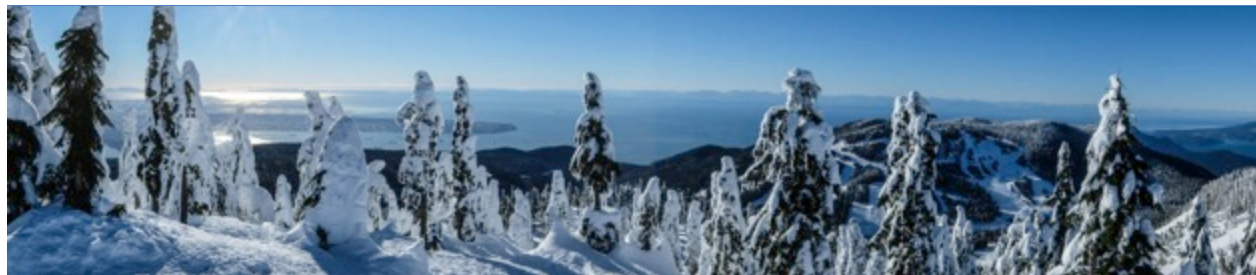


THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

TRANSCANADA MATSQUI TRAIL WEST- JAN. 2



This hike was promoted as a relaxation hike on a last minute announcement. Though windy and cold it was a bright sunny day that encouraged us to relax along the way and enjoy the mountain scenery awesomely clear of even a hint of smog. Well, most of the way we relaxed except without the protection of trees the cold windy was mightily blowing. We moved a little faster. Oh well, no matter, we were reminded that we are truly blessed with our country's beauty and on this New Year's Day plus one to be thankful for the civil peace we enjoy.



The trail's full length is 13.5 to 14 km with many access points. Our hike began at the mid-way point below the

Mission Bridge. We headed west along the shoreline of the Fraser River past the municipal malodorous discharge plant that did not discharge a whiff of offense to our olfactory glands. For half way much of the trail was covered in ice. Slowed us a little but with groves, bumps and gravel it was quite walkable. Past the half way point by the cedar mill we began an easy ascent in about 8 inches of snow through the forest of the Matsqui Nation past farmland to our destination, Douglas Taylor Park.



At the park we, Judy and Walter W with their buddy Toby, Marg T, Rose M and myself stopped for lunch. After a while the cold breeze began to stimulate our imagination to drool for warm coffee. So back to the bridge we trekked 7 km and off to the Clik Coffee Bistro we headed. Of course I obeyed speed signs all the way. Well, most of the way.

-Dave Ortis

HOLLYBURN MT. – JAN. 3

Looking for fun? This snowshoe offered a variety of glissade chutes that brought out the boys in the guys. Even though the forecast called for wind chill values reaching -20C and



gusting to 90km/hr, the clear sunny skies still lured us out. By the end of the day we were all so glad we went. The winds never happened and the snow crusted trees, especially those closer to the summit were a stark beautiful contrast to the cobalt blue sky with the sea glittering gold down below us.

It was -11 at the parking lot where we put on all our layers. The first downy coat layer came off only 20 minutes from the start. Although this popular groomed trail is not so long, it has some pretty steep sections especially right before the summit. The climbing, sun and lack of wind kept us fairly warm. We passed a signpost in the forest that would have been totally submerged in snow if someone hadn't dug out around it. As we approached the upper half of the hike the trees were loaded with snow in various formations; long icicles hung from snow-laden boughs and jagged icy snow chiseled by wind clung to bark.



At the summit the 360-degree views were amazing: to our south Mt. Baker and Vancouver Island lined the horizon. The Lions and Grouse Mt. were to our north & east and Howe Sound to our west. The temperature was now a mere minus 5. So with the sun shining down on us, the ravens waiting for handouts and a peaceful calm atmosphere, we were in no hurry to have lunch.

On the first slope of the descent we stayed a bit right of the main broad walkway and snowshoed through powder,

looking upwards as we walked between giant snow-ghosts that towered high above us. We took our time, stopping often for photo ops and glissades. Harry asked us, "Could this day get any more perfect?" and after a brief moment of thought, we all came to the same conclusion that, "No, it couldn't".



