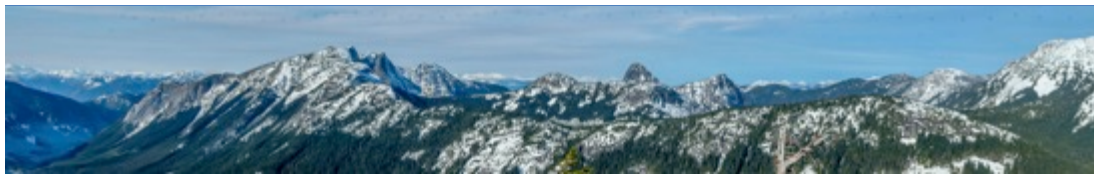


THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

CHINA RIDGE WEEKEND SKI AND SNOW
SHOE - JAN. 19 - 21

Does it seem like winters are getting long and colder and darker? It seems I'm not the only one who thinks so. This year 22 ski and snow shoe desperados descended upon the Castle resort to shake off those looong winter hairs. We stayed at the 2 big chalets, while others booked their own rooms in the lodge. Luckily this year wasn't as cold as last, so all the pipes were working and we had lots of running hot water in the chalets. But things like that never stop those of us in the COC who are hearty and focused solely on getting outside for 3 days in a row.

We're seeking decent dry and deep snow and sunshine up at China Ridge ski trails, just a few minutes out of town from Princeton. However our weekend was under a looming grey sky that teased us with blue edges showing to the south. But a little fog and gloom never stops us either. We hit the trails en mass and made the best of it.



Saturday night our potluck dinner in the Chalet "C" once again rivaled the COC Christmas spread for variety and flavour and quantity. Everyone brought mounds of great food!



Unfortunately we discovered upon checking out on Sunday that the Castle Resort has been sold to Chinese Company. So sadly this might be the last time we'll stay at this interesting location, as it will likely go under renovations and with that, higher prices. The Castle Resort is situated on an historic site that was once a Portland cement factory that went bust in 1914 after a few months of operating. It took four years and a million dollars to build with thousands of man-hours by engineers, stonemasons and carpenters. Many workers died in mysterious accidents during construction. The old rock wall ruins and the tall pines surrounding the chalets and cabins add a air of mystery to the place.

Jan 20 - Snowshoe to China Ridge Cabin



Eight of us headed out determined not to make the same mistakes we did last year. And it worked. We made it to the cabin this time. From the parking lot we stayed right and took the K9 snowshoe trail, then the Balsam and then the Logging Rd. Just before the warming hut, at about 2/3 way in, we got onto a groomed trail for cyclers. No chance of seeing any of those in the snow.



At the warming hut two hours later, us eight women got a fire going for lunch. Three decided to head back and five of us were now seeing a possibility that we'd still make it to the cabin before the agreed turn back time of 1:30pm. So off we went, hopes high, at a good pace on the edge of the groomed trail. In 45 minutes we arrived! And what a nice cabin equipped with solar panels, a wood stove and a two level loft, which could sleep six adults.



Carolyn & Herb, who were on skis and whom we'd met back at the warming hut, were settled in comfortably by the warm stove. The ski gang said they'd gotten the fire going earlier. Thanks guys. The view overlooked the rolling hills to the southwest. We indulged in tea and talk and then were back on track. By 4:00pm we were driving back to the resort, looking forward to that potluck dinner...

Stats: 17.5 km / 220m gain / 1380m high



Snowshoers were: Terry B, Deb H, Irene H, Judy P, Margaret T, Allana W, Liz + **Joce T** (reporter for this day)

Jan. 21st – Walk to Ochre Bluffs

Before driving back home seven of us did a two hour walk along the Similkameen River to the Ochre Bluffs. We parked by the Subway in town and soon were walking through an old railroad tunnel, then over a bridge and along the river. This trail is part of the TCT and named the Kettle Valley Railway trail.



China Ridge is a large area just north of Princeton designated to cross country ski and snow shoe trails. This area technically has the same weather as the Okanogan, so snow is dry and skies often sunny. Due to high elevation it gets a fair amount of snow and 2018 was a good year, so the trails were in good shape. Next year we'll most likely need to find a new location to stay for the weekend. If anyone has any ideas for a large group of people to stay, please let me know.

