service wanted an entire drainage removed from the reserve for possible logging. These attitudes aroused a public outcry, lead by the Sierra Club, especially because the intended action came from government agencies and not industry.

The government responded to the public criticism by carrying out a management study and review of the conservancy in 1979. The Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing added more fuel to the fire when he stated that the study would not be available for public review. In April of 1980, the Minister announced that the Purcell Wilderness would remain as is - there would be no boundary changes, no mineral exploration or staking, and timber or mine development would not be permitted. In retrospect, all this fuss happened because of less-than-positive government attitudes towards parks and wilderness preservation. The issue reinforces the point that has been made many times in the past - that areas reserved by orders-in-council really are not totally protected because their future can be in the hands and at the whim of the politician.

Contact: National & Provincial Parks Association  
1200 Hornby Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E2



WANTED - PHOTOS FOR USE IN THE KARABINER. "a picture is worth a thousand words"

SEND YOUR B/W, COLOR, OR SLIDES-NEGATIVES TO: Julie Norton, Box 1078  
ROSSLAND, B.C. V0G 1Y0

ARTWORK, CARTOONS, PICTURES - anything interesting from your trips or camps.

SEND THEM IN!!!