

# Kootenay Mountaineer

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club Newsletter Aug-Sept-Oct 2002 Issue 4 Next deadline: Approx. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>



**Kootenay Mountaineering Club address**  
Box 3195 Castlegar BC V1N 3H5

**KMC website**  
[www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca](http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca)

#### The 2002 Executive:

Chair	Paul Allen
Vice	Reid Henderson
Treasurer	Elaine Martin
Secretary	Ross Bates
Conservation	Kim Kratky
Cabins & Trails	Paul Allen
Winter Trips	Peter Jordan
Summer Trips	Don Harasym
Newsletter	Eliane & Steven Miros
Hiking Camps	Drew Desjardins
Climbing Camp	Kim Kratky
Mtn School	Jenny Baillie
Karabiner	Holly Ridenour
Social	Jill Watson & Jan Micklethwaite

#### Contacts

» Membership Annual Dues: «

**(Fees Unchanged - Note: Address change)**

Individual \$20 Couple/Family \$25 Junior \$10

Send to: KMC Membership c/o Eliane Miros  
Box 365 Robson BC V0G 1X0

» **Library & Newsletter submissions** «

Eliane & Steven Miros

Editorial Policy: We encourage all submissions of writings, cartoons, drawings, book & website reviews and trip reports. Suitability for publication is at editors' discretion. Articles and advertisements may be edited for clarity and length. Advertising must be thought to be of interest to members in regard to the outdoors, especially locally. Discretion will be used for commercial endeavors

## Recreation Management on Crown Land

by G.F. Weetman, from the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C.'s "Outdoor Report", Summer 2002. (Condensed. Eds.)

Will the forest industry manage recreation sites and trails? Under Tree Farm Licences (TFLs) (7.9% of the province comprising 30% of the forest), there is a direct obligation to manage forest land including recreation planning and monitoring. Many of the companies maintain recreation sites, trails and road access. On Timber Supply Areas (TSAs), which encompass approximately 3 times the area of TFLs, forest companies have forest licences and these have traditionally not had recreation responsibilities attached to them. The Ministry of Forests has been responsible for these recreation responsibilities.

The B.C. Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) Resource Planning Branch has recently released "Landscape-Level Strategy for Resource Development" for comment. This document under specific requirements of SRM plans for Timber Supply Areas, suggests that the plans have chapters that present consolidated information to help investigate economic opportunity or environmental assets. The list includes undeveloped site opportunities (ex. resort, recreation). Also, other values and activities that may be added to the SRM plan include public and commercial recreation. This document says that to ensure success, MSRM must form effective partnerships for SRM planning. Both forest companies and organizations are in the list of prospective partners, including recreational users and associations and environmental groups. There is no specific mention of recreation sites and trails nor who will manage them. Whether forest companies that operate in TSAs will accept forest recreation responsibilities on their current forest licence area is uncertain. If they do, then company involvement in forest recreation would cover nearly all the commercial forest tenures in B.C. Even if the companies in the TSAs agreed to accept some recreation management responsibility, there would still be recreation sites, trails and roads outside these tenures. Who will look after them? Clearly not the government!

The strategy document is at [www.gov.bc.ca/srm](http://www.gov.bc.ca/srm). The MSRM requests comments on the document be sent by e-mail to [allan.lidstone@gems6.gov.bc.ca](mailto:allan.lidstone@gems6.gov.bc.ca) or by fax at 250-953-3481. The outdoor recreation community in B.C. should make its views known. Read and comment.

# Executive Notes

Winter Trips: Peter Jordan will do the winter trip schedule this fall. Someone is required to fill the Winter Trips Director position, as Peter is unable to continue next year.

Don Harasym announced that he would coordinate a snowshoe trip schedule. Don's number is 354-xxxx

**We need trip leaders for the winter trips schedule: alpine/telemark skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. If anyone would like to volunteer to lead a trip, please call Peter Jordan, 352-xxxx or [xxxx@netidea.com](mailto:xxxx@netidea.com).**

Hiking Camp: Drew reported on this year's hiking camps. Final expenses are not all in yet. All camp participants are requested to mail their receipts to: KMC Hiking Camp, c/o Drew H. Desjardins, Kootenay Imaging, #14-2905 Lower Six Mile Road, Nelson BC V1L 6L7 (Tel.825-0072).

Discussion about trying to ensure that in future the club books the larger helicopter with the skid-mounted basket was made. This would cut down on the number of sling loads needed. The first planning meeting for next year should occur next month.

Newsletter: Thank you for all your submissions which are always appreciated. Next issue will be out after the November AGM.

Treasurer: The executive voted to consolidate the club's assets within a single institution, namely the Bank of Montreal, which has branches in Nelson, Castlegar, Trail and Rossland.

Library: The book "Where the clouds can go" by Conrad Kain is back in the library and can be borrowed again.

## Old Business:

The equipment inventory, website, karabiner, membership brochure, and spring social items were all tabled until next meeting.

Social: Please note the following:



## Camps Slide Show:

Date: Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

Time: 7:00 pm.

Location: Resker Hall, Robson.

(Three blocks east of Robson Hall, next to the little white church).

Other slides and photos are welcome.

*Coffee and treats will be served.*



## New Business:

### KMC Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.



Date: Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Sandman Inn, in Castlegar, 6:30 pm gathering, 7:00 pm dinner  
Please phone Jill Watson (362-xxxx) or Jan Micklethwaite (362-xxxx) so they can know the number of attendees for dinner (\$20.30/person) **before** Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.

*(Club T-shirts will be available for sale. Membership/renewal forms will also be available).*

1. Norman Thyer's concern for the approach to the summit of Gray's Peak was presented. The consensus was that an attached aid was unnecessary. Parks may object. The club should not become involved.

2. Ron Perrier and Jan reported that the Nilsik-Lemon Creek trail is in very poor shape. Past club work parties have proven to be unsuccessful. A discussion followed as to how the club could in some way use its limited resources for maintenance. A list of projects should be assembled for the club membership's direction and priorities.

3. Road access issues were discussed in light of the provincial government's intention to turn maintenance over to users who may gate the roads. People should complain to the government who should continue to maintain them. Otherwise the companies who maintain them will restrict them.

4. Member Ron Perrier reported on the KMC summit registers. The original 50 registers with the orange end-caps are suffering damage from wildlife chewing through the soft plastic ends. The executive approved the purchase of materials for 25 new registers (est. \$12 each) and also a supply of replacement end-caps (est. \$2 each). Members are asked to specify in their "trip reports" the register's condition and contact Ron's answering machine at 365-xxxx with this information.

In a recent article about Mt. John Carter, the writer was wrong about the peak's UTM grid reference. It should be 862-095 on the Kootenay Peak 1:50 000 scale sheet. (Kim Kratky)

## Some interesting websites:

[www.backroadmapbooks.com](http://www.backroadmapbooks.com),

Valleys & Vistas outdoor recreation guidebook for the West Kootenays. (Half price \$9) Monty Horton, Nelson, BC. Tel: (250) 359-5098

[www.gowestkootenay.com](http://www.gowestkootenay.com)

Hiking trails, biking trails, paddling routes. The recreation section under "things to see and do" offers a few things we know about our area as well as a few we don't. It's definitely worth a "peak".

[www.itmb.com](http://www.itmb.com)

Detailed travel maps and guides for numerous destinations around the world.

[www.cooltrails.com](http://www.cooltrails.com)

Cool Trails is a growing collection of trip reports from the Pacific Northwest. Everything from Mt. Abercrombie to Mt. Rainier.

[www.peakfinder.com/index.htm](http://www.peakfinder.com/index.htm)

This is an excellent source for info on the Canadian Rockies, their peaks and their climbers.

[www.slocanchief.ca](http://www.slocanchief.ca). This link

takes you directly to the Friends of West Kootenay Parks homepage, where you can read about construction of the new cabin and other Friends projects.

You can also access Friends this way: [www.fwkp@kics.bc.ca](mailto:www.fwkp@kics.bc.ca).

