

# Muskwa-Kechika Expedition and Camps 2012

## General Information

One great wilderness remains in the northern Rocky Mountains, a vast remnant of the continental wilderness that once existed. Teeming with wildlife, the Muskwa-Kechika remains much as it was before humans came to this continent. Wayne Sawchuk has been leading expeditions into the remotest regions of the MK for decades as part of an effort to protect this magnificent area. In future years these trips may well be remembered as pieces of history, much as early expeditions to Banff or Yellowstone are today. You have the opportunity to join the 2012 expedition to the Northern Rockies.

**A note about the expeditions: do not expect a typical “tourist” trip. Expect to be treated as an expedition member and fellow traveler. Horse travel in the wilderness is rigorous, and folks must be able to hike up and down steep trails, mount and dismount repeatedly, and help with camp and horse activities according to their abilities. Experience with horses is useful, but not necessary. Fitness, however, is.**

### Trip Options:

In 2012 we will be offering four options for exploring the Northern Rockies.

- 1) Horseback Expeditions** These are full-on expedition spots. Life on the trail is rigorous, and a high level of fitness is required. Usually, the packstring will be on the trail for two or three days, followed by a camp day. Folks will assist with saddling and packing, cooking duties, and camp activities depending on their abilities. On a 12 day trip with 6 people, each person will be responsible for supplying and preparing 2 suppers for the group. Participants will be responsible for their own breakfast and lunch.
- 2) Pack Trip/Base Camp Experiences** These vacations are one week in duration. The itinerary is flexible, with day trips of hiking and horseback riding, photography, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, etc, depending on the location. **NEW** this year are two one-week **Pack Trip/Base Camp** options, one that begins at **Chisca River** and completes at **Tuchodi Lakes**, the other beginning and ending at **Tuchodi Lakes**. Folks will bring their own tents, sleeping bags etc, and prepare one supper for the group, as well as their own breakfast and lunch.
- 3) The Mayfield Base Camp** includes all food, lodging, as well as horse, sauna, and canoe use. Cook supplied - all you do is enjoy!
- 4) Child and Nature Camps** Children 8-16 will enjoy an opportunity to develop a personal relationship with nature.

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures,  
PO Box 27, Rolla BC, V0C 2G0  
(250) 759-4993

November 24, 2011 Version.

## 2012 Dates

- **Expedition Trip One: June 21-July 2**

### **Tetsa River, Alaska Highway to Chisca Headwaters**

**NEW** for 2012, this relaxed expedition pack trip and camp experience will take participants from the Alaska Highway to the head of the Tetsa, Henry Creek, and Chisca River. There will be time to explore the unforgettable alpine wonderland of Bathtub Creek. Lake trout abound in Tetsa Lake- it's an angler's dream.

Cost: \$2495.00 CAD plus 12% HST

- **Pack Trip/Base Camp One: July 2-July 9**

### **Chisca River headwaters to Tuchodi Lakes**

Alpine headwaters, clear waters, and spectacular views mark this traverse south along the wildlife rich Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Time is built into the schedule for exploring the head of the Chisca River and the northern Caribou Range high above Margison Creek. There will be an overnight stop at a family Outfitter's base camp/ranch, for which there will be an additional \$150 charge for accommodation and meals.

Cost: \$1950.00 CAD plus 12% HST

- **Pack Trip/Base Camp Two: July 9-16**

### **Begins and ends at Tuchodi Lake, with a 3 day Gatho pack trip**

**New** in 2012, this one-week pack trip and camp on beautiful Tuchodi Lakes will delight and amaze. Spectacular mountain vistas reflected in the clear blue waters of the lakes will contrast with the sweeping alpine landscapes on the uplands of the Gatho River. Wildlife including moose, deer, and elk, are common visitors. This promises to be a relaxing and inspiring visit to one of the most scenic wilderness areas on the planet, with flexibility built into the daily itinerary to accommodate your wishes.

Cost: \$1950.00 CAD plus 12% HST

**These two one-week Pack Trip/Base Camps can be combined to offer a greater opportunity to enjoy this amazing area.**

Cost for the combined trip: \$2695.00

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- **Expedition Trip Two: July 16-27**

**Tuchodi Lakes to Mayfield Lakes**

Features a crossing of the Rocky Mountain Divide and some of the most remote wilderness in North America. Several high passes hung with glaciers provide a rugged and unforgettable backdrop to this little-travelled route.

