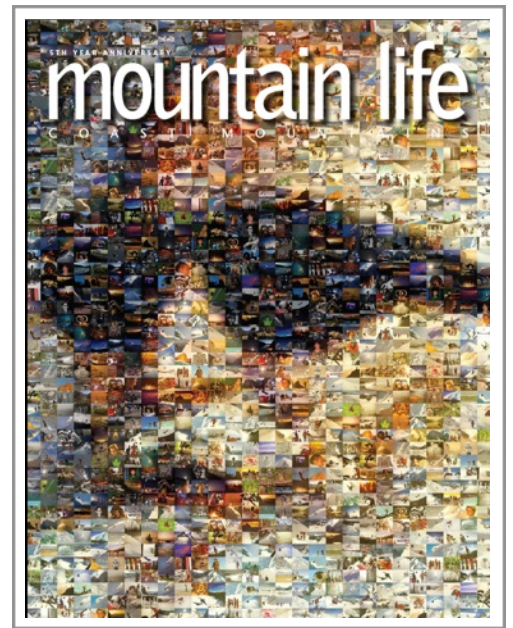
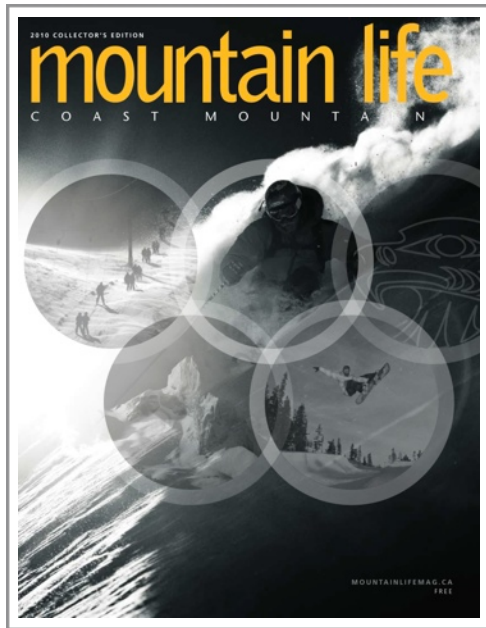
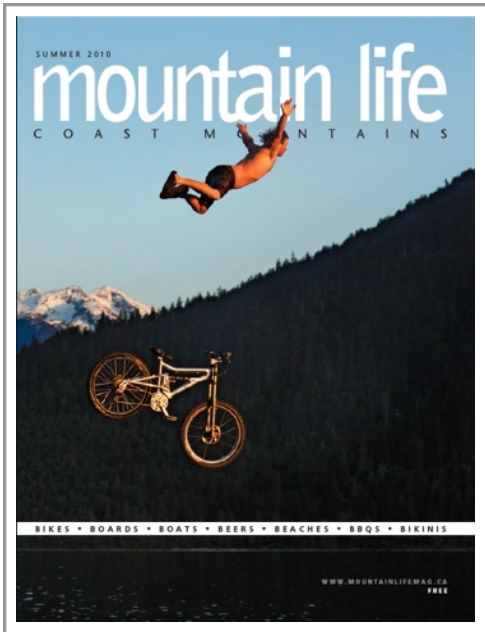


# mountain life

C O A S T M O U N T A I N S

## Writer's Guidelines



### January 2011

Thank you for your interest in contributing to **Mountain Life Magazine**. Our commitment to publishing the very best mountain culture & lifestyle stories from the Sea to Sky corridor and beyond is one of the key elements to our success. If you have an awesome idea for a story you think would fit in **Mountain Life** the easiest way to get it in the mag is to write the whole story, include amazing photographs (or a link to them) and send it to us. This way we don't have to do any guessing— we either like your idea and writing style or we don't.

Please read the guidelines carefully on the following page.

