



Kootenay Mountaineer

The KMC Newsletter

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Other Trip Reports: Harrop-Proctor bike trip

Mountain School Tech Tips: Report on Canadian Avalanche Association Spring Workshop

Each year, in May, the Canadian Avalanche Association (CAA) holds their annual general meeting and spring workshop. The final two days of this week long event feature guest speakers and are open free of charge to the general public. If you can make it to Penticton (where the AGM is held) in May, you can avail yourself of some terrific current avalanche education for free!

This year's conference covered a whole range of topics from an analysis of the propagation saw test and the extended column test, to skier stress under snowpack warming, right through to a detailed analysis of this year's snowpack and associated avalanche accidents and fatalities.

The most important concepts to come out of the conference with relevance to backcountry recreationalists are:

1. It's all about terrain ... terrain, terrain, terrain. Avalanche accidents and fatalities this year showed a common theme, poor use and choice of terrain. Backcountry recreationalists could increase their safety margins by choosing and using terrain more wisely. This includes such seemingly obvious tenets as:
 - Measuring slope angle and choosing slopes under 30 degrees;
 - Choosing slope aspect more carefully, e.g. avoiding south aspects on first warm up of the season, or north and east aspects after wind events (assuming prevailing SW wind

- loading);
 - Avoiding thin snowpack areas, analysis of this year's incidents indicated that many were triggered from thin snowpack areas;
 - Not switchbacking up under large avalanche slopes or regrouping under steep slopes or avalanche slopes, yep, a surprising number of incidents involved recreationalists choosing, what would appear to be, obviously dangerous terrain for their uptrack.
 - Choosing safe locations to dig snowpits.
2. Recognizing the importance of whumpfs, and acting appropriately.
 3. Practice, practice, practice with your avalanche beacon. In one fatality avalanche, the survivor was unable to pinpoint the location of the buried victim.
 4. Both the extended column test and the propagation saw test have the potential to improve evaluation of snowpack stability, look for more information on these two tests coming in the near future.

If anyone is interested in a full summary of this year's conference, email me and I'll send you my full notes.

Sandra McGuinness.

Battle Overlook and Mount Oz

Some understandable confusion occurred with identification of peaks at the 2007 Climbing Camp near Mount Purity (KMC newsletter Nov-Dec. 2007).



Fortunately, for many years I have had copies of maps 82N/3 and 82N/4 with routes and names which were marked in **red ink by John O. Wheeler**, which locate the "lost" peaks. The positions of **BATTLE OVERLOOK** (82N/4, 621-544) and **MOUNT OZ** (82N/3, 665-561) are correct in "Selkirks South".

The peak following Battle Overlook (Un. 2782m) is also correct, as is Un. 2630m (page 258; 82N/3, 677-567; 9500 feet), but the rock type of the latter is not described as quartzite in the book.

The easy snow peak (Un. 9350 feet; 9200in in the 2007 KMC newsletter article; 82N/4, 640-556) appears to be a FA, as is the south ridge of Battle Overlook (two roped pitches up to 5.6 on good granite).

Evidently, Dave Jones obtained his data directly from John O. Wheeler.

Sincerely, Earle R. Whipple.

Executive Notes

From the May 22, 2008

Meeting



- Friends of the West Kootenay Parks don't have enough members to book their guaranteed week at the ACC cabin. Suggestion of opening up the week to KMC and FWKP members who backcountry ski. There was agreement to approach in a trial situation by use of a lottery so KMC and FWKP can choose from which one of the weeks they prefer. Moved that the KMC explore a liaison with FWKP for a fair agreement for the two ski weeks both groups are granted.

-Several KMC members attended a Ministry of Forests visual perception survey receiving \$10 for their participation. Moved that the money received from the visual perception survey be allocated to the conservation committee.

-Our Winter Trips Director has moved to Calgary. A replacement is needed to fill in the vacant position. Any volunteers?

-Bylaw changes were discussed. Resolutions are expected for this year's AGM. Comments are appreciated:

1) Make the treasurer a two-person position by separating the Membership duties from the Financial Accounting. Turn huts and trails into two separate positions. This is not inventing position, rather giving those who do the job recognition as an executive. The future filling of more positions was raised as a concern.

2) Changing the number of times the executive meets to 3 times a year. The Society's Act does not specify a required amount of meetings. It also specifies a protocol for a member if they want a meeting to take place. Only the AGM is required. It was felt that the January meeting helps acquaint new Executive to the group. The September meeting is a good preamble to the AGM. The AGM counts as an Executive meeting. The use of telephone conferencing was suggested as an alternative. The Executive also currently makes good regular use of their Executive E-contact.

3) Discussion was "interesting" on Hiking Camp financials being concluded by September 30. Suggestion to move the year-end to June would be better ...
...with more of the executive present.

- The FMCBC Disclosure and Waiver

form was reviewed. This form was modified by a British Columbia Mountaineering Club member who is a lawyer. This was a topic of discussion at last year's FMCBC AGM. It was moved to endorse the use of Disclosure and Waiver form for courses run by KMC as created by the FMCBC as presented.

- Pulpit Rock access will be blocked due to the subdivision development. Parking is a significant issue. This is an unresolved dilemma. Except for encouragement and support on the matter, it was agreed that with our sparse volunteer energy, it is more appropriate for the Nelson and District Trails Society to take on this issue.

-This was our 5th year of the KMC Kokanee ski week. This year there were multiple skier-triggered avalanches. Suggestion to revamp the lottery to make it mandatory for members to have attended an avalanche course and to have one day of beacon practice prior to departing on the ski week. Have trip waiver include terrain ratings of popular ski areas around Kokanee Glacier Cabin. It must be emphasized that this is hazardous, complex, challenging and often unfamiliar winter terrain.