## KMC Fall 2002 Hiking Trips Schedule



**Classification of Trips:** Physical: A-easy B-moderate C-strenuous D-very strenuous  
 Technical: 1-hike 2-scramble 3-scramble, perhaps with some exposure 4-climb 5-climb, continual belays

**Reminders:** Mountain transportation is expensive - Share the costs: A figure of 35 cents per km divided among the passengers (not including the driver) is being suggested. No dogs permitted on club trips. Phoning the coordinator before going hiking is appreciated

Sept 25	Copper Mtn. B-1/C-2	Bob Dean
28 (Sat)	Grassy Mt. C-2	Pat/Al Sheppard
29	Brilliant Bluffs B-2	Andrew Martin
Oct 02 (Wed)	Silver Spray B-1/C-1	Mary Woodward
05 (Sat)	Sapphire Lakes C-1	Kathy Hendren
05 (Sat)	Haystack B-1/C-2	Peter Jordan
06	Slocan Chief C-1	Susan Fisher
09 (Wed)	Palisades C-2	Eliane/Steven Miros
12 (Sat)	Glade to Brilliant B-1	Bess Schuurman
13	Ootischenia to Trail B-1	Muriel/John Walton
14 (Mon)	Gwillim Lakes/Black Prince B-1/C-3	Vicki Hart
20	Evans Creek Trail B-1	Andrew Martin
27	Sullivan Creek to Genelle B-1	Ross Bates
Nov 03	Mel DeAnna Trail A-1	Muriel/John Walton
10	Mt. Sentinel C-2	Eliane/Steven Miros
17	Red/Granite A-1	Jan Micklethwaite
24	Coordinator needed	

Trips are being planned for the winter season. Leaders and destinations are required. Please contact the following:

For snowshoeing trips: Please contact Don Harasym at 354-xxxx

For alpine/telemark skiing, cross-country skiing: Please contact Peter Jordan at 352-xxxx

or [xxxx@netidea.com](mailto:xxxx@netidea.com)

## KMC Fall 2002 Bike Trips Schedule



### Trip classification:

**Physical** A-easy (short day, little elevation gain) B-fair (a longer day or moderate elevation gain) C-average (a full day, reasonable level of fitness required) D-strenuous (a long day, lots of elevation gain) E-very strenuous

**Technical** 1-suitable for all bikes 2-hybrid or mountain bike recommended 3-moderate mountain biking skills required 4-advanced mountain biking abilities - steep or exposed trails, difficult route finding may be involved 5-extreme mountain skills necessary

Sept 27	6 Mile Lakes C-2	Mary Woodward
Oct 4	Bonanza area C-3	Vicki Hart
11	Rossland area	Diane Paolini
18	Mtn Station-Silver King-Troup C-3	Carol Potasnyk
25	Leader Required	

# Skin Deep

*By Ola Dunin-Bell, M.D., F.R.C.S.C ACC Gazette, Fall, 2000 (Printed with author's permission-Formatted. Eds)*

To describe something as being only skin deep seems to imply that it is unimportant. But, in fact, skin happens to be the largest organ of the human body and its role as a protective barrier is anything but unimportant. Although trip doctors worry and prepare for such calamities as dislocated shoulders and broken legs, by far the commonest injuries are those that in other circumstances may be viewed as minor - blisters, sunburns and insect bites, to name a few. Yet, this group of "superficial" injuries may significantly compromise a hiker's ability to continue and can potentially leave them more vulnerable to future problems.

**Frostbite** One of the first conditions of the dermatology group that comes to mind in climbers, hikers and skiers is frostbite. This occurs when tissue has been exposed to freezing temperatures for a sufficient length of time so that on re-warming, some or all of the tissue dies. This damage of tissue ranges from so-called "frost-nip", where the affected area becomes red and tender for a short time, to full thickness freezing where amputation of body parts is necessary. Damage is always more severe the longer the exposure, the colder the final temperature and particularly when the freeze, thaw cycle is repeated. Tissue that has suffered frostbite before is more susceptible to repeat injury. The commonest areas affected are fingers, toes, ears, noses, cheeks. Besides lack of adequate insulation, factors contributing to freezing of tissues include tight constrictive clothing, immobility, dehydration, moisture and wind. Alcohol is dangerous as it impairs judgement and decreases normal protective sensations. As always, prevention is the best route. Appropriate clothing, well fitted and with good wicking to avoid moisture next to the skin, is mandatory. Drink adequate quantities of warm fluids. Be vigilant for early signs of tissue freezing, paleness and numbness. Since the first documented treatment of frostbite in the Napoleonic wars, the management has changed. Hypothermia should be prevented or treated. Although rapid rewarming of the affected area is critical, this must be done without trauma. Rubbing of any type, particularly with snow, is even more damaging. The best method is to rewarm in a water bath of 40 - 43°C for about 30 minutes or until the site pinks up. The area then should be protected from trauma and infection. Pain control is very important. Blisters appear at 2 - 3 days and should be left alone. After about two weeks, the blackened crust will start to peel. Coldness and swelling may last for up to seven weeks after superficial frostbite. With a deeper freeze, surgery for amputation is delayed, as a surprising amount will recover before the final demarcation occurs. Research into frostbite injury suggests that drugs that combat toxins may minimize the damage produced in frozen tissue once it thaws. Ibuprofen may be of benefit and ointments containing aloe vera have also been shown in at least one study to help.

**Sunburn** At the opposite end of the spectrum from freezing, solar radiation provides the benefits of warmth and production of vitamin D, but too much sun can be just as damaging as too much cold. Sunburn can be so severe that it results in second degree burns, dehydration, areas of serious skin infection and shock. The long-term effects of sunburn are equally serious with a much higher chance of melanoma, the most aggressive of the skin cancers, developing in people who have had four or more sunburns during their adolescence and early adult years. Climbers in particular are at greater risk for sunburn by virtue of where they travel. Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) is 80% reflected by snow and it increases by 4% for every 300 metres elevation. Other factors that increase the risk for sunburn include exposure during peak UVR times, these being between 10 AM and 2 PM. Tanned skin is slightly more resistant to burn, and heavily pigmented skin even more so. The face, neck and trunk are more sensitive to burn than arms and legs. People at greater risk have fair skin, blue eyes, and red or blonde hair. Typically, the redness of a burn first appears 2 to 6 hours after sun exposure and is at its worst 12 to 24 hours later. There is usually pain, some swelling, and in severe cases fever, chills, fatigue, nausea or vomiting. Blistering may occur and it is at this stage that the burn may become infected. By about a week, much of the redness has subsided and the area is peeling. Fortunately, most sunburns are not life threatening and care is mainly directed at relieving symptoms. Aspirin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen (eg, Advil, Motrin) help to relieve pain and inflammation, especially if given early. Cool compresses with a damp cloth may also help. Steroid creams are not of benefit and anaesthetic sprays or creams may actually irritate the skin further and should be avoided. Blisters should not be intentionally broken. Avoidance of further sun exposure is a must. If a burn is severe, the person may need to take steroid medication, and should be cared for by a doctor, similar to if they had a thermal burn. Always remember that sunburn can be associated with other illnesses, including dehydration, heat stroke, and snow blindness. As with frostbite, prevention is the best approach. Avoid sun exposure during peak times of radiation and wear protective clothing, including hats and UV screening sunglasses. Keep in mind that UVR can penetrate some fabrics. Regularly use sunscreens with an adequate sun protection factor (SPF). SPF refers to the time required for protected skin to become reddened as a factor of the exposure time needed to produce redness of unprotected skin. In general, an SPF of 30 is sufficient, but should be applied half an hour prior to exposure and reapplied regularly. Chemical barriers, specifically, PABA, are most commonly used as the effective agents in sunscreen. These should not be used in children under six months of age. Sunscreens with physical barriers, such as zinc oxide, talc, and titanium dioxide, give excellent protection, but tend to leave a white residue, which some people find unappealing. So get out there and enjoy the sun and the snow, but remember to protect the layer that is protecting you - your skin.

**Blisters** The motion of walking produces brief direct forces between the bones of the foot and the ground. When a boot is worn, significant stresses are produced by the movement of the boot over the bony prominences of the foot. This shearing movement is the primary cause of foot blisters and injury. A properly fitting boot clearly plays a role in preventing injury by decreasing the amount of motion of the foot inside and avoiding pressure points. Socks also are important in minimizing the transferring of these shear stresses to skin. Unfortunately, all too often poor selection of socks actually contributes to magnifying these forces by allowing the skin to become moist, transferring the shear force to between the skin and bones and softening the skin with resulting increased skin breakdown. Once tender blistered areas occur on the foot, changes often result in a person's gait and can lead to tendonitis, fasciitis and other serious injuries. It is critical that socks keep the feet dry by wicking away moisture, as well as providing good cushioning over bony prominences. Cotton is definitely the worst choice for sock material as it holds moisture within. A high quality wool, with flat looped seams, is excellent, even in summer. A thin polypropylene liner sock within a good wool sock is probably the best combination, significantly decreasing the shear stresses and providing good wicking. In addition to proper boot fitting and sock selection, massaging the feet well daily can decrease foot skin damage. Nails should be carefully trimmed, but not too short. In spite of preventative care, blisters may still occur, and can range from areas of redness, to full thickness damage with cracking, oozing and infection. When bubbled blisters form, these should be first treated by cleansing with betadine solution and allowing the area to dry for five minutes. A sterile needle can be used to release the fluid, but the blister surface should be otherwise left intact. A doughnut of moleskin should be placed around the blister and then a loose wrap of tape placed completely over it. Efforts should be made to avoid the situation that brought on blistering. Infected, oozing areas require medical attention and likely antibiotic treatment.

