

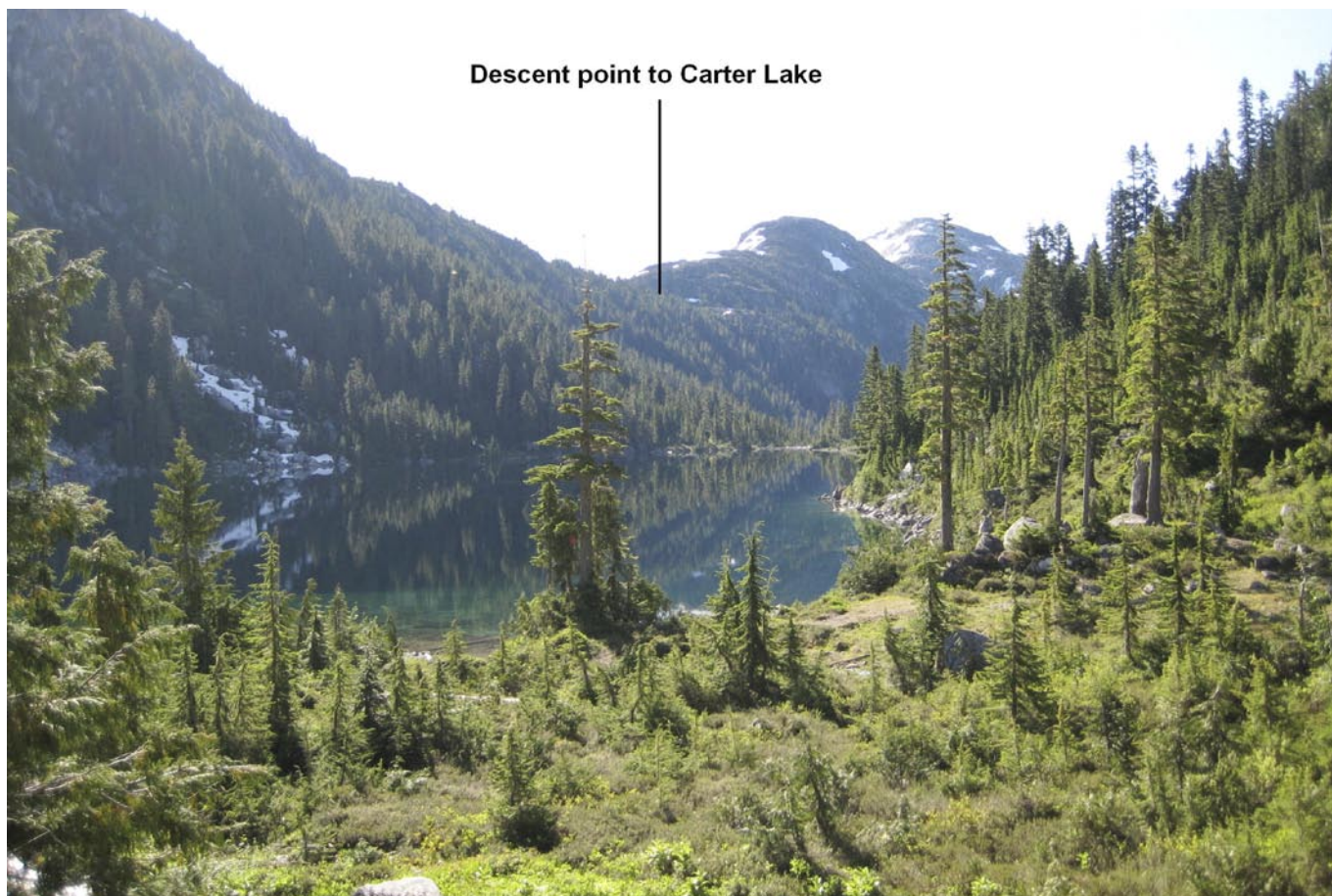


ISLAND BUSHWHACKER

Volume 35 issue3

September, 2007

VI Section News



Descent point to Carter Lake

Phillips Ridge from Carter Lake showing the drop-off point

Photo: Martin Smith

PHILLIPS RIDGE/MOUNT BURMAN TRAVERSE: DOING THE GOLDEN HINDE THE "EASY" WAY

Martin Smith

When preparing for a trip into the Hinde from Westmin one is faced with a number of choices when it comes to the key passage from Phillips Ridge to Mt Burman on the other side of the watershed. Considerable elevation loss and gain has to be reckoned with and, of course, reversed on the way out. The "traditional" route takes one almost to the junction of the Phillips/Greig ridge system to a point almost 500 metres

above Schjelderup Lake and down to the lake from there on a route involving possible rappels.