Cost: \$2495.00 CAD plus 12% HST

- **Child and Nature Camps/ Mayfield Lake Base Camp Experience: July 29- Aug 5, Aug 5-12, Aug 12-19, Aug 19-26.**

These one-week camps are available for booking. At the **Child and Nature Camps**, children 8-16 accompanied by a family member or organization staff, will enjoy an unstructured opportunity to develop a personal relationship with nature.

Cost: TBA, depending on sponsorships.

The **Mayfield Lake Base Camp Experience** provides an opportunity for enjoying a remote and pristine lake and river valley ecosystem, at a pace dictated by your desires. You will enjoy canoeing, fishing, hiking, dayrides into the alpine or along the Gataga River, and at the end of the day, a steaming soak in a log sauna, perhaps followed by a plunge off the dock into the pleasant waters of Mayfield Lake. This is an excellent option for families.

Cost:(food, flights, and tents, bedding etc, included) is \$2000.00 for parties of 7 or more, \$2450.00 per person for parties of 6 or less.

- **Mayfield Lakes University of Northern BC Field Course: Aug 26-Sept 5-  
\*Full\***

- **Expedition Trip Three: September 5-16**

**Mayfield Lake to the Alaska Highway via Ram Lakes, Heaven's Pass, and the Toad River**

Several high passes, remote and rugged, and spectacular views rich with fall colours mark a fitting climax to the 2012 Muskwa-Kechika Expedition. This route is rarely travelled, particularly on the Gataga River end, and it is very rare to meet other travelers here. We will trek over the Rocky Mountain Divide at Heaven's Pass, a never-to-be-forgotten alpine landscape rich with hiking opportunities. Bull Trout abound in Ram Lakes and Bevin Lakes.

Cost: \$2495.00 CAD plus 12% HST

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## Flights:

- The cost of your scheduled flights in and out of the mountains are included in the fee and are arranged by MK Adventures. All Flights depart/return from Liard Air's facilities located at Northern Rockies Lodge at Muncho Lake (245 kms west of Fort Nelson, BC)
- Floatplane service and sometimes wheel plane flights out of the M-K can also be made available, dependant on conditions, for those who are unable to stay for the full duration of an expedition or camps (an extra charge will apply for this service).

## What to Bring:

First rule - be light. Participants are limited to 70 pounds of gear and food. This should include, at a minimum:

- tent, sleeping bag, foamy and food
- hiking boots
- **rubber boots**
- camp shoes
- warm clothes
- **rain gear and rain hat (make this full two piece raingear as a cape etc. is not adequate on a longer trip)**
- warm coat and long underwear
- **waterproof gloves or mitts**
- a leatherman or pliers multi-tool is not essential, but is Very handy
- ½ litre waterbottle (not a large one as it won't fit in the saddle bag) or small thermos

The project will supply all cooking equipment, dishes, camp shelter, horses and horse gear. Don't bring extra dishes as you won't need them. We will provide dish soap, cooking oil, salt/pepper, sugar and coffee mate. If you are a coffee drinker, bring 1 pound per week, ground for coffee press (supplied). Clothing and other gear can be packed in light stuff sacks.

A note about weather - it can do anything in the Northern Rockies! Come prepared for hot or cold conditions. Don't forget those rubber boots!

Be sure to bring binoculars and camera if you have them, and light fishing gear if you want to fish- don't forget a licence. Bugs aren't usually too bad in the Northern Rockies, but do bring some bug dope if you normally use it.

Mayfield Base Camp participants should bring personal clothes and gear- food, tent and bedding are supplied.

For a more comprehensive list of gear, see our full **Gear List** below.

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## Food:

Expedition participants will bring and prepare their own lunches and breakfasts, as well as two suppers for the group on a two week trip, and one on a one week trip. Rice, pasta, potatoes, and dried foods that keep are good for meals later in the trip, while some fresh food (ie meat) is OK for your first meal. In general, go light, as you would with heavy backpacking or canoe trekking. We often plan for a vegetarian option as well- please inform us if you would like this done.

Best to pack your food in cardboard boxes as it will be transferred to horse panniers when you get to camp.

## Communication:

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures carries a satellite phone for use in emergencies.

