

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

C/O 381 Cedar St., Cultus Lake B.C. V2R 4Z1

TRIP REPORT

POLAND LAKE: GIBSON MEADOWS – JAN. 5



Our original plan changed when the avalanche reports came in towards the end of the week. It went from “extreme” on Thursday to “high” on Friday and then down to “considerable” on our day; Saturday. So we changed the route to one that has Gary Baker & Hans Roos’s signature on it. They created this route almost a decade ago. Since then it’s become quite popular. Having 27 participants come out was testimony to that.



We parked by the blue chairlift at the downhill ski area. 9:50am we began the steepest part of our ascent, along the

right edge of the lower section of the groomed ski slope. Sure enough, a ski patrolman zoomed up to our leader on his snowmobile. Gary reassured him that we would soon be off of that slope and into the forest. In single file we trudged, forming a long line, which was more obvious out in the open meadows.

Thankfully there was enough snow & ice that we didn’t break through into the marsh. At the end of the third frozen pond we angled into the forest. As we gained altitude the trees looked stunning. They were coated in a heavy cloak of puffy snow. Soon we encountered the summer trail, which then sloped downwards slightly to a sign that pointed to Poland Lake. A few minutes and we were there, admiring the huge flat snowfield surrounded by pristine forest.



Two girls sat peacefully, having made themselves a comfy spot on the lake. I wonder what they thought when they saw not one, not five, but twenty seven people, forming four lines, marching out onto the lake. From my photos, some said it looked like an invasion. Actually these girls saw my album too and thanked us for breaking the trail to the outhouse.

We first did the traditional group shot, which was taken of a crowd of COCers squatting on the roof of the shelter. As I suspected, you-know-who dumped a snow bomb on me



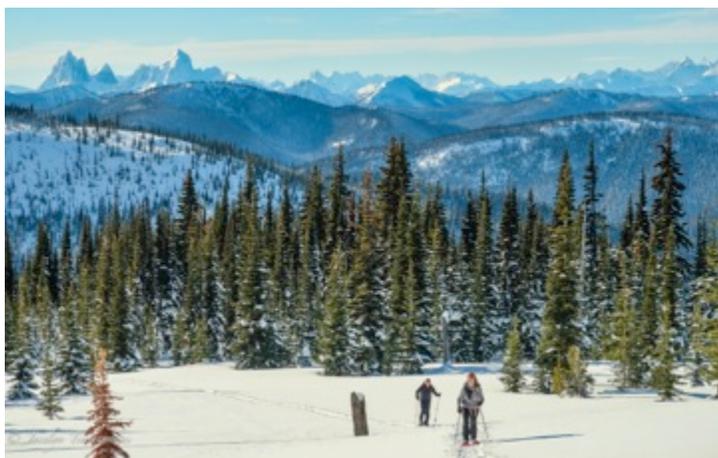
after the timed shot clicked (I had to stay lower since 10 seconds wasn't enough to climb onto the roof). Then we got comfy on the edge of and on the lake and settled in for lunch. No hast was made. Temps hovered around 0 and there was no wind. So no one was cold, especially with the soft sun shining down on us.

Going back, three elected to go by way of the summer trail. The rest of us stuck to the path we'd made coming up. Cal and Joe kept us entertained, having snowshoe running races, a swimming in the snow race, holding hands and falling backwards in the snow and knocking the snow hats off the trees onto each other. Never a dull moment. By 3:00pm we were back at the parking lot except for the other 3 who came half an hour later. A special thanks goes to Gary B for guiding us to the lake.

Stats: 11.3 km / 403m gain / 1753m high

Out for this amazing day were: Grant A, Carol A, **Gary B**, Lori B, Joachim B, Redina B, Christine C, Vic D, Peter E, Cal & Jessica F, Mary-Anne G, Johnny G & his two grandsons, Janice H, Irene H, Joe K, John Laf, Dawn L, Dave S, Jan S, Margaret T, Lori Y, Katie + Case & **Joce T**

FAT DOG SNOWSHOE – JAN. 12



The sunshine and snow lured another large group of 20 out for this popular snowshoe. It being a Saturday, we were not the only ones out on the mountain. When we parked at the Cottonwood Mall, I jumped out of the vehicle, armed with my two sign-up sheets but stopped short when I got to the group. Just as it registered that these guys looked more like a biker gang than a hiker group, they grinned and promptly assured me that "No, we are not part of your group!" OK. That was a quirky start to the day. We left a wee bit later than the others due to two members not showing up. But there was a line-up at the Fat Dog outhouse anyways. And Lori had a bit of a time trying to get the snow socks on her dogs, Mossy & Ocho.



