



Kootenay Mountaineer

The KMC Newsletter May/June 2007 Issue 3 Next deadline: July 21st

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Notice of Federation of Mountain Clubs AGM

On June 22-24 the Kootenay Mountaineering Club will be hosting the Federation of Mountain Club's Annual General Meeting and Conference in Nelson. All KMC members are invited and encouraged to attend all the activities.

-Friday evening will have a social to welcome the out of town delegates.

-On Saturday morning the AGM will be held at 9am. Conference and workshops are to be held on Saturday afternoon. Dinner will follow.

- Sunday will have hiking and/or climbing activities led by KMCers. Specific times and locations of venues, information and registration will be sent out by list serve or contact Steven Miros.

Billets for some of the visitors would be appreciated. Contact Steve Miros if you have room.

The New Bridge at MacBeth

Given the prospect of a proposed microhydro project potentially affecting the MacBeth trailhead, be sure to check out this new bridge and trail this summer!

"A much appreciated footbridge was recently installed on the MacBeth hiking trail. The new bridge replaces what many might remember as a difficult log crossing. MacBeth trail is located at approximately km 22 up Glacier Creek. For information on this and other hiking trails, contact Dan Reibin, Recreation Officer, Ministry of Tourism, Sport & the Arts at 250-365-8617."

A bit of background: For years the creek crossing in the early part of the MacBeth trail was rather 'difficult' and in some cases impossible. We are very grateful to the efforts of Dan Reibin (Min of Tourism) who made it happen in the fall of 2006, to MaryLou Nesbitt (Min of Forests, Kootenay Lake) who was instrumental in obtaining the bridge, to Julie Wilson (MoF) and Heather Smith (in past of MoF and more recently project contractor) who pulled it together and the fire crew (Southeast Fire Centre-Kirk Jensen, Cory and Chantal) and all those involved with the installation of the bridge. Improvements further up the trail is also needed and we're hoping to see that happen along with more improvements on other Glacier Creek trails.

Marlene Johnston photo and submission



Should We Continue Exploring The World or Stay Closer To Home In The Future?

Unless your travels have taken you off-planet lately, you've probably heard that we're in the middle of an environmental crisis. Apparently we've caused it, and in order to mitigate some of the most serious impacts, we all need to make changes. That means why and how we travel upon our planet.

What should we do? Should we, a) wring our hands and continue as we have, b) stop traveling altogether, c) make some changes in our travel habits, or d) say: "to hell with it", and travel till we drop. Some people are choosing "d". After all, the projected impacts of climate change are pretty overwhelming and with the world tourism organization estimating that tourism, the worlds fastest growing industry employs up to 10% of the world's workforce (accounting for 10% of the global gross domestic product) maybe "d" makes the most sense.

There is no shortage of environmental travel jargon kicking around. These include adventure tourism, ecotourism, and masstourism. Carbon offsets via airplane use are not without their associated controversy. Just because something is labelled "eco" doesn't necessarily make it more responsible than other. The idea is to leave a smaller footprint. We all make choices about how often we take trips, how long our trips are (time spent at destination versus several shorter trips), how to get to our destination, how to travel about when there, and what to do while we are there. What we choose has far reaching impacts not only on the local and global environments, but also on the well being of the local community. Responsible travel means minimizing these negative impacts.

The travel industry is pretty much like the rest of us. Some businesses are ahead of the game and are actively engaged in conservation measures while others are struggling to catch up or facing extinction. We all have a vested interest in responsible travel. It can help to preserve resources and the environment, save money for consumers, increase profits for industry, as well as create a more authentic travel experience. As informed citizens and responsible consumers, we have the power to collectively determine the outcome. All we need is the will.

From Jeff Lukovich's The Vancouver Sun article [Leaving A Small Footprint](#) in the April 7, 2007 edition on pages F1- F3.

visit the following websites for information on responsible travel:

www.ecotourism.org

www.responsibletravel.com

www.responsibletourismpartnership.org

www.responsibletravel.org

WOW! More than 30,000 people climb Mount Kilimanjaro every year. Between 5 to 15 climbers each year die trying.

CBC NEWS, Saturday, March 24, 2007

Nelson Search and Rescue (NSAR)

It is extremely important that the KMC have an awareness of the call out procedures required to mobilize NSAR. NSAR has approximately 43 members. Several different SAR units cover the KMC's traditional territory. There is a mutual aid process among these units.

SAR responds under the authority of the Provincial Emergency Program, which means that certain requirements must be met before they can be mobilized. SAR is dispatched by ambulance services after calling 911 or the BC Ambulance 1-800 number -Satellite phone requests on 911 will go to Ottawa. The 911 and 1-800#- will go through the preferred dispatch in Kamloops. After dialing 911 a person is met with a question of Fire, Police or Ambulance. A rescue would entail that one request the Ambulance and proceed with the appropriate dispatcher.

The RCMP specifically deals with search for missing persons. The Coroner's office, usually assisted by the RCMP, will be called if a death is involved. The RCMP have access to their Kelowna based helicopter. This has in the past caused some delays in response that can be critical in certain situations. When responding to a rescue SAR needs to be tasked by BC Ambulance and in a search the RCMP tasks them. If you know which SAR should be called, you should mention that as well. The rescue calls seem to be causing some problems at the dispatch level. SAR's groups have come a long way over a short period of time but they need to be called in a timely fashion with as much accurate information as possible in order to respond efficiently. It is very important that the procedure for call out is followed, that you are requesting SAR, and that the request makes note of the difficulty and hazardousness of reaching the site. A "life and death" scenario accentuates the call. Specifically insist that it is a technical-wilderness rescue while at the same time keeping in mind that the person receiving the call may be somewhat unfamiliar with what such a rescue might encompass. They may be also unfamiliar with the area. Provide as many details as possible, GPS coordinates are great. Note that a helicopter "will" be necessary

Other SAR Notes:

- The first rule of rescuers is to never endanger the rescuer!
- If you're capable, it's always best to rescue yourself.
- Helicopters can be privately contracted to do retrievals however expect costs over \$1500. The pilot will not help. He will only fly the helicopter. Liability issues come into play.
- People are welcome to come out and watch NSAR practice exercises. Contact NSAR pager 352-8469.

Visit their website at nelsonsar.com

Compiled with the assistance of Joe Vingo of Nelson Search and Rescue. Originally printed in May 2005

“Nothing can bring you peace but yourself” Ralph Waldo Emerson



Executive notes:

(From May executive meeting)

Correspondence:
Newsletters received

from BCMC, Friends of West Kootenay Parks, Castlegar Friends of Parks and Trails. Avalanche News.

Cheque received for Kilimanjaro's advertisement in Newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter – Submissions are always appreciated. Past newsletters are archived on KMC website.