## Liability Insurance:

Muskwa-Kechika Adventures carries liability insurance, as required by the conditions of the Park Use Permit. Contact Wayne Sawchuk if you would like further details on this.

## Travel Costs to Muncho Lake:

Travel costs to reach Muncho Lake are the responsibility of the participant. Air service to Fort Nelson is provided by Central Mountain Air. Greyhound Bus service is available to Fort Nelson, and also between Fort Nelson and Muncho Lake (239 kms) (phone (250) 774-6322 for times). Busses go north on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and south Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. You can also travel by personal vehicle of course. Participants have flown to Whitehorse, then rented or bussed south to Muncho Lake (712 kms)- you may wish to check this option.

## Accommodation at Muncho Lake:

The night before the floatplane departures, participants can stay at Muncho either in Northern Rockies Lodge or in a tent in the provincial campsite. Hosts at Northern Rockies Lodge, where the floatplanes will depart, are Urs and Marianne Schildknecht, who also operate Liard Air service. For rates and booking at Northern Rockies Lodge, phone 1-800-663-5269.

**Keen to ride along? Just fill out the Reservation form below, or contact us for more information.**

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## Reservations and Booking

Please fill out the following and fax to (250) 759-4993, mail to the address below, or email to [wsawchuk@pris.ca](mailto:wsawchuk@pris.ca)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency contact number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical condition (1 is low, 10 is super-athlete:)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dietary restrictions (ie, vegetarian):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical or other conditions that may affect your mobility or ability to undertake rigorous physical activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Anything else we should know:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates of trip requested:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment** \_\_\_\_\_

(please make cheques payable to Muskwa-Kechika Adventures.) Other options, including eTransfer, are available, but no Visa.

## Deposit and Cancellation Policy

We require a 50% deposit to confirm a booking. The balance is due on May 1. Prior to that date, reservations can be cancelled and your deposit refunded, minus a \$100 deposit to cover costs. After May 1, monies paid or due are not refundable. If for any reason we must cancel a trip, a full refund will be given.

## Unforeseen Costs

If we encounter unexpected logistical arrangements such as additional lodging or flights due to weather or accidents, the cost shall be divided equitably among the participants.

Thanks, and see you in the Northern Rockies!

## Wayne Sawchuk.

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# Suggested/Recommended Clothing and Gear List

## CLOTHING

### Tops

- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Fleece/pile/wool sweater or pullover
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Down Jacket or equivalent
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Long underwear top
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ T-shirts (2 or up to you)
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 Short sleeved shirt
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 2 Long sleeved shirts (1 wool, 1 synthetic material like polyester or polypropylene)

### Bottoms

- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 Long underwear bottom
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 Durable wool or synthetic long pants suitable for use as an outer layer
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 Jeans or equivalent
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 Light pants
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 Shorts (nylon or cotton)
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Underwear

### Raingear

- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 Fully waterproof Rain jacket
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 Fully waterproof Rain pants
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 Fully waterproof Rain hat (cowboy hat @ raincover works well)
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 pair waterproof gloves/mitts
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 1 pair Rubber Boots

### Footwear

- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Liner socks (3 pairs)
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Wool socks, thick (3 pairs)
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Hiking boots, waterproofed and broken in, preferably without large lugs that easily catch in a stirrup
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Camp shoes

### Head and Hands

- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sun hat or baseball cap
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Wool/fleece stocking hat
- \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Wool/fleece mittens or warm wool/fleece gloves

## EQUIPMENT

- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Tent
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Sleeping bag
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Insulating pad (Therma-rest or closed-cell foam)
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Headlamp
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ ½ litre waterbottle (not a large one as it won't fit in the saddle bag)
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ small Thermos for those coffee lovers out there
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Binoculars
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Light backpack for day hikes
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Camera and additional batteries.
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ a leatherman or pliers multi-tool is not essential, but can be Very handy

## PERSONAL

- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Any necessary medication
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Glasses or contacts as needed
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Personal hygiene products
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Toilet paper, one roll per week
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Lip balm with sunscreen
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Insect repellent
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Snacks/munchies you can't do without
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Reading material (go light, softcover is preferred...!)

The camp will supply all cooking equipment, dishes, camp shelter, horses and horse gear. No need to bring extra dishes or silverware.