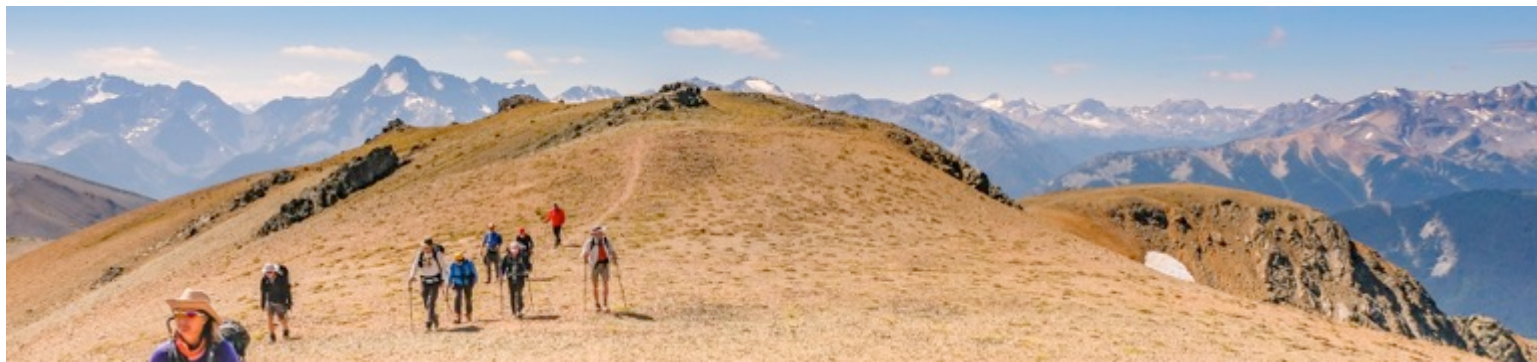


THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

TRIP REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi all, a quick update from the executive for you on a few items:

1. Our intention is to resume monthly meetings in September. Since current public health guidelines are likely to be in place for some time, we need to adapt to the current normal and "soldier on". So subject to booking a venue that can accommodate up to 50 of us while maintaining physical distancing within, we will schedule meetings. Our first choice is the Neighbourhood Learning Centre but failing that other venues may be available such as the Yarrow Community Hall. More details on how to register for the meeting, safety protocols, speaker presentations and venues will be forthcoming.

2. We didn't have a June BBQ so we are contemplating a BYOE (everything) in September or October. This will help overcome the challenges of preparing and sharing food amongst us all. Hopefully the club will be able to provide some treats to add to the gathering. Details to follow.

3. A budget for 2020-21 has been drafted and once it has been endorsed by the Board, it will be presented to the membership for adoption. This will occur at the Sept meeting but the proposed budget will be shared with all so as to include those that choose not to attend the meeting.

4. We will have a photo contest this fall and the rules are being tweaked to, among other things, give more members an opportunity at the available prize money.

Until I see you again, have fun out there and stay safe.

- Grant

GLACIER NP, KOOTENAY PP AND YOHO NP
TRIP - JULY 4 TO 18

Undaunted by grizzly sign (lots of it!), snow, bridges out, mosquitoes (bad in the morning of one hike) or cloudy skies our first leg of this trip included Balu Pass, Avalanche Crest, Great Glacier Trail, Asulkan Valley and even our front country Loop Brook campground with historic railroad trestles.



Meeting up with Cal and his RV crew (Irene and Claudine) at Rogers Discovery Centre, Rogers Pass, we started on the TH to Balu Pass. Several hours later we are right up at the top at 2080 m with 780 vertical gain, 13 kms and spectacular views and a well built trail with all bridges in place. Though Balu means bear we didn't see any activity here and due to Covid concerns very few humans too. Any other year this is a popular trail and it was a great one to start with.

Avalanche Crest same kms, steeper but worth it once we got onto snow again and took in beautiful mountain ranges at



the top. Two of our group, Grant and Irene, still needed to get higher and reach the post overlooking the next range. The rest of us were content to watch them and stayed busy resting, relaxing, snoozing, taking pics, eating lunch. Cal was tempted to join them declaring he has a bad case of FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) but common sense prevailed LOL!

