



Kootenay Mountaineering Club

The Newsletter for people with year-round pursuits.

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Banff Film Festival

(World Tour)

November 25, 26, 27th

Thurs. - Sun.

Capitol Theatre

7:00PM

Smallwood Creek August 22, 2010

7 members and 3 guests completed the 8 km hike, starting at the steep switchback side, across the ridge and down the foresty road to our vehicles. We were: Wayne Thomas, Merriene Duncan, Ken Kirkland, Ross Bates, Andre Piver, Kate Woodhouse, and Co-ordinator, Carole Page

Mountain School Tech Tips: Websites for Winter Weather

The trouble with weather forecasting is that it's right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it. ~ Patrick Young

The accuracy of weather forecasts aside, we all know that weather - bad weather in particular - can make or break our outdoor adventures. But, getting good weather information has got more difficult since Environment Canada began, what I call, "dumbing down", their forecasts in the mid 1990s. That's when the synopsis disappeared from Environment Canada and you started having to pay for a "customized forecast" at \$3.99 minute. I recall calling the meteorologist once for a "customized forecast" the day we were planning to leave on a big ski traverse of the Caribou Mountains, only to get the "meteorologist" reading me the free bulletin! But, I digress, what I should be writing about is where to get more detailed weather information on the web. Below, I've presented some of the various weather products I use for winter (and summer) weather forecasts. There are lots more out there so look around and assemble your own folder of useful weather links.



Nancy Calling The Weather or 1-800-GET-ME-THE-PUCK-OUTTA-HERE (Vicki Hart photo)

Synopsis:

The first thing I like to get is a synopsis of the major weather systems. Environment Canada no longer issues a synopsis, but, the US agency NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) does. I usually use the zone area forecast for the Idaho panhandle (<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=IDZ001>) which is closest to our area as you can get. If you click on the <forecast discussion> link at the bottom right side of the page, you'll get a good synopsis along with some idea of how confident the forecaster feels.

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In winter, but not in summer, you can get a synopsis for the Coast Mountains from the Whistler-Blackcomb website (<http://www.whistlerblackcomb.com/weather/forecast/index.htm>). As much of our weather approaches from the west, you can get a good idea of what systems are in the offering for our area from this forecast. Generally, I find that precipitation amounts are slightly less than forecast for the Coast, freezing levels are slightly lower, and the systems arrive slightly later. Red Mountain also gets a custom forecast in winter from the southeast fire centre, and during the ski hill operating season, you can find this custom forecast on the Red Mountain site.

Another winter only weather forecast is Environment Canada's high elevation forecast available here: http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/forecast/textforecast_e.html?Bulletin=fpcn68.cwvr. This gives predicted freezing levels and precipitation amounts and starts in October/November and ends May 1.

Current Conditions:

So now that you know what is supposed to happen, it's good to know what actually is happening. Red Mountain and Whitewater Ski Resort both have webcams that are operational during the winter months. Find these on their respective home pages. Drive BC (<http://images.drivebc.ca/bchighwaycam/pub/html/www/5.html>) also has a series of webcams around the local area and you can also access remote weather station data (wind speed and direction, road temperature, and precipitation amount) here. Unfortunately, although MoT (Ministry of Transport) has weather stations on ridge tops, the only data made publicly available is from the road side monitoring stations. Note that wind speed and direction are for the valley and, as such, are highly influenced by local topography. Also, precipitation amounts are in water equivalents. An average conversion for water equivalent to snow is 1 mm water equivalent equals 1 cm snow.

The CAA has a series of links to other remote data loggers on their web-site (<http://www.avalanche.ca/cac/pre-trip-planning/weather/real-time-weather-dataloggers>). None of these are in the West Kootenays, but they do provide some useful information.

Freezing Levels/Precipitation/Wind Speed and Direction:

Knowing the freezing level can mean the difference between a day of great powder skiing versus a miserable day spent soaked to the bone while skiing elephant snot - I know which I prefer! Information on forecast wind speed and direction is also useful for avoiding windslabs and choosing destinations that are appropriate to the current conditions. Some useful sites for this type of information are:

- http://www.flightplanning.navcanada.ca/Latest/gfa/anglais/Latest-gfacn31_turbc_000-e.html, where you'll find current and forecast (6 and 12 hours) freezing level data;
- http://www.flightplanning.navcanada.ca/cgi-bin/AfficherFDFL180.pl?Langue=anglais&hreFdcn01=2004+02+20+06+UTC&hreFdcn02=2004+02+20+12+UTC&rwt_uprWindsCharts180=fdcn02-090&hreFdcn03=2004+02+21+00+UTC&Region=OUEST, has wind speed and direction at 2,800 metres;
- http://squall.sfsu.edu/gif/jetstream_pac_h12_00.gif, more wind speed and direction data this time at the 300 mbar (about 9,000 metres ASL) level, which is pretty much the jet stream winds;
- http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/weather/10_day.cgi is another NOAA product with precipitation amounts, minimum and maximum temperatures, and freezing levels for the entire Columbia basin.

Imagery:

For the real weather geeks, there is great satellite imagery available on the web. The GOES West imagery has a series of infrared satellite images with isobars and the current systems superimposed over the top. At http://squall.sfsu.edu/gif/sathts_pac_snd_00.gif, you'll find the sea level data, while http://squall.sfsu.edu/gif/sathts_pac_500_00.gif has data from the 500 mbar level (about 5,500 metres) which is the upper level flow pretty much unaffected by topography.