-Treasurer (via email): At our last executive meeting I was mandated to reinvest into GICs and from the suggestions I have invested (Bank of Montreal):

1. \$5000.00 in a 3yr RateRiser Plus GIC which pays 2.5%, 2.65% and 4.75% and can be cashed in and reinvested (if interest goes up substantially) on the anniversary date (March 18).

2. \$5000.00 in a 1yr Variable Rate GIC (Prime - 2.65%) but can be cashed any time.

Hiking Camp Report (via email): The hiking camp committee has decided to revisit a previous camp site: International Basin. We have been given the climbing camp's wall tent which will replace our supply tent. We are most appreciative of this. It appears to be in good shape and is in the process of being aired out. All the financial information has now been transferred from Mary Baker to Leon Arishenkoff, the new camp treasurer. He will also be organizing the material into a

file box so that in the event the club ever gets audited by Revenue Canada we will have accumulated and maintained 7 years worth of financial information to provide to the auditor (we currently only have 5 years worth of financial info).

Newsletter: Projected time frame for electronic copy to members is next year. Cost per newsletter is between \$2-3 depending on weight/number of pages. Some concern on what exactly membership would prefer in the "conservation" items. Feedback would be appreciated.

Cabins: \$2800 in revenue so far with the money being used to purchase stoves and lanterns which were flown in by MOTSA. Still offering a free night stay for those that attend work parties. Considering using kerosene stoves instead of firewood. Looking for a replacement once Sandra's term is up.

Mountain School: Ran a successful winter skills course. Skaha Rock Review encountered rainy weather. Snow review course to take place later this month.

Conservation: Unsure where the Jumbo Resort is at in regards to rezoning. KMC greeted Gordon Campbell in Nelson along with residents protesting the development of independent power projects. Tina Zimmerman (MOF) confirms that the access to Glacier Creek road will stay open and be maintained for recreational use. AXOR has an injunction to maintain access. The opposition to IPPs, in the "wilderness" is growing for several reasons. Akin to the Resort Tenures however with greater ramifications.

*"You cannot plan for sustainable power development using a gold rush system."
Joe Foy, Wilderness Committee national campaign director.*

*"A big part of the problem is we don't have any regional planning process, where the government and citizens can look at these projects...and say, 'lets look at all of these before we get into the applications and environmental assessments and park boundaries and decide which would be suitable candidates and which would not' ".
NPD MLA Mark Sather.*

How Would You Fare In The Wild?

Test your wilderness survival IQ with this survival challenge quiz
FROM THE WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION. March 2004

After all this heavy-duty stuff we thought it might be fun to let our members play a little test of survival. So, test your knowledge of some handy backcountry tips. *** We are in no way responsible for the veracity of the advice given out here.

1. What is a safe minimum group size for a multi-day backcountry hike?
a) 2 b) 3 c) 4 d) 5
2. On the trail, are thirst and appetite good indicators for how much you should drink and eat?
3. The night is clear and cold. Where will your campsite be the warmest?
a) a basin
b) a nearby slope
c) a nearby ridge
4. You lose most of your body heat through your:
a) feet
b) torso
c) head
5. On a cool dry day, your hiking companion becomes weak, and has a headache. He is likely suffering from what condition?
6. You begin crossing a creek using your hiking pole. Where should your pole be placed?
a) upstream from you
b) in front of you
c) downstream of you
7. The creek meanders left and right. Where is the current slowest?
a) on the inside of the bend
b) in the middle
c) on the outside of the bend
8. On a damp day, your hiking companion becomes unusually tired and dizzy. These are early signs of what life threatening condition?
9. Your companion becomes thoroughly chilled. Will putting heavier cloths on him and getting him into a warm sleeping bag warm him up?
10. What should you do to a sleeping bag before you put a hypothermic victim in it?
11. In the mountains, you notice one or more of the following: odors become stronger, sounds carry better, birds fly lower, some flowers close up. What do these signify?
12. Which is more dangerous for hikers?
a) a cold, dry, calm day, or
b) a moderate, wet, windy day.
13. At camp, the air becomes warmer at night. What is likely to happen?
a) someone will get up to pee.
b) Noisy campers will stay up late.
c) rain is on the way.
14. What does a ring around the sun indicate?
a) you are wearing polarized sunglasses.
b) Your contact lenses need cleaning.
c) Rain within 24 hours.
d) Continued fair weather.
15. Where is the safest place during a lightning storm?
a) under a lone tree.
b) near a creek.
c) in timber of uniform height.
d) in a flat meadow.
16. A lightening storm suddenly traps your group in the open. You should:
a) immediately lie flat on the ground.
b) crouch low on a foam pad.
c) sit on a frame pack.
17. You are suddenly confronted by a black bear. Which TWO alternatives are better?
a) Recognize the photo opportunity.
b) Remain calm and stand your ground.
c) Drop your pack and run.
d) Back away slowly.
18. You have been traveling across country on a bearing of 280 degrees. To retrace your route, what bearing should you take?
19. If your instincts and your compass differ, which should you trust?
20. If you're lost in the wilderness, will a stream take you back to civilization?
21. You're lost in the snow, can't build a fire, and have to spend one night in the wild. What should you do?
a) keep walking all night.
b) Make snow angels.
c) Curl up under a tree or other sheltered spot.
22. Above 10,000 feet, what can you do to prevent altitude sickness?
a) climb no more than 1000 feet each day
b) drink plenty of coffee
c) breath into a paper bag at least twice a day.

