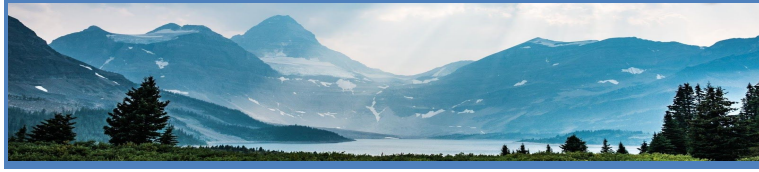


THE TRIPPER



NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILLIWACK OUTDOOR CLUB

C/O 381 CEDAR ST., CULTUS LAKE B.C. V2R 4Z1

TRIP REPORT

THE GREAT TRAIL (TCT) TRAIL MAINTENANCE

In early June I was reacquainted with Leon Lebrun of Trails BC at monthly CRAG (Chilliwack recreation advisory group) meeting. CRAG is hosted by forestry (FLNR) to bring all local recreational groups together to discuss campsite and trail concerns. I heard of how Leon was driving from Coquitlam at 78 years of age with one of his helpers 88 years old to work on trail maintenance. He was doing this 2-3 times per week in March April for reconnaissance and May June to complete work. I felt embarrassed that nobody in Chilliwack was looking after the spine of the CRV trail network. I asked COC to step up and they did "big time". The executive moved that I work on a partnership with Leon.



New Zealand cyclist Sasha Smith appears out of the dense alder enroute to Fernie on TCT and then to Colorado. See TrailsBC Facebook page for more info.

June 23rd TCT Paleface Pass (Silver hope Side): Reg, Heinz, Emily, Jim S., Jim A., Leon, Serge, Kyle, Robert. A Long

day of cutting back alders with loppers and brush cutters see nearly about 9km of trail cleared to the bridge. The maintenance crew was inspired by cyclist Sasah

Smith from New Zealand enroute to Fernie on TCT and then Colorado. She appeared out of the thick bush on her bike from the un-cleared trail and was very thankful to enjoy the newly cleared downhill trail.



Crew on the bridge at about mid-point of the trail. Photo by Jim A

June 23rd TCT Tolmie trail: Lori, Brian T and myself. Yes on the same day as the high level clearing we also did low level clearing. Recon of this section, uncleared in over 4 years indicated about 300 trees down and FLNR debated contracting this out. Today with 2 chainsaws and a brush cutter going we were able to open up both ends of this 6km

section. The trail was also less 60 trees and now noticeable.



Alder enclosed trail being cleared with 1-power trimmer and 2 crew removing cuttings.



Alder enclosed trail before clearing.

June 24th TCT Tolmie trail: Marty, Sue, Leon, Serge, Ken O., Myself. We carried on with one chainsaw from where we left of yesterday. This time we went from the other end clearing nearly one km. I couldn't believe after Leon had such a long day, at high level Saturday, he was the last to leave on Sunday.



Crew work on the Tolmie side of the trail. Photo by Jim A

June 26th TCT Paleface Pass (Cwk. Lake side): Jim A., Jim S., Leon, Serge, Chris, Ray. Another long day trying to keep up with Leon. One crew went directly 9km through to the mid-point of the pass with gas powered trimmer; they were

able to clear about 200m of the very dense alder enclosed trail. The second crew completed the clearing and trimming from the FSR to the switch back section. This day was extra-long and supper started at 10:15pm at the Garrison Bistro. Beer and stories lead to scotch however sanity quickly prevailed and by 11:15pm we were on the road home.



Lori putting the new electric chainsaw to good use (on the other side of the large trunk).

Brian cut hole for relocation of the trail sign.

June 30th TCT Tolmie trail: Lori, Brian, Jim S., Jim A., Marty, Sue, Chris, Tim, Bernie, Leon, Keith, Myself. This day we brought 5 chainsaws and Lori gave great reviews on the clubs new battery one. With the sizeable clean up and lopper crew we ran at the trail from 3 different entrance points. Most of us planned on quitting by noon but even in the rain the enthusiasm lasted until the remaining (180) trees were cut. Jim S and Brian T displayed some amazing skills on some tricky blowdown that had us holding our breath at times. Most importantly a great day and not even one bandaid was used.



Evan and Harry cut overhanging trunk from trail.



July 17th TCT Tolmie trail: Pat R., Jim S., Jim A., Kendra, Evan, Myself. Today we finished brushing out the center section of this 6km section. Most of us were home by lunch with an incredible sense of satisfaction. Pat and Jim A were having too much fun so beer had to wait for 3pm at my house. What an amazing sense of accomplishment. More importantly the season ended with an enthusiastic crew asking what is the next priority and plan for the future.



