

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL (SCT): MAY 29-31

CONFEDERATION-FIDDLEHEAD LANDING HUTS

The recent publication of 105 Hikes in and Around Southwestern British Columbia (2018) has come as a surprise to many---a variety of time tried treks have been omitted and an array of newer hikes have been highlighted. Some of the newer trails worth the trekking now included are pathways on the well-constructed 180 KL hut-to-hut system on the Sunshine Coast Trail. The Chilliwack Outdoor Club has done the northern section of the trail and part of the southern section. Our goal on this trip was to do part of the expansive central section of the SCT.



We left May 29 about 5:30 am on a blue canopy day, the 7:20 am ferry from Horseshoe Bay our destination. We celebrated Lori's BD with two fine cakes, gifts from her son, on the two ferry ride to Saltery Bay. The sailing across the water was superb, we reached Inland Lake and began our hike about 1:00 pm. The Emily Carr forest walk of sorts to Confederation Lake (included in 105 Hikes.....took us 3.5 hours). The Hut on Confederation Lake is one of the newest so we were treated with a beauty. A couple with a young child were at the Hut and we had a lovely time with them---another couple arrived later. The views of the forest, lake and mountains from the Hut are sights not to miss---all so calm and splendid.

We did the there and back again to the historically significant Fiddlehead Landing area and Hut where a rather controversial commune once existed a few decades ago. The Hut is on Powell Lake and in the forest (certainly not as welcoming as Confederation Hut). We lingered at



Fiddlehead for about a ½ hour, then it was through the densely layered forest (some exquisite lookout sites) back to Confederation Lake and Hut. We had the Hut to ourselves for the night, the upper loft quite spacious and the fact we returned by about 3:00 pm, meant we had some lovely loafing time by the lakeside, the boat by the beach ever a tempter.

We left Confederation Hut about 7:30 am on May 31, temperature a cooler 8C during the night, met a few people on our descent and arrived back at the car (after many a conversation with other trekkers) about 10:30 am. Margaret had never been to Lund, so we took the trip northward and spent a couple of hours at such a delight of a historic village. We caught the 2:30 pm Saltery Bay ferry, the Langdale ferry at 5:45 and back to the Valley again by the evening, a 35 KL and two hut trip behind us—stay tuned for the fuller central section of the SCT, 105 Hikes.....has now included Fairview Bay (86), Walt Hill (87), Confederation Lake (88) and Mazanita Bluff (89) on their Sunshine Coast list---all for the good.



Participants: Margaret Tranah, Lori Bodkin, Don Field and **Ron Dart** (trip leader and reporter)

EATON LAKE TRIP - MAY 30

Block letters state an official fact in white: EATON LAKE TRAIL. Spray-painted graffiti adds an opinion in red with silver highlights: PURE HELL. At the Old Timers Trail sign, we shuddered at memories of balancing precariously on old log crossings high above the roaring stream and bone-shattering boulders. Today's bridge over Eaton Creek, complete with handrail and chicken wire traction, is pure heaven. The steep trail ½ way point is marked by a discreet

sign above two eyes and a crooked nose on a cedar tree. We paused there for a snack. Roberto's water looked suspiciously like wine. The spring freshet roar of Eaton Creek was never far away. Wayne showed us a route to bypass the last two stream crossings. Spring snow hides holes—both Terry and Wayne suddenly lost a metre of height—unnerving around boulders. At Eaton Lake, where just a skiff of ice was left on one side, the whiskey jacks were quick to join us for lunch. Some of us got a bit goofy trying to impress Cal for a group photo.



Along for the 10 km, ~3200 feet elevation, hike to Eaton Lake were Terry B, Roberto D, Wayne H, Tammy W, **Heather B.**

OTHELLO TUNNELS AND HOPE-NICOLA VALLEY TRAILS – JUNE 2

Added to our three and a half to four hours of actual hiking were leisurely stops to enjoy the always beautiful scenery especially at the tunnels. The spring runoff spectacle of the Coquihalla made the hike especially enjoyable.