THE ANSWERS... NO CHEATING

1. Four. In an emergency, two can go for help while one stays with the victim. If two are injured, one can go for help while one stays.
2. No, exertion often suppresses thirst and appetite.
3. (b) A nearby slope can be up to 20 degrees warmer because cold air flows downhill. A ridge is more exposed.
4. (c) About 80 percent of body heat escapes through the head.
5. Dehydration. Other symptoms: nausea, cramps, increased pulse rate.
6. (c) Downstream. You need support where the current is pushing you.
7. (a) On the inside of the bend.
8. Hypothermia.
9. No. Clothing and a sleeping bag help retain heat. First you must warm him up with hot food, drink, a warm friend, or a fire.
10. Warm the inside of the bag.
11. An approaching storm.
12. (b) Hikers are more at risk of hypothermia on a wet day.
13. (c) Increasing night temperatures indicate that clouds have moved in. Rain is likely.
14. (c) Rain within 24 hours.
15. (c) Trees of uniform height are less of a target for lightning.
16. (b) Crouch low on a foam pad. You need insulation and minimal contact between you and the ground.
17. (b) Remain calm and still, and (d) back away slowly to reduce any threat.
18. 100 degrees. Add or subtract 180 degrees to get a reverse bearing.
19. Compass. Exception: nearby iron or steel can affect your compass reading.
20. No. Streams can often be surrounded by thick impassable vegetation, and a stream may just lead you to a remote pond or deeper into the wild.
21. (c) Find shelter under a tree and rest. "Tree wells" beneath trees offer an insulated place to rest and regain energy.
22. (a) Researchers have found that climbing at a rate of less than 1000 feet (305 meters) per day can help you better acclimate.

So, How Did You Do?

21-22 points = Wilderness Survivor. You definitely know your stuff in the backcountry. Search and Rescue is always looking for new recruits!

16-20 points = Experienced Outdoors person. Hey, nobody's perfect, but you obviously know a thing or two about the woods. With a little first aid training, you might live to hike another day.

11-15 points = Amateur Hiker. You probably know the difference between a compass and a camp stove, but it wouldn't hurt to brush up on your wilderness safety.

6-10 points = Tenderfoot. Okay, so you're a beginner. You have to start somewhere. You probably had a hard time fulfilling those Scout merit badges, didn't you? Well, keep trying. And, hike with an experienced hiking partner.

0-5 points = Bear Bait. Contrary to what you might think, neither a cell phone nor a hair dryer is one of the ten essentials. Seriously though- there is hope for you. Keep reading up on backcountry information. Memorize the TEN ESSENTIALS. And quit watching so much T.V.

Be Wild in B.C.

A new magazine, *Be Wild in B.C.*, will provide information on how to experience authentic eco-friendly vacations in B.C. The magazine, launched this week (*April 19, 2008*), will provide tips on where to go for an environmentally responsible vacation, how to put green habits into practice at home as well as providing stories on hot tourism related topics.

Created by the Wilderness Tourism association (WTA), *Be Wild In B.C.* is the collective effort of it's 100 plus members, who range from passionate kayaking and biking operators, to high-end lodges and tour companies. "Long before green was cool our members were leaders in sustainability and environmental stewardship," says Brian Gunn, WTA president, in a press release. "They still are because they don't accept the status quo. They strive to work in

harmony with nature and always do better and be safer, while reducing their footprint on the land. *Be Wild in B.C.* is a way for us to share the important work our members are doing." For more info visit www.wilderness-tourism.bc.ca *From the Vancouver Sun, April 19, 2008.*

A five-year study of wilderness recreational injuries at Mount Rainier National Park and Olympic National Park unearthed somewhat surprising results. Most injuries happened in daylight hours to hikers who suffered sprains, strains and soft-tissue damage. During the study period, 19 outdoor enthusiasts died and 58 percent of those were hikers. Following hiking deaths were participants of mountaineering (26 percent).

Join The KMC To Get In Shape?

Rarely is it that simple and we all know that... "Mountaineering requires strength & endurance. Being in sound physical condition is the single most important aspect for mountaineers. The better your physical condition, the more likely you are to perform well and have an enjoyable experience.

The most frequent observation we have seen over the years is that newcomers underestimate the fitness level needed to fully enjoy their trip. Additionally, inadequate fitness will affect the atmosphere, pace, and overall enjoyment of the outing for all participants."

So, we ask members to schedule A and B hikes throughout the season. This allows newcomers to get a glimpse of "KMCing" and us to get feel for them.

Helpful Hints From Singing Rock

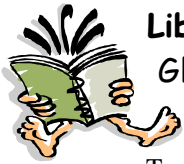
Singing Rock is a Czech company which produces "personal fall protective equipment". The following tips were contained in one of their technical information pamphlets. Those KMC members who enjoy bouldering in cold weather will find them particularly useful.

- Working in height is dangerous.
- Bouldering is collective job.
- Take some girls to boulder with you.
- Two hands are better than one.
- A crash pad protects ground against fall erosion.
- Too much magnesium declines grip friction.
- If you make marks on the stone, do it light.
- Brushes on poles help you clean far grips.
- Wear good clothes to keep warm.
- Can underwear climbing shoes to keep also warm.
- Wool cap is apparent.
- Be silent, don't break trees.

We do not guarantee that this information is exhaustive, accurate, comprehensible [sic!] or up to date.

Don't wait for me. I'll join you as soon as I underwear my climbing shoes. Or not...

(Submitted by Hamish Mutch).



