

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

SOOKE BC MAY 18 – 24

Eleven COCers headed over to Vancouver Island, Sooke to be exact, for a very active long, long weekend. Ferries were fine on the Thursday, but we did hit the Colwood Crawl on the other side of Victoria. After filling up at Costco and a beer/wine stop, we arrived at “Eagle on the Beach” in the late afternoon. The house was amazing, a step up into the executive home level. Great location (right on a beach for the kayaks) and a big kitchen (for 11 cooks). Anyone interested, I found the house on VRBO.

We unloaded the boats that evening “thanks to Deb for bringing the double kayak” and 4 of us enjoyed a calm paddle around our cove. Simon and Deb were fascinated by an old derelict minesweeper. Later on in the week those two stealthily stepped on board to investigate the mystery ship.



Friday we hiked the terminus of the Juan De Fuca Trail: First Mystic beach – a 2 km walk to a pretty beach with a waterfall. Some of us were keen enough to swing on the rope. Back into the cars we drove the windy highway up to Pt. Renfrew, the other end of “Botanical Beach”. We timed for low tides but sadly the tide pools were unimpressive.

Someone mentioned that the starfishes had all died in this area. Not as I remember them when I was here in the 80's.



Saturday we spent the early part of the day cycling up to the Sooke Pot holes, minus one who started down the opposite way and reached the 22km mark from Victoria. Diane and Donna went on further to the end of the galloping goose Leeetown. One flat tire delayed our way back, but Peter and assistant Simon had it fixed in no time. We had a good chance to walk down the trail to look at the Potholes. Later on some went out in the kayaks again. Diane got some great shots from her drone of the house and cove.

Sunday the group split up, Peter, Christine, Simon and Irene headed into Victoria via the goose. We cheated a little by driving in a bit but still had a 50km day. We had a great lunch at Pag. Then headed back, saying good-bye to Peter who was heading home. Meanwhile Moira and Al went back up to the Goose to L? They wanted to see the end. Deb, Robbin, Diane and Liz hiked East Sooke Park.

Monday we hiked up Mt. Manuel Quimper. Started up the trail around 10 and gained elevation quite quickly. It was a good workout to the top. We were blessed with a great view



of the Sooke Basin and an old fire service hut. Heading down, we took a wrong turn and ended up on Sooke Mt. Rd. (Mt. biking route). Not to worry (although some of us were short on water), there were plenty of maps. The gravel trail/road turned out to be a wee bit longer but easier on the knees.

Later Christine, Irene, Deb and Simon kayaked out in the basin towards the mouth of the Sooke River. Heading out in a head wind we made it to the river, paddled up a bit to just after the highway bridge. What a great way to see this part of Sooke.



Tuesday the wind came, so no more paddling. Robbin, Al Moira, Diane and Irene decided to hike the north end of East Sooke Park while Deb and Christine started at the south end. The wind was blowing pretty hard. The north end is easier and we finished the walk in a couple hours. Diane and Irene decided to walk a bit more so did portion a of the Goose back to the house. Meanwhile, Deb and Christine had more of a workout on the South end. We highly recommend this park, the coastal views are amazing and the trail is as challenging as the west coast trail. Simon and Donna found a lovely par 3 – 9 golf course and had a great morning.

Definitely would recommend Sooke for a getaway. We found plenty to do and everyone would love to come back... Robbin, Debbie, Liz, Donna, Diane, Al, Moira, Christine F, Peter M, Simon and **Irene**

HBC 1849 HERITAGE TRAIL – PEERS CREEK – APRIL 25

We hiked the first five km of the 74 km HBC trail that winds through the Cascades and ends by the Tulameen River. We should've brought snowshoes but didn't which slowed our progress.



We took the #183 exit off of Hwy. 5 and drove in 1.5 km to the Peers Creek trailhead. It was quite scenic, with a long bridge stretching out over the gushing waters of Peers Creek and an informative kiosk with a map, pictures of the traverse and the history of it. The trail followed left of the river for about a km to the landslide area, which lasted for about another km. The guys (and a gal) had fun pushing rocks over the edge, which banged down the slope into the river. In an hour we got to a cute log hewn picnic table by a waterfall.



