

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

MOUNT NUTT – NOV. 7



When Joe asked, “You want to try a new hike?” I was immediately interested. After a full week of rain, the warm sun came out. And so did 14 hikers! Quite a large group. This trail is in good condition, with ample markers and viewpoints along the way.

We started at 9:00am, on the fairly level East Canyon Trail in Golden Ears PP. Strong sunrays were beaming through the lush green forest. Just over 1.5 km later we got to the turn off to the right. Watch for a small green sign up in the tree. Now the broad flat trail turned into a steep winding path, with roots and rocks here and there. In just over an hour we arrived at the glistening green-water tarn. Bog did not deter us from getting to the lake’s edge.



After that the trail stayed steep, winding past some giant sized boulders in a moss-covered forest. At the first viewpoint at 690m, we could see the southwest end of Alouette Lake. Once on the ridge there were four more viewpoints. The first had views of the northeast half of Alouette Lake. The second one offered views of Evans, Blanshard & Alouette Peaks. And the end of the trail offered a view of Robie Reid Mt. We were then at the false summit and the end of the trail. It’d be another 2 km of bushwhacking and a significant drop in elevation and then climb again to get to the true summit. This is better done when there’s snow.



It had been 3 hours since the start and we wanted to eat lunch but we were not in the sun. There was still frost on the ground. So after about 20 minutes, when our body temps were beginning to plummet, we agreed to go back to the first viewpoint on the ridge. This is where the rest of the group had stopped. When we’d first come up on the ridge, some clouds were covering parts of the mountains but by the time we reached the others, we were totally enclosed in cloud.

Later and lower, during the descent the sun came out once again. We all met up by the lake, as agreed and were back

at the parking lot between 3:00 and 3:45pm. The gates closed at 4:30pm. The last hikers to file in were probably wondering, "Why is Vic so closely surrounded by women?" The thing is, we were surprised when most of us were having the usual body odor issues after a long sweaty hike, Vic managed to come out smelling -- well; quite nice. We were sniffing him and needed to know what cologne he had on.

Stats: 14 km / 1126m gain / 1145m high

Thanks **Joe K & Vic D** for doing the research on this hike and for those who came: Carol A, Jim A, Heather B, Allan Ch, Christine C, Irene H, Glen R, Judy P, Mark W, Lori Y + Case & **Joce T**

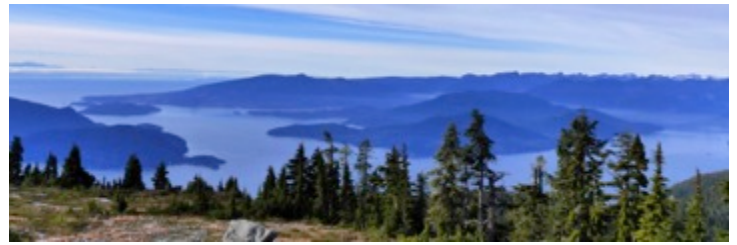
MT. STRACHAN - NOV. 11



A hardy group of 13 people tackled Mt Strachan in Cypress Provincial Park. We took the trail just past the kiosk and took a side trail to enjoy a nice view of Howe Sound, returning to the trail we continued on. We started our ascent up Christmas Gully (easy to miss this part). We eventually broke into groups as we tackled the icy, slippery, frosty trail up the gully (was grueling at times).



Once we achieved the top of the gully, we had a rest at the saddle before continuing to the first summit (there was 5 of us). We enjoyed lunch here and a well deserved rest as

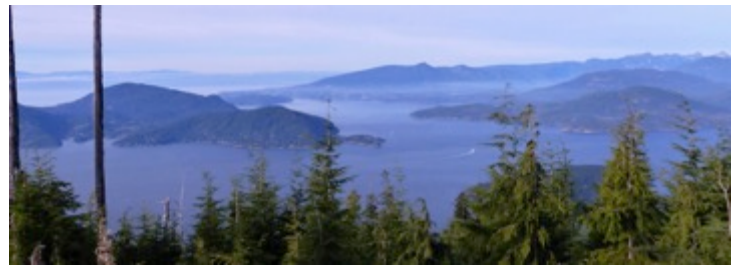


we enjoyed views of the Lions/Golden Ears/Mt Baker/Howe Sound plus much more.