**Bites** Besides the unpleasantness of suffering the itch from a mosquito bite, insect borne diseases are an important reason to avoid being bitten. The incidence of insect borne diseases such as Lyme disease, encephalitis, and even dengue fever are increasing in North America. This has renewed an interest in better repellents. The most effective repellents are still those containing DEET, in spite of concerns of side effects with high concentrations. Unfortunately, as the concentration drops below 10% so does the efficacy. Microencapsulated formulas are being developed which have much less absorption than the more common preparations, and so are much safer. Other skin repellents that are often used in the community are the "Skin So Soft" bath oil and oil of citronella. Both of these have been shown to repel mosquitoes for short periods, generally less than 30 minutes from application, but are very weak and unlikely to be useful for more than the backyard barbeque. On the other hand, eucamolol, derived from the eucalyptus, and neem oil, extracted from the seeds of the neem tree, show effectiveness against sand flies and mosquitoes. Another important repellent is permethrin, a clothing treatment which can either be applied at the time of manufacturing or at a later time as a 0.5% spray. When applied correctly to clothing or mosquito netting, these products are both safe and highly effective for a number of weeks, even with weekly laundering. And just like mom always said, if you do get a bite, don't scratch. Itch can be decreased by application of cold and the limited use of a very mild local anaesthetic or steroid cream. Although far less common than illness borne by mosquitoes, significant diseases including Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever can be transmitted by ticks and so these arthropods deserve special mention. Ticks usually require a number of hours of attachment to pass on the infecting organism and so in addition to using insect repellents, frequent tick checks and removal of the ticks is important in preventing disease. Applying chemicals, such as ether or gasoline, to the tick to cause it to release, does not work. The best method is direct and complete removal. Care should be taken to avoid damaging the tick or leaving behind mouthparts or cement. Tick removal tools are available and are probably superior to tweezers. Ticks should never be handled with uncovered fingers. The area around the bite should be disinfected after removal and if possible the tick should be kept in a sealed labelled container to help identify potential illness, particularly if symptoms arise.

**Rashes** Although allergic rashes have been described as occurring from contact with a wide range of plants, from nasturtiums to magnolias, the commonest encountered are poison ivy and poison oak. Although not all people are sensitive to the juices of these plants, called Rhus plants, most people who have contact eventually do react. Unfortunately, people never lose their sensitivity to the plants once they develop an allergy. The best approach is to identify the plants and avoid them. Contrary to what many people think, the rash is not contagious and the fluid from the blisters does not spread it. Usually the rash does not appear immediately and the Rhus sap itself can be spread to other areas if not washed off first. The delay in appearance of the rash (called the latent period) can be four hours to ten days. New patches that show up later just had a longer latent period. Washing alone will not prevent the rash, unless it is done within 15 minutes of contact. Rhus rashes generally clear on their own without any treatment, but in the meantime they can make the sufferer pretty miserable. Once again cool compresses of water, or a mixture of two to four tablespoons of white vinegar in two quarts of cool water, for 15 minutes twice daily will help. More troublesome reactions, with associated pain and swelling, respond extremely well to steroids taken by mouth over a short period of time. This should be done under medical supervision. As the swelling subsides, a cortisone cream will help the rash heal.



# KMC TRIP REPORTS



## **Blueberry Overlook, May 01, 2002 and November 11, 2001**

Starting at the Kinnaird Bluffs in Castlegar, we hiked a circular route along the cliffs above Blueberry Creek with the Columbia River, Grassy & Siwash to the east and Hwy 3 & Blueberry Creek to the west. Total hiking time is about 4 hours with nice views throughout. Participants last fall were: L. Lee, A. and P. Sheppard, J. Watson, J. Micklethwaite, J. Baillie, F. Fodor, E. Larson, K. Dale, B. Johnson, M. Walton, T. Ibrahim, A. Kwok, M. Woodward, R. Sawatzky, S. Price, G. Lang, B. Dean, R. Perrier, and coordinator R. Bates. Participants in the spring were L. Charlton, C. Page, F. Fodor, P. Idle, R. Neumar, and coordinator R. Bates.

## **Evans Creek Trail, May 11**

A beautiful May day for a hike along Slocan Lake. Two dogs joined us at the beginning of the trail unaware of the KMC rule and came all the way to Evans Creek. We were eleven hikers plus two friendly dogs. Mary Woodward

## **Esmeralda Peak, June 16**

Thanks to the good snowpack and late spring, we had good skiing right through June this year. This trip was postponed for a week because the road wasn't plowed to Gibson Lake until early June. When we arrived, there was still a half-metre of snow at the parking lot, and the trail was skiable almost to the bottom. We booted it up the trail and up to the Keyhole, carrying our skis as the snow was firm in the morning. We scrambled up Esmeralda, and then had a great run down from the keyhole, on snow which was turning a bit slow in the afternoon sun. We were: Brad Steele, Mike Moor, Rob D'Eon, Mike Curran, and Peter Jordan, coordinator.

## **Kamikaze Peak, June 19**

Five of us met at the Norns Creek Rd.-Pass Creek Rd. junction and drove the logging road along Ladybird Creek 25 km to the trailhead. Our original destination of the Palisades was cancelled due to the torrential Norns Creek (A snowmobiler had perished trying to cross it just a couple of days earlier). We crossed the roaring creek on a slippery log and hiked up through the clear-cut. We were mostly on snow - so we did not have to bushwhack through the rhododendrons - and the summit was reached very quickly. At the peak low clouds limited our view and at times we were completely in the fog. There were a few bare rocks for us to lunch on and it actually was not too cold. Somewhere beneath all that snow lay a summit register. The sun came out as we started our descent,

giving us a better view but the soft snow prevented boot skiing and at times it dropped away beneath our feet. On two occasions Mary had to use her ice axe to free my deeply stuck boot. Our return timing was perfect as we just reached the truck when a very heavy rain-hail started. Steven sought out the route.

We were: Vicki Hart, Eliane & Steven Miros, Mary Woodward and Hazel Kirkwood, coordinator

## **Beak Peak (2813 m., 9229'), etc.**

**(maps Beaton 82K/12, Beaton 82K/NW 1:100000 Camborne 82K/13)**

This club trip was to have been to Spine Mtn., but road access problems led us to an area farther north in the Badshots. Tuesday, **June 25<sup>th</sup>**, Paul Allen, Bert Port, and I drove up the Incomappleux River road to Camborne, where we turned east on a faint road about 200 m. south of Pool Creek bridge. This Pool Creek road led us immediately into a landing above a tailing pond, up an overgrown track from the southeast corner of the landing, and then switch backed up to continue east along the creek's south bank. After sawing out a few deadfalls and re-building the road in 4-5 spots, we followed the route on easier terrain as it turned south into Mohawk Creek drainage (keep left about km. 5). A couple of hours from Camborne, we reached the broken bridge over Mohawk Creek (km. 7, 4600', GPSed at 585-225), where we stopped driving. After dropping a tree across the swift, black and deep creek, we retired for the night.

Wednesday, we got away at 5:30, made an exciting creek crossing, and rejoined the road to hike to the abandoned mine at the head of the valley (6800'; 610-210 on 1:100 000 sheet) west of our first objective, a 2620 m. survey point. This we easily scaled by the SW ridge/S face, reaching the top via snow and rock 5 hrs. from camp (GR 617-211, 8596'). After a brunch, we dumped all our climbing gear as the way ahead seemed easy, headed NE on snow, descended to the glacial col at 617-216, and scrambled the easy SW ridge of Beak Pk. on solid rock in 45 min. While Bert and I examined the cairn and put in a KMC record tube, Paul explored east along the savagely-broken ridge toward Goat Tower. The west ridge of Goat proving to be stacked, scary junk, we descended a snow tongue to the snowfield on the south side of the Beak-Pool rampart and headed east, looking for an easy way up Mt. Pool. By 2:25 pm, we had reached GR 637-215 (8000') and held a council of war. Calculating three hours to the summit of Pool and back to this spot, a total climbing day of 15 hours, and a drive down the interesting Pool Creek road in the dark, we decided to turn back. Re-tracing our steps over u/n 2620 and back down the Mohawk Creek road, we found a better log crossing and reached camp at 5:20 for a tidy 11 hour 50 min. day. The drive out to Camborne was uneventful, and we reached Nelson at 11:45 pm. Good thing we didn't continue on to Mt. Pool. Kim Kratky.

**Crawford Creek Headwaters, June 26** The original destination of Powder Creek was changed because we were advised that it was too early to get up the access road because of the spring run-off. Three of us caught the 8:10 am ferry to drive up the road to Crawford Creek. Last year the road was suitable for normal cars but they have now put some very deep cross ditches that make a high clearance vehicle necessary. About 2 km from the trailhead, the road became impassable with a creek running across the road. We parked there (elevation 1175 m), and started the hike by wading through the creek, therefore all of us were hiking with wet feet. Since many parts of the road to the trailhead and the trail itself were essentially creeks, our feet were kept good and wet. The trail eventually disappears and some bushwhacking through alder was necessary followed by crossing snow patches that we broke through occasionally. We stopped at the first lake (elevation 1695 m) and in view of the time and the high temperature, we decided that was far enough. We found a better route down that avoided most of the alder, but did not make it back to the vehicle until 6:20 pm, so we were unable to catch the 7 pm ferry. We were, Dave Dever, Mary Woodward and Ted Ibrahim, coordinator.

### **Seven Mile Dam bike trip, June 28**

On June 28th Carol P., Bess S. and myself met at the Waneta Plaza at 8:00 am. A cloud cover kept the temperature comfortable for the long hill up towards the dam. We did some exploring on some old roads past an old homestead then returned to take the upper gravel road back, then down to the Waneta dam. Then back on the highway to our vehicles. Mary Woodward.

### **Insect Peak, 2463m., 8081' July 5**

Eight Kootenay mountaineers hiked the 6.4km. trail up into Blue Grouse Basin. On this day much snow was still in the basin. The weather was fine, with sunshine and cobalt blue skies. Insect Peak is south of the basin. The group plodded up past the tarns and traversed to the col between Insect and Hampshire Peak. From the col it is an easy walk to the peak. We admired the views and mountains, Hampshire in particular, snapped lots of pictures. Kevin had a snooze on the col while the rest of the party basked in the sun for over an hour. Another party of three arrived on the peak, and after chatting we descended the snow slopes, glissading whenever possible. We rested (again) at the tarns before hiking down to the vehicles. An enjoyable day on the snow and mountains! On the trip: Kevin Forsyth, Ted Ibrahim, Peter Jordan Gerda Lang, Curt Nixon, Julie Pelletier, Mary Woodward and coordinator Vicki Hart.

