

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

GOLDEN EARS CANYON LOOP – AUGUST 11



After a few weeks of extreme hot weather, we were all excited to hike on a cooler day. It was a short but scenic walk to the falls, with a quick stop along the way to marvel at the clarity of the water. From there it was a short, steep scramble to get to the East Canyon Trail. Viewpoint Beach was our lunch spot before Bill led us on a steady climb up the West Canyon Trail to the lookout point. We were passed by a group of trail runners and had conversations with several overnight backpacking groups.



George kept us entertained with his puns and Ron, not only fed us his home dried bananas, but lead us across the difficult creek beds. As we headed back to our vehicles, several of us took the wrong path and had to back track. The day of many lively conversations and laughs ended with a beer at the Black Sheep Pub. Thanks to **Cindy** for being the photographer. On the hike was the great leader, **David Ortis**, Ron T, Bill, George, Cindy, Tim and Bernie.



Distance 13.5 km, elevation gain 185 m.

DOG MT. – SEPT. 1

Peter, Douglas, Bernie and Tim, Margaret and her American friend Susan and **Eileen** (reporter) joined **Dave O.** for a hike up Dog Mountain and the Suicide Bluffs, Mt Seymour. Before we began the hike, the waiver was signed and Dave briefed all on the importance of staying together and keeping safe (those words would have significance later in the day).

It was a busy Saturday and the COC group had to wait for others to come down as we took our turn to head up; first stop Dog Mountain. Stomachs were growling so some had an early lunch and we watched people taking selfies and everyone enjoyed the view, albeit a bit hazy.

The general consensus was to climb the Suicide Bluff trail after Margaret eventually found the sign and she would lead



the way. Dave said he had done it previously; it was steep and there would be ropes to assist in a couple of areas.

Now the remainder of this article will be about what happened on the Suicide Bluffs trail, and Dave gave his permission to talk about it...



Those of us in the lead were spread out but within view of one another; Peter was in front of Dave, who was at the rear. Dave took a tumble and did a face plant (fortunately got caught in some low brush which he claimed broke his fall), Peter heard something and looked back. He quickly went and grabbed his arm, pulled him up, and managed to get his one foot untangled. This resulted in Dave losing his hat, water bottle and cell phone (which was stowed in a pocket with Velcro tabs).



Those of us in the front waited for everyone to catch up and when it seemed to be taking awhile, Tim went back to check on things. By the time Tim got there they were in recovery mode; they assessed the recovery of Dave's personal items but they had fallen too far down.

When we eventually re-grouped, we realized the seriousness of what just happened – recognizing that Peter staying just ahead of Dave averted the potential for a very serious incident.

Infinite thanks to Peter!

We concluded our hike, returned to the parking lot and went for coffee.



It's so important to keep everyone in sight.

WATERSPRITE LAKE & MARTIN PEAK –

SEPT. 5 – 6

Since the hut was built last year and the trail has been ungraded, this area is becoming less remote. The deep turquoise color of the picturesque lake and lure of surrounding peaks makes this a welcome destination.



Day 1: After a hearty lunch in Squamish we drove 20 km east on the Mamquam & Skookum FSR. As we passed the kiosk at the beginning of the trail, we could see the Skookum Dam not too far below us. We followed a deactivated logging road with a nice gradual grade for the first hour. Then the path narrowed and began climbing more, soon opening up to far reaching views of the Mamquam River Valley, Garibaldi Mt. to the west, Pyramid, Spire

and Trick peaks to the north and Howe Sound could also be clearly seen.

A long fissure followed the trail, just a few feet from the edge. Cal kept snapping away as we took turns posing on the protruding rock with Garibaldi as a backdrop. Some of those poses were quite interesting (Johnny). On we went, in the heat of the day. As we rounded the corner we lost our view of the northern peaks but gained a more close up view of the peaks in the valley leading up to the col. The trail became steeper at the 800m long section of the boulder slope. Then it entered forest again and became even steeper. The final section was up a very steep rock gully (66% grade).

Then came the “WOW” part. The lake did not disappoint with its tiny islands and Watersprite Tower reflecting in its waters. Making our way along the right side of it, on the boulder slope was a bit tricky, especially with overnight packs. There were nine brand new wooden tent pads there.



Day 2: We left the campsite at 8:30am with Heather and her downloaded track leading the way. We stayed mostly right of the large rock slopes surrounded on all sides by a high ridge. Our destination was the peak on the far right. The higher we climbed, the more caution was needed. Many of the rocks were loose and the slope was steep.