John, Don, Irene, Lyn, Patrick, Al, Sue, Jocelyn, Case, Margaret, Cathy, Debby, Judy, Caroline and friend, Liz, Terry, Alana, Al and Moira - apologies to anyone missed...!



-trip organizer & reporter: **Robbin Yager**

CAMBIE CREEK LOOP AND SIMILKAMEN RAMBLE - JAN. 27

The weather conditions were 'iffy' and there was a highway driving advisory for the Coquihalla and the Hope- Princeton, not unusual for this time of year. Off we went anyway, we could always turn back if conditions were really bad. With the 'advisory' traffic was light and surprisingly Hwy #3 was virtually bare pavement. So far so good, but what a surprise when we turned into the Cambie Creek parking lot. It was packed, virtually bumper to bumper in the plowed areas. The only open spaces to park involved pushing the nose of our vehicles into deep unplowed snow on the perimeter of the parking area. The snow was up to the doors of my truck.



Looking about we saw that there was a troop of Scouts camped in the clearing to the east of the parking area and most of the folks preparing to head out were backcountry skiers.

This hike was designed to give folks new to snowshoeing the opportunity to do some trail breaking and to experience rolling terrain with some short but steady climbing. The trail breaking was going to have to wait until we started the 'ramble' as the trail from the parking area was pounded down, smooth and deep. The virgin snow at the end was

over knee depth. We decided to do the loop counter clockwise which meant doing a steady climb up the Fat Dog Trail until the Loop branched off to continue along the Similkameen River valley. The loop trail had also been skied out so in no time we had reached the site of the washed out bridge over the river. But surprise, there is now a steel girder bridge spanning the river. This new bridge was built with the support of numerous corporate and community donors to commemorate the 75th. anniversary of the creation of Manning Park. Wonderful!

The bridge seemed like a good place to start our ramble up the river valley. Remember that knee deep snow, oh, was the going tough. We went about 200m up the river bank and decided...enough. We turned about to the bridge where we sat down to enjoy our lunches.

I hadn't hiked the portion of the Cambie Loop on the west side of the river for the better part of 10+yrs and I'd forgotten that it was bumpy (up and down), but as it had also been skied out we made good time back to the main trail to the parking area. To finish off the hike we took a detour into the woods towards the old gravel pit to the east of the parking area, where the scouts had set up their camp. In the past we have observed dozens of tents when the scouts have held their winter camping jamborees , but there were only 3 solitary tents on this occasion.

As the hike went faster and was shorter than planned we had lots of time for a leisurely stop at the Blue Moose. It was a good day!

The hikers were: Margaret T., Terry B., Johnny G., Sheryl H., and Cecelia N., Submitted by **Gary Baker**

MT. KELLY - JAN 31



To get out of the torrential rains, 11 of us headed to Manning Park. We decided on Mt. Kelly. A slightly snowed on ski

trail helped enormously with trail breaking. However I followed the ski trail a little too far down towards Cambie Creek so we had to do some serious trail breaking to head up to the lunch spot.



With 11 of us taking turns (I think maybe a few got away without trail breaking) it went well as it wasn't a great distance. It was beautiful up there with the snow-laden trees and the sun making a few attempts at breaking through the clouds. The temperature was moderate so we all enjoyed our lunch break.



On the way down some of us followed Joe on some short cuts to the switchbacks below. The snow was a little too heavy to make this as much fun as it should have been. A great day with a super group. Thanks everyone. Gary, Heather, Jim S., Johnny, Margaret, Terry, Sheryl, Tim Y, Joe, Irene, **Judy**

EDMESTON ROAD LOOP CULTUS LAKE - FEB 3

To commemorate CPAWS BC (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society British Columbia) Parks Day we hiked this very boggy trail. At times there were gushing streams where usually the trail would have been bone dry. The trail takes us through a forest of very large beautiful trees draped



in moss including the 7 sisters and many blow downs that had accumulated just this past winter. Thank you to the 5 hikers who decided to brave the elements: Johnny, Anne, Bernie, Carolyn, Carol + **MARG T**

MISSION HERITAGE PARK TRAIL TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY VIA PILGRIM'S WAY - FEB. 10

Such a long title for such a short hike. Yeh I could only hike half day due to another commitment. Actually one could spend much more time hiking trails in this park because there are many. Most of which do not have directional signs. Those that do are so well weathered they are barely legible.



