



# Kootenay Mountaineer

The KMC Newsletter March-April 2004 Issue 2 Next deadline: May 10<sup>th</sup>

## JUMBO GLACIER RESORT PROJECT UPDATE

(As of March 9, 2004) Submitted by Kim Kratky

### ROAD CLOSURES THREATENED FOR GLACIER CREEK AND OTHERS

Efforts to preserve the Jumbo Creek valley continue to gather momentum as we approach the dates of the Open Houses in Invermere and Nelson (March 10 and 11, respectively) hosted by the proponent and the Government of BC. As your Conservation Chair, I have cooperated with the Jumbo Working Group in Nelson, the Valhalla Wilderness Society, and the Jumbo Creek Conservation Society to scrutinize the proponent's documents and to raise public awareness. To date, we have managed, among much else, the following:

- Hosted a slide show by Zan Mautner and fund-raiser at the Nelson Library, March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Updated many KMCers on Bob Dean's list serve.
- Contacted and alerted all ACC chapters and the Old Goat list serve (courtesy of Doug and Sandra).
- Organized a march from the Government Office Building in Nelson to the Open House at the Prestige Inn, March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Made numerous representations to government to add a Public Hearing to the Open House process.
- Provided background for Jocelyn Carver's Commentary in the NDN of March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Done a radio interview with CBC's Jeff Davies (Kim).
- Done a radio interview with Nelson Co-Op Radio's Bill Metcalfe (Kim).
- Planned an organized response at the Open House in Nelson.
- Appeared on CBC Radio's "Talk Back" (Hamish).
- Scheduled a meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> with the Hon. Sandi Santori, Minister of State for Resort Development (Paul and Kim).

The most significant information for recreationists that we have unearthed from the proponent's documents is the recommendation by his grizzly bear study consultant to close motorized access to the public in order to offset the impact to the bears in the Jumbo Creek valley. The drainages named to be closed are as follow: Glacier Creek, Howser Creek, Jumbo Creek, Horsethief Creek, Toby Creek, and Brewer/Dutch creeks. This means the following for you and me: no more access to Monica Meadows, Jumbo Pass (except from East Kootenays), or Lake of the Hanging Glacier). And all this so Mr. Oberti can host high-flying Euros at his luxury resort.

Martyn Glassman of the Environmental Assessment Office reports they have, in the first two weeks of the window for public response, received some 1000 emails and letters, about TWO of which supported the resort. It is crucial to keep up the pressure, and we have only until April 12<sup>th</sup>. Do not delay. Write, phone or email today to:

Martyn Glassman, Environmental Assessment Office

Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria BC V8W 9V1

[eaoinfo@gems5.gov.bc.ca](mailto:eaoinfo@gems5.gov.bc.ca)

or Sandy Santori [sandy.santori.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:sandy.santori.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

### Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park Management Plan Update

BC Parks is currently updating its management plan for Kokanee Park, and is accepting public comment on the draft plan. There will public open houses in late March (March 29 in Nelson, March 30 in New Denver, March 31 in Kaslo) for public comment and inquiry. To have your comments recorded before the open houses, they must be submitted by **March 22**.

Please note that in the Draft Background Report, Parks noted pressure to open areas of the park to motorized users. Various documentation, including the Draft Management Plan, is available on the Web at:

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/kokanee/kokanee.htm>

For more information and/or to submit comments, contact

Keith Baric, Parks Planner (250) 489-8587, Fax (250) 489-8506

e-mail, [Keith.Baric@gems4.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Keith.Baric@gems4.gov.bc.ca)

snail mail: Environmental Stewardship Division, 205 Industrial Road G, Cranbrook BC V1C 7G5 Submitted by Doug Brown

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The above drawing is a submission by Yvonne Tremblay (Formatted to fit page)

## Mixed Messages

### Obscure The

### Importance Of Action

By David Suzuki (*Printed with permission*)

Watching the news, it seems that there's a new environmental crisis occurring almost daily: global warming, pollution, habitat destruction, species depletion and extinction and much more. The bad news is plentiful and painful. But then, on a fairly regular basis, a nice looking man pops up and says that everything you are

seeing is an exaggeration. The environment is fine. Everything's fine. Go buy a new SUV. It's okay. Such a nice looking man. To the average person, it must be confusing. What's going on here? Are the stories on environmental calamity really an exaggeration?

The quick answer is no. On a global basis, the environment we depend on for our lives is in trouble. Natural services that provide us with essentials like a stable climate, clean water, fertile soils and others are being depleted. We are heading in the wrong direction if we want to leave the next generation with the quality of life and opportunities that my generation took for granted when we were young.

So, why the mixed messages? Well, part of the problem lies in the way the media presents news stories. First, they are presented as episodic, focusing on single events rather than issues and analysis. Second, media stories are driven by conflict, so reporters are always encouraged to find someone to contradict prevailing opinion, turning complex problems into a simplified, false "he says, she says" dichotomy. And third, there are well-financed interests at work who have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo, so they lobby hard to make sure their voices are heard.

Scientists have a duty to warn society of any potential environmental problems. But because of the incremental nature of science, not all predictions come to pass. Sometimes, action is taken to avert the problem and sometimes the prediction turns out to be wrong. When that happens, it enables critics to say that there never really was a problem in the first place and environmental scientists are merely Chicken Littles who should be ignored.

To see if there is any truth to this argument, scientists at Princeton University and others conducted a study that looked at the costs and benefits of society's reaction to environmental alarms. Their report, published in the journal *Science*, examines the costs and benefits of measures such as the Clean Air in the United States and others to see if society truly benefited from these actions. It has. The researchers found that, for example, regulation has played the dominant role in improving air quality in the United States, earning Americans more than \$22 trillion in net benefits over 20 years.

Furthermore, they found that in states or nations with equal wealth, those with higher memberships in "green" organizations and higher civil liberties have lower levels of air pollution. And they go on to point out that the costs of responding to environmental problems are often far less than originally anticipated.

The researchers conclude that society receives substantial benefits by responding to environmental alarms. In fact, they point out that "our environmental alarm is currently too conservative, not too liberal". In other words, far from being Chicken Littles, environmental scientists are perhaps being too cautious in communicating environmental problems.

Certainly public policy makers are slow to respond, as "Problems of detecting warning signals and overcoming vested interests inevitably lead to delay in regulation, often incurring damages that could have been prevented with higher sensitivity."