Library News:

Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue

On May 4, 2008, a group of three skiers set off on the well-known and very popular Spearhead Traverse. This traverse traces a U shaped route around Fitzsimmons Creek in the Coast Mountains, traversing both the Spearhead and the Fitzsimmons Ranges and crossing numerous small glaciers along the way. As is common practice on this route, the group did not rope up to cross any of the glaciers, but they also neglected to carry any rescue equipment, such as harnesses, ropes or carabiners. When one member of the group fell into a crevasse, the remainder of the group was powerless to help and forced to call for a rescue.

The woman in the crevasse was extricated five hours later by Whistler Search and Rescue. Had the weather impeded a helicopter flight, it is likely that this event would have resulted in a fatality.

The KMC library has a great book on glacier travel and crevasse rescue available for loan. This book, appropriately enough called "Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue" is part of the Mountaineers series of outdoor instructional books and is a huge improvement over the old Freedom of the Hills section on glacier travel. Liberally illustrated with helpful pictures and diagrams, the book covers everything you need to know to safely travel on glaciers this summer, including how to "read" glaciers, when to rope up, and how to perform self and companion rescue. Read it during the spring rainy season and you'll be ready for a safe and successful summer hiking or climbing season.

"The Snow Bridge Collapsed...

...because the snow was rotten and she fell through, and you never know what is going to happen," said Whistler Search and Rescue manager Brad Sills regarding the incident of a 26 year old B.C. woman who was rescued after a 9 meter tumble into a crevasse on the Spearhead Traverse. "You don't know when you are over a crevasse. It is a great time for ski touring- the days are long and warm- but the snow is rotting and you have to take precautions."

Sills said the party was in good physical shape, but none of them had a rope nor were they roped together. Two or more ski-touring groups on the same path who stopped to help were also not roped together and were without ropes. "You should be roped" said Sills. The basic rule is that any time you are on a glacier, you should be roped. Unfortunately, in the Whistler area, people have not been doing that and so we are reminding people.

The rescue could have turned fatal if anything had delayed the search and rescue team he said. People who fall into crevasses slowly melt the ice, slipping further down and wedging themselves more tightly into an already-tight space. "You gradually slip father and further down and it is so tight a rescuer can't get to you," Sills said.

"I want to make sure that people understand this. People sometimes say, 'Oh well, I fell in a hole. Big deal.' But it is not always possible to get you out and so you need to be roped.

From Clare Ogilvie's The Province May 8, 2008 article " 'Rotten Snow' Blamed For Fall Into Crevasse".

If Brown Is Fashion's New Black Then Red Could Be The Environmental Movement's New Green.

For years, environmentalists and conservationists have eyed each other warily over the tops of wetlands. To many conservationists, the environmental green movement is filled with left-leaning, humorless, tie-dyed radicals and the precious idle rich. To many environmentalists, conservationists are gun-obsessed rednecks who are only interested in preserving the environment if it meets their ends -- namely, hunting, bass fishing and outdoor recreation (read: racing the engines of their all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles as they rip through pristine wilderness).

Crude, simplistic stereotypes, admittedly, but nonetheless a fairly accurate portrayal of how each side sees the other. There's a long, tension-filled history between the camps. As Shikha Dalmia, a senior analyst with the Reason Foundation, recently pointed out in an article in the Wall Street Journal: "Since its inception, the American Environmental movement has been torn between 'conservationists' seeking to protect nature for man -- and 'preservationists' seeking to protect nature for its own sake."

Most environmentalists I know are not radical romantics, but instead passionate, smart, well-intentioned activists, who unfortunately can tilt toward the shrill and self-righteous on occasion -- but a far cry from the zealots William F. Buckley Jr. accused them of being. And conservationists are not selfish, narrow-minded rednecks but instead largely conscientious stewards of the land, who will, in private, admit to a certain kinship with aspects of the environmental agenda, but who can be too thin-skinned and too quick to condemn the whole environmental movement because they disdain the celebrities who have attached themselves to the cause.

The inconvenient truth is that they need each other more than they probably realize. If the environmental movement ever hopes to emerge from its coastal bunkers and spread across the country in a meaningful way beyond college strongholds, it's going to need the help of those folks who live in the "red states" that they've dismissed for years. Conservationists, on the other hand, could learn a few things about guerrilla marketing and grass-roots campaigns the enviros have used effectively for years to influence politicians and shape the national debate.

We here at Live Earth like to think we just might be the perfect place for a meeting of the minds. It's not Live Earth's intention to browbeat consumers into changing their lifestyles. Our goal is to provide sound information to make informed choices. We publish environmental news from some of the most respected names in the field. We're also introducing another voice to the site -- which we unofficially call The Green Redneck by Robert Holthouser, who writes under the pen name Tred Slough. Holthouser has written extensively about the outdoors for publications such as Grey's Sporting Journal, and his unconventional point of view about the environment is worth reading. If nothing else, Conway and Holthouser prove that environmentalists come in all different shapes, sizes and colors. *Condensed From An Article By Mark Pawlosky Editorial Director of MSN LIVE EARTH*

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Trip Reports

Pulpit Rock/Flagpole, April 5

The first KMC hike went extremely well. We met at the head of Pulpit Rock trail and at a leisurely walk arrived 45 minutes later at Pulpit Rock. We had beautiful views of Nelson and fresh snow at the higher elevations. After a snack we began hiking up the trail to the crest of the ridge called the flagpole. Two young people were on their way down after reporting they turned around because there was lots of snow! 4 KMC'ers eventually turned around but I continued on with the "hard core" group through wind and snow. We had a cup of tea on the ridge and then headed back down the trail. The flagpole is standing although the flag was missing!