<http://www.atmos.washington.edu/cgi-bin/latest.cgi?fronts-ir> shows the current systems and fronts overlaid the satellite imagery, and

http://www.atmos.washington.edu/~ovens/loops/wxloop.cgi?fronts_ir+/48h/ has a time sequenced version.

NOAA has visible and infrared imagery available for our area at

<http://sat.wrh.noaa.gov/satellite/loopsat.php?wfo=pdt&area=nw&type=vis&size=4> for visible satellite imagery and <http://sat.wrh.noaa.gov/satellite/loopsat.php?wfo=pdt&area=nw&type=ir&size=4>, for the infrared (and I find more useful) imagery.

There is also some very cool microwave imagery available at <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/tropic/real-time/tpw2/epac/main.html> which quite clearly shows the tropical moisture feed we get going with a pineapple express.

If all this is way too geeky, Environment Canada has a nice simple diagram of the major systems at http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/jet_stream/index_e.html. Another one of my favorites, which is very specific for our local area comes from the Weather Network at

http://www.theweathernetwork.com/weather/maps/?ref=topnav_weatherindex_maps, which shows past and predicted precipitation and seems to be remarkably accurate.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, rather, it's a collection of my favorite web-sites that I find most useful for knowing what's going on out there - short of getting out there myself. The CAA has also gathered together a bunch of useful sites on their webpage (<http://www.avalanche.ca/cac/pre-trip-planning/weather>) where they also have a tutorial on understanding the various satellite imagery. Spend an afternoon wandering around the web visiting these (and other) sites and pretty soon you'll find yourselves hooked on weather just like me.

KMC Annual General Meeting--Saturday Nov. 20-New Grand Hotel, 616 Vernon St, Nelson, 6 pm

Come for 6 pm and enjoy the own host bar for a little socializing. Then have a great buffet dinner (approximately \$25--price to be confirmed in an upcoming email). Hear a fantastic half hour presentation from Shaun King of Mountain Sense Guiding and Instructing, then lets get down to business at 8 pm for our official AGM.

So, mark your calendar, bring your ideas and plan to have a great time. RSVP is required so we can know the numbers. Please RSVP to me, P'nina via email p.nina@shaw.ca or by phone 250-352-9547.

B.C. ACQUIRES LAND NEAR RENOWNED ROCK CLIMBING SITE

SQUAMISH – The B.C. government has reached an agreement to acquire almost 10 hectares of land adjacent to Stawamus Chief Provincial Park, West Vancouver-Sea-to-Sky MLA Joan McIntyre announced today.

“This is an important piece of land to the community,” said McIntyre. “Thanks to the excellent work of BC Parks and our partners, we’re protecting important wildlife habitat and recreation features, as well as the extraordinary views of Howe Sound and the Squamish River estuary for residents and visitors.”

The land, valued at \$1.66 million and located on the west side of Highway 99 across from Stawamus Chief Provincial Park, is an important access point for rock climbers and provides good falcon nesting habitat.

The parcel was acquired from Malamute Holdings Ltd., a private development company, through a land exchange involving provincial Crown lands valued at \$1.25 million, a \$333,000 gift from Malamute Holdings Ltd. through Environment Canada’s Ecological Gifts Program, and \$81,000 from the B.C. government.

“Malamute Holdings Ltd. was pleased to work with the provincial government to complete this transaction and protect the conservation and recreation values of this site,” said Steve Miles and Paul Turner, principals of Malamute Holdings.

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Summer Access to Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadow) Hut, 2010 From ACC members Gordon Hopper and Elizabeth Tertli, September 2010

The West Columbia Forest Road has now been repaired and is driveable by car with reasonable ground clearance to the Swan Creek access road. This latter is also driveable for the 1 to 2 Km to where the Fairy Meadow access road turns off to the right. This road is driveable all the way to the parking lot 100m from the start of the trail but it is overgrown with brush up to 3m tall and some of the water runoff channels are quite deep. We managed in our 2001 Range Rover and any other good four wheel drive could make it and there was one set of tyre marks already there. One tree that had fallen across the road had been chain sawed and we did not have to use our chain saw that we had taken with us. We could not find any of the chicken wire that used to be in the parking area to protect the car brake hoses from porcupines to wrap around the car. The trail is badly overgrown with bush all the way to where one climbs into the forest. In the forest there are a lot of trees that have fallen across the trail. Someone has recently been on the trail with a machete and this helped a lot. We added lots of new markers to bushes to help in the navigation. I would recommend 5 to 7 hours from the end of the road to the hut; we arrived at 2230hrs but would not recommend anyone try this in the dark unless they have been there before. This is only for the fit masochist but the rewards are fantastic; the best ACC hut by far.

Ideally what it needs is a tractor with a front end bucket to scrape the access road clear of the bush and lots of volunteers to clear the brush and cut paths through the fallen trees. If we had not taken so long to get down yesterday and the weather had been drier I would have attacked the brush with my chain saw until I had run out of fuel!!

Mountain Trips website

ACC member Robson Gmoser and son of the late Hans Gmoser hosts a website that lists upcoming commercial and non-commercial mountain adventures. Everyone is welcome to post to the site. Find your perfect winter ski week, or find folks to fill spots on your existing week at <http://mountaintrips.ca>

Kootenay Mountaineering Club Fall and Winter Course Schedule 2010/2011

*Note that all programs are coordinated by volunteer leaders - **not** professional guides. They are open to all members of the KMC. Dates are approximate. Contact the Mountain School director, Sandra McGuinness at school@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca for more information.*

Everyone recreating in the backcountry in winter is encouraged to take an avalanche course offered by a professional member of the Canadian Avalanche Association. Visit <http://www.avalanche.ca/cac/training/overview> to find a course near you.