Stats: 7 km / 460m elevation gain / 1330m high / 1:40 (moving time) to ascend

Participants: Terry B, Joe K, Judy P, Harry W + **Joce T**

RADIUM LAKE TRAIL TO THE BRIDGE – JAN. 7



I facilitated this day for Dave Ortis. We were a huge group of 16 for this popular snowshoe which included 2 new members and a number of members who had not been on a trip for awhile. Great to see them again.

We crossed the bridge by Chilliwack Lake and the trail stayed fairly level, following alongside the river for the first 4 km. Then the trail veered off to the left and had more of an





incline, climbing 275m up to the suspension bridge. We did not have to break trail since there was an existing packed path. Just at the end, the trail stopped about 100' short of the bridge. That just wouldn't do. So we carefully made our way through the boulder field to the bridge. A few members fell on the way or sank. But it was short lived and well worth the effort. Gary cleared the hump of snow off of the bridge and Sean & Karen actually crossed it.
 Stats: 12.6 km / 414m gain / 858m high
 Another cold but sunny day and a great day for all that participated: thank you to Terry B, Steve C, Geoff L, Sheryl H, Karen S, Sian R, Robbin Y, John U, Case T, Eric T, Jocelyn T, Lori B, Brian T, Tammy W, Gary B and Mossy (the super dog)

-Margaret T

FLORA LAKE TRAIL – JAN. 10

This is a popular steep trail that does a steady climb to several beautiful viewpoints overlooking Chilliwack Lake. In snow, we aim for the plateau just before the base of large avalanche slopes where you can see Flora Peak. But this day we stayed shy of it by just a bit...



We did not park at the yellow gates by the closed parking lot by the trailhead. Instead we parked just a bit up the road

by the toilets and soon cut into the bush at 9:40am, getting onto the old FSR and therefore cutting off a big corner. Not too much farther the relentless climb started, zigzagging through forest and over 3 creeks. 11/2 hours later (moving time) + 415m gain we arrived at the first viewpoint or camp. Chilliwack Lake glittered in the soft winter sun.

With the steepest part of the climb behind us, we continued on, now having more open views as we approached the tree line. We didn't have to break trail too much, especially to the first viewpoint. There were just a few inches of powder covering the footpath. As we neared our destination (only about 50m below it) 4 of us, one by one crossed an avalanche slope. But by so doing, we created a fissure. With it being 1:00pm and the sun bearing down on the south slope we decided to turn back. The view of Chilliwack Lake wouldn't get any better from the plateau.



We settled down on a sunny open slope a bit farther down for lunch. It was now minus 10 but the sun kept us warm. It also helped that there was no wind. At this altitude we could see most of Chilliwack Lake except for the very south corner. The familiar Mt. Webb, MacDonald & Lindeman rose high above the lake to the right. And umpteen peaks lined the left & south side. The descent took only half the time as the ascent. Harry & Joe had fun doing shortcuts through the powder which provided a natural brake for the legs. By 3:00 we were back at the 4WDs and looking forward to a hot bath...

Stats: 11km / 777m gain / 1440m high

Thanks for coming along on this more challenging snowshoe: Terry B, Joe K, Judy P, John U, Harry W + **Joce T.**

LINDEMAN LAKE SNOWSHOE - JAN. 11

I invited Herman's Hikers from Harrison Hot Springs to join our club for this outing. It was another very cold winter day and due to the continued cold snap the lake was still frozen. The trail to the lake was extremely icy in places, which made it a little difficult for some of the group. Thank you to all who came out for this fun day Toby (a great



dog) Walter W, Judy W, Steve C, Phil and Liz L, Brian T, Irene H + 6 members of the Herman's Hikers
- Margaret T.