Summer Trips – We are hoping that some more volunteers will initiate trips in July, August and October. We will not be running trips with the same rating (e.g. B1) on the same day, but can run trips with different ratings (e.g. A1 and D4) on the same day.

Trails – Lemon Creek and possibly West Kokanee Face will be tackled this year.

Volunteers are greatly appreciated.

Would like to avoid competition with other trips on trail clearing days. So please no other trips scheduled on the days that trail clearing trips are scheduled. Cabins

– The cabins were popular this year. \$100 donation received for Bonnington Cabins Climbing Camp – Camp is full with two on the wait list.

Mountain School – Will run a snow review (May 26 and 27) and a rock review (some time in June) this year. Have polled the membership regarding what sort of courses they would like to see.

Winter Trips – We had a busy winter this year with many new participants on trips. Ski touring is a growth area for the club.

Hiking Camp – All camps full with wait list.

Club Business:

-Tenure mapping – We are now set up to get notification of new applications in our area of interest from MoTSA via email and we can request more details on any specific application if desired. It was decided to send the email notification to the entire executive but that the Conservation Chair will be responsible for replying.

-Club fees – Has been raised at the last two AGM's specifically in regard to single memberships. Kay has offered to develop a proposal in consultation with those particularly concerned and the person responsible for handling the club's membership services regarding the fee structure. This proposal will be brought to the executive for discussion with the goal

of taking something to the membership at the 2007 AGM. \$15 of the membership fee goes to the FMC.

-Update on people over the age of 19 being included on family membership = They are classed as an individual member and the application form has been modified to make this clearer.

- The executive and members should be aware that although parents and children (defined as persons under the age of 19) can and do sign waivers, these may not stand up in court. Parents can waive their own right to sue for liability on behalf of the child, but they cannot waive the child's right to sue on their own behalf. Also, children cannot waive their own right to sue on their own behalf.

- It was reaffirmed that the club should maintain its policy of no minors on skiing, hiking or climbing camps. A note will be put into the newsletter so that trip coordinators are aware. The club will continue to have parents sign the membership form for their children as parents can waive their right to sue on the child's behalf and signing the waiver indicates parents are aware of the potential hazards of mountain activities.

-In regards to witnesses to waivers = waivers should ideally be witnessed by an officer of the club. Hiking camp has had some difficulty with signing of waivers, and needs a new policy so that relatives are not "witnessing" waivers. It was suggested that waivers be distributed to hiking camp participants prior to camp for them to review, and that they then sign the waiver on the first morning of camp when a club officer is available to witness the signature. The hiking camp committee will consider this.

-The club is committed to working towards having unified language on all waivers, and will continue to pursue this matter with the FMCBC

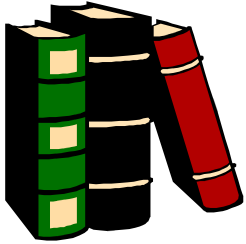
-Sandra updated the executive on discussions with MoTSA with regard to the Bonnington Cabins. MoTSA would like the KMC to institute a payment system for use of the cabins, all fees would go to the KMC. The Society Act does not conflict but we will check it out. We always put in more than we take out= there is no profit. MoTSA will be doing all the firewood for the cabins this year using fire crews. The KMC will do the usual minor maintenance, like chinking holes and repairing decking. A \$10 per person per night fee was thought to be fair. Sandra has investigated the process

of changing the cabins over to a fee/reservation system and has a club volunteer, who will design a web page for the payment/reservation system. It is possible that some assistance will be required from KICS, who will host the webpage. The executive authorized a one-time \$500 expenditure for technical support for development of an online payment and reservation system should this be required.

-The FMCBC AGM will be in Nelson on June 23 and June 24. The two hikes that are currently scheduled for Saturday June 23 will be moved to avoid conflict. The AGM will be in Nelson and Steven is working with the FMCBC on this. The FMCBC has proposed a reorganization of their structure.

-A new policy regarding the Kokanee Ski Week has been adopted. Applicants must be club members both the year they apply and the year of the camp, and preference will be given to local residents.

-Concerns have been raised regarding the large group sizes on winter trips in avalanche terrain. Dave reported that winter trips this year had between 5 and 13 participants. In general, most trips went without problems, however, there were some difficulties on trips where there was a great disparity in skiing ability and fitness within the group. Some coordinators were proactive and involved in decision-making, but others allowed the group to make decisions, which did not always work very well. Dave surveyed trip coordinators from the 2006/2007 season regarding limiting group size on trips into challenging and complex terrain and two groups emerged. One group felt no need to limit group sizes and would prefer limiting group size was left to the coordinators discretion. The other group thought limiting group size was a good idea. After much discussion, the executive decided that limiting group size in avalanche terrain is a good idea. In complex and challenging terrain, the group size should be a maximum of 8 with one coordinator or 12 with two coordinators. Dave will submit an article to the newsletter with the executive recommendations for group size and reasons behind the recommendation. In the absence of overwhelmingly negative responses from the membership, a mandatory cap on group size in complex and challenging terrain will be instituted in the 2007/2008 ski season.



Library News:

Time to Get Hiking

With recent temperatures hitting the low 20's it is time to start

planning all those hiking trips you want to do this summer.

The KMC library has many hiking guidebooks, covering not only most areas of BC – from our own Selkirks, right up to the Tweedsmuir area and out to Vancouver Island, but also Alberta, and a few US locations, such as the Cascades and Olympics.

This month, two new hiking guidebooks were added to the KMC library: *Classic Hikes in the Canadian Rockies* by Graeme Pole, and *Backcountry Banff* by Mike Potter. The entire library collection is on the KMC webpage at <http://www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca/library.html>



Check out this newly released book:

The Purcell Suite

This exciting new anthology of twenty-five essays by both Canadian and US writers explores the ecological wonders and complex beauty of the Purcell Mountains in south-eastern British Columbia and north-western USA. The Purcell Suite captures a diverse selection of writings united by a common sense of place. With historical anecdotes from the likes of Conrad Kain, First Nations perspectives, and a range of modern tales of exploration, discovery, science, and conservation, this anthology has something for any literary buff.

The book's editor, K.L. Kivi has pulled together a rich and engaging anthology that will awaken in readers both a new appreciation of the Purcells, and also a keen sense of the real dangers that threaten this compelling landscape, much of which remains as wilderness.

The Purcell Suite is being co-published by Maa Press and Wildsight, with generous support from the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative. All profits from book sales go to help continue the 20-year struggle to prevent a major real estate and ski resort development in the heart of the Purcell Range.



To order The Purcell Suite, or to receive a review

copy, contact K.Linda Kivi.

Or contact Wildsight Program Manager Dave Quinn at 250-427-5666 or 250-427-8878 (cell) or by e-mail:

daveq@wildsight.ca

About Wildsight

Wildsight works locally, regionally and globally to protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable communities in Canada's Columbia and Southern Rocky Mountain region. This area is internationally recognized as a keystone to conservation in western North America. Wildsight received the 2005 *Canadian Environmental Award for Conservation* in recognition of its successful work to protect the region's wildlife and wildlands.

