

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

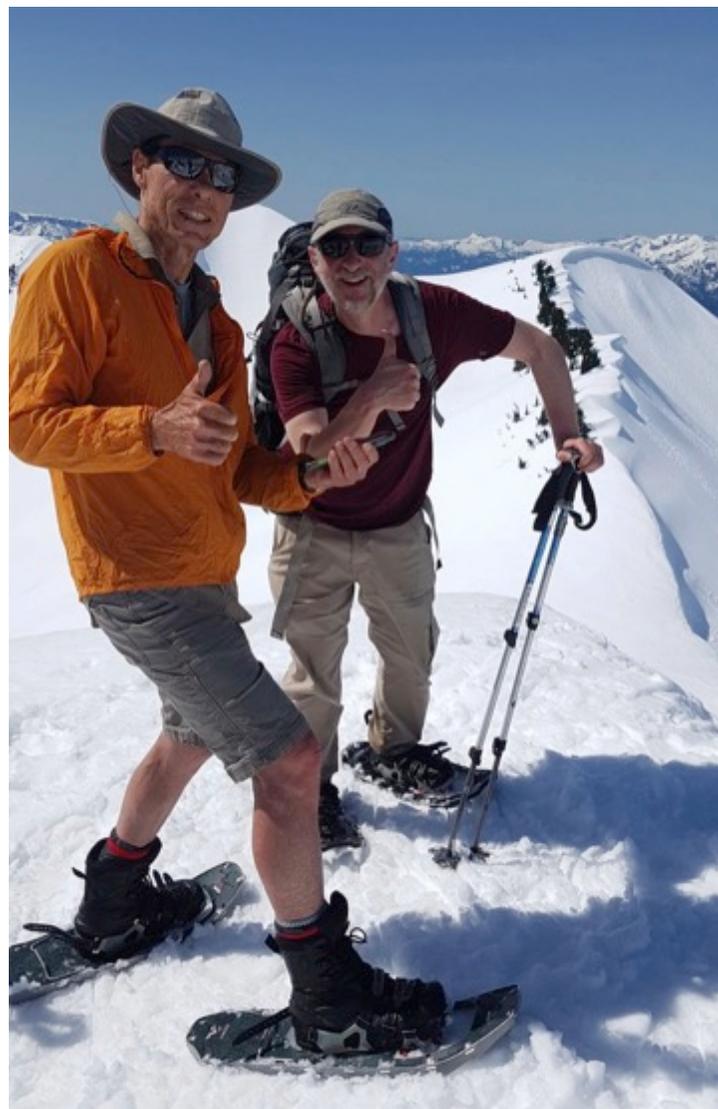
ELFIN LAKES SNOWSHOE – APRIL 25 – 27

(11 km to the Shelter)

After consistently rainy and snowy weather, the day we headed to Squamish the sun broke out of hibernation and the heat began. What amazing luck we had. The sky was so blue and the mountains glorious in their pure white crowns. We met up in Squamish for tea and some pre trip carbo loading at a wonderful cafe called Zephyr. I highly recommend their chai lattes and... well everything there is delicious.



We were on the trail before lunch. The snow became softer as we went along. But our packs weren't too heavy as no need for tents and stoves. Margaret has an ingenious method of protecting her upper back and shoulders from the pack weight. I don't know if I can give details as I believe she will patent this creation. So just ask her when you see her next. Anyways we got to the shelter around 4 and found there were just a few people there. We were thinking it would be a quiet night being a Wednesday night but people kept pouring in as the evening went on. I think it has become so popular that the only good time to go is mid week and even then you will not be alone. Still we enjoyed a beautiful sunset in still balmy well above zero temperatures.



The next morning the snow was very firm having frozen overnight. So we headed out towards Opal Cone. However once we got to the spot where you drop down to the river, we could see tons of released mini avalanches. We realized we would be coming back through this ravine in mid afternoon and be at high risk of encountering more



avalanches. So John, Al and I headed up towards the Gargoyles following some skiers heading for Garibaldi Lake. Margaret, Lori and Judy headed back to the shelter to play in the snow. It was not that far to the Gargoyles and only the last pitch was very steep: almost could have used ice axes for the way down. We stopped at the first high point due to lots of cornices along the ridge. The view from this spot was incredible so decided not to risk further travel.