Great Glacier Trail next day was mild and relaxing with waterfalls, the Illecillewaet Glacier above us (once you have been there you will always know how to say it), exposed red (iron) bedrock and we followed the old horse trail up much of the way that was used by Glacier House visitors back in 1886 when it first opened until the early 1920's. CP built the hotel, tea houses and many of the trails we now enjoy in Glacier NP (the ruins/foundations are still there).

Another jewel, 11 kms and 5 hours was the Asulkan Valley hike this time with LOTS of grizzly activity and nervous glances all the way up the trail until we were stopped by a bridge that was out and could not cross the rushing waters coming off Asulkan Glacier. We never saw the bear making a mess of the trail with diggings but she/he was definitely close by as the smell and flies increased as we ascended. We proceeded with caution, stayed together and had bear spray ready!

One evening we walked around Loop Brook campground so named because the rail line formed a loop to reduce the grade as it left Glacier House. Of interest was the old stone pillars that held the rail line and seeing one collapsed by an avalanche! (apparently Glacier NP has up to 10 m of snow per year!) Also evident were picturesque stone bridges and huge rail beds that were built (massive "hills") and us picturing trains running in this mountainous region.

A special thanks to Cal for bringing the COC banner on every hike and setting up his tripod and camera for the group shot. Trekking these great trails was Grant Acheson, Cal Francis, Irene Hofler, Claudine Aeschlimann, Mary Ann Dykshoorn and leader for GNP portion Christine Camilleri.

by **Christine Camilleri** (co-leader Grant Acheson)

MT REVELSTOKE NATIONAL PARK –

JULY 26 - 31

Mt Revelstoke National Park became our last minute destination when Judy's Wheeler hut and Illecillewaet camping trip in Glacier National Park fell through due to... circumstances beyond our control.



In a miracle of short notice timing, in one afternoon, seven people committed to car camping at the new Snowforest Campground. Reservations opened the next morning and we landed campsites. Site #13 across from the toilets was less than desirable but fortunately, Maurice was able to swap to a better site with space for two tents.



The next four days were a blur of sun and heat and alpine highs with glorious views, cool breezes, cold lakes and streams, wild flower meadows, as well as duct tape repairs, Judy's childhood home, warm nights and ice cream and fancy drinks. Mt Revelstoke Meadows in the Sky hike to Miller & Eva Lakes and Jade Pass was day one. Day two was Hermit Meadows in Glacier National Park for some, Mt



Revelstoke Ski jumping for others. The site, that is. No actual jumping. On the third day we all hiked Avalanche Crest trail in Glacier National Park. Our final day we took the gondola to hike the Stoked trail to sublime wild flower Meadows with views of Mt Begbie.

-Annette L, Carolyn H, John McL, **Judy P** (photos), Lucy S, Maurice D & **Heather B**.

FLORA PEAK



Five of us hiked to Flora Peak on August 13 under perfect weather conditions. The trail is fairly steep all the way to the Flora pass but well marked.



After lunch at the pass we hiked to the summit where we could see Greendrop, Flora and Chilliwack lakes. This part of the trail is not as well marked and we wandered off it a few times but maybe that was just because I was leading. A quiet day in the parking lot and on the trail although we encountered some late starters on our way down.



Eight hours including breaks; 14km return; 1345m gain. Thanks for coming Denise, Ling Su, Manfred, Mark S. - **Grant**.

VANCOUVER ISLAND ROTARY ROUTE CYCLE TOUR - AUGUST 15

Sheryl and I headed over to the island on the 14th riding our loaded tandem bike. We booked into the local Travelodge in Sydney (where we dropped off our panniers) then headed off to ride the Lockside and Seaside Cycle routes to and around Victoria (a 90km round trip). No sooner did we leave the motel, than the skies opened up, for the next 2hrs. No big deal as we have good rain gear. Thankfully the 2 hr. return trip to Sydney was in bright, warm sunshine. The next morning, Saturday AM, it was gorgeous so we did an early morning tour of Sydney then rode back to the ferry terminal to meet, John LaF., Herb C., Patrick R., Carol A., Peter E., Irene H., George D., and Wayne H. as they rode off the ferry from Tsawwassen.

