

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

BEAR MT. IN MISSION – OCT. 4

This mountain is just east of Stave Lake and has 3 entry points: Doyle & Saunder St. to the south and Mill Pond in the northwest corner. We took the latter. There is no sign by the pond but it's right across from the Mission Dist. Rod & Gun Club. We did a loop: BTLC to Bear Buns to Sorcerer's Apprentice to Back Door to Lorax to Bear Back to Super Bear. Mountain bikers also use most of these trails.



By 9:30am ten of us delved into the forest, leaving the sounds of gunshots and traffic behind us. Glen did a fine job of leading us along the labyrinth of pathways. He pointed out the overgrown corduroy logging roads we were walking on, created back in the 1920s and the uprooted trees damaged by the windstorm last year and a – wait a minute, was that really a Christmas tree? Yes indeed. And it was nicely decorated with tinsel and pieces of bicycle gears for ornaments. The first viewpoint was by a radio tower, looking northwest towards Mt. Crickmer, Judge Howay + Robie Reid. The second one was not too much farther and provided 2 long benches to sit on. Now we were looking southeast and south at Dewdney Mt. and the Fraser River,



Sumas Mt with Matsqui Prairie and in the distance, Mt. Baker.

On we went, past some very artistically designed trail signs such as a wasp, a bear + a bare butt. By 1:30pm we were back at Mills Pond. We all stopped in Mission at Tim Hortons for goodies.

Stats: 12.5 km / 450m gain / 522m high

Thanks to all for coming along on this first time hike for most of us and to Glen for being our guide. We had 3 newbies with us this day: Mario Dumouchel, Kay Garchen, Sue McKenney and then Cal F, Deb H, Judy P, Eileen R, **Glen R**, Mark W + **Joce T**

MATSQUI TRAIL - OCT. 9

Originally I intended to hike the Skagit Bluffs to enjoy the change of colours of the vine maple, aspen and others. Alas, that morning checking the web cams for Hope it was raining and the forecast was rain for the day. So we chose Matsqui. Later I learned from the Weather Network that the rain had stopped for the day.

Oh well. Matsqui it was for Manfred, Peter, Corine, Patrick, Lynn and myself. Not a challenging hike by any COC measure. A relaxing one under cloudy sky and no rain. Starting at the Mission Bridge we strolled west through farm



land and forest reaching our turn around point, Douglas Taylor Park.

Back at the Mission bridge we enjoyed lunch at the picnic ground. After satisfying our tummies we decided to add to our 14 km Matsqui west return stroll by strolling Matsqui east. We added another 6 km round trip making it a 20 km HIKE. ☺



I can't remember where we went for coffee. I know some of us did. I am writing this report October 30, Jocelyn's deadline date. In high school my homework motto was why do it now when you've got the night before?



- Dave Ortis

ALOUETTE MTN - OCT. 10

The official slog to Alouette Mtn in Golden Ears Provincial Park starts at Mike Lake on the Incline Trail but we drove on to the West Canyon parking lot. This shorter, steeper route to Alouette Mtn begins as a walk in the forest on the Viewpoint trail. When Heather wandered onto a fading side trail, Cal quickly brought the group back to the proper trail to

continue our walk in the forest to the junction for the route to Evans Peak and Alouette Mtn. Our pleasant walk in the forest was over.



After a short break we headed up, straight up, a steep, rooty trail, i.e., a trail with many roots. We took a longer break at a level spot with a view of Alouette Lake. At the turn off for Evans Peak, we took the left fork for Alouette Mtn. From here the route was new to all of us. The well-flagged route led us across a boulder field, up a shoot, then up through a rocky notch to the summit plateau with a stunning view of Blanshard Peak. After lunch at the summit cairn, some explored while others napped in the fall sunshine.