For more information, please visit www.wildsight.ca

TOPO MAPS

As of April 1, Natural Resources Canada is making topographic maps and various other types of mapping data available free on the internet. The site is:

<http://www.geogratis.gc.ca/geogratis/en/index.html>

The site is not the easiest to use, but then it's just started up. To find topographic maps, click "search by product", select "maps and charts, topographic" and "1:50,000 to 1:250,000", then "search". On the page that comes up, select "CanMatrix - Digital Topographic Maps of Canada" - this will take you to a page where you can find a map by NTS mapsheet (in the format 082F06), place name, or lat & long. Eventually, after going through an inconvenient process you can download a map.

The download zip files are about 10-12 MB. They contain a scan of the paper topo map sheet at 300 dpi, which is the equivalent of 80-90 megapixels. The files are compressed 8-bit GeoTIFF files, suitable for opening in Ozi Explorer or GIS software, or for viewing with any photo or image viewing program. The scans are not the greatest quality, but they're OK. Unlike commercial maps-on-CD products, they do not come with any software for printing the maps to scale.

Have fun!

(Peter Jordan submission)

The first recorded mountain ascent is Roman Emperor Hadrian's ascent of Etna (3,350m.) to see the sun rise in AD 121.

Mountain School Tech Tips: To Knot or Not to Knot

By Sandra McGuinness

Last summer while descending the standard rappel route after climbing the NW ridge of Sir Donald, an American climber died after rappelling off the end of her rope and falling 300 metres between the fourth and fifth rappel stations. Like many rappel accidents, this one was totally preventable, a knot in both ends of the rappel rope, and the use of some type of backup device such as a piece of cordellette hooked to the climbers harness and attached to the climbing rope with either a prussic knot or an autoblock knot would have precluded this fatality.

So why don't more climbers put knots in the end of their climbing ropes while rappelling or use autoblock back-ups on rappel? The most common arguments advanced are (a) knots in the ends of the climbing rope may cause the rope to get hung up when throwing the rope down at the start of the rappel, (b) you might forget to remove the knots from the ends of the rope when pulling the rope at the end of the rappel and thus end up with a stuck rope, (c) putting an

autoblock on the rope takes time, and (d) the autoblock knot may jam. If you are worried about (a), uncoil the rope as you rappel, (b) requires you to use some brain power – sorry, there is just no way around that one, (c) with practice, this takes less than one minute and can be done while the first person is still on the rappel rope, thus not taking any extra time at all, and (d) put the autoblock knot below the rappel device and use an autoblock knot instead of a prussic knot – autoblock knots are easier to release when weighted.

Practice your techniques in a controlled environment ahead of time so that when you come to be rappelling off the west ridge of Gladshiem in an electrical storm like we were last summer, everything goes smoothly when you really need it to.

Check out this technical note for a full discussion of the pros and cons of various methods of safeguarding rappels <http://www.rescuedynamics.ca/articles/pdfs/rappel.pdf>

The Hiking Committee Needs Your Help!

The hiking camp committee has already begun its exploration for next year's camp site. Over the years a number of club members have expressed an interest in returning to previous camp locations. With the passage of time this is now a real possibility.

Please send your suggestions about previous locations, or thoughts and ideas about as-of-yet unexplored locations, to Ray Neumar, Site Selection Coordinator.

The KMC 2007 Executive:		Contacts:
Chair	Steven Miros	▶▶ Membership Annual Dues ◀◀ Individual (19 yrs & up) \$41 Couple/Family \$40+\$6/person Send complete membership/waiver form to KMC Membership 2711 Granite Rd Nelson BC V1L6V3 To receive information by e-mail or to give us your address/e-mail/phone changes please contact membership@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca ▶▶ Library ◀◀ Sandra McGuinness ▶▶ E-mail update ◀◀ Contact members-owner@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca ▶▶ KMC President ◀◀ president@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca ▶▶ KMC (Correspondence) ◀◀ Box 3195 Castlegar BC V1N 3H5 ▶▶ KMC website ◀◀ www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca ▶▶ Newsletter submissions ◀◀ Eliane Miros, newsletter@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca ▶▶ Newsletter Editorial Policy ◀◀ We encourage all submissions of writings, cartoons, drawings, book & website reviews and trip reports. Suitability for publication is at editor's 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. Will use discretion for commercial endeavors.
Vice	Doug Brown	
Treasurer	Norman Truant	
Secretary	Leah Zoobkoff	
Conservation	Kim Kratky	
Winter Trips	Dave Jack	
Summer Trips	Vicki Hart	
Cabins & Trails	Ted Ibrahim	
Mtnrg. School	Sandra McGuinness	
Hiking Camp	Don Harasym and/Or Kay Medland	
Climbing Camp	Doug Brown	
Website	Doug Brown	
Entertainment	Bryan Reid	
Newsletter	Eliane Miros	

Trip Reports

Skiing the Seven Summits Trail: How to Permanently Shorten One Leg

Another one of my KMC trips that is met by the bulk of the membership with either stony silence or derision. But, I did have one taker, young Dave Jack, from Trail, who even agreed to meeting at a ghastly 5.30 am on the day of the tour. The crux of any trip for me is getting out of bed, particularly when I have to get out of bed at 4am, but, I did so remarkably speedily on the day of our tour, and was on the road to Rossland by about 4.20 am. Dave pulled into our agreed upon meeting place at the Rossland Mining Museum, somewhat bleary eyed at 5.40 am, and we drove the twisting, winding, and very pot-holed Rossland-Cascade Road to km 12, where a good sized parking area, and even a trail sign, indicated we were at the right spot. We left my truck here, and drove up to Strawberry Pass in Dave's truck, and managed to get ourselves onto our skis and out of the parking lot just before 7 am.

The first part of the trail follows an old road up to a clear-cut on the north side of Mount Lepsoe, and was familiar to me from previous ski tours. There is more snow than normal in the Rossland Range this year, which may account for us managing to wander off the road, but a bit of skiing through the woods put us back on it, right where the singletrack trail begins. Someone had recently flagged this end of the route, so we were able to follow the summer trail quite easily to where the trail first gains the ridge system just south of Mount Lepsoe. Most of the peaks along the route are passed just below their summits on the west side, and, while this may be expedient, it also means that if you do this route on skis, you'll find yourself side-hilling for many hours and kilometres, all with your left leg on the uphill side. In the icy conditions that we had, this became moderately painful as we approached 8-hour mark with our left leg always higher than our right.