We were: Bob Dean, Henry Dembicki, Barb Hanlon, Robin Lidstone, Bill McNally, Alex Nichol, Kathleen Nichol, Diane Salomaa & Max who certainly kept us entertained!
Coordinator: Vicki Hart.

Bouncing Along Bearings on the Bonnington April 4 to 7

This year, in a futile attempt to get better weather, I scheduled the annual KCM Bonnington Traverse for the beginning of April. Longer days and sunny spring weather were what I had in mind, but continuous snow and clogged in skies were what we got. Nevertheless, I found the trip every bit as enjoyable as I have in previous years, if somewhat lacking in views.

This year we were a small party, just three of us, Graham Jamin on tele-skis, Cindy Walker and myself on AT gear. After leaving one car at the Porto Rico Road on Highway 6 south of Nelson, we carried onto Bombi Summit and the start of the traverse. No road plowing up at Bombi this year, so we had to ski 6.4 km along the main Munson FSR before turning off to Grassy Cabin. Despite having been to Grassy Cabin at least 15 times, I managed to shoot past it on skis, and we spent about 15 minutes, searching through the trees for it. By the time we'd made ourselves comfortable in the cabin and had a hot drink, it was socked in and snowing, so Graham and I settled for a short ski up to the ridge above before returning to the cabin. I had brought along a thick 400 page novel to read – not exactly a light book to carry on a ski traverse – so settled in with that after dinner, while Cindy and Graham engaged in much more worthwhile pursuits, reading a GPS manual and designing a house respectively.

Next morning, armed with compass and altimeter, we set off in light snow and virtually zero visibility for the Steed Cabin. We skied up to the ridge that runs due west of the summit of Grassy Mountain, then headed east counting "bumps" until we came to bump number five, from which a gentle north ridge descends. We followed this ridge north to cross the main logging road, and then using a roughly north bearing skied up the most southerly of the two "Twin Peaks", turning to the north east to reach the northerly Twin Peak. We found the generally north ridge that descends from the summit, and skied down this ridge, steep at first, until we found a spot to drop off to the east, and skied right out to the main Munson Road that is on the Glade-Granite Creek divide. After lunch by the side of this road, we followed it around until we were due west of the col on Siwash Mountain that leads to Steed Cabin and, with another compass

bearing set, headed up to the col. A descending traverse from the col took us right to the door of the Steed Cabin where we found the chimney tilted at an alarming angle and the outhouse buried. Graham and I rigged up a repair on the chimney, then headed off for some serious shoveling of the outhouse, while Cindy got the fire going and boiled some water. Two parties had done the traverse immediately prior to us, but apparently, neither group had bothered to dig the outhouse out. That night, while a storm wailed outside, I plugged away at my book reclining in absolute comfort in the loft of the cabin.

More snow next day, but the wind at least had dropped a bit. Despite having a compass bearing set, I managed to miss the ridge to the east of the cabin as we skied along in general gloom and falling snow, and we ended up below the ridge, on the wrong side, and off course. We climbed back up, found the small tarn that is a useful landmark here, and carried on with the traverse heading north. The new snow was sliding off the underlying melt-freeze crust in an annoying manner making trail-breaking somewhat tedious, but by about lunch time we had gained the ridge that runs east from Siwash towards Erie Creek. We skied east along this ridge, counting bumps again, until we came to the final bump (number five again) where the ridge turns north. Setting a new bearing we descended the first part of the ridge, and stopped around 1800 metres when it actually stopped snowing for some lunch. We had the first, and only, fleeting views of the trip here, but building cloud soon obscured our vista again and it resumed snowing.

Down in Erie Creek, we followed the creek north to a fork, then set a bearing for the Copper Cabin and began the 400 metre climb. This is a gentle climb through easy terrain but I found it tiresome as my skins had completely glopped up, despite liberal applications of "glop stopper", and my feet felt like they weighed 20 pounds each. Our compass bearing brought us out perhaps 30 metres to one side of the cabin -, not too bad considering we'd been following it for over two kilometres. We were all feeling a bit damp and hungry, so we quickly got settled in with a fire going and some hot soup.

That night we had some discussion about what we should do next day should the weather continue bad. About 25 cm of new snow had accumulated, and there seemed to be no break in the weather, for the final ridge walk to Barrett Lake. We decided to check the weather forecast in the morning, and kept open the option of skiing out via the Rover-Snowwater road system.

Only light snow overnight, and occasionally, on bathroom breaks, we even saw a few stars, but morning was socked in with the forecast calling for showers. Given the poor visibility, new snow and forecasted bad weather, we decided to ski out via Rover-Snowwater instead of attempting the ridge traverse. First however, we skied to the top of Copper Mountain, arriving to a white-out and blowing snow. Cindy was able to get cell-phone reception from the top, so I called Doug to give him a heads up that we'd be looking for a ride later that day, and then we turned and picked our way back down to the cabin.

We retraced our route back down to the head of Erie Creek and then climbed gently following the creek and another compass bearing to the broad saddle south of Mount Connor where we found the cutblock and logging road. Finally able to put the compass and altimeter away, we slid quickly down the logging road to kilometer nine, where our progress became slow and halting as there was only a small amount of dirty, gritty snow left on the verge to ski. Near kilometer seven, skiing became all but impossible and, without much hope, we tried Cindy's cell-phone

happily getting a signal. A short time later, Doug drove up and picked us up, and another Bonnington Traverse was over.

Thanks to my companions on the trip for a wonderful time, Cindy Walker and Graham Jamin, coordinator, Sandra McGuinness.