The next day continued to be glorious and we headed out early while the snow was still fairly firm. After another succulent feast at Zephyr we headed back home. Al, Judy and I stopped to admire the power of spring high water at Shannon Falls on the way as well.

Sue L, Al S, John M, Judy P, Margaret T and Lori.

VEDDER MTN. RIDGE TRAIL HIKE - MAY 2

A few days before this hike I was contacted by Gary B. who told me members of the Trail Maintenance Committee were planned to do a 'Recon' hike of the Vedder Ridge Trail on May 8th and to him it made sense for him and others to join the club hike. I in turn asked if he would co-lead the hike.



Eighteen club members and guests met at the Vedder River trail parking area and car pooled (in the 4X4s) to the mountain bike parking area (at the top of the paved access road approximately .5 km up Parmenter Rd. from Cultus Lake Rd.) where we met up with Gary (he lives at Cultus

Lake). This was a very mixed group, some long time club members who had hiked the Vedder Mtn. Ridge Trail numerous times to locals and a group of new club members from from Agassiz who were doing this hike for the first time.

Parmenter Rd. (a BCFS road) was dry and in decent shape. We followed it up to the what is Tower Rd. which until it was reactivated about 10 yrs ago was completely grown over and had become an access trail to the original trail head future up the mountain. Tower Rd. was de-commissioned last year any now has some very deep water swells (Don't try and cross these in a Honda Civic).



Gary is very active with the Vedder Mountain Trails Association and spoke to the activities of the various user groups on the Mountain (FVMB, VMMC, BCBCHA, and the Run Around the Lake ... Give'r Take 30 runners group). In all there is approximately 180 km of trails on the mountain. Vedder Mountain is a premium timber growing area and is being actively logged as was evident by the newly logged out area adjacent to both Parmenter and Tower Rds.

At the Ridge Trail parking area Gary described the efforts that over the years have been employed to insure that the trail was and remained a hiking only trail, the only such designated trail on the mountain. That said, hikers are welcome to hike any of the other trails on the mountain, but are asked to respect that the primary users of these trails have the right of way. Note: There are markers at the entrance to trails stating the designated user groups, any user restriction and the level of difficulty.

At the start of the trail hikers have to negotiate a series of steep trenches intended to stop any wheeled users. From there the trail follows a section of a another deactivated logging road for approx. .5km to the 'original' trail head. Gary pointed out an old Ministry of Forest's user's suggestion box. It has been left to make a point. The Ministry claims they never build or maintained this trail; they did!

At this point the trail really does ascent into the forest, but first one has to maneuver over or around more barriers to keep the 'wheeled' folks out. From this point the trail meanders through second growth forest that had created a thick canopy with the result there is very little growing ground cover. The forest seems somewhat dark, almost foreboding

in nature, beautiful in a way. But when sun penetrates through the canopy the resulting shafts of light and shadows is magical. The trail surface for the most part, thanks to years of accumulating tree needles is soft under foot.

At the 3.5 km point (from the Parmenter/Tower Rds. turn off) A lookout has been cleared to provide a spectacular view over the village of Yarrow, the Sumas Canal towards, and Sumas Mtn. From there the trail continues on past a small tarn and to a boardwalk (re-built 2 yrs ago) over a pond and marshy area to a trail fork with directions to the summit. This is where the real vertical begins. Over the next .5km the trail requires hikers to scramble up a short steep rocky bluff that has a 'cantilevered' walkway, another rock scramble with a 'hand rope',and a log step ladder (again with a hand rope) to reach a gentle path to the summit. The summit consists of two rock benched areas ideal spots to lounge and enjoy the views. Yes views, this trail is a wonderful forest walk rewarded by views up the Chilliwack River Valley, below into Columbia Valley, across to International Ridge and in the distance Mt. Baker.



Back at the 'trail fork' Gary presented an option to the group: return to the cars as we came or to take a 'back way' that involved descending a tricky section of the old Centennial trail. This is the section of trail that the club has undertaken to rebuild. When completed it will be the final link in a route up the mountain from Yarrow. Everyone chose to take this route back to the cars...fun choice. The upper portion of the this trail is relatively easy going (it does need to be grubbed out) the lower 300-400m is steep, narrow, and rocky. NOTE: Use of this trail is not recommended if the conditions are wet, unless equipped with hiking crampons. It was slow going but flatter ground was at hand when we reached the Moss Rd. Trail. This is a Dirt Bike Trail (motorized) that if followed to the west leads to connector trails all the way down to Yarrow.