Once you've gained the ridge south of Mount Lepsoe, the route as far as Red Mountain ski hill is really pleasant. The first bump south of Lepsoe is known locally as Elgood, and we passed it on the west. The next longer bump on the ridge is open and provided wonderful travel with great views of the rest of the route, and other peaks of the Rossland Range. We put crampons on to contour around the west side of Mount Plewman, which was very icy. Dave began doing some kind of strange dance step with his skis along this part of the route, as I guess he was starting to get some discomfort from this side hilling.

Beyond Plewman, we stayed right on the ridge, up and downing for short distances until we got to Unnecessary Ridge, where we took our skins off and had a really nice ski down the southeast slopes which had softened a bit in the sun. I could call it good management, but it was probably good luck that we ended our ski down right where the trail climbs up to the ridge between Grey and Kirkup. This was an easy climb, as the snow was beginning to soften, and we occasionally got to put our right legs on the uphill side of the slope. Just before the last bit up to Grey Mountain, we actually had a sit down lunch in the

sun, but we still had a long way to go, so we didn't linger too long.

We scooted around Grey on the west (of course) and then got another fun ski down to arrive at the pass on the west side of Granite Mountain, and the Red Mt. ski resort. Here I blithely told Dave that we had our last climb ahead of us, up to Record Ridge, and from there, it would be all downhill cruising to the road. We skied for a kilometre along a ridge top just north of Record Mountain, and then after an awkward dip into a gully, found a good ski track that took us across the east side of Record Mountain, our left leg enjoying a well earned break, to arrive on Record Ridge. The initial part of Record Ridge was disappointing, as we could see that the closed 40-metre contour that spans 1.5 km on the map, actually includes a whole series of 39 metre ups and downs. We opted to contour around the west side of these, and set off to do so, but both of us had severe shortening of the left leg by this point and we had to keep stopping to shake our left leg about to try to lengthen it back to normal. Near point 2028 on the map, we took our skins off and had another nice ski down, but it lasted only about 100 metres, before we had to skin up again, now in timber to pass another bump on the ridge.

The summer trail passes this bump on the west, but we hoofed it past on the right. Deep in the woods here we discovered a huge snow hole built with tiered snow seats about it, like stadium seats. A fire was smoking in the snow depths, but it seemed to us, an awful long way for the volatile youth of Trail to come for a party. Hopefully, we took our skins off again, and skied down another 150 metres or so, before admitting that yet another 39 metre up was in front of us, so we skinned up again. Shortly, as we wandered through the woods trying to stay on the ill-defined ridge line, we came up on the Record Ridge cabin. I'd heard about this cabin, but had not visited it before, and hadn't expected to find such a large well-built cabin tucked into the woods here. We had a quick look inside, before continuing on.

Record Ridge turned out to be interminable, or so it felt to us as we got more and more tired. Each minor down, was greeted with another up, so we could never take our skins off, but had to tediously switch down and back up what felt like hundreds of 39 metre bumps. Some we passed on the east, refusing to do any more side-hilling on the west. Eventually, we got to a spot on the ridge, where we could see the Rossland-Cascade Road below us. The summer route stretched away endlessly to the SW, bumping along up and down along a lumpy non-descript ridge, but we decided we'd had enough and would rather walk a bit up the road than ski drunkenly through the woods anymore. So we took off our skins for the last time, and skied easily down through the trees landing on the road at km 11, just as a car was coming past. I stuck out my thumb, and the driver stopped, so abandoning my skis with Dave, I jumped in and rode the final kilometre with a family from up the Sheep River.

A quick calculation of the elevation gain on this route from the map, comes up at about 1050 metres, but Dave's altimeter watch had recorded closer to 1400 metres by the time we'd laboriously humped up and down all the bumps along Record Ridge. All in all, this is a great ski trip if you exit at Red

Mountain, but the final part of the route along Record Ridge is tedious and adds nothing but more suffering to your day.

Sentinel Slog, April 6

Three people showed up for this early season muscle-cruncher. We met at the junction of Robson Access Rd and Verigin's Tomb Rd in Brilliant. The day was sunny and very warm. With a relaxed pace we easily made it to the old (now grown in) road above. We had great views of Mt Faith, Gladstone, Mackie, Granite Mtn, Mt Abercrombie, Kelly Mtn, Grassy, Siwash, Conner and the peaks of the Norns Range (Palisades, Kamikaze and Airy). On the way up we encountered a young Quebecois Selkirk student looking for a way up- he found the trail to his delight. A few flowers were out and the trail was in very good condition. We only walked on firm snow just before the road. After a leisurely lunch we slowly worked our way back down. At the halfway point the sound of loud machines captured our attention. We were then entertained by the spectacle of a snowmobile and truck sinking in the Kootenay River below Selkirk College. The snowmobile driver was trying to skip across water, from sand dune to sand dune-to no avail. The truck made a valiant but failed attempt to rescue it. With only a few wood ticks and some nice tanning we finished the day after 6 hours. We were Vicki Hart, Hanspeter Korn, Irme Mende, Eliane & Steven Miros.

Skiing the Burn: Apex Creek to Proctor, April 6 to 8

Sometimes the best trips are the small ones in your own backyard. The sort of trips that you just take off and do when the weather is right, with no big expectations for spectacular scenery or epic ski descents, but often, you find both.

In 1976, Eric White and Fred Thiessen started from Whitewater Ski Resort and skied along the divide between Lasca and Kutetl Creeks to Mill Lake, and then descended through thick immature timber and willows to Harrop in three days. They described the descent down Harrop Creek as "not very nice with lots of little trees to frustrate us and cause many bad words." The next, and only other, recorded trip through the area came in 1989, when Bill Bryce, Harold Pendergast and Tom Shaman, also starting from Whitewater, skied past Mount Lasca, into the headwaters of Midge Creek, descended on foot down a steep couloir to the headwaters of Narrows Creek, and then, crossing over Mount Irvine, descended to logging roads above Proctor on the narrow ridge between Irvine and Proctor Creeks.

On the Thursday immediately preceding Easter Friday, the weather forecast for the next three consecutive days was for hot, sunny weather, so, declining Hamish's invitation to spend the weekend on a bolting extravaganza at the Waterline Wall in Castlegar, Doug and I decided to take off and ski from Whitewater to Proctor climbing both Mounts Lasca and Irvine along the way. Having only two of us made the shuttle somewhat more complicated (and physically taxing), and was accomplished by stashing a bicycle in the bush at the bottom of

the logging road that climbs the ridge between Irvine and Proctor Creeks, and convincing Maurice De St Jorre to take us up to Whitewater Ski Resort at 6.30 am on Friday morning. We needed ski crampons to gain the ridge between Ymir Mountain and White Queen, and then set off on the familiar death traverse out into 5 Mile basin. The death traverse is usually scary because of the avalanche hazard. This morning, it was scary because our skis, even with crampons, could get no purchase on the ice crust, which was covered with either a bit of faceted snow or a thin windslab that broke off. Eventually, however, using ski crampons the whole way, we had managed to claw our way up to the Kutetl-5 Mile divide, north of Ymir Mountain.

