

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

LAKE DISTRICT - OCT. 1 - 7



We met on the 1st of October after separate trips to Hadrian's Wall, London, Yorkshire Dales and the Cotswolds.



Day 2: The weather forecast was rain and wind for 2nd so it was decided on a low level hike around Derwent water. This was a 16km hike with good views of the lake a good lunch at a very nice pub and a visit to one of Beatrix Potter's



homes The hike was finished in a downpour of biblical proportions which warranted dinner at the local Wheatsheaf Inn.



Day 3: The following day was forecast to be dry so we decided to hike the Coledale Horseshoe. This was 16km with 4500 ft. elevation. The main factor on the hike was the wind as the tail end of two hurricanes passed through the region.





At one stage the wind reached over 130km per hour this necessitated two people hanging on to Margaret so that she did not blow away. This was made worse by passing.



showers of rain and hail. Definitely character building.



Day 4: An easier day was planned for the next day with walks in the valley surrounding the house we stayed in and then a trip to Grasmere for a walk and pub lunch.



Day 5: Wind was forecast for Thursday so we chose a walk at moderate elevation in Borrowdale.



This proved to be a good choice with lots of variety including landscapes of fields and fells and a scramble up Castle Crag.



One more pic of day 5:

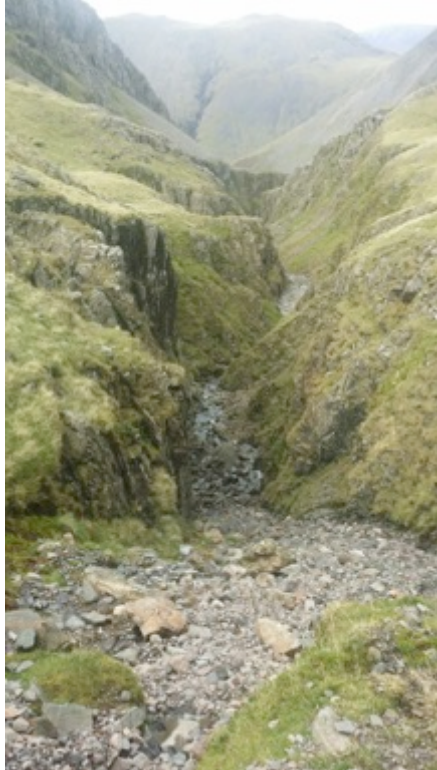


Day 6: We ventured back on to the fells for Friday climbing Scafell Pike on a clear sunny day. Views were easily achieved with the treeline at about 10 feet elevation. At 16km it was a good hike and as it is the highest mountain In England. At 3400 feet we were rewarded with an overview of the whole Lake District.





Day 7: As a wind down to the trip on the Saturday we had a short walk of 5km around Buttermere followed by a visit to



the theatre for Margaret, Monica and Rose. Less cultured, the men checked out the 30 outdoor stores in Keswick rationing purchases to a sensible level.

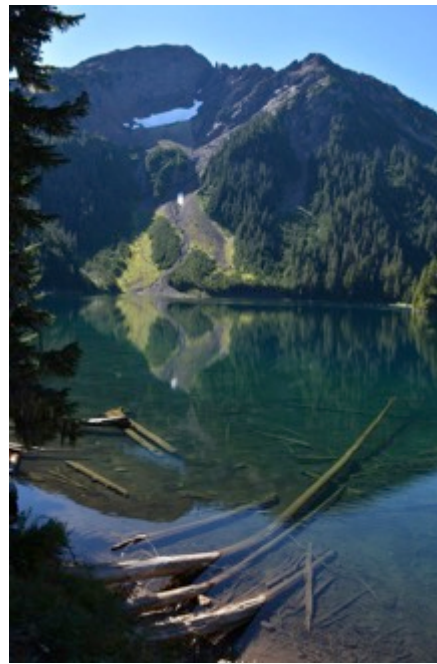
The area offers a wide variety of hikes that contrast in many respects to the forested trails and snow-covered peaks of BC. The Air B&B lodgings were large comfortable and low cost and having pubs serving large high quality meals at the end of the day and often at lunchtime is a real bonus.