Though only a 7 km hike we enjoyed the beautiful weather and especially the viewpoint overlooking Matsqui Prairie and the Fraser with the Cheam Range in the distance. Here we enjoyed lunch. Half of us visited the nearby abbey while the rest waited at the viewpoint. To get to the abbey we walked a level trail to the junction of the Hail Mary Trail. Here we climbed the 150 m to the abbey. Two-thirds of the way up we connected to the Gondola Trail turned east toward the

viewpoint and abbey. En route we found ourselves on several wrong trails thanks to my false leading.



On our return we intended to return to our starting point via the Gondola Trail. Instead we fully descended Hail Mary and were soon back at our starting point. Then off to the Blackberry Kitchen in the park.



My earlier telephone enquiry falsely informed me that light refreshments was okay. Instead we were denied service because we did not have reservations and there was a minimum charge of \$15 per person. Change of refreshment strategy and off to the Clik Coffee Bistro went Sharon R, Ron T, Allen C and Robert J. Renee C, her buddy Penny and I, alas had to forgo the coffee fellowship, for other tasks.

- Dave Ortis

GIBSON MEADOWS-POLAND LAKE HIKE - FEB. 10

The best conditions...ever! Twenty-one Club members and guests made their way to Manning Park for what has become an annual February hike from the base of the Manning Park Ski area through the Gibson Meadows to Poland Lake. This is a winter only route made possible when the creeks, tarns and lake freeze over and the snow is deep enough to cover the tangled debris on the forest floor. I was surprised that two hikers from Princeton were waiting for us in the parking area. They had seen the trip posted on the club FaceBook page and planned to follow us in. Cool! The temperature at the parking area showed -14C. COLD, one

would think, but there was no wind and it felt near balmy; amazing considering the crystal blue skies.

Off we went with Randy K. in the lead up the side of the Blue Chair ski runs and as almost always happens Ski Patrollers on snowmobiles showed up and asked where we are going. They politely inform us we were going the wrong way to Poland Lake and we in turn politely inform them we are indeed going to Poland Lake as we have been using this route for years.

With a final head count and instructions we left the groomed slopes of the ski runs and headed into the thick forest. We have had to deal with difficult trail breaking along this route in the past and those of us who remember those days were prepared for the worst, again. Randy would continue to lead (Thanks Randy you did a great job.) and do route finding, but would be spelled off by others as needed. Trail breaking in deep or heavy snow is brutally hard work. We would never have predicted that all that deep snow we had encountered during the past several weeks had consolidated and formed a hard base with only a few centimetres of fresh powder on top. Near perfect, snowshoeing conditions.

It's hard to describe how amazingly beautiful the meadows, covered in pristine snow, are in brilliant sunshine. It literally takes one's breath away! First meadow, second meadow, then the third meadow followed by the climb through the forest to connect with the summer trail into the lake. You know what is on everyone's mind, "Where is that trail, have we missed it, will this climb ever end?" Finally we hit it and followed it to and across the lake to the camping area where we enjoyed a leisurely lunch break and took the obligatory photo of the group standing on the cabin roof. There was agreement that the climb through the forest took a more eastern, longer route than taken in the past so we took a shorter, but slightly steeper, route back down to the meadows and then traced our inbound route back to the vehicles.



What a day. For those of us who have done the route more times than we can collectively remember the weather and the snow conditions were the best, the very best, we have ever had. It was a very good day!!!!

Let's make a plan, same week next year: Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019.

Go explore and be safe out there. Submitted by **Gary Baker**

MT THOM -FEB. 14



Falling snow with a weather warning prompted us to abandon the Needle in favour of Mt Thom. Leaving our snowshoes behind, we started from Sylvan Drive and hiked up 120 steps, stopping briefly to admire two Austrian black pines Case had planted years ago. Micro-spikes collected snow, cedar needles and dirt. The forest was laden with fresh snow. After an hour and forty minutes, we reached the summit of Mt Thom where we had a mid-morning lunch. Clouds cleared showing us Cultus Lake, Chilliwack and the Fraser Valley below.



