

GIL PARKER

THE ISLAND

BUSHWHACKER

Newsletter March 1976 Vol.4:1

Vancouver Island Section



July.

APPROACHING RUGGED MOUNTAIN FROM
THE NOMASH VALLEY

EXECUTIVE

Chairman	Gil Parker ✓	386-9132	Victoria Representative
Past Chairman	John Gibson —	743-2867	
Secretary	Doug Wylie ✓	383-3253	
Membership/Treas.	Dave Tansley ✓	382-8574	
	Syd Watts ✓	746-5768	Duncan Representative
Programme	Paul Erickson —	598-3086	
	Roger Neave —	754-6707	Nanaimo, North Rep.
Editor	Cynthia Tansley	382-8574	

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL DINNER

\$5.50

Date: 26th March, 1976 Friday.
Time: 6;30 Social Hour, 7;30 Supper.
Place: The Quamichan Inn, 1478 Maple Bay Rd., Duncan. (see last page)
R.S.V.P.: to any member of the Executive by 22nd March.
We have to make a reservation so please -
let us know in good time.

We are very fortunate to have Fips Broda as our guest. Fips will be

showing his slides of a new route which they put up on Huascaran and their attempt on Alpamayo in the Peruvian Andes.

Fips was invited because, as anyone who has met him will agree, he is a fascinating person and a most entertaining speaker. His talks on his various trips not only give great climbing commentaries but also insight into the local customs and personalities encountered.

The Quamichan Inn was selected once again for the dinner, as anyone who was at the dinner last year will agree, because the atmosphere and food laid on for a large number of people cannot be surpassed!

Mt. Everest is Coming!

On April 9th, 1976 we shall be hosting another film and slide show at the Newcombe Auditorium. The speaker will be Doug Scott, who, with Dougal Haston and Chris Bonington completed the first ascent of the difficult southwest face of Everest late in 1975.

Doug Scott, a teacher by profession, is an excellent lecturer and photographer. He is one of an elite group of British climbers who have been moving more and more into the forefront of Himalayan climbing in recent years. Doug has a broad experience in the world's high places, with expeditions to the Tibesti Mountains of the Sahara, the Hindu Kush in Afghanistan, the Pamirs in Russia, the Indian Himalayas as well as the Alps, Baffin Island and Yosemite.

This fall saw Doug's third and most successful expedition to Everest. The southwest face has been attempted many times since 1970. In 1972, Doug made two attempts on the 8000 foot face with the European international and then the British Expeditions. Finally on the third attempt came success.

Included in the lecture will be a discussion of recent successes and failures on Everest's West Ridge, South Col Route and the last Japanese attempt on the southwest face.

Date: April 9th. Place: Newcombe Auditorium, Victoria. Time: 8.00 p.m.
Cost of Admission: Adults - \$2.50, Students and O.A.P. \$2.00.

GENERAL MEETING

The first general meeting for this year will be held at the Maurice's Prospect Lake Cabin on April 27th., Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. Although it will be too cold for a swim, we should have an interesting evening discussing and looking at equipment. Paul Erickson will be showing some cross-country and ski-mountaineering equipment. Gil Parker hopes to include some general mountaineering and camping equipment.

Directions: From the West Saanich Road take the Prospect Lake turnoff. Turn left on Goward just before the Lake and then right on East Lake Road after a 1/4 mile.