Participants were: Dave & Monica B, John McL, Margaret T & Rose + **Stuart W**

MOUNT MACFARLANE - SEPT. 2

Luckily Peter, Al and I had the perfect day to do this hike. It is a long hike with a lot of elevation, but the rewards are an incredible 360 degree view of mountains and glaciers from the top as well as some crystal clear spectacular blue lakes to wash off all the sweat. I have done this hike before where I ended up in the clouds to see nothing. So this day was amazing.

It is easy to access the trailhead which is just off the Chilliwack Lake road. The trail certainly doesn't give you much of a warm up and right away you go up the trail at a fairly steep grade through the forest. You only get a fleeting view of a few mountains on the way up and not much to mark your progress except a feeling of fatigue. Then you



arrive at lower Pierce Lake, a sparkling clear intense green lake with some limited camping. Being that it was a hot day there were already people lazily floating on the floating moving dock in the water. I felt like joining them but knew I still had a lot of climbing left to the ultimate destination. Shortly past the lake we ran into the first wasp nest on the trail. Wasps were quite abundant given the

hot dry weather we have had all summer. Nasty things! Luckily I only got three stings and was able to alert the others so they avoided the nest. However we all eventually did get stung further on the trail.



Soon enough we were at upper Pierce Lake. It always amazes me how clear the water is and how deep a blue its colour is. We stopped for lunch and then Al and I headed for the peak, while Peter relaxed at the lake. The trail is more scrambly from here but still always well travelled and easy to find your way. It takes about another hour to summit the peak at 2090m.



From the top it is incredible how far you can see on a clear day: the whole Cheam Range on one side, spiky Slesse nearby, the Border Peaks, Shuksan and much more. It had been very hot going up but once at the top the air and



breeze was very refreshing. I don't mind the steep edges when I am working hard to go up. However I often get nervous on the way down when I see how close I am to steep scree slopes and cliffs. I was quite happy to be back at the upper lake. Al and Peter went for a swim and then down the dusty trail we went. We passed numerous backpackers heading up for the weekend. It was a long day and a truly fantastic hike.

Stats: 21 km, 1765 m elevation gain, 16.8 % average grade

Sue L, Al S, Peter F

THUNDER LAKE...ALMOST - SEPT. 30



It was a good day to get out of the Valley for a leisurely hike with no worries. So this band of four hikers; Sharon R, Alan W, Moira G and I chose the comfortable 20 km return hike to Thunder Lake in Manning Park. Well not quite to Thunder Lake we intended to reach our destination but about a kilometer from the lake the tall grass and other plants heavily soaked from an earlier rain made walking on the hidden rocks and boulders beneath them quite slippery. And at times our hike was a bit dampish. So we turned back. After all this was to be a leisurely hike.

No worries, eh? There was one scary moment. On the return to the trailhead at Spruce Bay parking lot two of us

were about 15 minutes ahead of the other two. The two out front folks had passed a couple of ladies relaxing by the trail. Before the other two caught up to them the ladies decided to continue their return back to the parking lot. Suddenly there were two loud cracking sounds. The ladies ran. Down came a tall tree on a windless day falling across the trail. No one was hurt but a scare and reminder about how close danger can come on a leisurely forest hike.



To complement our leisurely day plus a scare we took our time to enjoy lunch at the Strike Lake campsite. Along the trail we noticed the fall colours of the Western Larch high on the mountain slopes. Little early I thought. Mental note, schedule hike to the meadows soon. Not! Snow came early as well.



Later at the Blue Moose Pat and Ray Daws joined us for one of COC's favorite activities, refreshments and hearty fellowship.