Our return down through the notch, down the shoot, across the boulder field and down that steep, rooty trail (remember, that's a trail with many roots) was an exercise in trying to avoid bumslides. No bum touch was the desired move. Once we were back on the viewpoint walk-in-the-forest trail, we disappeared into the forest to peek around trees. Why not? Cal and Karen choreographed spontaneous autumn leaf throwing. Along for this hike to Alouette Mtn from West

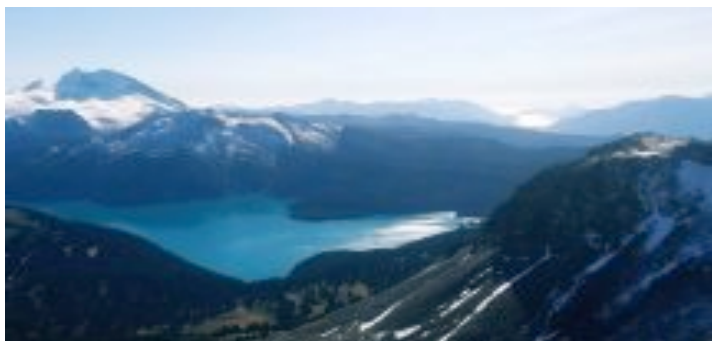


Canyon parking lot were Christine C, Mario D, Cal F, Johnny G, Sonia J, Karen S, Katie V & **Heather B.**

BLACK TUSK – OCT. 13



With sunny skies in our favor 3 of us, Dave Biehn, Ling Su, and Lynn Montgomery took the opportunity to hike Black Tusk, Garibaldi. A fairly long day and well maintained trails.



We had an encounter with a black bear feasting on wild blueberries in Taylor Meadow. Luckily, he didn't seem to mind our presence.



Ling and Lynn stopped at the Black Tusk viewpoint to enjoy a well-deserved lunch break. Dave carried on and scrambled to the Black Tusk base for some magnificent views.

A great day!

- Lynn Montgomery

ELK MOUNTAIN - OCT. 13, 2018



Cloudless skies and warm temperatures were the perfect ingredients for this iconic hike. Others thought so too as a steady flow of pilgrims made their way up the mountain. We left early enough to beat most of the crowd, so lots of opportunity to reflect on the beauty surrounding us.



Thanks to Fraser Valley Regional District, there is now a spiffy outhouse close to the peak. Much appreciated. We continued past the peak toward the cairn for a leisurely lunch. Several hours later and we enjoyed refreshments at Waves. Along for the hike were Sharon R., Allen C., Cindy W., Carolyn H. and **Manfred H.** (report).

FLORA LAKE LOOP – OCT. 17

We braced ourselves for a challenging day. It turns out we made better time than what we expected. We calculated 8.5 hours moving time but did it in 7. Heather was the only one of the 8 of us who'd done the whole loop before. She recommended doing it clockwise so we wouldn't have to deal with wet boulders when we would start to get tired. It was a good plan.



We got going just before 8:00am and marveled at the new outhouse, tent pad + bear cache at Lindeman Lake, almost half an hour later. At the north end of the lake there were 2 new boardwalks. Water was low so for once there were a few sandy beaches at the south and north ends. The valley we went through was dark and moist and full of mushrooms. Crossing the bolder slopes was done with caution, as many were wet from the dew. Some even had frost on them yet.



At the second intersection we turned right onto the Flora Lake connector trail. Left would've gotten us to Greendrop Lake in 700m. But most of us had done it before. Now (Heather warned us) came the steep part. It was a relief when we saw the sparkling green waters of the large Flora Lake. We carried on to the end of it where we parked ourselves on one of two tent pads and had lunch in the sun.



Sonia impressed us all when she plunged into the freezing water.

Now came the final 395m push to the 1770m high pass. Again, this was a steep section, zigzagging through forest. Once at the pass, Cal's earlier suggestion to summit the peak was not even discussed. The steep ascent had taken its toll. Beautiful views of Chilliwack Lake & its surrounding peaks greeted us on the other side, as we descended. By 4:30pm we were back at the parking lot. Well done!



Stats: 21.5 km / 1370m gain / 1770m high

Along for this challenge were: Dave B, **Heather B**, Allan Ch, Cal F, Heather Friesen, Johnny G, Vic E, Sonia J + **Joce T**

ALOUETTE MTN./EVANS PEAK - OCT. 20

First off, an apology. I posted the announcement Thurs. morning after planning the hike with Cindy W., only to discover Monday that the posting never happened. Saturday turned out to be a fabulous hiking day. Clear skies and pleasant fall weather greeted us as we made our way toward Alouette Mtn. On the advice of Cal F. we chose the much shorter route from the West Canyon parking lot rather than the 22 km main trail leaving Mike Lake. The tradeoff is a much steeper route gaining 1150m in about 5.5 km.