A little farther, at 700m the snow started. It was wet and icy and we kept post-holing. The trail had now turned into an old FSR. We stayed left at a junction where there's a 4 km marker a bit farther in. Next we dodged alders that were bent

down by the snow. When we got to the 5 km mark, we had to make a decision. We were 1 km short of our destination, Mason's Camp. This camp is at the base of Manson's Ridge. It was noon and the view wasn't going to get any better. So we made that our turn back point.



It was agreed we'd stop back at the picnic table by the falls for a group shot. This one caused me a bit of work. Joe insisted we take it beside the waterfall. So I parked my tripod on the table, set the timer for my longest setting of 20 seconds and then with the group cheering me on, scrambled up the steep wet embankment. After 3 tries of slipping and sliding and full speed running, I finally got the shot. John & I look a bit intimate but I had to hold on to him to steady myself and get into position. Good team work.

By 2:30pm we were back at the parking lot. By then the sun was shining. Off to the Blue Moose. But when we got there, it was closed due to renovations. So we drove under Hwy 1 and had goodies at the Cat Restaurant which is full of owls (decorative and stuffed). This trip really strengthened our resolve to come back in the summer and climb to Manson's Ridge (if not farther).

Stats: 10 km / 510m gain / 853m high

Thanks for all who came out for this day of exploration: Terry B, Jerzy B, Vic D, Cal F, Joe K, Judy P, Karen S, John U + Case & **Joce T**

SUMAS MT. – APRIL 29

Despite a lousy weather forecast, five of us ventured up the trail towards the Eastern Lookout on Sumas Mt. The evidence of a long cold stormy winter was everywhere with branches and wind-thrown trees littering the area and often obscuring the trail. Sections of the trail were quite muddy, and we encountered around two feet of snow near the summit. Still the hike was a great start to the season and we were rewarded with glimpses of the valley and surrounding mountains as they peeked through the swirling clouds below us.



After a brief lunch at the lookout, we scampered back down, congratulating ourselves on missing the rain. That sentiment lasted until we reached Chadsey Lake, where the pitter-patter or raindrops dimpling the lake surface alerted us to the possibility that we'd pushed our luck. Sure enough, within minutes the rain started in earnest and accompanied us the rest of the way down the mountain. That didn't deter us from still enjoying small but significant signs of spring on the lower reaches as we observed trillium, bleeding heart, and other flowers displaying their spring finery.



Tasty snacks awaited us later at Clik Coffee Shop. Along on the hike were Wayne h, Carolyn H, Sharon R, Al C and **Manfred H**

ARTIST POINT SNOWSHOE– MAY 4

Terry wore shorts all day and she wasn't even cold way up on the hump called Huntoon Peak at 1602m altitude. It ended up being the warmest day of the year so far and left us with sunburns on 'raccoon' faces resulting from wearing sunglasses all day. How to describe this day? It was just downright fun especially on the downhill part.



Ten of us were eager to set out under cloudy and sunny skies. Although this is a shorter snowshoe, it's still a good workout due to three steep slopes. The first was up a broad compressed road, which turned left where it plateaued somewhat. There we followed former tracks and turned right, facing Table Mt. in the distance. Soon the mighty Mt. Shuksan came into full view. At the base of a second steep slope half of us took the very steep way up to the right, which meant kick stepping into the slope while the other half opted for the less steep slope. Once on the flatter section we turned south and soon saw Mt. Baker to our right, which remained illusive. Clouds clung to its peak above Ptarmigan Ridge.



Now we could also see our destination. We followed the ridge along cornices, skirted Huntoon Hill to the left and then did one final steep climb to the top. This is a more scenic 360-degree view whereas the true Artist Point is the flat parking lot close to the base of Table Mt. This we



snowshoed down to on our return journey. The bathroom building was still totally buried in snow.

