

## THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

## TRIP REPORT

## PALM SPRINGS HIKING - FEB. 22-28

Thanks to Cathy Colbeck and Anne O'Leary. Just when I thought this trip was full, 6 dropped out a couple of months before the start date. By that time it was too late to find another location to stay in Palm Springs, so I left the trip total at 3 when Cathy came on board to join Anne and myself.

In the end it worked out very well because I found a great B&B in Yucca Valley near Joshua Tree National Park, where we had the house to ourselves with private rooms, and were welcome to make full use of the kitchen. We also rented a jeep to access the trailheads and this was to our advantage, as we had to negotiate one or two unpaved roads.

**Relax max at our Palm Springs home**

We had 5 full days to hike and visit Palm Springs. We managed to secure tickets for a tour in town during the very popular Modernism Week. We walked the neighbourhood of the stars who lived,

worked and played in Palm Springs when they weren't making movies in Hollywood. It was fun to hear some of the more sordid stories about famous people and to visit beautiful homes and gardens that were designed by some of the most celebrated and progressive home architects of the 1950s – 1970s.



The hikes we chose were all completely different by location, elevation, history and environment. I used the *104 Great Hikes in and near Palm Springs* as our guide. We explored the Painted Canyon/Ladder Canyon Loop as our first all day walk. This is one of the most popular hikes in this region and we decided to avoid the crowds by taking the path less hiked. This trail gradually lead us into a slot canyon that "birthed" us onto the ridge top where we had to squeeze out by climbing through a narrow hole. We had no idea where we were and completely lost the trail from here.



### **Crawling out of the hole on the Ladders hike**

In the distance we saw hikers and followed them to join the main trail that took us down through ever changing canyon scenery to the ladders. Cathy was experiencing the desert for the first time so it was especially fun to share her appreciation for every detail. We hadn't seen any blossoms however, and as this winter was one of the driest in recent years we were sure that cactus flowers wouldn't appear in time, if at all.



### **Descending the Ladders Canyon.**

Another great hike was in Joshua Tree. We met up with Dave Walton who spends every winter near Yucca Valley. He took on the Lost Horse Mine loop and at higher elevations it was considerably cooler compared to the shorts and T-shirts we wore on the Ladders hike.



### **Dave Walton took us to Joshua Tree**

Besides the iconic Joshua Tree, this desert has wonderful dense varieties of plants and for the first time Cathy got a really good feel for desert cactus gardens.



### **Joshua Tree National Park**

Our last serious hike was in my opinion the best, simply because the Palm Canyon trail has native history and a surprising variety of landscapes. Some Washingtonia palms in this valley are 2000 years old and the beautiful setting is the ancestral home of the Agua Caliente native tribe.



**Palm Valley oasis**

This is tribal land and the trails are well marked as they shoulder the San Jacinto mountain range along with a wild west feeling from a movie set. The vistas along the high ranges here were fantastic with rain and snow storming the summits above, while in the sun below we hiked in t-shirts surrounded by large Chollo and barrel cactus. Eventually this weather caught up with us, so it was a day of on and off with our coats.



**Snowstorm descending the San Jacinto mountains**



## **Much to our delight the barrel cactus were blooming at Palm Valley**

I did some birding along the streams and spotted 3 new species for my list; bridled Titmouse, Phainopeplas, and the black tailed Knatcatcher.



## **On our hikes we saw a Horned Lizard and an amazing hairy fringed green beetle**

**-Robbin Yager**

### **COQUIHALLA LAKES – FEB. 28**

We had a nice large group of 12 this day, which was quite necessary. Although the elevation gain was minimal, this snowshoe was challenging because of the almost knee high depth of powder snow.

We parked at the restrooms where the tollbooths used to be on Hwy 5 at 9:50am. From there we dipped down about 20' and then crossed over a fence, which was almost buried in snow. The fence posts had 'hats' that went from pointed to curled over like a fiddlehead fern. Its odd how they didn't fall off but hung suspended to the side. Soon we got to the pipeline road where we turned right (south). Joe tried to find a creek crossing but the snow bridges were not quite big enough yet. So a bit farther up we crossed in shallow water, aiming for the higher rocks.

Then we cautiously passed some avalanche slopes. Two hours later we got to the viewpoint. The highway divided The Needle and Thar Mountains and far below our perch, the river wound through the Coquihalla Canyon. It was a great spot for lunch.