Critics of this report will no doubt say something to the effect that it's merely a case of alarmists supporting alarmists, but that argument amounts to nothing more than grasping at straws. The sooner we get serious about dealing with our environmental problems, the greater the benefits will be. True, it would be easy to listen to the nice lobbyists who tell us that everything is just fine, but waiting to take action will only make the good news less frequent and the bad news much worse. *From the Common Ground. Oct 2003. Take the Nature Challenge and learn more at [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org).*

*Travel tip: If you flew to your favorite winter "fun in the sun" getaway, half as often as you do, but went for twice as long, you'd reduce the amount of aviation pollution that you personally contribute by half. This applies to driving as well.*

### Environmental groups help find solutions.

The focus of the Suzuki Foundation is to help find science-based solutions to the root causes of environmental problems. Our research can be found at [www.canadianrainforests.org](http://www.canadianrainforests.org) *Cheri Burda, Director of David Suzuki Foundation. The Province, Nov 13. 2003.*

## To all KMC members

The KMC Hiking Camp committee is advising all KMC members, and particularly those who have applied for a **2004 Hiking Camp**, that it has been necessary to **CHANGE THE LOCATION** of this year's hiking camps. After planning the camps for the Ben Abel area as indicated by the information sheet in the newsletter, it was found by a member of the Committee that due to a recent change of boundaries, the Ben Abel area is NOW in the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. This prevents the use of helicopter access, so therefore we needed to change the camps location.

**We have relocated the camps to the area north of Skookumchuk Creek**, east of Greenland Creek and Rusty Ridge, southeast of Doctor Peak and south of Doctor Creek. Access will be from Canal Flats so it is similar to the previous access. Details will be provided at the camp meetings. **The deadline for application remains March 15/04 (continue to use the Ben Abel registration form)** and the lottery will be held within the next week. Successful applicants will be notified shortly thereafter.

We regret the need to change after sending out the Ben Abel information and will refund the registration fee of any applicant who requests a refund.

Ron Cameron,  
Chair KMC Hiking Camp Committee

To join or donate to the Friends of West Kootenay Parks Society, visit their website at [www.slocanchief.ca](http://www.slocanchief.ca) or email [fwkp@kics.bc.ca](mailto:fwkp@kics.bc.ca) or contact them at FWKP, Box 212 Nelson BC V1L 5P9

## KMC CABIN SURVEY

The KMC has four cabins that it has an agreement with BC Forests to maintain, Grassy, Steed, Copper and Huckleberry cabins.

We want to evaluate the use of these cabins by KMC members before we decide whether or not to renew our agreement with BC Forests so it is very important that all cabin users respond to this survey.

If you have used any of the cabins since December 2000, please send a reply to Ted Ibrahim saying approximately **when** you used a cabin, and **which cabin** and if it was **overnight or day use**.

Please respond by email at [@995.ca](mailto:@995.ca) (or by Telephone at (250) xxx-xxxx) or write to: Ted Ibrahim, 5530 Wapple Rd. Nelson BC V1L 6Y3 (if you do not have e-mail)

We have enclosed the **KMC brochure** (*The Green Page!*) in this newsletter.

Please share it with a friend.

## Waking Appetite

The primary objective of any bear coming out of hibernation in the early spring is nourishment. Knowing the different types of food bears utilize in the spring and also at what elevations these foods flourish gives us a good idea of where bears frequent in the spring. Black bears require a lot of food, approximately 25,000 calories a day. No food source can remain undetected for long by these opportunistic, omnivorous bears. They are equipped with a keen sense of smell and a great memory as to where food was once obtained. They return to such places for years, hoping to find food again.

In early spring, over-wintered berries like bearberries, gooseberries, huckleberries and blueberries are of overwhelming importance to drowsy bears. They can be found from the summit of the mountain all the way to the bottom of the valley floor. Natural slides above secluded, logged off areas are a sure bet for bear habitat. Their territory is small in early spring as the food sources are few and confined to a small area. As spring progresses, bears forage for plants like forbs, dandelions, white and alsike clover and western lousewort. When digging for roots in the fast thawing ground, alpine and yellow hedsarum are a favorite. Ants and other insects are also suitable food.

As spring progresses, high and low bush huckleberries green up on the higher slopes; smaller willows and alders also fill out with new growth. As a general rule, slides and run-outs are clear of snow first and offer fresh green food and over-wintered berries. Rock bluffs produce good spring feed for foraging bears.

Down in the drainages, creeks, rivers, marshes and lakes of the valley floor, abundant horsetail, cow parsnip and skunk cabbage are very early to green as soon as the ice of winter melts. Winter killed mammals are fought for and gorged upon by any bear within the carrions vicinity. Black bears hunt and kill young deer, elk and moose in valley bottoms during spring calving time. Remains at hunter kill sites are also much sought after by the ever consuming bruins. As spring progresses and the foods become more abundant the bears range increases accordingly. Natural openings and logged off reforested clearings are bear magnets. They are often times huge in size; however, small, open areas off the beaten track are where you will most likely find the big old bruins. The bigger the bear, the better the area he can

wrest from the other bears in the area. It's not the best food, but also the best protection that makes a habitat fit for growing big mature black bears.

By W.P. Williamson in *The Outdoor Edge*, March/April 2003.

## Colville National Forest trails

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville/forestry/recreation/trails/trails.html>

## From the Climbers Access Society of BC newsletter

**"Access News" #37**, Dec 2003-Jan.2004). *All their newsletters are archived on the website, together with membership information and access alerts.* <http://casbc.bivouac.com> (soon to be [www.casbc.ca](http://www.casbc.ca)):

"We estimate that there are at least 10,000 climbers in B.C.; as many as 50,000 may have at least tried climbing in some form. Not to mention the many who come from other provinces or countries to visit our mountains and cliffs. There are many challenges with respect to public access to B.C.'s cliffs and mountains, and lots for the Access Society to do. We need more members to be more credible and effective! We wish every climber was a member, and would like to have at least 1,000 members a year from now. Please encourage your friends, and your local retailer/gym, to join the Climbers Access Society of British Columbia and support our work!"

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF CLIMBING & MOUNTAIN RECREATION IN B.C.

About 85% of B.C. is at least nominally public land, including many cliffs and most mountains. About 13% is parkland. Outdoor recreation, often on public lands, plays an increasingly important role in B.C.'s culture and economy. The Sea to Sky area, for example, is booming, in part because of recreation of various kinds. Little is known about the existing and potential socio-economic contribution of self-propelled recreation, either in the Sea-to-Sky region or in B.C. generally. Particularly non-commercial recreation, which is likely well over 95% of all backcountry recreation. To give one example, the Stawamus Chief and associated cliffs are known worldwide, and there are an estimated 90,000 annual

climber days there. (There are about 15,000 annual climber-days at Skaha.) Other B.C. areas that are known worldwide include the Waddington Range and Bugaboo Provincial Park. But no one really knows what's going on, or the potential. The Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Planning process is considering land use decisions without this knowledge, although it is acquiring such information (mostly dated) as is available. Likewise, plans for upgrading the Sea-to-Sky highway identifies locations near the highway where recreation exists or may be affected, but go little further.

Last year the Access Society drafted a proposal for a socio-economic study of climbing and mountaineering in British Columbia including Rock climbing, alpinism, mountaineering, ice climbing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing and snowboarding.

The study would have been conducted by Simon Fraser University, to ensure independence and credibility, and would have encompassed all of B.C. We were unable to secure funding, but remain sure that such a study is an essential tool for the kind of decisions that are being made. Certainly climbing and mountaineering have other essential spiritual and cultural values, which cannot easily be quantified, and we are not about to portray them only in economic terms, or as necessarily requiring management. But land managers, governments, the public, the media, and other parties consider numbers involved and economic contribution as important information.

