

the Skiers



NEWSLETTER

Issue #4

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January 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brrrr....It's cold out there. Well, about time is all I can say. After a promising start to the ski season in early December, I was beginning to wonder if we were in for a repeat of 2002/2003, where about the only sensible skiing to be had was at Larch Hills. That was the year, you may remember, that the Cariboo Ski Marathon was cancelled due to a complete lack of snow. The weekend scheduled for the marathon that year had temperatures of, oh, 10 or 15 above. The temperatures in the middle of January this year are a much more sensible 10 or 15 below. It might be a bit colder than that actually, but we'll take it. The weather will do what it wants. Our job is to adapt to it.

I think this relationship with weather is one of the reasons that outdoor sports generally, and skiing particularly, are so compelling. For many of us, most of our lives seem to be spent moving from a warm home, to a heated car, to a workplace with conditioned air. Winter, especially in this part of the world, is little more than an inconvenience. The roads might be a little slippery. The warm overcoat might have to be brought out for the few moments we actually face the outside. The sidewalks need to be shovelled once or twice. In contrast, when we ski we are intimately tied to the environment. The environment determines where we ski, what we wear, and even the speed at

which we move along the snow. Dealing with it is one of the attractions of skiing. It is energizing to be outside in the middle of winter. We feel more alive and more connected to the world around us. The cold is more than a mere inconvenience. We have to cope with it, even on prepared tracks with a warming hut nearby. In the backcountry, the environment takes on even more importance. Awareness of one's surroundings is literally a matter of life and death. The hazards of enjoying the winter are not only inescapable they are, if one is honest, part of the lure of our sport. Obviously, we do everything we can to minimize the dangers, but they are there, nonetheless, even if all we do is trundle along a groomed trail. This undercurrent of risk, as low as it is, can be compelling. It is something all skiers accept in order to take part in the sport they love.

And we do love our sport. We have to, if we are prepared to brave the cold, the snow, and the wet to take part in it. It would certainly be easier and just as good for our hearts, lungs, and muscles, to take the car to the gym and spend some time on the elliptical trainer (or whatever that thing I see people on is called, thrashing their arms and legs about in some weird parody of a cross-country skiing movement). Nordic skiing is about a lot more than getting or staying fit. It is about the

peace of a forest trail in the falling snow, that indescribable quiet broken only by the sound of your breath and the gentle scratching of the skis on the track. It is about the grandeur of a glaciated mountain towering above you as break your own trail along a path that has seen no traffic for days. It is about the exhilaration of a steep descent, with your skinny skis chattering away or your backcountry boards carving turns in knee-deep powder. It is about being outside, connected both to your environment and others who share your passion.

Chris McPherson

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Feb 1 Club Meeting
7pm @ the ANZA Club
This month's guest speaker is
Tim Gayda, who is with the
organizing/development team
for the 2010 Winter Olympics
nordic ski venue.
Tim will be talking about plans
for this exciting new cross-
country ski development in the
Callaghan Valley

Manning Park Weekend February 20-22, 2004

We were at the maximum of 14 in one chalet that February weekend. Half the original group were unable to come, so almost everyone on the cancellation list got in, and all the people who cancelled got full refunds. Many people were able to come up early on Friday and get in some skiing. The weather all weekend was lovely, sun with some cloud, a tiny bit of fresh snow, and temperatures around or just below zero. On Friday, Mo and I went up the road toward the microwave tower and found the return difficult as it was either icy or we were breaking through the crust on the snow and couldn't turn! We did the next two days on the groomed trails, which were great. Other people tried the Cambie Creek trails or Monument 78 but reported back with conditions that were crusty and icy. Some went downhill skiing or telemark skiing, and those runs were good.

Friday night some of us went to the restaurant and others prepared their own dinner in the chalet. Saturday night we had the usual wonderful potluck, with superb dishes from everyone - appetizers, soup, main courses, salads, and desserts, with a good mix of meat and vegetarian. Bob Brown had his digital camera and sent in a couple of photos from Saturday evening; our newsletter editor has them if anyone wants a copy emailed to them.

Again a fabulous weekend.

Diane Fast

Fourteen skiers enjoyed spring-like conditions on the second Manning Park weekend trip of 2004, co-ordinated by Diane and Mo. Unlike past trips, the drive up was uneventful, as the weather was clear and the roads were bare.

With no new snow and clear skies, the ski trails were icy in some areas and slow in others, but the beautiful scenery and sunny skies made up for this. At a sheltered spot at a picnic table, some sat and enjoyed lunch looking over frozen Lightning Lake. With pine siskins for company, they watched the snow campers snowshoe across the frozen lake or caught up on their tans. Back at the chalet, Marg and Peter, who had done backcountry skiing, related that a trail they were following turned out to be for snowshoers and led to a running creek they had to cross as they were too far along the trail to turn back!

