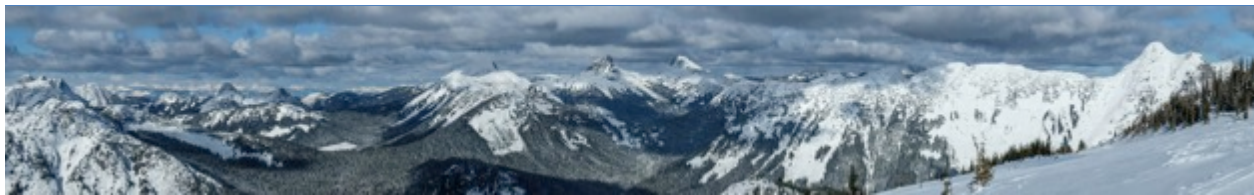


THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

CHINA RIDGE WEEKEND JAN. 27 - 29

Once again in the dark days of January (the doorway of beginnings in Roman mythology) our intrepid tribe congregated at the Castle Resort in Princeton to imbibe in the ritual worship of the gift of mother nature by wrapping ourselves in her snowy mantle. If that sounds too weird, then lets just say that we had another great long weekend in the hills and valleys of China Ridge and frolicked happily in perfect snow conditions. The drive up and back was in great weather and we were very lucky to not have the extreme snowfall that arrived in the Fraser Valley one week later.



The Castle Resort was exactly as we left it last year, except because of the deep cold Princeton endured prior to our arrival, pipes had frozen in one of the chalets plumbing on the lower level. And although the management tried their best they were unable to remedy the situation. In the end (no pun intended) one toilet between 8 people wasn't so bad after all.

Saturday saw everyone on the trail at China Ridge and all of



the skiers made it to the back-woods cabin for lunch. We were greeted by a warming fire in the stove when we arrived and sat in the brilliant sun to eat and read the very interesting and funny comments in the guest book there. Trails were nicely broken for us and the snow was a perfect temperature for x-country gliding all the way.



Ski trails here are varied, and you can chose a number of side trails that can challenge or delight, the tracks were fast and the snow was just deep enough to snow plow to slow down. Aside from a few face plants and an enthusiastic herd

of COC snowshoers, plus a cougar in the area, we all arrived in time for our Saturday night potluck feast in one piece.



To everyone's surprise, Jim Hartwick and Christine Falconbridge also appeared on the ski trail, and we invited Christine to stay that night instead of driving home. Those who couldn't let a perfect day end stayed up to play cards and prove that we have some amazing card sharks in the COC!



Sunday saw everyone disperse to different locations to walk, snow shoe, and ski before the 3 hour drive home. All in all fun was had by all! And it felt so good to know that when the big storm hit the following weekend, we had already passed through that door of new beginnings.

Thank you to everyone who made the 2017 China Ridge weekend a success! Jim Reid, Don Field, Al Smith, Joce and Case Timmermans, Irene and Simon Hofler, Terry Bergen, Gary Baker and Sheryl Henderson, Allana Warkentin, Moira Gartside and Al Wheatley, Christine Camilleri and Steve Wahrer, Judy Pasemko, Lucy Stad, and Sue Anstett.
- report by **Robbin Yager**

Jan. 28 – Snowshoe China Ridge:



The group split in half this day, nine of us gathering at the warming hut by the parking lot at China Ridge to put on our snowshoes. We were in awe as we entered the forest. It was such a different landscape than what we were used to. The entire forest was crystalized. Ponderosa pines stood out with their red bark. The Witch's Beard moss draping off of the Douglas Firs' branches looked like white lace. And Lodge Pole pines reached high into the sky.



Three of our group started a bit later because of having to retrieve an item back at the chalet. We ended up unintentionally doing a bit of a loop, but with not regrets. It was very pretty with its huge trees. And the timing was just right, as we ran into the others at the junction of the main multi-purpose Parkers Trail. The only view we had of the farther rolling hills was at the beginning of the trail. But there was still so much to see in the forest. We saw evidence of moose, caribou, rabbit and squirrel in the snow. Once on the ridge the forest was less dense. The ups and downs were very mellow. 1 km before the second warming hut the older snowshoe tracks abruptly stopped. So we had to break trail for half a km in powder that was over a foot deep.