GPS for Dummies by a Dummy or Introduction to GPS

Date: 6 November 2010

Time: 9 am to 1:00 pm

Location: Selkirk College Silver King Campus

No charge

Learn the basics of GPS use in this hands on session. Topics covered include setting your GPS to match your map, collecting and storing waypoints, using GPS to navigate from one location to another. Subsidized by the KMC so no charge for KMC members. Contact Sandra McGuinness at school@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca for more information or to register.

Avalanche Transceiver Practice

Date TBA in Nelson area

Date TBA in Rossland area

No charge

Our annual session to reacquaint yourself with your transceiver. Practice single and multiple burials, learn the latest shoveling and probing techniques. Practice session is followed by a short tour in the nearby backcountry. Snowshoers, skiers and snowboarders welcome. Contact Sandra McGuinness at school@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca.

Backcountry Ski Touring Series

Various dates throughout the 2010/2011 ski season

No charge

Perfect for novice to intermediate back-country ski tourers, who may be a little nervous about signing up for a "real" KMC ski tour. These day long tours will travel to a variety of destinations in the Nelson, Rossland, and Kootenay Pass areas. Group size numbers will be limited. Look for upcoming tours on the KMC email list. Open to all KMC members, but you **must** have an AST Level 1 course.

NEW ACCESS RESTRICTIONS ON DARKWOODS PROPERTY , SOUTH OF NELSON. by Dave Grant

On October 18, 2010 members of the KMC executive and one interested club member met with Pat Field, the Nature Conservancy of Canada representative for the Kootenays.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) purchased the 45,000 hectare Pluto Darkwoods lands south of Nelson, B.C. in 2008. Since then they have been doing an inventory of the property and setting up management criteria for the landbase. Their new management plan now states that except for a small portion, the majority of their property will be zoned Non Commercial Access. This restriction is designed to protect grizzly bears, mountain caribou and bull trout populations, as well as recognizing that the NCC cannot afford to spend large amounts of money maintaining a large, and in some cases rapidly deteriorating road network.

Pat gave us a general run down of the access plan for the Darkwoods lands, which will be implemented in 2011. Find below the major changes.

- i) **MOTORIZED** access on all secondary roads and the Newington mainline is **PROHIBITED**, **NON MOTORIZED** access...walking, mountain biking and horseback riding is allowed under permit.
- ii) only 3 mainline routes accessing the community of Tye are open to motorized traffic and then only under permit. These routes are the Porcupine Mainline, Jersey Mainline, and Blazed Mainline.
- iii) five areas of the property are closed to all access. Hidden Crk, Nugget Crk, Upper Sheep crk, Upper Wildhorse crk and Seeman crk.

These closures and restrictions will result in a severe curtailment of available hiking within the property, as the new policy will require that club members hike an additional 20 - 60 km to gain access to numerous popular day hikes. Basically this makes them inaccessible for weekend trips.

Mountains affected by these new restrictions are Mt Baldy, Mt Wurtemberg, Reno Mtn, (closed areas), Topaz Towers, Hulme Peak, Kootenay, McGregor and Steeples Mtns (motorized vehicle ban).

The executive of the KMC, while supporting the general mandate of the NCC, has some concerns over the wholesale restrictions to the landbase. We have requested the following changes:

- i) That the Topaz Tower climbing area and access into Mt Hulme, be left open to motorized access, under permit, for the months of July and August.
- ii) That there be the opportunity for the KMC, under the direction of the summer trips coordinator, to request a special use permit allowing for motorized access to 1-2 mountains each year.

Pat Field has agreed to pass our requests up to the management of the NCC and to get back to us with the results at some time in 2011. Special thanks to Hamish and Sandra for making this meeting happen.

Trips Report

Mt Gladstone

July 10th, 2010

Being a temporary resident of Christina Lake during the summer months, I thought an exploration of the two infrequently visited highest mountains in adjoining Gladstone Provincial Park would be of interest to the club members.

For Mt Gladstone, we met at 8:30 am on the Paulson bridge detour road and the Columbia Western railway, now part of the Trans Canada trail system. A short drive on the rail grade brought us to the new sturdy bridge that spans the small creek to the clearing where the trailhead for Mt Gladstone begins.

The trail is initially a pack road that eventually leads into beautiful old growth cedar groves, after which the trail becomes a little sketchy and ends at a hunting camp. This is followed by a medium bushwhack to a prominent ridge. Mount Gladstone is on its Eastern end. We all made the summit in fine shape for lunch, despite the hungry mosquitoes that were out in full force.

The summit register showed that we were the second party on the mountain this year. We noticed some grey clouds thickening in the West, and some distant thunder, but we escaped the rain until the exact moment we arrived back at the cars, after a 6 hour return trip.

There must have been quite a windstorm in the area just west of us, because a one meter diameter tree fell across the road near the

Christina Lake marina, while we were out hiking.

Participants: Chuck Macklon, Jill Watson, Joan Harvey, Jennifer Cook, Dave Cunningham, Mike Brewster, Tony Fuch, John Beerbower, Terri Simpson, Lisa Quattrocchi, David St. Denis and Peter Oostlander (organizer and reporter)

Mt Faith

July 17th, 2010

One week later, Mt Faith (of the Hope, Faith and Charity group) was on the schedule. We had some trouble generating sufficient interest, so Doug helped me out by sending a reminder out to the club members. Elaine and Steven Miros led a trip to Mt Faith on October 7, 2009 and I was impressed by the remoteness, yet easy access to this mountain in the extreme North part of the Provincial Park.

