



# ISLAND BUSHWHACKER

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA

Vancouver Island Section

OCTOBER '79

Spring-Summer Trips Issue

Vol. 7:5

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## 'STUFFSACK'

This is the first time we have assembled trip reports into what amounts to a 'magazine' about the Vancouver Island Section. I want all the contributors to know that it is their input that makes the volunteer task of layout and production feel worth the effort. If anyone reading this issue wonders "What's so special about a bunch of local trips on moderate terrain?" all I can offer is a quote from a source I presently forget:

*If you have a hero, then look again, for you have diminished yourself in some way.*

Maybe that was Sheldon Kopp..the point is that we all have an individual measure of what represents a challenge to us, and no matter how mild our recreational adventures may seem compared to what is featured in the mountaineering media, meeting these challenges on our own terms teaches us more about who we are than anyone can tell us. Believe it or not, you don't have to suffer the loss of frostbitten limbs, get carried away by avalanches, experience retinal hemorrhages and cerebral edema, spend thousands of hard-earned dollars, and risk becoming crippled for life, to have enjoyable and meaningful days in the mountains.

This Section of the Alpine Club of Canada believes in a different sort of mountain experience. We are happy to re-visit trails and peaks that we shared with other companions on other visits—the most 'unpretentious' of mountains is never quite the same on two separate trips because you and I are never exactly who we were the last time around. We're happy to camp in comfort, to say the hell with it if conditions aren't what we hoped they'd be and turn back if someone feels over-extended. It doesn't matter to us if we don't make the summit this time, because the important thing is that there will be another time. If this sounds like an approach to mountains that feels right to you, you'll find some good times with this club.

The simplest form of membership is Section membership; all you do is send the annual dues (presently \$6) to our Treasurer and you're on. Write the main club office, Box 1026, Banff, Alberta T0L 0C0, if you'd like full information on the national club facilities, activities & camps.

Jim Weston  
Editor

Copyright: Elk River trail below Mt. Colonel Foster—by J.Weston

# MUSINGS...

## AFTER JUNE BOARD MEETING

I often ask myself why people want to be members of the Alpine Club of Canada. Why did I, for that matter? Was it the appeal of organized camps in the Rockies and elsewhere; or the Section activities that made it so easy to use the experience of others to find new trails and new mountain summits; or was it something to do with belonging to a club that has had so many members who have been truly inspirational in their approach to the mountains? Perhaps for me it was all of these, and more.

Certainly, I had the impression that the Club was very conservative, inaccessible, inward-looking, and above all, exclusive. Looking through the results of a club questionnaire taken about ten years ago, I see that I was not the only one who had these feelings, most of them justified.

Then, the ACC was still running 100-person camps in well-travelled valleys in the Rocky Mountain parks. The diversity in small summer camps and ski camps had not started. The membership of our own Vancouver Island Section was exactly 13 paid members when I was Secretary-Treasurer in 1971. There was very little new blood to say the least.

It seems quite a long time since then, but it is really only eight years, and some changes have taken place. Under the original organization by Bruce Harding, the ski camps were really publicized so that they now comprise ten separate and exciting adventures. The General Mountain Camp has been steadily reduced in size, and replaced, in 1979, by nine different camps of smaller size, more in keeping with impact considerations so important in our parks today. In our recent review of ACC expeditionary climbing, I note that grant support only started in 1973 yet by 1979 grants were approved for nine separate groups, and two major expeditions are set for future years. There has been progress in many other areas, particularly hut and clubhouse management, a very labour intensive sector of

member effort.

Major changes in organization have occurred. The Board meetings have been moved about the country, enabling more member participation. Now for the first time in many years, the Annual General Meeting will be held separate from the General Mountain Camp and the Clubhouse. In October, Edmonton will host a rather more public meeting than is our custom, and hopefully other Sections will follow suit.

Our own Vancouver Island Section has grown to 140 persons, not all of them active, but a strong central core. But this brings me to the point of this report. I would like to make some rather simplistic statements about the future directions of the Club and the Section and invite your reaction—no background history needed—just your "gut feelings" about where we should be headed.

### SOME RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Larger summer camps should be phased out in favour of more smaller climbing camps. Luxury should be eliminated except in a few, and the fees should reflect same.
2. Reduced investment in Clubhouse at Canmore—with 2 or 3 adjacent cabins and the main building we have an adequate establishment.
3. Greater decentralization of activities and investment. (Support of Non-Rocky Mountain camps, including main Club and Section camps).
4. A real expansionary attitude by our Club—active conversation with groups of like mind (ie. Comox & District Mountain Club, Kootenay Mountain Club, Island Mountain Ramblers, etc).
5. Publicity of the activities of ACC emphasizing the changes taking place.
6. A more public profile of ACC conservation activities.

That's just a few for a start. Finally, the most important need that I perceive in the ACC is a sense of commitment by our younger members. It is very easy to criticize the way things are run, to pass off certain Club stances as what "it" or "they" are doing wrong. Might I suggest you step in & correct these problems with

positive action? It is not up to "the Club" or "them", it is up to you.

In closing, let me congratulate Roger Neave on his election to Honourary Membership. Many pages could be written about his contribution to the ACC and to mountaineering. Very few persons have combined his excellence in technical mountaineering skill with his administrative ability and attitude of service to the Club, and it is an appointment long overdue.

Gil Parker  
Western Vice-President

## Chairman's Note

Looking over the list of trip reports in this issue, we certainly appear to have enjoyed our summer program to date. I hope that our General Meetings this winter will include an entertaining evening or two of slides and film programs from your summer trips this year (and past), and to give an opportunity for members to talk about climbing and upcoming trip ideas for the spring and summer of 1980.

Presenting the first "collected trips" issue of the Bushwhacker, Jim Weston is providing us with a format that will enable everyone who stays on the mailing list to build up, in time, a valuable volume of references about Island region mountaineering.

Members! Please keep yourselves on the mailing list by advising DAVE TANSLEY, 3919 Winton St, Victoria, B.C. V8P 3L4 of your changes of address. We have no other way of knowing where you are!

As the summer program draws to a close, perhaps some of you would enjoy a ski-mountaineering touring or snowshoe experience this winter. We encourage everyone interested in a true wilderness experience on skis or snowshoes to enquire through the trip leaders or executive who will endeavour to assist you or direct you to an informed member of the club. By participating you'll experience the advantages of sharing in climbing camaraderie, safety awareness, and the various skills associated with exploring mountain terrain in winter. Let's make 1980 our best year ever—good skiing!

Mike Sampson

# TSITIKA: Under a watchful eye

by TIM LEADEM

At a recent meeting of non-governmental groups who were interested in the Tsitika watershed, it was decided to seek broader public representation on the Tsitika Follow-up Committee (TFC). After the decision to log the Tsitika had been made in October, 1978, the TFC was set up in order to ensure that the Tsitika region would be properly managed with respect to forestry, wildlife, fisheries, ecological reserves, and recreational objectives. Public participation on that committee was limited to one person. Now a coalition of environmentally concerned groups, including the Alpine Club of Canada, is

seeking to increase public representation on the TFC to 3 people.

At the same time there will be a Public Advisory Group consisting of anyone who is interested in the Tsitika (non-restrictive membership) who will ultimately select the 3 representatives and 3 alternates. The purposes of public representation on the TFC are to ensure that the public is kept informed of the logging practices in the area, that the implementation of the Tsitika Follow-up Committee is monitored by the public, and that the public will have some say on critical issues yet to be decided in the Tsitika area.

It is hoped that increased public participation and interaction at the implementation level of this logging proposal will set a precedent in B.C. by which other environmentally sen-

sitive areas in the province would be managed. For further information, please call or write TIM LEADEM, 3238 Wicklow St, Victoria. (383-6790).

## Special discussion series offered

Are you a bit confused about what's really happening in environmental issues these days? Wondering who's got an accurate perspective on these concerns? Good, there's hope for you yet! As a member of the most destructive species that ever walked the planet, you might like to drop in on some special sessions being held this fall on "Environmental Issues" organized by Camosun College in cooperation with the Victoria Sierra Club. These offices are making it possible for you to hear some of the best-informed or most-involved people concerned with today's wilderness problems. For about the price of a movie, you can be in on any one of these discussions:

Oct. 15: Wilderness Issues on Vancouver Island with Bob Nixon, regional conservation representative of the Sierra Club, plus spokesmen from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division and the Forest Service.

Oct. 22: Tropical Rain Forests with T.M. Apsey, Deputy Minister of Forests. Learn about the global significance of these endangered forests and their resources, effects on climate, etc.

Oct. 29: The Gulf Islands-Problems and Future Strategies with Lorna Barr, Research Officer, BC Islands Trust.

Nov. 5: The Conservor Society Mr. Wally Raeppe, Information Officer, B.C. Ministry of Mines, with long experience in conservation, discusses the implications of an ending era of unlimited resources.

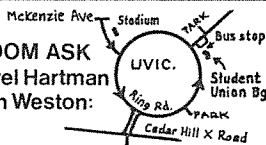
Nov. 12: To be announced: contact Camosun College.