### **Unnamed 1 km. north of Dolly Varden (map: Rosebery 82K/3 1:50 000)**

The club climbing schedule trip for Sat., **July 6<sup>th</sup>**, was to this remote Goat Range peak that we thought might be unclimbed. Leaving Nelson at the salubrious hour of 5:00 am, we were ready to hike from the Alps Alturas trail parking lot at 8:00. We headed up the snow-covered trail and reached the snowy col NE of Dolly Varden (7850'; 810-523) in about three hours. We then descended snow to the W. and traversed the headwaters of Dixie Creek above an unnamed tarn to another col E. of our objective. Continuing W. on snow, we reached a series of snow patches on the peak's south face, which we ascended. Above the snow, scrambling on fair-quality rock of the south face and SW ridge led us easily to the summit by 1:00 pm (804-527; 2675 m. 8,776'). Here, we found a large cairn, which we surmised was built by miners. After putting in a rudimentary summit record and lounging for 45 min., we re-traced our steps to the truck in 3 ¼ hours. Total day: 9 hours. Weather: excellent, about 25 C, with sunny skies going o/c in mid-afternoon. Although we came prepared with rope and hardware, none was needed on this class 3 peak. Future parties (if any) may find it worthwhile to make a different approach: exit the trail in the sub-alpine, skirt the W. ridge of the Dolly Varden massif, and ascend the S. bank of Dixie Creek (best done on snow and early in the year) to the base of the objective. Norman Thyer has suggested this peak be named Gabriel Varden, after Dolly's father; both are characters in the Dickens novel Barnaby Rudge. On the trip: Kim Kratky, Howie Ridge (coordinator). Kim Kratky

### **Mount Marten, 2747m., 9012' July 7**

Ten KMC hikers met at Roseberry at 8:00 pm and then drove 30 km to the Alps Alturas trail head in an hour. The logging road was in such good condition that even Robin Lidstone's Saab made it none the worse for wear.

There was more snow than at the same time last year but it didn't slow us down too much and 7 of us reached the top by 1:30. Only one other group had signed in since the KMC trip last year. Up until this time we had enjoyed warmth and sunshine but threatening looking clouds were coming so we didn't linger too long. In fact Hans and Carol barely got a bite of their sandwich. The leader demonstrated the 30 second method of descending 1000' but no one else followed suit. Apparently it isn't such an attractive option when you are wearing baggy shorts. The rest of the trip down was uneventful. Hans was so relaxed that he gave a self-arrest demonstration on a steep slope just above a lake. We made it back to the vehicles at 4:30 just as the rain started.

Thanks to the following for a wonderful day: J. Baillie, V. Hart, D. Hawkes, K. Holmes, H. Korn, R. Lidstone, C. Overton, C. Potasnyk, J. Watson. Bill Sones, coordinator.

## **Wolf's Ears, 2732m., 8963' July 10**

We started walking up the trail to Gimli and the Mulvey Basin at 7:30 am. After crossing many windblown trees, we emerged on the ridge below the southeast-facing nose of Mount Gimli on what promised to be a hot, cloudless day. We then traversed eastward on snow to a break in the ridge that ran southward from the main ridge connecting Gimli with the west and east peaks of Wolf's Ears. The break in the ridge provided a gully, which we ascended to the south facing slopes beneath Wolf's Ears. From our vantage point, both the peaks (ears) and the col between the two looked as though it would take more climbing gear than we had with us, so we circled around the east peak to make our approach from the north (Mulvey basin side)- Bert said we made more points for circumnavigating our objective.

Reaching the col from the north, we roped-up and climbed the west side of the east peak, for the most part moving in unison. After down climbing, we traversed beneath the north side of the west peak across 35 to 45 degree snow slopes high above Mulvey Basin. Upon reaching the ridge on the other side, we untied and climbed west Wolf's Ears, passing rappel slings that cluttered the route in several places. Both peaks offered wonderful views of Gladsheim, Asgard, Midgard and Gimli, while further north Lucifer, Trident and others in the Devils Range beckoned.

We returned to our packs and found a gully to descend that took us back to our tracks in the snow on the south side. A very laid back trip, with plenty of breaks for food and photo opportunities. The trip took just under eleven hours, with an altitude gain of 1031 meters from the parking lot to the peak(s) and another 310 meters in incidental ups and downs due to our circumnavigation. Total round trip about 10 kms. On the summits were Bert Port (leader), Hans Korn and David Shadbolt. Sue Port had watched us from the ridge.

David Shadbolt, coordinator.

## **Mount Wurttemberg, July 14**

Originally occupied by the Celts and the Suevi, the Wurttemberg region was conquered in the 1st century by the Romans. In the 3rd century it was overrun by the Alamanni, who in turn were subdued by the Franks. On July 14, 2002 along came the KMC with their four-wheel drive vehicles and hiking boots. Actually, that was a different Wurttemberg, but no matter. This trip was more of a Jeep excursion than a mountaineering excursion. We ended up driving about 100 km. off highway (2-ways). Those of us in the lead vehicle felt like we were on a wildlife safari with all the animals we spotted. Darkwoods is keeping the gate at 15 km. on Porcupine Creek road open until September 30. A forester I met on the road told me that the Wildhorse Creek gate was locked. Consequently, I decided that Porcupine Creek

road, just south of Ymir on Highway 6, would be the best access.

To get to Wurttemberg via the Porcupine Creek Road, take the main road to kilometer 35. This is past the height of land, at about kilometer 16, and going down the Kootenay Lake side of the pass. There is a bit of a trick at kilometer 26, where it seems as if the road going up (left) is the main one, but that leads to West Lynx. You will see the kilometer markers increasing when you are on the correct road. At km 35, the Porcupine Creek Road meets Liab Creek Road. Turn up there (left) minding to stay left less than a kilometer after the bridge at 4.5 km. on Liab Creek. There are two grassy road turn-offs to the left. The first is 9 km. up and the second, is 11 km. up. The second one is the one you want to take. This road starts out pretty good then deteriorates, but it does go to the col just below the west summit of Wurttemberg. We were stalled by snow, but even at that, we were able to hike to the west, and tallest summit of Wurttemberg in anywhere from 35 to 50 minutes. Not much of a hike!

There are actually four peaks to Wurttemberg. We travelled to the second most westerly one, and because we had already spent about 3 hours driving, we reached the second summit about noon. The hike along the skyline covering all four peaks would take about 2-3 hours at an average pace, but that is just a guess based on the time to scramble between the two most western summits.

Eleven of us went in three vehicles. More exciting than the hike was the Paris to Dakar style rally on the trip out. The leader was barely able to keep ahead of Robin and Ted in Robin's unique off-road racing truck.

David Mitchell.

## **Virgil Mountain, 2557 m., 8389' July 17**

This was changed from Mount Fennel because many participants had already been up it, but had not been up Virgil. Another warm, sunny day. When we went up Insect Peak on July 6, Blue Grouse Basin had been completely covered with snow, but the hot spell had almost completely removed the snow. From Blue Grouse Basin, we aimed for the first low point on the ridge to the right of the peak. After going up some fairly steep snow, we reached a point that both Hans and Bert climbed without difficulty. The remainder, however, felt uncomfortable without a rope, and Bert supplied a rope for Sue and Vicki. Meanwhile, Gene, Ted, Genevieve and Paula decided to try going to the right where they found an easier way up. While it was not an easy ridge walk to the top, no further problems were met for the rest of the way. We all came down by the easier route. We were Paula Drouen, Genevieve Guenette, Vicki Hart, Hans Korn, Sue and Bert Port, Susan Toch, Gene Van Dyck and Ted Ibrahim, coordinator.

## **Paulsen to Castlegar bike trip, July 19**

It was another hot, hot day when seven of us met at 8:30 at the Hugh Keenleyside Dam in Robson. We left two



cars there and drove the other three to the Paulsen summit. We biked down to the Paulsen Bridge and on to the Kettle Valley Railroad tracks. We stopped to see the memorial to Peter Verigin, the first leader of the Doukhobors in Canada, (in case you are new to the area) who was killed by a bomb in 1924 while riding the train. The memorial is below the railway trail on the left side and has a white marker.

After a few kilometers uphill it was down all the way to Robson. We passed through several tunnels, one of them long, dark and wet, but nice and cool. We also crossed several trestles across which some of us rode, but the more careful ones walked. As most of the trail was in the shade, we did not suffer from the heat as much as we did the previous week on the Paulsen to Christina Lake bike trip. We were back at the Dam at 2:30.

Fellow bikers were: Ross Bates, Sandra and Doug Brown, Hans Peter Korn, Yvonne Tremblay, Mary Woodward and Renate Belczyk, coordinator.