Since there were only four of us, we piled into the little 4WD tracker with a just-in-case chainsaw (we did not need it) and drove to the Faith road landing at 5560 ft. Heading due West we gained the bottom of the ridge (NAD27 112 692) after 45 minutes of walking through forest and moderate bush. From there we walked along the standard ridge route to cow pie lake in beautiful weather. I had promised Doug that the area would be free of snow and no hands were required to ascend the mountain. We did have a little left over snow near the Col on the base of the mountain but pretty much walked

all the way to the summit from the South side.

We enjoyed the great views from the summit a mere 70ft higher than Mt Gladstone 15km to the South, the Granby river to the West and the Lower arrow lake to the East. The summit register at the top indicated no visitors since the last October KMC trip.

After about a half hour lunch stop, we worked our way down by the same route contouring a little below the ridge, being careful not to be suckered into the game trails leading into the valley below and reached the car after a five hour return trip.

Here are the road instructions again:

Km 0: Rail grade and Paulson detour road intersection
6.5: Left on Dog Creek FSR
16.6: Sharp left
21.0: Ignore right branch
22.1: Straight (not left) on signed Faith Rd
22.5: Ignore Faith 100 branch
23.7: Straight
24.0: Straight on Faith 310 – Ignore Faith 300 at right
25.2: Landing – end

Participants: Doug Brown, Karen Pharand, Dagmar Smatandvay (who drove to the meeting place from Kelowna!) and Peter Oostlander (organizer and reporter)

Gimli Meadow

August 7, 2010

6 KMC members went up Gimli, 4 to the Mulvey overlook and myself

and another hiker communed with the 5 resident goats by the tent site. I have great photos, a day enjoyed by all. George Penfold, Marilyn Armstrong, Janis Gilbert, Sherolyn Haakstad, Kate Woodhouse and co-ordinator Carole Page

Red Mountain Red Top

August 14, 2010

9 members and one guest enjoyed the easy walk thru the forest and the abundance of huckleberries at the top. The views afford a look at Mt. Roberts, the south end of the 7 summits mountains and the Ymir Bowl area.

The hikers were: Mark Giesil, Martine Oosting, Ken Kirkland, Ross Bates, Keith and Sherry Watson, Janis Gilbert, Esther Brown, cousin Doug and co-ordinator, Carole Page

Mt Brennan

August 15, 2010

A hearty group of nine hikers --met at 6 am at Safeway to conquer the mighty Mt. Brennan. The day was perfect, with clear skies and no weather changes on the horizon. The trail up was well marked. We did cross some snow fields, which never seem to melt, even after several years of hiking up this route. Some of us attending had not done this hike before, and were both exhausted and thrilled to have bagged the peak. Another party was already at the top when we

arrived, having hiked it in sandals, and fully planning to descend in the same footwear!! The trusty trip leader was charged with the duty of retrieving the full register, housed in a metal weather proof tube, and replacing same with a new, blank register. This was successfully accomplished and all parties signed the new one before it was safely placed in its container. There were only two small falls on the way down. No significant injuries. The mood and ambiance was excellent throughout the trip. The knowledge of the more seasoned hikers was an added bonus. We were at the summit by around 12 noon and back at the vehicles by about 5 pm. This gave time to



Lyle Lakes - courtesy Carole Page

check out the spectacular views from all sides at the summit.

Participants included David Feldman, Lisa Quattrocchi, Ken Kirkland, Mark van Giessel, Peter

Jordan, Curt Nixon, Leah Zoobkoff, Peter Martyn and trip leader P'nina Shames.

Common Adventure Mt. Assiniboine to Sunshine Village

August 22 to 27th, 2010

On August 22, 2010, six backpackers drove from Canmore along the dusty Spray Lakes Road to the heli-site for Mt. Assiniboine Lodge. The highlight of the helicopter flight was the sighting of a moose grazing in the meadow. Despite rain and overcast sky some of the lower peaks and ridges were visible from the Lodge. The backpackers were assigned one of the Naiset Huts – the “Forget-Me-Not” Cabin for the next 3 nights. The common cook hut nearby was new and well appointed.

The next four days were spent hiking in glorious sunshine. From the cabin the group explored Mt. Nub (9028') gaining views of Lakes Game, Elizabeth, Wedgewood, Cerulean, Sunburst, Magog, and Og, and Mountains, Ball, Temple, and Hector. A hike to Wonder Pass (7855'), and viewpoint gave views of the turquoise Marvel Lake and Mounts Aye, Eon, Gloria, and Aurora. Several of these mountains had massive ice blue glaciers. Hikers also saw a myriad of flowers, several birds, and many marmots. There was no sign of the sow grizzly and her cub reported to be in the area. Mt. Assiniboine, referred to as Canada's Matterhorn, (11 867') dominated the landscape.

On August 25th the backpacking began with a morning hike to Lake Og Campsite (6757'). Views from here included Mounts Og, Cave, Magog and of course, Assiniboine. August 26th the backpackers hiked 9

k through the aptly named Valley of the Rocks to Porcupine Campsite (6308'). Enroute they encountered park rangers doing trail work. At Porcupine the rangers re-erected a food cache that had been knocked over by grizzlies. A group from the Northshore Hikers, (North Van.) arrived at the Campsite in the late afternoon. Rain in the early evening cut short the socializing as all hikers retired to their tents.