Once through the tunnels we counter-clock wised the Hope-Nicola trail. Up the trail we trudged. Oh, my apologies fellow hikers Steven K, Ron T, Jan S, Pat H, Renee C and her friend Penny. Up the trail we skipped was more like it. Well, maybe not skipping. We did a pretty good pace. We stopped for lunch at the log benches at the top before descending to the KVR trail west of the tunnels.





We also stopped for a relaxation moment at the viewpoint. Down the trail we continued. Connecting with the KVR trail we walked to the Kettle Valley road and our vehicles.

What to do next? More hiking or stop at the Blue Moose. Without hesitation the Blue Moose won. Who was I to argue?



- Dave Ortis

SKAGIT RIVER CROSSOVER – JUNE 6

I thought it'd be simple: Split the group of 16 in two and swap car keys when we meet on the trail, right? Wrong. It took us almost 10 minutes to realize 4 hikers were waiting on the other side of the parking lot. No more parking on the SW corner anymore. Signs show it's not permitted. It took another 10 minutes to figure out who wanted to start at the south end of the trail and who wanted to start at the north end. And then who would drive with who and who would put some end-of-the-hike items in whose car. One vehicle with hikers from the former Hermann's Group in Agassiz had



already gone ahead and driven to Sumallo Grove where 2 of our vehicles met them.

The trail follows alongside the left of the Skagit River and has 4 new wood bridges installed. At 9:30am 9 of us started hiking from Sumallo Grove trailhead while the other group of 7 started from the Ross Lake trailhead at 10:00am. Our group of 9 set out at a leisurely pace, soon doing 2 little side trails (no signage) of which the first one led to an antique truck parked by an abandoned mine beside a gushing waterfall. Not too much farther up the Skagit River Trail was a private cabin, which looked like its residents jumped up and left suddenly, leaving clothing hanging on the line, books on shelves and dishes in the cupboards. When Johnny Grim was checking out the bedroom he suddenly said, "There's a body in the bed!" A split sec of spook and then I told him, "Don't be so grim". Some cushions had been tucked under a blanket. A piece of the roof had caved in and we found a copper plaque for a gravesite nearby in the bushes. It read: In memory of mom, Nana; Isabella Wood 1895 – 1975.



The biggest highlights of this hike were the humongous old growth trees, which were mostly in the northern half of the trail and then the pink rhododendrons mostly in the southern quarter of the trail where we entered a drier ecosystem after summiting a short steep talus slope. The rhodos were in full bloom and lined the trail in abundance for about half a km. The last few kilometers we were getting tired and sticky from



the sweat and our pace was slowing, right? Wrong again. We started to hike in earnest, almost running. We can't say we weren't warned about those nasty mosquitoes. When we got to the cars we very quickly jumped in and shut the doors and watched them buzzing in swarms from the other side of our windows.

One of our hikers had fallen, hitting her knee on a sharp stone about 1/3 way in and decided to keep hiking. She certainly proved to be tough. Our two groups had met each other at almost the halfway point on the trail where we had lunch and swapped keys. After the hike we all met at the Blue Moose, the other 7 having been there for an hour already. So we swapped keys again and headed for home, most of us having completed the whole trail for the first time.

Stats: 16 km / fairly level

Out on this gorgeous hike were: Mary Bates, Terry B, Heather, B, Gary B, Cathy C, Roberto D, Johnny G, John Laf, Sheryl H, Dawn L, Eve Prior, Jan S, Bev Stoughton, Margaret T + Case & **Joce T**

HICKS LAKE TRAIL AND SPRIT TRAIL/BRIDLE TRAIL LOOP - JUNE 9



This hike was advertised as a lazy day hike. It lived up to its relaxing jaunt appeal. Born out of this day is my hypothesis that lazy hikes cultivate more conversation than the grunting on a demanding elevation climb. This isn't a judgment, just an observation.