This whole area of the West Arm Provincial Park was burnt in the fires of 2003 and now provides very aesthetic skiing through open burnt timber. We took our skins and crampons off, and quickly covered the next two kilometers on firm snow that was just softening in the sun. We contoured around one blunt ridgeline, climbed 80 metres over the next more prominent ridge running SE, and then in a long gently climbing traverse skied through a narrow pass on the next ridgeline north. We found a route through the corniced ridge and down into the valley below, and then skied another gently climbing traverse route to cross the next SE trending ridge at 2040 metres. Another cornice to break through, this one unique with dead timber sticking up through the cornice and a quick descent to a small tarn in the valley below. Another gentle climb took us up to the height of land and we skied up to a small summit at 2040 metres from which we had fantastic views of the Selkirks and Purcells. Again we found a route through the corniced ridge, and quickly skied steep slopes down to a lake at the base of the south face of Mount Lasca where we set up camp. All day, we had been skiing through the burnt timber from the 2003 fires, and found the sight of a few stands of evergreens around Mount Lasca that had escaped the fire, quite incongruous. That afternoon, we skinned to the top of Mount Lasca on sun softened snow and mapped out our route for the next day from the top.

Next morning, we crossed the SE ridge of Mount Lasca, again found a break in the cornice, and skied steep slopes down to a marshy area below, where we finally left the burn behind. Contouring for a kilometer, we crossed through a narrow pass south of Mill Lake, and then contoured and descended in a northeasterly direction past two tiny tarns to the open marshy area at the head of Midge Creek, where we had our first lunch break. After studying the maps, we decided to follow the east fork of Midge Creek up to the height of land between Midge and Wilson Creeks, and then follow ridges and small summits north until we found a spot to drop off the east side. We had a fairly steep descent through trees for 150 metres to the forks on Midge Creek, then contoured for a kilometer until we got into the east fork of Midge Creek, where we faced a long hot 600 metre climb to the ridge on the Wilson-Midge divide. I really lagged on this section, panting along behind Doug with my tongue stuck dryly to the roof of my mouth and it wasn't until we were a 100 metres below the first small summit that I finally took over the trailbreaking. The final ski to the top

involved lots of weaving around wind pillows, and the summit itself was a tiny little platform of snow, steep on three sides. Getting off to the north was tricky, but we managed a steep ski schuss across the east side of the peak with some good exposure down into Wilson Creek.

We followed the ridge north, climbing another 30 or 40 metres to the next, more spacious summit, and, with some careful stepping towards the edge, we found a steep descent off the north side which we could get on without chopping a break through the otherwise continuous cornice. Surprisingly, the snow on this aspect was deep and dry and we had a delightful ski down to a beautiful sub-alpine basin spread about with larch trees. With some judicious traversing, we were able to gain the next ridgeline to the north, without having to climb at all, and shortly before 4.00 pm we coasted down to camp on a large lake south of Mount Irvine.

Another sunny warm morning and a delightful ridge walk, as we skied over two intervening bumps to the top of Mount Irvine from the south. Descending north off the final bump before Mount Irvine, involved some entertaining side stepping down steep icy slopes, a much more challenging descent than the map would indicate. We lingered on the top of Mount Irvine, enjoying the spectacular views from our final high point of the trip, and then began the long descent.

A long narrow ridge curls around the west side of Irvine Creek for five kilometers before it broadens out and begins a serious descent down to Proctor. Travel on this ridge was slow, and tedious. Descending the short, but steep narrow sections was difficult with skins on, but taking them off, meant putting them back on again within five minutes for the next roller coaster of wind rolls and short climbs. The snow was softening rapidly and each small schuss down a wind-roll would plunge our ski tips down into the snow. We crawled along at perhaps two kilometers an hour for a couple of hours, before finally looking ahead and seeing nothing but down in front of us.

Skins off, we nosed our way down the broadening ridge, stopping frequently to make sure we were still on course, and close to 2 pm, broke out onto the old logging road just below 5500 feet. A last snack, and then a downhill cruise for maybe 10 kilometres, until finally we could no longer string together the rapidly thinning strips of snow on the road, and we took our skis off and walked the remaining kilometer down to our stashed bicycle.

I volunteered to cycle 40 kilometres into Nelson to pick up our truck, while Doug shuttled our packs a kilometer or so down to the start of the logging road. I started off at a rapid clip on the bike, but soon realized I couldn't keep that pace up after skiing all day, so slowed down to a more sedate but consistent pedal. Lycra clad cyclists on fast, light road bikes kept whizzing by me, and I felt a childish impulse to shout, "but I've been skiing all day!" The final hill in Nelson defeated me, and I had to push the bike up the last block to Maurice's house, where I staggered to the truck and tossed the bike in the back. Luckily, there was some extreme left-leaning liberal talk show on Kootenay Co-op Radio to keep me awake on the drive back to pick Doug up.

An official KMC trip with just two participants, Doug Brown and Sandra McGuinness.

Peak 2222 or Not

Our destination for Sunday **April 15, 2007** was Peak 2222, a minor peak on the north side of Carolina Creek. A couple of days earlier, Doug, Maurice and I had skied to within 60 vertical metres of the summit from the west side, but had stopped short of the top, due to a combination of (a) us not being sufficiently driven to reach the absolute top, and (b) having to traverse steep sun-drenched south facing slopes in order to achieve (a). This time, I planned to try the east ridge, which I thought might be skiable without having to set foot on any of (b) (i.e. steep, sun-drenched south facing slopes). We took our previous route to Pristine Pass - ski for about a kilometre along the gas line road, then, when it looks as if you'll have to go down a bit to follow the gas line, continue climbing gently always heading to skiers left (west). This brings you out to a short flat area in the woods, and continuing on, you soon hit the creek draining Pristine Pass. The pass itself is more a long corridor, with steep slopes on either side, a fairly classic terrain trap, so we spaced out to ski this section, and there were a couple of impressive debris piles off the west facing slopes above, and one big glide crack about 100 metres up the east side of Pristine Pass.

Although it is only a short descent – maybe 80 metres – from Pristine Pass to Carolina Creek the majority vote was to take our skins off, which we did, and had a half decent descent on fairly dry snow. On the other side of the valley, we had a steep south facing slope to climb up to the col east of Peak 2222, and we had to pick a careful line up here between an avalanche path on skiers left (with another big glide crack above) and steep open slopes on the right. We stopped for lunch about 60 metres up the east ridge of Peak 2222, just below a steep section where we would need to traverse out onto the south face. On this south facing slope, we found a dense wet 40 cm layer sitting on the rain crust from March 11, that gave easy shovel shears – a result that completely turned me off continuing on.

