



# The Kootenay Mountaineer

The newsletter for people with year-round pursuits.

November 30, 2012

## Message from the President

Peter did such a good job of chairing the AGM that he must not feel the need to include a message. It must have been the effect of the great supper that P'nina organised!

## Message from the Editor

Just a quick message from the executive to thank all of you for accepting the digital version, saving trees and reducing expenses for the club by slightly over \$3.00 per issue.

## Trip Reports

### Hike from Kokanee Creek, Sept. 19

Hike September 19 on the Nelson side of Kokanee Creek starting by campsite 122 in the Redfish Campground. The trail follows the creek, crosses a power line and continues uphill. As the trail goes into the forest, it connects with some mountain biking trails (the Hitman), at which point you can go further up, or down as we did, crossing the power line and continuing down on Dos Slabs, skirting the boulders that the bikers simply fly over. This is a 2 hour, 6 km hike, cool in the forest on a hot day. Members were Caroling Shimek, Ken Kirkland, Betty Brouse, Mary Woodward, Kathleen Nichol, Irme Mende and leader, Carole Page.

### Mt. Siwash (C3), September 19

Before we even got to the trailhead, something occurred that made the day memorable. We were driving the 22.5km along the Munson FSR towards Mt. Siwash and had just a few more to go. As we rounded the curve at the edge of a clear-cut we disturbed a beautiful full-grown grizzly. Startled, he bolted behind a logging debris pile. Turning to observe us, he stopped about 3-4 car lengths away, reluctant to leave. As he regained confidence he slowly walked towards the car - a fact quickly pointed out by someone in the back seat just before I heard the rear window closing. Apparently we had interrupted his meal from a recent kill. Upon reaching the carcass, an enormous claw lifted it back

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### Article submission guidelines:

Plain text is great. No need for PDF or Microsoft Word files. Simply cut and paste your text into an email to

[newsletter@kootenarymountaineering.bc.ca](mailto:newsletter@kootenarymountaineering.bc.ca).

Attach your full resolution photos to the email.

Lots of photos, please.

Submission deadline for the next issue is  
December 17, 2012

up to his mouth. We couldn't tell what animal had met its end. It had been split open, was covered by dirt from the logging debris, and almost everything but the skin was eaten. Having retrieved his prize, the bear took one last look at us before bounding away through the clear-cut. We continued on our way to the parking spot for the day's hike, privileged to have experienced this rare event.

It was lovely for hiking with blue skies and that warm, but not hot, September feel. The ground cover had turned into brilliant fall colours making for a beautiful display of reds, oranges, purples and yellows. We hiked from the cars up the road for 15 minutes, then a few hours more up the ridge to Mt. Siwash, passing over two smaller high points along the way. Through binoculars I could see the tracks of something large (moose? elk?) in the muddy bottom of the shallow lake far below us. After lunch, we continued along the ridge system passing over four more minor summits. After enjoying the views from the Siwash ridge line for about five hours including breaks, we finished the day with a short 15 minute descent to the cars through the forest. The GPS track showed our path formed close to a perfect circle. Participants were Leon Arishenkoff, Don Harasym, Eric Ackerman, Peter Oostlander, Brenda Haley, and coordinator Ross Bates.

### **Texas Peak. September 23**



*Final approach to Texas Peak*

### **Slocan River Paddle, September 22, 2012**

Our group of 13 met at the Park n' Ride at the Playmor Junction at 10:00AM, Saturday, September 22. This was a joint club event with members from the Columbia Canoe and Kayak Club combining with the Kootenay Mountaineering Club. The group consisted

of 6 KMCers, 5 CCKC members and two who belonged to both clubs.

The put-in was on river right just upstream of the Winlaw bridge. The intent being to paddle the slow moving section of the Slocan river to the next upstream bridge, which the map showed to be about 6 km upstream at Appledale, and from there we would decide if we wished to continue on. The day was perfect, with lots of sunshine and not overly hot and with no noticeable wind.

Our flotilla consisted of 5 tandem canoes and 3 solo kayaks. We pushed off and made our way slowly upriver enjoying the day, the winding river and the surprised looks of the paddlers coming downstream. In the clear water, we were able to see schools of large fish numbering in the hundreds which we concluded were suckers. Lunch was leisurely on a nice sandy beach after which we jumped back into the boats and continued our quest for the 'Appledale' bridge.



At last, we reached the bridge but when we inquired we were

surprised to learn it was the Perry's Road bridge about 10 km from our starting point. The Appledale bridge had been removed several years earlier. We reviewed the 82 F/12 map and decided to head upstream another kilometre to check out an oxbow before turning back. However, at this point the river's velocity picked up, as did the effort required to progress upriver. We reached the oxbow but in the interests of time decided not to explore it and turned back for the return trip which, of course, went somewhat faster. We were out of the water, boats loaded and back to the Park n Ride about 4:00 PM.