Several of the next group caught up to us here and we joined the rest at the saddle. We then headed up another short steep section to the second summit, where more views of the Howe sound were enjoyed.



Four of us headed on the rest of the trail where we came across a plane crash in 1963. This was a fitting place to have our moment of silence (though not at 11 am; the others had it earlier in the day).



The trail was in the forest and was steep at times in the descent and you had to be careful not to take a wrong turn. We met a lady who immigrated from Poland who only took up hiking 4 yrs ago when she was in New Zealand (though she lived in the Vancouver area since 1984).

The rest of the group took the trail and ski hill down.

All in all it was a great day.

10.5 km rtn 550 m elv gain though total with ups and downs was closer to 740m

A huge thank to Cal who had done this trail before for helping out in the gully and John who led the rest of us thru the forest trail.

- Dorothy

SUMAS MT. CROSSOVER – NOV. 12

We bagged two peaks and a lake on this hike and managed to just barely avoid having to use our headlights. Because of the holiday we wanted to stay off of the freeway and stay local. One of our group couldn't come any earlier, so we didn't start hiking till 9:00am.

Case & I had parked our car at the west trailhead. We



started hiking at the Abby Grind (Glenn Ryder trail). This is a popular steep trail till the first viewpoint, which is almost an hour from the start. There we had good views of Sumas Prairie and lots of people. Thankfully we were able to glean some useful information from a few of them, regarding the connector trail.

From the east side of the viewpoint, we could tell immediately that the trail wasn't nearly as used. There were now mellow ups and downs through a pretty forest with two tarns full of autumn colored leaves. When our dear Mexican-Canadian friend, Sonia saw the sign that read: "No dirt bikes allowed", she asked, "Why do you have to clean your bikes to use the trail?" At 12:00 we emerged onto the 780m high summit of Taggart Mt. We didn't get too cozy, eating our lunch. We knew there was more climbing to come.



We carried on, down the Taggart Peak access road, passing two yellow gates. This was about a 20-minute walk. Once past the second yellow gate we turned right onto another road and then another quick right. You cannot see the sign for the Knob Gobbler trail

unless you take a few steps into the clearing there. Now we had to watch out for mountain bikers. It being a holiday, there were several coming down while we were going up. There were also some particularly long ramps or boardwalks.

2:15pm we arrived at 911m high Sumas Mt. summit. This is also accessible by road. Now we could see Chilliwack and the Cheam Range. There were little patches of snow in the clearings. Here we had another break, but again, not for long. From here it was mostly all downhill. We stayed north of the radio towers and took the broad switchbacks down to Chadsey Lake. A grove of old-growth cedars along the northeast part of the lake towered above a rooty boggy path.



By the time we were almost at the FSR crossing, where they've recently clear-cut along the trail, a yellow-orange stripe of sun was glowing through the trees.

We kept on at a steady pace and made it out at 5:00pm, just after the sunset. Another 10 minutes and it would've been quite dark in the woods. Good timing and good teamwork. Thanks Carol, for taking along those mountain bike trail routes on your GPS.

Stats: 18.8 km / 1350m gain / 7 hours moving time: 3 hrs. to Taggart Peak, 1.5 hrs. to Sumas Peak, 2.5 hrs. to west trailhead

Along for this challenging expedition were: Carol A, Sonia J, Karen S, Margaret T + Case & **Joce T**

HAYWARD LAKE RESERVOIR TRAIL - NOV. 17

Still can't hike around Hayward Lake due to ongoing Ruskin Dam seismic upgrades. Let's hope that we'll be able to soon hike around the lake. We had no trouble hiking from the upper parking lot to Hairsine Inlet where the floating bridge was removed until upgrades completed.

Hayward is a nice year round trail. There is little elevation



gain and the few upsy downsy gullies are not too difficult for beginner hikers. Plus the silence of the all forest hike is meditative. What helps is that motorboats are not allowed on the lake.

There is nothing new to report to COCers about this familiar hike. Except that it was the first time for four of us; Corine S, Linda I, Sue M and her brother Tom visiting from Ontario, Andrea N, Robert E and yours truly.



All went well. Weather was cool and sunny. Lunch at Hairsine. Did I say all went well? Well, not exactly true. Yours truly has not really hiked for two months so the muscles complained and slowed me down. Serves me right.