Antenna Trail and Beyond, April 19

The group met at 10am by the trailhead in Montrose with good weather, visibility, temperature and no snow on the ground.

The hike took us up the old antenna road to the 2nd switchback where the new trail starts. The first of 4 benches on the trail is just around the corner. We followed the trail up and northward to another bench. From there the trail reverses and heads up to a more level part.

Halfway on the trail we turned off onto the new flagpole trail that leads to the high point on a ridge with a Canadian flag on a pole. On the ridge we came onto the partly overgrown J. and J. Simpson trail. Following that trail as best we could, in a north direction, we reached our lunch spot at noon on a high point with a beautiful view all around. Lunch was quick since a few squalls went over us with some snow.

On the return trip to the flagpole we enjoyed a spectacular view of the Beaver and Columbia Valleys. Heading down a lesser-used trail, passing the base of the former antenna, we walked down the old road and arrived at our cars at 2:15pm. From Montrose we drove to Beaver Falls, parked by the trailhead and walked about 5 minutes to see the falls. We spent some 15 minutes at the impressive falls and returned to our cars where we parted at 3pm.

We were: Caroline Dahlen, Debbie and Peter Korn, Robin Lidstone, Bill Mc Nally, Irme Mende, Terry Simpson, and coordinator Hanspeter Korn.

Skattebo Reach/Doukhorbor Waterline Trail, April 20

Despite an adverse weather forecast and an inch of new snow, 14 hardy souls met at the Brilliant Bridge Park & Pool. We carpoled to the switch yard north of the Castlegar and District Golf Course. By 10:00 am we were headed out the Skattebo Reach Trail following fresh coyote tracks in the snow.

We took the Doukhorbor Waterline Trail up to the upper crossing of Little McPhee Creek. Once across the bridge the trail descends to the McPhee Canyon Trail, which descends further back to the Skattebo Reach Trail. The group continued down this trail, across Big McPhee Creek to the creek mouth for a brief rest stop and to note the spruce tree recently ringed by the resident beaver. Three grouse had flown up from the trail on the way north. On the return trip south along the Skattebo Reach Trail the group stopped at the rock field bench for lunch under the warm sun. At the junction with the Brilliant Overlook Trail 4 hikers decided to push up another 2 km to the Overlook. The remaining group returned to the switch yard. From there 9 continued to Dove Hill for a view over the junction of 3 valleys, Kootenay, Arrow Lakes, and Columbia. Just below the viewpoint 5 mule deer bounded through the bush.

Both groups returned to the switch yard thankful for the bright sunshine throughout the hike. There they said their goodbyes.

Hikers were Renate Belczyk, Greg Brewer, Kim Charlesworth, Nancy Ferguson, Vicki Hart, Joan Harvey, Helen & Chris Hatch, Ann Irving, Sherry & Keith Watson, Mary Woodward, and coordinators Pat & Alan Sheppard.

Mount Sentinel Trail, April 26

Suzanne Blewett, Vicki Hart, Ted Ibrahim, Kari Johansen, Robin Lidstone, Lucie Poisson, Jill Watson, Mary Woodward, and coordinator Hanspeter Korn met at the junction of Robson Road and Terrace Road by 9am.

We drove about 100m. to the trailhead. At 9:15am we started up the trail in sunny and warm weather. The trail was mostly good and dry until we reached the more level part of the trail on the ridge where we encountered snow. The snow was frozen enough so we could walk on top of it. After some route finding, we came to the road that led us to the lunch spot at 11:45. The view from here was great with clean air, no wind and warm sunshine.

At 12:30 we headed down, retracing our steps in the snow. We saw very few flowers and no animals. Except for one turkey vulture that was playing in an up draft.

We returned to the cars by 3pm and parted, tired but in good spirits.

Ward Ferry Trail, April 27

Henri Dembicki, Pat Gibson, John Golik, Hamish Mutch, Kathleen Nichol, Diana Salomon, Jill Watson and coordinator Hanspeter Korn met at the junction of Hwy 3A and Blewett road in South Slocan at 9am.

We drove along Blewett Road to Rover Creek Road and up Rover Creek Road for about 1km. to the trailhead. Later on Irena Peters, Carol Potasnyk and Miriam Williams joined us on the trail.

We started off in some snow, headed down to some creeks, went up again, and followed the power lines for a while before heading down a long hill to the Kootenay River. We followed the shoreline until some of us had to have lunch. (11:45am.) After lunch, 6 decided to return to the cars, 2 had turned around earlier due to other commitments and 4 of us walked on to trail's end. We retraced the trail, mostly up hill, and arrived at the cars at 4pm.

It was a partly sunny day and warm.
Note: The trail needs to have some work done – downed trees, overgrowth in some places, etc.

Mel Deanna Trail, May 3

A very enjoyable and educational little jaunt was had at Mel Deanna Trail. Thanks to John Adams, retired professional forester, and Ross Bates, as well as the Nature Guide, which I located via the Forest Service Branch, we learned about some of the flora and fauna of the area. John showed us trees where the Mountain Pine Beetle had gone in and out, leaving sap, and explained how the pine beetle functioned. In one case there was just one beetle hole, and the tree was alive, in another case, the tree was full of the dried sap with a little hole in the middle, and it was now a dead tree.

Only one tick was found during the walk in the woods by the 13 rambles, as well as one black bear. About 10 minutes in from the trailhead gate we spied a shiny black figure behind a big

tree, probably 40-50 feet off the trail, it appeared to be "hiding", but was too wide to hide. He watched this string of people coming along the path and decided to climb the tree. Those with cameras got a veritable "close-up". After we left he could still be seen at the bottom of the tree, watching us disappear up the trail.