At the second warming hut the guys got a fire going while we had lunch. We were surprised to see Christine F & Jim H

approaching. She'd driven out that morning. She made such a grand appearance, waving at us and then doing a face



plant in the snow with her skis pointing in awkward directions. It was rather entertaining. Seven of us opted to carry on a bit farther down the trail for a half an hour. We did part of the Logger Loop. But alas, there was not enough time to get to the end and third warming hut. So back we went, taking the more direct route on the final stretch. It was time for happy hour...

A big thanks to Robbin for once again organizing this trip!

Stats: 14.6 km / 310m gain / 1355m high

Along for the day were: Gary B & Sheryl H, Terry B & Allana W, Irene & Simon H, Judy P + Case & **Joce T** (reporter)

ABBOTSFORD URBAN FOREST HIKE - JAN. 28

I believe this was the third time I have arranged this winter urban hike. Seems like it may become an annual tradition. Though urban including crossing many streets most of this hike is forested. The Horn Creek Park section is in a ravine just a couple of blocks north of Seven Oaks shopping mall. Past Horn Creek we trekked through the Old Riverside ravine trail.



Then to the 5 km Downe's Bowl a large forested area with a swamp. We saw, for us, unusual fungi. Once out of the Bowl and back on the Discovery Trail we headed directly to Fish Trap Creek bypassing the Upper Maclure ravine side trail. At Fish Trap we circled the north and south creeks, which are lengthy ponds. Combined all trails were 18 km.

At Fish Trap we enjoyed lunch under bright sunshine. In fact the day was good weather for hiking. Fish Trap was open water and large patches of ice. Plenty of fowl especially ducks web feet skating. At the south creek some of us laggards taking pictures were treated to a family of otters frolicking in the water.



What makes this a special hike? As the title states this is a hike in an urban forest. Actually four forests linked by, yes paved trails. No, the forests do not cover large expanses, but they are special retreats in the midst of an urban setting.



On the return to our starting point we bypassed Downe's Bowl but did back track through Old Riverside then back up the Horn Creek Trail to our vehicles.

Comments I heard from Manfred H who took the fine photos, Danielle, Denis, Sharon, Carolyn, Don and Liz about the Urban Forest Hike the sequel were positive. In fact I think the first timers on this hike were a little impressed that such trails are within minutes from a major business and shopping district of town. End of my promotion.

Two folks had to forgo coffee at the Clik coffee shop near Whatcom and the freeway. The rest of us enjoyed.

- Dave Ortis

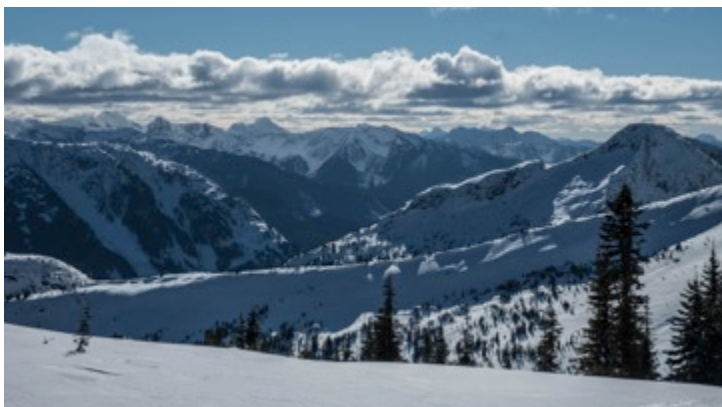
THE NEEDLE – JAN. 31



This is one of our favorite snowshoe routes, offering endless views of surrounding peaks. We parked at the restrooms by exit #217, walked to the maintenance shed across the highway and began the steep one-hour ascent through the forest to the first viewpoint. There was not much trail breaking to do, as this is a popular winter route. Nearby Yak Mt. remained bright, cloaked in sunlight all day.



