

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

**SNOWSHOE 101 FIELD TRIP/ORIENTATION
HIKE (CAMBIE CREEK/SKAGIT RIVER LOOP) -
JAN. 12**

This snowshoe hike was planned as a follow-up orientation/field trip for newcomers to the sport who were in attendance at the Snowshoe 101 Workshop held at the Sardis Library (Monday, Jan. 7) presented by Gary Baker and Johnny Grimm. The meeting room was packed; the count indicated there were 100 people in attendance, WOW!

The Cambie Creek Loop was chosen for a variety of reasons. It is only 5km in total length, definitely an A1a level route, yet it includes some climbing (but not too much). It has some great scenery, particularly at the two bridge crossings of the Similkameen River. With the clear skies and brilliant sunlight we were not disappointed. Finally I knew at the second bridge there was a clear, open area to stop to enjoy our lunch (again in brilliant sunlight).



We finished the route by detouring into the forest, within sight of the parking area, to experience some ' bush whacking' to emerge above the old gravel pit where a

platoon of cadets has pitched half a dozen tents to practice their winter camping skills.

In total we had 21 club members and visitors on this hike. Some of the group were still hiding in the woods when the photo was taken. Based on the feedback, people enjoyed themselves, it went well.

I'd like to thank **Jonny G., Irene H. and Marg T.** for giving up the opportunity to do the Fat Dog Trek the same day. It was spectacular up there I've been told. I'm sure the guests and the club members new to snowshoeing appreciated their presence, their guidance and hearing some of the 'stores' of past snowshoe adventures. Submitted by **Gary Baker.**

SNOW SHOE MONUMENT 78 - FEB 2

The snow was dripping off the trees on this last warm sunny day for the next few weeks after which more snow fell and the temperatures plummeted. Part of the trail was fairly easy going with a few dead falls as is the case most winters in this area. Brian helped with his trail clearing expertise.



Eventually we came to an intersection and the real hard breaking trail began with the deep snow. Fortunately we had 2 very young men visiting us from Ontario and they promptly step up to the task. We had lunch at a warm sunny spot at approx the 6 km mark before our return. Our guests from Ontario enjoyed taking lots of

photos of our beautiful B.C. mountains.

Thank you for a super day participants: (Patrick, Nichola, Melody, our Ontario guests) Steven K, Brian T, Joachim B, Lori B, Sheryl H, Gary B, Carolyn H, Maurice D, Marlene D. ... **Margaret T**

OTHELLO TUNNELS - FEB 6

Our original plan was to hike Hope Lookout but with the recent snow conditions we opted for a change of plans and headed to the tunnels. The day turned out to be bright and sunny. The tunnels are always closed this time of year so we expanded our trip to include a short hike along the Hope-Nicola Valley Trail.



Participants Allen C, Peter V, Tammy S, Liz L+ **Margaret T**
(photo by Joce T who was there 1 week later)

WEST HARRISON FIRE TOWER - FEB 2



Cal, Jessica, Darren and Lorna tagged along with **Jim A** from the Chilliwack Outdoor Club, Luc from the ministry office and Richard to do a recce of the fire tower.



An assessment of the trail and the building was done. Measurements of the existing structure and the details of the materials required for repair was done.



Seems like Richard and his carpentry students may rebuild the structure with assistance from the ministry. Jim is very proficient with his saw and the COC electric chainsaw did wonders but what's left of the trail is still in bad shape.

GARIBALDI LAKE, SQUAMISH BC – FEB. 10

Six hikers braved the storm on one of the coldest weekends of the season to venture out to Garibaldi Lake in Squamish which was the warmest area in the region. All six hikers packed into a Honda Pilot which was quite roomy except for the 2 souls in the back and made our way to Tim Hortons in Squamish. After driving as close to the trailhead as possible



we tackled the cold. Since the road to the trailhead is not plowed the trip ended up being 22km out and back, 1000m gain.

The trail was a very gentle grade and micro spikes were required until the lake where the smart people put on snowshoes and the others (Cal and Jessica) decided to post hole it to the shelter.



The trail was all in the trees and everyone was prepared for the weather which made for a good journey up. The lake was picturesque when we arrived beautifully covered in snow. After a quick break for a late lunch we ventured outside and the views were all gone as it was now snowing. Some of us needed headlamps a few minutes before arriving back at the car.