Nov. 19: Recycling Rick Goodacre of BC Recycling Council discusses the current and future status of recycling in our area.

Nov. 26: Farmland Preservation in B.C. Gary Runka of the BC Land Commission, on the misuse of valuable crop lands and food requirement forecasts.

## General Meeting Thur. Oct. 18 7:30

at Uvic. FOR ROOM ASK  
AT S.U.B. or call Karel Hartman  
477-6911 (day) or Jim Weston:  
387-1696 (")

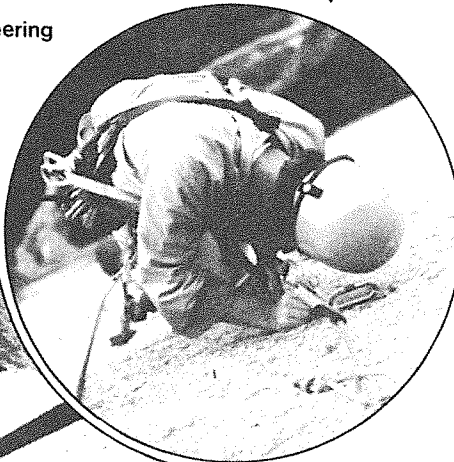


with...

**MOUNT ROBSON**  
...a spring skiing  
adventure

A ski-mountaineering  
film by Mike  
Sampson, from  
the 1977 ACC  
ski camp

and the first screening of...

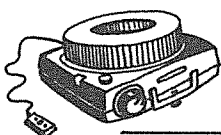


### CLIMBING THE GRANITE OCEAN

A special slide  
presentation by  
**JIM WESTON**

Join us on a two-day ascent of the Grand Wall of Squamish Chief—a different kind of wilderness journey, rarely photographed in such detail.

Followed by an **OPEN  
PROJECTOR  
SESSION**  
Bring some slides!



Show us where you've been in the mountains! Assemble 5 or 10 minutes worth of slides to show at the meeting. Try to let Karel Hartman know if you can: 479-7680 (home).

Prospective members or guests also welcome at meeting

Dec. 3: World Water Problems with noted Uvic authority Dr. Derek Sewell. 60 countries have expanding deserts--how can technology deal with global water shortages?

ALL SESSIONS RUN 7:30-9:30 pm and are held at Mt Douglas Secondary School. Admission is about \$3-4. You can register ahead: contact the College at 1950 Lansdowne Rd, ask about Course N868.01.

Carole Leadem

## General Meeting Report

At the General Meeting of Sept. 20, over 30 members enjoyed John Pratt's presentation on climbing Mt McKinley. John brought along some of the actual equipment used including the special Korean snow boot complete with altitude valve. Thanks, John, for a most interesting show. Later on everyone had a good laugh with Jim Weston's wry commentary and sound track-accompanied program about the Y-ACC Basic Climbing Course highlights, and enjoyed Mike Sampson's film of an ascent of Baker in better weather on an earlier trip. At the next meeting we'll leave a bit more time for newer members to talk with everyone there!

Karel Hartman  
Program Committee

## TRAIL BUILDING FIELD GUIDE

AMC Field Guide to Trail Building and Maintenance, by Robert Proudman. Appalachian Mountain Club, Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire:1977 ISBN 0-910146-13-6 \$4.95 paper.

"The job of recreational engineering is not one of building trails into lovely country, but of building receptivity into the yet unloving human mind."

Aldo Leopold

Most of us, in our backcountry travels, take trails for granted. In less than a minute, we might hike along a section of prepared trail whose planning, clearing and stabilizing involved hours or days of work. It may have been a government youth crew, or a group of outdoor club volunteers. Hopefully their calculations about water run-off, soil stability, weather exposure, and the many other factors affecting the integrity of that trail were made accurately. But these consider-

ations are not the only ones that make a trail durable and attractive. How would you locate a trail so it affords a good view of a small alpine lake yet prevents its fragile shoreline from being literally trampled to death? Do you know why you find signs on trails asking you to avoid cutting switchbacks? Do you know how to build a cairn of rocks that will withstand wind and drifting snow? Have you ever built a waterbar? This well illustrated and pack-sized book shows you why and how.

If you haven't yet taken part in a trail-building project, you are missing a fun and personally satisfying mountaineering activity. Working on an ecologically well-planned trail gives you an opportunity to relate to the mountains in a whole different way; an opportunity to feel more a part of wilderness rather than always a visitor. But as well as offering well-written advice for trail builders, this volume makes entertaining reading for the hiker and climber who will have a much better understanding of trails and their qualities by simply roaming through Proudman's guide. It may not be locally on sale; you can order it direct from the AMC at Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire, USA. J.W.

Some chapter headings:

Designing Trails - Environmental Considerations - Trail Layout - Trail Clearing - Trail Marking - Trail Reconstruction - Erosion Control - Wet Areas - Tools: Use, Care & Suppliers - Trail Design on Private Land - Index.

## Mt. MacDonald

I want to share with the section members a new route climbed on the south shoulder of the main crack on McDonald. Those of you who have climbed the north shoulder will enjoy and want to climb this route. Allow at least 3 to 3 1/2 hours for the climb. A two member party is ideal, but three can be managed. Belay points are at a premium, so party size should be kept to a minimum. Take ample gear, some nuts, chocks, and lots of pitons. To start, take the established south shoulder route until the first clump of shrub growing out of the crack. Transfer over at that point and take the gardened

route. Be aware of and stay away from the high voltage hydro line which comes close to the rock at the mountaintop. Good luck and pleasant climbing.

Members: Paddy Miller, Dennis Burke, Mike Siska (leader and reporter).

June 22, 1979

## ACC Hut Policy

The Huts Committee of the Alpine Club of Canada has recently decided that, due to increasing overcrowding problems at ACC huts there will be some policy revisions that will be implemented at the beginning of the 1979/80 winter season. These revisions will affect all ACC hut users.

The reservation system will be extended to all ACC huts. Advance bookings will be required for all huts, and bookings will be confirmed on receipt of a deposit in the amount of one night's hut fees for the whole group making the booking. Bookings should be made with the Banff office. If a cancellation is received at least 7 days before the date of the booking, the deposit will be refunded. If a cancellation is made within 7 days of the date of the booking, the deposit will be retained.

Block bookings can be made, subject to the conditions above. Any one group can make a booking for up to 75% capacity for any Club hut, except the Sir Sandford Hut (Great Cairn Hut) which can be booked up to 100% capacity. The 75% capacities are as follows

Elizabeth Parker	18
Stanley Mitchell	24
Wates-Gibson	30
Wheeler	22

ACC huts are normally locked, unless a custodian is in attendance. When there is a custodian, non-members can stay at the hut on a first-come first-served basis without necessarily being a guest of a Club member. When there is no custodian, Club members can obtain keys from the Banff office (9 am to 5 pm), the Canmore Clubhouse (9 am to 11:30 pm), Walt Davis (Calgary), John Wheeler (Edmonton), Hugh Neave (Kamloops), and Leon Blumer (Kelowna). Starting in the 1979/80 winter season, a \$5.00 deposit will be required from anyone taking a key for any of the Club huts.

Kitty Jones  
Assistant Manager

# ACC-Y COURSE

May 8 - June 17, 1979

This spring the Vancouver Island Section again coordinated a Basic Mountaineering Course with the assistance of the Victoria YW-YMCA. Gary Kirkham volunteered to be the Course Coordinator, and Jim Weston prepared an entirely new, 22-page "Selected Course Notes" with all the personal bias and subjective opinion you could possibly hope for in that sort of publication. All kidding aside, it's a relatively balanced discussion about basic gear purchases, mountain navigation and safety, and a fairly comprehensive summary of current rock and snowclimbing technique. Although it was written for the course, as a 'support' item for actual practices, other members may find it useful. Copies are available at cost, from the Island Bushwhacker 'office': 101-710 Vancouver St, Victoria B.C. V8V 4P9. \$2.50 for the photocopy, please.

Assisting Gary and Jim as instructors were Tim Leadem, John Simpson, Rick Eppler, Greg Foweraker, and Ed Seedhouse. After rock sessions at Fleming Beach and Mt MacDonald, etc, Arrow-smith was the site of a one-day snowclimbing session in perfect weather. The summit was climbed by two routes: Rick Eppler led a rock route on the familiar northeast ridge, and Tim and Gary led the "Wishbone" gully route on steep snow. In June Tim led the course on a visit

to Mt Baker via Kulshan Cabin, and in spite of non-stop rain & almost zero visibility on the Coleman Glacier, a successful crevasse rescue demonstration & practice session was mounted at about the 7300' level. Actually the gloomy conditions gave the participants a memorable image of how featureless glaciated terrain can become, except for crevasses...

Course participants included Peter Dawson, Albert Hestler, Derek Hitchman, Jack Matvenko, Brian Money, Mike Ounsted, Doug White, and Bruce Watts. Although it was a compact group, there was plenty of energy and both students & leaders had a good time on the outings. J.W.