Once the group was together, we headed to Brentwood Bay to catch the ferry across the Sannich Inlet to Mill Bay. The route around Lands End Rd. is rather 'bumpy' and we got rather spread out. I, often, like to lead from behind and gave George 'rough' instructions as to the route. I have to admit that I missed the desired turn (I didn't hear the off-course warning echoed by my GPS). I know where we were, it just wasn't the way I wanted to go. No harm done, just a few bonus kilometres....

Back on route we made good time getting to the ferry and lounged at a park waiting for the ferry crew to have their lunch break. Sadly, one of the group deemed it best to return to Swartz Bay as the going was proving to be harder than been expected.



The ferry terminal at Mill Bay is 7km from the Village centre where we stopped at the local Co-op for food before heading on. Fueled up we had a short (approx. 1.5km) ride on the busy Island Highway before we turned and started the gentle climb to the Village of Cobble Hill, then onto Cowichan Bay at the bottom of a crazy steep descent. Leaving the Bay, we stopped at a historical site honoring the pioneer women of the area and a famous visitor, 'Robert Service'. We were now on the outskirts of the City of Duncan where we rode by the oldest private tennis club in BC (I don't think it has changed in the over 120 years of its existence). The route then took us through the Native community of Tzouhalem and past the oldest wood church in BC, St. Peters Anglican Church, which is also the burial place of Dr. Peter (who chronicled his journey as an early AIDS patient on CBC back in the 1990s.....how sad but powerful!).

Onward....keeping the group together was akin to herding feral cats, but so far so good. Heading north we rode Richards Trail, an off the beaten rural road from Duncan north to Chemainus. This is one of my favourite roads on all of the island.

The plan was to stop in Chemainus for a food, ice cream break. Going into town I had moved to the front to lead the way into a favourite bakery and ice cream parlour. Where are Herb and George? What did we do before CPs (cell phones)? I called George; Herb had flatted. I gave them instructions to find the others. Irene and I elected to grab some food at a Subway. Irene had started to 'bonk' and needed fuel and was concerned that she could no longer hold the pace needed to make the ferry in time. We agreed she should go ahead, as the route was very straight forward from Chemainus to Ladysmith where she was to wait for us.

It turned out the old downtown of Chemainus was a virtual ghost town, few people and numerous closed

establishments. All the action was now at a new pub and Co-op centre at the northern end of town.

As planned, we all regrouped at Ladysmith and started the ride up to and through Cedar to Duke Point. I said, "up", Patrick and Herb bolted off ahead and missed the turn that followed a flatter route. Remember the 'feral cats'. Although they were not on the planned route, the road they were on would take them towards the ferry. I decided they would find the way. In the meantime, Irene had found her 'mojo' and had spirited ahead of the remaining group. As fate would have it, Herb, Patrick and Irene met up and waited for the rest of us.

We arrived at the ferry terminal almost 30 minutes earlier than planned or anticipated. It was a fun day!

It turned out that parking at the terminal was not a problem, so Sheryl and I said our 'good byes' as the other headed for their cars. We had a 9km ride back into Tsawwassen to reach our car. It was a rush! With all the cars blasting along the Causeway (at 80+) cyclist can get a wonderful tailwind and we did, oh but the noise. With little effort we were cruising at close to 35kph. What a way to finish the ride, well not quite finish the ride. There was a short hill up to where the car was parked; it was not tandem friendly (tandem climb like loaded semis). We climbed that hill at 6kph.

Sheryl and I want to thank all who accompanied us on this ride. It was a fun day!!!!