Everyone else seemed to be in agreement, so we scooted back down to the col, where Peter suggested we ski a north-facing slope down to a large lake at the head of Curtis Creek. This sounded like a good idea to the rest of the group, so we skied down, one at a time for the first section and then all together on the lower angled bottom section. The snow was pretty dry on this side, although it was easy to cut off small soft slabs on steep convex rolls, and most of us enjoyed the run down. Micha broke a good trail back up, and then, going rapidly from winter to spring, we skied the knee-deep sloop on the south side back down to Carolina Creek.

Skiing back down to the gas line from Pristine Pass felt a lot more like water skiing than snow skiing, and the usual rapid slide down the gas line, was slow with pools of water under our skis. So, we didn't climb Peak 2222, but, we did have a good day out.

Participants: Maurice De St Jorre, Micha Forestell, Matt Lucas, Dom Preney, Peter Tchir, and coordinator Sandra McGuinness.

Sproule Creek Trail, May 6

A sunny day, a good trail, a happy group---basic make-up of a good hike!

The creek was quite full and loud and spring greenery was everywhere. Lots of trilliums in bloom! There's a fairly new bridge at kilometer #4 and the trail has been cleaned up to and past kilometer #5. Just beyond that marker we arrived at a clearing, which looked to be somewhat of a camping area, perhaps used by hunters. Parts of the old railway and evidence of an old sawmill were visible at different points along the trail. After a leisurely lunch we headed back and arrived at the parking lot at 2:30.

Participants were: Ed and Hazel Beynon, Janis Gilbert, John Golik, June Harasym, Linda Hill, Gordon and Joanne Meisner, Al and Pat Sheppard, Anna Thyer, and coordinator Nell Plotnikoff.

Mt. Mackie, May 16

We met at the Mackie Creek FSR (17km west of Castlegar on Hwy #3) and drove up it for approximately 4km. Here there is a relatively good branchment going off to the left (east). We parked our cars here and began walking up the road paralleling a creek. A few hundred feet later there was a washout, which made the road now unusable for vehicular traffic. At the top of the next hill we entered a newly planted clear-cut. There we had good views of Mt. Mackie to the south- as well as other views to the east and north. Another km of good road walking, a turn on the left branchment and then alder began infringing upon the road surface. Eventually it was thick enough to be all-out-bushwhacking. The route itself had been pruned at a height of 3 feet to allow snowmobile-and possibly ski-touring access. There are 3 long switchbacks which all make you feel as if you're off track because they take you so far east. Light cloud cover gave us shade from what would have been otherwise a hot day. We continued on the easily discernable road until the level of snow put us above the brush and into a newly established forest. Here the walking was steep, but relatively easy on the soft snow with Mt Mackie straight ahead to the south. At the top of the new forest we entered an old growth forest through which we had a very steep scramble to the top of Mt Mackie. Lots of huffing and puffing but the gang made excellent work of this last 1400 ft of elevation gain.

The views at the top were great. The Seven Summits were close by and easily discernable. Mt. Plewman definitely doesn't have its familiar shape from this vantage. Crowe and Mt. Neptune are a short distance away, by way of the crow. Mt Faith, Gladstone, the summits of the Norns Range, the Bonnington Range and the Valhallas beckon. Views to Kokanee and the Salmo-Creston skyline are on the horizon.

There was one of those big green pop bottles on the summit where we sat on the wooden base of and had a nice lunch in light breeze and warm sun. We returned by the same route. The descent off the mountain was a lot of fun and very fast due to the soft but firm snow. Under a strong pace set by Caroline, Joan and Eliane the bushwhacking was done in quick time and 2+ hours later we were back at the vehicles.

This route is growing in with alder very quickly and it's unfortunate because it is a pleasant peak with good views to achieve. Perhaps an approach from the south via the newly logged areas off the Nancy Greene summit could be explored.

The route we took would be great for a ski tour outing though achieving the summit itself would be through a steep forest. Many thanks to Joan Harvey, Caroline LaFace, Ray Newmar, Jill Watson, and Mary Woodward, who accompanied us on this 7-hour outing. Eliane & Steven Miro.

Old Glory, May 21

We met at the Hanna Creek parking lot at 8am and started hiking on snow. The snow conditions were good and we reached the summit at 11:10am going the most direct route. The weather was good but while we were eating lunch in the sun, we could see some rain showers to the south. The rain did not, however, reach us and, except for having a little trouble finding the trail, we had an uneventful walk down to the cars getting back to the cars at about 3pm. After many years of failing to make it to the summit in May, this is now the fourth year in a row that we have made it to the top.

We were Caroline Dahlen, Hans Korn, Jen Kyler, Caroline LaFace, Robin Lidstone, Gene Van Dyck, Alex Walker, Jill Watson, Leah Zoobkoff, and coordinator, Ted Ibrahim.

Mt. Grohman, May 27

It might have been the heavy rainfall warning or perhaps the threat of thundershowers in the afternoon, but the crowd going to Mt. Grohman was considerably thinner than previous trips. Or maybe they were just a little smarter than we were. The day started off with a drive up to snowline at 5000 ft., 15 km up the Grohman road, then 2 km up the spur road to Baldface lodge. The rain at this time decided to let us know that we were in for a long day, and we started the 4 km hike up the road to the Baldface Lodge at 9:30 a.m. in a steady drizzle. We arrived at the lodge, which is located at 6700 ft., by 11:15 a.m. We got to look at the new main building and 6 cabins (most of them as big as small houses), and realized that how the other half lived wasn't so bad after all.

A short hike up one of the snow cat tracks put us on the ridge, where we discovered that the flat easy walking we remembered, had been replaced with a long series of up and down bumps, which went on all the way to the peak.

As if to tempt us, the skies cleared off and the peak cairn appeared on the ridge a kilometer ahead. Spirits lifted and thoughts of a sunny peak lunch moved everyone closer to the top. Two minutes later, a snow squall came out of the west and temperatures dropped to mid winter conditions. The final approach was classic snow travel through blizzard conditions, with warm rocks underneath causing you to drop 2 or 3 feet into the snow, when you least expected it. A large cornice crack on the top ridge kept everyone honest and well back from the edge. We finally gathered at the top of Mt Grohman (7531 ft plus 4 feet of snow) at 1:15 p.m., where there was a noticeable humming of the ice axes and thunder in the distance, so we decided to head back down and have lunch in the trees.

The rest of the trip down was under clear skies, with excellent cloud formation views in every direction, as the storm blew around us. We reached the cars at 4:30 p.m. and just got in as the skies opened up and really let it rain.

We were: Joan Harvey, Jen Kyler, John Liddington, Jan Micklethwaite, Alex Walker, Jill Watson, Mary Woodward, and Dave Grant, coordinator.