In the 2004 Bushwhacker Annual, Rick Hudson described a descent from Phillips Ridge down interconnecting snow slopes from a point at about 350-400 metres above the lake that avoided the last two bumps on the ridge and the associated 250-300 metres loss and gain. A chat with Rick was not only

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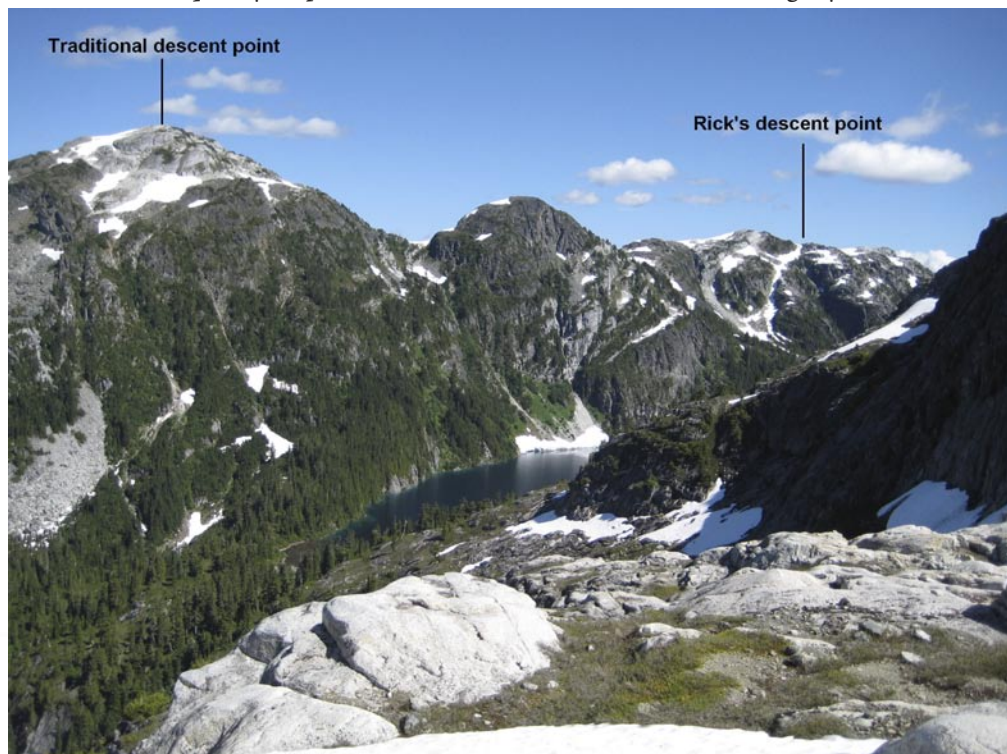
NOTE: Deadline for the next
Bushwhacker is: November 5, 2007

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useful in getting a live description of this option but much more so in revealing a third choice that drops off Phillips Ridge at its low point of 1,360 metres down a gully to just below Carter Lake – the unnamed lake to the immediate southeast of Schjelderup on the 1:50 000 topo. A quick email exchange with Lindsay Elms confirmed this option as well as the possibility of a bushwhack traverse directly to Carter Lake that avoided even more unnecessary elevation loss.

When Graham Bennett and I arrived at the low point (GR 520991) on Phillips Ridge on August 22 we were already pretty sold on this third option. Plenty of evidence of travel from the saddle quickly helped us make our final choice and down the gully we went.