### **Shake and bake on Reco Mtn, July 20**

You don't really need a bike to approach Reco Mountain, but on past trips I was impressed by the old mine road disappearing off the 1000 m dropoff down to Carpenter Creek, so this year I planned a "hike and bike" trip. We dropped one car off at Sandon, and put everyone with bikes into Larry's Suburban, and drove on a good road up Stenson Creek to the old mine at 1800 m. From here, a washed-out, steep, mine road leads to the pass at the base of Reco Mtn, at 2200 m. It seems to get some traffic from ATV's, but is not drivable by regular vehicles. About half the road was so steep we had to push, but the rest was enjoyable biking up through the alpine meadows and old mine workings. The summit of Reco Mtn was an enjoyable stroll, with warm sun, lots of flowers, and great views. Then the fun part - the descent down the mine road, with innumerable switchbacks and impressive views down to Sandon and across to Mt Carlyle. An avalanche had strewn trees across the road for several switchbacks, and we were thankful to the ATV-ers for having sawn out a path. About 2/3 of the way down, the drivable road resumed, and we zoomed on the packed dirt road to Sandon. At this point, since we weren't drivers, Vicki and I took off for New Denver via the Galena Trail, leaving the others to do the vehicle shuttle. As it turned out, they had a near-adventure retrieving Larry's truck past a tree which had fallen across the road during the day. After a great 1700 m (5600 ft) descent from the pass to Slocan Lake, we had time to bask in the sun in the park at New Denver while waiting for our rides. We were: Larry Hanlon, Frank Fodor, Vicki Hart, Curt Nixon, and Peter Jordan, coordinator.

### **Mount Dag, 2744m., 9003' July 27**

Thirteen of us set off from Slocan Junction at 6:30am. One hundred yards before the Gimli parking lot

we turned onto a high clearance road for 3 kms. We found the old Gimli trail which took us to the alpine below the Wolf's Ears.

We crossed the headwaters of Robertson creek and followed a cairned route up the west side of Dag to the ridge. The last step onto the ridge involves climbing up a chimney about 15 feet. Robin and Steve climbed to the ridge then set up a belay. After the 8th person had climbed the chimney a lot of loose rock was released down the chimney. Fortunately, none of the people below the chimney were hurt. Robin released more boulders until he felt the area was safe. There was still one large boulder sitting precariously at the top of the chimney. The remaining 5 hikers climbed the chimney without touching this boulder. On the way down we carefully avoided this boulder when we downclimbed the chimney. From the top of the chimney we walked up the ridge for 1 hr. to the summit. We sat on the summit for about 1 hr. It was a clear day. The Mulvey Basin was spectacular. There were views of the Slocan Valley, Kokanee Glacier Park, Slocan Lake, and the Devil's Range in the Valhalla's.

The hike took approx. 11hrs. 5 hrs in, 5 hrs out and 1 hr on the summit.

We were: E. Ackerman, P. Drouin, K. Forsythe, G. Guenette, V. Hart, H. Korn, R. Lidstone, K. Medland, S. Miros, K. Nixen, A. Walker, R. Waters, and David Cunningham, coordinator.

### **Artist Point Mountain., 2515 m., 8251'**

#### **(Map Slocan 82F/14), August 10**

This destination was substituted for the Mt. Cooper trip of Aug. 10-12 after no interest was expressed. The peak is located in Kokanee Glacier Park on a ridge extending northwest from Mt. Kamball and is accessed via Keen Creek. Details follow. Drive the Keen Creek road to the Desmond Creek bridge (unsigned) at about km. 15; not far beyond, the road is washed out. Park and walk the road for about 15 min. until you see an older road branching off up and left. This is the Sturgis Creek trail/road, which is fairly well brushed out to at least GR 906-192, where you will pass the remains of a cabin (5700', 2 hrs. walking). Descend through open timber to the south to cross Sturgis Creek and ascend slopes of alder (mercifully brief), heather, talus, and snow to the obvious notch in the east ridge of the objective. Continue west along the ridge over several towers and large blocks, turning most difficulties on the left, to reach the flat-topped, narrow summit. 4 ½ hours up; 3 hours return. Take care with loose granite on the ridge crest when doing this class 3 scramble. A cairn was built and KMC register put in place. Climbed on August 10<sup>th</sup> by Jim Kienholz and Kim Kratky with support by Earle R. Whipple of Barcelona, Spain. Sturgis Creek trail seems to continue into the alpine, thus giving good access to Silver Spray Cabin via the ridge south of Mt. McQuarrie. Kim Kratky

## **Gregorio Peak, 2605m., 8547', August 11**

At 6:30 four of us departed from Nelson and at 8:30 met three from Kaslo at the Drinnon Lake trailhead. An unexpected participant was Dick Benoit from Reno (climbing buddy of Robin Lidstone), who was heading south after a week at the Alpine Club's General Mountaineering Camp.

From Drinnon Lake, we continued on the Gwillim Lake trail to gain easy altitude before veering off in an easterly direction across the southern flanks of Gregorio. Upon reaching a gully with a north-south bearing (third over) we headed up, taking care to avoid sending loose boulders onto those below.

The final pitch to the summit ridge contained a little exposure, so for practice, four of tied into a rope (I forgot mine, but Dave Mitchell had a short rope) and had fun trying to climb simultaneously without impeding one another. Dick climbed ahead, two scrambled up an easier route to the left and one remained at the col. A pleasant walk along the ridge took us to the cairn. Great weather. Great company. We were: John Bargh, Dick Benoit, Michael Graup, Vicky Hart, David Mitchell, Peter Roulston, Bill Sones, and David Shadbolt, coordinator.

## **Spine Mtn., 2851 m., 9354', August 17 (Map Trout Lake 82K/11)**

Having received no calls for the club trip to Charybdis, I changed the destination to Spine Mtn. Paul Allen and I climbed this major Badshots peak from a car camp on Gainer Creek. Details follow. From Trout Lake city, we drove the Lardeau Creek and Gainer roads to the very end just south of Bunker Hill Creek (2WD). After camping in a cutblock on the east side of Gainer, we got away at 6:25 am, starting from the road on the west bank (GR 791-165, 4300') and bushwhacking up a long, southwest-tending ridge on the south side of Bunker Hill. After two hours of thrashing (not bad by Badshot standards), we emerged onto talus slopes. These we followed as the ridge bent west. Soon the ridge became more defined and offered fine scrambling on good limestone. It was narrow with impressive exposure in places and the way ahead looked daunting, but the route kept unfolding in front of us. By 12:00, we had reached the ridge end and walked off talus slopes onto the Spine Glacier. We then plodded across the snow and up to the peak's south ridge, which we followed easily to the summit by 12:45 (6 hrs. 20 min. up). During our 50 min. on top, we admired the stunning views (it's perhaps the best observation point in the area), read the original summit record by Ian Kay's party of 1950 (same route as ours), put in a new KMC summit record tube, and monitored the worsening weather (it had been sunny all the way up).

On descent, we re-traced our steps to the ridge and then bypassed the upper, craggy part by descending the glacier on the north (or left, on descent). We re-joined the ridge at the talus section just as the sprinkles began and

continued through the moderately-wet bush to the truck by 5:35 (4 hours down; 11 hr. 10 min. day). As far as we know, this is the third ascent of the peak and the first as a day-trip.

We took a 7 mm rope (which was not used), bivvy gear (ditto), and left the crampons in the truck. Most important was the porcupine wire that Hamish Mutch suggested. We saw three of the critters on the road the night we drove in. At trip's end (the rain having stopped after only 25 min.), we had a chat with three CMH employees who cycled up the road on mountain bikes. Overall, a wonderful day on a peak we'd both been dreaming about for 10-15 years. Best of all, we didn't have to spend the night out, as we had expected.

Kim Kratky

## **Dolly Varden, 2569 m, 8428', August 25**

Fourteen of us met at the Playmor Junction and proceeded up the Slocan valley under threatening skies and occasional rain. Turning off Hwy. 6 at the East Wilson Creek FSR we climbed up the excellent logging road to the Alps-Alturas trailhead 30km from the highway. The views from the FSR were great but it seemed we would be rained out a few times during the hour-long climb. By the time we reached the trailhead the weather was cooperating with high, light overcast and no rain. A short hike through pleasant meadows brought us to the base of Dolly Varden. The trail continues around to a lake and Mt. Marten, but we left that and started climbing the "obvious" route to our left. Half of us made it past an awkward ledge with some exposure and up to the ridge top directly. The others backtracked and took a more comfortable route up through the boulders and scree further to the right. This is probably a better route as the exposed ledge would be rather slippery when wet. From the top we could see the ridge curving around a deep basin for a kilometer or two culminating in a prominent high peak to the north. Since none of us had been to Dolly Varden before, we assumed that the prominent peak (unnamed on the map) was our destination. In fact, the KMC summit register was placed on the prominent peak a few weeks earlier by another party. To get to this peak it would have been better to follow the trail all the way past the lake before ascending the ridge. From where we were, it meant a long exposed traverse along the ridge top. Since the weather was deteriorating, we decided to settle for climbing the small summit at our end of the ridge and have lunch. A check of the map, the altimeter, and some GPS readings confirmed that this small summit was indeed Dolly Varden – a fact which we later conveyed to the disappointed few in the group who decided not to bother climbing the last short distance to the top. We descended back along the scree and boulder route in poor visibility with fog and drizzle. Emerging back at the trail through the meadow, the skies started to clear. We were down to New Denver in time for coffee and ice cream, as well as some shopping at the Valhalla

Outdoor store. Naturally, it was brilliantly sunny down in town. Participants were: E. Ackerman, F. Fodor, S. Miros, T. Ibrahim, G. VanDyck, D. Harasym, B. Steele, J. Bargh, R. Neumar, M. Woodward, J. Watson, C. Laface, J. Baillie, and coordinator R. Bates.