The Access Society continues to work toward a credible current socio-economic study of climbing and mountaineering in B.C., or at least the Sea-to-Sky region. It might also include other forms of low-impact self-propelled recreation e.g. windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, nature viewing, backpacking, and mountain biking. We are encouraging various governments and management bodies to consider this, and are also working on finding partners to help make it happen. Any readers knowing of possible partners or funders, or otherwise able to help, should contact the Access Society.

Did you know that it can take up to 1000 years to "grow" 1 inch of soil? (From the World Wildlife Fund, and Watchworld Institute)

## A CANADA-WIDE CLIFF & MOUNTAIN ACCESS ORG?

We occasionally talk about an independent Canada-wide organization working only on cliff and mountain access. The key questions are the practical ones: finance, purposes and services, energy required. Issues relating to public access to cliffs and mountains vary across Canada.

The common Canada-wide issues seem to be:

- ◆ Management of national, provincial and other parks.
- ◆ Real and perceived environmental impacts, and their management.
- ◆ Access to private undeveloped land, and related legal issues.
- ◆ Competing recreational, commercial and industrial users.
- ◆ Arbitrary or unreasonable user fees.
- ◆ The balkanization of climbers across the country – there are a myriad of local and regional groups, with varying degrees of organization, but many and perhaps most climbers don't belong to any group.

The one group, which is plausibly national, is the Alpine Club of Canada, although it has a somewhat different focus.

These issues are manifested differently in different contexts, but seem to be the common themes. From what we know, there are a growing number of access issues throughout Canada. There would be little point to even attempt to create a Canada-wide organization without a sound basis:

- ◆ Solid consensus that it was needed.
- ◆ Financial resources – the Access Society is near the limit of what can be done with hard-working volunteers. There's no point to forming any group that won't be administratively and financially stable, and if it isn't, it likely won't be very effective anyway.
- ◆ Clearly defined purposes, and relationships with related groups.
- ◆ Ensuring that there was a balance of the interests of all regions.

The Access Society is interested in its members', and others', views on this issue.

Is there a need for a Canada-wide cliff and mountain access organization? If so, how should it be organized and financed, and how can it practically be made to happen?

Contact the Access Society with your ideas.

## Don Forest *(From the Access*

*News #37)*. Many of us knew Don quite well, having climbed or skied with him at various times over the last thirty years or so. Some of us locked horns with him on occasion over some of his ideas and his unyielding support for an old-guard ACC – such disagreements, however, never diminished our admiration for his accomplishments as an alpinist, rock climber, and outdoors person. In fact, when one considers how inaccessible many of the big peaks in the Rockies were only twenty years ago, his ability to be the first to ascend all of the 11,000'ers – and then to go on to do the same in the Purcells/Selkirks, including the very difficult Howser Spire – is truly remarkable. And he is likely one of the oldest – if not the oldest – person to have climbed Mt. Logan, a feat he accomplished when he was 70. And Don did not start his climbing career until he was forty. His passing at the age of 83 is indeed the passing of a legend: there's nobody left who will be able to recite "The Cremation of Sam McGee" quite like Don Forest.

## Two Classes of Drivers ?

*By Keith Morgan.*

Apparently we should all go out and buy Hummers to guarantee safe transit on today's deadly highways. The US National Highway traffic Safety Administration has just revealed after an analysis of crash statistics that the weight reduction in vehicles in recent years to improve fuel economy has resulted in more deaths among owners of small cars. And unless automakers make SUV's designed to inflict less damage on other, smaller vehicles, the occupants of the heavier vehicles will continue to have better chances of surviving brushes with a smaller car. The study was done in preparation to the agency's proposed changes to fuel economy and side impact standards. Its researchers suggest that a weight reduction of less than 50 kilograms could save hundreds of lives annually. The most fuel-efficient and smaller/cheaper cars record almost 12 fatalities per 1.6 billion km driven, about twice the rate of various larger vehicles. It rises to 4 times when mini vans are considered. Lighter SUV's have an increase in fatalities with the less they weigh. Insurers advise people to drive the larger cars and judging by the massive sale of SUV's this message has been heeded. *From The Province, Friday Nov 14, 2003*

## What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for GPS users. Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of a GPS unit. The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the Internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. All the visitor is asked to do is if they get something they should try to leave something for the cache.

## From our mailbox...

Hi All,

I think that most of us by now have submitted our individual

objections to Land and Water B C Inc and I would now

like to suggest that we send a further "barrage" of e-mails along different lines.

My understanding from a conversation with Robin Fawcett of LWBC is that it is the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management which does land use planning and that LWBC Inc just follow guidelines. My perception is that if there is no plan, LWBC will follow their mandate of selling off the province for commercial use.

I would suggest that we send e-mails to both ministries saying that in view of the competition by different users for the area and the conflict between mechanized use and non-mechanized use that no applications for commercial cat skiing in the area should be approved until a Backcountry Recreation Access Plan is developed for this small range. The development of the plan should involve all stakeholders following the model of the "Golden Backcountry Recreation Access Plan"

This can be seen by accessing the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management website.

Robin Fawcetts e-mail address is [Robin.Fawcett@gems7.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Robin.Fawcett@gems7.gov.bc.ca) and the planning guy in Nelson is [Steve.Flett@gems2.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Steve.Flett@gems2.gov.bc.ca)

Submitted by Ken Holmes





## Executive Notes

From March 1<sup>st</sup>  
executive meeting



Conservation: The Jumbo Pass coalition movement is very active. Unfortunately there will not be a public meeting as these are looked upon as too “intimidating” for the developer. A cat skiing application for up Sheep Creek (near Salmo) was dropped because of concern over the caribou.

It was moved that we join the Valhalla Wilderness Society for another avenue to lobby the Government. It was noted that we do not agree on all of their agenda.

Comments: Lobbying for the preservation of the backcountry in the face of an unsympathetic “resource” focused government is a serious concern. With the province apparently being divided up to whoever seems to be making an application to develop crown land, it seems that we need a more effective method for ensuring the preservation of certain “traditional” areas that are dear to our purposes. Simply coming across, as “no” to commercial and motorized development is a harbinger to the expected controversies and positions. Constructively identifying, supporting and instilling the idea that these areas are valuable as a non-commercial and/or non-motorized resource requires a coordinated effort throughout the province.

Hiking camp: the Ben Abel site is now in the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Area, which does not allow helicopter landings. An alternative location is being arranged. *See notification, page 3.*

Last year’s third camp people were not given priority in the lottery for this year’s camp as the fires of last summer were considered to be “an act of God”.