From there the view opened up and there was much to see. The Needle with its sharp black granite walls was peaking over the slope and by the time we'd made our way up the ridge to the open more flat and final stretch, its peaks were



to our immediate left. Even though we've lost count of how many times we've snowshoed to the Needle's saddle, the "wow" factor still hits us every time we get there when the vast North Cascades come into view. For John U this was a first. Needless to say, he was amazed.

Conditions were close to perfect. We had almost no wind. When we started at 10:00am we could see the wind whipping the snow off of the distant peaks. But sitting in the sun having lunch was comfortable other than the occasional gust of wind. As seems to be the norm for snowshoeing, it took us half the time to descend as it took to ascend. Dark clouds started to come in from the east, backing up the Zupkios Range and making the sunny peaks stand out even more. Four of us ended the day at the Blue Moose.

Stats: 9.6 km / 700m gain / 1830m high

Thanks to all who came out on this gorgeous day: Terry B, Joe K, Judy P, Margaret T, John U, Harry W + **Joce T**

GIBSON MEADOWS/POLAND LAKE (VIA THE ROOS ROUTE/TRAIL): FEB. 11

After a week of fighting the snow, freezing rain, icy roads and snow plows blocking the driveways we had just cleared, it seems there was a pent up desire to go PLAY in the snow! That is what thirteen COC members and three guests had in mind when we set out Saturday morning.....PLAY!

It was a grant day, not perfect but close. There could have been a bit more sunshine, slightly warmer temperatures (which hovered around Zero C) and a bit less new snow to plow through; but no one was complaining. Over the previous week Manning Park had received over 150cm of fresh snow so there was an expectation that the going once we left the groomed ski area was going to be something between tough to brutal. There was some doubt that we could make it to the lake. This dire prediction was not to be as for the most part we had less than 30-35cm of unconsolidated snow to push through and in the treed areas often much less. The going was still slow but not lung burning.



The climb from the Meadows up through the forest, to the 'official' Poland Lake trail had some of the best snow conditions we have ever experienced accessing the lake via this route. Why? It seems the heavy snow falling from the trees (snow bombs) had compressed the snow already on the ground, creating a form of hard pack that was easy to walk on. Don't jump to conclusions; this was still a substantial uphill climb that got one's heart rate up.

Once on the 'official' lake trail it was pleasant walk across the lake to the campground and the log shelter. We quickly settled in for lunch and conversation. As had been promised I dove into my pack to retrieve the 'treats', dark chocolate...umm.

We lingered for close to 30 minutes, time to go but not before the obligatory group photo standing on the shelter roof. The snow was piled so deep that Randy had dug steps/benches (stadium style) two high up the sloped roof.



Photo taken we retraced our steps back to the cars. As we approved the point where we would leave the 'official' trail and start our descent to the Meadows some of us mused what other snowshoers/skiers might think after they had slogged their way along the 'official' trail route from the Orange Chair only to find a virtual freeway of a cleared trail into the lake (it had been compressed by 32 sets of snowshoes). "Who made that trail? Where does it go? Should we explore it?"

There were several folks on this hike who have done this route numerous times, many of whom said it is their favourite Manning Park snowshoe hike. It's certainly mine!

As has been stated before, this route was developed by Hans Roos (a former COC President) and me back in the early 2000's. There are a lot of interesting and funny stories of the times while leading groups on this route that, that let's say we weren't lost but we didn't exactly know where the hell we were. I think the route we took this time, given the snow



conditions, was almost as good as we'll get it. On the walk back to the cars it was suggested we give the Route/Trail (I prefer 'route') a name rather than a location label: aka the Gibson Meadows/Poland Lake Snowshoe Hike. It seemed fitting to name it after Hans Roos, so henceforth this will be the Roos Route (to Poland Lake via the Gibson Meadows).

Thanks to everyone who came along: Club members – Terry B., Alana W., Dan K., Brian T., Lori B., Paul S., Dave B., Joe K. Jim M., Margaret T., Randy K., and Peter E., Guests – Roberta S. (from Baltimore, U.S.A.). Roy N. & Bob K. (both cycling buddies of G.B.).