We had lots of fun going down. Joe was encouraging us to be "hardcore" and slide (fall) down the shorter cornices. There were ample hoots, laughter and photo opts. And then on those steep stretches we had to glissade, of course. We were children at heart once again.

When we were back at the parking lot at 3:00pm we were entertained with a large group of young people who were training for crevice rescue. Half of our group drove to Nooksack Falls on the way home after stopping for an icecream cone. The other half couldn't cross the border without stopping in at El Nopal's for an early dinner.

Stats: 7.1 km / 362m gain / 1602m high

Thanks to all who came out for a fun and gorgeous day: Terry B, Jerzy B, Vic D, Cal F, Joe K, Liz L, Karen S, Robbin Y + Case & **Joce T**

TIKWALUS 1847 HERITAGE TRAIL – MAY 10

We do this hike every year in the early spring but this is the first time I've seen so many glacier lilies at the campsite. Proof of snow that's very recently receded. This is a more challenging hike, with most of the elevation gain in the first 3 km. There are ten large informative signs of the trail's history and of the vegetation along the trail.



TEAPOT HILL, HORSE LOOP AND SEVEN SISTERS TRAILS - MAY 13

10:05am - With the sun filtering through the trees, we trudged upwards till we got to the viewpoint with the log benches. There Heather serenaded us with her penny flute as we ate our snacks. We were in tick territory so we kept ourselves fully clothed. But it was warm out and by the time we got to the campsite (3.5 hrs. later) we were all soaked from our sweat. It was a very quiet group as we ate our lunches. We were too busy hungrily chewing our food. That done, conversation flowed once again. Below us was the mighty Fraser, which narrowed by the tunnel. Just round that bend is Hell's Gate.



From the campsite we walked past the outhouse to continue on the loop. Pine trees surrounded open grassy patches yellow with glacier lilies. Back in the burnt section we were looking down on the trail we'd just hiked on the other half of the loop. The few uphill did not feel so good after lunch. But that last hour of downhill was a knee grinder and when we got a few more minor uphills we weren't complaining about them anymore. In fact we were doing them slow motion. And some hikers were going downhill backwards. - 4:30pm



The car with the guys went home but us ladies went to the Blue Moose. We looked rather ridiculous when we got out of the car to cross the street. 'Rigor mortis' had set in. We were all actually too tired to have much of an appetite (except for Heather).

Thanks hikers for another great day: Terry B, Jerzy B, Heather B, Vic D, Joe K, Eileen R, Reg S, + **Joce T**



Sharon R, Ray D and myself hiked Teapot Hill with a side jaunt around the Horse Trail loop. Could this trails be among the most frequented hike in COC history? Nothing can be added about the beauty of this hike that hasn't already been shared in The Tripper. Alarmingly that most of the tea pots at the top were gone. A jogger, yes a jogger, said there were even fewer pots now than the previous Saturday. Along with the other two pictures you see Ray took a nice picture of a surviving pot. Thanks Ray.



On the Teapot Trail there were steady groups of "traffic" as people like us not deterred by the dampish weather. It was heartening to see adults, teens, kids and dogs enjoy the smells and sights of spring not to forget enjoying a healthy walk. Fortunately the beautiful view of Cultus Lake, Vedder Mountain and the Columbia Valley were not hindered by the torrential sprinkling showers that were with us throughout our trek.

After our stroll around the Horse Trail loop we drove to Clear Creek Campground to access the trail to the Seven Sisters. Only a few of these magnificent firs remain standing. They remind me of days long lost when their kindred numbered in the tens of thousands. It was a meditative moment.



Our lunch stop was at Spring Bay Picnic Area. To end the day to Waves in Garrison Crossing we went for refreshments and good hiker's talk.