J. Weston photos



Tim Leadem on Coleman Glacier; the Kulshan Cabin; Mike Ounsted probes crevasse edge; Rick Eppler ready to lead "Mac Crack", Mt MacDonald

## Winter Schedule

Providing members with a poster of summer trips appears to have been a useful reminder, and we're putting together the winter one now. If you got a winter trip interest form at the meeting send it in, please, now! If space permits a form will be put into this Bushwhacker.

We'll list some Vancouver Section trips in the next issue. Remember all section members are welcome on trips organized by other sections, just phone the leader!

To print a lot of details about upcoming trips costs money, and that's why we list only very simple data. Call the leader and talk it over!

# The mountains need you, too

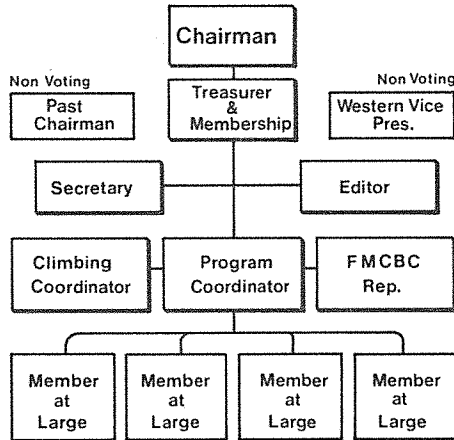
This fall we'll again be electing or re-electing members to serve on the section executive. If you think this is a call for volunteers, you're right! Before you stick your head in the nearest rucksack, let's take a look at what the Section Executive is doing and how it relates to what the national Club office is involved with at Banff.

You're probably already familiar with many of the overall objectives of the ACC. Promoting mountain recreation and safety in wilderness areas, informing people about mountaineering opportunities in Canada, providing camps and training, publishing an on-going record of climbing & ski-mountaineering ventures, and working closely with the parks agencies to protect and manage the mountain wilderness; these are just some of the concerns of the club. Does that sound like a lot of desk-climbing to you? Well, sure there is, because in a society that makes decisions about wilderness and recreation through various levels of bureaucracy, we've got to "fight fire with fire" if our perspective is to be heard. And within the mountaineering community—still growing steadily across the country—the printed word remains our most economical and practical line of communication.

So where does the executive of a club section fit in? Well it's really pretty clear: the whole Alpine Club of Canada organization is the sum of its parts, nothing more, nothing less. You are a part of a club section, and the section provides a focal point for the energy and interests of mountaineers living in this particular region. Members of the section with personal experience in our local terrain serve the objectives of the national club by promoting interest, safety, and responsible attitudes toward our mountain country. Some of this effort goes into meeting programs, some of it goes into our modest publications, and some goes into our participation as a member club in the Federation of Mountaineering Clubs of B.C., our collective voice to government.

And by leading trips, and by having members join trips, our collective knowledge about this region's mountaineering potential assists in the national effort to protect and enjoy the country's mountain areas.

## SECTION EXECUTIVE CHART



What can you do on the section executive, then? Most of us begin our involvement with the executive as "Member-at-Large". It

doesn't mean the authorities are looking for you; it means you're willing to take an evening once a month to participate in the executive meeting (usually quite a stimulating round of discussion about many mountaineering topics affecting both the main club and the section), that you are available to help in special projects, such as arranging for our public lectures by internationally known climbers, or to help dig out some background information on some topic of concern, etc. It means you're willing to donate 4 or 5 hours a month to help the section: is that a lot to ask? You may be surprised to find it's actually fun!

Whatever you'd like the club to be for you, the possibilities are there if you make yourself an active part of the section. It's really that simple. Talk over your interests with Mike Sampson, our current chairman, or anyone else on the executive!

J.W.

## McGILLIVRAY PASS SKI CAMP

February 17-24, 1979

by NORMAN PURSSELL

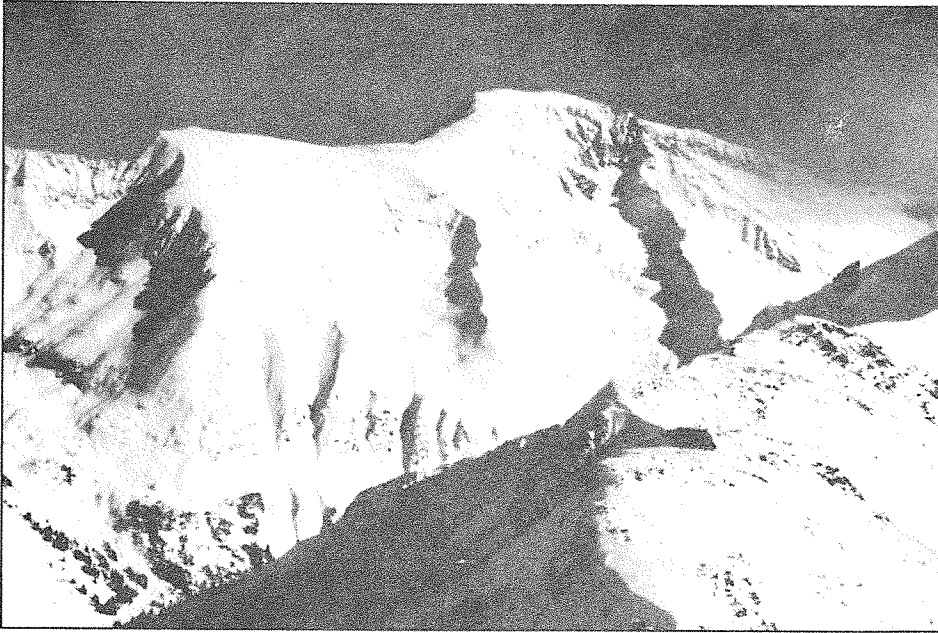
*(Ed. note: Four Vancouver Island Section members were on this ski camp, reported in Avalanche Echoes the Vancouver Section's newsletter. We're pleased to add some of Dave Tansley's excellent photos here. This trip demonstrates the great potential for main club camps in west coast locations).*

This ACC Ski Camp was attended by only four local Vancouver Section members but it is in the climbing area of the section and probably this account will be of interest to many other readers. In addition, there seems to be a fairly general consensus among the experienced that McGillivray is one of the best ski areas for powder snow skiing, even surpassing Kokanee. It is certainly unbeatable for comfort.

We stayed at a cabin in the Pass at 6100' with a gas cookstove, gas and wood heating and electric light. Even the outhouse had electric light but no heat. Water was more of a problem since it had to be lugged up a 100' high steep snowslope. Including Joan Bernard our cook,

there were 13 of us and no crowding, except for a tight squeeze around the dining table. The day we were supposed to go in, the snow really started to fall at Whistler for the first time this year. As a consequence, instead of going to D'Arcy, our party of train and car passengers ended up at Pemberton and spent the night at the hotel while waiting for the helicopter to get enough visibility for flying.

On Sunday patches of blue sky appeared and the morning was spent flying in and organizing the cabin. With severe avalanche conditions everywhere and McGillivray being notorious for its hazard, we had to take stringent precautions. The camp manager organized a practice in the use of Pieps [radios], and we dug snow pits to check snow conditions. It was bad: in the various depths from nothing on the ridges to about a metre average there was generally reasonably consolidated snow except for a depth hoar layer on the ground of about 20cm of ice crystals with a consistency of coarse sugar. We resolved to avoid all steep slopes and pick our up routes →



Whitecap Mtn, from approach  
 ← Dave Tansley & Doug Herschmer on  
 Whitecap summit



carefully to give the most protected routes. Also all parties carried probes and shovels.

Later in the day we skinned up the west side to a lower section of Telegraph Ridge and had a good power ski down. This ridge is so named because a telegraph line was relocated on it after the original line in the Pass was taken out too many times by avalanches.

The next four days were mostly sunny with air temperatures between  $-10^{\circ}$  and  $-15^{\circ}$  C. We climbed to high ridges on both sides of

Hiking up summit ridge



the Pass, found good basins of not steep powder snow and left wedel tracks all around.

On Tuesday five of us separated from the rest and climbed McGillivray to about 8600 feet. Then on Thursday, Feb. 22nd, six of us climbed Whitecap Mountain (about 9700'). Because of the avalanche hazards, the route we chose was a longer variation from the usual route. It entailed about a 1000' climb to the ridge then a descent of about 2000' to reach the foot of the mountain. Our total height to climb was about 7500'. The trip took nearly 14.5 hours. We started at 6 am in the dark and had nearly two hours of skiing in the dark including the 1000' descent back to the cabin.

That was the night of our turkey dinner and towards the end the thought of Joan's cooking may have been the only thing that kept some of us going. Highly recommended for this type of trip is the head-type flashlight. It is very difficult to pole and hold a flashlight.

The top of the ridge leading to the mountain was mostly clear of snow but lower down it was crusty with depth hoar under. Lower there was some good powder skiing. We left our skis and climbed on foot for about the top 2000'. Those on the climb were Doug Herschmer, Murray Foubister, Dave Tansley, Andre Kerkovious, George Arczynski, and Norman Purssell.