Submitted by: **Gary Baker**

SOUTH CHILCOTIN PP- AUGUST 11 – 17



How can I describe this trip? I'd say it certainly was adventurous, with an element of risk in regards to not knowing the exact stats or conditions of the trails. It was also challenging, carrying our heavy backpacks, which held 6½ day's worth of food and doing three long day hikes in mostly open alpine. We were blessed with good weather the whole week, albeit it got rather hot towards the end of the week. We did not stick to the original plans. Here's my story:



Day 1: Jewel Creek trailhead to Spruce Lake: 15.8 km / 758m gain / 1597m high point

This trail took us along Gun Creek for the first few km, across a talus slope, through Aspen groves and into open meadows. This year work has been done on the trails and new signage added. I'd never seen such a high concentration of Arnicas by Spruce Lake. Four of our group arrived the day before and scouted out the area around the lake. They saw a grizzly bear from a distance on the way in.



Half of our newly arrived group continued on to the larger northern campsite, 2 km farther up the trail. The other half stayed at the southern site, which was closer to the trailhead for the next day. When Irene tried to bathe in the lake, she sank up to her thighs in bog. Yes, the southern end of the lake was quite shallow and marshy.

Day 2: Spruce Peak: 15 km / 897m gain / 2373m high

What a beautiful day! The first hour or so we hiked through pine filled forest, along Windy Creek, and up through flower filled meadows to Windy Pass. From there we turned right, onto a black, orange and chocolate brown gravel ridge. It's

amazing how anything grows on these slopes. The flowers were smaller and fewer but stood out starkly against the bare darker surface. A few patches of snow clung to the north-facing slopes.



We settled nicely behind some rocks for lunch, which provided shelter from the wind on Spruce Mt's peak. Dave spotted two mountain goats at the bottom of the slope. Thanks Irene for letting us use your binoculars.

No thanks to two fellow hikers who whacked me on the head. Actually I didn't mind. Case needed the flies that were landing on my hat. It helped him catch fish later in the day. The trout made for tasty after dinner snacks. On the way back four hikers split off on the ridge and bushwhacked down a western slope above Spruce Lake. This became a routine for the remaining days, the faster paced group going on their own for part of the hike.



The four cabins at the northern campsite are closed (Covid) and rather run-down. But the dock was not. Every morning at least 3 floatplanes would land and drop off more mountain-bikers. In the five days we were there, we ran into only one group of backpackers. But plenty of bikers.

Day 3: Towards Sheeba Mt: 17 km / 1237m gain / 2300m high



Both of our groups ended up going the wrong way once past the viewpoint. It was easy to do, with an obvious trail leading us up the spine of a rocky hill. When we started cutting across the talus slope, I saw the trail down below. So we dropped down and then continued to a headwall. This was a more dangerous ascent. We had to watch for falling rock from hikers above us. This was also the only water source on the whole trail. If we'd known that, we'd have tanked up.



Once on the top of the wall Dave darted off. I thought, "Why isn't he waiting for the rest of our group?" I soon discovered why. There was a herd of 17 Big-horned sheep on the upper slope right beside us! We continued on the ridge to the edge of a drop. There we parked for lunch and watched the other five hikers carry on. The slope closest to us had a rainbow of colors running through it, from soft reds to vibrant oranges and then pale lilac and off white.

At this point we realized to do Sheeba Peak would take another 3 hours and our water supply would not be adequate. In fact, 2 of our group still ended up running out of water later in the day. Thankfully Janice had some to spare. We decided to turn back, but carry on along the ridge and do the longer loop "mountaineering trail" (the other group did summit Mt. Sheeba). First we watched more Mountain Sheep grazing below us on the steep rocky slopes. Then we passed the steep headwall, thinking we were glad

we didn't have to descend that. Little did we know, there would be worse to deal with later in the loop.

Before dropping elevation onto the trail, we had to satisfy our urge to bag a peak. So we climbed up to the nearest one which had an obvious trail leading through black & white shale. From there we could see all of Spruce Lake and the Dickson Range to the south.