-Dave Ortis

LOWER SEYMOUR CONSERVATION RESERVE TRAILS - MAY 29

Sometimes the well intentioned plans of a hike organizer goes awry. Such was my story. I missed the obvious exit 22 off the Upper Levels. Unintentionally we took the Lynn Valley exit and ending near the north end of Lynn Valley Road at the End of the Road grocery store and coffee shop. At hikes end we Ray D, Linda I and myself came here for refreshments.



But, before that we would hike three of the many trails in the reserve. Our first unplanned for trail was inside Lynn Canyon Park down the Baden Powell Trail to the suspension bridge. Along with many people we peered deep into Lynn Canyon and understood why the many warning signs against cliff diving.

Crossing the suspension bridge we turned left and headed to the Thirty Foot Pool rated as an excellent swimming hole. It did look inviting but cold. From here we climbed over 100 steps or about 100 m to level ground and then circled Rice Lake. From the bridge and around the lake is about 5.5 km. About half of the 10 to 12 km day.

Once around Rice Lake we headed down the steep Homestead Trail and connected with the Twin Bridges Trail. About half of this trail follows Seymour Rive where we turned uphill at the point where once there were two bridges and climbed back up another 100 m to where we left the Rice Lake Trail. From here we continued for about another 20 minutes crossing the Pipeline Bridge up a short hill and arriving at the grocery store and coffee shop.



Confused by my listing of so many trails? I was confused writing it. Still the trails were well maintained, marked and interesting information signs about bygone logging days. One site was the log flume remnant. Not only logs sped down flumes from mountain high to Burrard Inlet. So to loggers riding the logs being the quickest way to get to the shoreline. Also posted were sober warnings about the deaths and injuries over the years of Lynn Canyon's venturesome cliff divers.



We three agreed that this was an enjoyable hiking day. None of us had been here before and there are still plenty of trails, and history, to explore.

-Dave Ortis

This was the first time we got views on the Diez Vista Ridge since the few of us that had hiked it years before had done so in cloudy weather. Of the ten viewpoints, only the first and third offer views, the other eight are overgrown. The parking lot was full on this summer-like Saturday.

10:00am – We walked to the narrow south end of Buntzen Lake and crossed the floating bridge. From there we followed the signs (and the many hikers) up, past the old pipeline and under the power line. The trail switchbacks steeply upward. To the left farther up is a little side trail to the first viewpoint overlooking Indian Arm and Vancouver with its skyscrapers. Back to the main trail and not too much farther we came to a junction where the grade leveled off. There we turned left and stopped for lunch at the third viewpoint. Now we could also see Mt. Seymour across from us and Stanley Park to the distant left.



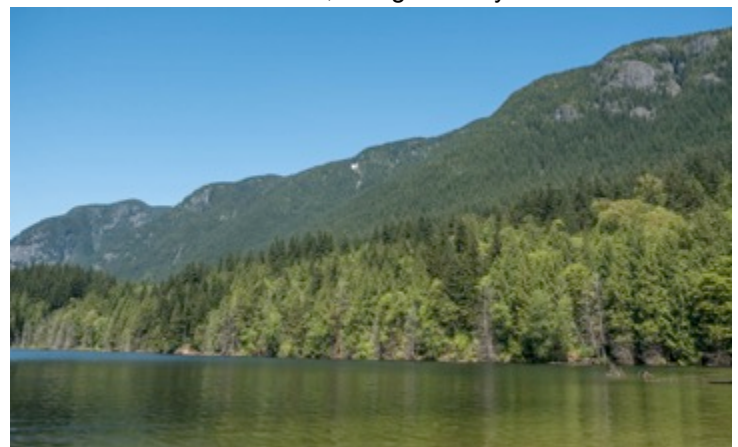
It felt so good to be sitting in the warm sun. There were at least ten other hikers sharing the rocky bluff with us. Our intention was to carry on along the ridge and do the whole loop round the lake. But I learned a lesson: take my reading glasses next time. When Tammy, who was in the lead suspected she saw a familiar tarn, I checked my GPS and said we were going the right way. Wrong. Oh well. We added a bit of mileage by doing a few small loops:

When we got back to the junction where the flat ground had started and would've been a right turn on the way up, we kept going straight. This trail had a viewpoint, which looked out across south beach to Eagle Ridge. It proved to be a smaller very steep loop, connecting with the main trail by the first viewpoint. Then just after the power lines we turned left onto Saddle Ridge Trail. This was a larger loop that took us down to the western shores of Buntzen Lake and then on a wider gravel path back to the floating bridge.