Friday was cloudy, with light snow at times and was a low activity day with preparations being made for next day's trip out. Estimates of the distance out averaged 16 miles and it was expected to take up to 10 hours. We had to catch the train at 4:15 pm and planned to have the main party leave at 5:00 pm. Since they'd be skiing in the dark, Murray and Doug put in a track the day before for about 3 miles of not-too fast downhill. With the help of this track and better conditions than expected, most of the party were down in 7 hours and had a 4-hour wait for the train at McGillivray Whistle Stop. It snowed lightly most of the way out but by the time we reached Whistler it was snowing heavily and in Vancouver was heavy rain, the cold weather gone.

The week had been very successful, Joan had given us excellent food and managed to get in some

skiing as well. With the help of a few kegs of wine taken in by various people, we consumed the equivalent of about 25 bottles of wine and other sundries. Murray and Doug did most of the trail breaking and leading. Those not already mentioned were John Mattox, Don Wadland, Alan Robinson, Kia Jones, and Jane Hardie.

## New Rescue Team

I am writing to inform you of a specialized cliff rescue team formed in Victoria. The team is presently composed of eight members. Five members are full-time ambulance personnel, three of which have paramedic status and are capable of advanced prehospital treatment. The team is sponsored by the Emergency Health Service Commission, the Provincial Emergency Program and the Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific. It is our objective to provide assistance to any persons in distress and/or injured and unable to provide self-help without further injury or mental anguish. We are fully equipped to handle serious physical trauma and medical emergencies of any kind. We are prepared to provide a back-up medical service to other rescue teams or to provide a complete extrication service both from the cliff and ultimately from the scene to a location suitable to the victim's condition.

Our service is presently dispatched through the Langford Provincial Emergency Program office. For persons requiring our service however, the local RCMP should be notified. They will contact us if it is felt that our service is required.

If you would like me to attend meeting to explain to your group our set-up and function, I would be pleased to do so. In that way you could get a better idea of our present position and capability. In addition I would appreciate meeting with you to discuss the topic of cliff rescue and to receive any knowledge or suggestions that you might have in this regard.

Bob Mackie

Team Coordinator

VICTORIA CLIFF RESCUE TEAM

c/o Provincial Ambulance Service

Operator #612, Lee Services Bldg.

2355 Richmond Rd, Victoria, BC.

V8R 4S2

## MOUNT HOOD (?)

by ROB MacDONALD

February 23-26, 1979



"Some eclipse!" Gil Parker at the camp. R.EPPLER

This climb had great potential with a possible winter ascent of the south side of Mount Hood (3424 m) combined with the rare opportunity to view a total solar eclipse from about the 2000 m level. This was enough of an incentive for us to take the one in three chance that the weather would cooperate. Mount Hood is located just south of the Oregon-Washington border. Accordingly, we departed from Victoria at 7 pm on Friday, after a three hour delay at the ferry terminal. This setback was corrected by Rick who continued driving until 3 am. By early afternoon we came to the point where the mountain should have been visible had it not been totally "socked in." The closer we got, the less inviting the weather appeared, and by the time we got to Timberline Lodge it was snowing. Conditions above 1500 m were whited-out and avalanche hazard was described as high. We decided to retreat to the Mazama Lodge and get an early start on Sunday morning.

As planned, we returned early on Sunday to Timberline and headed up on the ski lift. The area was still whited-out, but a glimpse of the mountain the night before under overcast but clear conditions encouraged us that we might still get in a climb. At the top of the lift we headed east toward the Silcox warming hut, and after travelling about 100 metres we were totally out of sight of any recognizable features. We decided to pitch the tent and generally prepare ourselves for a wait. After digging in the tent we amused ourselves

by trying some cornice jumping. Rick started work on a snow cave and soon, one way or another, all four of us had contributed until we had a roomy area hollowed out. We decided to make our attempt on the mountain at 4 am if the weather looked good, but the reports of snow slabs slipping at the top of the Palmer chairlift held only the promise of avalanche conditions. Gil and Diane decided to spend the night in the cave, while Rick and I strategically remained in the tent so we could check the weather. Furthermore, in the event of a "cave-in," we wanted to be the "diggers" and not the "diggees." We spent the night under fairly noisy conditions and at times it was difficult to hear the wind and snow whipping the tent over the crunching and chattering of the people who continued to emanate from the top of the lift. We had made the tactical error of locating the tent between the lift and the Silcox warming hut, so Rick and I spent the night a little anxious that one of the continuous stream would fall in on Diane and Gil. At one point a party of two was seen dutifully following the three or four wands which marked the route from our tent to the "john," and next morning a tent appeared in that direction: lavatory bivouac!

On checking later, we found that 10 parties had come up after us, six of which had indicated intentions of trying for the summit. The claim that this is the second most climbed mountain in the world (after Mt. Fujiyama)

can surprise noone who has spent a night there in miserable weather.

The weather became decidedly worse and we realized that the climb was not going to "go." We reunited in the tent and compared notes. Although the snow cave had attenuated all outside noise, and was somewhat less drafty, there had been ominous crunchings at times and the roof was at least 15cm lower in the morning. This may have been due to someone trudging over the top, or perhaps too flat an arch in the original ceiling.

We had breakfast and noted the slow, inevitable darkening at the approach of the eclipse. This was an interesting although disappointing experience as the white-out changed to "not-so-white-out." We were able to discern the moment when totality occurred by the sudden drop in light intensity. In order to get a better feeling for the event, which we had been observing from the shelter of the tent, I stuck my front half out of the doorway only to be assaulted by such verbal abuse as "the only eclipse I can see is your rear blocking the doorway." This degenerated into being eclipsed by a half-moon, and soon we knew it was time to leave.

We packed and skied down in sight of the chairlift, still in white-out, and I came to a new appreciation of the probable origin of the word "fall-line."

You might be thinking "I'm glad I missed that one!" and that the trip was a dismal failure, but in hindsight I do not feel that way. Entertaining company and a good book brought by Gil made this one of the most relaxing and memorable weekends I can remember. There is much more to climbing than a long trudge up a longer slope.

*Members:* Gil Parker (leader), Rick Eppler, Diane Erickson, Rob Macdonald (reporter).

### SKI CAMP NOTE

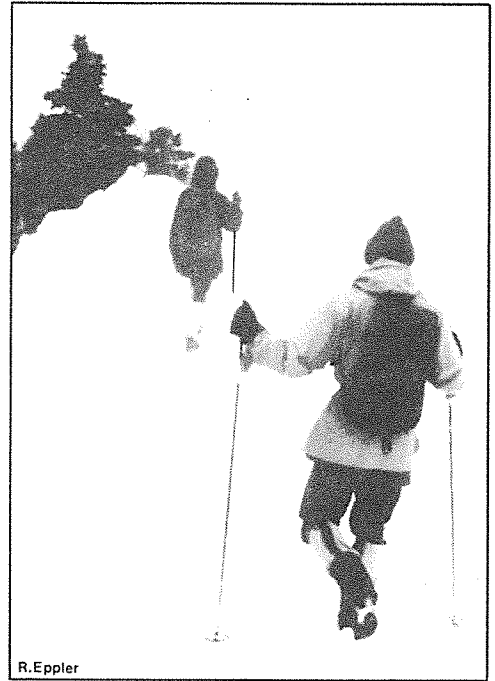
The main club is proposing to hold a ski-mountaineering camp on Mt Hood, using the Portland Snowshoe Club cabin and supplying a cook. Dates: March 29 to April 5, 1980. Sunny weather is guaranteed unless, of course, cloudy conditions develop. Contact the club office for info.

## MT. GEMINI

by RICK EPPLER March 25, 1979

With thoughts of terrific spring skiing on alpine slopes in the Nanaimo River watershed, four of us—Diane Erickson, Dave Hobill, Rob MacDonald and I—piled into my car and headed for the snowline. Three hours later we parked at the 3200' level of the Green Mountain road. Here an unploughed spur road branches to the right. Skiing up this road would give access to the saddle between Green Mountain and Mount Gemini to the south. We found the snow hard and crusty, and with the heavy cloud cover that was present things didn't look good for an improvement in the conditions (something that usually comes with the sun and heat of the day). So we deposited our skis at the end of the road and continued up through the timber of the north ridge on foot, bearing 95° mag.

We arrived at the first 4900' summit about 11 a.m. in fog: no views of the impressive north wall of the main summit. At this elevation the snow was skiable but we all agreed it wouldn't have been worth the effort of packing the skis. The 400' descent into the saddle between the two peaks was quick and we slogged up the final steep slope to the summit by 11:30 a.m. We



R. Eppler

stayed only long enough to gobble lunch in the shelter of a tree as the wind was whipping the fog over the ridge coating everything in rime and bringing a chilling dampness to our bodies. Wasting no time in the descent we were back at the skis about 2 pm and after a short run down the logging spur road, we were back at the car a few minutes later.

We all felt that had conditions been better this could have made a very enjoyable ski experience.