From the saddle between Martin and Gibson Peaks, we went



almost straight up a small section. But we had a few stunted evergreens and heathers to hold on to. It wasn't too much farther to the peak from there. And it was amazing! Way down below us was the lake, shining like an emerald gem in a landscape made up of rock and jagged peaks. The ledge we were standing on went straight down. Running the 10 seconds for the timed shot was an adrenalin kick, as we had to jump over a bottomless crack in the cliff.

We could even see the Lions and Black Tusk from our lofty perch. But all too soon it was time to leave. We all agreed we would go slowly and very carefully downwards. When we were back at the steep section, hugging the slope, Cal said, “I have Heather in my underpants”. What??? Heather responded, “Is it quite prickly?”

Glad to say we all made it down in one piece. And we had a nice long break before continuing on down the trail from the lake, thus completing a 1200m descent in one day.



We had a delicious dinner at the Howe Sound Brewery in Squamish. A great way to end a fantastic end of the summer season overnighter.

Stats to lake: 9.7 km / 720m gain / 1457m high

to Martin Peak: 4.5 km / 473m gain / 1865m high

Along for this excursion were: Heather B, Cal F, Johnny G, Shannon P, Robbin Y, Lori Y + **Joce T**

DEWDNEY PEAK – SEPT. 12

This trail is named the Dewdney Grind for good reason. We took the north trail, which was indeed a grind. But the south trail is even steeper. The new logging road cuts through the trail several times. We parked a few km past the quarry on the gravel road.

Oddly, the first section of the overgrown FSR was not cleared. Blackberry branches crept over the ground and deadfall blocked the way. But not too much farther, after we turned the corner and soon turned right onto a trail, it was nicely cut back and cleared. I wonder if this was meant to discourage non-hikers?

Now began the climb in earnest. Just before the FSR crossing we came upon a fresh water spring with a bucket and scoop and a sign higher up in the tree saying: Canadian Whiskey. Christine was brave enough to try it. Once on the road we turned left and as we rounded the corner we saw the word: Trail, painted in big blue on a tree. This marked the end of the south trail. Just past that was the left turn off to the cabin.



In 1 hour & 10 minutes we were there. This cabin was built by 4 local people in memory of Ben von Hardenberg who died in a helicopter crash at the age of 33. His older brother (whom I've met there) comes up every week to clean and maintain it. The clouds kept most of the view from us but on the way back it was clear. We continued on, following the trail right behind the cabin and past the old outhouse. In less than 10 minutes we arrived at another road. This time it cut a section of trail off but it was well marked with cairns. At the end of this road we were back on the trail.

It wound through pretty second growth forest where the earth was completely covered in a mossy green carpet. There was no view from the peak but we weren't at the end of the trail yet. It dipped down again and crossed another road, then a bit up one more time, past the large pond where the water lilies were drooping on dry ground because the



water level was so low. One more road crossing, a bit more steep downhill and we were at the rocky bluff. This had taken us 1.5 hours from the cabin.

We were disappointed when we got there and there was no view. We were right in a cloud. But by the end of our lunch break the clouds had dispersed and we had a clear view of Sumas Mt. and of Deroche with the Fraser River winding through it and of the Chilliwack flats to our more distant southeast.



I had 3 things to apologize for this day: 1: I could almost hear my fellow hikers' thoughts as we laboriously climbed that steep slope after the cabin which I'd said would be relatively level. I guess my memory faded since we hiked it about 8 years ago. 2: Just after I said, "These wet pine needles can be quite slippery", Heather fell and slid right into Steve's legs. He did a quick rather skillful comeback and barely managed to avoid falling back on top of her. 3: I told Johnny not to turn left on the road to the Inch Creek Fish Hatchery. This cost us a whole 5 minutes extra driving. A few more minutes and we were standing on the metal dock, watching the two over 7' long white sturgeons in the lagoon. The oldest is over 80 years old! I think at that point I was forgiven – right?

Stats: 12 km / 1040m gain / 930m high point

Along for another fine day in the woods were: Heather B, Allan C, Christine C, Steve C, Johnny G, Wayne H + **Joce T**

SNOW CAMP MT. MANNING PARK SEPT 15/18



Manning Park weather didn't disappoint the six of us on what has become one of my favourite hikes. There was enough blue sky to keep us happy. This is a relatively easy hike, 600+ m elevation gain - 17 km return, more according to Dave's GPS!



The 360 * views are spectacular, however Hozameen had a bit of cloud covering that just wouldn't dissipate! There was the beginning of some fall colour.



It was not windy on top which was a bonus so we had a leisurely lunch, that was until Dave's thermos cup went rolling over the edge and he leaped up to try to rescue it and had us gasping at his nearness to the edge! The highlight was introducing Carol Ault, Dave Sawatsky, and Sue Abegg to this hike. They had never been up to Snow Camp. Thanks also to Wayne Henderson and Margaret Tranah for joining me.