Enough self-pity.

Because four of us were new to this trail, the four had not been to the Mission Springs museum, restaurant and pub. There is where we headed for continued good fellowship and refreshments. Tom especially enjoyed the memorabilia. And, thanks to

Andrea for treating us to a chicken wings and tacos.



- Dave Ortis

ST MARKS SUMMIT – NOV. 17

ST Marks Summit is one of the most popular and busy hikes on the North Shore. Usually it's pretty tough to get people to travel past the Port Mann Bridge so I was very surprised at the large turnout. 15 showed up for the beautiful hike on a crisp warm fall day.

Stats: 460m gain / 11km / 1370m high

ST Marks is part of the Howe Sound Crest Trail in Cypress Provincial Park. We met at the ski resort before heading to the Bowen Lookout. Bowen lookout is an incredible viewpoint that overlooks Howe Sound out towards Bowen Island. At the lookout we took a group photo as the ST Marks lookout is very small. There were a few stellar jays that seemed to believe they were whiskey jacks hanging out and taking food from people.



ZUPJOK PEAK – NOV. 20



Shortly after leaving the lookout we encountered great views of the lions and MT Strachen; which many of us had summited the week before. At the same viewpoint on the way back we could see through the camera two individuals on top of the lions. It was obvious a significant amount of work had gone into the trail until this point; the amount of culverts was unreal. A few minutes later the well-constructed trail turned into a steep rooty and at times muddy trail.

Near ST Mark's lookout we stopped for a long lunch on a large rock soaking in the awesome rays of the sun. We all took turns in heading over to the very busy cliff/viewpoint know as ST Marks Summit. From the viewpoint we could see Howe Sound, the Tantalus Range and even the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island off in the distance. After many photos hanging around the cliffs the group slowly parted ways for the vehicles back at Cypress Bowl. This was an excellent day for this wonderful hike.



Participants for this incredible hike were Robbin Y, Regina F, Trish L, Bernadette Y, Sara K, Cathy C, John P, Allen C, Sharon R, Tim Y, Jessica F, Sonia J, Heather F, Cindy W and **Cal F**.



What to expect so early in the season? This was our first snowshoe. Four started out with just their boots on, and 3 didn't risk falling on ice so we put our micro-spikes on right away. About an hour later we got to a rock cairn, about 15 minutes past the picturesque creek that glides over a sheet of orange-tinged granite. There we put on snowshoes. But not too much farther was the meadow. We didn't enter it but stayed to the right side of it, in open forest.



Soon the well-flagged trail began to climb in earnest. That's where the snowshoes came off & micro-spikes went back on (except for mine). About 1/3 of the trail was covered in snow. When we exited the forest at about 1500m the snowshoes went back on. Now was pay back time. Views were ours to revel in. To the near east was Zoa, Yak & Nak Peaks. To the south were the Needle, Flat Iron, a valley and



then lower down, neighboring Iago & Great Bear. And along the ridge we were on, Lama, Alpaca, Vicuna & Guanaco. West was the ridge with Ganuza, Steinbok, Ibex and Chamois and northwest on another ridge were: Serna, Gemse and Reh.