### **Jumbo Pass, 2270m., 7450', August 31**

This was originally scheduled to be a long weekend car-camping trip to Jumbo Pass, Monica Meadows, and the Macbeth Icefield. Two of us met at Glacier Creek Rec. site on Friday night, and we were joined by two more the next morning. The thunderstorms of the previous day looked like they would clear away as we climbed up the Glacier Creek FSR. At the Jumbo/Monica junction we had broken into clear blue skies and sunshine. We also met one more participant who had driven up that morning. The trail up to Jumbo Pass was steep but short, and we enjoyed spectacular views of the surrounding peaks and glaciers. There was even a sheltered patch of alpine meadow in full bloom on the way. All five of us made it to the ridge top above the cabin. Four of us continued on to the highest point, arriving in well under three hours from the trailhead. A new KMC summit register was left in the cairn, and the existing register book dating back to 1975 (which is now filled) was placed inside next to the newer one. We enjoyed a long lunch, soaking up the marvelous views and sunshine. Returning to the cabin, we had a brief visit with the next group who had booked it for the weekend. We descended the steep trail back to the vehicles and decided to camp there for the night. The plan was to drive over to the Monica Meadows trailhead the next morning, but unfortunately it rained all night. We awoke to black thunderclouds and intermittent showers on Sunday. After waiting a few hours in the hopes it would clear up, we decided to call it a day and headed home. Doing Monica Meadows in the rain would have been an anti-climax after the wonderful views on Saturday. (Naturally, it was a nice sunny day by the time we got back to town). Participants were: P. Oostlander, B. Hanlon, L. Hanlon, R. Lidstone, and coordinator R. Bates.

### **Steeple Mtn. 2379 m., 7805'; (GR 134-558) (maps Creston 82F/2, Boswell 82F/7) Sep. 8**

For years I had been eyeing a sharp little spire on the west side of the south end of Kootenay Lake's main arm. Finally, in the fall of 2001, I got close enough to get a good view from the summit of Hulme Pk. just north of Hwy #3 and east of Jersey Crk. A trip to Kootenay Mtn. earlier this year confirmed that the Steeple Mtn. shown on Boswell 82F/7 was a pedestrian lump and the real Steeple must be the sharp spire a few km. north of Kootenay.

On Sept. 8, a KMC party set out from Nelson at 5:30 for an attempt on this fairly remote and possibly unclimbed objective, a re-scheduling of a club trip slated for June. Armed with our Darkwoods pass (this is private land), we

turned north onto Topaz FSR 34 km. east of Kootenay Pass and just west of the Summit Crk. bridge. Road directions follow. At km. 3, continue straight onto Newington Rd. and follow the mainline as it heads up an unnamed creek, through a pass, and down into Shaw Crk. Cross Shaw Crk, and drive to the end of the road in a new landing below the SE ridge of Wood Pk. (2 ½-3 hrs., 135 km. GR 144-521).

Now for the approach and climb. From the landing (8:45) we contoured north through moderate bush, ascended to the SE ridge of Kootenay Mtn., continued up the ridge, and then crossed a basin to the next ridge north (2 hrs., GR 132-545). From this point, the objective is in sight. We then followed the ridge system right to the south ridge of Steeple Mtn. You can go over the two intervening sub-peaks or traverse them on the east. Either way provides strenuous scrambling up to class 4 on solid granite. After reaching the base of our spikey peak's south ridge in three hours, we sorted out gear, donned rock shoes, and scrambled to the summit in a surprising 15 min. (12:30, 3 ¾ hours up). The crux is a short wall that can be turned on the left (class 4, lots of exposure) or tackled head-on via a 5.0 lay-back. On top, we found an intricately-constructed oval rock bivvy site and two stone men on end. We put in a KMC summit tube, lounged for 30 min., and descended via the route up. Some of us made use of stoppers and slings to downclimb the lay-back, but the rope was not used on the trip. Re-tracing our approach route, we decided to climb Kootenay Mtn. from our rest stop at GR 132-545. We traversed SW into a basin, ascended scree and boulders to gain the N. ridge, and enjoyed a pleasant, short scramble to the summit by 3:40 pm. Departing at 4:00, we went down the SE ridge to the point where we had joined it in the morning, descended into the same burn we had traversed, and had an easy bushwhack through timber a bit west of our approach route, coming out right at the road-head. Back at the truck by 5:45 for the usual 9-hour day, all pronounced themselves extremely satisfied. Weather was definitely acceptable, although at times cool and windy. On the trip: Peter Jordan, Hamish Mutch, Fred Thiessen, Tim Thurston and Kim Kratky, co-ordinator.

### **Rugged Peak and Big Sister, Sept 15**

The sunny warm weather encouraged eleven of us to come on this outing. We met at Bonanza Rd in Hills at 9:00 am and then tackled the sometimes steep and rough (always dusty) road to the trailhead. Amazingly, John's Forester made it to the 6400' parking lot although I don't even think Crocodile Dundee would recommend it.

It took us an hour to scurry straight up the hill to the top of **Rugged Peak (7970')**. We enjoyed the views and our first lunch and then descended about 500' to the col and then up the other side to the slightly higher **Big Sister** summit (**8093'**). More relaxing and eating took place and then the descent. Coming down Big Sister into

Grizzly Meadows was quick but then we had to do a bit of bush-wacking through trees, swamp, horseflies etc. to get back to the vehicles. I was patting myself on the back for a job well done when Norman (while looking up a clear avalanche path to the top of Rugged Peak) asked why we had to bushwack on the way up. I tried to assure him he was imagining things and besides I didn't have a GPS.

We stopped to view the Kokanee run in Bonanza Creek on the way back.

Thanks to the following for a great day: Jan Micklethwaite, Ron Perrier (who installed registers on both peaks), John Bargh, Janet Fidler, Mary Woodward, Carol Potasnyk, Norman Thyer, Eric Ackerman, Andrew Martin, Mike Graup and Bill Sones, coordinator.

## Other Trip Reports

### Sorcerer Mountain, 3167 m., 10,390'

On Friday, **July 19<sup>th</sup>**, Fred Thiessen and I climbed this major Northern Selkirks peak in a long, eventful day from a helicopter camp at Bachelor Pass, at the head of the Goldstream River about 65 km. NE of Revelstoke. As participants in the Jones & Seagram Flying Circus Camp #1, we had thought first about doing Sorcerer as a one-way trip, with a helicopter drop-off or pick-up at the beginning or end of camp. However, we decided to try it in one push on the day before we were to fly out. Our route was to be the long northwest ridge, the path of first ascent by Peterson in 1904. But first we would have to traverse an entirely separate range, the Alphabet Group. Starting from camp (7000') at 4:50 am, and carrying a rope, some hardware, and bivvy gear, we raced south up the glacier to Sickle Bar Col (8350') in an hour. The next stage was a long, descending traverse along the unnamed glacier on the east side of the peaks of the Alphabet Group: Able, Baker, and Charley. After some route-finding problems on the broken-up glacier, we descended nasty bush and cliff bands to Sorcerer Pass (6650' and directly north of our objective) by 8:30. Passing through swarms of mosquitoes, we headed up alps to the south and gained the crest of Sorcerer's NW ridge before diagonaling up snow slopes on the west side of Sorcerer North, a sub-peak. We next regained the ridge crest by scrambling solid ledges on the west face. By this time, the weather was deteriorating, leaving the route ahead shrouded in mist. We continued over moderate broken rock, alternating with snow until reaching steeper, shattered rock; by now, we were near the summit and feeling the altitude. A rotten, exposed ledge system, followed by a worse chimney, led us to a summit. Noting a slightly higher point 150' to the NE, we crossed a steep snow couloir and clambered up some more rancid rock to reach the cairned summit at 12:35 (7 hrs. 45 min. up).

Inspecting the cairn, we found only a summit record from the 1994 north glacier party of Bruce Fairley, Jeff Dolinsky, and Marvin Lloyd. Mercifully, the summit was clear during our 30-minute break, but most other peaks were cloud-shrouded.

Before heading down at 1:05 for the 12.5 km. walk home, I told Fred we would be back by 8:00 and wouldn't need our bivvy gear. We re-traced our ascent route, enjoying some tricky unroped downclimbing, and reached the now bug-free Sorcerer Pass by 3:50. Next, we turned on the jets and booted it up slopes to the west of the bush and cliffs encountered in the morning. At 5:00, just before stepping onto the glacier to ascend to Sickle Bar Col, we stopped for supper. I was thinking, "Things look pretty good, now," but interesting times were awaiting us.