NOTE: If you don't know the way don't attempt to go down to Yarrow. There are a maze of trails on this side of the mountain, you chances of getting lost are very high! We then followed Moss Rd. eastward along a series of natural benches and old skid roads. With a tricky, obscured turn onto a secondary trail (I have no idea how to identify it) we came out on 'Tower Rd.' and the area logged last Summer.

We could have followed the road all the way back to the parking area, but Gary was on the lookout for the 'secret route'. He thought that the entrance to it had been obliterated by the logging, but to his delight it had not. So we turned into the forest and he said, " That way." There was absolutely no sign of any trail, nothing. Off he went into the bush, under stuff, around stuff over stuff, " don't go too far to the left, it's WHA, head up the embankment, but stay to the left." we are fanned out across the slope, everyone picking their own way up. There is a shout, " We've found an old skid road." Gary hollers back, " Don't take it, go up and to the left." And then, there we were all standing on the Vedder Ridge Trail. Some folks were a bit confused as which way to go to return to the cars and we did a head count to insure we still had 19. Gary pointed us in the correct direction and we enjoyed a pleasant 1.5 km walk on that soft surfaced trail back to the car (OK the last bit was on that deactivated FR road).

It was a fun day. Total distance approx. 10km.

So we had a large turnout for a Wednesday hike, I believe the Harrison hikers were part of the group. It was awesome that Kelly C. was able to join up with us as she was in town. The others not to mention **Gary B.** were: Johnny G. Steve C. Robbin Y. Dawn D. Judy P. Vera L. Linda R. Rob D. John Laf. Heather B. Margaret T. Anne O. Jan S. Al C. Vojta K. Jim S. and my trusty camp dog Kenya. This was one of the largest groups I have been with in awhile.

-Terry B

LIGHTHOUSE AND KLOOTCHMAN PARKS

WEST VANCOUVER - MAY 5

I must confess that the reason for the shortness of this report is that three weeks after this hike I am relying on memory to describe what happened. Not very bright of me.



In Lighthouse we hiked the park's many trails; Arbutus, Summit, Valley of the Giants, Maple, Shoreline and Juniper Point. I think I have recalled them all. On the Giants Trail we stopped to awe the huge red cedars and Douglas. Awing also happened on the many vistas looking out over Burrard Inlet and Georgia Straight.



A highlight was spending a leisurely lunch on an outcropping looking out at Bowen Island, snow cap peaks behind Gibson's Landing and the many boats sailing by. I can't remember the name of the outcropping. Was it Juniper or Jackpine Point? Should have emailed Sharon R, Al C, Lynn M, Patrick R, Mo N, John L or Douglas H for a reminder.



After lunch we headed to the smaller Klootchman Park. First we had to trek along a quiet residential street. From the trailhead we climbed down stairs then further down a rooted trail to top of a cliff three or four stories above the ocean. Another fantastic view!

Where did we stop for refreshments after this 10 to 12 km hike? Oh no, not my third senior's memory slippage.

- **Dave Ortis**

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORT – MAY 9

We were a small group, but what a team: John "Chainsaw" G., Shannon "Rogue Rake" P. and Gary "Buck Saw" B. Given our numbers the plan was to focus on clearing the 'heavy' timber that had fallen across the trail and do some trail benching and raking where we deemed the trail condition warranted it.

The forecast was for possible rain showers, thankfully they never materialized. As we ascended at times we walked

through a cloud shrouded landscape, then above the clouds...no views to be had at the Yarrow lookout. We slowly but steadily cut and raked our way up, hoping we would have time to get to the summit as this was Shannon's first time on the Ridge Trail (I think she liked it!!!). Johnny was keen to get to the trail fork to the summit as that was where we knew the biggest tree was that blocked the trail. Once there he started the cut to the sound of a sputtering motor.....darn, out of fuel and we had decided not to haul any extra fuel with us. Shaking the saw he managed to slosh any remaining fuel in the tank into the motor and managed to finish the cut through that log. We had done it; the trail was completely cleared.

We knew there was no need to haul and of the equipment up to the summit (we had just been up there the week before) so we hid the saws, the rake and headed for the top to enjoy our lunches. No views, but the clouds were flying by and for fleeting moments we got glimpses of Columbia Valley below.