A Promontory man who has summited Mt Thom more than 1200 times joined us for a few moments. Then the clouds obscured our view and we packed up to go, although not without a group photo. When Terry was setting up her camera, a snow bomb landed splat on her head. Along for this local hike were Case T, Heather B (reporter), Joe K,

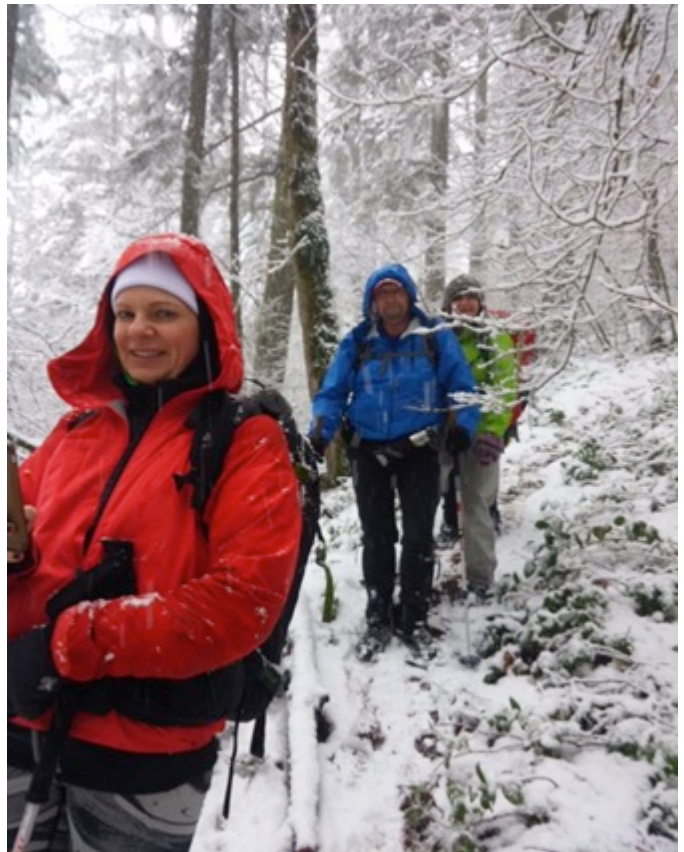
Johnny G, Liz L, Terry B. Afterwards most of us went to Fiesta Loca for Azteca soup and Valentine's Day butter cream cake.

- report by **Heather B**

OTHELLO TUNNELS FEB 17

Due to the extreme weather warnings we had to change our trip for today from Manning to Hope.

As it was it snowed the whole day and it got slowly deeper during our hike and the consensus was that we made a wise choice. The tunnels this time of year are closed so we decided to walk the Hope-Nicola valley trail over and back the same way. After braving the elements it was good to relax with the Blue Moose and our favourite cup of coffee and eats.



Our outing to Manning will be slated for another day.

Thank you to 4 brave participants:
Cecilia, Johnny, Irene, Lisa + **MARG T**

RAVENS NEST – FEB. 21

The prospect of finding the elusive cabin on this mountain lured 15 hikers out into the cold. Glen and Mark had scouted it out a few days before and added flagging tapes to mark

the route. With snow at the upper levels we would've been lost without them and their markers. With Mark in the lead and Glen as a sweep we successfully left with 15 hikers and returned with 15 hikers. Good job, guys!



By 9:00am we were crossing the Norrish Creek railway bridge quickly because the train comes and goes very quickly. Apparently Norrish Creek provides not only Mission but also Abbotsford with water. When we entered the forest there was immediate evidence of the ice storm. But the trail was cleared for the most part. At the first junction we turned right, therefore doing the loop counter-clockwise. Now the trail began to climb steeply, past rocky bluffs with long icicles hanging off of their edges.

At the second junction we turned right again, which soon got us to the Ravens Bluff viewpoint. The Fraser River glittered at the base of Sumas Mt., which was right across from us, separated by the Dewdney flats. Then we backtracked a bit. We waited back at the junction for the last few hikers, some of whom had put micro-spikes on. As I was poking at an icicle, I noticed a little container from the corner of my eye, tucked into a gap in some rocks. Oh goody! It was a geocache! But try as we might, we couldn't get it out of that hole. So finally Joe screwed the lid off in the hole (not an easy feat in such a small tight space).