- **Judy Pasemko**

ELFIN LAKES TRIP: SEPT. 17 - 19

Day -2 to 0 – Checked every available weather forecast. Packed food, clothes, etc. Rechecked weather forecasts. Packed more food. Packed more clothes.



Day 1, Monday, Sept 17 – Rechecked every available weather forecast. Added more clothes. On drive to trailhead, looked up at cloud cover and searched for sucker holes. At the White

Spot in Squamish, we enjoyed running water and flush toilets, as well as lunch. At the trailhead, we saddled up with our full backpacks, wondering whether every ounce was necessary. Looking up at clouds, we were thankful it wasn't too hot. At the first viewpoint, Cal pointed out white misty



clouds obscuring Squamish & Howe Sound. 3 hrs 20 min later, we arrived at Elfin Lakes. The three men went straight to the deluxe accommodation cabin to select the best bunks and turn on the propane heater. The three women turned right for tent camping—what Dave called the ghetto or the slums—to select the least damp tent platforms and put on precious ounces of extra clothing. The clouds gave us peekaboo views. The men graciously allowed the ghetto/slum tent dwellers into the cabin for supper. The heater was on. By bed time, the bushes outside gleamed with frost. 11 km, 2400 ft elevation gain.



Day 2, Tuesday, Sept 18 – Clear skies, as forecasted. The tents were frozen stiff, shellacked in a thin layer of ice. Cal said he spotted a hungry bear near Heather's tent which got her out of her cozy, warm sleeping bag. No sign of bear prints in the frost. After breakfast six of us set out with light packs for Opal Cone 6.5 km away. Down, down, down we went, before crossing Ring Creek on a narrow bridge. A blue tarp over a coffin-like shape made Shannon wonder if it covered a hiker who didn't make the creek crossing.

After all the down down down, we started going up with Atwell Peak and Mt Garibaldi shimmering white above us. Switchbacking up the south-western flank of Opal Cone, the group realized they were leaderless when Heather admitted that although she had been "to" the Opal Cone, she had never been to the top. Luckily, a signpost on Opal Cone's south-eastern flank pointed us in the right direction: Up. Five of us headed up the cinder cone to the top, yes, the Top of Opal Cone. John opted to do some exploring on his own.

The rest of us circled the volcanic cinder, leaving our tracks in the fresh snow, sauntering, not hiking, sauntering to soak in the views of glaciers and mountain peaks. Diamond Head was covered in snow. We tried to spot Martin Peak above Watersprite Lake where three of us had recently been but weren't sure where it was. After lunch on the rim of the cone, we hiked down to the main trail and across glacial moraine towards Mamquam Lake.



When it was clear we weren't getting any view of the lake without going a lot further, four of us turned around. Dave set off for the glacier on his own. We hiked back down to Ring Creek, over the narrow bridge, past that haunting blue tarp, then up, up, up and up. Lori caught Cal weighing down Heather's pack with rocks. Shannon backed it up with video evidence. The women stuck together. Dave caught up to us at the junction for the Saddle trail. Cal and Shannon headed back to Elfin lakes. Dave, Lori, Heather and a woman from Mission trekked up to the Saddle for views of the Gargoyles, which were soooo close, and snow-covered Diamond Head. Back at Elfin Lakes Shannon provided ghetto security when Cal was skulking around our empty tents. We all met for supper in the shelter and Dave showed us his photos of the glacier. 20 km for Opal Cone & Saddle, 4250 ft elevation gain.

Day 3, Wednesday, Sept 19 - Rise and shine. The weather was better than promised. After breakfast we packed up and headed out past the Elfin lakes reflecting Mamquam glacier. We took a short break at Red Heather and compared energy potions. Cal pointed out the viewpoint again and this time we saw Squamish and Howe sound, unobscured by white, misty



clouds. In 2 ½ hrs we were back at the trailhead. Returning to Chilliwack from heavenly Elfin Lakes were Cal F, Dave B, John U, Lori Y, Shannon P & **Heather B** (reporter).

HANNEGAN PEAK – SEPT. 24

This hike offers views right from the start. It's part of the Mt. Baker – Snoqualmie National Forest. The vibrant autumn colors were almost at their peak. And the puffy white clouds were flirting with us, exposing partial views of Ruth Mt, Nooksack Ridge & Mt. Baker to the south.