Now on the glacier with Fred setting a furious pace (he had also been carrying the rope since we left the summit), we were engulfed by a violent storm that swept onto us from the west. Thunder, lightning, hail, and snow assailed us. Just about the time we should have seen Sickle Bar, a whiteout overcame us. Fred astutely guided us to the col; from that point, we felt our way down the glacier above camp, avoiding crevasses and bare ice, to reach the fog-shrouded tents in the rain at 7:40 pm. As Hamish prepared us a most-welcome meal, we sipped beers with the contentment of exhaustion (well, at least I was exhausted; Fred will have to answer for himself). Total day: 14 hrs. 50 min. Return from summit: 6 hrs. 40 min. Return from Sorcerer Pass: 3 ½ hours. Neither rope nor crampons were used. Kim Kratky



### Frosty Mountain, 2408 m., August 25

We had been passing through E.C. Manning Provincial Park an average of twice a year for some 24 years. Each time wondering what it was like on those peaks that we caught glimpses of. It was time to get off the road and put on our hiking boots. With an elevation of 2408m, Frosty Mtn. is the highest peak in the park. Our 22 km (return) hike with an elevation gain of 1150m began at the "Lightning Lake Day Use Area" parking lot which is located on the road to the Manning Park Ski Area. From the day use area, cross the bridge over the dam on the east side of the lake. About 100m south of the bridge, take the left fork of the trail. From here the trail to Frosty is well marked. On this particular day, there were ¾ " hailstones on the edges of the trail from a storm on the day before. For the next few kilometers there is considerable elevation gain, but all under a spruce forest canopy and essentially a north-west side trail. After 30 minutes, you begin to catch a few glimpses of Lightning and Flash Lakes, but then back into the forest with the grade lessening. At 7 km we reached the Frosty Creek wilderness campsite that has an

outhouse, small emergency log cabin and a creek. A short while later we entered the larch forest with trees apparently over 2000 years old. The variety of fungi is extensive. This place would be great at about the third week of September when the sub-alpine larch changes colour to gold. This forest slowly opens to a meadow and views of Frosty's two peaks. In late July this place is probably full of blooming wildflowers. At 10 km the vegetation becomes true alpine and the rocky landscape begins. Two km of steep switchbacks lead to a ridge from where it is another half km of slogging the rocky trail, above a basin, to the summit. The views here are spectacular. The numerous angular peaks to the near south are in the North Cascades National Park and Pasayten Wilderness. The Cathedral Lakes are far off to the east and some huge peaks including Mt Baker to the west. This hike took approximately 6 hours and at the trailhead we swam across the narrow Lightening Lake. Francois and Jean were great. Eliane and I paid for it at the Hope waterslides and Vancouver P.N.E over the next few days. This was a great hike (Old Glory-ish) and we'd recommend it to our club. Eliane, Steven, Francois and Jean Mirois.

## Hiking Camp Report

**Camp #2, August 3-10, 2002**

**Location:** Blanket Creek

**Coordinator:** Ron Cameron

**Camp participants:** KMC members Jenny Baillie (cook), Glen Cameron, Ron Cameron, Joan & David Cunningham, Cheryl & Jennifer Demedeiros, Rudy Goerzen, Pamela Jenkins, Hazel Kirkwood, Caroline LaFace, Roger Legge, Bess Schuurman, Sylvia Smith, Joanne Stinson, Pat & Garth Thompson, Muriel & John Walton, Mary Woodward.

Camp 1 must have been very wet. Our first job was to relocate the cook and storage tent to the nearby heather and get them off the wet meadow. Later we filled in the drainage channels made around the tent. Some of us went on an exploratory hike around the lakes and down the valley before supper. We awoke one morning to snow and some nights it rained. Often it rained or hailed for a short time in the afternoons, but the sunny, cloudy, cool weather allowed us all to get out. There were 3 camp replacements and we all got on well together.

The peaks acquired names. We called the peak below Blanket behind camp, "Pillow", and the one to the east of Blanket, "Sheet Mountain". We found the names Castor and Big Apple for the peaks to the north of camp in the ski cabin.

Dave, Rudy, Mary, and Caroline reached the summit of Sheet Mtn. En route they disturbed a caribou and her calf, which Garth and Pat saw running up the steep glacier to the snow ridge. Using binoculars they saw the mother had a radio collar. Bess, Sylvia and Pam also saw these caribou from the ridge, as well as a small chipmunk and a mother ptarmigan with a baby chick. They ended up

crossing some snow, going around a semi frozen lake and along a ridge to Pillow Peak, where there were lovely views and photo opportunities.

John, Muriel, Jenny, Hazel and Roger hiked north to the col below Castor. They climbed the rocky ridge to the east, and had a tough scramble coming down, when Roger got leg cramps.

Another day, in the morning we awoke to snow, Cheryl joined Bess, Sylvia and Pam on a hike to Sheet Mtn. Bess & Cheryl made the summit, but did not see much. Pam & Sylvia turned back at the summit ridge when it started to hail. Pam knew it would take her a long time to get back to camp. Jenny & Mary hiked to the north col and ridge east of Castor and visited the Blanket Glacier ski cabins. On a different trip with Ron, Pat, Garth and Mary, Caroline lost her pants near those cabins. Rudy, David and Caroline set out one morning when Blanket Mtn. was cloud covered. They roped up and crossed a safe section of the glacier. Near the top they climbed down about 30 feet to the rocks at the base of the summit, then went straight up the rock, the last bit of scramble up shiny, slimy rock in a crawl space between rock, snow and ice. Steps had to be cut in the loose wet scree. They summited at 2 pm. in warm sunny weather, like being wrapped in a blanket. They descended over the glacier to avoid the tricky scramble down.

Roger, Pat, Garth, Ron and Mary met a helicopter leaving 2 young ladies completing an ecology survey on their way up Castor Peak. They saw another caribou and ptarmigan with chicks near the summit. Cheryl climbed Sheet Mtn. a second time in good weather with Joanne, Jennifer, Ron and Glen. They admired the blue, blue lake and crevasse-ridden glacier below. They held hands, a David ritual and enjoyed boot skiing down.

Jennifer, Joanne and Glen got fogged in on the Big Apple, and hit a high ridge with no visibility. They found their way down with some difficulty, and then found an awesome lake, which they conquered by plunging in it. It was very cold, but extremely refreshing, well worth the shock. Lying in the sun made up for the earlier miserable weather.

Rudy, David, Joanne, Glen and Caroline made it to the Big Apple, there they saw a caribou run into the aquamarine lake and saw a grouse with 6 chicks near camp.

Pam enjoyed hiking with Bess and Sylvia. Besides climbing Pillow and Castor and being on Sheet Mtn. together, one day they hiked down to the ski cabins, another day they hiked to the far end of Caribou ridge, admiring the wonderful flora including gentians, glacier lilies and Indian paintbrush.

At different times we all saw caribou climbing up the glacier. The Cameron clan and Joanne climbed Pillow on the last day, and it was nice enough to swim in one of the lakes on their return. Joan and John both had August birthdays, so at one campfire, Ron held a candle for them to blow as we sang happy birthday.

It rained after our last enjoyable campfire singing old songs, but the rain had stopped by breakfast time. We tried to dry out our stuff, but Pam's was still damp when she checked at home.

A forest fire meant a long wait for a smaller helicopter to arrive. The larger one was on fire fighting duty, but arrived later to speed up our departure and arrival of camp three. Pamela Jenkins.

## Climbing Camp Report



### Log of Jones and Seagram Flying Circus Camp #1, July 13-20, 2002

**Location:** south side of Bachelor Pass, at 7,000' in the Northern Selkirks about 90 km. NE of Revelstoke. Access to Alphabet, Argentine, and Sorcerer groups.

**Co-coordinators:** David P. Jones, Joie Seagram.

**KMC members:** Kim Kratky, Hamish Mutch, Fred Thiessen.

**FA** = first ascent, **NR** = new route

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| July 13 | Fly in, go for hike in rain  |
| July 14 | Folly Pk. (2691 m., 8829') south ridge<br>David, Kim, Hamish, Joie, Fred.  |
| July 15 | Goldstream South Station (NE summit)<br>(2870 m., 9416') NE ridge/NE face<br>David, Kim, Hamish, Joie, Fred. NR?<br>Unnamed, east of Sickle Bar Col (2636<br>m., 8648') west ridge David, Kim,<br>Hamish, Fred. FA   |
| July 16 | Argentine Mtn. (W. summit) (3002 m.,<br>9849') west ridge David, Joie. NR<br>Argentine Mtn. (W. summit) (3002 m.,<br>9849') north glacier Kim, Hamish, Fred.<br>Argentine Mtn. (S. summit) (3018 m.,<br>9902') north glacier Kim, Fred.<br>Compass Pk. (E. summit) (2770 m.,<br>9088') south slopes Kim, Hamish, Fred.<br>FA |
| July 17 | Rest day   |
| July 18 | Charley Pk. (2870 m., 9416') NW ridge<br>David, Kim, Hamish, Joie, Fred. NR<br>Baker Pk. (2852 m., 9357') north ridge<br>David, Kim, Hamish, Joie, Fred.   |
| July 19 | Sorcerer Mtn. (3167 m., 10,390') NW<br>ridge Kim, Fred.  |
| July 20 | Fly out  |

### Log of KMC Summer Camp in the Albert Group, Southern Selkirks, July 27-August 1, 2002

**Location:** Headwaters of McDougall Creek, south of Virtue Mtn. at 7400' at GR 504-568 on Illecillewaet 82N/4.

**Participants:** Paul Allen, Doug Brown, Andrew Holmes, Ken Holmes, Steve Horvath, Kim Kratky, Sandra McGuinness, Hamish Mutch, Howie Ridge.