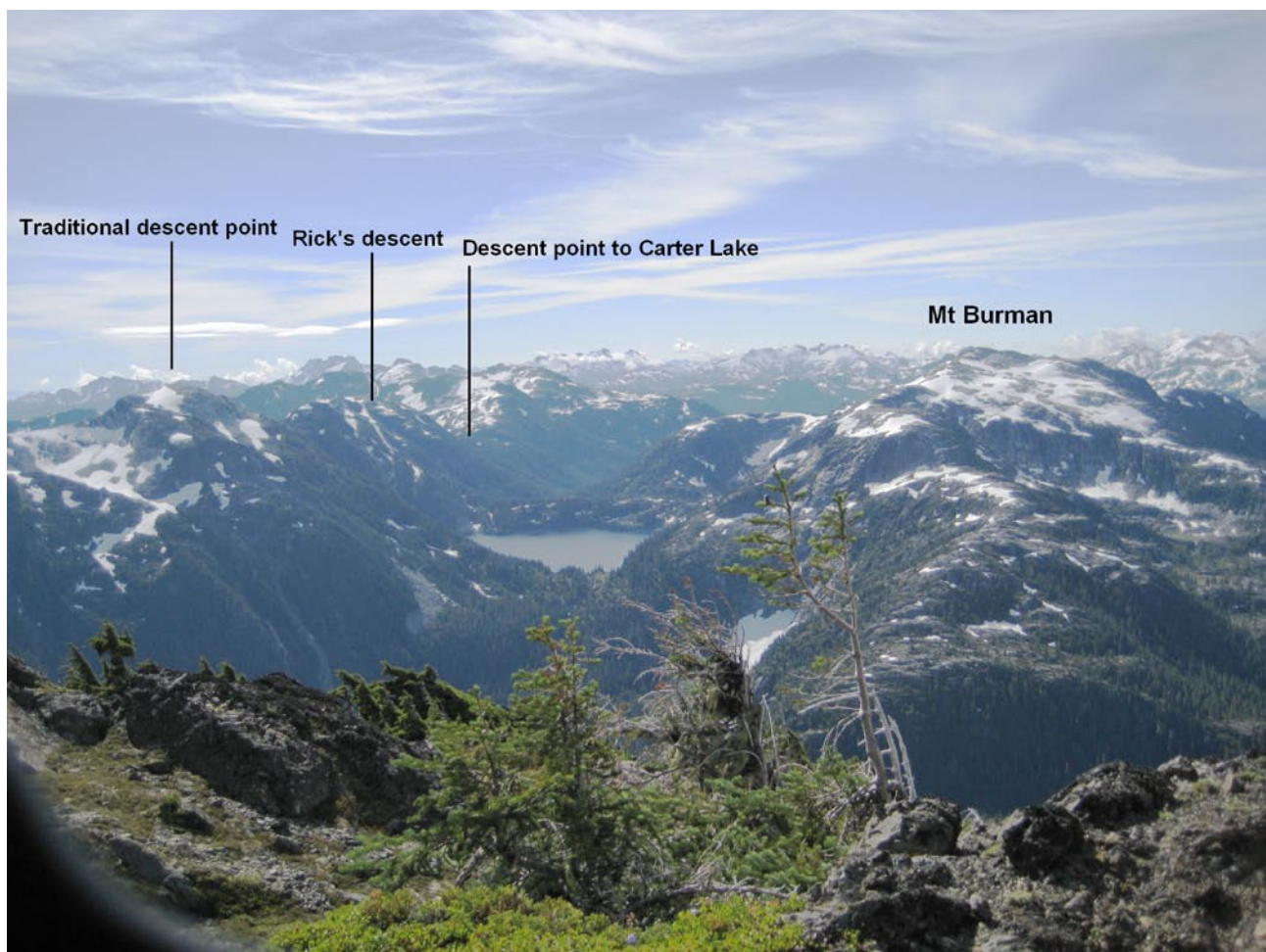
Phillips Ridge from a camp on Mt Burman's north ridge showing the traditional and Rick Hudson's optional drop off points.
Photo: Martin Smith

The route goes very steeply at first down classic Island near-vertical mud/roots. This eases off after perhaps 100 vertical metres and begins to traverse rightwards (NW) out of the initial gully and onto easier and well-flagged ground. We kept a sharp eye open for Lindsay's traverse but saw only bluffy terrain further to our right that didn't tempt us. We reached the unnamed river flowing out of Carter Lake in about 45 minutes from the saddle and crossed two branches to the west bank. This puts one about 50 vertical metres below Carter Lake but, again, on a well-flagged if occasionally steep route.

After a rest at the outflow of Carter we traversed the west side of the lake to its head. Travel was approximately 50% right along the shoreline with some boulder hopping and the balance a mix of one snowfield and some small bluffs to get around. We thought it was quite reasonable. We camped for the night at the head of the lake.

The next morning excellent trail – not flagging – real trail, took us west up to the (still frozen) little lake in the cirque between Mt Burman's east and north ridges and then north up to Schjelderup Lake itself. This took less than 30 minutes.