From there Joe led us through forest, around the first little lake and then over the second lake. We were relieved to see our packed trail. From there it was easy going. Or so we

## MT. SEYMOUR SUNSET – MARCH 3



thought. Cal got it in his head to have a race. So I parked on the bottom of the slope to photograph it and off they went, high big steps, kicking up snow with each step they took. Long-legged Biehn (so they called Dave) won.



That race cost precious energy that was beginning to lag. The competitors were just beginning to catch their breath and relax into the rhythm of their stride. But as they approached the next slope, Cal (not to be outdone) challenged them to one more race. This was a longer hill. "One, two three!" and off they went. Who won? No one. At the half way point Cal fell and everyone else was enjoying the spectacle far too much to keep going.



On the way home nine of us stopped at the Blue Moose in Hope. A yummy ending to another fun day. Thanks Joe for leading on this one. Stats: 8 km / 225m gain / 1162m high

Participants: Terry B, Dave B, Vic D, Cal F, Johnny G, **Joe K**, Judy P, Al S, Jan S, Jim S, Margaret T + **Joce T**

This was not a typical winter outing. We left mid afternoon instead of mid morning. And instead of wearing snowshoes we wore micro-spikes because we knew the trail would be hard packed on this popular route. We also took head lights because we knew we'd need them on the descent.

It was 3:15pm when 12 of us started climbing alongside the ski slope for the first half hour before veering off to the left. This is a shorter hike but it does have several steep sections. About half way up, we were losing any hope of seeing a sunset since the clouds were stubbornly clinging to the peaks and limiting our visibility. It wasn't till 1½ hours later when we got to what I call the snow dunes near the top, that we got our first glimpse of blue sky.



With uplifted spirits we trudged to the top. Unfortunately those small patches of blue were few and far between. There was a golden glow to our southwest, the clouds being back-lit by the sun. It was still one hour before sunset when we summited. So after eating and a group shot, three of our group decided to head down the steep sections before it got too dark. Although there was no wind, it was still getting colder.



But as soon as they left, the clouds began to part, exposing first the sun on the ocean and the harbor with its massive ships. And then they continued to expose more and more of Vancouver. We were in a photographic frenzy, trying



to keep up with the ever-changing scene before us. Some of the clouds looked like they were on fire. Windows opened up in them, exposing pieces of the city decked in its nightlife finery. To the east the bulbous clouds were pale pink, melting into baby blue hues. Absolutely amazing!



Then just as suddenly as they'd started to part, the clouds started to close in again. Karen's "turtle shell" (so we called it) got her down the mountain real fast. Cal & Troy jumped through a large cornice back at the snow dunes. During a glissade, Cal got whacked on the head by a branch. He looked rather sinister in the fading light with little rivulets of blood trickling down the side of his face. It didn't stop him from doing some more sliding though. About half way down we switched on our headlights.

By 9:00pm we were all gathered in the warm cafeteria by the parking lot, changing into dry clothes and swapping stories of our adventurous downhill descent. All twelve of us feasted at a Chinese restaurant on E Hastings in Vancouver.

Stats: 8.7 km / 610m gain / 1407m high

Along for this successful and phenomenal afternoon & evening were: Lori B & her grandson, Russel P, Vic D, Peter E, **Cal F**, Wendy G, Carolyn H, Karen S, Stanley W + **Joce T**

## ELK MT. – MARCH 7

Elk Mtn... yawn! That's the point. Elk isn't exotic—no passport required—but you can sleep in, hike and still get home early enough for a nap. At the trailhead we put on microspikes. The trail was packed snow. Whiskey jacks greeted us at Elk lookout where we took a short break looking out at Chilliwack in the green valley below. At the summit we ate lunch and waved to the COC members at Artist's Point.



Staying close to home for this 8 km hike were Jerzy B, Johnny G & **Heather B**.

## ARTIST POINT – MARCH 7

This snowshoe offers one of the most spectacular views, with Mt. Shuksan to our close left and Mt. Baker to our close right. Both were in clear view, the clouds closing in on Baker only after lunch.



A large group from Vancouver started out just ahead of us. So once past the ski slopes, we veered off to the right while they stayed left. We looped round to Artist Point, which was the parking lot and restrooms by Table Mt, buried in snow. Then we crossed along the base of Table Mt. till we had a gorgeous view of Mt. Baker, which was singularly lit by the sun. Some trees wore one-sided jagged ice coats chiseled



by the wind. Others were curved and capped by a heavy hat of snow.