Hikers were: John Adams, Ross Bates, Kim Charlesworth, Patti Chernenkoff, Bonnie Essauce, John Golik, June Harasym, Susan Harasym, Linda Hill, Ann Irving, Bill McNally, Cindy Shlakoff, and coordinator Kathleen Nichol.

Evans Creek Trail, May 4

It was a great day for this early season hike. Sunshine, patches of blooming glacier lilies, the rushing waters of Evan's Creek and afternoon temperatures in the low 20's made it feel like spring had finely arrived.

The participants of this enjoyable hike were: Jenny Baillie, Adam Bernath, Helen Foulger, Dave Grant, Diane Harrison, Ted Ibrahim, Jen Kyler, Chuck Macklor, Hamish Mutch, Kathleen Nichol, Sandy Price, Barb Stang, Jill Watson, Miriam Williams, and Carol Potasnyk, coordinator.

Fry Creek Canyon, May 7

A lovely spring hike today. Not as many flowers due to our late spring. Bear sign on the trail reminded us that they are awake. It took us less than 3 hours to the gravel bar lunch spot where we enjoyed the sunshine.

A few short showers did not dampen our spirits. There were 11 of us today: Russell Cameron, Sandra Canila, Robin Lidstone, Bill McNally, Dianne Paolini, Connie Parisotto, Gwilliam Sancho, Alan & Pat Sheppard, Miriam Williams & myself Mary Woodward.

Merry Creek Trail, May 10

There were 5 of us who came out for this easy 5km nature hike. It was a cloudy and cool day but great for walking. The glacier lilies and trilliums were all out in full bloom. We were lucky to be entertained by the very loud croaking of the toads at one of the small swamps plus we also had an owl hooting for us. John tried hooting back at the owl and it did answer a couple of times, or we like to think so. We were fortunate to have John Adams with us on this trip to share his knowledge of the forest and explain how the pine beetles are destroying our forests. It was all very interesting. We stopped for lunch at the Columbia Viewpoint and then headed back.

We were John Adams, Renate Belczyk, Pat Bruce, Diane Harrison, Ann Irving, and Nancy Ferguson, coordinator.

Mt. Neptune, 2185m [7169'] and Mt. Crowe, 2142m [7028'], May 10

This hike, or more appropriately, snow walk, had both the imposing possibilities of soft (postholing) snow and inclement weather. Apprehension always accompanies the first few outings of the season where snow firmness could be a big factor. This was no exception. The original idea was to do Mt Crowe and if conditions were good we would head over to Mt Neptune.

Our rather leisurely start time of 9:40 had us parking the van at the Nancy Greene Summit. From here we headed NE, straight for Crowe's summit. The southern slopes of Crowe had been heavily logged recently and we made quick time upwards through the cutblocks. The weather was not that bad as well.

Both Crowe and Neptune were becoming increasingly plausible. Just before entering the trees on the upper third section of the Crowe we took advantage of a firm road heading NE. A possibility was emerging that we might be able to leave Crowe for the time being and head counterclockwise around it at this elevation and on to Mt Neptune. Eventually the road ended and we continued along the eastern slope of Mt Crowe. The going was getting thicker and we descended a short distance into a large clearcut. Mt Neptune was prominent a short distance away to the NE. Our luck just kept improving and we were soon on the firm groomed track that the Red Mtn snowcat must have made. It led straight up and onto the summit. Our leisurely lunch started at 12:10. We had good views to the north and east. The south and western views were obscured by trees, but the long ridge walk had already given us good views in that direction.

We retraced our steps to the pass between Neptune and Mt. Crowe. From here we scurried up the steep, but not too high NE slope of the mountain. Snowmobilers, oblivious to us, made an appearance below and for the next half hour ascent, we had the accompanying annoyance of their motors. Just as we reached the northern end of the mountain's ridge snowflakes began lightly falling. The sky quickly clouded in. Once again luck was with us and the precipitation stopped allowing for a pleasant spot for tea on the summit.

We headed S towards the easily visible vehicle parking lot below. The weather started clearing and warming up. The mountainside was steep and everyone took numerous turns at marking postholes for the others. Once out of the trees we found ourselves back on our uphill tracks. We had a stop at the Cookie Jar cabin and soon after that we were at the van.

This was done in a leisurely 6 hours and it was definitely something to Crowe about, which we did on the summit.

We were Vicky Hart, Joan Harvey, Mary Woodward, Eliane and Steven Miros, coordinators.

Dove Hill & Brilliant Overlook, May 11

Fourteen hikers signed up and 6 decided to put leather to the trail despite rain showers and Mothers' Day. We met at the Brilliant Park and Pool at 9:00 am, loaded into two vehicles and drove up through the Castlegar golf course gates and along the road to the Dove Hill trailhead. At 9:15 we started up the series of switchbacks to the viewpoint. There we took a break on the Colin Pryce bench to watch the mist rise from the Kootenay/Columbia Valleys. We continued north on the Dove Hill Trail to the Elk Cutoff Trail and on to the Terminal Station. After a pause at the outhouse we hiked on to the Brilliant Overlook trailhead. From there we climbed northeast to the viewpoint above Little McPhee Creek. The trail led off to the southeast to the Brilliant Overlook.