LIGHTENING LAKE, MANNING PARK - JAN. 14

I facilitated this snowshoe for Gary Baker. We arrived at Lightning Lake, Manning Park and 3 of us decided to just use our spikes instead of snowshoes, not a good decision as in various places snowshoes would have been more appropriate. However it gave the 3 of us more of a workout. We were able to go as far as the end of Flash Lake when the avalanche warning sign stopped us going further. On return we enjoyed a group of young people in the middle of Lightning Lake playing hockey. They had cleared the snow and the game was in full swing.

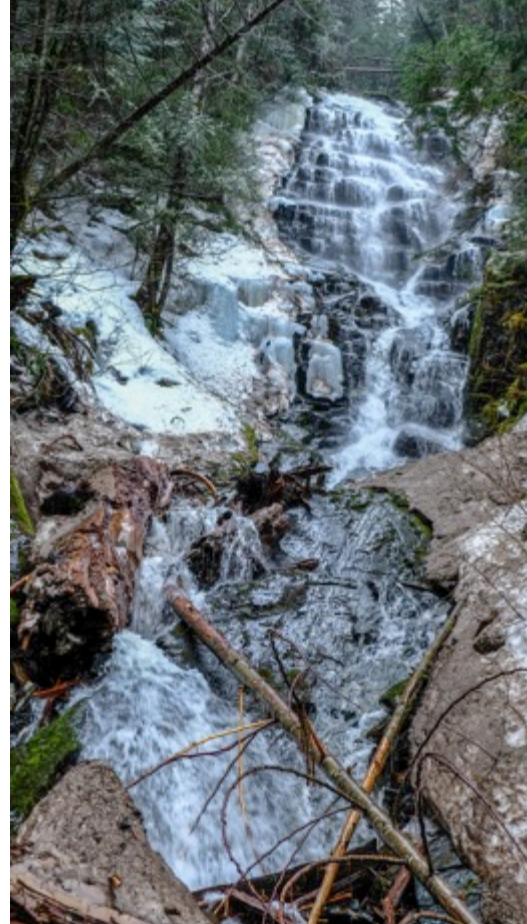


Thank you for a great day: "Mossey" (our super dog) Patrick R. Lynn M. Lori B. Brian T.

-Margaret T

TOWARDS CLEARCREEK HOTSPRINGS – JAN. 19

Off we went, with our plans set in place: snowshoe up a nice and gradually graded road for 7km, then a long soak in the hot tubs and back again in time to visit Lester before dark. But that's not how things turned out:



Unfortunately a logging company that was felling trees on the Harrison East FSR delayed us half an hour. Fortunately it was Terry's son-in-law, Erv who was controlling traffic. We had a pleasant chat with him while we waited. Case had checked out the roads 3 days prior and was then able to drive 5 km in from the

Harrison East & Clear Creek FSR junction. This day, after about 2 hours of driving we turned right at the junction to the hot springs. Unfortunately, after 3 days of rain the snow had become wet and slippery and Case had forgotten his chains. So we were only able to drive in 1.5 km out of 12km.

Would we make it? Well we'd try. We agreed on a 2:00pm turn back time, otherwise we'd be snowshoeing in the dark. So off we went, trudging gradually upwards on the packed tire tracks. We came to the first river crossing 6km in. Fortunately the water was not deep so we crossed through without event. Unfortunately the wet snowshoes made the ice stick to them, thus making our feet feel rather heavy. The highest point of the road was just past the 6 km mark, at 610m. Then it gradually went downwards again. We crossed 2 very recent landslides. When we approached a second

river crossing we called it quits.



We were still 3 km from our destination and it was 1:45pm. A quick lunch and our return journey began. Unfortunately the rain continued to pour. Fortunately temperatures remained above freezing so as long as we kept moving we were warm. We passed many icicles of all shapes and sizes. Some as big as us. At one point we jumped when a large one broke loose. We did a few slips and falls going downward on the wet snow. By 4:00pm we were back at our 4WD.