So far, so good. The sting in the tail, however, is the traverse of Schjelderup's west shore. Rick's article makes plain the evils of the east shore so there was no real choice in the matter. After 50 metres of trail, you're into big boulders (with full packs of course), snowfields that run out to deep water below, steep bush up and down bluffs and, at this time of the year, mosquito heaven. Beware the last 100 metres. With the lake outflow almost within grasp the highest bluff to be passed still lies ahead. As Graham correctly



Phillips Ridge from the SE face of the Hinde, showing all three options

Photo: Martin Smith

observed, someone needs to establish something a constant 40-50 metres above the lake. The hike around Schjelderup took well over an hour. At this point we had effectively arrived at the convergence of the three routes to the Burman side of the watershed.

After lunch in the lovely meadows at the outflow of the lake, we completed a short day by taking the excellent trail up to Mt Burman's north ridge to the point immediately below the bluffs that Rick had a bit of trouble with. We put in a lovely camp at this spot and the next day summited the Hinde via the standard SE gullies route in perfect weather.

On the way out Graham decided that we were going to make a start on a higher route around Schjelderup and headed into the bush about 100 metres from the lake outflow and 50 metres above it. Naturally he chose the day it poured down to do this. After half an hour of thrashing about in sopping wet slide alder, huckleberry and pack grabbing undergrowth – in other words, a typical Vancouver Island backcountry moment - we were forced, suitably chastened, down to the lake but at least south of the big bluff.

The balance of the trip was the reverse of the outward route and we were back at Westmin the next day.

Advantages of the Carter Lake option:

Compared to the traditional route; saves traversing four bumps on Phillips Ridge with an associated 500-600 metres of gain and then loss in elevation. And there's still the descent to Schjelderup from the ridge to reckon with.

Disadvantages:



Camp on Mt Burman's north ridge and the Golden Hinde

Photo: Martin Smith

Not as scenic as staying on the ridge. Buggy and bushy. The traverse around Schjelderup.

Just for fun and by counting contours, I estimate that a total elevation gain of 3,400 metres is required to summit the Hinde from Westmin via the Carter Lake option. This compares to closer to 4,000 metres via the traditional route, with Rick's option in between. **You decide.**

Lindsay Elms

If someone was to ask you about the summer this year what would be your response? I happened to overhear a couple of people discussing it at a coffee shop and here is what one of them said: "It's been a mild winter this year!" Anyway, whatever we think about the summer there has still been a number of great climbing trips despite the rain.

With a more than average snow-pack, even at the time of writing, this has ensured there is no shortage of water in the mountains. In some cases ponds and tarns higher up are just beginning to thaw. Early in the season (April 15) Craig (Quagger) Wagnell and Sasha Kubicek climbed Lucky Mountain in the Toquart area via its West Ridge. A week later the two were in the same area this time climbing Handsome Peak. Both of these peaks were probably climbed by the early surveyors but there has been no record of anyone climbing them until now.

Three months later after hearing about their trips to these mountains, Lindsay Elms and Val Wootton, went in and climbed Lucky Mountain via its North Ridge. Two days later they summited Mount Hall and Mount Toquart.

Quagger found that the weather wasn't fully cooperative on his days off, however, he made a couple of trips up Peak 5040, Mount Kitchener NW, Mount Augerpoint and Syd Watts Peak. Over the Canada Day weekend Lindsay and Val visited the Lake Cowichan area and climbed Mount Hooper and Buttle, and then a week later climbed Rambler's Needle, a sharp spike next to Rambler Junior, first climbed by Mike Walsh and Tom Volkers back in 1970.

Over the weekend of May 25/26 Mike and John Waters and Erik Holbek took an unusual route to the Comox Glacier. Beginning at Capes Lake they hiked around the lake then got onto the narrow ridge that heads in the direction of the glacier. At the notch they found some "steep, bushy, moss mayhem" after that there was some tricky route finding through jagged blocks and pinnacles. With lots of snow on the ridge and many of the gullies filled with snow John said travel was easier then it would be later in the season when it would be bare rock. After reaching the glacier they came down the normal route and picked up their mountain bikes, which they had stashed, and rode back to their vehicle.

Over the Easter weekend Sandy Briggs, Hinrich and Julie Schaefer, and Josh Slatkoff visited the Prince of Wales Range near Sayward and climbed Mount Roberts and the rarely climbed Needle Peak. Later Sandy and a friend revisited the Haihte Range with the intention of climbing Rugged Mountain (yes, again) but after 36 hours tent bound due to rain the trip was abandoned.