- **Dave O**

YELLOW ASTER BUTTE – OCT. 4

This hike is one of my personal favorites. As with most of the North Cascade trails, this one is in prime condition. As we were driving up the gravel road, Cal & Irene were driving back down??? Apparently Irene's antique tin lunch box that she's had since forever, fell off of the car. So they went looking for it. Fortunately they found it. Unfortunately another vehicle had driven over it. So we were teasing her at lunchtime about her 'Panini sandwich'.



At 10:00am we joined a line of vehicles parked at the trailhead. The trail winds up through mature forest, into a small meadow before emerging into a riot of bright orange, red, gold and yellow colors. Frost made the path hard and a thin layer of ice coated the puddles. Mt. Baker and Shuksan came into view as the trail leveled off and skirted the base of the Butte. Round the corner 2 hours later and to our right was the final push to the sub-peak.



A series of tarns lay glittering in the sun just a bit below us. The Tomy Hoi trail wound through them. The American Border Peaks and Larrabee were close by to our east. There were so many peaks to feast our eyes on, on this clear cobalt blue sky autumn day. Fifteen of us settled down for lunch. For once Vic smiled for a photo. Why? Because Karen had carried up a bottle of his favorite beer. She'd even wrapped a blue bow around it. Vic had won a bet they'd made. He was good enough to share it with some of us. Thanks Karen!



Half of us decided to hike the extra 45 minutes to the true peak. The first few steep steps down needed much caution since they were still in the shade and icy. Then along the open ridge and up on some smooth dry rock, under a tree and voila. Now we could also see Tomy Hoi Lake. It got rather cozy up on the peak since here wasn't a lot of room for 8 people to maneuver themselves.



By 3:30 – 4:00pm we got back down. This time there were no stops for goodies and gabbing. Some of us drivers had other obligations.



Stats: 15 km / 990m gain / 1875m high

Thanks to all who came out on another gorgeous autumn day: Vic D, Cal F, Irene H, Sonia J, Joe K, Bote M, Elly M, Diane P, Christian R, Pam R, Jim S, Karen S, Robbin Y + Case & **Joce T**

HOLLYBURN MT. – OCT. 13

This week seems to be closing the door to hiking those higher elevations and opening it to winter. Our plan was to hike Lindsay Lake but unfortunately when we got to Buntzen Lake parking lot, we were turned back due to helicopter work going on in that area. So what to do then? Grouse, Seymour

or Cypress? Usually we snowshoe all three of these. So it was a new experience to hike Hollywood. The trail wound round picturesque tarns covered with thin ice sparkling in the soft morning sun.



At 11:00am we started out on a gravel road, going the usual route we'd have taken to snowshoe it. Almost immediately (at 900m) we were walking on a thin layer of snow. Round glossy dewdrops shone on the red, orange and golden leaves of the shrubs. About halfway up we saw the first orange markers. Now we were on the trail, which zigzagged through the pine-scented forest. As we approached the summit we had to be careful on the rooty rocky sections. Melting snow from the trees were making the way wet and slippery.



At 1:00pm we were on the summit and just in time. The clouds were hugging the peaks and we had just a small window on Mt. Seymour before they closed in. Other than the Whisky Jacks, we pretty well had the mountain to ourselves. It's quite the opposite in snowshoe season. It was entertaining to feed the birds and watch them land on Johnny's hat and my feet. But try as he did with his chunk of bread, Cal had no luck with them landing on his head.

On the descent we stuck to the trail, staying east of the tarns this time. The "boys" had to pause to throw rocks in a tarn and watch them break through the ice, causing a nice



polp & splash. By 3:00pm we were back down. Wanting to avoid rush hour, we skipped the coffee shop and headed for home, making a brief stop at the viewpoint overlooking the skyscrapers and harbor of Vancouver about halfway down the Cypress Road.