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

- March 7th Arrowsmith Area Gil Parker 386-9132
This could be either a ski-mountaineering trip or an ice climb, depending on the conditions, and the inclinations of the party.
- March 20th- Whistler Cabin Dave Tansley 382-8574
21st. Downhill skiing and ski-touring, possibly to singing pass.
- April 3rd- Albert Edward or Walter Latter 746-3084
4th. Paul Erickson 598-3086
Cancelled?!?
There is some doubt about the proposed access, but if impractical, another trip of equal standard will be substituted. More suitable for experienced ski mountaineers.
- April 16th- Cream Lake Area Gil Parker 386-9132
EASTER 19th. Most suitable for experienced ski mountaineers.
- May 1st- Castle Towers Dave Tansley 382-8574
2nd. Most suitable for experienced ski mountaineers.
We will stay overnight at the V.O.C. hut which is three miles across Garibaldi Lake at the foot of the Sphinx Glacier.
- May 22nd- Mt. Myra Walter Latter 746-7284
24th. This is a strenuous trip and it is recommended 746-7495
LONG WEEK- that touring skis and skins be used unless you have
END considerable experience with cross country equipment.
McGilroy
We will meet at the Ralph River Camp-site at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday and drive to the mine. We will back-pack to Tennant Lake and camp. From there a circuit on the ridges above the lake can be done in one day, then a trip up towards the summit for some great skiing on the snowfields and in the bowls the following day.

See Next BUSHWHACKER for the summer climbing schedule.

Mt. Waddington Climbing Expedition

The tentative date - August 21st - 28th has been set for this trip which will be a week of general mountaineering from the Claw Peak Hut. Although we have no intention of attempting Waddington itself, we are hoping to carry out some reconnaissance, both of the mountain and ourselves to see if we have the stomachs for such an undertaking at some future date. Nevertheless there is scope for mountaineering at all levels of reasonable competence in the area.

Dave Tansley, Coordinator.

Trip Reports

Mt. Baker Ski Area (Nov. 15 -16)

For those who haven't been there, this area is a bit of a misnomer being much closer to Mt. Shuksan than Mt. Baker. On this particular occasion,

however, we didn't get even a glimpse of either. We caught the first ferry Saturday morning from Swartz Bay and were at the ski area by 11.00 a.m. The ski development is at 4,200 feet and the road in is well graded and paved. The location and altitude combine to give the area a prodigious snowfall and a long ski season. This year appears to be no exception with the area beginning operation on November 1st. There are several possible trips to make from the parking lot. Saturday we climbed to Austin Pass but did not venture further because of the weather (high winds and snow). We camped down in the valley on Saturday night and returned again Sunday morning. This time we headed for Herman's Saddle but stopped short of it because of continued high winds and more snow! Despite the weather, the snow conditions were quite good and the weekend provided an opportunity to test out equipment, balance and legs. The area has a wide variety of terrain suitable for either ski-mountaineering or cross-country skiing. Participants were: Paul Turje, Marg MacNeil, Rob MacDonald, John Simpson, Rick Eppler, Mike Siska, Gil Parker, Dave Tansley, Diane and Paul Erickson (leader and reporter). Map Reference; U.S. Geol. Survey - Mt. Shuksan Quad. Scale 1:62500

Mt. Copely (December 14)

We followed the Pass 50 road (first road to the right past the Rosseau chalet) to the edge of the ski development. The markers designating the trail up the ridge which we followed have been obscured by work in progress on the ski runs. As the route up this ridge is being prepared for downhill runs, you can follow the cleared areas up to meadows, where there is excellent cross-country skiing and easy access to the top of Mt. Copely. Two weeks earlier, I had had a beautiful ski trip up Copely and we were hopeful that conditions would be as good this time. Unfortunately, the rain and mild weather of the previous week had been followed by winds, leaving us with considerably less snow as well as bare, windswept patches.

After battling high winds for about two and half hours, we reached the first meadows, retreated into the trees for a quick lunch and headed down again. While the skiing wasn't very satisfying this trip, we did have a chance to meet some new club members and Duke had his first winter workout this year! Diane Erickson (leader and reporter), Paul Erickson, Dave Tansley and Duke, Bob and Margot McMechan and Mary Harper.

Mt. Service (Jan. 11)

After waiting patiently all week for snow that didn't come it appeared that the ski-touring trip was off and a hike was in the making. This was not to be the case come Saturday and we were blessed with a snowfall.

Meeting at 8.00 a.m. we drove to Youbou and donned our skis for the beautiful trip along Cottonwood Creek. The snow floated gracefully down, some clung, to the many branches while the rest carpeted the valley floor.