High winds and light rain made this location uninviting for a lunch stop so we backtracked to the Vise Trail. In this large rock fissure we found some dry ground on which to sit and munch our lunch. After lunch we hiked a little higher past the communications towers, then down to the lower trailhead. We continued down through the Selkirk wood lots using a combination of trails and the Forest Service Road to reach the valley floor and the southeast corner of the golf course. Hikers were able to retrieve a number of abandoned golf balls along the way. The group then walked west past the Tower Ridge subdivision, back through the golf course gates, and back to the vehicles.

The group had hiked about 11km and gone through almost 700m. of elevation change. We concluded that we'd had a good outing despite the periodic drizzle. We said our good byes and left the parking area by 2:15 pm.

Hikers were Renate Belczyk, Ted Ibrahim, Hamish Mutch, Sherry Watson, and Pat & Alan Sheppard, coordinators.

KMC Rock Review: Skaha Bluffs

The annual KMC Rock Review was held on **May 10 and 11** at Skaha Bluffs near Penticton. This popular climbing area has a huge number and range of routes, and is one of the few areas where there are safe sport and gear routes for the beginning climber/leader.

On Saturday May 10, we had two groups out climbing, one group went to Daycare where we climbed a range of routes from 5.4 to 5.9; the second group went to Red Tail and fought with the crowds climbing a range of routes from 5.6 up to 5.10a. Both groups reported a good days climbing.

On Sunday May 11 we woke to cold, rainy weather and cloudy skies. With no sign of clearing in sight, we all decided to pack up and head home. Disappointing but not unexpected for May.

Thanks to Will Neustaedter for his help.

Participants: Doug Brown, Chris Lalonde, Steve Langley, René LeBel, Guy Lupien. Coordinators: Sandra McGuinness and Will Neustaedter.

Old Glory, 2376m [7795'], May 17

Five of us started hiking from the main trailhead at 8:15am. Because the forecast high for the day was 33°C in the valley and there was snow all the way, I was pessimistic about making it to the summit since I thought the snow conditions would make it very difficult.

We made it to Unnecessary Ridge by 10:40am with reasonable conditions. The main face up Old Glory was covered in snow with signs of avalanches so we decided that we should try going round the long way rather than up the face. Conditions were still reasonable but not ideal and we arrived at the summit at 12:30pm.

We returned by the same route with slightly softer, but still acceptable, conditions getting back at about 4:00pm. The total elevation gain for the hike was 1150m.

We were Vicki Hart, Eliane Miros, Gene Van Dyck, Mary Woodward, and co-coordinator Ted Ibrahim.

Walking the Line: Crag Climbing at The Waterline Wall

The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men ...

I had great plans to run Friday evening crag nights every week starting with the warmer weather in May, but, as with mice and plough blades*, bad weather, bad health, and bad alignment of the stars seemed to interfere and it was nearly the end of May when I got the first crag night organized.

Better late than never as the old idiom goes, so on Friday **May 23**, Vicki Hart, Doug Brown and I met Lou Chioccarello at the Waterline Wall and spent a few pleasant hours climbing. Routes climbed included, Care Aid (5.8), Self Awareness (5.8),

Flying Circus (5.9/10a), Pilots Crack (5.7), and, the last climb of the day, Golden Triangle (5.9).

The weather was just about perfect, not too hot, not too cold and we had the entire area to ourselves, thus making out better than Bobbie Burn's mouse.

Coordinator: Sandra McGuinness, climbers: Doug Brown, Lou Chioccarello, Vicki Hart.

*Robert Burns, To A Mouse, On Turning Up In Her Nest With a Plough.

Snow Review Workshop, May 24

We had a quick change of locations for this one day snow workshop. Red Mountain heated up and lost all its snow (an old volcano to the heart), so we relocated to Whitewater for a day of slippin' and slidin'. Sandra reviewed some of our critical equipment, like boots and ice axes, brain buckets and before even leaving the parking lot I had learned that my borrowed 15 inch ice axe was a little short for me. Awe, but it's so light Sandra. Re-equipped with a better axe, we all hiked up to a nice slope for some instruction and of course some action. I hadn't realized there was so much finesse in kicking steps in the snow; all with that nice little inward sloped angle. The self-belay with the axe was ok, but we had much more fun doing the self-arrest. Feet first, head first, face up, face down, pack off, pack on, tumble, roll, we tried them all. I even learned a new word of the day: Wiggled Out. Sandra explained it's an Aussie term meaning scared. I guess a wig has lots of hair, so "hairy" may be the Canadian equivalent. So if you suddenly see a fellow hiker throw themselves down a snow slope, it'll probably be one of our group doing a little self-arrest practice.

Professor Sandra McGuinness, participants: Nancy Ferguson, Eliane and Steven Miros, Terry Simpson, Annie Taiatini, and Scribe Bob McQueen.

OTHER TRIP REPORTS

These reports of "common adventure trips" are submitted by club members; they are not on the club schedule.

Harrop Proctor Bike Trip, May 2

A group of 5 left 7 mile on the North Shore about 10:00. At the Harrop Ferry Crossing, we were joined by two more riders. Our first stop in Proctor was the Old Schoolhouse Bakery. Everyone indulged in the "to die for" cinnamon buns. At this spot on past trips we would lose a number of riders but this group were energized to carry on. We continued north to the Kootenay Lake Village but due to construction were not allowed to enter the site until May 9. The development has put in some hiking/biking trails and I believe will allow access to the beach. On our way back we stopped at Sunshine Bay to bask in the sunshine and have lunch. We returned to the vehicles about 3:00. This trip provides quiet, easy cycling of approximately 40+ km.

The cyclists were Janis Gilbert, Diane Harrison, Jill and Dave Watson, Miriam Williams, Mary Woodward, and Carol Potasnyk, coordinator.