## MT. TUAM

May 6, 1979

by KAREL HARTMAN

Mt. Tuam, on Saltspring Island, is an attractive destination for a family hike. Diane, Paul and Carl Erickson, Irene and Chris Schreiber, Mike and Ben Sampson and I boarded the Fulford Harbour ferry at Swartz Bay, leaving at about 9:15 am. From the Fulford terminal you drive or hike around Fulford Harbour, going south on Isabella Point Road until you reach a logging road, locally known as "Mountain Road" on the right hand side. You can park here, or just before you get to the log house, which is the last one on this road. The house is the best point to start the hike, and there are no other signs or markers to indicate its beginning. You might like to bring along Sheet 1 of the Gulf

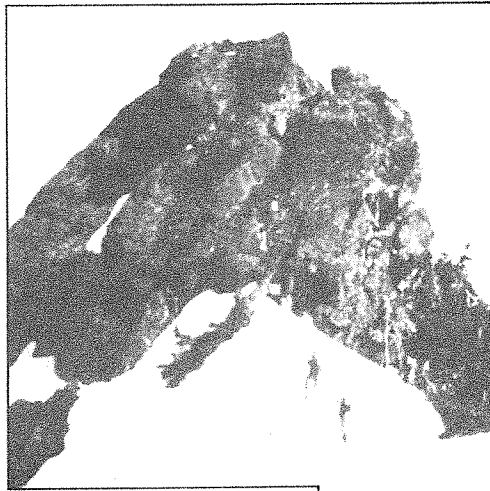
Islands series, or refer to the familiar guide, *Hiking Trails II, Southeast Vancouver Island*, pp. 16,17.

From the log house we kept to the right, following a good mud/gravel road. The climb starts by turning right just after passing the power line which goes up Mt. Tuam. The trail is very clear, sometimes marked with a rock cairn, and there are beautiful views all along overlooking Satellite Channel and the Saanich Peninsula. Very close to the large, baseball-field size summit, the trail peters out and ends in some dense young hemlock—here we turned left, bush-whacked up the last few hundred feet and arrived at the summit. For such a low elevation, the view is excellent as you survey the sea 2400' below. Flocks of tame sheep can nearly always be seen grazing here. Be careful you don't trip over the many loose wires which are part of →

the warning beacon system on top.

It's a good idea to leave a ribbon where you exit from the bush and trail, picking it up on the way back. This is a trip you can do year-round unless there's a lot of snow on top in which case snowshoes would be helpful. Carl (3), our youngest hiker, walked almost all the way. We caught a 4:30 ferry back to Swartz Bay.

## MAITLAND RANGE



Top: the 4300' tusk  
← Summit viewed from col  
Gendarmes →  
on the ridge

Bottom: Down to the col

R. Eppler photos

ridge for a few hundred feet (still in trees) then veer northward under a line of bluffs into the snow gully (or scree depending on the season). You ascend this gully to the alpine slopes and to a saddle in the main ridge at 4200'.

From the saddle, if you're going for the main summit, turn north and contour around to the east of the line of 4500' bumps. The summit block will gradually come into view in front of you. The route we used to ascend this was up the obvious depression in the middle of the south face,



4700' May 19, 1979

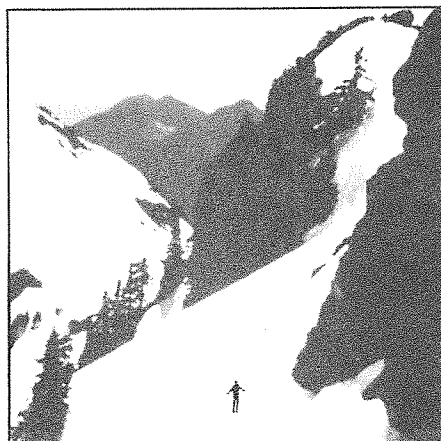
by RICK EPPLER

Originally postponed due to bad weather and poor conditions, the trip finally went May 19th with Rob Macdonald, Tom Emerson, and myself. This area offers some good climbing and scrambling on the many spires and summits jutting from the interconnecting ridges. We managed to sample a few of them including the main summit of the range at 4700' elevation. A key is needed from the MacMillan-Bloedel office in Ucluelet to get through the locked gate and obtain access to the Maitlands over a 20-mile system of well-maintained logging roads. (MacBloe is currently logging in the area, hence the locked gate.)

Two of us drove to Ucluelet on Friday night where we met the 3rd member of our group, Tom. Saturday we were able to drive to about the 1400' level on the right bank of the Sand River, and left the car at 8:20 am. Where the road swings right and heads back south up-slope, you cut left into the slash and work uphill to the river, which is crossed on

two slippery logs. The river is in a narrow gorge at this point and although really only a creek, care must be taken when coming back down to hit the log crossing or you may find yourself bushwhacking needlessly in search of a spot to cross. Once on the left bank head directly up through the steep timber to the small lake at 2600' (some bush). From here on we were mostly on snow.

Now you work around the west side of the lake to gain the ridge beyond. Swing east up this



swinging left under some cliffs to gain the west ridge & scramble up mixed ground to the top.

We reached the summit about 1:30 pm, 5 hours after leaving the car. The clear weather afforded views in all directions; from the surf breaking on Long Beach, to the rugged MacKenzie Range across the valley, and even the Golden Hinde on the northern horizon.

After an hour lazing in the sun we returned over the series of 4500' bumps, and then scrambled up the prominent 4300' tusk on the ridge south of the saddle we had come through on the ascent. It was now 4 pm and the snow was quite soft, making going for anything else a slow proposition, so we decided to call it a day and started down. Retracing the route up, we reached the car two hours later at 6 pm and headed for home.

# KINGS PEAK

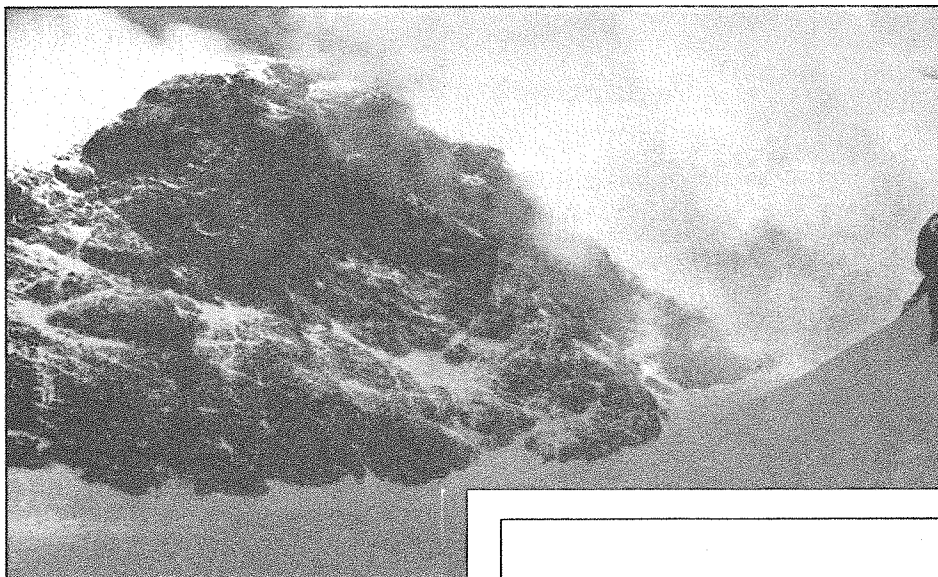
6774' May 27, 1979

by RICK EPPLER

A party composed of Dave Hobill, Rob Macdonald, Brian Hart, Karel Hartman, Ben Peterson, and myself as leader climbed Kings Peak during rough weather this spring.

About five hours' driving brought the six of us to the Elk River trailhead in Strathcona Park about 9 pm Saturday. Our intention was to climb Kings Peak as a day trip on Sunday and avoid packing overnight gear up through the north slope bush. We set up "camp" in the parking lot after scouting a crossing of the Elk R. for the next day. Rain forced us to scurry into the shelter of the tents shortly.

The rain squalls lasted through the night and Sunday morning saw little improvement. A break in the clouds and rain forced some action about 7:30 am—emerging from the tents to find fresh snow on the trees down to about 2000'. Not holding any real hope for the summit, we set off about 8:30 am, determined to make the most of what was left of the day. We crossed the Elk River on a freshly fallen tree between the two logging bridges that had been removed, and headed into the timber



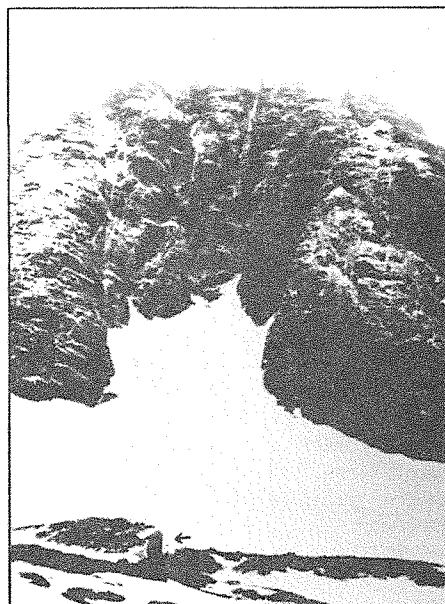
Above: Kings Peak at left, & col.