Next we had to cross a small creek. Because of their micro-spikes, most of the hikers crossed on the log, legs spread, on their behinds. Joe, with a hint of desperation in

his voice, asked Johnny to please hurry up because, "Certain body parts were getting very cold". It wasn't too much farther, perched above a rocky bluff overlooking the Norrish River and the prairies that Mark led us to the hut tucked into the forest. Its small but well equipped. It even has a tiny wood burning stove made from a barbeque propane cylinder.

Not too much further was the paragliders take-off slope where we had lunch. From there it was mostly downhill, descending on two sections of FSR alternating with forest. Dipping down to the lower more level area, as we were entering what we call the "Black forest" (because it's so dark), we heard a blood-curdling scream!!! Oh. It was just Cal getting attacked by a Sasquatch (the sign back at the parking spot had read: "Bigfoot Area!" etched into the dirt on it). We all know we can't take Cal too seriously. Just past the main junction, thus completing the loop, we took a little side trail to check out the river. From there it wasn't far to the vehicles and it was 2:00pm. The gates shut at 3:00pm.



Only three of us went for coffee but before that we got a special treat when we all followed Vic through the Inch Creek Fish Hatchery (beside which we were parked), to a pond with a floating dock in the middle of it, where two 7 & 7.5 foot sturgeons were contained. The larger one is 80 years old and over 200 lbs!

A big thank you goes to Glen Robertson & Mark Weymann for being our guides and solving the mystery of the cabin.

And thanks to all you explorers who came out on this chilly but fun day: Claudine A, Terry B, Heather B, Vic D, Cal & Jessica F, Johnny G, Joe K, Liz L, Geoff L, Judy P, Glen R, Margaret T, Mark W + **Joce T**

PS: Wondering what was in the geocache? A carbineer, a pin with the word "Merri" on it and a note. The note is Joe's secret since he got it open.

MULTI DAY TRIPS

ELPHIN LAKES HUT, SQUAMISH

April 25 – 27 LIMIT: 10

Day hike on snowshoes, stay at hut

Sue Lawrence / Al Smith: gwelu@telus.net

SOUTHERN SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL, POWELL RIVER

May 29 – 31 LIMIT: 10

Day hike, stay at hut

Ron Dart: rdart@shaw.ca

LORD OF THE RINGS PEAK, NORTH OF WHISTLER

July 2 – 5 LIMIT: 10

Day hike, stay at hut

Ron Dart: rdart@shaw.ca

THE DEWDNEY TRAIL, CASCADE MTS.

June 29 – July 3, Canada Day weekend

5 day backpack, tenting LIMIT: 12

Terry Bergen: terrybergen@shaw.ca

THE 3 SISTERS WILDERNESS. PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, CENTRAL OREGON

July 7 – 15 LIMIT: 10

8 day backpack, tenting

John McLellan: jhmclellan@shaw.ca

THE SNOWY MTS, KEREMEOS

July 28 – Aug. 3 LIMIT: 10

4 or 5 day backpack, tenting

Joce Timmermans: jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com

MOWICH CAMP AT HOZOMMEN PEAK, MANNING PARK

Aug 4 - 6 BC Day weekend LIMIT: 12

3 day backpack

Terry Bergen: terrybergen@shaw.ca

ASSINIBOINE & BUGAGOOS PROV PARK

Aug. 12 – 19 LIMIT: 12

Day hiking, tenting

Joce Timmermans: jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com

TONQUIN VALLEY, OVAL/BALD PEAKS – MIETTE, JASPER MP, ALBERTA

Aug. 19 – 26 LIMIT: 10

Day hike, 2 day backpack, car camp, tenting, hut

Ron Dart: rdart@shaw.ca

BELLA COOLA, BC

Sept. 6 – 15 LIMIT: 12

Day hiking & grizzly bear watching, car camping

Margaret Tranah: Margaret_tranah@hotmail.com

COPPER RIDGE OR EXCELSIOR RIDGE, MT. BAKER AREA

Sept 12 – 16 LIMIT: 6

4 day backpacking, tenting

Sue Lawrence / Al Smith at gwelu@telus.net

HIGH RIDGE, WHISTLER-BLACKCOMB

Sept 26 – 29 LIMIT: 8

Day hike, hostel Ron Dart: rdart@shaw.ca

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