Just after 9:00am we set out, a bit downhill to the bridge and then passing two junctions to the Cambie Creek loop. From there it was a gradual steady uphill. The first few hours we were mostly snowshoeing through a valley, east of Kelly Mt. Then a sharp turn to the left, up a steep section and we were out in the open alpinnes where many views of the distant peaks were to be had.



But we stayed focused on setting one foot in front of the other, as our destination was now in sight. Four of our group remained a bit lower while the rest of us trudged up to the viewpoint on the high point of the ridge where we could see the Three Brothers up close and personal.

We settled in a small bowl that provided shelter from the wind, and had a long lazy well-earned lunch. On the way

down we took our time, playing games and taking photos. Two of our group skied down, getting back to the parking lot an hour before the majority of the group who filed in within minutes of each other around 3:15pm.

All but three went to the Blue Moose afterwards. There we met 6 other long-time members of our club who'd gone on Gary B's Cambie Loop Beginner's snowshoe. Since they were done earlier, they went on to snowshoe the Lightning Lake loop. Our COC group took up half of the restaurant! We almost felt guilty when a group from a wedding party filed in and couldn't find seating. But not quite guilty enough to rush through eating our delicious goodies.

Stats: 17 km / 720m gain / 1955m high

Out for this gorgeous day were: Katie A, Carol A, Terry B, Lori B, Mario D, Robert E, Peter E, Cal & Jessica F, Heather F, Janice H, Darren L, Joe K, John Laf, Karen S, Brian T, Case T, Allana & Erv W + **Joce T**



on. After heading down in the dark the group had dinner at the golf course at the bottom of the hill. Overall it was a fantastic hike with insane views!

MOUNT SEYMOUR FIRST PUMP SUNSET HIKE- JAN. 14



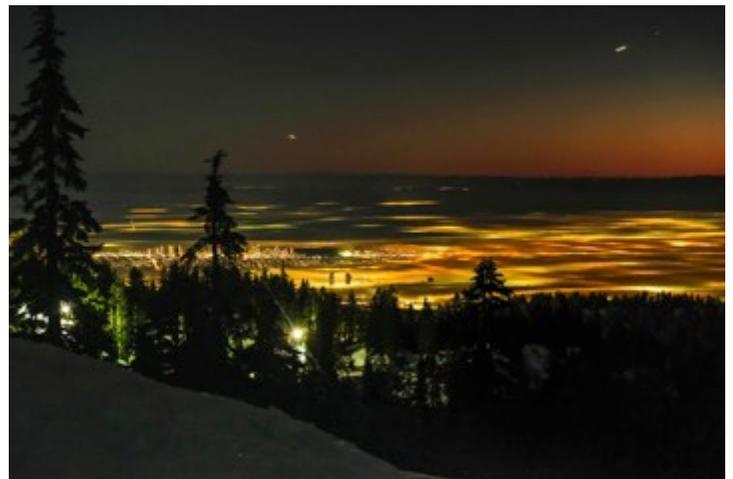
What crazy views we experienced on this sunset hike. Two cars headed up to Mount Seymour mid-day to watch the sun set at the summit and come down in the dark. The trail was well traveled and icy, with half the group in snowshoes and the other half in spikes. Going up we passed many people on their way down, we expected to be the only ones at the top. We were surprised when two other individual hikers also showed up the summit just after we did.



As we watched the sunset the fog also covered the city and only the skyscrapers could be seen poking out. After taking many pictures and goofing around at the top we headed down. Four of us had Christmas lights on our packs making the hike more magical. The weather turned out to be great, it did not get very cold on the way down with our headlamps



Stats: 8km Return, Elevation Gain: 450m, Highest Point: 1392m



Participants were Robbin, **Cal**, Jessica, Lori B, Carol, Margaret, Jocelyn (photos), Don, Reg

CASCADE LOOKOUT MANNING PARK - JAN. 20



A large group signed up for this hike so we split the group into 2. The first group of 11 hikers left 30 min before Margaret T's group. This was an easy or challenging hike depending on the choices everyone made. There is a nicely graded switchback road up to the lookout or you can skip the switchbacks on the road and try to go straight up.



Some of us went straight up and some stayed on the road. On the way down we had two excellent bum slides before heading straight down through the forest. Tim Y and Gary B from the second group caught up to the first group in the forest. Sometimes going straight down is not the quickest way as everyone who went through the forest were the last to arrive at the cars.



First group participants were Wendy, Randy, Sonia, Karen, Darren, Lorna, Jessica, Dawn, Redina, Fotis, Christine and Cal.