Ben Peterson below the peak west → of col (at right of upper photo).

K. Hartman photos

to the left of the line of bluffs above the Hydro cut, on a heading of 110° SE magnetic. On this heading you cross a couple of small creeks until you reach the 2500' level and the major creek draining the bowl on the north side of Kings Peak.

The route is flagged from here to treeline and becomes a snow gully (early in the season) at about 3800'. Although about 4-6"



## 'Foster: Fog-out!

May 19-20, 1979

by GARY KIRKHAM

We hoped to take advantage of the long weekend and climb Foster by the standard southeast ridge, and Mary Zaccharias, John Simpson, Jayne Haraburda and I hiked in the Elk River Trail on Saturday. This is a very aesthetic well-travelled elk trail parallel to the Elk River, and it begins at the edge of the transmission line clearing immediately west of the river channel, where it comes out on the logging road adjacent to the Gold River highway. Most people camp overnight here before heading in.

There were still patches of snow in the woods, but the trail was in good shape. After getting beyond Butterwort Creek and the grade after it, you pass a small waterfall near a major bend in the river, and soon you are heading up wide-open gravel

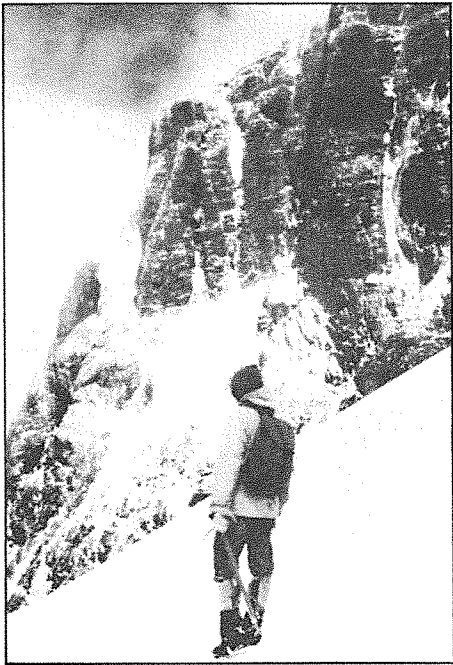
flats, with plenty of orange aluminum markers or small piles of rocks showing the route. The outlet stream from Landslide Lake forms a long waterfall over the bluffs (easy) below the lake itself. And suddenly, there it is, the east face of Colonel Foster shooting up over 3000 ft above its small pocket glacier.

We camped on snow at the lake, three of us in our Crestline Expedition tent and John in his bivi sac. There was still snow over the lake and along the side, enough that we considered going over that way for some self arrest refreshers. But although the full mountain was visible in the evening, by Sunday morning it was spitting rain and the top half was lost in fog. We decided to pack out and go to Long Beach, which offers some interesting bouldering near Wickannish Inn with a soft sand cushion below. Not until we were driving home through Port Alberni did John realize he'd lost his treasured climbing sweater!

of snow had fallen, things seemed fairly stable so we continued on. The drizzle that plagued us at lower elevations now turned to snow and our wet clothes started to stiffen, forcing a quick change and only short stops for food and rest.

About 12:30 pm we reached the snow slope at 5500' on the north side. Here Ben and Karel decided to wait while the rest of us took a look at the gully ahead. The weather had deteriorated again & was snowing and blowing, making progress slow. The four of us reached the 6200' saddle on the west shoulder about an hour later and felt the full force of the blow. Although the summit was only 500' higher, we were doubtful of our chances.

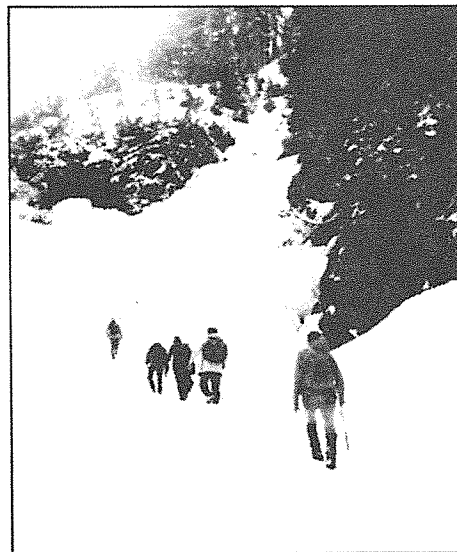
Piling on the clothing we continued up the frozen west ridge. Shortly, the wind started to die off a little and it became quite pleasant, although still in fog. We scrambled up the final snow-



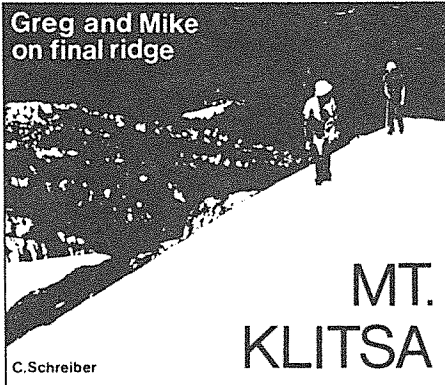
Dave Hobill below the peak.

plastered rocks to the summit at 2:30 pm. No views to be had except for a fleeting patch of blue sky straight up. A few quick pictures with numb fingers and we decided to get moving. We found some shelter from the wind below a rock buttress and finally gobbled down lunch.

The gullies made for a quick descent and after regrouping, we were back into the timber about 4 pm. The rain held off until we were almost to the hydro cut, where our bodies became sponges for the deluge and we sloshed back to the cars about 6 pm. It had been a 9 1/2 hour round trip and ahead was the long drive back to Victoria.



Ascending lower snow gully.



Greg and Mike on final ridge

C.Schreiber

## MT. KLITSA

5388' June 3, 1979

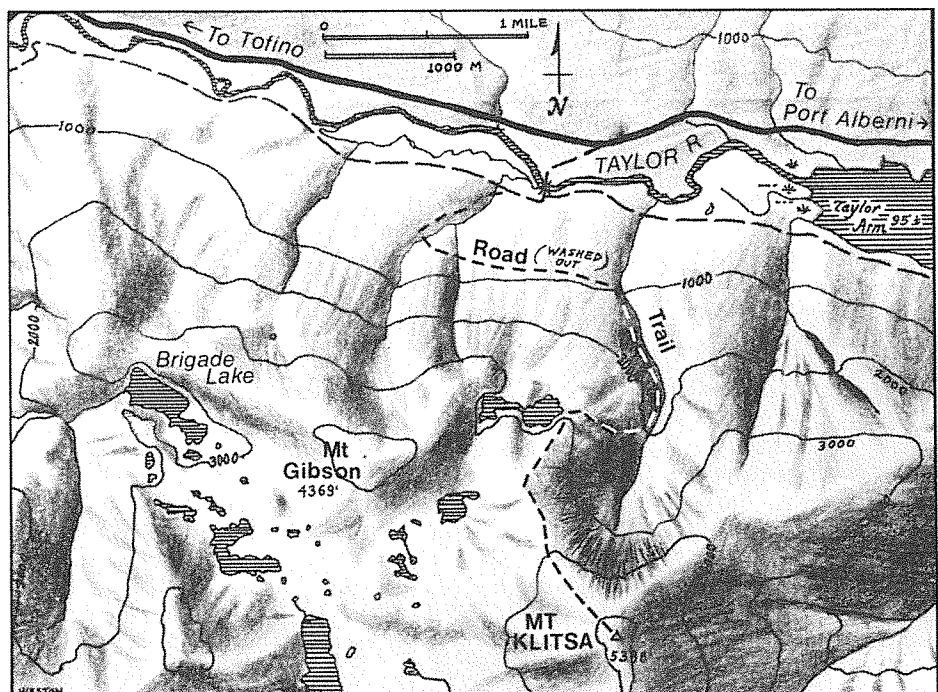
by ALAN ROBINSON

Greg Cousens, Mike Sampson (as leader), Chris Schreiber and Alan made a day climb of Mt Klitsa in good weather in early June. This summit is immediately south of the west end (Taylor Arm) of Sproat Lake, west of Port Alberni and on the main highway to Long Beach and Tofino. It rises east of a 3000' plateau of small lakes lying between three lesser summits. Most of this scenic little region is on the Great Central Lake topo, 92 F/6 Edition 2 (the map includes the SE corner of Strathcona Park). The northern headwall of Klitsa makes a rugged drop of over 1500' and may have some rockclimbing potential on a closer reconnaissance. -Editor

After proceeding west on the Port Alberni highway, we turned left on the first turn-off after passing the west end of Sproat L.