Is there more work to be done on the trail, off course there is. The signs at the junction of Parmenter Rd/Tower Rd. should be re-positioned. The path traversing the vehicle trenches at the trail head is steep and can be slippery, there would be merit in building some steps there, Much of the trail could benefit from surface raking and there are some old steps several hundred metres past the Yarrow Lookout that have fallen away and perhaps should be replaced. Gee, this list is starting to get a bit long. We should probably re-examine how the rope ladders are positioned on the rock wall and the log ladder, and the log ladder could be replaced. AND, is that wood walkway crossing the rock wall ever slippery. We should install some form of non slip treads on it. I will be walking the trail with one or both the RS&T technicians sometime in the next 2-3 weeks. Their input and suggestions as to possible safety upgrades will be welcomed. But all this waits.

Fulfilling our commitments to the maintenance of the Pierce Lake Trail is our next priority. The date for this work day will be posted by early next week. We need to confirm some details first.

Happy hiking! - **Gary Baker**

FLORA LAKE – MAY 11

Friday May 11th, 6 of us met up at the Dog park, Parking lot in Vedder Crossing, We car pooled up to Chilliwack Lake, to our wonder the parking lot for Lindeman and Flora Trails was open for once, and at 9:10 a.m. we started the ascent to the first lookout.

The water in the streams was rising, I should have thought of that before hand and advised gaiters, so we had few hikers with wet feet, my new boots kept my feet dry, that was a treat.

The weather was perfect and the trail in great shape, so by 11:00 we were at our destination. The views were exceptional as it had cleared up and the sun was shining. We took an unusual group shot for Cal who wasn't with us, but we thought he would enjoy looking at it, as he is the master of the unusual. So Cal, this is for you:



It was hard to resist continuing on as we got there in record time, but some of us had to get back, so we ended up in Waves by 2:30 reliving our days adventures.

Thanks to those that came along for the hike Brenda L. Johnny G. Dave B. Heather B. and our old friend Herb D. had surfaced after a long absence.

- Terry B

BUNTZEN AND MCCOMBE LAKES - MAY 12



I find it hard to describe something new about a COC well-travelled hike such as Buntzen Lake. Here goes. Heading along the east side of the lake we hiked through the forest undulating the many small ravines arriving at the North Beach picnic area.

We bypassed crossing the suspension bridge and headed up the east side of McCombe Lake to the power station. After crossing a spill way we headed on the west side of McCombe to the bridge. Here we hiked the west side of



Buntzen Lake trail with more undulating climbing. We stopped for lunch at a nice view point overlooking the lake. At the south end of the lake we crossed a floating bridge then to our starting point and picnic grounds on the beach. According to 109 Walks we had hiked 12.7 km. Hardly a noteworthy hike in the annals of COC. Nonetheless it was a beautiful, relaxing and special day.



Afterward we ten; Geoff L, Peter G, Linda I, Sharon R, Al C, Lynn M, John L, Mo N, myself and Eileen R who took the beautiful pictures enjoyed fellowship and refreshments at the non-franchised owned Beanery Coffeehouse and Eatery in Coquitlam

- Dave Ortis

GOAT / PORCUPINE RIDGE – MAY 16

Cloudy skies cleared by the time we reached the Post Creek parking lot in Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park. Post Creek was high so we backtracked to the road to cross the creek. John Laf led us to the boulder and fire pit where the marked trail starts. The steep slope and fixed ropes reminded Judy that she had already hiked this trail and had not wanted to repeat it. The hikers who'd done this trail before pointed out Wayne's corner, where his pack rolled over a cliff.



We stopped to admire stunning views of Lindeman Lake and Flora Peak. There was no sign of Wayne's orange backpack on the rocks far below. After taking some dramatic photos we carried on. The trail to the second lookout was tricky to find in places but John Laf kept us on route.