Unfortunately driving down proved to be even more slippery than driving up was. Fortunately our FJ did not slide off of the edge and down the bank. Not only were our clothes soaking wet but even our skin was. Fortunately our friend, Lester (who lives at the second logging camp) had his wood stove burning and hot tea ready for us. We made quick work of stripping off the wet stuff and all huddled by the stove to warm up. On the drive home I noted that Lester didn't give us one of his usual stories this time. We agreed that we were too entertaining for him (as he was for us) and didn't give him a chance to tell one. As we were sipping our tea from his delicate bone china teacups, there was a loud bang! Case's plastic chair leg had broken. And red-neck 82-year-old Lester had to convince Liz that "yes indeed, I did chop up all that fire wood!" Good times.

Stats: 18.05 km / 610m gain / 520m high

Out for this wet, wild and wonderful day were: Terry B, Liz L + Case & **Joce T**

FT. LANGLEY TO EDMONTON BAR – JAN. 21

Who says urban walks aren't as interesting as churning up some mountain in the Chilliwack Area? Four of us, **Dave O**, Carolyn H, Bob P + **Manfred H** (reporter) spent this fine Saturday in the middle of January discovering just that. 14 km round trip of well graded and occasionally snow covered trails took us along the Fraser River from Ft. Langley to Edgemont Bar. We passed many well-marked historical sites and were blessed with great mountain and river views.



A few humorous incidents along the way helped spice up the day. The first was noting what appeared to be a beaver vigorously swimming toward the riverbank, a large branch firmly clamped in its mouth. Hastening forward with cameras in hand to record this example of wildlife in an urban area, we rounded the corner to discover a dog retrieving a stick for its owner. Not a minute later we heard a curious bird call in the distance, which caused discussion as to its species. Turns out infant human. Ah well, so much for wildlife.



And then, what's that weird thing in the bush? Somebody long ago has built a solid wood fence about 25' high and

100' long approximately 100' off the trail on the riverside. This must be investigated. Two of us charge down the hill while the other two act as lookouts. Hiker approached and Dave innocently asks what the purpose of the fence might be. Immediate response, which seems to be tinged with mild sarcasm, "Uh, maybe to keep people out?"



We ended the day with snacks and refreshments at the Fort Pub and Grill.

MT. SEYMOUR 1ST PEAK – JAN. 24

Visibility was limited as we began our climb at 10:10am from the NW corner of the parking lot. Fog lent a mystical atmosphere, shrouding the trees in mist. The nine of us stuck together, keeping a close eye on each other. About half way up, where we'd left the ski area and the trees were thinning out, the sun began to glow through the haze. Hmm. Maybe we wouldn't be spending the whole day in the cloud?



We followed the pink poles, the slope getting increasingly steeper till we got to the plateau between the snow dunes. We could now see peak 1 with people on it. Scattered stunted trees were decorated with straight horizontal ice formations shaped by the wind. Exactly 2 hours from the start we were on the 1407m high peak. No views of Vancouver this day but as we were munching on our lunches the sun came out. What a treat! The nearby second and third peaks were highlighted and distant peaks played peek-a-boo

through the various cloud formations.



Two huskies kept us company on the peak along with their masters. Otherwise it was not busy there. We were reluctant to leave the alpine. So many photo ops. When we got to the snow dunes the cornices were backlit by the sun, lending them a soft glow. Of course some of us made use of the glissade chutes. They weren't as fast as the neighboring Hollyburn Mt's but they were still fun. By 2:00pm we were back at the vehicles. Eager to avoid rush hour, we bypassed having a restaurant stop.



Stats: 8.7km / 608m gain / 1407m high



Along for this beautiful day were: Terry B, Joe K, Liz L, Geoff L, Judy S, Margaret T, Karen S, Robbin Y + **Joce T**

2017 MULTI DAY TRIPS

TRIP: SKI INTERIOR MOUNTAINS @ REVELSTOKE, GOLDEN, PANORAMA, NELSON
ORGA: RON DART AT RDART@SHAW.CA
DATE: FEB 25-28
PART: OPEN

TRIP: SKI OKANAGAN MOUNTAINS AT BIG WHITE, SILVER STAR, APEX
ORGA: RON DART AT RDART@SHAW.CA
DATE: MARCH 08-11
PART: OPEN