Power trimmer and chainsaw were the tools of the day, Kendra supplied the fuel.

July 18th TCT Tolmie trail:



Last remaining tree across the trail at 5 foot elevation.

With the use of an axe and buck saw the path has been opened. Some clean up with the electric chainsaw is recommended to enhance the clearances. Slope stabilization is also recommended. The gravel in the adjacent root ball will be useful.



Submitted by **Jim Alkins** and **Harry Waldron**

TENQUILLE LAKE BACKPACK – JULY 28 – 31

The flower filled meadows, the near-by peaks, the serene green lake and the spacious 7 year old cabin made for a lovely four day excursion. But there are two things that made it more challenging: the heat and those darn bugs. Especially the big black flies.

Day 1: We drove our 4WDs north of Pemberton, turning right on the Hurley FSR. Then we drove about 10 km to a large yellow sign that has “Tenquille – Branch 12” hand written on it in big black letters. From there it was about 20 minutes drive to the trailhead. Hiking in involved numerous minor ups & downs, mostly in the forest. The mosquitoes were brutal in the boggy section with its broken little log bridges. About 2/3 ways in we came to the junction for the trail starting from the valley bottom, at the beginning of the Hurley FSR. From there we were in the alpiners, excited to get our first glimpses of the peaks. In 2.5 to 3.5 hours we

arrived at the lake & cabin.



Phew. Getting those heavy packs off felt good. It being a Saturday, the cabin was full. So we set up all 7 tents by the nearest campsite. We were on a bit of a slope so the next night 3 tents got packed up and their inhabitants headed for the cabin. By the third night there were only 2 tents left. Evenings were spent eating, reading and playing cards. A group of young guys were having a stag party. They asked us to give some advise to the groom-to-be. The poor guy. We wouldn't stop talking. Later they went outside and even gave Case a fat cigar.

Stats: 7.5 km / 535m gain / 1710m high



Day 2: We bagged 2 peaks south of the lake this day; Copper Mound & Mt. McLeod. The alarm went off at 7:00am (or should I say Cal made enough noise to wake us up) and we were on the trail by 8:00am. We started by hiking back a little ways, to Tenquille Pass (on the trail we'd come in on). Just past the steep part and the 2-plank bridge, we turned left on a faint trail, heading through meadows toward Fossil Pass. Once at the pass we turned right, following the cairns up, right of the red shale-like rock gully and then around to

the north slope and then the final scramble to the to summit (2157m). This took us only 1.5 hours. The few patches of snow we skirted round were streaked with red algae. There was a bit of haze from a fire in Burnaby but we could still see all the surrounding peaks. To our south lay Pemberton Valley and right across from us to our north were Goat & Tenquille Mts.



After a not-too-long break because of the bugs, we descended back to Fossil Pass. Then we climbed again, making our way up a broad rocky gradually graded slope to the summit of Mt. McLeod, which was only one meter higher than Copper Mound. We then went back the way we came and didn't waste too much time changing into bathing suits and cooling off in the lake. Yes it was cold, but not freezing. Irene was a real trooper. She stayed in the longest. The water was so clear that I found her sunglasses on the lake bottom and she saw a big fish. Reg and Case went fishing while Christine rowed round on the lake in the kayak (stored

underneath the cabin).



Evening entertainment involved eating and sampling everyone else's dehydrated dinners and playing cards and reading. The book in the cabin gives an interesting history of the area and of construction of the cabin in 2011. Cal was busy reading a very interesting book written by our very own fellow hiker, Heather. It's titled: Smoldering Incense, Hammered Brass.

Stats: 10 km / 830m gain / 2157 & 2158m high

Day 3: Another sunny day and not as hazy. We were barely into the hike and had started sweating buckets already. It was steep right from the start. The meadows were full of red Indian Paintbrush, pink Monkey Face flowers & purple Lupines. Once up the 'spine' the trail turned right but we did not follow it to the gully like the "103 Hikes in SW BC" book says. Case & I had been there the year before and built a cairn where you should turn north. Both ways are very steep but our way provides much better footholds. Last year our views were very limited due to the forest fires. Not so this time. For the other 7 hikers, it was their first time there.



Once at the top of this slope we turned left, following the cairns. It wasn't long before we arrived at the sketchy spot. I stayed right, where it was dry and used utmost caution to

negotiate the narrow ledges. Half the group went left where a little waterfall made the path slippery. We were frozen in fear when Cal slipped later on the way down. But he quickly corrected himself and did not continue to fall. Good job Cal.