Not an adrenaline inducing trip, but it was one of those "aren't we lucky to be here" days. The trip was enjoyed by all and suggestions were made to do it again next year. We were Dave Grant, Pat and Al Sheppard, Brian and Sharon Henderson, Ryan Leduc, Mel and Lyn Gardner, Ed and Hazel Beynon, Jocelyne Martin, and Linda and Doug Clark (trip coordinator).

**Mt. Irvine, Sept. 26**



*As promised: spectacular colours. Dave St. Denis and Bill McNally on the final approach to Mt. Irvine*

**Club Slideshow, September 28**

Our annual Fall slideshow evening was held at the old Resker hall in Castlegar. This time we did not trip any breakers in the kitchen! We also did not forget to bring the water, so we are getting better at this.

There were five presenters this year; first up was Peter OO with photo's from his recent "How to Hike All

Utah National Parks in Two Weeks" trip. He liked the double "O" arch in Arches National Park.



This was followed by an amazing trip report and photos by Dave and Jill Watson. In September 2011 they hiked the 200 km Haute traverse between Chamonix,

France and Zermatt, Switzerland. Reportedly, the elevation gain/loss on the trip was over 10,000 meters. Not feet, but meters!



Elena Cigala-Fulgosi showed a number of breathtaking photos from her Ellesmere kayak trip.



*Ellesmere Island: Paradise on Earth*

Ross Scott's photos of the 2012 KMC Summer camp were once again truly outstanding. Here are a couple of my favorites.



Finishing off the evening was Peter Jordan with photos from a KMC Monika meadows trip on September 23rd, 2012. It shows a very relaxed and happy group of hikers in a beautiful Fall setting with the larches in full colour.



Thank you to our friendly Social convener P'nina Shames, for organizing another successful KMC evening! Ingrid, Kate and Gina; your baking and goodies were amazing. Thank you.

Kate's recipe for her famous UBC cinnamon buns served at the Social can be found here:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/9753886/UBC-Cinnamon-Buns>  
She subs whole wheat flour for white flour.

*(Editor's Note: Peter, our author for this entry, gave me permission to tease him a bit regarding his memory lapse about my having been the seventh presenter of the evening. I accomplished that task earlier in the President's Message section. For the record, I played a short DVD video that I made for friends who had accompanied my wife and I to wonderful high ground in the Elk Lakes area: the Petain Basin and Coral Pass.)*

### **College Creek Heights (B2), Wednesday, October 3rd**

Five of us made the short trip west from Castlegar to College Creek FSR. This road is in good shape, but does have many water bars which slowed our progress. An hour after starting we had parked at the 7.5 km mark and begun hiking. The route follows the road to its highest point, then turns left on an old skid road which is more overgrown each year. An interesting scramble up a boulder field had us topping out after 1.5 hours hiking, just in time for lunch at the high point. This is a particularly stunning viewpoint, with the local mountain ranges, Castlegar, Trail, Red Resort, etc.

**The Kootenay Mountaineer**

visible. It is the high point closest to Castlegar in the sequence Mt. Crowe, Mt. Neptune, Mt. Mackie, unnamed peak 1, unnamed peak 2. After lunch we followed the ridge over to a lower bump to check out unnamed peak 1, but decided against climbing it as it meant dropping down 80 meters and back up 100 meters, getting us back too late. Instead we retraced our route back to the main road. One of our group headed directly down to the car, while the rest did a side trip up and over a ridge that paralleled the road. This too had great views but travel was a bit difficult due to some old logging debris. Instead of following the usual path down through the open, picking up a side road that would take us back to the car, we took a more direct line through some interesting dense forest. Wildlife sighted included chipmunks, pikas, and three grouse. Participants were Mary Prothro, Chris Cowan, Betty Brousse, Ken Kirkland, and coordinator Ross Bates.

### **Wolf Peak, October 6th, 2012**

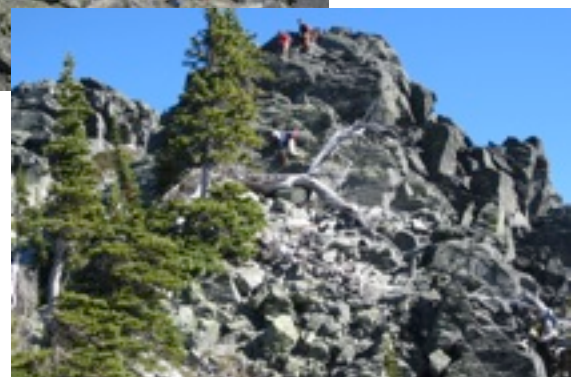
Participants from left to right: Glenn Keto, Vicky Hart, Ross Bates, P'nina