Judy and Shannon stopped for lunch here and were lucky to spot two bears bouldering down below. Four hikers continued to the third lookout where we had lunch and took more dramatic photos. Melting snow on mountain vistas above Greendrop, Lindeman and Chilliwack Lakes made the view seem like a landscape painting. We hated to leave. On the way down we regrouped with Shannon and Judy. Along for the day were John Laf, Dave B, allen C, Shannon P, Judy P & **Heather B**

MALCOLM KNAPP UBC RESEARCH FOREST - MAY 19

Peter G and I met Linda I and Wayne L at the trailhead at the entrance gate into the forest. Over 12,000 acres the university's acreage is a varied west coast terrain with many species of plants and trees. Crisscrossed with many coded trails we choose the more difficult Blue Trail. Our destination was Loon Lake. First third of the trail we hiked through beautiful old growth looking forest that may have been a new

forest a hundred plus years ago. Then hiking continually upward we trekked through an obvious second growth forest then through a recently planted one.

After about an hour and a half we arrived at the lake and the Loon Lake Research and Education Center. I am to blame for ignoring the no trespassing signs and leading our small group through the public center made up of rentable cabins and education facilities. Friendly people greeted us as we made our way to the dock and the hand pulled ferry seen in the picture. Alas, it was out of commission so we were unable to pull ourselves to the trail across the small inlet.



Sightseeing over we left the compound to enjoy lunch on a bridge. Twenty minutes we continued through forest and cut blocks looking for the connecting trail to the one leading to Marion Lake. We missed it. Walking a long while toward the main gate we came across the easiest trail, the Yellow Trail. A roundabout route we arrived at the trailhead four hours and fourteen plus kilometers later.



Refreshments and good fellowship at Maple Ridge Blenz Coffee Shop ended our hike.



-Dave Ortis

MEMALOOSE PEAK – MAY 24

Four hikers, three topo maps, two GPSes. The Alpine Club gave us a waypoint for where their group left the flagged Memaloose Creek trail on Sunday. They used snowshoes & microspikes; we didn't, but we carried them...Justin case...for seven hours. With the creek on our left, blue, orange, pink and even green flagging tape kept us more or less on trail. Goldilocks snow—not too hard, not too soft—was perfect except for all those times, we punched through, sometimes into water.



Leaving the trail, we side-hilled on steep slopes dotted with a few glacier lilies. Using GPSes and compasses we made it to the rounded summit of Memaloose Peak (1945m), first time for all of us, in 4 hours. After lunch and group photos in three directions, we headed for home. First time on Memaloose Peak for John Laf, Johnny G, Shannon P & Heather B

MULTI DAY TRIPS

LORD OF THE RINGS PEAK, NORTH OF WHISTLER

July 2 – 5 LIMIT: 10

Day hike, stay at hut Ron Dart: rdart@shaw.ca

THE DEWDNEY TRAIL, CASCADE MTS.

June 29 – July 3, Canada Day weekend

5 day backpacking LIMIT: 12

Terry Bergen: terrybergen@shaw.ca

THE 3 SISTERS WILDERNESS. PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, CENTRAL OREGON

July 7 – 15 LIMIT: 10 8 day backpack, tenting

John McLellan: jhmclellan@shaw.ca

THE SNOWY MTS, KEREMEOS

July 28 – Aug. 3 LIMIT: 10 4 or 5 day backpacking

Joce Timmermans: jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com

MOWICH CAMP AT HOZOMMEN PEAK, MANNING PARK

Aug 4 - 6 BC Day weekend LIMIT: 12

3 day backpack Terry Bergen: terrybergen@shaw.ca

ASSINIBOINE & BUGAGOOS PROV PARK

Aug. 12 – 19 LIMIT: 12 Day hiking Trip is FULL

Joce Timmermans: jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com

TONQUIN VALLEY, OVAL/BALD PEAKS – MIETTE, JASPER MP, ALBERTA

Aug. 19 – 26 LIMIT: 10

Day hike, 2 day backpack, car camp, tenting, hut

Ron Dart: rdart@shaw.ca

BELLA COOLA, BC

Sept. 6 – 15 LIMIT: 12

Day hiking & grizzly bear watching, car camping

Margaret Tranah: Margaret_tranah@hotmail.com

COPPER RIDGE OR EXCELSIOR RIDGE, MT. BAKER AREA

Sept 12 – 16 LIMIT: 6 4 day backpacking

Sue Lawrence / Al Smith at gwelu@telus.net

HIGH RIDGE, WHISTLER-BLACKCOMB

Sept 26 – 29 LIMIT: 8 Hostel Ron Dart:

rdart@shaw.ca

Masthead of Elphin Lakes by Sue Lawrence

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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