Then we dropped down to the trail, which soon led through steep scree slopes. In some sections we barely had a foothold. We couldn't comprehend how the mountain bikers could ride over that. As we rounded a corner the trail was blocked with a low rock barrier. Why? We scouted it out and our stomachs dropped when we saw the large section of non-existent trail. A landslide had completely obliterated it and made it impossible to continue. What to do? To return by the same way we'd come in would've taken way too long. To go around would take at least an hour and looked like we'd come up against another cliff. The cairn to our left must've been there for a reason. But I couldn't see a trail. For the third time I inspected it while Irene searched for another way down. I decided to try out a faint flattening in the rock on the steep talus slope because I could see a smaller cairn higher up on a sharp ridge. Once up there we very slowly and carefully butt-slide down the other side of the even steeper talus slope. Thankfully we all made it unscathed. Not so with our clothes. But that was a small price to pay for staying safe. Phew.



We ended up getting back to camp only 10 minutes before the other group. All of us were too tired to fish and cook fish. At this point one of the hikers was having knee problems. This got the ball rolling and as I suspected when planning this trip, to carry on north for another 3 long days to Castle Peak, 2 of those with heavy overnight packs, was not so appealing. Also a few mountain bikers had just passed that

campsite the day before and said it was quite small. We had 9 tents with us. So we decided to head out the next day and drive the short distance to Tyaughton Lake which is located just on the outskirts of the southeast side of the park. We plan to go back one day with our high-clearance 4WD and access Castle Peak from the east side of the park. Then it'd be only 6 km to the campsite and a 20km summit day. Much of this park has ATM tracks and 4WD roads that'll get you quite high. Once up in the alpinies you can roam from peak to peak.



Day 4: Spruce Lake to trailhead: 17 km / 250m gain / 1050m at trailhead

Because we were in grizzly territory we all had bear spray with us and remained hiking in groups. Once in the forest we became more bear aware because we passed five fresh huge piles of scat (about 2 x 2' in diameter) in a space of about 200m. A steady flow of talk is the best way to keep from startling the bears. Once back at home a few days later, we learned that the day after we'd been on the exact same trail, a mama grizzly with 2 cubs attacked a mountain biker there.



We drove to the tiny town of Goldbridge afterwards. Cold beer after the hot dry sweaty hike was tantalizing indeed.

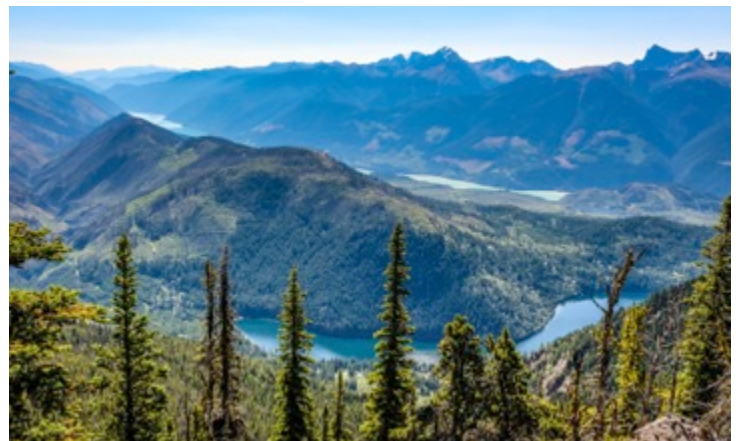


Would the only bar / restaurant be open? Well not only was it open, but it had a pig roast & live band playing Mexican music that evening. So we set up our camp back at the free BC Hydro campsite where we'd spent our first night and then returned. We stayed in our own little bubble and feasted on pulled pork, salad & live music. They were pretty good. We weren't sure why they were performing in a town like Goldbridge, where the year-round resident population is 32.

Thankful that this happened in Goldbridge and not at the trailhead; Case's van wouldn't start. So we all piled into Dave & John's trucks. In the morning mechanic Jerry went back to Goldbridge with Case and whacked the crap out of the fuel tank / filter while Case managed to start it. Now he had to drive straight home without turning the motor off. Bye bye Case and thank you Jerry.