We definitely had a "wow!!!" moment when we got to the summit. Now we could see the glacier carved valley far far below us.



A long large crack a few feet wide almost separated the edge of the cliff from the rest of the mountain. After a nice long break, Jerry & Heather came to the conclusion that according to their GPSs, we were not on the summit of Tenquille. So we started hiking west along the ridge and then realized we had indeed been on the summit by the post. But one step led to another until we ended up on the ledge above the col between Goat & Tenquille Mts. Now came a time for a decision. Jerry thought to "might as well do Goat Peak too". This involved a several hundred-meter drop and then climb up again, not knowing what the terrain was like. The day before a few guys had told Reg that it was quite exposed so they didn't make the peak.



Three brave souls carried on and ended up on a sub-summit, which they thought was the true summit till Google Earth proved them wrong. Later back at the cabin,

when I saw the foot long rip in Heather's shorts, I felt more at peace with my decision to turn back at the col.

Stats: 7.5 km / 760m gain / 2390m high and to Goat: 8.5 km / 1167m gain / almost 2473 high

After dinner 4 of us had a nice stroll round the lake while the others were having an intensely competitive game of cards. The little fish were really jumping. We checked out the other 3 campsites on each side of the lake.



Day 4: We still got up early because the plan was to drive an extra hour down the Hurley FSR and visit the ghost town of Bralorne. It has a population of 67. Bralorne and Pioneer mines were the most important gold mines in BC for much of the 20th century. Over 3 million ounces of gold was produced until it closed in 1971 due to low gold prices. The houses closer to the mill stand vacant and lonely. The tall tower that used to be there was demolished and a large pile of rubble



marks stands in its place. Jerry & Cal climbed a bit higher up the slope to check out a decrepit building and found a trail behind it leading to more buildings. Lots to explore...next year. Hope to come back towards the end of the summer. There's more peaks to access, some holding remnants of gold mines.

Thanks to all who came out after a last minute change of plans due to Snowy Mts. terrible forest fire: Heather B, Christine C, Cal F, Irene H, Reg S, Jerry U, Cindy W + Case & Joce T

SKYLINE EAST - JULY 28



The sky was hazy with forest fire smoke. Though the smoke hampered our views the Hozomeens, the cascades, Mt. Frosty and other Manning peaks were spectacularly beautiful. Unfortunately the alpine bloom was not as beautiful as last year thanks to the summer heat. Still this is still one of my favorite annual hikes.

Our starting point was Strawberry Flats. Everyone walked the pace that best pleased him or her. A few hiked in good time. Others? Well we took time outs for momentary rest, scenery gawking and camera clicking. Thanks Eileen for the good pictures



An obvious and popular stop was the junction just past where Skyline 2 branches off on a heading toward Skagit Valley. Here we peered over the precipice at Thunder Lake and the peaks to the south. Here we enjoyed lunch. Later in

the expansive first meadow a kilometer further up the trail we stopped for a leisurely time of fellowship and simply marvelling at nature and our good fortune to be living in a country we call home.



We made this meadow our 7 km. turn around point. We encountered the usual weekend hikers especially many heading for a night or two at Mowich Camp.

It was good day and the 11 of us; Linda I, Wayne L, Ron T, Margaret T, George D, Lydia F, Brian F, Peter G, Paul K, Eileen R and I treated ourselves to a well-earned reward. Our reward? D.Q. refreshments in Hope.

- Dave Ortis

CYPRESS FALLS, TRANS CANADA, NELSON CANYON TRAILS AND WHYTE LAKE - AUGUST 4

It was the best of hikes. It was the worst of hikes. Four COC warrior hikers; Steven K, Bill W, Manfred H and I began their journey in North Vancouver. Under pleasant skies, a cool breeze we hiked through an enchanted forest to our first destination, Cypress Falls. The thunderous cry of falling water was silenced to the mere sounding of a rushing tap. Still a delightful sight looking into its deep gorge.

From here we climbed and climbed further to the Trans Canada trail. Our destination Nelson Canyon and Whyte Lake. At first everything seemed normal for a north shore hike through aging second growth timber. Rocks and roots, roots and rocks with many trail undulations.



I was the sweeper. Such a burdensome responsibility. At first I thought it was just my imagination. But no, it was really happening. I could see the trees menacingly closing in on us. My fellow hikers could not see this. I kept quiet not wanting to frighten them. On we hiked up and down, up and

down. Then it happened. To my right not five meters away on a ledge stood a saber toothed aqua spotted snow leopard. A beast legend says savors human flesh. I knew it was not hungry for from its fang hung a back pack strap laced with blink jewelry. I knew from the belching sound of its burp it was not hungry for me or my hiker buddies. Catching up with the other warriors together we descended down, down, down hanging onto tree branches to the Nelson Canyon Trail.