#### Activities:

Sat., July 27 Fly in from Canyon Hot Springs on Hwy #1, 40 km. east of Revelstoke.

Sun., July 28 Rain all day.

Mon., July 29 Cassiope Pk. (2594 m., 8510')  
Doug, Sandy.

Cassiope Pk., Primrose Pk. (2651 m.,  
8697'), Champion Pk. (2591 m., 8501')  
Paul, Andrew, Ken, Kim, Howie.

Tues., July 30 Cassiope, Primrose, Champion and Selkirk  
Lodge (GR 490-548) Doug, Sandy.  
Cassiope and alpine lakes (GR 499-555)  
Steve, Hamish.

Faith Pk. (2861 m., 9386') Paul,  
Andrew, Ken, Kim, Howie.

Wed., July 31 Snow most of day

Thurs., Aug. 1 Hiking on ridge south of Virtue Doug,  
Sandy, Ken, Andrew, Howie, Kim.  
Fly out 4:00 pm.

#### Summary:

This year's camp, intended to give good access to rock climbing and first ascents in the eastern portion of the Albert Group, was dogged by poor weather. From the start, we suffered from the system that swept through the Selkirks and Rockies at the end of July and beginning of August. Our decision to exit three days early, based on the presence of fresh snow on the higher peaks and forecasts of worse weather, proved to be a wise one.

Kim Kratky

#### Faith Peak, 2861 m., 9386' (map Illecillewaet 82N/4)

On Tuesday, **July 30<sup>th</sup>**, Paul Allen, Andrew Holmes, Ken Holmes, Howie Ridge and I climbed this Albert Group peak via its east ridge. As the weather looked very iffy, we didn't depart our camp on the glacier's edge south of Virtue Mtn. until 9:40 am. Making good time, we descended snow, rock, and heather slopes for 1,000' as we traversed along the south side of Virtue. Next, we crossed under the icefall coming off the glacier between Virtue and Faith, traversing on scoured rock at about GR 520-578. A rising traverse on snow led us to the glacier at the base of Faith's east ridge (532-578). During a lunch break, there was some discussion of heading for Charity and the unclimbed Hope, but as the barometer hadn't



risen we decided to take what the weather gods allowed. Thus, we ascended the easy snow of Faith's east ridge to finish on a bit of rock, reaching the summit at 1:10 (4.5 hours up). We found the record of the first (and probably only other) ascent, made by Robert West and party in 1966, and removed it for storage in the Whyte Museum in Banff. Having put in a KMC summit tube, we descended at 1:40, retracing our route without use of the rope and keeping an eye on the nasty weather boiling up from the south. Nevertheless, three of us were engulfed by snow, hail and a whiteout some 15 min. from camp. Back just after 5:00 pm, (7.5 hr. day; 2 hr. 20 min. return), we huddled in the social tent for a beer and soup as snow and wind battered us. As we constantly shook the accumulating snow off the tent, we reflected that we were lucky to have gotten up even this technically-easy, class 3 route.

Kim Kratky



## We've got mail...

### Mountain summit registers

I believe that we should enlarge our scope of where we put registers. I have been putting them up at Hiking Camp for 3 years. Climbing Camp should do the same. We should put them where our club goes. We should only exclude mountains with trails. This would open up the Bonnington Range which was previously excluded. There are some mountains that have nonclub registers - eg. Aten and Vingolf. I left a KMC register on Vingolf.

Summit registers are protected under the Historical Resources Act of Canada and it is an offence to damage them or throw them off the mountain.

The ACC has 400 registers in the Rockies. They place them on named mountains over 9000' and unnamed mountains over 10000' or if the mountain is historically significant. I contacted Dan Verril of the ACC before I made our initial registers about construction ideas.

Unfortunately there are two reports of rodents chewing the ends off the first fifty made with orange caps. The Gimli book was brought down partially chewed. Apparently the ACC has had similar experiences. Hopefully the most recent set of 50 made with full ABS end caps will stand up to critters. I would welcome construction advice. All registers before 2002 are orange except Mt. Gladstone's. I remind everyone to please leave the register easily visible with the coloured end out. There is no solution to mountains with permanently snow-covered tops. A distribution system for members to pick up registers will be forthcoming. KMC members are to be commended for the brevity of their entries.

Ron Perrier

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**To KMC Executive** from Norman Thyer (*Please refer to "Executive Notes", this newsletter front page overleaf for more on subject*)

**Grays Peak** is a popular destination nowadays. The approach to the summit is a steep and narrow snow pitch, and after several dozen people have been up and down it, it gets broken up and footholds are not so secure. Also not everyone who goes there is necessarily a competent snow climber. There is a risk that anyone who slipped when descending could slide off the ridge altogether. In view of this, would it be appropriate to install a bolt and descending ring, or something similar, at the top of the pitch, so that one could rappel down, or at least use a rope as a hand-line?

### A conservation vision for southeastern BC

By Dave Poulton (*Condensed from Aug. 2002 Rocky  
Mountain Report*)

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society together with the East Kootenay Environmental Society have proposed the expansion of the boundaries of Waterton Lakes National Park eastward, to encompass approx. 100,000 acres in the British Columbia Flathead Valley with the designation of a legislated wildlife management area (WMA). The WMA would not be a park, the designation would allow hunting, resource extraction and controlled motorized access, but priority would be given to the maintenance of wildlife populations and habitat as this area is of outstanding ecological importance. It would provide a carefully managed connection of natural land between Waterton and the protected areas of Banff National Park and Kananaskis. The proposal to expand Waterton and to establish the WMA on other land in the region deserves and needs our support. Decisions will be made soon.

Write to Prime Minister Chretien and BC Premier Gordon Campbell and ask to support the expansion of Waterton Lakes National Park and to establish the southern Rocky Mountains Wildlife Management area. For more info and for an easy way to express your support, visit [www.peaceparkplus.net](http://www.peaceparkplus.net)



# You walk in the park, you pay

By Barbara McLintock, Victoria Bureau (*Condensed from the Province, Mon.Sep.16, 2002 P.A4*)

The government's Recreation Stewardship Panel is calling for fees to be introduced and increased for virtually every outdoor recreation activity in B.C. Its draft report, released yesterday, even recommends an annual "Backcountry Recreation Pass" for anyone wanting to go for so much as a day hike on Crown Wilderness Land... "There will be new fees, some fee increases, and a broader range of users... who will have to pay fees".

The panel is asking for comments from the public for the next month before it finalizes its report and turns it into Water, Land and Air Protection Minister Joyce Murray by the end of November. Murray has said the onus of paying for parks should fall on them who use them...

In the draft report, the panel says general tax revenue should pay for "basic infrastructure" for parks, such as roads, picnic tables and toilets. But anything above that should be paid by users.

The panel also recommends that automatic discounts for senior citizens and the disabled be eliminated, although the ministry might still allow some discounts.

It suggests that the money from the extra fees be clearly spent on parks and conservation projects. It also suggests the government starts a "green lottery" and a voluntary tax check-off to encourage people to donate to environment and conservation causes.

And it says the government should reinstate – at tax payers' expense – at least some of the interpretive and educational services it slashed this year, arguing that educated citizens are needed to ensure conservation efforts are successful.

## Editorial Comment

First of all, I'd like to thank Ron Perrier for his work on summit registers. I think the campaign to document them will be successful if everyone helps out. Secondly, did you know that there is a controversy over Summit Registers? And we're not only talking about the one in our house! In some mountain areas of the USA the controversy has become a legal battle where it is against the law to place registers on summits and in other places it is against the law to remove them. Europe doesn't have much of a problem with it. In fact they have a cross, castle, shepherd hut, ski lift or restaurant on top (which is probably why they appreciate our wilderness so much). Summit cairns, close relatives of summit registers, however, are becoming a blight on the landscape. Being a firm believer in "tread lightly, leave no trace" I find them seemingly incompatible with wilderness areas. Sort of like littering. I do not have a problem with flagging or route cairns, as they keep visual and physical impacts to a minimum by eventually forming one discernable route. I don't think there is any way around it and this is preferred to a series of destructive paths leading to the top. But we have to do something about those summit cairns. Registers under a rock are a valuable nuisance that won't ruin the wilderness. Inconsiderate people on the other hand will. Minimally intrusive and with a low cost to maintain, registers appear to be necessary in managing and protecting the wilderness resource. Their uses include search and rescue (determining last location), statistics of usage, the entertainment value of seeing recognizable names (including possible hiking buddies or groups), and reducing impact by providing a venue for the natural human urge to leave a sign of their persona or existence. I must admit it's actually even a fun reward for climbing to the mountain top. Signing your name. Besides, after a few hundred years, your past existence will probably hold no significance, like those old nameless pictures you find in second hand stores, or ants even. I like the idea of not caring who may have been on the mountain before me or who will come after me. I can pretend to be the first, or the last person on top. Even if it's just for that moment. But most of all, I am very glad to be there and to share that experience with those in my company. It's a good feeling to see the impression the mountain grandeur makes on appreciative companions.

In retrospect, those signatures, representing people that have endured somewhat the same experience to see the views I admire from up there, are probably companions as well. I am very grateful to those that led the way, marked out the route or even inspired me to get up there.

I guess for me that's what hiking is all about. S.M. ☺