My thoughts digressed somewhat thinking about how the snow did a splendid job covering the many scars that man had created.

As we gained elevation up the valley one could not help but notice the stillness in the air, only to be broken by the call of a raven. If ever there is the need to escape from the humdrum that society has created then take it from me that a trip on skis is the answer. Stopping for lunch and a brief lunch was enjoyed by all. Dave and Richard turned back as Duke, (pet dog) was experiencing difficulty in the deep snow. Moving on we took turns at leading as owing to the unpacked snow, one sank in deeply. As the snowfall

let up, the clouds dissipated somewhat for a brief view of the ridge leading up to the summit of Mt. Landalt. As time was getting on, we removed the skins and wax for the enjoyable run down to the cars only to find that Paul's keys were locked inside. This presented no major problem though. Out came the coat hanger and thirty minutes later, access was gained. Those attending: Paul and Diane Erickson, Dave Tansley and Duke, Richard Eppler, Rob Macdonald, Sally Spencer, Marg McNeil, guest, Walt Latter (leader and reporter).

Mt. Arrowsmith (February 8)

As there was not enough snow for our proposed ski-touring trip to the Mountain Lake Area on this weekend, three of us decided to look at some new routes on Mt. Arrowsmith. In spite of unfavourable conditions we did research a direct route to the base of the final peak.
Participants: Rick Eppler, Paul Erickson and Dave Tansley (reporter).

Dues

Again this year we will not be mailing out dues notices. Section Affiliates and Life Members are asked therefore to send their dues direct to the Treasurer.

Section Affiliates	\$4.00
Life Members	\$3.00

The new system whereby Main Club members send in their dues to the head office in Banff is proving most successful from our point of view since we have put several new members on our mailing list as a result and of course collected the additional rebate.

Dave Tansley- Treasurer.

New Members

The Section Welcomes the following new members:

→ Eric Bonham, 2064 Carrick St., Victoria.
Michael Landry, Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, Pacific College Dr.,
Paul Turje, 3434 Wilkinson Rd., Victoria. (R.R.#1, Victoria.
Bob and Margot McMechan, 307 King George Terrace, Victoria.
Ian Wright, #105-636 Granderson Rd., Victoria.
Charles Rowley, 2928 Herd Rd., R.R.# 4, Duncan.
Gavin Mackay, 1287 Rockland Ave., Victoria.

The Section welcomes the following members who have joined through the Main Club:

Joe Bajan, 621 Prideaux St., Nanaimo.
C.B. Charlewood, 180 Croft St., #311, Victoria.
Murray Foubister, c/- Forest Industry Division, 550 Michigan St., Victoria.
Michael Stewart, 11342 Chalet Rd., R.R.#1, Sidney, B.C.
Michael Walsh, P.O. Box, 490, Nanaimo B.C.
John Mika, 1560 Mileva Lane, Victoria, B.C.
Tom and Sheila Tulley, Denman Island.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

(The last Board Meeting took place in Edmonton, January 31st.- February 1st.)

Once again the two day meeting was hardly long enough to cover the long agenda. The full Board of seven members attended as did most western section chairpersons and several committee heads. This group represented widely varying opinions on club policies, but it was always evident that a strong willingness to cooperate and resolve problems existed. Among the many items discussed were the following:

A. Summer Mountaineering camps approved were:

Leadership training week at the Clubhouse, July 10 - 17 \$175.00/Week.
General mountaineering camp - the Freshfields Glacier, July 17 - August 7.
Alpine climbing camp - North Canoe Glacier, Premier Range, July 31 - Aug. 14.
Wheeler Hut Camp - Rogers Pass, August 7 - 14.
Mt. Assiniboine Camp, August 14 - 28.

The discussions about the size of our camps were continued. A balance between the desire of our members for well organised and outfitted camps, and the anticipated objections of other mountain groups and regulatory bodies. Impact on an area by the physical size of our camps is very real, while we are there, but good housekeeping reduces the lasting effects. On the other hand, introducing people to the mountains and the promotion of mountaineering is one of our general objectives, and our General Mountaineering Camps have done much to train people in mountaineering.