Huts and Trails: Both Blue Grouse Basin and Silver Spray trails will need a lot of work. Having ACC responsible for the Silver Spray Hut might help. Trail work parties will be attempted this year. The primary concern on the huts has been how to maintain their integrity with the club’s meager resources, i.e. maintenance. Sandra McGuinness and Doug Brown are helping out on how to best proceed for the future. A survey is included in this newsletter to determine how much the club uses the huts. It was felt that putting out a survey during the high use ski season would have a better response rate. Informal perusal around backcountry users

has revealed that a high number of non-members, as well as members, are using these huts, and greatly appreciate them. Our huts maintenance agreement with Forestry expires in 2005 and we can then renew it, albeit with different conditions /contract. The Okanagan Section of the ACC has offered help with maintenance. Other options are being considered. There are several clubs with huts in the Province and Sandra gave a well-received update of what these clubs do with their huts. The premier group is the Columbia Valley Huts Society, which, for a small club, is very successful with their huts. They work a reservation system and secure maintenance costs through charging nominal fees for hut use. In agreements with Forestry, you can charge as long as you don’t make a profit on them. A stamped self-addressed envelope was suggested for collecting fees. It was noted that the footprint associated with the KMC and these huts is important for the future of this mountain corridor/area in the face of commercial and motorized area grabbing.

Winter Trips: The Kokanee Hut booking has been arranged with the ACC for 2005. The KMC has been awarded the dates of March 12-18 (7 days). It is a strong suggestion that we apply the hiking camp lottery guidelines, with appropriate modifications to the hut booking. Ensuring that someone acting as coordinator on the “camp” should be a priority in the application process. The lottery is under consideration and should be ready for the next newsletter in late spring.

Slocan Chief Cabin restoration donation: The restoration/interpretation center of this heritage/historic site is proceeding according to plan but the Friends of West Kootenay Parks appreciate donations. The “donation” remains a dilemma for the club. The relationship with the cabin is long and honorable but allocation of funds for such a project does not seem to fall within the purposes of our Society.

Website: Doug Brown has updated our main page. The site is receiving nearly 2,500 visitors per month. The photo section remains the most popular, but the library, the newsletters, and the mountain database are quite popular as well. The *For Sale section* is getting lots of hits, so it is too bad no one has taken up on the offer to list stuff for free. Feel free to use it. It is free! Doug has worked out a relatively efficient system to scan and publish old documents;

when time allows he will start with vol. 1 of the Karabiner and work his way forward.

Climbing Camp: This year’s camp will be at the head of Granite Creek in the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. Access is a 2-day walk-in with packhorse support. *See details in this newsletter.* Six persons so far plan to attend (but you never know until the money is produced), and 4-5 others seem fairly interested. If a number of 10 persons (which would help overall costs) are not met, advertisement outside the club will be made. Some liability concerns are being worked on.

Social: Volunteer Appreciation Night: likely to be early this summer. Don Harasym, Jan Micklethwaite, and Doug Brown are planning this for all KMC volunteers. Any suggestions on format, location, or menu would be most welcome.

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Touching The Void is the most harrowing movie about mountain climbing I have seen, or can imagine. The movie is about Joe Simpson and Simon Yates, two Brits in their mid-20s determined to scale the forbidding west face of a mountain named Siula Grande, in the Peruvian Andes. Simpson fell and broke his leg, dropped into a crevice and still tried to get down the mountain, in an astonishing and horrifying story of human endurance.

We know that Simpson survived, because the movie shows the real life Simpson and Yates, filmed against plain backgrounds looking straight into the camera, remembering their adventure in their own words. We also see the ordeal re-enacted by two actors (Brendan Mackey as Simpson, Nicholas Aaron as Yates), and experienced climbers are used as stunt doubles.

The movie was shot on location in Peru and also in the Alps, and the climbing sequences are always completely convincing; the use of actors in those scenes is not a distraction because their faces are so bearded, frostbitten and snowcaked that we can hardly recognize them.

This film is an unforgettable experience directed by Kevin Macdonald (who made *One Day in September*, the Oscar-winner about the 1972 Olympiad) with a kind of brutal directness and simplicity that never tries to add suspense or drama (none is needed but simply tells the story, as we look on in disbelief.) \*\*\*\* By movie critic Roger Ebert in *The Province*, Friday Feb 20, 2004

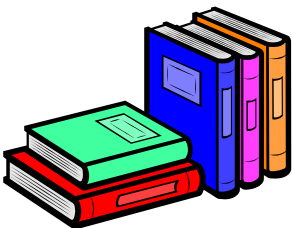
# Peaks Get Named

KMCer Hamish Mutch has had three names approved for previously-unnamed peaks in the Interior Ranges. The Committee on Geographical Names has accepted the following:

- **Powderkeg Pk.**, 2791 m., the highest point on the ridge east of Mt. Kaslo, Purcells (Map 82F/15);
- **Whitesails Mtn.**, 9050', 6 km SSW of McCarthy Glacier, Purcells (Map 82K/10); and
- **Ambleside Pk.**, 2578 m., 1 km. NE of Overlook Pk., Adamants (Map 82N/13).

As well, my submission of

- **Devil's Horn Pk.**, 2634 m., located NE of Powder Creek Lodge in the Purcells was accepted. (Map 82F/15) This peak was named by the Offermans who made the first ascent in 1974. Kim Kratky



## Library News:

### Avalanche Safety

Last year 29 people lost their lives in avalanches; all but nine of these fatalities were skiers, snow-shoers, or hikers. So, if you want to increase your odds of making it through the 2003/2004 season check out some of the books and videos on avalanche safety available in the KMC library.

*Avalanche Awareness:* A short half hour video that covers the triangle of factors affecting snow stability: weather, terrain and snow pack.

*Avalanche Handbook:* An oldie (1976) but contains good information on avalanche meteorology and snow physics.

*The ABC of Avalanche Safety:* Another oldie (1970) but has some reasonable information on travel in avalanche terrain.

*Avalanche Safety for Skiers and Climbers:* The Canadian classic book by Tony Daffern.

*Avalanche News:* We only have two issues of this journal put out by the Canadian Avalanche Association, but both issues have excellent articles on safe travel in avalanche terrain.

Thank you to Jane Steed for her donation of the following books to the KMC library:

- Chris Bonington & Charles Clarke (1999). *Tibet's Secret Mountain: The Triumph of Sepu Kangri*. Two men attempt to climb Sepu Kangri in Tibet
- Simon Clark (1959). *The Puma's Claw*. British climbing expedition to the Andes.
- Rene Dittert, Gabriel Chevalley & Raymond Lambert (1954). *Forerunners to Everest*. Two Swiss expeditions to Everest.
- Monica Jackson & Elizabeth Stark. (1957). *Tents in the Clouds*. An all female expedition to the Himalaya.
- Thomas Paynter (1954). *The Ski and the Mountain*. Skiing and climbing in Europe, Norway and Canada.
- Gaston Rébuffat (1956). *Starlight and Storm*. Climbing six north faces of the Alps.

## Mountain high, mountain closed

One thing we know about global warming is that it's just a fantasy of hysterical environmentalists. The other thing we know is that it's an entirely natural event, and there's nothing we can do about it. It's both not real and nothing to worry about - quite a parlay.