*Greetings from planet Earth!*

*All smiles until we hit the slide alder!*

Shames (not visible behind Ross), Dan Derby, Suzanna Zach, Mark Hatlen, Peter Oostlander (organizer)



## **Champion Lakes, Oct. 13**



*Kate Oostlander on the October 13th KMC Champion Lakes hike*

Participants: Robin Lidstone, Ingrid Enns, Kate and Gina Oostlander, Kyla Meares, Peter Oostlander (organizer)

## **Mt. Lepso, Oct. 27**

Three of us keen skiers met for an early season trip up Mt. Lepso at the Nancy Greene Summit on Saturday, October 27. It's always nice to "bag" a month earlier than November. 25 cm. of fresh DRY powder met us. Hard to believe, but true. We followed the Seven Summit Trail with a few detours to check in on most of the cabins on that side of the highway. Surprise Cabin was in good shape, and we introduced Elena to the Wild Guy that lives in the wood shed. We'll have to give him a name one of these days.



Next, we went past Eagle's Nest where the packrats have a nest in the wood shed, past the Sun Spot cabin where a little critter has a nest in the wood pile inside the cabin. Finally, up to the Berry Ridge Cabin above Lepso Basin. Elena

impressed us with her wood chopping skills, then she and Peter took turns hiding a transceiver for some search practice. Peter used the old "throw it into the tree base" technique, and threw some powder snow on top. A great technique since it doesn't leave tracks near the "buried skier" and confuses the practicing rescuer. I thought Elena would retaliate with an equally confusing hiding spot up in a tree. As you zero in on the target signal, and lower your transceiver, the signal disappears. But she took pity on Peter and hid it near some tracks where he could find it easily. After our usual heated lunch we enjoyed a ski down through the field and trail. We didn't hit any stumps, and only got



one or two mild rock bruises further down the trail. A fun early season ski. Elena Cigala-Fulgosi, Peter Oostlander, and coordinator Bob McQueen.

## **Champion Lakes Provincial Park (A1) Hike - November 11th**

Timing is everything. I had advertised the trip as possibly the last hike of the season. In fact, we beat the big snowfall by a day and had a pleasant 3-hour stroll around the park trails past all three lakes. There was just enough snow on the trails to turn everything white, but not enough to impede walking. We debated whether the varioustracks in the snow were coyote or fox, elk or moose, squirrel or chipmunk. The temperature held steady at about minus 5 degrees, with the lakes not quite totally frozen over yet. A good time had by all. Participants were Timothy Jackson, Mark Hatlen, Marilyn Miller, Eric Marks, Kathleen & Alex Nichol, Andrea Gardner, Renate Belczyk, Ron & Janet Cameron, Doug & Linda Clark, and coordinator Ross Bates.

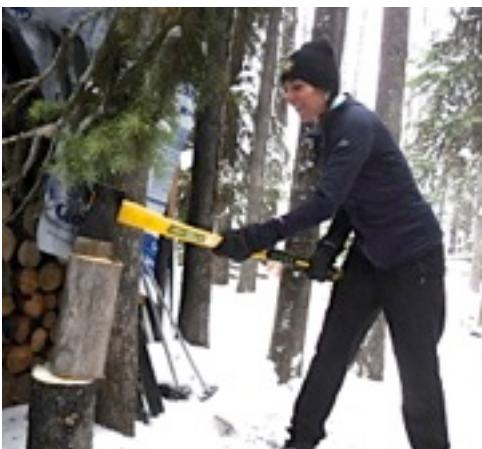
## View Point Cabin, Crowe Mt., November 17

Twelve of us met at the Nancy Greene Summit Parking lot, most as a first ski of the season. The weather reports have been predicting enormous amounts of snow for the coming days, but today was still early snow conditions with not a lot of snow depth. Still it was fun to get out and ski the logging roads and a



*The lower route into View Point Cabin*

couple of tougher field crossings. The fields had lots of logs and sticks to manoeuvre over, and a few rocks and ditches thrown in to remind us that with a bit of adversity, we'll really know when the skiing becomes good. We enjoyed a hot lunch at the cabin, and Elena again showed us her wood chopping skills. We came in on the lower trail, and left via the upper trail. This was a fast group, and I reflected later that I had mentioned the 10% rule before the trip began: that is, we as coordinators were allowed to loose up to 10% of the participants. That may have accounted for the quickness of the group. Jill and Dave Watson, Diane Paolini, Elena Cigala-Fulgosi, Vicki Harft, Steve Goosney, Liz Krebbers, Sharon Kalusik, Willa Johnson, Eric Ackerman, Dave Grant and Bob McQueen coordinator.