Several of us went to the Manning Park restaurant for dinner Friday night, which was full of noisy, excited young skiers

and boarders, and their energetic adult companions. Saturday night we all looked forward to the potluck organized by Mo and Diane. All were vegetarian dishes - soups, salads, and casseroles - except for Brian Rigg's great meat chili. Dessert was fresh pineapple pieces and Mo's world famous almond squares.

Thanks for a great weekend Mo and Diane!

Cheryl Mitchell

Whistler Day Trip 2 Jan 05

The bus trip up to Whistler made the day worthwhile even if we hadn't been able to ski. The effect of the bright sunshine on the snow-covered mountain ranges while shadows played on the lower hills was fantastic.

We arrived in Whistler at about 9:30 am leaving us a nice long day of skiing. Despite the glorious sunshine, it was quite cold for the area at about -6, warming as the day proceeded to -1 or 2. Ski conditions were very pleasant, just enough snow and not icy. The trails were groomed and track set, although grooming was less than optimal in spots. Several trails were not open, notably the Centennial, Vimy, and Upper Panorama trails. Consequently, the good skiers may have wished for more challenge, but all of us thoroughly enjoyed the day.

The bus departed Whistler at 4:02 pm, having had to wait an extra couple of minutes for yours truly (and friends) who had gone to the Village for a pint. Being last on the bus, I got the job of writing the tour report. What the heck, it was high time I volunteered anyway!

Forty-four members were on tour. There was unanimous agreement that our tour leader, Su Laine Yeo, did a splendid job managing the trip. On behalf of the other members on tour, thank you very much Su.

Bill Paull

Stake Lake & Sun Peaks - Jan 8 & 9 2005

As far as I was concerned it was questionable whether or not we would have this trip as the weather got more and more frigid as the week wore on. Gilbert did not flinch, and there we were in the early morning crunching about on six inches of snow wondering what the next 48 hours would bring. There were only a few dropouts, so the bus was nearly full. We stopped at the McDonald's in Hope for a quick coffee. The roads throughout the trip were quite fine - snow-covered sometimes but no real problem.

Skiing at Stake Lake was exhilarating. We started off well bundled up against the biting cold - it was about -13C with a wind. I soon started peeling off clothing as we took on the hill climbing section. It was warm enough to sit in the high-point shelter and enjoy the sunshine before taking off down the long outer trail. Dick has new non-waxable Fischer skis for Hollyburn skiing but he was very happy to be back on green wax with a good grip.

We stayed at the Best Western in Kamloops. We have stayed there before and it is a comfortable hotel but the outside looks like a large prison block on the edge of the hill. Once inside you find that they were keen to create a tropical paradise around an interior courtyard. Very strange. We had an excellent buffet served under the cabana after a noisy happy hour. There was a pleasant mix of old friends and about four or five new members.

On the bus after Saturday's skiing we had a vote on going to Sun Peaks on Sunday. Not much was known about the cross-country trails but word was that Carlie Holland had said it was good and that swayed the crowd. Thank you, Carlie, it was fabulous. It took an hour to drive from Kamloops and then it was a while for Gil to get the ski passes and the guide. We ended up getting directions from a ski patroller and made it to the Morrisey Chair for an 8 km winding trail around the side of hill. It was a run which rates with the best. The snow was just a little slow because of the cold but it was newly groomed and it was a cross-country skier's heaven of winding hills. Dick and I came down with Ron and Gordon and we spent a while getting confused in the lower area by the strange signage and the lousy map, but we made it back for a bowl of soup before the bus problem.

In short, we were to meet at 1.30pm to be back in Vancouver at 7.30. The bus had a frozen line somewhere, and a mechanic came up from Kamloops. Word was that at 2.30 we would know whether we were to hit the road or wait for another bus. We passed around the surplus chips from happy hour and spread out in the cafeteria as the crowds thinned. We got on the replacement bus at 5.30 and arrived home at 11.00. Gil was just great at keeping us informed, and we ended up with two of the most efficient and pleasant bus drivers. There was one nasty moment when it looked like Gil was going to have to search the pubs for stray passengers. Great trip. Thanks, Gil.

Juliet Janes



TOUR CHAIR VACANCY FOR 2005

After five years of occupying the Tour Chair, it is time for me to move on and find other challenges...

The job is important but not difficult. The use of a computer makes life a lot easier!

The Executive determines the destinations for the following ski season in May.

The Tour Chair works mainly in June or July to make all reservations.

There are existing forms and instructions that just need an adjustment every year.

