

**Conrad Kain Hut  
Bugaboo Provincial Park, BC  
July 8-10**

Greg and Dion set off for the adventure Friday morning. The last hour and half of the drive was along a logging road, which wound through luscious green forest interspersed with not so lovely clear cuts. The road also followed a nice clear mountain river which would later empty into the Columbia River I suspect. We arrived at the parking lot to see vehicles wrapped in chicken wire to prevent porcupines from eating the tires. Not sure why the porcupines here seem to eat tires but don't in other locations?

The hike is 4.5 km long with 695 metres of elevation gain. The first km is fairly flat and goes along a nice stream. Then the hike starts to climb through a boulder field. Along the hike are some beautiful waterfalls.



After a steady climb you come to a sturdy steel ladder which you must climb. After the ladder there are chains along some parts of the path to aid your ascent. The chains seemed to be more necessary for the down climb. After the ladder, it is about a mile to hut and you great views of the Bugaboo Glacier and the famous spire peaks in the park.



Arriving at the hut, I took in the beautiful views of the valley and the Bugaboo Peaks. The hut is very modern and you get clean, drinkable hot water by simply turning on the tap! The hut also has electricity and a spacious kitchen and eating area. Very modern for the backcountry. There are two layers above the main floor where people sleep.



Since we had a late start, we just had supper and enjoyed the company of fellow hikers and climbers for the evening. There was a group at the hut making a movie which was celebrating Conrad Kain's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of first climbing the Pigeon spire in the Bugaboos. They had climbing gear and food from this era of climbing! Looked very heavy but the food sure looked great! Nice thick slices of bacon and homemade soups cooked using a very heavy portable kerosene stove.

The next day the weather was cloudy, rainy and sunny and always changing. We did a short hike up to the Apple Bee Dome campground which is mostly used by climbers. We saw lots of climbers in the campground due to weather. From here we did a short circuit around some blue, deep mountain tarns. Then we headed back to the hut and played cards with some other climbers. We also enjoyed the views from the hut and when it rained were grateful to be staying in a nice warm, dry hut.



The next morning we got up and had breakfast and hiked back to the truck. No porcupines made a meal of our truck! On the way back, we had a great meal at the Iron Goat in Canmore. Thanks Greg for organizing this great trip. Beautiful scenery and lots of laughs.