*Elena chopping wood for the cabin stove. She's fulfilling the old saying: "Them that works, eats!"*

## Jumbo Glacier Hike, Sept. 28

*Al Sinkie*

I was contacted by Amber, a teacher at the South Design High. She wanted someone to lead a hike to Jumbo Pass. My friend Andy Adam and I led a group of 26 people: students, teachers and parents who wanted to see the proposed site for the Jumbo Glacier Resort. They are all against the proposal and wanted to see the area first hand.

At the top I could really tell by all the *oohs* and *aaahs* and *wows* that the group really respected where they were and what they were looking at. The smiles on their faces and their words of joy were truly pleasing. Here is a comment from Amber: "I loved that we were a bunch of folk new to each other and yet sharing the love of the wild country we live in. I deeply appreciate the attention and support given to the youth. They loved you each!"



## Hiking Camp

Jenny Baillie



*"Painter's Point" - looking down on camp and over to Muir Mountain*



*"Chad's Tent" - looking south*

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## Kootenay Mountaineering Club History

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*Ron Perrier*

In past issues of the KMC Karabiner, old articles from the Nelson Daily News were published and they provide interesting insights into mountaineering in the early 1900s. Nelson especially seems to have had an active climbing history with almost all of its trips based at Kokanee.

On August 8, 1907, a letter from JW Cockle of Kaslo discussed the practicality of erecting a mountain chalet at the Kitchener Glacier (the original name for Kokanee) in order to promote tourism in the Kootenays. He argues that the Kaslo route (Keen Creek) is superior to the Kokanee Creek route. "This is the second lying attempt to disparage the Kaslo route to the magnificent glacier and anyone who has ever been over the ground could not fail to see that the only feasible route was via Kaslo, and the finest chalet site in the world is on the Kaslo slope."

In response, FG Ebbutt of the Nelson 20,000 Club denies that his club has disparaged the Kaslo route and "this club would only be too happy to cooperate with you in anything that would tend to develop the possibilities of the district as a whole from the tourist point of view."

This is the first indication that Kokanee was originally called the Kitchener Glacier. The dream of a chalet at the foot of the glacier never did materialize and it is interesting how business orientated these men are. Tourism seems much more important then than now.

From the Nelson Daily News of September 8, 1921 is an article entitled "Mountaineers Storm Heights of Kokanee Glacier District". 39 climbers were enthusiastic about their trip "the memory of the enchanting glimpses of the enormous ice field, the magnificent rock buttresses, terraces and pinnacles, no less the genial gaiety of their fellows throughout the trip, will live long with the novices as well as the veteran climbers of the party". They made their way from Nelson by boat and car to Molly Gibson Landing and then by foot to the camp at Molly Gibson Concentrator. All were "merry and bright" and entertained by Pipe Major William McLeary. With bad weather they didn't start for Kokanee Lake until 1:30PM.

Back in camp, they held the annual business meeting of the KMC, the Kokanee Mountaineering Club.

Discussions were held about circulating photographs to boards of trade, tourist associations and hotels. The provincial photographer was to produce a film that would be sent on tour. The guests from Minneapolis and Ann Arbor, Michigan wanted the film to use in lectures back home. New officers were elected with Capt. CW Busk as honorary president and Ross Fleming, president. There were 3 committees – Route committee, Park committee and Publicity committee.

With good weather, they were up at 6AM and 20 members started out for Mt Ganser, the highest peak in the range (Cond – 9,200'). Under deteriorating weather, 15 made it to the top, including Mrs C.H. Ganser, in whose honor the club named the peak. The pipe major played his pipes on top in the forceful driving wind. A bottle with all participants names was placed under a newly built cairn. They sang "God Save the King". That night they formally buried in a casket, Johnny Walker, to the tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow". "One member of the party, no less a person than Johnny Walker of international fame, who by a process of attrition had been laid low the night previous, had, unknown to the majority, succumbed, killed with kindness".

September 5, 1932 – Nelson Daily News. The article described a trip to Kokanee with a group of 22 led by Rev. George Kinney, who led the first, but unsuccessful attempts on Mt Robson in 1908/1909. It took 1½ hours to drive from Kaslo to Joker Millsite "in spite of the fact that the road was littered with remains of snakes which had broken their backs trying to get around the turns". They slept out in the open on balsam boughs.

Up at six, breakfast was bacon and eggs, hot cakes and coffee. They were divided into four groups. The third group wanted to be the first to eat fried pork sausages on the glacier and started off carrying dry wood, a large tin of sausages, and a frying pan. The two nurses present took everyone's pulse as their breathing was coming in short pants and that their "pants were getting shorter and shorter the higher they climbed". It was getting late when they crossed Coffee Pass, some turned back to avoid darkness and "their pants had grown too short". The sausage was cooked at the crest of the glacier between Cond and Esmeralda. "The 9000 foot elevation may interfere with the proper cooking of eggs, but it has no effect on the frying of sausages"....



Kinney became ill and finally got back to camp in the dark.