-submitted by **Gary B** (pics by **Terry B**)

CAMBIE CREEK/FAT DOG TRAIL - FEB.14



Our Tuesday group was pretty small, just three of us. Most of the trail to the top of "Thrill Hill", so named by Jane Skinner, was like a groomed trail. A few snow boarders had been up to enjoy the fresh snow. The rest of the trail was a regular snowshoe rut. When we got near the corner to turn



up Fat Dog we saw that the trail was not broken for snow shoes, only some skiers had been up.

The decision was made to have lunch and we fed and photoed the Whiskey Jacks. We then explored the meadows where it looked like a small group had camped. On the way down we decided to do the Cambie Loop and see the new bridge. In total we did just over 11km. It was a good work out.



Thanks to John U. and Jurek B (Jerzy) for joining me. - **Judy Pasemko**

WEST DYKE TRAIL, STEVESTON - FEB. 18

I must confess that I waffled Saturday morning about whether or not to cancel the hike due to not a very encouraging weather forecast. I told my group about my indecision, even suggesting the possibility of doing a hike closer to home thus avoiding the long drive to Steveston. Thankfully Manfred H, Bev H, Sharon R, Carolyn H said, "let's head to Steveston." So to Steveston we headed picking up Mala W, on the way.

We were greeted at our trail head Garry Point by a light rain. Heading north on the dyke the rain was soon replaced with occasional hardly noticeable drizzles that became the norm for the remainder of the hike. About half a kilometer into the hike the sun tried to poke its face through overcast skies with little success except for the next couple of kilometers we were treated to a full ached faded rainbow. It turned out to be a good hiking day except for the bitterly cold wind when we stopped for lunch at Terra Nova Park on the mouth of the Fraser across from Vancouver Airport. Seen from this point are great views of Point Grey, Vancouver skyline and the Northshore mountains. But not this day.



West Dyke borders Sturgeon Bank, a bird resting habitat. Boy did we see birds. Of particular interest were two pairs of bald eagles by their nests. One was carrying a large branch to the nest being carefully watched (supervised?) by its mate. I wonder who was supervising, mom or dad.



When we came upon a couple of serious photographers, judging by the size of their cameras, who appeared to be taking pictures of grass. No sir, not grass. But an American bittern we were only able to see when it moved out of the

grass; a camouflage master. Other wild critters we saw were countless ducks, snow geese and several great blue herons. Oh, I better not forget about the two coyotes at separate locations. Maybe the same one?



At the end of our 12 km return trek we walked a few blocks to the Steveston Coffee Company for a refreshments. On the way we encountered our only "hill". About 10 to 15 foot gradual decline to the coffee shop and the return elevation gain. All six of us met this climbing challenge with unflinching resolve ☺

- Dave Ortis

BEAR MT – FEB. 21

The highlight of this snowshoe / hike were the three waterfalls. I drove through the two open gates and parked about a km in by the deteriorating mine sheds. We've done this hike several times but never noticed the mineshaft opening to our left. Heavy iron grates make access to the tunnels impossible.



At 9:00am our small group of 4 began hiking, taking the right road. Large boulders in the beginning of this road prevented my 4WD from getting any further. We stayed right at four forks in the road. At 400m we put our snowshoes on and followed in Fotis's footsteps. He'd done this hike a few days before. At 500m we came to yet another fork but when the road began to go downhill, we thought we'd go right



instead of following the footprints (Fotis told us he could not find the trailhead). It proved to be a wrong choice. We ended up at a dead-end on an ever increasingly overgrown FSR.

The nice thing is with the lack of foliage we were able to get good views of Harrison Lake and the islands. The three waterfalls we passed were rushing at full force. We were back down by 2:00pm. Then were off for goodies at Muddy Waters Café along the waterfront in the quaint town of Harrison.



Stats: 11.1 km / 613m gain / 643m high

Thanks to those who came out and made a great day: Terry B, David B, Judy P & **Joce T**

Masthead: Zopkios Range by Joce T.

2017 MULTI DAY TRIPS

**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 HOFLE AT IHOFLE@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

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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
Newsletter Pub.	Jocelyn 604-854-6267 Timmermans	jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com
Website	Amanda Rallings	Amanda_rallings@Hotmail.com
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