The job is well documented now, and you will receive training and assistance during the first summer.

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Tour Chair:
 - Reserve hotel accommodation
 - Obtain a quote for bus transportation
 - Calculate price for all trips
 - Prepare instructions for coordinators
 - Prepare signup sheets for all trips
 - Attend Executive meetings
 - Write newsletter articles on trip schedules, hotel accommodation, transportation, signup reports, club rules
 - Communicate with Executive and trip coordinators re trip signups.
2. Coordinate with trip coordinators who perform the following tasks:
 - Coordinating trip signups
 - Safeguard participant cheques
 - Confirm hotel and bus accommodation
 - Communicate with trip participants and Tour Chair

OVERVIEW OF THE 2004-2005 SKI TRIPS

January 15, 2005 – Elly Brok, Tour Chair

		Signed Up	Max. Space	
Silver Star	Dec 9-12	55	55	Complete
Manning Park Day	Dec 29	51	55	Complete
Whistler Day trip	Jan 2	49	55	Complete
Manning Park chalet	Jan 7-9	14	14	Complete
Stake Lake	Jan 8-9	55	55	Complete
Salmon Arm	Jan 14-16	45	47	Complete
Manning Park Day	Jan 22	55	55	
Whistler Day trip	Jan 30	47	47	
100 Mile House	Feb 3-6	42	47	
Manning Park chalet	Feb 4-6	14	14	
McCullough Lake	Feb 11-13	29	47	Cancelled
Kootenays	Feb 16-20	30	47	
Manning Park Day	Feb 19	55	55	
Apex	Feb 25-27	24	47	
Revelstoke	Feb25-Mar 5	10	14	
Stake Lake	Mar 5-6	42	47	

Some trips are full and most are filling up quickly.

Sign up either at the monthly meetings or call the coordinators.

FOR SALE

G3 Roxy Tele/Touring bindings. Still sealed in box. Never mounted. Fits shoe size 34-48. \$160

Leonie Knaus

leonieknaus@hotmail.com cell 604-723-0366

Vancouver Skiers' Hollyburn Night

Gus Kolaric of the Skiers has kindly agreed to host any Skiers who want to get together at Hollyburn to ski on THURSDAY evenings during January and February. If you're interested, meet at Hollyburn Lodge at 6:30 pm.

Fellow Skiers,

a few announcements:

1. Kelowna trip - We have had to cancel this trip, as we just did not get enough participants.
2. Kootenay Trip - We need some more signups. This trip is now leaving on Wednesday morning to avoid getting into Trail so late. Contact Andrew Pape-Salmon at 250-592-7017.
3. Apex - We need more signups here as well. The leader has changed to Chris McPherson - 604-682-0342 or email camcp@shaw.ca.
4. Thursday nights at Hollyburn - Meet at the lodge at 6:30 pm. There will be some club members there to ski with.
5. A glove and some sunglasses were found on the Whistler trip last Sunday. Contact Gil Sage at gsage@telus.net or 604-435-3093
6. Ski poles were found at the Stake Lake/Sun Peaks trip. Contact Anna Bentley.