Sometimes there are little signs that things aren't right. The heat wave in Europe that killed 10,000 people in France alone might be a tip off. Plus: the terrible summer was preceded by an abnormally balmy spring and a warm dry winter. Which is why Mt Blanc is closed.

Yes, Europe's tallest mountain is no longer available for hiking or climbing. Mt Blanc had been a wonderful combination for the moderately adventurous travel - a big mountain with enough easy routes to the top, so that almost anyone could haul themselves up there. No more.

According to David Rose in the British magazine *The Observer*, all climbing routes on Mt Blanc have been shut down. In some areas it is too dangerous to follow a path that would normally be used by thousands of ramblers. A guide spokeswoman said: "We are not taking bookings for Mt Blanc by any route. For this year, it is finished."

But it's even worse than that, both geologically and economically. The mountain is crumbling. Patricia Rafaelli, a ski instructor, was in her office at the Chamonix golf club watching the Dru, a granite spire, which bears some of the world's hardest climbs, falling apart as the ice holding it together melted. "I'm sitting here and every hour or so there is another rock fall, with boulders thundering down through the forest below the mountain and filling the sky with dust", she said.

The tourist cities of the Alps might be able to shake off one bad summer - winter, after all, is when they really make their money. But winter is not going to be so good either.

"The conditions have been so extreme, say glaciologists and climate experts, and the retreat of the Alps' eternal snows and glaciers so pronounced, that the range - and its multibillion-pound tourist industry - may never fully recover. The freak weather, with no substantial snow fall since February, means pylons holding up ski-lifts and cable cars may be too dangerous to use next winter, while the transformation of shining mountains into heaps of gray scree and rubble is unlikely to persuade tourists there this summer to return."

It is now generally agreed that greenhouse gases are responsible for the accelerated rate of global warming. By far the most significant greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, which is produced by the combustion of fossil fuels.

I know it's boring to bring it back to automobiles one more time. The US government wants to blame almost everything but automobiles, which is why it still refuses to sign the Kyoto Accord on global warming. Heck, our mountains are still doing pretty well. And say, isn't Mt Blanc a French name? By Jon Carroll *Submitted by Hamish Mutch* (Printed with permission from the *San Francisco Chronicle*)

# KMC Trip Reports

## Mt. Lepsoe, Jan. 25

Five of us met at the Nancy Greene Summit parking lot (Strawberry Pass) on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, for a little ski up Berry Mountain. Ross Bates and Maurice De St Jorre both showed up with telemark gear and skins. Jan Micklethwaite and Jill Watson came with back-country fish scale skis, as did I. Berry is the mountain on the south side of the highway, just behind the gravel pit, and now shows up on the newer topo maps as Mt. Lepsoe. Mr. Lepsoe fought during World War 2 and his kids applied to have this mountain named after their dad in his memory. This little story showed up in an entry in one of the cabin logbooks a few years ago.

We had a good group, all traveling at the same pace. As some hadn't seen the cabins on this side of the highway, we broke trail past three of them. Surprise cabin is just at the start of the Alzheimer's Trail, less than a kilometer from the parking lot. Then up the old logging road to the Eagle's Nest. The powder was about 20 cm deep on top of an old solid rain crust. As we climbed to the Eagle's Nest, the wind blasted us with a cold bite. We started in sun, but had a variety of cloud, shade from the mountain, and later on, we were back into the sunshine. From the Eagle's Nest, we located the "Highway to the Sun Spot" sign nearby, and followed the flagged trail past the Sun Spot cabin. Beyond the last cabin, we intersected another old logging road which led us to the upper logged fields. Fortunately the wind had died, but the clouds overhead were whistling past. Seeing this, I was glad we didn't go to the top of the mountain this day, which would have been very windy and cold. After meandering up these gentle fields, it was back into the forest, heading in a line for the summit. Our destination was a beautiful little field just below the steep north bowl of the mountain. Just after arriving at this field, another skier, Doug Lowe, showed up. He'd followed our trail to this point, and joined our little group. After practicing a few downhill turns in this field, we cruised back through the forest to the upper logged fields. These are relatively gentle fields, and fun to cruise through the small evergreens. We made our way back to the Sun Spot cabin to toast some sandwiches over a stove, and share a few stories. Off down the trail again, we skied a logged field near the Eagle's Nest. We had the odd headplant in the soft snow along the way, but we've decided to call this "kissing the snow" which is kind of snow worship. We should all do more of this. We took a different trail back to the cars, which was appropriately called Que Vadis, "Which Way?". This was another good ski day, that put smiles on our faces.

Bob McQueen

## Mitchener area, Jan. 17

The original plan was to start at Mitchener parking but since this had not been cleared, we parked across the highway from the Paulson summit sign and walked 200 yards towards Mitchener. The ten of us snowshoed beside the highway until we came to a clearing. From here we made our way cross-country to the swamp and followed ski trails to the Griz cabin. It only took an hour, so it may be is a shorter route than the original one from Mitchener. A fire was made in the cabin and everyone enjoyed John (the convert) Forrester's book of poems, "*Tales of the Trails*". A delightful collection of poems about the cabins in the area and the characters who use and care for them.

We were Ed Beynon, Don Harasym, Gisela & Edmund Lehmann, Bobbie & Nick Maras, Andrew Martin, Sylvia Smith, Leah Zoobkoff and Hazel Kirkwood, coordinator.

## Lost Lake Ridge, Feb. 1

The trip was scheduled for the north side of Kootenay Pass. There was a large snowfall during the previous week and although the avalanche bulletin read "considerable", a level it stays at most of the winter, we were nervous of an avalanche hazard on Cornice Ridge.

We started off on Barrett Creek road at about 2900' elevation. There were 2 snowshoers and one skier. There was a snowmobile track which made the going easier. We encountered a young moose about 1 km. up the road. We turned onto the Lost Cr. road where there was no snowmobile track and a crust the snowshoers broke through but the skier stayed on top (frustration).

It took about 3 hrs to get to the ridge and at about 6200' we encountered the Keno Cr. road. There was about 6" of powder which allowed Maurice to do some lovely turns down the road and through two meadows until we reached about 5000' where we were once again in crust. At this point Maurice put his skins on his skis. We followed Keno Cr. road to Hall Cr. road, then out to the highway

It took us about 5 1/2 hours. We were Maurice De St Jorre, Andrew Martin and David Cunningham.

## Coffee Run, Feb. 4

Leaving one vehicle at the head of the Centennial Trail in Rossland, 12 KMCers headed out at 10:30 a.m. on the old mining school road, circumventing Kootenay-Columbia and Monte Cristo Mountains, on the Coffee Run Trail. The shelter that Booty built and was maintained over for many years, we found too unusable, as a tree had fallen on it. Snow conditions were fairly reasonable, thanks to 8cm. of new snow, over icy hard pack. After a short "scenic- route detour" we were back on the trail. We stopped to enjoy lunch and friendship along the way. After a grunt through the trees, the Rock Cut Pub was a popular stop for a thirst quencher and snacks. The Centennial Trail, across the highway, made for an easy cruise to the Rossland trailhead, at 3:30p.m. About 12 km. in all.