Anyway, we started the day at Hicks Lake choosing to hike clockwise around the lake because this would give us the longer walk than hiking counter-clockwise. The fear was that a counter-clockwise hike would soon end due to an impassible high water stream. Fortunately this was not the case. Soon we were at the end of the 6 km Hicks hike. A quick half-kilometer hike around Beaver Pond nearby brought us back to our vehicles and picnic tables where we enjoyed lunch.



Then off to Harrison we went planning to do the Harrison Lagoon walk then the Whippoorwill/Sandy Cove Trail. Alas that was not to be. The town was packed with people meaning no parking. So off we went to Spirit Trail/Bridle Trail Loop. An easy paced hike with many stops to enjoy the masks. Hiking ended an 11 to 12 km about four hours when we decided time for coffee. I told you this was a lazy hike!



So off to Hemlock Mountain Coffee Co. rushed Robert J, Peter G, myself, Vera L, Shelly D, Sue M, Sharon R, Allen C and Sonja C. Thank you Sonja for the beautiful pictures.

-Dave Ortis

CHUCKANUT RIDGE TRAIL – JUNE 14

This network of trails is close to Bellingham in Larrabee State Park. We ended up hiking from one end to the other, making for a long but rewarding day.



We parked at the North Chuckanut Mt. trailhead at 9:30am. At the first junction we stayed left on the Chuckanut Falls Trail, doing the little side hike to the falls. We got back on to the Falls Trail, which soon intersected with the Hemlock Trail. A right on Hemlock, then left on Salil and then a right on Madrone Crest Trail got us to the viewpoint. But there wasn't much to see there. Mt. Baker stayed hidden behind cloud all day while we stayed in the sunlight. This is where we had lunch and where we found a snakeskin and posed with it in the group shot. Eww.



From there we carried on, on the North Lost Lake trail, which followed a rock wall. At the next junction we did a little side hike on the East Lost Lake Trail to check out the lake. A bit of backtracking and we were once again on the North Lost Lake Trail. We turned right on the Rock Trail. The round holes in the cliffs were interesting. Robbin started singing into them and then Heather played her penny flute. The music echoed in the stone.

We were almost at the Cyrus Gate Trailhead, at the other end of the park. But when we ran into about 5 flights of stairs, we had to do a double take. Really? So many steps. That was nasty when we'd already hiked 16 km. But once on top it was a hop & a skip to the parking lot with a beautiful view of Chuckanut + Bellingham Bays and their islands.

Now we had to go back yet. We took the shortest way, first walking on the road a bit till we got to the Middle Ridge Trail. This intersected with the Lower Ridge Trail, then the North Lost Lake Trail and finally the Hemlock Trail. We got back at 6:30pm. Not the norm for a mid week hike. But it was so tempting to check out those trails. We all had a yummy Mexican dinner at El Nopals.

Never before had the group heard someone yelling, "It's a girl!!!" on the trail before. Yes, our granddaughter was born that day. Yay!

Stats: 22 km / 1315m cumulated gain

Participants were: Terry B, Heather B, John & Mo Laf, Robbin Y + **Joce T**

EVANS PEAK – JUNE 20

This was a more challenging hike. Not only was the trail steep but it was rough, involving roots, high body hoisting steps and 2 rope sections near the summit. But the heavy



breathing, knee-grinding hike was well worth the beautiful views at the top. We were on the mountain from 10:00am to about 4:00pm.

We met at the West Canyon parking lot and ignored the first junction by the green water tank, turning left not too much farther at the Viewpoint Trail. Several broad switchbacks led us past two creeks. The first one was almost dry and had a decorative family of Inuksuks stacked upon the rocks. After dipping down and then climbing again after the second creek, it was about 10 minutes, just before the viewpoint that we got to the junction to Evans Peak. Be careful not to miss it, the sign is small and higher up on the tree.