After the rest left for home, group 3 hiked on the western trail to the Slocan Chief mine and Kokanee Mountaineering Club cabin. After signing the register of their climb at the cabin, they returned to camp and had a dinner of sirloin steak, French fried potatoes, fruit salad and super-saturated coffee. With the intention of getting up at 5 to climb Kokanee Peak, they woke up after 8, didn't go and spent most of the day eating.

In 1989, Sue Port wrote about the history of the club, on the occasion of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was published in the Karabiner.

### **The Club's History**

#### *A Brief History of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club and of its Antecedent, the Kootenay Section of the Alpine Club of Canada*

In the 1950s and early 60s there were many active hikers and climbers in the Kootenays. A few of them belonged to the national Alpine Club of Canada, and wondered if more might join if a Section of the ACC was formed. Rick Askew and Jack Steed gathered information, Kim Deane drew up a constitution, and in April 1964 the Kootenay Section of the Alpine Club of Canada, with 12 charter members was formed. With it began the Club journal, the KOOTENAY KARABINER, created and edited for the first years by Chris Penn and Jack Oswald. Kim Deane was the first chairman, followed in November by Helen Butling.

In the spring of 1968 Karabiner, Chris Penn outlined the accomplishments of the early years: "The Kootenay Section of the Alpine Club now has some seventy members, and a more cheerful, lively, likeable bunch would be hard to find. In the short time since the Section was founded, members have made climbs, explorations and first ascents almost all over the Kootenay Region, they have cut and cleared trails, developed an excellent weekly rock school (at which it is nothing to see thirty people climbing), put on a year round program of climbs and ski tours, held their own Centennial Climbing camp, produced their own journal, fought hard for the preservation of Kokanee Provincial Park, and completely renovated the old Slocan Chief Cabin there."

There was indeed very active involvement in the Club at that time, with a very high attendance on many

weekend trips, (18 on Mt. Loki without a recci was judged excessive), a great expenditure of energy on the Mulvey trail, and large work parties at the Slocan Chief (32 people over four weekends in 1965). There were also notable first ascents of Mts. Pambrun and Thor and of peaks and routes in the Mulvey area.

However, the overwhelming majority of those seventy lively members were merely Section Associates. An ACC by-law required that certain of the Executive positions be filled by full ACC members, and these became too few to continue rotating as Club officers. Although the Kootenay Section tried to introduce changes to its Constitution that would allow it to continue, when an executive was elected that violated the by-law, the ACC dissolved the Section in early 1969.

The executive carried on, and as Chairman Iain Martin stated in the Spring 1969 issue of the KARABINER. "Under the new name of Kootenay Mountaineering Club it is business as usual for us."

What did the next 20 years bring? They brought many new members, with a 1988 total of 225. However, the core of those very actively involved has not increased proportionately and the problem of finding leaders and executive members seems to be constant. The weekend trip schedule has expanded since the early years, when there were trips approximately every other weekend. The Club now tries to offer a choice between an easy and strenuous trip each summer weekend, with weekly ski, hiking, or climbing trips much of the year. Fewer trips are into Kokanee Glacier Park now that logging roads and four-wheel drive vehicles have opened up so many other areas, but many of the familiar trips are still as popular.

The popular annual ski trips into the Slocan Chief Cabin at Easter and May 24<sup>th</sup>, are no more. Instead of KMCers being almost the only users of the cabin, it is now known far and wide and its winter use determined by an elaborate "lottery". Rogers Pass has become the new Easter weekend destination. With the advent of telemark gear there are many more skiers in the backcountry, with some Club members enthusiastically using any open logging roads as access to the slopes.

Week long camps have always been an important part of KMC activities, from the first Centennial Camp at Earl Grey Pass in 1967 to the four weeks of climbing and hiking camps, attended by 80 members in 1988. The first six camps were "general" ones, with the first

separate hiking camp being held at beautiful Bonnie Gem Lake in 1974. The comfort level increased considerably with purchase of a large cook tent and propane stoves before the 1973 Gold Range camp, and the acquisition of a second set of gear in 1979 greatly improved relations between competing hikers and climbers. All could now hope to enjoy that sometimes elusive, fine summer weather as camps could now operate simultaneously.

Some climbing camps have been in rarely visited areas and have resulted in a number of first ascents, new routes and the naming of mountain features, while hiking camps, which have provided a few new routes as well, have often inspired poetry, paintings, and masquerade madness.

The debate over huts – do they lessen or increase the wear on fragile alpine areas? – is still with us. The Club has itself built only one hut, but over the years has been involved with several others. Much time and effort went into the Slocan Chief Cabin in the early years, both in saving it from collapse and in the annual maintenance and wood gathering (the fall work parties were social events as well, and there was the lure of Helen's lemon pies!). This maintenance has been taken over by the Parks Branch in 1977.