We told a park official about hiking the Trans C. T. Her wide eye look told me she knew what lurked on that trail. My hiker buddies joking heartily told me they did not know.



After a relaxing lunch at Whyte Lake we started our return. Back at the TCT junction Bill and Manfred decided to return the way we came. I could not dampen their bravery so I gave no warning. Steven and I descended Nelson trail to the road. We journeyed the

long, long trek on the parallel trail to the road back to the car. We were there before our two buddies. I waited pensively wondering if they would return. Much later they arrived with laughter and disbelief that Steven and I had beat them. They did not see the beast.



Back at Abbotsford Steven and Bill had other commitments so were not able to join Manfred and me for refreshments at Clik Coffee Bistro. We swapped hiker stories. I said nothing about what I saw that day. I have told no one since. Until the writing of this report. I feel better now.

- Dave Ortis

HOZAMEEN 3 DAY BACKPACK – AUG. 4 – 6

Two years ago Terry & I had done a crossover from Strawberry Flats to the Ross Lake trailhead. Since then we've wanted to explore the Hozameen Trail. All 8 of us had done international trips together and knew each other quite well.



Day 1: We noticed that Lynn's backpack was especially large when we strapped ours on at the Strawberry Flats parking lot. Later on at Mowich Camp we realized why. The flowers were fading at the lower elevations but there was still a colorful display in the alpine, above the tree line. Below us to our left was Thunder Lake. Then we passed Snowcamp Peak and as we approached Lone Goat, it began to thunder and the dark clouds let loose a few drops of rain. To add to the ominous mood, as we re-entered the forest at the col below Lone Goat, there were 6 trees right by the path that had their bark peeled back like a banana. There were very fresh claw marks on the soft exposed wood.

By mid afternoon the first of us filtered into camp. Allana managed to get her little tarp up just before the big downpour. All 8 of us were crammed into the tiny 3' wide shelter and under the 10 x 10' tarp. Then two more ladies came and asked if they could join us. Really?? But they were friendly and proved to be good companions throughout the evening. In about an hour the rain stopped and we made quick work of getting our tents set up. Thankfully that was the last we saw of the rain.

Our next big concern was regarding a sufficient water source. Just a hop & skip from our camp was a tiny stream barely trickling through a meadow. Landscaper Case found a shovel and dug a bigger hole so we could fill our bottles a bit easier. We had a good laugh when we watched Lynn unpack. She'd carried a whole large Costco container of nuts and a nice selection of fresh fruit and vegies that her and Patrick shared with us. It being a long weekend, the campsite was more than full. Hikers set up their tents in the meadow. An outhouse & bear cache were available but no toilet paper.

Stats: 14 km / 810m gain / 1860m high point



Day 2: The day dawned bright and sunny. We were excited to see where the trail would go. It followed a lower ridge with mellow ups & downs till we approached a drop-off. Hmm. Where would the trail go now? Not! It did indeed turn right to climb a very steep 175m slope that led to a viewpoint.



As I went scouting by our viewpoint and went to the edge of the lower slope, I found another cairn that marked the way down a short steep talus slope to a lower knoll with a white border marker. I would think this was more of a climbers' route. The Hozameens were up close and personal with its solid black granite rock face swooping down to the trees and sharp peaks pointed to the sky. To our west we could see the north end of Ross Lake. Little did we know that just a few days later the Skagit River Rd. would be closed due to a massive forest fire. This also cancelled the 120-mile Fat Dog race planned for the following weekend.



vehicle. Out for a hike on that sizzling hot day were Allen C, Brianna K, Carolyn H, Joe K & **Heather B.**

BUGABOO PP, ASSINIBOINE PP + GLACIER NP – AUG. 13 – 22

A large group of 13 hikers drove to Redstreak campsite by Radium Hot Springs. At the intersection in town we had to wait as two pedestrians crossed the road. Actually one was a man and the other a mountain goat. The man was casually striding behind the long horned goat as if it were a totally natural thing to do.

Stats: 11.7 km / 700m gain / 1950m high

Day 3: We agreed to get up early to beat the heat, doing most of the climbing by mid morning. Then we had a hearty lunch at the Manning Park lodge and toasted to a wonderful weekend. Thanks Terry for organizing this.