# mountain life

## C O A S T M O U N T A I N S

### Writer's Guidelines

#### Submissions

We are prepared to accept queries as long as they are accompanied by some samples of your previous writing. We prefer short queries outlining what the article will be about, and why it is a good fit for **Mountain Life**. Ideally, you would write the first one or two paragraphs of the story and include it in your query so we have an idea of how you intend to hook the reader and also so we can get a feel for your style. Don't forget to include samples of your writing. (PDFs are preferred) If you have never written anything before, you better just write the whole thing now and send it. We do take chances on totally unproven rookies who really believe they can be a writer, but not that often.

The words "**Coast Mountains**" are right there in our masthead so it goes without saying that the majority of our articles need to be related to the BC Coast Mountains, specifically the Vancouver to Lillooet region. We do run stories on epic trips to places near and far but usually only one per issue. The best time to send in ideas or queries is well in advance. We plan the summer issue in February, the November issue in July, and the February issue in August. The earlier we know about you and your awesome idea, the better.

Top quality photography is essential to getting your story published with the rare exception where an illustration might work (usually Wellness or Food articles.) Submissions/queries that are riddled with spelling errors or lazy writing won't help your cause. Best to learn the difference between "their" "they're" and "there" before you send it out. There is no need to waste paper printing and mailing us anything unless we request samples of your work and you don't have digital copies. Simply emailing the query or submission, along with some LOW RES photos is easier for everyone and it saves paper and postage.

We will consider articles that have been published previously but **ONLY IF YOU TELL US BEFOREHAND**. When you send an article we've already read in *SBC Skier* three years ago and don't say anything, it makes people angry. This goes for parts of articles too. Nothing wrong with recycling your work so long as everyone is aware of it.

Smart contributors would familiarize themselves with our magazine before pitching to us. Get a feel for our style, learn what our departments are and what kind of stuff we are into, also what kind of stories we've already run in the last few years.

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## C O A S T M O U N T A I N S

### Departments

**UpFront**— This is a section of newsy or timely stories and short interesting pieces that showcase the coast mountains and the people who live here. (350-800 words)

**Features**— Local Profiles, Local expeditions, historical stories, lifestyle, photo essays, anything that is cool and requires a longer space to tell the story goes in here. (1000-2500 words)

**Epic Trip**— Expeditions near and far. Ideally centering around Coast Mountain locals off living the dream in strange new lands. Trips with mountains and/or a humanitarian angle will be prioritized. Fantastic photography is essential to this section. (1000-2500 words)

**BackYard**— adventures in the Coast Mountains. New trails, prominent people, hikes, epics, etc., but keep it close to home. (500-1500 words)

**Wellness**— Articles about the latest and greatest ways to keep us alive and well. (400-800 words)

**Food**— Notice how this section is not called “Restaurant Reviews”? That’s because unless it is a new joint that just opened we are not really interested in straight-up reviews. Local restaurants that are doing something unique and interesting are no problem, also seasonal articles with recipes (BBQ’d Grilled Cheese, Fondue, Drinking it Blue, etc) fit well. (400-600 words)

**Up and Comer**— Young Sea to Sky athletes and artists who are poised for future success. (400-600 words)

**Mountain Lifer**— Old-timers who embody the spirit and attitude it takes to thrive in the mountains. (400-1000 words)

**History**— Some of the best stories are old ones. We like to re-shine a light on some lesser known aspects of the old days. (400-800 words)

**Mountain Home**— You can learn a lot about people by where they live, and a lot about an area by the homes built in it. We look to showcase new building techniques as well as innovative ideas and architecture. (400-800 words)

**Local Artist**— We’ve all heard of starving artists and, being an overly expensive place to live, the Sea to Sky has lots of them. It also has endless inspiration which is why most of the artists are here in the first place. (400-700 words and we require free, high res photos or scans of the artwork)

Email your articles and queries to [feet@mountainlifemag.ca](mailto:feet@mountainlifemag.ca). *Mountain Life* pays 30 cents a word for published pieces.