From the start, the Club was interested in building its own Section hut and in 1969 the Mulvey hut was prefabricated in Rossland by members and other volunteers, and erected during a camp in Mulvey Meadows. What a welcome sight it was after the struggle up the Mulvey headwall. By the mid 70s there was easier access up Bannock Burn Creek and the hut received heavy use, but with the closure of the road in 1980, the hut's use declined drastically. Once again it is accessible, but its future in the new Valhalla Park is uncertain. In the late spring of 1989, the Parks Branch had to burn down the Mulvey Hut, a victim of twenty years of weather and wear, and of a bizarre and tragic accident.

Huckleberry Hut, an old mining cabin, has been maintained since 1963, with major reconstruction then and again in 1986. The Ridge Cabin on the way to Old Glory was maintained in the 70s, but in July of 1989, it too burned to the ground. The cause of the fire is unknown, however lightning is suspected.

New responsibilities were undertaken in 1986 with the KMC sponsorship of a federal work grant project to build ski touring cabins in the Bonnington Range. This

resulted in the Copper and Grassy Mountain Huts, with plans for a third near Siwash Mt. in the future - the Kootenay Haute Route.

With the completion of the Mulvey Creek Trail in 1968, the Club has never again been so involved in trail building. This trail fell into disuse with the opening of the Bannock Burn road access, and has now been abandoned to the grizzlies, who made memorable the trips of a couple of climbing parties. Most subsequent years saw at least one trail clearing trip on the schedule – Joker Lakes, Paupo Basin, Enterprise Creek, Drinnon Lake, but the turnout has decreased over the years.

There have also been many KMC letters written to request improved access into the mountains, with some eventual successes being the Woodbury Creek bridge (both in the 60s and the 80s), the Keen Creek bridges, and the removal of the gates on the Little Slocan Road.

When the Club began there were many enthusiasts but few climbers. An informal Wednesday evening Rock School at the Kinnaird Bluffs proved popular and has evolved over the years into the present mountaineering course of lectures, rock climbing evenings and a day and weekend course of snow and glacier travel at Ymir Mt. and Glacier Creek, access permitting. Tape waist slings have given way to standard issue harnesses and hard hats, but the same query still is heard – where do all the students go after they complete the course?

It was expected that some of these enthusiasts might get lost or hurt and, soon after the formation of the Kootenay Section, an active Mountain Rescue group started training and continued for about ten years. Although it was called out on a few occasions, enthusiasm flagged and it was disbanded in 1977.

In 1963, Club members took on the responsibility of recording data from the snow survey course near the top of Old Glory in order to continue the long record kept by the former Weather Station there. This involved monthly trips from January to May – the early and late trips being made more interesting by lack of daylight, or of snow. In 1975, this was moved to the more accessible Record Ridge, although Old Glory was also surveyed until 1983.

Since members spend, or dream of spending, so much time in the backcountry, it was natural that the Club has become involved in many conservation issues, local and provincial, over the years. The protection of Kokanee Park has been an ongoing struggle. The early

protests against the downgrading of the Park to Class B to allow mineral exploration and exploitation were repeated against certain provisions of the Park Master Plan in 1987. At present, the Park core is Class A, and secure, but undoubtedly the struggle will continue in the adjacent Recreation Areas.

The KMC was the first organization to work for the creation of a park in the Valhallas, with its brief to the Provincial Government in 1970. It continued to lobby for this over the years, to support the Valhalla Wilderness Society and to be involved in the Valhalla Park Master Plan process in 1987. Fifteen years ago, when the Fry Creek drainage was threatened by logging, the KMC prepared a brief on Fry Creek and the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, which is now in the midst of a Master Plan process. Once again, the KMC is involved with other groups in trying to preserve these areas.

Numerous other letters have been written to voice members protests against the short term gain philosophy of some government bodies and businesses, and submissions on both Kokanee and the Purcells were sent to the Wilderness Advisory Committee during its hearing in 1985/1986.

There is also involvement in other provincial conservation and land use issues through KMCs membership since 1975 in the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. Although we at times feel far removed from this coast - dominated body, it is becoming an important and respected voice in the province and stronger ties are looked for.

Of course we KMCers get together not only in the mountains, but at semi-annual dinners (how else to get a quorum for an AGM?), for evenings of slides and various other excuses for a party. Club members have shared their travels and exploits in many mountainous parts of the world – Nepal, Peru, the Haute Route, the Coast Range and other exotic places – and guests such as Hans Gmoser, Doug Scott, Gaston Rebuffat (such a flurry of bilingual correspondence in 1966), Pat Morrow, Jon Jones, John Roskelley and many others in the community.

Through the years the KOOTENAY KARABINER has recorded most of these activities. The semi-annual journal became annual in 1970, and a monthly Newsletter was added. The Club is also very fortunate to possess a complete set of the CANADIAN ALPINE JOURNAL. Most of the volumes were the gift of Dr.