From there we followed the Kulsan Ridge to Huntoon Point, which is situated right between the two giants: Shuksan & Baker. Where to escape the wind for a restful lunch? We were eyeing that large group a bit below us who were nestled nicely in a sheltered bowl. Ah ha! They were starting to pack up. Some friendly reassurance from a few of them and we took over their spot. For the group shot Cal decided to give it an interesting twist. So he dug himself into a snow hole with only his head sticking out. But when the photo was taken and he tried to get up, he lost his balance and fell into Terry, landing on his back with her on top. That made for a rather interesting picture.



The return journey involved a first time snow-swim race and some glissading of course. Of the 11 of us, 4 of us went to El Nopals.

Stats: 7.9 km / 450 m gain / 1575m high

Thanks to all who came out and contributed to making this the great day that it was: Claudine A, Terry B, Dave B, Cal F, Joe K, Judy P, Patrick R, Margaret T, Lori Young + Case & **Joce T**

## CASCADE LOOKOUT – MARCH 10

The sunshine finally came out for this snowshoe that had to be cancelled a couple of times due to snow storms. The road switchbacks for 8 kms from the lodge and at every turn gave us spectacular views of lightening lakes; the cascade and coast mountains.

It's interesting to see the contrast in the scenery from the winter to summer months. We pretty well had the whole road to ourselves except for a couple of skiers and some interesting animal tracks we decided could well have been a cat of some kind. We rounded off the day at the Blue Moose.



Thank you to Johnny, Steven K, Bill W, Irene, Lori, Suzi I and Ocho, our favourite pooch - **Margaret T**

## THE NEEDLE – MARCH 14

Conditions couldn't have been better for this very scenic snowshoe. We did not have to break trail since it's such a popular winter route. We parked by the maintenance sheds across from the restrooms at exit #217 on Hwy 5.



It took us 2.5 hours moving time to get to the col between the Needle Peak and Flat Iron. But that doesn't count for the many stops we took to catch our breath or stand in awe of the vistas. The snow looked embedded with tiny diamonds as it sparkled in the morning sun. Cornices hung like curling ribbons on the edges of the ridges. And the nearby Needle stood in stark contrast to the white with its jagged black granite cliffs. Higher up on the ridge the ice held decorative patterns shaped by the wind.



As we crossed the last large open slope below the Needle, the group of 10 paused to pose for a 'bum' shot. Vic said now we have to guess who is who from the photo.



And then the "wow" moment when we summited the col and saw the North Cascades with Coquihalla, Jim Kelly and Illal Peaks to our southeast and Flat Iron to our south west splayed out in all their glory. There was no hurry for this lunch break. We noticed there was now not one, but two towers on Flat Iron.

Of course on the way down there was glissading and breaking-and-falling-through-cornices. Half of our group stopped in at Hofstede's Country Barn in Chilliwack for more fellowship and food before heading home.

Stats: 9.7 km / 700m gain / 1810m high



Thanks to all who came out for this classic snowshoe: Jim Alkin, Terry B, Heather B, Vic D, Cal F, Johnny G, Joe K, Jan S, Lori Y + **Joce T**

**BYOB (BRING YOUR OWN BANANA) TO TAGGART PEAK (SUMAS MOUNTAIN)**

**SAT. - MARCH 17**

Eleven brave souls went a hiking,  
on a beautiful sunny day.

One said, "it's too much for me,  
I've got a nasty flu.



Ten determined souls hiked on,  
Through the forest so bright that day.  
Two said, "we've got a party to attend",  
And turned back with a fair adieu.

Eight now hiked way up to Taggart Peak,  
which was bathed in white and blue.



And to top a day already so fine,  
on a chocolate, banana, strawberry fondue we dined.



The only question left in our mind,  
is what elegance will we do next time?



(Did someone say a GPS Easter Egg Hunt!)

Bill, Regina, Cal, Ann, Tim, Bernie, Carol, Dave, Brian, **Lori** (poet), **Margaret**, and two trail dogs, Mossy & Ocho.

## AUDAIN ART MUSEUM/WHISTLER MUSEUM:

### MOUNTAINEERING CONVERGENCE

2017 signalled the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Canada since Confederation (Canada being, of course, much older than 1867 when the process of Confederation began, BC being slower to join). But, many was the celebrative event planned in Canada to highlight the next phase and stage of our journey as an emerging state. Needless to say, the mountaineering and artistic community were much involved in such a festive and retrospective mood.