Participants: Irene H, Lynn M, Patrick R, Case & **Joce T**, Allana W & her dog, Kenya, Robbin Y & her dog, Pepper + **Terry B**

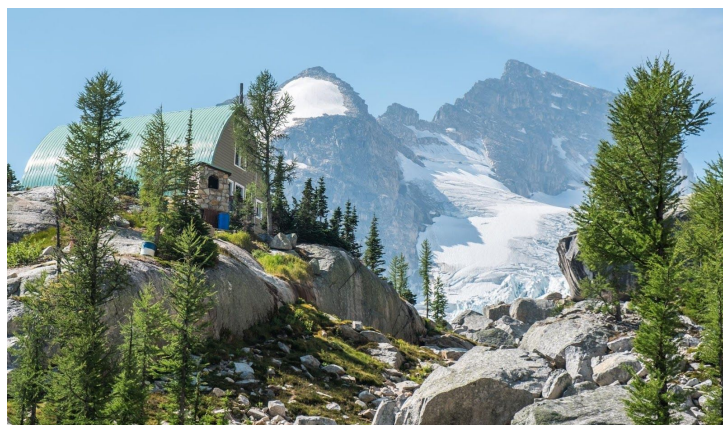


FLORA PEAK - AUG 8



On a day when Chilliwack hit a sizzling record high for August, five COCers headed up the old, wretchedly steep, less-travelled Flora trail which offers views of Chilliwack Lake before connecting with the official trail about ten minutes below the first campsite. We were grateful for a light alpine breeze that kept flies and heatstroke at bay. At Flora Pass we were tempted to head down to the lake for a swim, but the thought of hiking back up in the heat convinced us to carry on as planned to the peak. From there we spotted plumes of smoke coming from the Skagit Valley and from Washington State near Redoubt Peak. While eating lunch in a scrap of shade, we enjoyed views of the Gargoyles and Porcupine/Goat ridge with Williams, Welsh and Foley Peaks propping up the sky. On the way down, Carolyn pointed out a bog marsh orchid. Shortly after that we stopped at a cool stream to soak our feet and Joe offered everyone freshly-filtered cold water (collected upstream from our feet). Wet kerchiefs and hats rejuvenated us to continue down the official trail to the parking lot and Joe's air-conditioned

Day 1: It was an odd sight when we approached the **Bugaboo** parking area after driving over 50 km on a gravel road riddled with potholes. Each vehicle in the full parking lot had wire held up by sticks wrapped round their bottoms. This is to protect the tires from the nibbles of porcupines. There are two large bins that are stocked up with these wire bundles.



The trail wound steeply up a rocky slope, rising above the valley and then emerging onto a meadow filled with purple Fireweed. From there we could see the impressive Pigeon, Snowpatch & Bugaboo Spires rising from the Bugaboo Glacier. Soon we came to a section that provided chains and even a ladder to climb up and over the cliffs. From there the

view got increasingly more magnificent, with waterfalls cascading down between flower and rock gardens.



The Conrad Kain Hut was nestled on a rocky bluff to the west of the glacier. I've never seen such a large well-equipped hut. It has three stories; two for sleeping quarters. And the outhouse! It was completely made of gold & brown colored stone, artistically cemented together. A few hikers stayed at the hut while most of us carried on to do another 2 km of vertical to the Applebee climber's camp. It was a beehive of activity there. Colorful tents dotted the grey rock and two large round racks held numerous backpacks. Climbers were relaxing and recharging after dragging heavy packs so far up.



We could not linger long because we still had to drive to Bow Valley campsite. We got there before dark and finished off the food from the potluck we had the day before.

Stats: 15 km / 1060m gain / 2487m high



Day 2: Cal had to drive slowly with his motorhome on the dusty washer-board gravel road from Canmore to the Mt. Shark helipad. Thus we were 5 minutes late for the flight. But that was no problem. They whisked another group in front of us. Two choppers were going, each flight being 8 minutes long and holding 6 passengers. It was the first time in a helicopter for Joe & Lori. Super exciting!!! Once landed in **Assiniboine PP** we got an orientation talk & were off for the 2 km hike to Lake Magog campsite. The signage could've been a bit better. It caused some confusion. But we got 7 tent pads close to the cooking shelter. Yay.



Basically our days fell into a routine of hiking, happy hour from 4 – 5:00pm at the lodge, dinner, games and bed by dark. The skies were hazy and stank from smoke and got worse by the day. But it did not rain.