From August 3 to 10 Tak Ogasawara, Sonia Langer, Geoff Dunbrack, Betsy Williamson, Jeff Davidson, Mike Hordelski and Peter Rothermel hiked into the Golden Hinde. Two of the group went up Mount Burman (Tak and Geoff), four up The Behinde (Tak, Sonia, Geoff and Peter) and five up the Golden Hinde (Geoff, Sonia, Jeff, Mike and Tak.) Due to an injury an extra day was spent hiking in to the Hinde which meant the day for climbing

The Comb was lost. Peter said he will have to return again next year. I think a few people (including myself) have that peak on their agenda.

On August 7, Lindsay Elms soloed Peak 5540 in the Bonanza Range in near zero visibility and then from August 11 to 14 Lindsay and Val hiked in from the Carey Lakes to the Aureole Snowfield then out to Mount Washington meeting John Young, who was on a solo trip, on the summit of Mount George V.



Valerie Wootton looking into the semi frozen lake on the south side just below Peak 1931 (South of Mt. George V).
Photo: Lindsay Elms

Finally on August 23 and 24 Lindsay and Val hiked Flower Ridge up to the Central Craggs then around to Shepherds Ridge and out to the Ralph River campground via the two, again dare I say it – rarely climbed, 1900m+ peaks.

The CDMC has been busy with some trail clearing work undertaken on the routes up to Mount Kookjai, Mount Joan, and Century Sam Lake. Ken Rodonets, Evan Loveless, and Wayne Boyce met with Timberwest's Gary Lawson and walked part of the Comox Glacier Trail to talk and see what could be done to save the trail and the area slated to be logged. The proposed road would come up to the small alpine lake half way up on the trail. From this point the logs would be hauled in to that area and trucked out. Timberwest still needs to find where the legal boundary is between their land and Strathcona Park. They then need to see if they can put in a road or not as the steepness of the rock face in the area is the determining factor. Also a bridge would be needed to cross the Comox Creek and this would be another of the factors to determine if it is a money making cutblock or not. Fortunately, no work can be done until the current strike is over which gives us unlimited access to the Comox Glacier at the moment.

The Heathens had their annual camp at Crest Creek Craggs from June 30 to July 16 and from all reports was successful. Darren Wilman, Alanna Theoret and a friend from Port McNeill flew into Moyeha Bay and traversed Lone Wolf Mountain, Mitla Spire, Scimitar, The Scissors, Hygro Peak and Splendour Mountain. Alanna also did a solo ascent of the Golden Hinde. During the camp ascents were made of Wolf Mountain, Matchlee Mountain, Victoria Peak and three ascents of Kings Peak. Unfortunately,

someone took a fall in the gully on Kings Peak, their self arrest failed to work and they fell into a moat sustaining an injury that required evacuation by Comox's 442 Squadron.

As for The Heathens leader Chris Barner, he is currently at ninety-nine ascents of Kings Peak and next spring wants to celebrate his century. At the crags there were half a dozen new routes climbed, as usual lots of trail work and some redevelopment of the bluffs called Skid Row.

A week after the camp Chris Barner and Paul Rydeen flew into the Coast Mountains from Bluff Lake and set up a camp. They were eyeing up a 1,500 foot wall on an unnamed peak they called The Talon in the Silent Tower Group. Six days were spent working on the wall when Chris took a fall and broke his foot. Their trip had to be abandoned for this year but before they left they sat through one of the most amazing electrical they have ever seen.

Paul Rydeen and several friends took advantage of good snow conditions to make ascents of Mount Myra and Mount Kitchener during the winter and in June along with Darren Wilman and Mike Rankin, he climbed Mount Eden from the Kunnam Creek. After returning from the Coast Mountains Paul and Mike Rankin went into the Nomash Slabs and put a new finish to the Wapiti Mainline. Currently there has been a lot of work done in the Nomash valley with powerlines being erected and the road being opened up to the head of the valley. Unfortunately the road up to the Nomash Slabs is becoming overgrown and could do with some brush work.

On June 23 the fourth annual running of the Kusam Klimb Endurance Event took place in Sayward. For the second year Lindsay Elms finished 4th in a time of 2:43:59 taking 11 minutes of his last years time. Sandy Stewart was 8th in 2:53:15, Ken Rodonets took 13 minutes off his last years time finishing in 3:47:44 and finally, after much coaxing over a few beers, Sandy Briggs finished his 1st Kusam Klimb in just over 4:30.