2:30pm - Why hang out in a restaurant when we could sit in the sun surrounded by mini daisies, a sandy beach and a massive glittering lake. Add to that many like-minded people



all in relaxation mode and 5 Canadian geese. The dogs had their own separate fenced in beach beside us and were having fun swimming. Reg had a rapt audience when he told us some stories of some of his adventures. As one passing hiker commented, he had his harem with him today. It didn't seem to bother him one bit, being the only male.



Stats: 12.4 km / 640m gain / 550m high

Along for this day were two Tammys; Tammy Serhan + Tammy Schultz, Rossana C, Judy P, Reg S + **Joce T**

BEAR MT. SUMMIT – MAY 23

Three months ago we tried for this summit but had made a wrong turn and ran into too much snow. So this time we were determined to find it. And we did indeed but not without some bushwhacking, route finding and detours due to snow patches.

9:15am – Since most of the hike is on a deactivated FSR, the grade is nice and gradual. I drove my 4WD in almost a km and parked at the old mine shaft. The forks in the road have signs pointing the way. At the first set of switchbacks is a pretty waterfall with a little dam and pipe at its base. This is a water source for the community below. There were many flowers blooming: orange Columbines, Bleeding Hearts, Indian Paintbrush and Red Currant. Soon we had an open view of Harrison Lake & River with Echo Island in the middle.



Rounding a corner, it wasn't too much farther when we came to the fork where right leads to Bear Lake, which is only a 5-minute walk. Once at the clearing turn left into the forest and you're almost there. This we did on the way back. This fork is at 900m and this is where patches of snow began to cover the road. We had to tread carefully over the alders. A few times they popped up from under the snow and almost whipped us. Also a few times we had to take mini detours round the snowmelt. As we approached a small tarn, we thought, "What is that sound?" It almost sounded like the rumble of a jet engine. It was actually frogs! Hundreds if not thousands of them. Later on our descent we heard not a single croak. Odd.



It was the final fork that threw us off course. It is not mentioned in the "103 Hikes in SW BC" book. To the left was a broad blue band in the tree with the letters "KT" on it. Faded footprints went both ways. So we went right. But after about 20 minutes we were beginning to wonder where the supposed trail was. My GPS showed what I thought was a trail to the right. So we cut through the forest and bushwhacked to not a trail but another overgrown FSR. It was now 1:00pm and we were hungry. So as we had lunch I studied my GPS more closely and we agreed to give the summit one more try but turn back time would be 2:00pm.

So more bushwhacking, and keeping a close eye on my GPS. It was a very welcome sight when I saw a square orange marker on a tree. There was no trail. The only way to know which way to go is to follow the flagging tapes. It wasn't till we popped out onto the rocky bluff on the summit that we finally got a very rewarding view of Sumas Prairie and the very impressive Cheam Range right across the valley from us. And guess what time it was? Exactly 2:00pm! We'd made it without a minute to spare. Once there we were in no rush to leave our lofty perch on the helicopter landing pad where the wood was warm from the sun.

The last hour of our return journey had us feeling rather apprehensive. A fierce windstorm had suddenly come up and was gusting through the forest. Trees were groaning and creaking. Then we heard a loud crack and bang! We were relieved to see the FJ at 5:00pm.

Stats: 21.3 km / 1134m gain / 1048m high

Thanks to all who came out on this successful expedition:
Heather B, Reg S, Bill W + **Joce T**

2017 MULTI DAY TRIPS

**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

-masthead taken from Bear Mt. by Heather B



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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