Same As It Ever Was*: 2007 KMC Snow Review

*Letting the days go by/let the water hold me down
Letting the days go by/water flowing underground*

This year's snow review was held over two days and, on the second day, we certainly got our share of water flowing – mostly down the backs of our necks. The first day of the snow review covered ascending the rope using prussic or klemheist knots, building and equalizing snow anchors, and crevasse rescue systems. In the afternoon, we reviewed self-belays with an ice axe, how to safely ascend and descend steep snow slopes, and then finished off with some self-arrest practice. The highlight of the day for me was getting a jar of Vegemite from Jill!

While our first day had been sunny and warm, our second day started with an ominous heavy rainfall warning. Nevertheless, we roped up and climbed a snow slope building anchors and belaying one another, all the time watching out for those (pretend) crevasses. As hypothermia began to settle in we set up a rappel, and using full safety techniques – knots in the rope ends, backup cordellette on the rope, we each had a turn rappelling.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to come out and practice their skills, making the mountains a bit safer for all of us. Special thanks to Doug Brown and Stephen Langley for their help with the crevasse rescue scenarios.

Participants: John Beerbower, David Cunningham, Micha Forestell, David Grant, Vicki Hart, Caroline LaFace, Matt Lucas, Danielle Montandon, Hamish Mutch, Curt Nixon, Joanne Stinson, Jill Watson, and coordinator Sandra McGuinness.

*Talking Heads: Once In A Lifetime

Other Trip Reports

These reports are from club members, they are not club trips. Feel free to submit your special trip reports from your special places.

Less Than Bold In Boulder, June 2006

Not knowing what kind of weather to expect in Colorado during the first week of June last year, I had opted for caution and packed an array of gloves, toques, long underwear and fleeces. As we were landing in Denver the pilot announced that it was clear, 95 degrees, and it remained the same all week. Bruce Fairley and I were keen to do some rockclimbing in Boulder, about 25 miles north of Denver, one of the birthplaces of climbing in North America. We planned to visit the famous Flatirons, and the legendary Eldorado Canyon, but our aspirations were modest, and “The Naked Edge” was definitely not on our list. After meeting at the Denver airport on Saturday

afternoon, we picked up our rental car and drove to the econo motel where we would stay for the next 8 nights. It was cheaper to stay in Denver and commute than to stay in Boulder.

Sunday “Aim low and overachieve”

We chose the north ridge of the First Flatirons as a warm-up, which is something of a misnomer as it was again 95 in the shade, and we were in the sun, on rock which was acting as a heat reflector. Despite an excellent trail system and a clear view of the face we still managed to get lost, and start in the wrong place. Too bad for Bruce, as he insisted on the first lead which turned out to be a couple of grades harder than he expected, since this was the wrong start. Back on route we enjoyed 5 more pitches of pleasant slab climbing on beautiful pink and very old sandstone before reaching the top, and rapping down the back.

Monday “Start slow, and then taper off”

Having learned nothing from the previous day, we again got lost on the approach, and walked by the base of the climb several times before deciding, “this must be it”. Today we did one of the east face routes on the Second Flatiron, five or six pitches long and blistering hot. We were out of both energy and water by the time we hit the top, where we crawled into what little shade we could find, and fell asleep.

Tuesday “Just skip the hard part”

We decided to try our luck in Boulder Canyon, and [smart] do some climbs in the shade. Unfortunately our first choice, Eagle Rock, was closed due to nesting raptors. Slightly miffed we headed instead for Cob Rock, which was on the other side of the river. We looked around for a bridge but saw instead a single strand of rope spanning the water. Clearly a Tyrolean traverse was called for, which neither of us was prepared to do, loaded down with climbing gear. After numerous and varied suggestions about how the guidebook writer might conduct himself, our third choice was Eldorado Canyon. He had covered this situation by saying, “plan your river crossing, which is easy in low water”. Brilliant!!

Having wasted most of the morning we decided on Swanson's Arête, a moderate 5 pitch route on the fabled Redgarden Wall. We hiked up to what we thought was the start and arrived just as the second person of another party was disappearing overhead. She assured us that this was definitely the first pitch of Swanson's, although it looked pretty hard. Fortunately it was again Bruce's turn for the first lead, and he was soon struggling. We were on The Great Zot, about 4 grades harder than planned on. Luckily Bruce was able to traverse to the right line, and we were finally in business. We cruised up 5 exciting pitches of beautiful granite, steep and well featured. After lengthy discussions at the top, and several confused readings of the guidebook, we opted for the easy sounding east slabs descent route. Four rappels and several irritating hours later...

Wednesday “Dyslexic climbers of the world—untie”

Today we did just that, took a rest day and went for a hike. We drove to the town/city of Estes Park, planning to hike in Rocky Mountain National Park. On learning that it would cost \$20 to

enter the park we switched to Lily Lake and hiked up Twin Sisters Peaks [11,440 feet] instead, starting at the leisurely hour of 2pm. We reached the top at 4:30 and were back down by 7pm. From the summit we had a great view of the notorious Diamond Face on the east side of Long's Peak.

Thursday "OK, climbing... or what passes for it"

Back in Eldo Canyon, and we're headed for some 3 pitch routes on Wind Tower, the cliff closest to the parking lot. For once we make good time to the base, which we had checked out on Tuesday, and even manage to find the correct start. There are two solo climbers doing their laps on the cliff, and they climb past us several times. Each time I tense up, as this cliff would show no mercy. In the afternoon we are held up for a while on Calypso as a 5.11 sport climber struggles to place traditional gear, and then to trust it!

Friday "Don't worry, it's all there"

We had hoped to do the ultra classic east face of the Third Flatiron, but it's also closed for nesting raptors. Instead we choose the east face and upper north ridge on the First Flatiron, another 1400-foot classic. By now we have this place figured out. In order to beat the heat we're up at 5am [groan] and on the rock by 7am. My karma remains good, as the first pitch looks pretty blank, and it's Bruce's turn to lead again! He heads up and clips a bolt at 50' [the only one we use all week], while I shout the usual encouragement like "Spread your legs, and trust the rubber". The guidebook promises a second bolt at 80', but Bruce can't find it and climbs on. I continue to encourage him with favourites like "Eat rock" and "It's yours". At 100' he is facing a serious groundfall, and so I decide to keep quiet for a while. 120' out he gets in a second piece, and calm is restored. We climb pitch after pitch on superb slabs, until reaching the last section of the north ridge, which we had done on the first day. We head for the top again, rap off the back and are soon at the car by 2pm. We find a shady tree in the park and sleep 'til 4pm. After driving to the Table Mesa Mall we make our daily pilgrimage to Neptune Mountaineering, probably the best climbing store/museum in the world. It makes the M.E.C. co-op look like a corner store. Then it's nest door for happy hour at the Southern Sun, before driving to the Pearl St. pedestrian mall, and one of its many great ethnic restaurants. Now that's a good day in Boulder [or anywhere]!