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Anne Norrington in 1964, with others contributed by Helen Butling. These with a few dozen mountaineering books and related items, make up the KMC library.

What is missing from this account is the most important item, the names of the many, many, individuals who have worked hard over the years to make everything happen. They have led trips, organized camps, kept the finances in order, ruled over unruly meetings, edited the Karabiner and Newsletter, written briefs and letters, built huts, cleared trails, shown slides, tied students up in knots at the bluffs and thrown them down crevasses in the Truce Glacier, some for a season or two, and others for more years than they care to remember.

We hope that the members will continue to do so for the next 25 years.

### **KMC HISTORY 1989-2012**

By 1989, Valhalla Provincial Park, Fry Creek Canyon Recreation Area, and the Purcell Wilderness were all done deals and the club had an active part in that process. Fred Thiessen, the then president, expressed concern about all the work necessary to run the climbing and hiking camps, and how to manage that. A big Anniversary Party was held, with entertainment from the “Kootenay Puppet Theatre Group.” Ken Holmes wrote extensively on alpine ski touring equipment, something, he continues today.

Helen Butling, one of the founding members in the club, a president for several years, and a driving force in all club affairs, died in 1989. Her “cookbook” served as the basis for many of the recipes that continue today in Hiking Camp. She also organized the volunteers who worked yearly on the Slocan Chief Cabin. Fighting hard on conservation issues, she was awarded the ACC Prestigious Service award for outstanding contributions to Canadian Mountaineering.

Another founding member of the club, Jack Steed and his son, Jamie, died in an avalanche in Kokanee in 1990. Two mountains south of Mt. Pambrun in the Purcells were named the “Steeds” on the recommendation of the club. The constitution of the club was amended to allow only residents of the Kootenays to become new members of the club. The climbing and hiking camps had become too successful. I believe that Kal Singh is the only member still in the club (in 2012) who has never lived in the West Kootenay. Hiking camp had been extended to three

weeks in 1985. Firewood was flown in for the first time and we used a fire pan in 1990. Seven members skied from Rogers Pass to the Bugaboos.

In 1991, the clubs major concern was the resort at Jumbo Pass. I had not realized that the proposal went back that far. It is sad that it looks like it is a 21 year battle that we have lost. In 1992, Laurie Charlton took over responsibility for Hiking Camp, and as a one man committee, made a huge contribution in organizing camp to make it what it is today. John Walton was our representative to the provincial CORE process and spent many hours and weeks on that project that did not end until 1994. The Siwash Hut construction was started in 1993 and finished in 1996. The new Silverspray Cabin was built by the Friends of West Kootenay Parks Society under the leadership of John Carter, in 1994. 46 helicopter loads were brought up in one day and the cabin was not finished until November. The unfortunate death of 6 skiers in an avalanche in 1999 at Silverspray, has resulted in it being closed for the winter. The cairned route from Drinnon to Mulvey was removed for safety reasons! The trail to Wee Sandy Lake was improved.

1995 saw the creation of 6 new provincial parks and additions to several, many in the West Kootenay. Lockhart Creek, West Arm (protecting the Nelson watershed), Gladstone (N end of Christina Lake), Granby, and Goat Range were all created. Syringa, and Kokanee both saw extensions and the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy was created with large additions at Fry and Carney Creeks. The club continued to play an active role in conservation issues.

The Kinnaird Bluffs, the clubs main climbing area was sold in 1995 for real estate development putting access in peril. Liability was the main issue. John Carter, the author of the original hiking guide for the area, "Hiking the West Kootenay" (1993), a park ranger at Kokanee, and 30 year member of the KMC, was killed in an avalanche on Smugglers Ridge on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1996. Bob Dean, after years organizing summer trips, and leading many trips, resigned in 1996. This was also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Slocan Chief Cabin. Hamish Martin died while climbing on the Mt MacBeth Icefields in June, 1997. He was 25.

The club paid for the manufacture of summit registers and they started to be placed wherever we go starting in 1998. Bicycle trips were added to the summer schedule on Fridays in the good hands of Carol

Potasnyk. Digital reports were just becoming common – greatly appreciated by the Newsletter and Karabiner editors. Hamish Mutch finished climbing all 17 peaks over 11,000' in the Interior Ranges with his climb of Farnham in August, 1998. The conservation committee was active in the Jumbo Resort and Retallack Alpine Adventure (their expansion to the north side of Hwy 31A was denied) applications. The Bonnington Huts received improvements under club direction. Work parties continued to have problems getting volunteers. The go ahead for a KMC website was given after much discussion in 2000. This was the last year for the Mountaineering School. It was a real loss to the club and had allowed many of the 'hikers' to get to know the 'climbers'. From 2001, it was been run by Laura Adams, Marc Deschenes and others.