TRIP: HIKE SOUTHERN SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL
ORGA: RON DART AT RDART@SHAW.CA
DATE: MAY 15-18
PART: 6-8

TRIP: HIKING IN THE SOOKE AREA, VAN ISLAND
ORGA: IRENE HOFER AT IHOFER@TELUS.NET
DATE: MAY 19-25
PART: 8-12

TRIP: 3-4 DAYS HIKING OUT OF THE NAHATLATCH LOOKOUT TOWER
ORGA: JUDY PASEMKO AT JUDYPASEMKO@SHAW.CA
DATE: MAY 26-29
PART: 6-8

TRIP: BACKPACK THE NORTH COAST TRAIL, VAN ISLAND
ORGA: JOHN MCLELLAN AT JHMCLELLAN@SHAW.CA
DATE: JUNE 10-18
PART: 10

TRIP: HIKING IN THE LAKE LOUISE AREA
ORGA: RON DART AT RDART@SHAW.CA
DATE: JULY 17-23
PART: OPEN

TRIP: BACKPACK THE 1849 TRAIL
ORGA: TERRY BERGEN AT TERRYBERGEN@SHAW.CA
DATE: JULY 22-30
PART: 10

TRIP: ASSINIBOINE AND THE BUGABOOS PROV PARK
ORGA: JOCE TIMMERMANS AT JOCELYNTIMMERMANS@HOTMAIL.COM
DATE: AUG 01-09
PART: 6-8

TRIP: HIKING IN THE JASPER NP AREA, FRYATT VALLEY, MALIGNE LAKE, SKYLINE
ORGA: RON DART AT RDART@SHAW.CA
DATE: AUG 12-20
PART: 10

TRIP: HIKING CATEDRAL LAKES PROV PARK
ORGA: CHRISTINE FAULCONBRIDGE AT CHRISFAULCONBRIDGE@GMAIL.COM
DATE: AUGUST 19-27
PART: 6-8

TRIP: HIKING IN THE BELLA COOLA AREA, GRIZZLEY BEAR VIEWING
ORGA: AMRG TRANAH AT MARGARET_TRANAH@HOTMAIL.COM
DATE: SEPT 02-17
PART: 6-10

TRIP: CAPE SCOTT PROV PARK
ORGA: LORI BODKIN AT FIRECHICK@TELUS.NET
DATE: SEPT 07-11
PART: 6-8

TRIP: BACKPACK GLACIER PEAK, WASHINGTON STATE
ORGA SUE LAWRENCE AT GWELU@TELUS.NET
DATE: SEPT 12-17
PART: 6-8

TRIP: GREEN LAKE, CHILCOTIN, CANOE OR KAYAK
ORGA: JUDY PASEMKO AT JUDYPASEMKO@SHAW.CA
DATE: SEPT 23-30
PART: 6-8

TRIP: HIKE THE LAKES DISTRICT OF NORTH WEST ENGLAND
ORGA: STUART WOOD AT STUART_WOOD@SHAW.CA
DATE: OCT 01-08
PART: 8-10

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

CLUB CONTACTS

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Vice President	Ray Daws	raydio@shaw.ca
Past President + Presentations/speakers	Ray Daws 604-724-7746	raydio@shaw.ca
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Mail checks to: Secretary:	6119 Glengarry Dr, Chilliwack BC V2R 2H9 Gerry Wood 604-8241205	gerry@smartr.com
Club Trip Email	For trips and announcements to be forwarded to all members	coctrips@gmail.com or terrybergen@shaw.ca Note: Give at least 1-2 days lead-time.
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FMCBC Rep.	Ken Orr 604-858-0813	orke@shaw.ca
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Website	Amanda Rallings	Amanda_rallings@hotmail.com
Vedder Mt Trail Ass'n	Gary Baker 604-858-4928	garybaker@shaw.ca
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Equipment Managers: Richard Aikema - aquatic (canoes) richard.aikema@abbotsfordcommunityservices.com		
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