Saturday "That climb is not going to magically do itself"

For our last day we head back to Boulder Canyon. At the Dome people are tubing the river, and sunbathing beside it. I become distracted by the human scenery, and Bruce had to remind me why we were here. After a nice two-pitch route, which we stretch into one, it's on to Castle Rock. It seems that every climbing area must have one of these. Our guidebook lists only three of the routes here, an 11c, a 10d and a lowly 6, so the choice is made for us and we do Jackson's Wall in two long pitches. As we search for the way down my new digital camera falls out of its case, and slides on pine needles towards the big drop. My karma is still good as it stops for no apparent reason on the brink of disaster. We scramble and rappel back to the

base, and congratulate each other on a great week in a new place.

Sunday "It's do-able, but not by us"

So we flew home instead, leaving "The Naked Edge" for another lifetime.

Bruce Fairley, Hamish Mutch [reporter].

Rock Climbing at Q'Emiln Park, Post Falls, Idaho; April 8, 2007

This lovely little climbing area (pronounced ke-me-lyn) can make an easily accessible and enjoyable weekend trip from Nelson. After a pleasant 3 hr drive through scenic northern Idaho, the small town of Post Falls is reached. Right in town there is a great riverside beach park, with walking trails through the forest and along the riverbank. These pleasant trails connect four great granite crags each housing 10 or more climbs in the range of 20-30m in height. A great mix of bolted sport routes, mixed, and traditional climbs can be had from 5.4 to 5.12c. There are an abundance of moderate sport and trad routes, and rockclimbing.com calls it "the best 5.10 and under crag in the northwest". For example, the first crag on the trail, "Lower Ledge Wall" has 5 great sport routes at 5.7-5.9, a couple of really interesting crack climbs at 5.8-5.9, and some harder 5.11-ish climbs, too. All these can be top-roped if you want to work a hard project. A little way along the trail brings you to more moderate bolted and trad lines, and a 5-10 min walk further on finds even more to be climbed, some really challenging ones in the higher ranges.

We spent just a ½ day at the crag, which was enough to make us wish we had more time there. The rock was of excellent quality, the routes interesting and fun, the bolting very well thought out and frequent, the trad lines clean with lots of opportunity for good protection, and many of the anchors have been upgraded in the last couple of years through the American "anchor replacement initiative". The trails are well maintained, and the area is very scenic. The approach is less than 5 min from the parking lot! In summer there is a small parking fee, but it's one of those places that obviously puts its fees to good use, as it is very well maintained and clean. On Easter Sunday there were only a handful of people there, no waiting for climbs, although the folks we talked to said in summer it can be busy on the weekends. The beach looks like it would be a great way to finish a hot summer day at the crags! We did not camp, but we saw signs for nearby camping in the Post Falls area. There are great restaurants and beaches in Coeur d'Alene, just 10 min drive down the interstate, and plenty of hotels in Post Falls. The new paved trail under construction will connect western Coeur d'Alene to the Post Falls recreation areas. This area is detailed in the book, "Inland Northwest Rockclimbs" by Marty Bland. It is available in Spokane at Mountain Gear, or online.

We will definitely be back to Q'Emiln Park. I hope to organize a club weekend trip there this summer. I will post it when I do. Trip participants: Linda Johannson [reporter], Neil Baker.

A Few Reminders For Our KMC Outings

Trip Initiators may limit the number of participants on a trip. In general, wilderness areas are less tolerant of large groups, and long-distance hikes are more difficult to do when you have a large group size. (The larger the group, the greater the likelihood that you will have a wide disparity in hiking ability, which leads to wide separation of the group during the hike.) What's large for one leader may not be large for others. Nevertheless, it is the initiator's call on the size of the group. The decisions of the Trip Initiators are final!!!

Screening potential participants: Depending on the strenuous nature of the trip, not all interested people have the necessary skills and conditioning to have an enjoyable trip. Hence screening potential participants for experience, conditioning, and suitability for participation is most important. Use the hike codes/ratings. Include elevation gain. Estimate the hike pace: Slow, Moderate, And Fast. The Trip Initiator should discuss the difficulty of the hike and try to assess the ability of the hiker to handle the hike. Some leading questions could be: "Have you ever hiked with the KMC before?" "Have you hiked this distance before? Do you have proper *equipment*?"

At the meeting place the initiator circulates the signup sheet, insuring that everyone signs it. Point out the liability waiver. Their willingness to sign up constitutes an agreement to hold the Club and you, the hike leader, blameless in case of mishap. This is also a good time to assess the equipment and condition of the hikers, and if someone does not appear to measure up to the level of difficulty of the hike this is the time to inform them that they will not be participating. (The trip initiator always has the authority to make this judgment.)

Make transportation arrangements: At the meeting place the initiator makes transportation arrangements. Drivers must volunteer to drive, and riders must then make their own arrangements with the drivers. - Insures that hikers know that riders must reimburse the driver for transportation expenses. The trip initiator, for reasons of liability, cannot assign drivers or riders. They should, however, make an effort to ensure that drivers know the way to the trailhead.

On The Trail: Before starting out at the trailhead appoint a sweep hiker. The larger the group, the more important it is to station an experienced hiker at the end of the group. Hikers should not get behind the sweep. Keep track of everyone. On the trail, make periodic stops to ensure that all hikers are still with you. Of course, the difficulty of the hike will depend partly on the elevation gain and condition of the trail. If the trail is very difficult, slow the pace a little.

Do not adjourn the hike until you can account for everyone. If a hiker can't keep up and is unable to complete the hike, you need to come up with an alternate plan for the whole group.

A Reminder To All: Club Trips versus Non-Club Trips [a.k.a. Common Adventures]

A Club Trip is one that has been vetted through the Summer Trips Chairperson, for verification and inclusion in the Summer Trip Schedule. A Common Adventure refers to all other trips. Indicate on trip announcements whether the trip is a *Club Trip* or a Non-Club Trip / Common Adventure.

Call the trip coordinator at least 48 hours in advance. The number of people in the trip may be capped (and you might be turned away on this basis)

Clarify what *liability insurance policy* is and make it clear for trip initiators on what to do for non-members on outings. Specify non-members do not have third party liability protection.

If it is a non-Club trip, then none of this applies. The leader of the non-Club trip has no responsibilities toward the Club with respect to the trip and vice versa. In this case, the listserv is simply a useful technology provided by the KMC to support like-minded people to get out on trips together that they have organized themselves - "Common Adventures". Explain to participants what this is. Specify non-members do not have third party liability protection.

KMCers, feel free to use the listserv for other non-club sanctioned outreach such as late-notice announcement, family trips and bike trips. Clearly indicate that this is the case in your postings (ie, it is a Common Adventure, NOT a Club Trip).