Stats: 10 km / 460 m gain / 1320 m high

Out this fun day were: Cal F, Johnny G, Joe K, Judy P & **Joce T**

SKAGIT BLUFFS - OCT. 14



Al C, Jan S, Renee C, Carolyn H, Sharon R and I started hiking the Bluffs from the Cascade Recreational Area parking lot. Weather wise a threatening rainy day that held back throughout our hike except for misty times that did not discourage us. The light cover of snow accented the fall colours. Our

destination was trails end at Cayuse Flats 6.0 km ahead according to the trail marker at the Flats. This 'A' level hike with its 225m elevation gain is a bit deceiving because



much of the trail ascends and descends. We fellas figured total ascending was more like 400 to 500 m.



At Cayuse Flats trailhead we had lunch on the Skagit River Bridge. Back on the trail a growing determined yearning in our bellies focused our longing for The Blue Moose. But before the Moose we stopped at the Hope Slide view point. First time for half of us. Cold wind and yearning bellies compelled us to soon get back on the road.

Many COC folks have hiked the Bluffs many times so nothing new can be said. Still I think for many fall makes it A OK to hike this trail with the deciduous trees painted in their fall glory. As evident by the scenery pictures taken by Carolyn and Renee. This made for an especially enjoyable hike even with the traffic noise from the highway far below.

-Dave Ortis

SKYLINE DIVIDE - OCT. 15

In the middle of intense fall rain and grey clouds, Sunday emerged as a bright spot. I could not have planned it better. I was watching the weather forecast and the sky and certainly did not expect the forecast to be correct. But sure enough Sunday morning brought sunshine and blue skies.



I was expecting a lot more snow so we all carried snowshoes and microspikes. It was mostly tracked slushy route with a few icy spots so the snowshoes were just an extra workout for us. This trail is quite wonderful with lots of payoff for only



some effort. It starts off moderately steep up through the forest but within an hour you gain the ridge and have a clear view of surrounding ridges, Mount Shuksan and a stunning view of Mt Baker. Then the route meanders along the ridge climbing up a few steep sections but mostly just a steady easy uphill path towards Baker. You can stop anywhere along the ridge and still have a great rest spot with magnificent views of Baker.



There were quite a few people along the way but most surprising was that we recognized some voices and there was John M and Jerry on their way back. They left early which was smart as they did not have as long a wait at the border. My advice: if you go on a Sunday get to the border before 8 or as early as you can. The day was long only because of long border waits.



After the hike we tried to get into a quaint popular pub nearby as recommended by John but alas it also had too

long a wait for a table. The North Fork Brewery I think it was called, ask John M to be sure. The pizza looked amazing. Instead we headed for the long border wait and back to Canada after a great day despite no beer and pizza.

Peter E, Glenda C, **Sue L, Al S**, Debby H, Robbin Y, Lisa S, and Pat, (honorable mentions: John M and Jerry)

WATERSPRITE LAKE – OCT. 24 – 25



This trail + hut were completed this summer by BCMC volunteers. It is open to the public for \$20.00 per night with a maximum occupancy of 10. In the winter it's used for backcountry skiing and in the summer you can scramble nearby peaks. We were privileged to share the cabin with Ed Zenger who designed the hut and along with Su, Terry + Len, put a lot of their time into building it.

We turned off of the Sea to Sky Hwy onto Mamquam and then Skookum FSRs. Staying left at the forks, we drove in about 20 km, following the km signs and parked by a dam & yellow gates. The first 2/3 of the hike is on overgrown FSR so the grade is gradual. We immediately had views to the north and west on Garibaldi Mt. Four km in, from 4 – 8 km is the avalanche slide zone. In some sections there were big cracks in the ground. It made us wonder when they'd give way. Probably in the spring some time. Another section had large boulders that we had fun climbing up on for dangerous looking pics.