From there it was a steady relentless climb, having a precious level piece of land at the halfway point, with a view overlooking part of Alouette Lake. From there we could also see our destination, the peak. It was hard not to get that "Uh Oh" response. It definitely was a pointed peak. Three of our hikers decided to stay at the halfway point. Just before ascending the peak, there was a wee bit of downhill through some bog. Snow was to our right in a darker valley.



To greet us at the base of the granite peak was a fairly new sign, stating: CAUTION / Cliff ahead dangerous / stay on trail. It even had a diagram of someone about to fall off of the cliff. Nice. This is where the two rope sections were,

equipped with lots of long roots to aid our climb. Wow. Now we could see glimpses of nearby mountains through the trees. As we emerged onto the open summit scattered with pink heather, we were in awe of the amazing vistas.

To our left (west) up close, was the bold black peak of Mt. Blanchard and right beside it was Golden Ears Mt. We were separated by only one valley. Then to our north was Robie Reid and to our east was Alouette Lake. Beautiful. For all 12 of us it was our first time on this peak.



On the downhill, by the time we were back on the Viewpoint trail we were wishing for some uphill again. Joe had the foresight to take some frozen water along for after the hike. It was almost completely melted. Thankfully although the day had started out in high cloud, by the time we summited the sun was out in full force.

Stats: 12.5 km / 980m elevation gain / 1120m high

Thanks to all you enthusiastic hikers for the team work and for coming: Terry B, Dave B, Heather B, Allan C, Peter F, Liz L, Geoff L, John Laf, Joe K, Anne O'L, Shannon Parker, Glen R, Tammy W, Mark Weymann + **Joce T.**

PIERCE LAKE TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORT - JUNE 9

COC has volunteered to maintain this trail. We had five volunteers (Lori Bodkim, Don Field, John Laframboise, Jim Alkins and me). As noted in clubtread.com, Pierce Lake Trail is a steep knee knacker with a 1,070 metre elevation gain to Pierce Lake. Total distance 12 km (return) - we arrived at the the lake @ 3:00PM (and it took us three hours to descend to the trail head). The trail is rated as difficult.

As a group, we cleared approximately 10 trees that had blown over the trail this past winter (mainly small trees, however, Jim Alkins cut through an 18" tree with our 14" chainsaw blade and our group was the able to roll the tree off of the trail). Therefore, the trail is now cleared of dead



fall from the trail head to Pierce Lake.

To be completed at a later date: new bridge (FVRD Parks will need to fall two large trees over Pierce Creek and move them using a block and tackle - cedar treads may be removed from the existing bridge). Also, trail bridging will be completed in order to repair a small section of the trail approximately 1 hour from the trailhead albeit passable at this time.



For those members who are relatively new to COC and would like to know more about the trail, google "Pierce Lake Trail Fraser Valley Regional District" and you'll find directions along with a topographical map.

Lesson that I learned for the day - don't take these difficult hikes lightly and be prepared with a big lunch (lucky for me, the other volunteers packed large lunches and they kindly gave a few of their power bars). Also, it is amazing what can be accomplished with team work!

- Patrick Ramsden

VEDDER RIDGE/YARROW CONNECTOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE DAY - JUNE 16

First things first, a big thanks to John Laframboise (COC) and club President Ken Orr (who joined us mid morning) and to Mike Stewart and Dianne Wharton (from the Valley Outdoor Club) for coming out and putting in a solid day of steady work on these two trails.