August 27th was the most challenging day as the trail out to Sunshine Village included 1 ½ to 2 k of steep trail, (1400'). The sky was overcast with a mist like rain. The trail flattened out at Citadel Pass (7740'), but here backpackers were met with freezing temperatures, strong winds, and hail. The normally breathtaking views for the remaining 7 k were obscured by cloud and driving hail. The trail led to Howard

get such complete restoration.”

“I'll hike in from Sunshine to Citadel next season to catch missed scenery.”

Backpackers included Andi, Louise, Alan, Pat, Keith, and Sherry (Co-ordinator)

Mt Abercrombie

September 15th, 2010

The trip to Mt Abercrombie started with the 6 participants meeting at 9:00 a.m. in Trail. After crossing the U.S. border at Waneta, we took the Deep Lake road east before turning off at the Silver creek Forestry road, arriving at the parking lot by 10:30 a.m.. The road was in good condition with a few

“Spectacular views and the air is wonderful.”

Douglas Lake and then across a plateau to Sunshine Village Ski Resort (7200'). A 6 k bus ride down the mountain to the shuttle vehicle (5500') was appreciated.

Backpacker quotes recorded by your scribe include:

“Beautiful trail that is so accessible with premier backpacking. Assiniboine Lodge, Naisets Huts and the kitchen are outstanding. Great to have such accessible world class hiking in our backyard.”

“Spectacular views and the air is wonderful.”

“This adventure has inspired me to get out on trails more often. There is no where else I can go where I

easy waterbars, passable by a standard SUV and little to no brush. The parking lot is at the 5000 ft elevation, and the trail is in great condition, so we were on the ridge by 12:00 p.m. and to the summit at 7300 ft around 12:30 p.m. Great views of the Pend Oreille valley, Rossland Range could be seen from the summit and even the Valhallas were visible in the distance. We got to poke around the remnants of the old lookout tower and enjoyed the beautiful fall sunshine, before heading back down the trail and driving home.

We were Liz Huxter, Jill Watson, Jan Micklethwaite, Roy Hopland, Peter Oostlander, and Dave Grant, co-ordinator

Seven Summits Trail +/- 4000 ft vertical 29km

September 18, 2010

The sky was overcast with a hint of mist when we started the hike at 8:20 a.m., at the Nancy Green summit, and it did not get any drier on the way up to Mt Lepsoe. We visited the Sunspot cabin on the way by and noted that it needed a bit more firewood before the start of winter (since done) and I thought that maybe a short stay with a warm fire would be a suitable option for such a misty day. This did not come to pass, as the group was keen to get to the ridge.. After we passed Mt. Lepsoe and headed towards Old Glory, the weather got progressively better. The cloud lifted and we could see the spectacular fall colors. Huckleberry bushes and shrubs turning bright reds and yellows, and all the alpine meadows just vibrant in their fall colors.

Once the mists parted at the top, we had a great view of Old Glory, Elgood, Lepsoe, Plewman, Kirkup, Gray, Granite, Roberts and Record, though I often think the trail should be called the Seven Shoulders trail, as it never really summits any of the peaks mentioned above.

For the remainder of the day, the weather was cool and clear, so we had time for numerous stops, lots of photos and a fair bit of chitchat. The hike allowed us to enjoy a beautiful fall day and was uneventful other than dodging the occasional mountain biker along Record Ridge. Our hats off to the Rossland Trails society and those individuals maintaining the 7 Summits trail, as it was a pleasure to hike. We arrived at the Cascade summit at 4:20 p.m. and called it a day.

We were: Bob McQueen, Jill Watson, Peter Oostlander, Guy Lupien, Chris Lalonde, Terry Simpson, Dave Grant – Coordinator and almost Bert Ratcliffe (but that's another story :-)

Almost Mt. Kubin aka Mt. Hoover

**September 29, 2010
Wednesday**

We had 4 hikers show up at Marsden road at 8:00 a.m. for the advertised Mt. Kubin trip in the Grohman Creek valley. The trip was to be a loop trip from the back end of the Baldface tributary of Grohman creek up the ridge to Mt Hoover across to Mid peak then on to Mt Kubin and back down to the road. We shall now call this Plan A.

The Baldface road up to the 5400 ft level was in excellent condition and we were able to do the vehicle drop and start hiking by 9:20 a.m. The cut block at the end of the valley allowed for easy walking to the ridge, as there was no debris and a fire had removed most of the undergrowth. Upon arriving at the ridge, at 7000 ft, one of our members discovered that he had lost his camera on the way up. A quick reconstruction of the route led us to think that the camera was at least 1000 ft below us, so we elected to continue with the trip and come back for it when we picked our vehicle up at the end of the day.

I think that this now qualified for Plan B.

The ridge to Mt Hoover was a pleasant surprise, as the Baldface Catskiing crew had cut a wide trail along the ridge to provide access for their snowcats. This provided us with an easy walk to Mt Hoover at 7300 ft, where we arrived at 11:50 a.m. and had a quick snack, before heading to Mid peak.

The hike over to Mid peak was an easy rolling traverse, where we lost and then regained about 500 ft of elevation. We reached the top of Mid Peak at 1:00 p.m. and had a quick lunch before heading off to Mt Kubin. About half way down the col between Mid Peak and Kubin, it became apparent that a twisted knee suffered by one of the group on the way over from Hoover was more serious than originally thought, so we decided to descend down the valley. Sounds like Plan C...which unfortunately was the wrong plan.

The valley between Mid peak and Mt. Kubin leads you down through alpine sidehill and open avalanche slopes until you get down to about 5500 ft. At this point you are too far down for it to seem feasible to go back to the ridge, so you enter the slide alder zone. After about 2 ½ hours struggling through slide alder, devil's club, old avalanche debris and steep side slopes, you finally decide to head over to the west, where you discover a nice patch of blowdown. Luckily by this time you can see the road below you, so another 20 minutes of clambering and then you are back at the road, much more tired than expected and knowing that one of

you still has to go back up to look for his camera.