We were: Vivian Baumgartner, Dawn & Ed Beynon, Yvette Johnson, Hazel Kirkwood, Bobbie Maras, Eliane Miros, Bess Schuurman, Yvonne Tremblay, Larry Wunder, Ron and Janet Cameron, coordinators.

## Bonanza Area, Feb. 11

First meeting at Nancy Greene junction at 9:30 a.m., we drove 17km. West to the Bonanza Cr. road on the left, and parked in the lot about .5 km. from the highway. Thirteen of us headed up the Orion logging road to the junction of Ursa Major trail. Following this trail a short distance, we then went right onto the Cassiopeia and then Gemini trails, up to the Gordon Keir cabin. Here we enjoyed the fire, lunch and good company. The weather was awesome clear blue skies and a warm sun. Fine views of Gladstone and Faith. Snow conditions were great with about 15-20 cm. of sparkling powder. We continued our ski along the Pleiades trail, meeting the challenge of the "staircase" through the trees to Albion Pass at 5500'. Here we joined the upper reaches of the Orion Loop Rd. Turning right onto the road, it was fast slippery slope down to Orion Lakes. Nine skiers went across the lakes, visiting another cabin and then out via the Ursa Minor trail. Four of the skiers took the easier Orion road back to the parking lot as one of the group had fallen and injured her back and knee. We were all at the cars by 3:30 p.m. An enjoyable day of about 20km.

We were: Vivian Baumgartner, Ed Beynon, Vicki Hart, Hazel Kirkwood, Gisela Lehmann, Bobbie Maras, Eliane Miros, Bess Schuurman, Sylvia Smith, Norm Thyer, Yvonne Tremblay, Ron and Janet Cameron, coordinators.

## Crowe Ridge, Feb. 18

Four of us (Ed Beynon, Ron Cameron, Bobbie Maras and Diane Paolini) met at the Nancy Green summit parking lot at 10a.m. on a cloudy (with some patches of blue) morning. Leaving the trail head at 10:20 a.m. we went up past the "seniors" cabin, crossing over to Crowe Road which was already ploughed for logging activity. This necessitated some "shoulder" skiing for a half kilometer to reach the trail to "red dog" cabin. After a brief stop for waxing, we climbed to the "mosquito" cabin, using the back trail to avoid the cleared logging roads. We had to cross one road to go by the cabin which now sits in a large clear-cut rather than nicely in the trees as last season.



We continued upward through another new, large clear-cut to "lost" cabin, arriving at 12:20 p.m. Time for a fire, lunch, good conversation and break for the legs after the steady two-hour climb.

At one p.m. we headed off to look for the "crowe's nest" cabin. Due to new snow, few markers (mixed with search and rescue markers), no clear ski tracks and the leader's memory, the cabin was not to be found! However, we did reach the ridge for a "view" of swirling mist and cloud. After skiing the challenge of the trees to get back to the clear-cut, Diane swooped down in graceful turns as befits the down-hiller with short skis! The three of us thoroughly enjoyed the long, more gradual traverses in somewhat sticky conditions. While the sun stayed hidden and some snow fell, we all enjoyed a full day, arriving back to the cars at 4:20p.m., tired but satisfied.

### Lightning Strike Peak, Feb. 21



February 21, 2004 was a beautiful sunny Sunday. We set off southwards from Kootenay Pass shortly before 9 am and toured up a sub-ridge that heads to the north off the main ridge on which the peak Lightning Strike is located. We knew that the north facing slopes were the ones to seek out. Our first run was down the north side of this ridge. We proceeded back up and went to the top of Lightning Strike. We met another KMC group (Don Harasym, and friends on snowshoes) on the ridge and had a pleasant visit. From Lightning Strike we proceeded down the south side of the peak and on down to Twin Lakes, a spectacular 600m run. We skinned up and made a gradual traverse northwards onto the ridge. We made another run down the north-facing slope towards the cars and were back at about 3 pm. We had a great day.

Those on the trip were Tim Dueck, Dawn Mehin, Peter Tchir and coordinator David Toews.

### Keno Creek, Mar. 7



Keno Creek is the first major tributary to Hall Creek on the south side. Five of us left the valley bottom just off Hwy 6 (Nelson to Salmo Hwy) at elevation 2900 ft at 8:00 am. We proceeded up the Hall Creek main forestry road then turned up the Keno Creek access road. Recent heavy snowfall made for tough slogging for the person up front. At about 4500 feet elevation the valley opens up providing for good skiing. But unfortunately not this day! It was one of those Kootenay days when there was just too much powder. Snow up to the thighs meant turns were few and far between on the descent. The avalanche hazard was high (as evidenced by big time whoops and slab releases on the occasional steep pitches) and visibility low. We had lunch at 5250 feet and returned to the vehicles at about 12:30. We all agreed that we would return again when there was less snow or we had Roland along to break trail. Llewellyn Mathews, Burt and Sue Port, Peter Tchir, and Dwain Boyer, coordinator.

## Other Trip Reports

### Mt. Assiniboine, 3618m 11874' Aug.14

*The Stone boilers*, I believe, is what the Indian word *Assiniboine* means.

On August 14, 2003, Martin Taylor from Quebec, Normand Begin from Calgary and David Shadbolt, all members of that loose fraternity called "Old Goats," climbed Mount Assiniboine. After flying in by chopper, we ascended to the Hind Hut at 9000'. Rick Collier, who had organized the trip, guided us up the head wall, which can be very hairy if one gets off course. At the hut, two groups of climbers told us of their climb that day and the places they had roped on the ascent and descent. We left the hut at 6:30 next morning with only one party of Brits ahead of us, whom we soon passed as they had elected to rope from the base. Up we scrambled on good rock, mostly on the north face, and through the red band without a rope until we reached the grey band, where there was a slightly overhanging bulge. Martin was ahead and lowered the rope for Norm who tied-in and quickly joined us. It was at this point, as we found out back at the hut, the British group abandoned the climb. We stowed the rope and

continued up the north ridge proper to the summit where we lounged on a cloudless sky. Unfortunately, there was haze from the fires in B.C and Kananaskis obscuring the views. We stayed for an hour and climbed back down with two short rappels in less than 5 hours, to arrive back at the hut at 4:30pm -a round trip of 10 hours. Neither snow was encountered nor ice on the ridge, so we were very lucky, particularly as we were the only party to reach the summit that day on a route that is normally busy.

### Mount Magog, 3095m 10150' Aug.15

The day after Assiniboine, Martin and I agreed to climb Magog with Rick Collier. It was the only unclimbed peak in that region for Rick and as it turned out, much more challenging than Assiniboine, at least for me. Rick, who had climbed Mt Terrapin the previous day, came up to the moraine adjacent to the hut at 10:30a.m. directly from the campsite. We roped up for the relatively short hike across the glacier to the Assiniboine/Magog Col to take a look at the West ridge, which Wheeler had descended in the 1920s. Martin, a very experienced rock climber, took the first pitch bringing me up as a second with Rick then climbing through to lead the second pitch (total of two pitches of about 200 feet) to easy ground above. Barry Blanchard claimed to have done the ridge for the eighth time the previous week and used pitons on the steep part. We reckoned it was about a 5.5 as Blanchard reported, perhaps a 5.6. The temperature that day approached 30 Celsius and this at plus 9000ft! I was grateful I didn't have to lead.