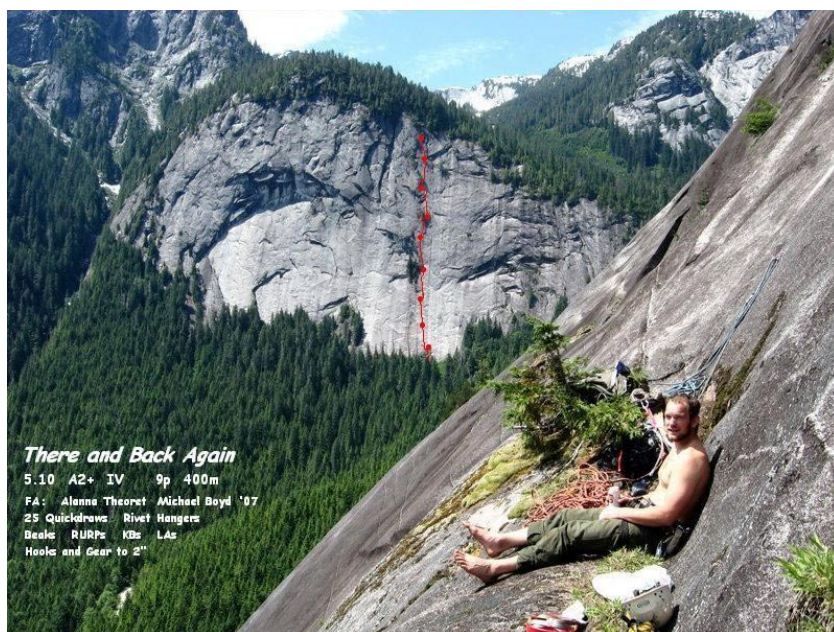
"So, are you going to come back next year Sandy?"

Eldred Valley, Powell River

John Waters, Grant McCartney, Alanna Theoret and Mike Boyd have been busy in the Eldred Valley near Powell River. Alanna and Mike climbed There and Back Again a 9 pitch, 400m, 5.10 A2 route while Grant and John put up a 400m route using what John said was unorthodox methods, basically a Comox Lake sport route setting on a bigger scale. They hiked to the top with 450m of rope, 100 bolts and cams and a hammer drill with lots of batteries. The route took two 12 hour days to bolt and clean which was much, much faster and safer than the ground up traditional

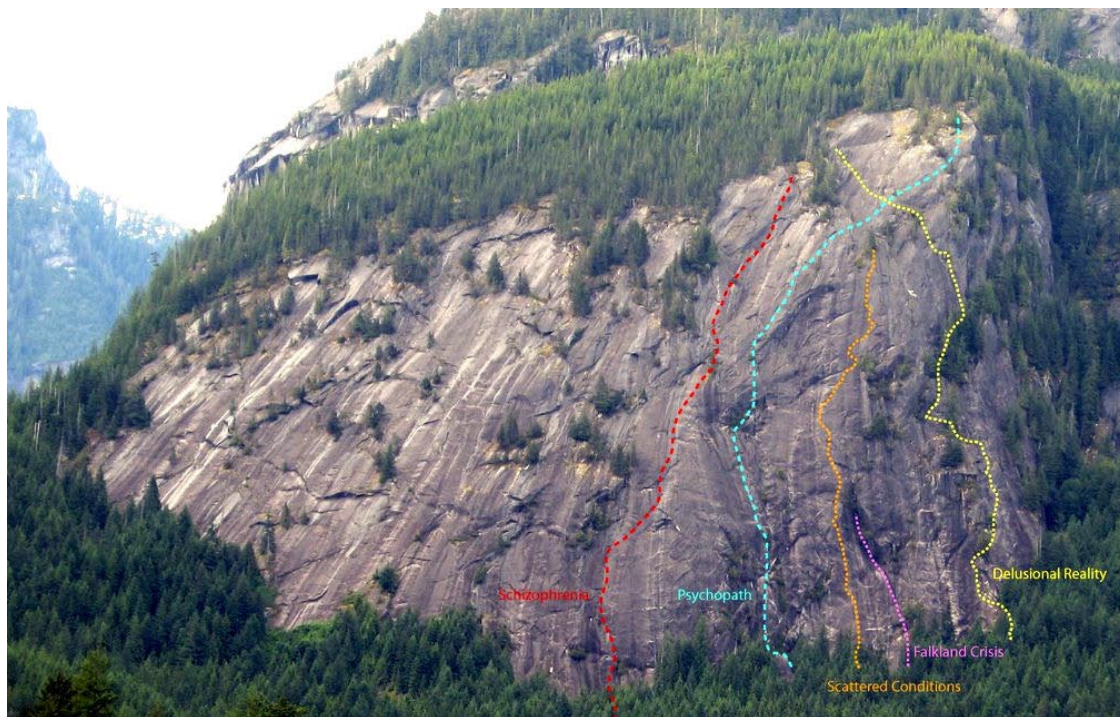
method.