Post Script: The camera was found 3 days later after 2 trips up the mountain by M.C. and good friends. For those of you interested, I have a plan to do a similar trip next year. What could possibly go wrong.

We were Martin Carver, Dave Cunningham, Bert Ratcliffe and Dave Grant, coordinator

Granite Mountain

October 2, 2010

We met at the parking lot of Rossland Mining Museum at 9 am. A short drive to the upper end of condo development at Red Resort brought us to the base of Granite Mountain. To make things a little more interesting (?) we took a short cut under the Mother Lode chair to reach the Southside Road.

Now totally warmed up we were quite happy to continue on this "green run". We enjoyed a view of the north face of Mt. Roberts to the left and sunny slope of the Paradise to our right which was a kaleidoscope of fall colours. After snack break at the Paradise Lodge, we followed the Board Walk to the summit. Heli-pad was reached by a brief scramble on granite rocks, and there we enjoyed a leisurely lunch in the sun. We shared panoramic view at the top with two other men who came up the easy way – on their ATVs.

Everyone felt mellow after lunch and a decision was made to stick to “green run”. We descended on gentle grade of Reno’s Run, formerly known as the Long Squaw until political correctness overruled. (Someone pointed out that we still have Indian Flats.) Staying on north side proved to be a good idea as the day was quite warm. We ran into other people taking advantage of warm sunny day – gathering firewood for the cabin, hiking the 7 – Summits Trail, etc. The trip took us about 5 1/2 hours.

We were: Ted Ibrahim, Chuck Macklon, Jocelyn Martin, Al & Pat Sheppard and coordinator, Terry Simpson.

Rockslide Lake

October 6, 2010

It was a beautiful day for bushwhacking. From the end of Beasley Road seven intrepid hikers plunged into forest headed for Rockslide Lake. Following our leader, Mike Brewster, we trudged through dark wood, willow and reeds, down into troughs and up over hills. We discovered a

beautiful hidden lake.

Following a lunch break atop a sunny, surprisingly clear highpoint we pressed on through marsh and meadow to our goal. There from a cliff above Rockslide Lake, we saw the Jesse Ridge trail in the distance, beautiful autumn colours and good views. The return trip was mostly by the same route; at least I think it was. Although an actual trail (i.e. path) was crossed and briefly followed it was soon abandoned for a more “exploratory” route.

k, Miriam Williams, Bert Ratcliffe, Ray Moore and Paula Barnes. Leader was Mike Brewster.

Old Glory

October 11th, 2010

We met at the Hanna Creek trailhead at just after 8am. It was a cool morning with mist in the valley, but fine weather above. The



Old Glory October 11, 2010



Rock Slide Lake

Despite the bushwhacking, or perhaps because of it, we had a great time.

Hikers were:
Joan
Harvey,
Carol
Potasny

trail had some ice, from snow that had been packed by earlier hikers, on the upper part of the trail that was still in the shade from trees. When we reached the low point after Unnecessary Ridge, the group split in two, with four going the long route on the trail and three going the direct route to the top, but with some concern about ice and frost. While there was a little ice and frost, it was easy to avoid and those going the direct route were about 10 minutes faster than those staying on the trail.

There was fortunately little wind at the top so we all ate lunch outside.

It was not quite as sunny at the top as it had been earlier and was still not much above freezing. On the return trip, we all went down the trail and when we reached Unnecessary Ridge we agreed to go down the long way, staying on the ridge and the old road.

The total walking time was 5½ hours with a total distance of 16.2 km for those taking the direct route to the top (about 17 km for those using the trail both ways) and an accumulated gain of 1270 m.

We were Kathleen Nichol, D'arcy Nichol, Alex Nichol, Alan Sheppard, Pat Sheppard, Bert Ratcliffe and co-ordinator Ted Ibrahim.

Unnamed Peak

October 17, 2010

Crystal clear blue skies – a perfect fall day for a hike. With good weather forecast there was lots of interest in the trip. The destination I had in mind was an unnamed peak (1987m) and possibly another nearby (2045m). These can be seen on the skyline looking west from YCG airport, and promise great views if the weather is clear.

The peaks are west of Castlegar, east of Mt. Mackie, south of Hwy 3 and north of China creek.

The access is off Hwy 3 starting 8km west of Castlegar, up a logging road (College Creek FSR) to the 4.5km mark, turning right and proceeding a further 3km to park at a wide switchback. One can drive higher, but I planned to return via a circular route along the high ground to the west. This road is in excellent shape, but does require a high clearance vehicle since there are occasional (but mild) water bars/ditches the whole

way. No brush on the road to worry about.

After a short hike along the FSR to a pass, we located an ancient skid road on our left which makes a bee-line directly toward the ridge we needed to climb. This older road is overgrown with light brush which is not a problem as long as you stay on the road. Needless to say we (mea culpa) got suckered off the road a few times by apparent clearings which ended in thick brush, but these were minor detours

until we found our way back onto the road. Coming down was a breeze, since the path the road takes is more visible from above. The total up-distance is only 3-4 km, and can easily be done in 1.5 hrs for a compact party. Our large group was a little slower taking 2hrs.

At the end of the skid road, we arrived at the base of a short boulder field of (fairly stable) medium sized rocks. Fortunately these were frost/ice free for the

...Continued from page 4.