We then scrambled along and around gendarmes and false summits to the true summit. The rock whilst not perfectly sound was quite acceptable and enjoyable in the hot sun. We then looked for the descent route to the north, down a couloir, the upper part of which was easy scree, and the lower part fairly low-angled ice, perhaps 45degrees. There were three pitches of front pointing down to easier ground on the glacier. Then it was back to the hut for a cup of tea and then down the headwall to the campsite at Magog Lake where we arrived at 8:30p.m. Unfortunately, I caught a very severe bug and was very sick for the following few days, forcing me to abandon plans for climbing Edith Cavell with Martin.

### When In The Weminuche ... Sep.2003

... Do as the locals do, and rely on the excellent guidebook, "*Colorado's Fourteeners*" by Gerry Roach (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1999, but don't bother with the map package). As one might expect this book describes selected hikes and climbs on the 55 peaks in Colorado, which are over 14,000' – 54 if you don't count Challenger Point. I have used this book for several years, and it's great. So good, that I will ignore copyright restrictions, and quote liberally from the text in this report on a recent trip to the Needle Mtns. in the Weminuche Wilderness of SW Colorado. Gerry Roach says it so much better than I can:

*"These wild, rugged peaks are the most remote of Colorado's Fourteeners. They lie buried in the heart of Colorado's greatest range, the San Juans, the zenith of the Colorado Fourteeners experience. They are far from roads and difficult to see, being most often seen from other high peaks, and they always seem to be far away. The remote sanctity of such peaks is what wilderness is all about. Tread lightly on this special place."*

Wow! You get the picture!! Most people start hiking at Needleton, a whistle-stop (no platform or buildings) on the Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Note that the train schedule dictates leaving from Durango, and that not all trains stop at Needleton. There is no road access, so all aboard for some old-fashioned fun.

*"The DSNR runs through the Animas River Canyon, but the gorge is too narrow to accommodate both tracks and a road. Approaching these peaks behind a 100 year old steam locomotive is one of the trip's charms."*

From Needleton it is an easy 7-mile hike up the Needle Creek Trail, to the lower Chicago Basin, where I camped on a sandy beach beside the creek. I took food for 3 days, but stayed for 4. The second day I decided to hike/scramble/climb Sunlight (14,059') and Windom (14,082'). Both routes are described as "classics".

*"The West Ridge of Sunlight is recommended because the rock is solid, and the positions encountered are spectacular. Ascending this route and descending the South Slope makes a scintillating Tour De Sunlight. The*

ridge looks formidable, overcome it one step at a time. Meet the challenge immediately with the ascent of a steep wall. The climbing above alternates between the broken ridge, and more short walls. One wall is positively primal. The difficulties ease as you approach the summit. The final move on the 30-foot-high summit block is the hardest move required to reach the summit of any Colorado Fourteener by its easiest route, possibly making this Colorado's hardest Fourteener."

That Mr. Roach, he does carry on! Going up wasn't bad, but getting off the summit block was a little tense in Hi-Tecks. I continued down the south slopes, and headed through some week-old snow to the west ridge of Windom.

"This is the easiest route on Windom, a surrealistic tour in the heart of Colorado'd wilderness. I have done this route many times, and it always reminds me of why I started climbing."

Lots of fun scrambling, similar to the upper section of our Mt. Fisher. It was a long day, and dark before I got back to camp. For Day 3, I chose the south ridge of Eolus (14,083').

"This challenging mountaineering route is seldom climbed. The complicated ridge hides a wilderness adventure. Perhaps it should be called 'Discovery Ridge' – discover your route all the way. This ridge provides spectacular positions, but is a bad place in an electric storm."

Fortunately not as serious as Mr. Roach suggests, and no electric storm, but it was still a mild relief to reach the top. I descended the east face and northeast ridge, the normal way up, and was grateful for the cairns which marked the various ledges and transitions. The last section of this ridge is the famous Catwalk, 2 feet wide and 300 feet long, reminiscent of the Sidewalk on the east ridge of Mt. Niffleheim, but less exposed.

The last morning I slept late, determined not to get up before the sun hit my bivvy sack, and melted the frost. Then it was downhill all the way to Needleton, where several other hikers were already waiting for the train. This was flagged down in the prescribed manner, and we all headed back to Durango, enjoying the spectacular train ride.

If any KMC members are interested in bagging some of Colorado's Fourteeners, I would suggest starting at Lake City. This is the area which is closest to the Kootenays, and there are 5 straightforward and attractive peaks, each of which can be hiked in a day. You know the book --- go take a look.

Hamish Mutch.

## Velodrome Skiing in Keno Creek, Feb.2



Our usual ski route to Lost Lake Ridge follows the long, tedious, frequently snowmobile rutted old road that leaves Barrett Creek FSR at km 3 and ascends to Lost Lake Ridge from the south following Lost Lake Creek. On this route, it takes about four hours to gain the start of Lost Lake Ridge. However, our topographic map marks an old road heading up Keno Creek from the Hall Creek FSR. Accordingly, three of us and our long suffering dog, Kumo, started up Keno Creek on February 2nd intent on finding a better route to ski terrain at Lost Lake Ridge. The road was located easily enough - it's the first spur road off the Hall Creek Rd. Unfortunately, a heavy footed snowshoer had travelled the road while the recent storm snow was soft and mushy and had sunk a good two feet into the snow surface. As the road is narrow, overgrown and frequently overhung with downed trees, there was really no room to move off the snowshoer's tracks and we had to persist with that continually annoying dip of the ski tips into the divots.

As is usual Roland was strongly out in front while the remaining three of us staggered along behind. Somewhere around 9.30 am while I was wondering if he would ever need to eat again (we had breakfasted 3.5 long hours ago) I came upon him miraculously stopped and eating! Doug and I had fresh homemade strombolis for lunch and I started out having just a bite or two. Before I knew it, I was down to the last crust, with Doug yelling at me "stop eating, that's your lunch". Too late!

The roadbed was less noticeable here and, in fact, we lost it soon afterwards (our newer map shows it ending around 1400 metres, while Roland's shows it going all the way to the ridge at 1800 metres). However, we were in open treed terrain and really had no further need of the road so we continued up basically following the route of the Keno Creek drainage to arrive on a ridge top at around 1800 metres, where we stopped for

lunch. Or the others did, I had no lunch left. Interestingly, the entire north side of Lost Lake Ridge harboured numerous avalanches released in the last storm cycle, some running on relatively mellow ground through sporadic trees.