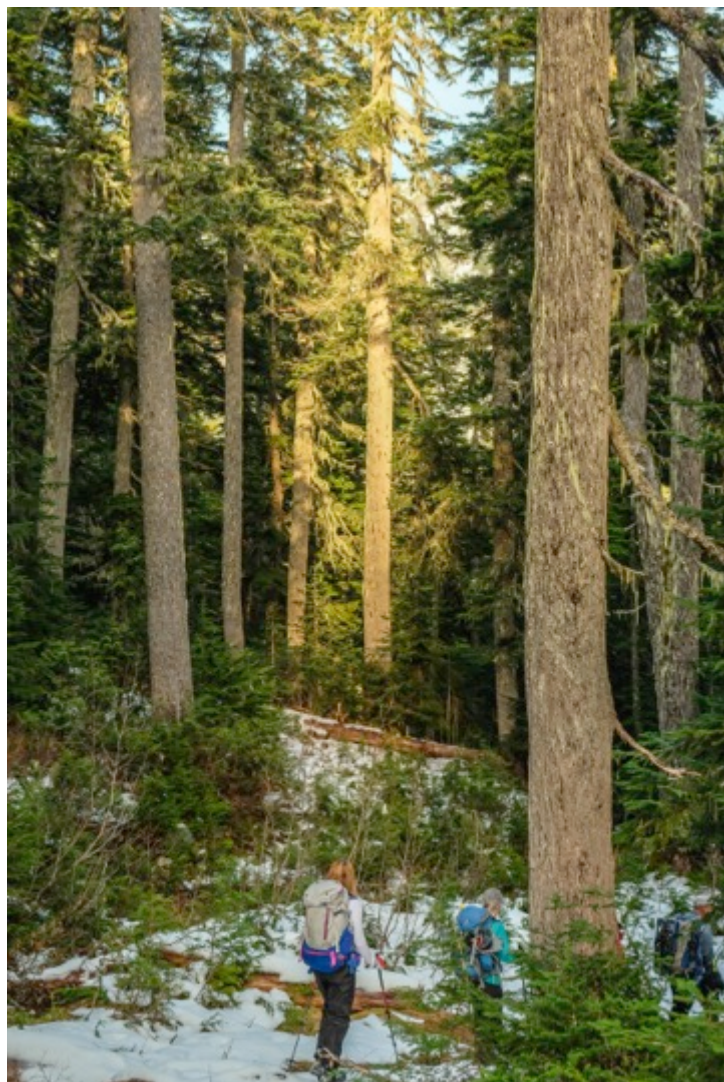


Being in the snow brought out the boy in Cal. He didn't seem at all intimidated by the fact that he was the only male among 6 females. There was the posing-like-you're-falling-over-the-edge game. Then the pulling-Terry-down-when-she-offers-a-helping-hand-and-getting-into-kinky-looking-positions game. Then there was the falling-into-the-tree-well-game. But that one wasn't really a game. Then there was the extremely-dangerous-balancing-on-the-edge-game. And then the playing-baseball game with Heather F. We had to improvise a bit by using a snowball instead of a baseball and 2 hiking poles instead of a bat. Then there was the-running-down-the-slope-and-kicking-up-snow-with-your-snowshoes-game. And last but not least was the watching-to-see-if-Cal-would-fall-through-the-ice-on-the-pond game. Too bad he didn't. It would've been fun to watch (sorry Cal).

Needless to say, we had a fun day in our beautiful blue-skied BC.



Stats: 13 km / 700m gain / 1827m high / 9:15am – 3:30pm / 2.45 hrs to summit



Out this day to come and play were: Sue A, Terry B, Heather B, Cal F, Heather F, Judy P & **Joce T**

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

CLUB CONTACTS

Position	Name	E-mail
President + FMCBC Rep	Ken Orr 604-858-0813	orrke@shaw.ca
Vice President	Grant Acheson	gacheson@universe.com
Secretary Presentations & speakers	Harry Waldron Ray Daws	harry.waldron@hotmail.com raydio@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Irene Hofler 604-824-6741	ihofler@telus.net
Directors:	Paul Schumak Manfred Harder Ken Hurley 604-792-9029 Margaret Tra Pat Ramsden Gary Baker 604-858-4928	paulschumak@hotmail.com mcharder75@gmail.com kwhurley@gmail.com Margaret_tranah@hotmail.com patrickr@shaw.ca garybaker@shaw.ca
Membership Secretary Mail checks to: Secretary:	Tim & Bernie Yochim Danielle Goulet 438-871-1623	timothyochim@gmail.com dapatnic@gmail.com
Club Trip Email	For trips and announcements to be forwarded to all members	coctrips@gmail.com or terrybergen@shaw.ca Note: Give at least 1-2 days lead-time.
Librarian	Irene Hofler	ihofler@telus.net
Newsletter Pub. 604-854-6267	Jocelyn Timmermans	jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com
Website	Amanda Rallings	Amanda_rallings@Hotmail.com
Vedder Mt Trail Ass'n	Gary Baker 604-858-4928	garybaker@shaw.ca
Refreshments	Helen Turner + Lori Bodkin	hturner59@gmail.com firechick@telus.net
Equipment Managers:	Richard Aikema - aquatic (canoes) richard.aikema@abbotsfordcommunityservices.com	
Mountaineering/hiki	John LeBlanc	John3@teuls.net