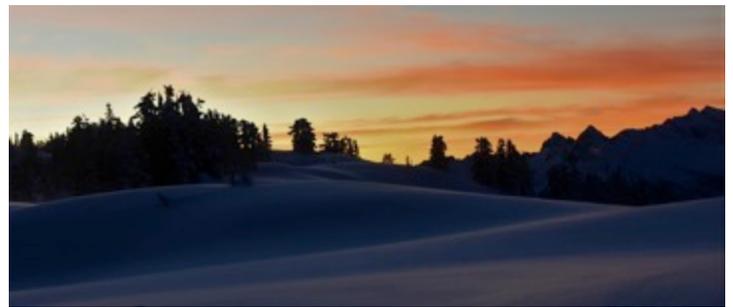
ELPHIN LAKES – JAN. 23 – 24



11 COC members headed out to Squamish on a great adventure. A couple KM before the trailhead we put chains on the vehicles. We then had a 5km hike to the Red Heather warming hut. A few COC members displayed their fire making skills and in short order had a blazing fire going.



After a long break we headed out for the last 6 km about 30 minutes before sunset. While up on the ridge we had spectacular views and watched the sun go down as we hiked to the shelter.



After a nice night at the heated shelter we left the next morning at sunrise. We once again had spectacular views as the clouds/fog lifted and the sun rose as we hiked along the ridge. This time we had a quick break at the warming hut before quickly heading down to the Vehicles.



Participants were, Diane, Janice, Lori, Brian, Katie, Laura, Andrew, Johnny, Carol, Reg and **Cal**

ARTIST POINT – JAN. 30



Artist Point is the top competitor for best viewpoint in the state. The beautifully shaped Mount Shuksan is the star of the area, with a gorgeous summit pyramid and several impressive glaciers. Mount Baker dominates the skyline in the southwest.



Artist Point also is a great viewpoint for the Cascades, with sweeping views of the valley of Baker Lake and in the far distance peaks like Whitehorse Mountain, Three Fingers, Sloan Peak and White Chuck Mountain. Immediately from the trailhead beautiful peaks in the north are visible, such as American Border Peak, Mount Larrabee, and Goat Mountain.



Eighteen COC members went on this short breathtaking hike. We will go back again before the season is over.



Participants were, **Cal**, Peter, Wayne, Steven, Jim, Christine H, Jim, Geoff, Roberto, Lori B, Anita, Janice, Katie C, Shannon, Christine C, Margaret, Regina and Jan.

CLUB INFORMATION

Notice to Trip Participants

It is understood that risk is inherent to some degree in all outdoor activities. Please ensure that you understand the risks involved and are prepared to accept them. As a participant, you are responsible for your own safety and equipment at all times. Trip organizers are not professional guides—they are simply club members who have volunteered their time for your enjoyment.

Inform the trip organizer of any medical conditions that he or she should be aware of in an emergency, for example: diabetes, asthma, and bee sting reactions. Ensure that your previous experience, ability and fitness level are adequate for the trip. Be sure that your equipment and clothing are adequate for the trip. Stay with the group. Wait for other group members frequently and at all route junctions. Tell the trip organizer if you must turn back. **Be safe and enjoy!**

Required Equipment

Trip organizers will be pleased to answer any questions regarding the required equipment for any outing. For more information, it is recommended that you visit one of the many websites that provide such information. Some recommended sites are: www.valhallapure.com (club sponsor), www.backpacker.com and www.mec.ca.

Safety first, last, and always! It is the responsibility of trip participants to be equipped appropriately. Plan for the **worst!**

The Ten Essentials

Before you hit any trail, no matter how easy, no matter how short, no matter how close to home, make sure your backpack is loaded with the ten essentials. When in the backcountry you are responsible for your own safety, and any one of these ten items may help to save your life. Carry them all and know how to use them.

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Extra clothing
4. Sunglasses and sunscreen
5. Headlamp/flashlight
6. First-aid supplies
7. Fire starter
8. Matches
9. Knife
10. Extra food and water

Equipment for Club Members' Use

2	canoes with accessories	1	stove
2	backpacks	1	water filter
1	two-person tent	1	pruning saw
1	three-person tent	1	dehydrator
1	projector and screen	13	ice axes
3	9 mm climbing ropes	4	pairs of crampons
4	climbing harnesses	8	assorted carabiners
2	avalanche transceivers	?	avalanche probes

Note: All equipment must be returned in the same condition as borrowed or repaired appropriately.

Hike Grading System

Duration (hrs.)	Elevation Gain (m)	Difficulty
A 0-4	1 10-500	a Easy
B 4-7	2 500-1000	b Moderate
C 7-10	3 1000-1500	c Difficult
D 10+	4 1500+	d Advanced

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