10:00am we parked a bit west of the trailhead, in the new parking lot. A huge landslide had ripped out a good section of the road. As we followed the fairly level trail alongside Ruth Creek, the cliffs of Mt. Sefrit & Nooksack loomed up above us to our right. The sun lit up the reds, oranges and golds of the fall foliage. The recent rains brought out the scents of wood and various foliage. Broad switchbacks led us through mature mountain-hemlock forest. Now the ascent begins to become steeper, passing Hannegan camp, about 1.5 hours from the trailhead. A bit further and we were at the pass.



From there, there are three choices: go straight and then drop down east into the headwater of Chilliwack River. Go right toward Ruth Mt. Or go northwest to Hannegan Peak. Soon the forest was behind us and we were in steep open meadows. From the summit the views were spectacular with Granite Mt. to our near NW and Ruth Mt., Mt. Shuksan and Mt. Baker to our south.



Since there was the monthly COC meeting at 7:00pm, having gotten off the trail at 4:00pm, we did not stop for goodies afterwards.

Stats: 16 km / 940m gain / 1885m high

Along for this gorgeous day were: Terry B, Cal F, Shannon P, Glen R, Amy Tso, Tammy W, Mark W + **Joce T**



At cottonwood parking lot, I split everyone into a fast and a slow group so that we didn't have to wait for anyone. My girlfriend, Sue, really wanted to see the larches so I kept to her pace. We started around 9:30 ish with the weather being cool. Our sweaters were quickly shedded around the 2nd switchback. Going up hill sure heats up the body. Sue and I took our time and by noon we were at the cabin where we came upon Moria and Al. After a quick snack for both us and the whiskey Jacks, we pushed on up to the larches. I promised Sue that I would stop at the 8km mark. There we walked around the plateau enjoying the magnificent Larches. I loved the way the sunlight hit the needles. What a beautiful plateau.



Meanwhile, Christine, John and Heather made it to the top of Frosty - Heather's 21 time up at the top and Christine first. Sue and I arrived back at the cars at 4:30 and back in Chilliwack by 6pm. Even though we didn't hike together, Moria, Al, Christine, Heather, John, Sue and Irene had a perfect day.

THE GLORIOUS MOUNTAINS OF VANCOUVER'S NORTH SHORE:

A PEAKBAGGER'S GUIDE

Rocky Mountain House, 2018
David Crerar, Harry Crerar, Bill Maurer

We have been in desperate need on the West Coast for a definitive and comprehensive guide to many of the peaks on the North Shore. There have been thinner books that point to trails worth the taking and a few summits worth the bagging, but none can match for breadth and depth the recently published *The Glorious Mountains of Vancouver's North Shore*. I have been fortunate in the last 40 years to have rambled and sat on many of the summits on the North Shore peaks, so I was more than charmed and delighted to walk the pages of this page turner of a tome (indeed, the now go to book on peaks on the North Shore).

The Glorious Mountains is organized well and wisely---7 areas are described in necessary detail for the curious and eager: 1) Howe Sound Islands (9 peaks), 2) Britannia Range (23 peaks), 3) Grouse Mountain Area (9 peaks), 4) Hanes Valley Peaks (3 peaks), 5) Lynn Peaks (5 peaks), 6) Cathedral peaks (4 peaks) and 7) Fanin Range (14 peaks). The book is replete with superb colour photographs and ample topographic maps to make any trek as simple and as attractive as possible. It is virtually impossible, given the directions in this book to trail heads and routes up mountain sides, to miss the means to bag the diverse peaks (some, obviously, more challenging than others). The fact that various routes are aptly articulated up diverse pathways to summits means many a pleasurable trip can be taken up the same mountain many times. The equally important fact that round trip distances and elevation gain are front staged means that those planning such trips, weather being fine and fair, can plan trips with some predictability (weather being more moody, time more elastic). There is also an informative "Introduction" well worth the reading plus, at book's end, significant "Appendices" and "Endnotes".

There can be no doubt that *The Glorious Mountains of Vancouver's North Shore* is the must buy sacred text for those keen to cut their mountaineering teeth on the North Shore Mountains---a sort of rite of passage into the more demanding climbs. I was also impressed by the way the authors gave a rightful nod to the mountaineering elders that came before them: Glenn Woodsworth and Dick Culbert---a couple of lines will say it all: "We also here acknowledge that the legendary Dick Culbert (1940 Winnipeg-2017 Gibsons) died just before publication of this book. All devotees of British Columbia Mountains are in his debt". The publication in 1965 of Dick's classic, *A Climber's Guide to the Coastal Ranges of Ranges of British Columbia* pioneered and birthed guides to peak bagging in British Columbia---*The Glorious Mountains of Vancouver's North Shore* is very much a child of such a line and lineage but such a mature child describes treks that Dick never did and this is beauty and bounty of this mountaineering classic. *montani semper liberi*
- Ron Dart

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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