Then we rounded the corner and the view to our west & north disappeared. But to our southeast it opened up, Martin Peak being most prominent. We could now see our destination: the low col to our east. The hut & lake were just beyond that. The FSR ended and a large boulder slope began. But gaps between the rocks had been filled in with mulch. Skeletons of trees, some blackened by fire, dotted the slope. Once across it we entered the forest. This last part of the trail is still a work in progress but it's well marked. The final 20 minutes are back on a boulder slope, this time with a bit of snow thus making it more muddy & slippery.



Then came our reward: a red roofed new hut perched on a rocky bluff. We sighed with relief when we could take our heavy packs off. Then us newbies headed back outside, eager to see the lake. At first we were confused. Where or what was the lake???





The reflections were so clear, they were a mirror image of the real thing. It was like an optical illusion. And the south end of the lake was frozen. The pointed Watersprite Peak was straight across from the cabin. There is a campsite & outhouse there at it's base, by the lake's shore. Back in the cabin the wet clothes were drying by the wood stove (wet from sweat). The heat stayed nicely contained in the hut's sturdy walls. We all slept well, as Joe said, "To a chorus of snoring".

Morning brought a totally different looking lake. It was pale green and choppy and surrounded by low fog. This time we put our micro-spikes on as we descended the first steep section and kept them on till we got to the boulder field. The sky opened up with sunshine now and then. We stopped to search for wildlife in the meadows below us but no signs of any. We made it down in 2 hours. To ascend to the cabin with an overnight pack, I would give it a good 4 hours at least. We definitely have plans to return in the summer to bag a few peaks.

Stats: ascent: 8.5 km / 720m gain / 1520m high

Thanks **Cal F** for organizing this great adventure and to Joe K for coming along. Also to Ed, Su, Terry & Len for being such wonderful hosts. –**Joce T**

NICOMEKL PARK – OCT. 27

Nicomekl Park Langley BC, elevation gain-minimal, fun maximal! We did an Urban Trek today; a 10 km walk in Nicomekl Park in Langley.



It was a beautiful relaxed sunny day; slow paced enough to enjoy each other's company but still get some exercise. The autumn colours were gorgeous! We reconnected with friends that hadn't been out for a while which was nice.



We also had some fun in an Urban Kid's Playground. Our biggest challenge was in our vehicles trying to find a Starbucks.



Thanks to **Allan Smith** for leading us successfully around the park and to Sue Lawrence, Jocelyn and Case, John Laframbois, Gary B. and Cheryl H, **Judy P**

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

Position	Name	E-mail
President + FMCBC Rep	Ken Orr 604-858-0813	orrke@shaw.ca
Vice President	vacant	
Past President	Ken Hurley 604-792-9029	kwurley@gmail.com
Presentations & speakers	Ray Daws 604-724-7746	raydio@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Irene Hofler 604-824-6741	ihofler@telus.net
Directors:	Paul Schumak 778-868-6474 Ken Hurley 604-792-9029 Margaret Tranah 604-819-8940 Stuart Wood 604-745-0095 Helen Turner 604-792-0972 Gary Baker 604-858-4928	paulschumak@hotmail.com robbinyager@gmail.com kwurley@gmail.com margaret_tranah@hotmail.com Stuart_wood@shaw.ca hturner59@gmail.com garybaker@shaw.ca
Membership Secretary	David Biehn 604-378-9938	dave.biehn@gmail.com
Mail checks to: Secretary:	Danielle Goulet 438-871-1623	dapatnic@gmail.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.
Librarian	Irene Hofler	ihofler@telus.net
Newsletter Pub. 604-854-6267	Jocelyn Timmermans	jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com
Website	Amanda Rallings	Amanda_rallings@Hotmail.com
Vedder Mt Trail Ass'n	Gary Baker 604-858-4928	garybaker@shaw.ca
Refreshments	Helen Turner + Lori Bodkin	hturner59@gmail.com firechick@telus.net
Equipment Managers: Richard Aikema - aquatic (canoes) richard.aikema@abbotsfordcommunityservices.com		
Mountaineering/hiki	John LeBlanc	John3@teuls.net