Legislation will be introduced by Environment Minister Barry Penner in 2011 to add these lands to the provincial park following First Nation consultations. The Stawamus Chief holds significant spiritual, historical and cultural values for the people of the Squamish Nation and is a rock climbing area of international significance.

“This is a local success story about working together to sustain healthy and dynamic outdoor spaces,” said Penner. “The Land Conservancy of British Columbia got the ball rolling on this land acquisition. Since then, with the persistent encouragement of MLA Joan McIntyre, the provincial government, and the private firm have worked together to find a way to protect this important site for future addition to the park.”

With the addition, Stawamus Chief Provincial Park will span 526 hectares.

“The District of Squamish is pleased we were able to help deliver a significant recreational amenity and natural gateway to our community into the public trust,” said Mayor Greg Gardner. “The addition of the Malamute lands to the provincial park will help foster a legacy of Squamish as a climbing destination and the outdoor recreation capital of Canada for generations to come.”

The B.C. government has invested more than \$107 million over the past five years to improve park infrastructure and acquire additional parkland. Today, 14.27 per cent – 13.5 million hectares – of British Columbia is protected, more than any other province in Canada.

Since 2001, the B.C. government has established 65 new parks, 144 conservancies, two ecological reserves and nine protected areas, and expanded more than 60 parks and six ecological reserves, protecting more than 1.9 million hectares of additional land.

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
Sept. 24, 2010
Ministry of Environment

most part, which is a concern at this time of year since the slope is north facing. Although 12 degrees in the sun, it was only 1 degree in the shade. A brief scramble up these rocks while bearing to the left took us to the top of the ridge, which we then followed for another 5 minutes to a sunny viewpoint (1987m). We sat for lunch with a panoramic view of the Norns, Valhalla, Goat, Kokanee, Bonnington, and Rossland ranges. One can also see a different perspective on the Bombi summit portion of Hwy3, the Brilliant Dam, the airport, etc.

The secondary destination was a peak (2045m) immediately east of Mt. Mackie. It was only another 2 km along the ridge in the opposite direction, but it did involve losing/regaining some elevation. Some of the group needed to get back early, so we compromised and followed the ridge to the highest point just before the elevation drop. Along the way we discovered an axe and a chainsaw recently left behind by someone (probably cat skiers) clearing a path along the ridge. From there we doubled back and had an easy descent down the boulder field and the skid road.

On returning to the FSR, eight of the party elected to return directly to the cars and call it a day. Ed & Hazel joined me for the longer more scenic route up the bump to the west, then down through an old clear-cut, ending in another road that joins back onto the switchback where we had parked. It was just too nice a day to go back early.

Participants were Caroline Shimek, Kathleen Nichol, Ken Kirkland, Pat & Al Sheppard, Ted Ibrahim, Marilyn Miller, Ed & Hazel Beynon, Ray Neumar, and coordinator Ross Bates.

**Pictures Taken during KMC
Covern Trip 2010. A picture is
worth a thousand words. (No trip
report)**



Frozen Lake in Devils' Range



Peter Oostlander - Devils Couch position



David Cunningham -Mt Diablo studying map

KOOTENAY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB – 2011
Membership is for the Calendar Year

To join/renew your membership with the Kootenay Mountaineering Club:

1. Print and complete the following application
2. Sign and date the waiver below, and
3. Send the completed form/liability waiver together with correct dues to:

KMC Membership
717 Hall Street,
Nelson, BC V1L 1Z5

Annual Dues (**insurance included**): Please check appropriate box below:

- Single (19 years & older) **\$41**
- Family (including children under 19) 2 people **\$52**; 3 people **\$58**; add **\$6** for each additional person
- Junior (age under 19) **\$31**

Note: Membership fee includes \$15 for membership in the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. as well as liability insurance premiums of \$6 per person. Members who have FMCBC memberships through other clubs can apply to the FMCBC for a refund of the \$15 paid through KMC.

Adults (19 years and older):

Children under 19:

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Address:

- Same as last year, or complete address below:

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Privacy Information Act

Traditionally the KMC occasionally published the names and addresses for its members in the newsletter. The B.C. Privacy Act requires that we ask your permission. **Please circle No** for each item below that you do not wish published:

Name(s): No **City:** No **Phone:** No **E-Mail:** No

Newsletters

Each paid KMC membership is entitled to receive a paper copy of the KMC Newsletter (“The Mountaineer”), and a copy of the newsletter of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (The “Cloudburst”). In order to save trees and costs, you may receive your newsletters electronically. Please indicate how you would like to receive your newsletters by circling your choices below:

KMC Newsletter: Electronically Paper copy Not at all

FMCBC Newsletter: Electronically Paper copy Not at all

KMC For Evaluation Only.

The KMC runs an email listserver for club related topics including

- Upcoming club activities: meetings, socials, trips, courses and changes to the trip schedule.
- Upcoming non-club trip notices.
- Access (road or trail) notifications.
- Local conservation, environmental, or outdoor recreation notices.
- Used outdoor equipment offered for sale.

The email list is for KMC members only. Commercial advertisements are prohibited. Your email address will not be distributed or shared, but it will appear on any messages you send to the list.

If you want to be subscribed to the list, please provide/confirm the email address(es) you want to be used for the email update system (It can be from your work, home or both).

Please print email address(es) **clearly**: _____

To send an email to all KMC members who have registered for the KMC Email List, simply send an email to:

members@kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca

If you have comments or requests, please use this space: _____

Please mail this completed application form together with payment to:

KMC Membership, 717 Hall Street, Nelson, BC V1L 1Z5

Thank you, and see you in the hills.