Earl Jorgenson died in February, 2001, He was an active 25 year member of the club and the designer and builder of the kitchen "counter", the little yellow stools, the ironing board that we do dishes on and holds the coffee, tea and wine, and the seat for the biffy, all for Hiking Camp. Bob Dean was given a lifetime membership to the club – a well-deserved honor. Mt John Carter was named for the highest point on the ridge of Outlook Mountain. The last Karabiner covered three years from 1998-2000 but was not available until 2003. It was decided, for cost reasons, manpower issues, and lack of interest, to discontinue it permanently in 2003 after 40 volumes. The KMC Newsletter was to take on both functions. The conservation committee was involved in the Red Mountain and Baldface applications.

In 2002, the club was involved in the site selection of the Kokanee Glacier Alpine Hut location and its design. \$800,000 was raised by the Trudeau legacy. The NE corner of Kaslo Lake was selected for many reasons and construction was begun in 2002. The Slocan Chief Cabin became an interpretive center. The existing Ranger cabin, Ranger Workshop and the Kalmia Campground were closed. The Ministry of Forests had their budget reduced by \$188 million, and the main casualty was to be road maintenance. We see all the negative effects of that in 2012 as 3 roads into Kokanee are not usable – Enterprise Creek, Keen Creek, and Woodbury. The constitution was amended in many areas to allow limited memberships to non West Kootenay residents. The ACC took over operation

of the Kokanee Glacier, Woodbury and Silverspray Huts.

In 2005, we rejoined the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC to obtain cheaper liability insurance. This effectively doubled our membership dues. Norman Thyer, a member of the club for 40 years, and a proponent of the esoteric, died in 2006. Steven Horvath, another long time, 35 year member of the club and one of the “climbers” died after falling down a crevasse in July, 2008. The Nature Conservancy of Canada bought Darkwoods, a large tract of private land south of Nelson. Steve and Eliane Miros did an excellent job with the newsletter from Jan, 2002 until the end of 2009. They included a wide range of articles on mountaineering, the environment and equipment that I always found interesting. I also liked their simple yet effective formatting of the newsletter. Steve was also president of the club for four years and is the authority on hiking in the Castlegar area and led many trips. Snowshoe trips were added to the winter trip list, initiated by Don Harasym. Some members are real forces in their area - Ross Bates and the Sheppards in Castlegar, Bill Sones in Nakusp and Marlene Johnston in the Kaslo area. In 2012, 2 valuable members, Sandra McGuinness and Doug Brown moved out of the area. They advanced technical issues in mountaineering, served in many executive positions, and organized and led many trips both in the summer and winter.

As of September, 2012, the club has several continuing issues. Our conservation committee continues to deal with the Jumbo Resort (a battle that we seem to be losing with huge implications for our access to Glacier Creek) and the Glacier-Howser power proposal. It has been an effective voice in keeping the West Kootenay as wild as possible. Ted Ibrahim and Kim Kratky have shouldered the majority of that responsibility. The Karabiner is gone as is the mountaineering school run by members. The Kinnaird Bluffs are no longer accessible to members but tons of other climbing areas have been developed around Nelson and Castlegar. Reduced funding in the Ministry of Forests and Parks has decimated road access to some of our most popular hiking areas. At the present time McKean Lakes via Koch Creek, Enterprise Creek, Keen Creek, and Woodbury Creek are not accessible and Glacier Creek access is intermittent. The Friday bicycle trips don't seem to be as frequent. Climbing Camp doesn't run every year but operates on a completely different scale

than Hiking Camp. Organizing work parties especially for trail work gets more difficult with each year.

The Bonnington Huts have been maintained to a high standard. Hiking Camp continues to be hugely popular and in my opinion is the best week of the year. Run totally by volunteers with rarely a glitch, the cost remains relatively low (although principally because of helicopter cost the price is twice what it was 20 years ago). Hiking camp retains a large surplus in the bank and has recently bought new tents. The Web site has been a resounding success. Most members receive the Newsletter electronically on the web site.

Unfortunately different passwords are used to access the member's copy and I don't know anyone who knows them all. Kim Kratky has always been the major contributor to both the Karabiner and Newsletter. Having climbed virtually every mountain in the West Kootenay and beyond, he has been generous with his superb articles. The constitution has had two major updates keeping it current. AGMs continue to be held after a dinner. Social aspects of the club are well run producing a real sense of community. We continue to run an active winter skiing, snowshoeing, and summer hiking schedule. The club itself has had a legion of volunteers committing huge amounts of time to making the club run very effectively. That is our real strength. I apologize if I have left out anyone as many members contribute to the club. Our membership numbers remain strong although we could always use more young members. The club is aging gracefully. We have a club we should all be justly proud of. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is in 2014.

*Ron Perrier*