The possibility of organising western mountaineering camps was reviewed. This planning requires some specific suggestions for location and more importantly, it requires people willing to do the work. A first step might be a Club ski - mountaineering week in McGillivray Pass.

B. Huts

As usual, the ramifications of current hut negotiations are mind-boggling. Parks Canada has offered lease extensions on the following:

Elizabeth Parker Hut, Ottawa
Stanley Mitchell Hut, Fryatt Creek
Wheeler Hut, Rogers Pass
Pocahontas Hut, East of Jasper

The Board had agreed to continue negotiations for long term leases on conditions of operation very similar to our current arrangement. Members should sign the petition in favour of long-term lease extensions and obtain as many signatures as possible. All executive members have copies of the petition.

Cream Lake Hut

The Board was advised to defer contribution to the Cream Lake Hut project until 1977 at least. During December and January just past, our Section had received moral support from three Island Clubs, monetary contributions from one more, and a rejection from a fifth. The one objecting contended that a hut would attract recreationalists and that their mess would be similar to the effect of mining operations in destroying the wilderness attributes of the area. Without reference to the A.C.C. this club advised

the Parks Branch and the F.M.C.B.C.

Coincident with these negotiations, the B.C. Director of Parks advised us that they were currently conducting a review of the Policy Statements for Strathcona Park and were formulating a policy on mountain huts. The Cream Lake Hut has been deferred until this review is completed, probably in May, '76, and our Executive felt that this was too late to allow fund raising and construction in 1976. While the Parks Branch will invite public input to their studies, it is most unfortunate that their officials led our Club so far down the garden path and then underwent what appears to be a complete change of heart. It is hoped that the project is only delayed, and that Cream Lake is not lost to mining, or to a zoning which prevents use of the area by a wide range of mountain travellers.

C. Ski Camps

Plans are advancing for 1977 camps with eight locations under consideration. An Austrian tour is planned, an expeditionary venture to the Freshfields Glacier or Clemenceau area and of course, the camp at McGillivray Pass near Lillooet. Assiniboine, Eremite, Kokanee, Robson and the Blue Lake Centre near Hinton are all sites being considered.

Many other items came up; expeditions, certification of mountain guides, publication of guide books, as well as a great deal of discussion on financial matters. It is obvious that our Board is putting forth a tremendous amount of effort on our behalf, and that Evelyn Moorhouse and her staff in Banff are working many extra hours to stay on top of the wide range of Club business.

Gil Parker, Chairman.

STRATHCONA PARK (MINES?)

As most of you may be aware, there has been a continuing effort to open up Strathcona Park to more mining. At present Western Mines is the only company actively mining a claim in the park.

It appears that there is continuing pressure on the government by owners of other mining claims to allow these claims to be activated. The policy of the former N.D.P. government was to buy back these claims as funds became available under a system of priorities. Whether or not this was a proper course of action is debatable.

Of course there has been a change of government and this policy is now under review. This is where we as an alpine club should be most concerned. The whole question may be resolved on the basis of recreational value versus mineral value. This may be a straightforward and valid approach to the majority of people who have no direct interest in the area but unfortunately the determination of these "values" is impossible to quantify.

Let's look at a specific area which will be the focal point of this issue, Cream Lake. Cream Lake Mines claim that there is \$190 million worth of ore on their claim. However the geology of the area prohibits very precise estimates of the extractable ore. In order to determine whether or not a mine will be economic, more intensive surveys must be carried out which will bring with it some damage to the area.

On the other hand how does one arrive at a dollar value of the recreational

potential of this area. Vancouver Island is of limited size. The alpine areas are even smaller in scope. Much of the Island has been logged. In the years ahead, the existence of untouched Alpine areas on the Island will be extremely valuable. Cream Lake in particular is in the centre of an area roughly thirty miles square which contains the most beautiful alpine country on the Island. It is also in the centre of many hiking trails and ridge routes connecting the mountains from Albert Edward to the Golden Hinde. Most important to this issue is that it is parkland.