Day 3: **Windy Pass**: this was a longer hike, starting out through rolling meadows filled with low brush such as willows and potentilas. Eventually the trail began to climb, past larches that were already starting to turn slightly gold and large pine mushrooms that Vic said were edible (we later got to put that to the test). As soon as we left the forest the trail began doing large switchbacks, giving us views of Og Lake to the left and then Windy Pass with a jagged stretch of ridge ahead of us to the north. The rock reminded



me of the Gargoyles above Lindeman Lake. Leaving all vegetation behind, we ascended the pass. True to its name, it was quite windy. A narrow path connected a small rocky bluff to the ridge. Four hikers braved the heights and shuffled to the far side of it, hanging on to the top of the ledge. Nine of us carried on to summit the nearby peak. The trail soon turned into a talus slope. A narrow section just below the summit required caution as the rocks could shift at any time and there was a steep drop off on both sides.



After a group shot at the base of the peak, we headed back down, past the meadows to the western slope, which offered protection from the wind for lunch. On the way back a few stayed to soak their feet in Lake Magog and save themselves that extra 2 km walk from the campsite to the lodge. You could buy a plate with 3 kinds of cakes on it and they had a nice selection of wines, beers and ciders. The 4 picnic tables were full of hearty noisy hikers. It was a happy



reunion when Margaret T and Diane P joined us. They'd been there since Sunday and were leaving again Friday.



Day 4: **Nub Peak:** This hike offers views of all three lakes and the famous surrounding peaks, namely that of Assiniboine. The trail started right from our campsite, soon taking us past Sunburst Lake and next to it, Cerulean Lake and then to the Nub Peak junction. This is where we started to climb, soon coming to a second junction to the Nublet. From there we could see the intimidating stretch of trail that precariously led us just below a jagged ridge atop a steep talus slope and then to the gentle slope leading to the peak.



Just before the peak Tammy & I stopped to take pics of a marmot basking on a protruding rock. We were holding our breath in amazement when not one, but two more marmots joined the first. They first kissed each other in greeting and then all sat beside each other on the rock, looking out over the valley. At the summit the hazy views were limited but still exciting to see. We could now also see all of Elizabeth Lake.



After dinner half of us wandered back to Sunburst Lake where we sat on the sandy beach by the historic Lizzie cabin and watched the sun set. Then back at camp we said our final farewells to the seven that were hiking out via Wonder Pass the next day.

Stats: 12 km / 740m gain / 2745m high



Day 5: **Wonder Pass:** Other than Vic's "Good Morning" song, the campsite was quiet. No wonder; it was almost empty. Our what-now-seemed-small group of six wandered over to Wonder Pass. But before that we veered off, onto a side trail that paralleled a small canyon with a few waterfalls. When we got higher and above the falls, 3 of our group chose to dip down on scree, cross the narrow dark gorge in the rock where the water flowed, and scramble up the other

side. We could see the main trail right across from us. So the other 3 of us went back down the faint trail, crossed the bridge and followed the trail that led to a good view of the falls.



Reunited once again we decided to stop at the pass. The haze was even worse this day and it made no sense to go down to the viewpoint when there wasn't much of a view anyways. The other half of our group that had left at 7:30am, got back to the parking lot by mid afternoon, after hiking 25 km with their overnight backpacks! Grant had parked his truck at the trailhead so they didn't have to do the last two uphill km.



On the way back we turned left at the junction by Gog Lake and went to investigate another beautiful waterfall and pretty meadows dotted with lingering wildflowers. We also got to see inside a Naiset Cabin where we had to stoop to get through the door. A.O. Wheeler, founder of the Alpine Club of Canada, built these five cabins in 1925. The Wonder Lodge Cooking Shelter is newer and very well equipped. Apparently there's a two-year wait to book these cabins.

Stats: 9 km / 400m gain / 2377m high

Day 6: Our group parted ways back at the Mt. Shark helipad. So we were now a group of 4: Dan, Cindy, Cal & I reveled in a good soak in the pool in the Canmore Recreational Center.

Back in contact with civilization, we soon found out Ron Dart had cancelled his trip. We checked the computer at the library and saw that BC was in a state of emergency, with many fires being out of control. The air was getting increasingly harder to breath. So we headed for home. Or so we thought.

We ended up staying for the night in a parking lot at the visitor center by Rogers Pass in **Glacier NP**.



Day 7: But when we woke in the morning, lo and behold, clear skies! So we decided to hike the trail that we were parked in front of: **Balu Pass**. It ended up being a gorgeous day, hiking through an avalanche valley to the pass. The trail was very well maintained, with 2 removable bridges and gold and white stepping stones leading us through the meadows below the ridge. As we were climbing the broad switchbacks to the ridge, a friendly work crew passed us. We ended up having lunch with them at the top and gleaning more info from them.



They said we were very fortunate with the weather, that it was a small window in the haze & smoke of the last weeks. They also told us about the caves at the base of Cougar Mt, right across from us. There are white-faced bats down there

that really attract grizzly bears. But it's a restricted area right now and the teahouses no longer exist.