Day 5: Cinnebar Ridge: 21.9 km / 1292m gain / 2107m high

I had to apologize for saying this was a moderate hike. I'd just roughly measured on the map. But at the day's end, everyone was so impressed with this one that they forgave me pretty quickly. Dave W had suggested it, having read that it was a premier hike. We discovered why: those meadows were loaded with alpine flowers. And they were at their peak too yet. An abundance of Lupines filled the air with perfume and made the slopes look purple from a distance.



The first 550m-elevation gain was quite steep, switch backing through forest on a dusty hot trail. Temps were in the 30s! When we got to the fork for the loop, the fast group opted to go left, thus having to climb up a steep talus slope to get onto the ridge. I and 4 other women opted to go right, not wanting to take my chances on another “mountaineering route” and run into what happened on the Mt. Sheeba hike. We dropped 113 m down to a valley with a lovely creek (where we later filled our water containers). From there it was a steady climb through the most gorgeous meadows filled with a riot of color caused by purple Lupines, red & orange Indian Paintbrush, pale purple Asters, white Daisies, Hippy-on-a-Stick Anemone and yellow Arnica.



We were in a basin, surrounded by the ridge. Yelps and calls were made back and forth to the other group up on the ridge. Once we got up there we had a much-needed lunch. The horseflies were out in full force. Nasty things. We decided to go just a bit farther up to the viewpoint. That was the halfway point on the ridge. There we had a 360 degree view. Camel Pass was close by with a trail leading to it from our perch. The others completed the whole loop while we went back the same way. At the end of the day our stats were almost the same.



We had to cough on the way down. The hiker in front of us was creating mini clouds of dust as she walked. We'd gotten Dave's car keys up on the ridge and drove to Tyaughton Lake afterwards. All modestly was gone when us five women stripped and jumped in the lake (we did keep our underthings on). The cold water felt sooo good on our sweaty-dusty-hot skin. Then we took over the other group's table at the Tyax Lodge on the sundeck overlooking the lake. Ahhh - - to sit and have a most delicious meal consisting of cold beer a burger and fries. It was a perfect way to end the day and the trip.



Day 6: On the drive home we stopped at the Fort Berens Estate Winery in Lillooet and sampled 8 different wines. Thank you guys for the bottle! And thank you for coming out on this trip and making it what it was. Participants were: Dave B, Ingrid F, Janice H, Irene H, John McL, Anne O'L, Patrick R, Jerry U, Cindy W, Case & **Joce T + Dave W**



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

3 shovels	1 climbing dead man anchor
2 pairs of crampons	13 ice axes
2 avalanche transceivers	1 avalanche probe
6 climbing harnesses & a few carbineers	5 ice screws
	contact Cal Francis to use: calfrancis@gmail.com

Note: All equipment must be returned in the same condition as borrowed or repaired appropriately. The equipment is being examined to determine

its state of repair and will be reviewed by the Board of Directors as to what should be retained, scrapped or sold.

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

CLUB CONTACTS

Position	Name	E-mail
President +	Grant Acheson 604-791-5808	Achesongrant9@gmail.com
Vice President	Christine Camilleri	4christinecamilleri@gmail.com
Secretary	Jackie Chambers	Jackie.p.chambers@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Irene Hofler 604-824-6741	ihofler@telus.net
Directors:	Johnny Grimm Cal Francis Carol Ault Heather Burles Pat Ramsden Gary Baker	johnnygrimm@yahoo.ca calfrancis@gmail.com carolault@gmail.com hburles@gmail.com patrickr@shaw.ca garybaker@shaw.ca
Membership Secretary:	Tim Yochim	membershipsecretarycoc@gmail.com
Past President & FMCBC Rep	Ken Orr	orrke@shaw.ca
Club Trip Email	For trips and announcements to be forwarded to all members:	chilliwickoutdoorclub@googlegroups.com Note: also you can post in Facebook: Chilliwack Outdoor Club Group
Librarian	Irene Hofler	ihofler@telus.net
Newsletter Pub.	Jocelyn Timmermans	jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com
Website	Christine Camilleri	4christinecamilleri@gamil.com
Vedder Mt Trail Ass'n	Gary Baker 604-858-4928	garybaker@shaw.ca
Refreshments	Lori Bodkin	firechick@telus.net