We decided to continue our traverse westwards and contoured around the head of another unnamed tributary of Hall Creek arriving at another ridge top (again about 1800 metres). After much inspection of the map and discussion we decided this unnamed drainage would be unpleasantly narrow and steep to descend. However, we also did not want to descend the frozen rutted snowshoe tracks we had followed up, so with nary a misgiving we decided to descend the shoulder of the ridge to the west of Keno Creek and hit the minor road marked on our map at around 1400 metres. Accordingly, we retraced our steps to the ridge top and began our descent.

The first 300 metres provided very nice skiing, fast, but on a firm base through open trees. However, around 1500 metres we hit breakable crust and our suffering began in earnest. Kumo, who had been struggling in the deeper snow, was now in his element prancing around with a minimum of paw penetration, while the rest of us crashed from tree to tree desperately trying to stop the forward motion of our skis with anything but our heads. After spending some time at this, we thought it wise to resort to the GPS unit to try and find out just where the g\*dd\*\*\*med logging road actually was. As we had suspected we had veered too much to skiers right and now needed to head NW. Bravely, Roland set out in the lead, crashing through, over and on timber (giving a whole new meaning to "tree" skiing) while Doug and I followed as best we could. After some more time, we thought another GPS reading in order and were delighted to find that the road should be mere metres below us. And, indeed it was, a mere 50 or so metres straight down and we hit it.

We all thought our troubles were over, but the pitch on the logging road was such that we were again rocketing along at breakneck speed which we had no way of controlling. The crust was such that turning or even snowplowing was out of the question so we resorted to "velodrome" tactics - when our speed got too great we barrelled up the banks at the side of the road, there either our skis or our heads would impact the bank, stop us dead and we could start the whole process again. Annoyingly, when we finally hit the Hall Creek Rd it was too flat to glide on and we had to stride and herringbone along until we had passed the Keno Creek junction and were once again able to hurtle ourselves down without control.

In summary, despite what you might think, this is a much preferred access route to the ski terrain at Lost Lake Ridge. Although we didn't go up to Lost Lake Ridge we likely could have made it in half an hour less than the southern route, and the Keno Creek route gives access to ski terrain on both sides of the ridge.

Sandra McGuinness.

**The Valhalla Wilderness Society** encourages you to be a Positive force for the environment by writing letters regularly on issues that are important. The following addresses are for letters. Please also write to newspapers as often as possible.

➤Premier Gordon Campbell, Plmt Bldgs, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4, e-mail; [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca) ,Fax: 250-387-0087

➤Hon. Bill Barisoff, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, Parliament Bldgs, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2, Fax 250-387-1356. email [Bill.Barisoff.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Bill.Barisoff.mla@leg.bc.ca)

➤Hon.George Abbott, Minister Of Sustainable Resource Management, Parliament Bldgs, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4, Fax 250-356-8273. email [SRM.Minister@gems6.gov.bc.ca](mailto:SRM.Minister@gems6.gov.bc.ca)

➤Sandy Santori, resort development email [sandy.santori.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:sandy.santori.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

➤Valhalla Wilderness Society, P.O. Box 329, New Denver, B.C., V0G 1S0, Ph. 250-358-2333; fax 358-7950;

e-mail: [vws@vws.org](mailto:vws@vws.org); website [www.vws.org](http://www.vws.org)

## 2004 KMC CLIMBING CAMP – Mt Findlay/Clutterbuck Area

### LOCATION:

The 2004 KMC Climbing Camp will be located at the head of Granite Creek under the north faces of Mounts Lees and Clutterbuck in the heart of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. Climbing opportunities range from class 3 scrambles to difficult technical rock routes on fine granite. Peaks within day trip range include Mt Clutterbuck (10050', most southerly peak in the Purcells over 10,000'), Mt Lees (9750'), Midge Peak (9550'), and Mount Findlay (10,374', highest peak in the Purcells south of Toby). Peaks accessible via an advanced high camp are: Mount Morigeau (10,350'), Mount Rowand (9750'), and Trikootenay Peak (8950', hydrographic apex of the Purcells).

**MAPS:** 82 K/1 (Findlay Creek) (1:50,000)

### ACCESS:

As air support is not permitted within the conservancy, we will be walking in via outfitter maintained trails on Findlay and Granite Creeks. We will be hiring packhorses to carry our gear (75 pounds maximum per person) and will walk in with only daypacks. Travel time is two days in each direction with a total one-way distance of about 35 km with about 2000 vertical feet of elevation gain.

**DATES:** July 24 – August 1.

### FEES:

Total cost is dependent on how many people sign up, but is estimated to be: \$250 - \$350. As a 50% deposit is required to reserve the horses, a \$175 deposit must accompany registrations.

### TO REGISTER:

Send your name and a cheque for \$175 to: Doug Brown,  
3939 Malina Road, Nelson, B.C. V1L 6X6

Due to packhorse logistics, climbing camp will be limited to 12 participants, with registrations accepted on a first received, first accepted basis. For registrations received after April 1, there is no guarantee that packhorses can be reserved, so interested parties are encouraged to register as early as possible.

### AGE RESTRICTION:

The minimum age for participants is 19 years as of the date of camp.

### CANCELLATIONS:

No refunds will be made unless a suitable replacement participant can be found.

### ABOUT CLIMBING CAMP:

The Kootenay Mountaineering Club does not act as a guide service at its climbing camps. Rather, it merely facilitates transportation of members into remote, rugged wilderness areas where one's activities must be governed by the level of experience one possesses in such an environment. Previous climbing experience is mandatory.

### MORE INFORMATION:

For more information, contact Doug Brown, phone 250-xxx-xxxx, or email @shaw.ca.

KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB - TRIP REGISTRATION LIST

**WAIVER:** I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors & administrators release and forever discharge the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, their agents, servants, officials, representatives, successors and assignees of any injury sustained by me or by my equipment during this club trip. I understand the inherent dangers of trips into mountainous areas and assume full responsibility for myself.

**Acknowledgement of Inherent Risks, Agreement to Indemnify, Release & Waiver of Liability:**

BE AWARE! Mountaineering is a potentially dangerous activity with hazards including rock and ice fall, danger from avalanches, hidden crevasses, sudden changes in weather, electrical storms, hypothermia, falls, failure of climbing equipment, the possibility of becoming lost. Sometimes accidents do happen. By signing this form you acknowledge that you accept all hazards associated with mountaineering and that you are giving up the right to sue the KMC or any of its members. You are participating as a common adventurer, being personally responsible for your own safety and not looking to any other to protect you from harm. The organizer for a club trip is not a professional mountaineer, guide or trained first aid attendant. It is expected that when participating in a KMC activity you have the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment for that activity.

DATE: 200 /...../.....                      COORDINATOR:.....                      DESTINATION:.....

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGNATURE FOR WAIVER	TEL.NBR	CONTACT NAME/NBR. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY	KMC MEMBER ?
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Coordinator: Scan and print this form from your computer. No computer? Go to your nearest photocopier machine location and have the form copied.

Please return this to a KMC committee member after completing the trip, preferably the Summer Trips Chairman. Send trip report to Editor.