Stats: 16.3 km / 892m gain / 2100m high

Day 8: **Perley Rock Trail:** was another bonus day. We had camped at the campsite close to Wheeler Hut. The skies were a bit more hazy but not too bad. After having talked to the girl in the visitor center, we knew we'd be getting real close to the Illecillewaet Glacier. And the closer, the less haze enhanced vision so the hike was a go.

We knew this would be a harder steeper hike. So we set out at a relaxed pace, soon leaving the forest and passing over roaring rivers. As we approached Perley Rock the slopes got more exposed. The trickiest piece was crossing a steep snow slope. After that it was nothing but rock. It wasn't long before we came to several foot tall narrow rocks that were clearly markers. When our eyes strayed beyond those rocks, we had our "WOW!!!" moment. I hadn't seen such a large snowfield since doing Snowbird Pass on the Berg Lake trail. It stretched across the horizon as far as the eye could see.



As instructed, we left our lofty perch on Perley Rock and did a mild decline of about 100m to one of the toes of the glacier. The silt left odd patterns of movement on its surface. We couldn't contain our excitement when we saw what lay before us: there was a river flowing underneath the edge of

the glacier and there were two tunnels at either end. We managed to get real close to the left tunnel. But Dan sunk to his knee in the silt that had turned into jelly at some spots close to the river.



The colors of the ice in the tunnels left us in awe. Such a deep turquoise blue! Some of the chunks of ice were the size of a car. We just had to explore inside the second tunnel where the rush of water filled the huge cavernous space and the turquoise ice glowed in the darkness.



Meanwhile, Dan was busy filling bags with silt for his garden. Hmm. Wonder if that'll help the plants grow... We walked a bit farther along the edge of the ice field, saw an area of bulging seracs and started our journey back.

Stats: 15.7 km / 1340m gain / 2395m high



Along for this week long adventure were: Grant A, Christine Dahl, Vic D, Cal F, Dan K, Joe K, John Mcl, Tammy W, Cindy W, Stuart W, Lori Y + Case & **Joce T**

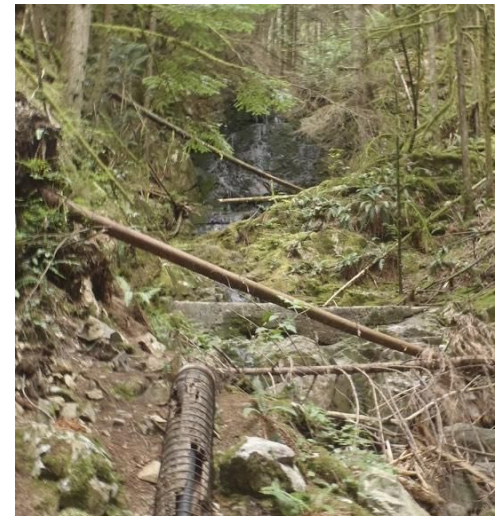
destination. A most worthy destination for gelato lovers.



LINDEMAN LAKE TRIP REPORT - AUG 23

ALOUETTE LAKE - AUG. 18

Given smoky conditions from forest fires, a gentle walk in the woods rather than toiling up steep mountainsides sucking in toxic fumes was a good choice. Nine of us, **Dave O.** (trip leader), Sharon R., Allen C., George D., Peter G., Lynn M., Patrick R., Irene H., and **Manfred H.** (report), followed a series of undulating trails in the general vicinity of Alouette Lake. These included the Mike Lake loop (site of a long abandoned logging camp), the Menzies trail, and the Spirea trail, for a total of approximately 14 km. Good company, beautiful second growth forests of Douglas fir, hemlock and cedar, and gorgeous carpets of sword fern, moss and huckleberry bushes provided the ingredients for a great day. The brief venture to the shore of Alouette Lake was dramatic only for the surreal sight of a sullen gray stretch of