If one is trying to evaluate multi-use potential of this area, the fact that it is already in a Park should put the onus on the non-conforming user, (i.e. the mines) to prove significant PUBLIC benefits from their intended use. The public benefits and the dollar value of the ore in the ground are not necessarily the same. So resolving dollar values on both sides of this issue may be very difficult.

One more point. Cream Lake Mines feel that fair recompense for this ore would be 10% of \$190 million, their expected profit. Based on share value or exploration costs to date this represents a true return of several thousand per cent, - hardly justified. The whole legal question of these claims remains to be answered. They were granted by Orders in Council, surely they can be removed by Orders in Council. Perhaps a fair settlement would be payment for exploration to date. It may be up to the courts to make the decision.

There will be more news on this issue. The Sierra Club is preparing a campaign to preserve this area for recreation only. We have offered to lend our support to them. If anyone would like to know more about this issue, or offer any assistance or ideas, please contact the executive.

Doug Wylie.

Notice to X-country Skiers

The Alpine Shoppe is located in the Forbidden Plateau Lodge just a quarter mile below the ski hills and features a complete line of rental equipment for all ages. There is a certified instructor available for lessons. Guided tours are also available.

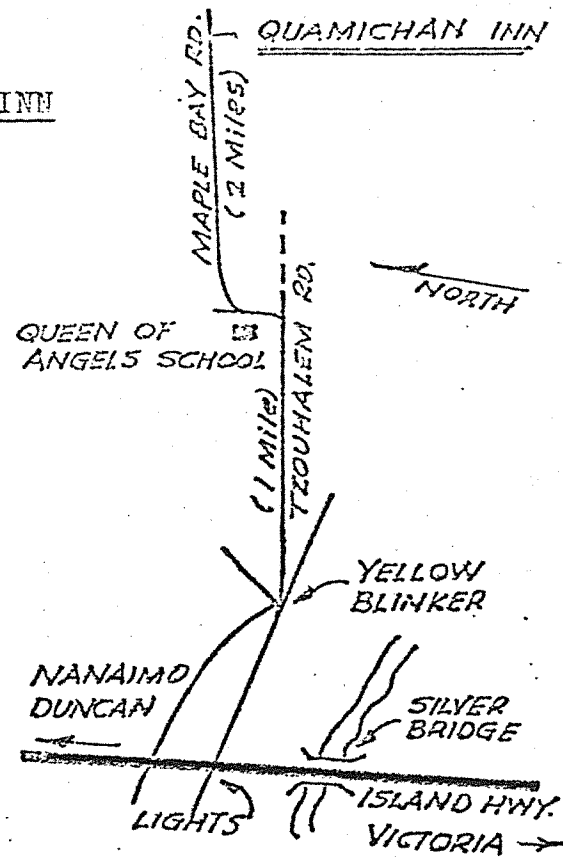
Immediately beside the lodge is a gentle groomed slope, serviced by rope-tow. This hill is an excellent teaching hill for learning x-country technique. Several miles of trails lead from the lodge and contour around the surrounding hillsides.

For Sale

Ladies gabardine climbing knickers, Size 12, as new. \$10.00
Contact Mrs. Joyce Brake, After 5.00 p.m. 598-3952.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS FOR QUAMICHAN INN

How to we get there? (see map opposite) Coming from Victoria, cross the Silver Bridge and turn right at the first set of traffic lights in Duncan. Bear left at the next intersection (yellow blinker), and follow Tzouhalem Road to Queen of Angels School on left. Turn sharp left here, onto Maple Bay Road, then sharp right (still Maple Bay Road) and keep going until you see Quamichan Inn standing back from the road on the right. (About 2 miles from Queen of Angels)



Many thanks to John Gibson for the sketch of Rugged Mountain which appears on our front-page. - Cynthia Tansley.