VANCOUVER SKIERS' TOURING SCHEDULE

DATE	TRIP	DETAILS	TRANSPORT	PICKUP	COST	CONTACT
Dec 29 Wed	Manning Park	Day trip Track/Bkctry	Bus	0700 BA 0715 BL	\$30	Leslie Rodgers 604-521-8985
Includes trail fee					FULL MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	
Jan 02/05 Sun	Whistler	Day trip Track/Bkctry	Bus	0700 BA 0715 BL 0730 W. VAN	\$30	Su Laine Yeo 604-451-8805
Includes trail fee					FULL MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	
Jan 7-9 Fri-Sun	Manning Park	2 nights Track/Bkctry	Car Pool 1 Chalet		\$75	Mo Iqbal 604-228-9885
Jan 08-09 Sat-Sun	Stake Lake	1 night Track	Bus Hotel	0700 BA 0715 BL	Quad \$70 Dble \$90 Sngle \$135	Gil Sage 604-435-3093
Jan 14-16 Fri-Sun	Salmon Arm Reino-Keski	2 nights Track	Bus Hotel	0700 BA 0715 BL	Quad \$165 Dble \$225 Sngle \$340	Chris McPherson 604-682-0342
Jan 22 Sat	Manning Park	Day trip Track/Bkctry	Bus	0700 BA 0715 BL	\$30	Anna Bentley 604-987-8956
Includes trail fee Mary Tanish will lead a ski to Monument 78					FULL MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	
Jan 30 Sun	Whistler	Day trip Track/Bkctry	Bus	0700 BA 0715 BL	\$30	Kim Vogt 604-922-1359
Includes trail fee					FULL MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	
Feb 4-6 Fri-Sun	Manning Park	2 nights Track/Bkctry	Car Pool 1 Chalet		\$75	Elly Brok 604-438-1871
Feb 3-6 Thur-Sun	100 M House Cariboo Loppet	3 nights cabins	Bus The Hills	1730 BA 1800 BL	Quad \$180 Dble \$250	Leslie Rodgers 604-521-8985
Feb 11-13 Fri-Sun	Kelowna McCulloug	2 nights Track	Bus Hotel	1730 BA 1800 BL	Quad \$125 Dble \$170 Sngle \$265	Gillian Akin 604-876-0688
Feb 16-20	Kootenays Track	4 nights Dwnhill	Bus Hotel	1730 BA 1800 BL	Quad \$220 Dble \$ 325 Sngl \$530	Andrew Pape Salmon 250-592-7017
Feb 19 Sat	Manning Park	Day trip Track	Bus	0700 BA 0715 BL	\$30	Anna Bentley 604-987-8956
Includes trail fee						
Feb 25-27 Fri-Sun	Apex Nickel Plate	2 nights Track/dhill	1. Bus Hotel	0700 BA 0715 BL	Quad \$160 Dble \$235 Sngle \$390	Chris McPherson 604-682-0342
Feb 25-Mar 5	Revelstoke	7 nights 1 night Revelstoke	Car Pool			Mike Koolen 604-576-9767
Mar 5-6 Sat-Sun	Stake Lake	1 night Track	Bus Hotel	0700 BA 0715 BL	Quad \$70 Dble \$90 Sngl \$135	JY Sauriol 604-873-2463

When signing up: Cheques should be payable to the Vancouver Skiers. Indicate the name of the person who is traveling, if you have a family account. Indicate the trip name on the cheque.

Also needed this year is your membership number. Cheques should be dated 30 days before departure. You may cancel up to that time. Cheques to be mailed to individual coordinators.

BACKCOUNTRY SKI SCHEDULE 2004-2005

DATE	TOUR	DETAILS	CONTACT
Dec 4 Sat	Red Heather Squamish	Day trip, car pool 2/5 rating	Gillian Palejko 604-980-9319
Dec 12 Sun	Fat Dog, Manning	Day trip, car pool 2/5 rating	Heather Fox 604-576-9767
Jan 8 Sat	Mt Baker area	Day trip, car pool 2/5 rating, bring ID	Mike Koolen 604-576-9767
Jan 9 Sun	Black Mtn Cypress	Day trip, car pool 2/5 rating	Gus Kolaric 604-434-9722
Jan 22 Sat	Zoa Peak Coquihalla	Day trip, car pool 2/5 rating	Mike Koolen 604-576-9767
Jan 23 Sun	Black Mtn hard way	Day trip 3/5 rating	Roger Goodwin 604-985-7527
Jan 29 Sat	Tetrahedron Sechelt	Day trip, car pool 2/5 rating	Peg Neilon 1-604-885-7662
Feb 6 Sun	Zoa Peak Coquihalla	Day trip, car pool 2/5 rating	Mike Koolen 604-576-9767
Feb 13 Sun	Red Heather Squamish	Day trip, car pool 2/5 rating	Mike Koolen 604-576-9767
Feb 20 Sat	Mt Baker area	Day trip, car pool 3/5 rating, bring ID	Mike Koolen 604-576-9767
Feb 25 - Mar 6	Blanket Glacier Chalet Revelstoke	Overnight hut variable rating	Mike Koolen 604-576-9767
Mar 12-13 Sat- Sun	Cerise Creek Pemberton	Hut or camping 3/5 rating	Bill Watt 604-526-5564
Mar 13 Sun	Secrets of the North Shore	Day trip 3/5 rating	Roger Goodwin 604-985-7527
Mar 20 Sun	Seymour spring ski	Day trip 2/5 rating	Brian Livsey 604-521-8985
Mar 27-28 Sat – Sun	Cerise Creek Pemberton	Hut or camping 3/5 rating	Bill Watt 604-526-5564
April 2/3 Sat-Sun	Mt Baker area	Overnight, camping 3/5 rating, bring ID	Mike Koolen 604-576-9767
May 7 Sat – Sun	High Falls Squamish	Day trip, car pool 3/5 rating	Brian Livsey 604-521-8985
May 15	Railroad Pass Pemberton	TBA 2/5 rating	Peter Oeschler 604-929-0926

Ratings: 2/5 strong beginner/intermediate tour (able to tele on moderate slopes)
3/5 intermediate/expert tour (able to tele steeps carrying large pack)