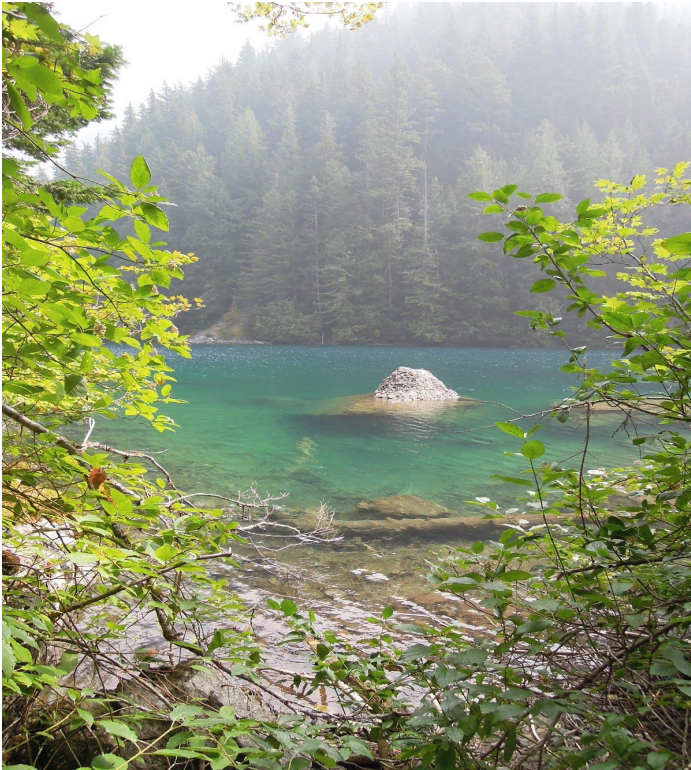


water surrounded by hills choked with dense clouds of smoke, all lit by an orange ball in the sky weakly penetrating the gloom. A moment of reflection and we struck off for the cars, the Cremino Gelato and Cafe in Maple Ridge our



Smoke on the water, smoke on the Gargoyles. Smoke haze created strawberry-orange light in the forest at Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park. Good company and a leisurely pace

on a cool day made the short hike to Lindeman Lake pleasant despite poor air quality. We had a snack break on the rocking log bench by the helicopter pad at the lake. Carolyn said the new outhouse looks like a miniature grain elevator. We continued to the end of the lake, expecting to



have lunch on the boardwalk but a chilly wind made us retreat to the boulder field. We even saw scraps of blue sky through the smoke haze. On our way back to the trailhead we met several groups coming in to the lake. Lucky to beat the crowds on a cool day were Carolyn H, Judy P &

- Heather B

LAKE ANN & LOWER CURTIS GLACIER –

AUG. 28

It was so nice to be out under clear skies after all the smoke and haze from the forest fires. There was a lot of green, made more vibrant after the rain but we were just between the vivid flower colors of the summer and golden red colors of the autumn. What made this hike more challenging were the three major drops and gains in elevation. With 15 hikers spread out on the trails at various locations throughout the longer day, it was amazing that we all (with the exception of Judy's carload who had predetermined to leave earlier) filtered into the parking lot within 15 minutes of each other, just before 5:00pm.

9:30am we filed onto the popular trail, descending to the meadows with its long grass, blueberry bushes and orange

colored meandering creek. We passed another cluster of hikers at the lowest creek from an Abbotsford Meet-up group. Their oldest participant was 86! And he made it all the way to Lake Ann! Yes, there were many people on the trail this day.



But there were not so many on the climber's path to Lower Curtis Glacier. At the saddle, after taking a group shot, we separated and 8 of us went left, resisting the temptation to stop and pick some of those juicy blueberries. But this faint footpath ended up leading us to a dead-end, albeit one with a good view of the glacier. This mistake cost us about 40 minutes. What threw us off is that the "Wow North Cascades" guidebook did say to take this path. Oh well.



Down we went again, cutting down a steep heather slope to the valley below the glacier where we could now see the trail. Up we went again to the end of the trail where 3 hikers stopped. Five carried on which involved scrambling on a steep grassy/rocky slope. And Cal & Heather made it to the glacier where she played her penny-flute. Lunch was a feast with Lorne feeding us appetizers and wine! Him and Judy had summited Shuksan in days gone by. We could not see the Fisher Chimney that is the most popular summit route. It

was tucked into the far corner, just beyond our view. But we had a full view of the Upper & Lower Curtis Glaciers with its serrated blue ice at the toe just below us.



We met up with our other 3 hikers at the saddle again. When we were approaching the lowest creek we heard a familiar yelp from Cal. He had reunited with most of our group. The remaining two were not far ahead. Eight of us met again at El Nopal for a Mexican dinner. A great way to end a great day.

Stats: to glacier: 18 km / 965m gain / 1620m high

to Lake Ann: 15 km / 690m gain / 1435m high point

Our on this gorgeous day were: Sue A, Heather B, Vic D, Vic E, Don F, Cal & Regina F, Irene H, Lorne O, Judy P, Reg S, Robbin Y, Lori Y, Stanley + **Joce T**

MULTI DAY TRIPS

BELLA COOLA, BC

Sept. 6 – 13 / 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.

11.

12. 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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