We met up at the Vedder River Park parking area surrounded by early morning folks bringing their dogs to the two fenced dog areas (one for large dogs and the other for small dogs). We waited to 8:10 for any late comers then piled into one vehicle and headed up the mountain. The parking areas at the mountain bike parking area was full; it looked to be a busy day on the mountain. We learned later that these were the local trail runners. Within short order it was apparent that Forestry had started the announced work to rebuild and upgrade Parmenter Rd; new surface gravel had been laid down and passing pullouts had been built. Parmenter Rd. up to the turn off (onto Tower Rd. and the trail head) is now two wheel, low clearance vehicle friendly. Approximately 1km in the road the contractor had stationed all the construction equipment overseen by a watchman seated in a lawn chair in front of a cozy trailer. To access the Ridge Trail parking area is an one kilometre drive up Tower Rd. The road will likely remain officially as a de-activated Forest Service Road. High ground clearance is a must and 4WD is recommended to drive this session of Tower Rd. NOTE: There is lots of parking at the junction of Parmenter and Tower Rds.

The Vedder Ridge Trail had some new blow down along it (we had cleared it last month) which we cleared out as we walked the approximately 3km to the Yarrow Connector fork. As Dianne had not been to the summit she and John made a dash to the top while Mike and I set upon the task of clearing debris from and 'grubbing' the flagged route; what we have understood to be the original connector route from Yarrow up to the summit. In short order Dianne and John returned and Ken Orr joined us as we cut out fallen trees and raked/grubbed the trail downward. Our progress was faster than I had expected and we found ourselves at the switchback that leads down the bluff to where the trail meets up with a dirt bike trail named Moss Rd. My original intent was to just clear and grub the upper portion of the connector and walk back to the car following the Moss Rd. Trail and the Tower Rd. crossover. But the group was keen and we continued the clearing and grubbing downward on this very steep section of trail all the way down to Moss Rd. I (we) were very pleased that we had cleared and raked the entire trail. Amazing effort!!!!



Should you all rush out and hike this revitalized Yarrow Connector Trail, NO don't! First it would be categorized as a "D" level trail. It is very steep, narrow and can be very slippery. I landed on my butt getting down the incline where it joins Moss Rd. And, if you don't know which connecting trails that lead down to Yarrow or back to the Vedder Ridge Trail parking area you're likelihood of getting lost is almost certain (unless you retrace your steps).

We are in the process of scheduling a hike of both the Ridge Trail and the Yarrow Connector with Forestry Technicians from the MFNR, Recreation Sites and Trails Division in early July. We would very much like to see the Connector upgraded to a level 'B' category hiking trail. This will involve adding switchbacks and in some places steps (like on the Mt. Thom trail). I'm sure the RS&T technicians will have some thoughtful suggestions on how best to accomplish this.

All in all, we had a very successful day. We accomplished considerably more than planned. As has been the case whenever the club does trail maintenance we raved about how much fun we had. I'd also bet if I had called Dianne, Mike and John the next day they'd all have said, " I'm feeling rather sore today!"

Submitted by **Gary B.**

MULTI DAY TRIPS

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 / LIMIT: 12

Terry Bergen: terrybergen@shaw.ca

THE 3 SISTERS WILDERNESS, PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, CENTRAL OREGON

July 7 – 15 LIMIT: 10 / 8 day backpack

John McLellan: jhmclellan@shaw.ca

THE SNOWY MTS, KEREMEOS

July 28 – Aug. 3 LIMIT: 10 / 4 or 5 day backpack

Joce Timmermans: jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com

MOWICH CAMP AT HOZOMMEN PEAK, MANNING PARK

Aug 4 - 6 / LIMIT: 12 / 3 day backpack

Terry Bergen: terrybergen@shaw.ca

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

Aug. 19 – 26 / LIMIT: 10 / Ron Dart: rdart@shaw.ca

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

BELLA COOLA, BC

Sept. 6 – 15 / LIMIT: 12 / Margaret Tranah: Margaret_tranah@hotmail.com

Day hiking & grizzly bear watching, car camping

COPPER RIDGE OR EXCELSIOR RIDGE, MT. BAKER AREA

Sept 12 – 16 / LIMIT: 6 / 4 day backpacking

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

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