We camped overnight by the bridge over Taylor River. Our route began by crossing the bridge, turning right on the logging road then taking the first left. We climbed this road about one mile until tapes start. You leave the logging road at about the 1000' contour, and the route goes through about half a mile of slash before entering the trees. It is well and newly taped. From here the route climbs steadily until a lake is reached, NE of Mt Gibson on the map. We took the east route around the lake to reach the northwest ridge of our objective, where snow was first encountered. After getting onto this ridge we followed it up for an undulating 3/4 mile.

The last 1500' of terrain was snowcovered, some parts steep and with some rocks showing, while the summit was clear and rocky with a cairn in place. We were glad to have ice axes along. The summit offers excellent views in several directions: the Comox Glacier and Mt Septimus to the north, Mt Arrowsmith on the east (somewhat hazed by Port Alberni), and rugged mountains out to the west coast. We returned to the trailhead quickly, with a bit of glissading at the top. A four-wheel drive would enable one to start at the 700' level of the logging road. This was a good time of year to go, with a minimum of insects, good weather and easy snow conditions. A.R.





Mt. Klitsa from north approach.



Summit view east to Sproat Lake and Port Alberni's smoke haze.

M. Sampson

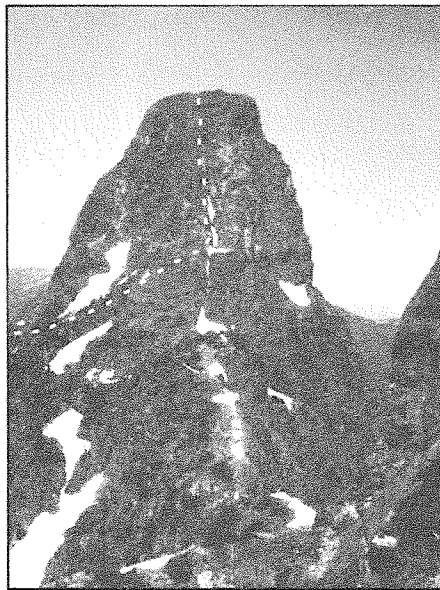
## 'BONANZA PEAK' MT. ASHWOOD (NORTH)

Presumed First Ascent, June 16-17  
1979

by JOHN GIBSON

In 1976, when Syd Watts, George Rushworth and I climbed the South peak of Mount Ashwood (5722'), with the name and survey point on it, we only realized on reaching that summit that the north peak is actually higher. A careful counting of the map contour lines (sheet 92 L/7) confirmed this, and now, nearly three years later, the north peak has graciously accepted our advances.

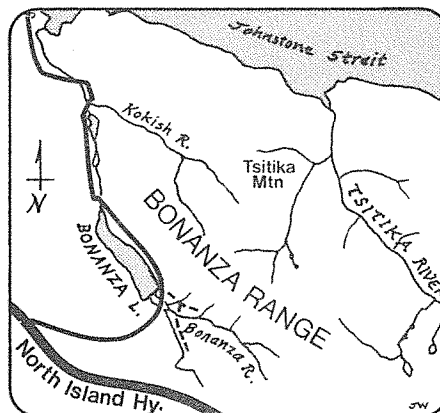
We drove up the new highway in pouring rain on the Friday evening and camped by Bonanza Lake (Crown Zellerbach campsite). Saturday dawned moist and misty and we were in no hurry to get going. After some to-ing and fro-ing along logging roads looking for the best approach to our mist shrouded mountain, we parked the Landrover on a spur from C.Z.'s main road south, and took to the bush about three miles west of our summit. The lower slopes, pleasant open forest with no bushwhacking, led beautifully smoothly up a ridge to timberline and about 2 pm we reached a snowy dome and had a brief glimpse of our summit through a hole in the mist. On along a snowy ridge with some down and up again and at 6 pm we were at the base of the final rock peak, and in bright sunshine. Here Syd sat on a rock and worked out a much bet-



The peak from south, with route marked along west side and ridge

J. Gibson

ter way back to the car than the way we had come, while the rest of us reconnoitred the rock ledges leading toward the summit. We



rejoined Syd at 6:45 pm and followed the route he suggested, down to the Bonanza river and then along a bench beside it, in spruce and hemlock forest where the going was good, as he had expected. We reached the Landrover at 9:15 pm and were soon back in camp.

Next morning was clear and fine and we were away at 6:30 am, returning to the mountain by the way we came down the day before, with minor variations. We reached the bottom of the final rock tower and roped there about 12:30 with Rick Eppler and Ben Peterson on one rope and Syd and I on the other. Climbing was easy but exposed at first as we traversed ledges around the west face of our peak to gain the south ridge, up which we proceeded without difficulty, reaching the summit at 2:10 pm. The summit is a large detached block which looks as if it might roll down toward Johnstone Strait one of these days. We built a cairn and left a record in it. After basking in the sun up there for an hour or so, we descended by the same route, getting back to the Landrover at 7:15 pm.

This 5800' summit appears to be the highest point of the Bonanza Range, so it seems odd that the surveyors ignored it, placing the name, Mount Ashwood, on its lesser sister half a mile to the south. To give it its due, our peak should perhaps be named Bonanza Peak.

# MOUNT DECEPTION and the Olympics

by TIM LEADEM

(See 'Green Trails' topo map: TYLER PEAK, MAP 136)

On June 23-24th, Derek Hitchman, Brian Money, Carole Leadem and I travelled to the Olympics, by the Coho ferry and Port Angeles. Following is a summary of our approach to assist those of you interested in visiting this area:

You leave Highway 101 east of Sequim, onto Palo Alto Rd. near Sequim Bay State Park. Follow this road to Dungeness Forks Campground, and from there take roads #295 and then #2825 to the start of the Dungeness River Trail (#833, clearly marked). See the *Climbers Guide to the Olympic Mountains*, page 86, for a more complete description.

Follow the Dungeness River Trail 1 mile to its junction with Royal Creek Trail to the right (not signposted). Follow this trail six miles through forests and slide areas to Shelter Rock. From here you take the upper basin trail to Royal Basin, a small lake and excellent campsite. The trail is in excellent shape and the countryside and views are very aesthetic (5 out of 5 to use Culberts' Guide rating system). The hike in takes about four hours, leading to a



Royal Basin with Deception-Martin ridge; camp at arrow.



"Hey, buddy, spare some salt?"

T. Leadem photos

## Forbidden Plateau Family Camp

July 13-16, 1979

by BOB LAKE

Not being superstitious, the participants of the family camp set off from Victoria by car on Friday the 13th, under the leadership of Gil Parker. Ross (age 13) and Glen (11) Parker; Paul & Carl (3) Erickson; Bob, Barbara, Taeha (7) and Leif Lake (6) were the trip members. The party approached the Plateau by way of logging roads to Paradise Meadows. The weather had progressed from a few scattered clouds in the morning to overcast and rain by the time we started packing up the short trail to Battleship Lake. Although Carl and Leif considered hiking in a downpour acceptable providing you kept to the muddy spots, more mature minds prevailed and the party retreated to the sun (and dis-

grace) of the public campsite at Miracle Beach. On Saturday the sunny summer weather arrived and we retraced our steps up the trail to Battleship Lake, then on to Lady Lake and Croteau Lake where camp was established.

We spent a leisurely afternoon hiking, fishing and swimming (the latter limited to a few hardy souls) and were sorry to have Paul and Carl leave in the evening to fulfill a prior commitment.

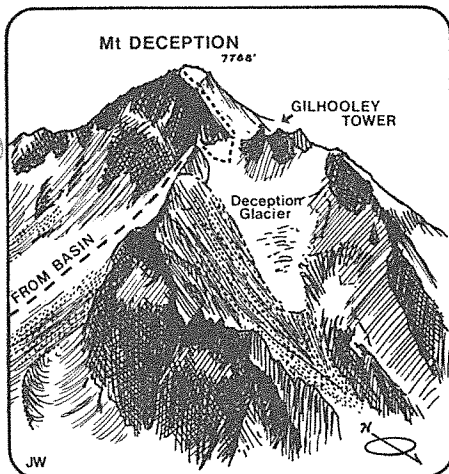
On Sunday the remaining party hiked to Kwai and Manwood Lakes and Lake Beautiful, stopping at each lake to try the fishing. Gil's last cast in Manwood Lake hooked him a huge trout and Gil, excited kids and an enthusiastic dog all tried to assist landing it but unfortunately the fish, being no doubt experienced at that sort of thing, escaped.

On Monday we packed out from Forbidden Plateau, which proved to be an excellent choice for the four day family camp.

camp at about 5500'.

The climbing route taken ascended snow and scree to a low point along the Deception-Martin ridge. We crossed the divide, keeping south, and contoured around Deception Glacier. We went up a steep headwall, between the north buttress of Deception and a prominent rock tower (Gilhoolley Tower), which was inclined at about 40-45° but short, and arrived at a corniced ridge. From there we followed the easy north west ridge to the summit. Our time up from Royal Basin was 4 hours, and our descent by the same route 2 hours. Snow conditions were stable in the glacier although there was some hollowed out snow on the route taken up to the Deception-Martin ridge. Beware loose rock: hard hats are advised. We roped up for the headwall and part of the descent. The climbing route itself rates 3-5 for aesthetics, and the view in all directions was superb.