**The waiver on pages 3-4 must be signed by all persons listed on this application.
A parent must sign for all juniors under the age of 19.**

New Members,
how did you hear about us? Friend Website Publication/Newspaper Brochure Other: Please specify: _____

For internal use: Date received: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Deposit#: _____
Cheque # _____

DISCLOSURE OF RISK, AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY, RELEASE & WAIVER FORM

DISCLOSURE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Mountaineering is a potentially dangerous activity with hazards including, but not limited to, rock and ice fall, danger from avalanches, hidden or exposed rocks, stumps, tree wells, hidden or visible crevasses, ice bridges, bergschrunds, cornices and cornice falls, cliffs, variations in snow or ice conditions, exposed or concealed holes or depressions in the snow pack, still and moving water, sudden changes in weather, hypothermia or frost bite, encounters with wildlife, collisions with others, becoming lost in remote locations with no reliable method of communications and inability to get rescue or medical assistance quickly, airplane and helicopter travel, falls on steep terrain, failure of climbing or safety equipment, as well as all other hazards associated with hiking, wilderness travel, climbing, skiing, rock climbing and other pursuits of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club.

I assume these risks even though they may involve negligence, gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, its directors, officers, agents, members, organizers, coordinators, assistants, representatives, instructors and all persons acting directly or indirectly under its authority or in collaboration with the Kootenay Mountaineering Club(collectively the "KMC"), including the failure on the part of the KMC to take reasonable, or any, steps to safeguard or protect me from the risks, dangers and hazards of club activities.

DISCLOSURE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The organizer for a club activity is not a professional mountaineer, guide, instructor, or trained first aid attendant. The function of the organizer is only to organize the activity, ensure that it gets under way, know the access to the area, and have some knowledge of the planned activity.

It is expected that each person on a club trip has the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment to participate in a club trip. Each person is responsible for his or her own safety, having suitable first aid supplies and for confirming that his or her equipment is in good working order.

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY

IN CONSIDERATION of my being permitted to participate in the activities arranged by the Kootenay Mountaineering Club and for other good and valuable consideration the sufficiency of which I hereby acknowledge, I, for myself, my heirs, executors, and anyone else who may claim on my behalf or through me HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, LIABILITY AND DAMAGES I may now or in the future have against the KMC, arising from any personal injury, death, property damage or loss sustained by me arising from or in connection with my participation in the activities of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club however caused. I FURTHER HEREBY RELEASE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE the KMC from and against all demands, claims, actions, damages, costs, and expenses arising from or with respect to death, injury, damages or loss to my person or property of any kind whatsoever, no matter how caused, in connection with my participation in Kootenay Mountaineering Club activities though the same may have been contributed to or been caused by the NEGLIGENCE or GROSS NEGLIGENCE or WILLFUL MISCONDUCT of the KMC. I FURTHER AGREE to hold harmless and indemnify the KMC from any and all liability for any damage or injury to the property or persons of any third party resulting from my involvement in or presence during any of the activities of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club.

I ACKNOWLEDGE that the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, in obtaining this waiver from me is doing so for the KMC, including its directors, officers, agents, members, activity and trip organizers, coordinators, assistants, representatives, instructors and all persons acting directly or indirectly under its authority or in collaboration with the Kootenay Mountaineering Club.

In the event that I act in any capacity for the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, I appoint the Kootenay Mountaineering Club as my agent for the purpose of obtaining an indemnity and release of liability from other members of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club or persons participating in its activities.

This agreement and any rights, duties and obligations as between the parties to this Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted solely in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia and no other jurisdictions; and any litigation involving the parties of this Agreement shall be brought solely within the Province of British Columbia and shall be within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the Province of British Columbia.

All adult applicants must initial here



Initials: _____

In entering into this Agreement I am not relying on any oral or written agreement, and I am aware of the safety of any club activities or club cabins, other than what is stated in this Agreement.

I have read and understand the Agreement and I am aware that by signing this Agreement I am waiving certain legal rights, which I or my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, assigns and representatives may have against the KMC.

I CONFIRM THAT I AM THE FULL AGE OF NINETEEN YEARS AND THAT I HAVE READ THIS INDEMNITY AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ACCEPT ITS TERMS, AND IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand,

_____ Signature of PARTICIPANT	_____ Signature of WITNESS (anyone 19 or over)	_____ Date
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_____ Print name of PARTICIPANT	_____ Print name of WITNESS	
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_____ Signature of PARTICIPANT	_____ Signature of WITNESS (anyone 19 or over)	_____ Date
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_____ Print name of PARTICIPANT	_____ Print name of WITNESS	
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!!!! BE AWARE THAT SIGNING THIS FORM MEANS THAT YOU ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPT ALL THE HAZARDS OF CLUB ACTIVITIES AND THAT YOU ARE GIVING UP ALL RIGHT TO SUE THE KMC WHICH INCLUDES ANY OF ITS MEMBERS !!!!!

Note for Minors:

For any person under the age of 19 years this document must be signed by a parent or legal guardian on behalf of that person.

Name of the minor on whose behalf this document is signed: _____	Birthdate of minor (dd/mm/yyyy) _____
Signature of parent or legal guardian: _____	Signature of Witness: _____
Name of parent or legal guardian: _____	Name of Witness: _____
Relationship: _____	

Name of the minor on whose behalf this document is signed: _____	Birthdate of minor (dd/mm/yyyy): _____
Signature of parent or legal guardian: _____	Signature of Witness: _____
Name of parent or legal guardian: _____	Name of Witness: _____
Relationship: _____	