Scattered Conditions, 400m, 5.10+ (2pa) or 5.11. 8 pitches, FA John Waters and Grant McCartney June 2007. The route is on open slabs between Psychopath and the huge left facing corner of Falkland Crisis (old project) on Psyche Slab. The route is mostly bolted slabs and grooves with some corner cracks. The first 2 pitches climb 5.9 slab to a small belay ledge. The 3rd pitch is the most sustained and climbs shallow grooves and slab. Pitch 4 has a crux section along a very thin seam to a perfect couch size belay ledge. The next pitch climbs moderate ground with 2pa to get over 1 blank section that would probably go at 5.11. Pitches 6 and 7 climb moderate slab and some flakes and corners to a very small belay ledge. The final pitch starts up a easy finger crack then finishes on difficult and exposed slab to a beautiful treed ledge. All belays have rap rings to descend with two 60m ropes.



Grant McCartney sitting

Photo: John Waters



Psyche Slab

Photo: John Waters



*You can take the mountaineer out of the dancer,
but not the dancer out of the mountaineer! Sonia Langer*



Christine Fordham on Greyback Peak, Haihte Range

Photo: Denise Hook

Coast Mountain Men

Mountaineering Stories from the West Coast

by Gil Parker

ISBN 978-0-9736906-2-0

Paperback 140 pages
27 photos, plus index

Vancouver Island and the adjacent Coast Mountains are a mountain playground and a wilderness environment that only recently has reached the wider appreciation by outdoor enthusiasts. Its deep forests and remote alpine regions provide challenges for climbers and opportunities for conservation.

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Ian Brown skiing toward Mount Garibaldi, 1990
cr. M. Brown

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ADVANCE NOTICE OF ACC VI SECTION AGM

Van. Island membership. I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer of mountaineering and just enjoying our mountain scenery. Thanks to those people who lead trips despite the rather wet summer that we have had. Our AGM will be held in the evening of January 08 at Mt. Washington so start thinking of skiing or snowshoeing on Paradise Meadows. Please consider helping out with leading some fall/winter trips or taking on a position with the executive, we always appreciate new people joining us. Hope to see you all at our annual October photo contest. Cheers, Jules. Thomson, Chair

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Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6:30 pm
UVic University Club (Faculty Club)

Submit your best from the past year for the photo contest.

Contest rules are simple: contestants may submit up to four entries in total, maximum two in any one of the following categories.

- ◆ VI = Vancouver Island Mountains: scenery, with or without people.
- ◆ MA = Mountain Activity: people in mountain settings.
- ◆ MS = Mountain Scenery: no people in the picture.
- ◆ NA = Nature: flowers, animals or natural scenery. no people or man made objects.
- ◆ HU= Humour: use your imagination.
- ◆ MP= Mountain Portraits: close-up of person(s) in mountain setting

SLIDES:

Bring your slides early for inserting into the projector trays. Mark your slides or photos clearly with your name and the category entered.

DIGITALS:

Send your digital pictures to Rick Hudson (email, rickhudson@shaw.ca) by 9pm Wed Oct 24th for burning onto a CD. When images are e-mailed, each photo's file name should have the format: category, photographer's name, caption (optional).

For example, Joe Bloggs's entries in Mountain Activity would be labelled: MA1-Joe Bloggs-Sandy on the final pitch of the Eiger, MA2-Joe Bloggs - Sandy emerging from traction at the summit.

Avoid using commas, @, * or periods in the name.

Submissions should have been taken within the past year. Winning entries will be featured in our 2006 Bushwhacker Annual

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18
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AT THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE AUDITORIUM

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