Our weather on the 24th was excellent; snow in the early morning was firm, turning to slush by noon. We had a three-



After D. Molenaar, p. III, Climber's Guide to Olympic Mtns.

hour hike out from Royal Basin, enabling us to catch the 9:30 pm ferry back to Victoria. This trip is only possible during the summer schedule of the Coho, as a weekend venture, and we caught the 6:00 am ferry when we left Victoria Saturday.

There is a good concentration of peaks and climbs in this beautiful area, and lots of wild-life—but watch out for tame mountain goats. They have a salt craving and walk away with clothing or nibble your pack straps away. NOTE: This is a stoves-only area.

## Mt. Maxwell

September 16, 1979

by MIKE OUNSTED

In excellent weather, Curt Nyquist and I visited Mt Maxwell, on Saltspring Island. We took the Gulf Ferry to Saltspring, then the main road till a turn-off at Cranberry Road, and then proceeded till we were at the Mt Maxwell parking lot.

Mt Maxwell has, for the rock-climber, the worst rock almost imaginable (it seems it is sort of glued together). After a complete waste of time on what we thought was the east side, we ventured to the west side which looked better. However, after confirmation of more rotten rock we set up a "good old fashioned" rappel, which ended two-fifths of the way down the cliff. After setting up the rappel we noticed a crowd had gathered on the cliff top above us. When we had finished our exploration, we later learned that a lady had been put off her lunch! After a

few 'herd shots' we packed up and left—almost, with the exception of Curt kicking my helmet off the cliff and a tiresome descent and re-ascent. Otherwise the day trip went fine.

## Mt. Assiniboine by Northeast Ridge

by PAUL WELLE

*(Ed. Note: Although outside our usual reporting area, this report provides an interesting look at climbing in the Rockies from the perspective of a Vancouver Island Section member. Welle and Howie, who with their epic storm-bound ascent of Colonel Foster's east face (Vol. 5:5, August 77) established a reputation for sheer determination (excuse the pun!), seem to have kept up the tradition in this rapid round-trip to Assiniboine Provincial Park)*

In the early part of June Steve Howie and I drove in from Canmore on the Spray Lakes road. We had stayed at the ACC Clubhouse in Canmore (excellent) and met a few climbers who had just come out from this area and the said that the mountain was not in good condition, all plastered with snow. We didn't have too much trouble, however.

The road was in good shape for most of the way, but six miles from the trailhead there is a very rough piece that you need a high clearance vehicle to get over. We hiked in from there. The trailhead is obvious and well-marked all the way in. We hiked in over Assiniboine Pass because of least elevation gain and its relative shortness. Even so it is about a 15 mile hike to the hut at the base of the north face. It took us about 6 hours, with 4 of that to Lake Magog and 1.5 up to the hut. Crampons were needed for the gully up to the hut as it was very steep and the snow hard. The building is located at 2652 m (see topo map 82 J/13), and is beautiful with nice mattresses and stoves—all the amenities of home.

Next morning we were up at 4 am and the sky looked clear but the mountain was clouded up and the wind was howling around. So we talked each other out of going, sat out a day and rested.

Next morning, up at 4 am determined to go whatever, as food was running out. Luck was with us: nice weather. We finally took off at 5:15. We wore crampons all the way from base to summit. We took the N.E. Ridge route and the climbing is fairly straight-forward, however there are five or six really tense spots and the exposure is very bad all the way; I would say worse than the east face on Colonel Foster, for there is absolutely no let-up. We climbed unroped the whole way and made it up in the very fast time of 3:15, getting to the top at 8:30. Half an hour there, then down, and the descent for us was very bad. You have to do five or six rappels scattered all over the place and we made a route-finding error. It took us seven hours to get back to the hut. For all this we had to have rope, crampons, ice axe, rappel slings (although most are in place), extra pitons, and a good head for exposure.

Next day we went back down the gully and decided to take the Marvel Pass trail back to the car. This is longer but much more scenic. There is a lot more elevation gained and lost and it's not a fast way in—an extremely long day even from the trailhead. It was about a 23 mile hike for us that day and in our full shank boots, our feet were turning into two pounds of hamburger; a real ordeal.

Overall we had good weather, although the valleys were filled with something: probably smoke from Jasper forest fires.

## How does your camera 'climb'?

by JIM WESTON

©

This article won't interest you if you're really not concerned about having slides or prints as a part of your mountaineering memories. But a lot of us want to bring home a photographic record of those campsite views, companions on the trails and routes, and the incredible visual surprises mountains offer in their infinite variety of light, form and colour. And most of us take a single-lens reflex 35mm camera—sometimes painfully aware of its bulk and weight, at times concerned about its vulnerabili-

ty where rain, snow, dust, rocks and even climbers and skiers get airborne.

What should a 'climbing camera' be to survive and serve our purposes in such an environment? It cannot be a camera that uses the tiny 110-format film—regardless of what appears on the market in the way of lens options, classy cosmetics (and outrageous prices) anyone who anticipates displaying the product of these cameras as an 8 x 10 or 11 x 14 on the wall, or at the screen size we are accustomed to with 35mm slides, is in for a very grainy experience. Those tiny negatives and slides simply can't do justice to the visual phenomena of the mountains.

So we're going to assume that your mountaineering photographs mean enough to you that you want to stay with 35mm film and the wide choice in emulsions available in that size. We also expect you'll want the same sort of metering and manual exposure control possible with ordinary SLR's, for the unique and sometimes difficult lighting conditions that occur on snow, in the shade of cliffs, and against the sun. This means being able to override what the meter says, usually opening up the lens one stop or slowing the shutter one speed—otherwise snow turns out grey, cliffs become featureless black, and your companion becomes an unrecognizable silhouette as he or she climbs a ridge into the blazing sun or white-out, depending on your weather.

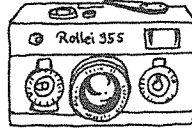
And, depending on your weather, you need a camera that's easy to protect from rain, wind-driven ice, snow and dust—yet a camera that can be almost instantly lined up to capture fast-breaking action (figuratively speaking, we hope). And when you run out of film just as they're serving wine on the summit, you don't want a camera that takes five minutes to re-assemble after reloading. You may drop the bottom off the cliff, or worse, miss out on the wine.

If you can survive without the option of changing lenses—how often do you really pack along your other ones, anyway?—then a few cameras await your consideration. They're smaller than any of the new 'compact' SLRs, two of them discussed here are reasonably

weather-resistant with fast access and they deliver at least four times the sharpness at a given enlargement over any 110-size unit. Their prices are all between half or two-thirds the cost of a standard 35mm SLR with comparable metering.

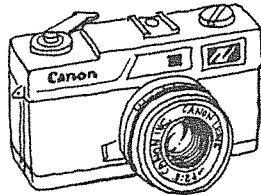
#### ROLLEI 35 s

This is the first serious attempt at a miniature 35. The lens has to be pulled out to shoot, and retracted to pack away—the zip-around case adds to the delay, however this is a camera you can stow un-cased in a parka pocket. The back has to come off to load film (which goes in upside down: a bit confusing when identifying frame numbers later). The need to remember to set the focus is the one serious drawback for most users, otherwise a fine unit.



#### CANONET G-III 17

Though the largest of the cameras discussed here, and just one of many similar compact rangefinder units (eg, Minolta Hi-Matic E or F, Olympus 35RD, Konica Auto S3, etc), this one is a very well-regarded pocket 35. Easy loading.



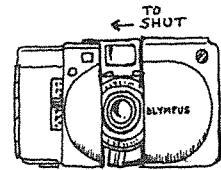
#### MINOX EL

Long the leader as a miniature 35, the camera is also rather costly. You flip the front open and the lens slides out, ready. The special plastic, integral 'case' won't freeze your fingers. A fairly fast shutter speed is desirable in a lot of mountain photography and some people won't like the fact that this camera sets what it wants (you set the aperture). It's an automatic camera only—to allow for backlight and snow scenes (which need more exposure than they get on auto) you have to 'fool' the camera by under-setting the ASA one value. You also have to remember to set the focus. The viewfinder shows almost the total film area—not usual for small cameras.



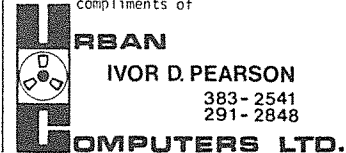
#### OLYMPUS XA

New for the fall of '79 is the OLYMPUS XA, obviously intended to upstage the Minox.



It also has a plastic-like case, self-protecting instead with a slide-across lens cover. This is undoubtedly the most advanced miniature 35, and costs less than the Minox (The XA is \$260). It has a rangefinder viewer, both manual and auto exposure, self-timer, backlight switch, & conventionally-opening back. It has a 35mm lens like the Minox: a bit wide for some people but you get more depth of field and a steadier shot in low light. The price includes a clever tiny electronic clip-on flash. Sorry, we can't spot too many disadvantages yet with this one: Olympus has done its homework!

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