A couple highlights included the scree scramble three quarters of the way up, which offered no obvious routes, but whose crossing was prompted by a trail marker on a tree far



HOPE MT TRIP REPORT - OCT 24

This should be a trip report about Wells Peak, not Hope Mtn. This should be a trip report about downloading GPS

waypoints, about studying route descriptions, about scrambling and route-finding and hacking our way to glory on the summit of Wells Peak, about clawing and bushwhacking our way down an overgrown loop trail. You might have read about such an adventure on Wells Peak here (or in the news), had we not accepted multiple warnings about the impossibility, even insanity, of using an out-of-date route description. Instead of what could have been an epic adventure (or a search & rescue nightmare), we offer Hope: same 4x4 road access, same parking lot, same trailhead, different signs. This is a trip report for Hope Mtn.

ahead. Another was the shallow chimney near the top, which offered a pleasant change in topography. The top is marked by a robust cairn, solidly cemented in place, but that's only a minor distraction in light of the sea of peaks that surrounded us, the Blanshard Needle and the Golden Ears being the most prominent. A short lunch and soon we were well on our way down, only to be met by a fellow club member returning from Evans Peak, who happened to arrive at the junction of the two trails just as we did. A brief discussion followed, and the two of us were off for Evans Peak.



Turning our backs on Wells Peak, we headed f r Hope Mountain with its summit and towers hidden in clouds and rolling fog. Misty rain didn't last long and sunbeams offered... hope (ha ha) of better weather. Asphalt shingles provided grip on wet boards. Mushrooms provided mystical wonder. Visual wonder. We didn't eat them. The trail was well-signed. No need for bushwhacking.



I was still basking in the glow of having summited Alouette Mtn., and the enthusiasm for another ascent waned as I considered the toil my tired legs had already endured. Halfway there, I perched on a handy rock to contemplate life, while Cindy raced to the top with her dog, clambering up ropes and all, and soon returned. Another hour and a half and we arrived back at the vehicle, thus ending an amazing day in the mountains. **Manfred H.**



Dawn had hiked the trail a few days earlier with clear views. We had peekaboo views of Silver Lake. The clouds were a

moving tableau giving us dramatic changing views. At the summit we saw mostly clouds but with patience the veil over the Fraser River and the town of Hope lifted for a few moments and Judy was able to pick out her old house. After lunch, we moved to the throne area for some laughter and hijinks. On the way back to the trailhead, we spotted Isolillock Peak cloaked in clouds. We never got a clear view of Wells Peak. Next year, when Harry W is hiking with us again, we will get to the summit of Wells Peak. We hope (ha ha). Along for the orderly, non-adventure hike to Hope Mtn were Terry B, Allen C, Christine C, **Cal F**, Heather F, Wayne H, Dawn L, Judy P & **Heather B** (reporter).

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE, TRANS CANADA
TRAIL, PALEFACE PASS – OCT. 13, 18 + 21**



WOW!!! Don't these COC members realize trail maintenance season is a shoulder season in spring? Our club has normally had a big push when snowshoeing is hampered by avalanches and we are unable to get our elevation gain in. With some keeners returning from overseas, snow coming, and road freshly upgraded there was a real determination to finish clearing this section.



Two trips were made from Chilliwack Lake Side and one from Silver Skagit area. Both sides now needed over 90 minutes of walking to reach uncleared area. Much better than the summer where it was nearly 3 hours from



Chilliwack Lake Side. Alder trees were now reaching 2 ½" thick and nearly 30ft high, pace was slow but energy never ceased until job was complete. Leon (local TCT president) was left speechless when asked if we met the TCT standard. He could only say "Open" to hikers, cyclists and Equestrian



users have not been done in years. As always, I so wish I could have been there for the stories on these trips. John Campbell and Darcy Grainger provided extra interest telling of the naming of peaks and trail building decades ago. Crazy crazy enthusiasm provided by Lori B., Brian T., Jim A., Jim S., Darcy G., John C., Chris B., Tim Y., and Bernie Y.

Submitted by **Harry Waldron**

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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