The Audain Art Museum, much to their credit, hosted the Stone and Sky: Canada's Mountain Landscape exhibit that lasted from November 11 2017-February 26 2018. The exhibit was divided into five geographical areas in Canada where both mountains featured large and artists and photographers creatively interpreted such rock mammoths (in a variety of ways). Many of Canada's best known mountain and landscape artists such as the Group of Seven, Emily Carr, Toni Onley, Edward Burtynsky, Kenjoak Ashevak, John Hartman, Takao Tanabe, Ann Kipling, Jock MacDonald and Arnold Shives were given their respectful moment on stage (and such a visual stage it was). I was fortunate to spend the early years of my life in Ontario and many a summer in Algonquin Park where the Group of Seven launched a distinctive Canadian approach to applying brush to canvass. My parents are buried just a few minutes from the McMichael Art Collection in Kleinberg (Ontario) where significant paintings from the Group of Seven and Emily Carr are featured prominently. The fact that Arnold Shives had a couple of his paintings in the Stone and Sky exhibit, the equally important fact that Arnold has been front and centre in the west coast mountaineering community in its 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of maturation (1950s-1970s) and, lastly, that the Whistler Museum is the memory of Whistler's mountaineering culture, meant that a historic moment could not be missed.

The Whistler Museum, in their Speaker Series on November 15, did an evening with Arnold Shives and Glenn Woodsworth (Glenn very much a mountain historian) called Crevasses & Craggs: Tales from the Coast Mountains. Dick Culbert, Arnold Shives, Glen Woodsworth and Karl Ricker embody, in many ways, the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of mountaineers (1950s-1970s) in the Coastal Mountains. The playful and dialogical lecture by Glenn and Arnold (replete with graphic photographs of nail biting climbs on rock, snow and ice) was more than worth the attendance. History was in our living midst. The Q. & A. session was animated and filled in many a historic detail. Gratefully so, Whistler Museum taped the Crevasses and Craggs presentation from elders in the mountaineering clan, an earlier one done by Karl Ricker on Neal Carter (who was part of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of BC mountaineers).

The mountaineering convergence between Audain Art Museum's Stone and Sky: Canada's Mountain Landscapes and Whistler Museum's Crevasses & Craggs: Tales from the Coast Mountains was truly a feast to dine on—multiple congratulations to both places for their initiatives and history making events. —montani semper liberi, **Ron Dart**



## 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](mailto:gwelu@telus.net)

### SOUTHERN SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL, POWELL RIVER

May 29 – 31        LIMIT: 10

Day hike, stay at hut

Ron Dart: [rdart@shaw.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jhmclellan@shaw.ca)

### THE SNOWY MTS, KEREMEOS

July 28 – Aug. 3    LIMIT: 10

4 or 5 day backpack, tenting

Joce Timmermans: [jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:terrybergen@shaw.ca)

### ASSINIBOINE & BUGAGOOS PROV PARK

Aug. 12 – 19        LIMIT: 12

Day hiking, tenting

Joce Timmermans: [jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rdart@shaw.ca)

### BELLA COOLA, BC

Sept. 6 – 15        LIMIT: 12

Day hiking & grizzly bear watching, car camping

Margaret Tranah: [Margaret\\_tranah@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:gwelu@telus.net)

### HIGH RIDGE, WHISTLER-BLACKCOMB

Sept 26 – 29        LIMIT: 8

Day hike, hostel        Ron Dart: [rdart@shaw.ca](mailto: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](http://www.valhallapure.com) (club sponsor), [www.backpacker.com](http://www.backpacker.com) and [www.mec.ca](http://www.mec.ca).

**Safety first, last, and always!** It is the responsibility of trip participants to be equipped appropriately. Plan for the **worst!**

### The Ten Essentials

Before you hit any trail, no matter how easy, no matter how short, no matter how close to home, make sure your backpack is loaded with the ten essentials. When in the backcountry you are responsible for your own safety, and any one of these ten items may help to save your life. Carry them all and know how to use them.

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Extra clothing
4. Sunglasses and sunscreen
5. Headlamp/flashlight
6. First-aid supplies
7. Fire starter
8. Matches
9. Knife
10. Extra food and water

### Equipment for Club Members' Use

2	canoes with accessories	1	stove
2	backpacks	1	water filter
1	two-person tent	1	pruning saw
1	three-person tent	1	dehydrator
1	projector and screen	13	ice axes
3	9 mm climbing ropes	4	pairs of crampons
4	climbing harnesses	8	assorted carabiners
2	avalanche transceivers	?	avalanche probes

**Note:** All equipment must be returned in the same condition as borrowed or repaired appropriately.

## Hike Grading System

Duration (hrs.)		Elevation Gain (m)		Difficulty	
A	0-4	1	10-500	a	Easy
B	4-7	2	500-1000	b	Moderate
C	7-10	3	1000-1500	c	Difficult
D	10+	4	1500+	d	Advanced

## CLUB CONTACTS

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