We stopped in Squamish for supper before heading home. Going home was slow going as it snowed the whole way. Participants were Peter, Lorna, Jessica, Darren, Tammy and Cal.

Depending on which weather network you accepted the forecast looked OK with -8C and wind chill of -11C, or ugly, -15C with a wind chill of -26C. Go figure. On the ground the temperature was in the -3C to -8C range with the only wind of note occurring at Poland Lake proper. And, wonderfully, there were periods of sunshine. It was a good day!

This snowshoe hike was originally scheduled for the previous week when the forecast was for brutally cold temperatures, which did happen. With the change of date I was not sure what the turnout was going to be; I anticipated about 15 based on the responses I had received. But at the meet up site people just kept arriving, in the end we had 23 snowshoers and one skier. WOW! I was somewhat concerned about how the skier would fair, but in the end any concerns I had evaporated.

We didn't experience the usual encounter with ski patrol asking us where we were going and politely saying we were going the wrong way. The parking lot attendant suspected as we requested permission to park closer to the Blue chair what our plans were and radioed ahead to patrollers on the hill, "Snowshoers going to Poland via Blue chair." There was a twinkle in his eye; they have finally figured us out.

Once we left the groomed ski area we plowed through about 20-40cm of fluffy power snow with Randy (on S.Ss.) and Darren J. (on skis) doing much of the trail breaking. They absolutely nailed the route through the trees from the ski hill to the first, second and third meadows. I think many of the hikers were in awe as to how beautiful those meadows are, particular when the sun is shining (as it was). The climb from the third meadow up to the summer trail is always suspenseful, it's always a bit of a guess if the ascent angle is right, too far to the right and it's a long walk to the lake; too far to the left and we hit the ravines and have to climb much steeper terrain to reach the trail. Darren, with only minimal direction forged one of the best routes up we have done over the years. We hit the summer trail within 25m of where I like to. From there we were at the lake and across it in minutes. We took the obligatory photo of the group standing on the cabin roof and settled down for lunch.

As we were about to leave three hikers from Hope arrived who knew members from the COC. We suggested they return to the ski hill following our route, assuring them there was no way they could get lost.

On the way out Cal encouraged others to partake in a variety of 'snow follies' (photos and videos have been posted to FaceBook)? We were back at the cars by 2:45pm. More than half the group found their way to the Blue Moose, a

great way to end the day.

P.S. # 1: They took our advice. Two of the Hope hikers sent me an e-mail thanking us for suggestion and saying it was a great route.

P.S. # 2: Hans if we had known it was you and Maribel's 50th we would have made a video shouting our congratulations as we stood on that old cabin roof. I fondly remember the two of us descending for the first time from the lake down to the meadows and searching for a way back to the ski hill. I remember some of the misadventures it took to finally sort the route out. Over all the ensuing years this is my very favourite snowshoe hike.



On the hike (from the left): Cal F., George D., Tammy W., Audrey V., Jim A., Colleen W., Steve C., Sanjesh N., Margaret T., Marlene D., Don F., Peter V., **Gary B.**, John LaF., Christine H., Sheryl H., Annette LaB., Dawn D., Heather F., Tanis K., Karen S., Randy K., Darren J. Missing Lorna who took the photo.

HOLLYBURN SNOWSHOE – FEB.20

With the sun on our backs and significant slopes to climb, it didn't take long to layer down despite the freezing temperatures. We wound our way upward, alongside the west ski slopes, just outside of the ski & snowshoe area boundary. About halfway up we left the ski area behind and trudged up the steepest part of the route. And it was steep. So the short 3.5 km still proved to be a good workout.

And what views from the top! A mix of clouds decorated the sky above Vancouver with the ocean glimmering gold in the background. Whisky Jacks ate from Dawn's hand and a



few strangers joined our rambunctious friendly group for lunch, as we were taking up most of the mound at the summit. And yes, I needed everyone to crouch low for the group shot so the Lions in the background could still be seen. But no Vic, you didn't have to practically lay on Dawn. Silly guys.

Things got even sillier when we glissaded down those steep slopes. Peter outdid everyone with what he called his "rocket". It was just a plastic sheet but he spewed up more powder and picked up more speed than anyone else. John Laf had met us at the summit. He had skied / walked up. He encouraged us to take the trails to the newly renovated historic Hollyburn Lodge.



So just a bit farther down from the top of the ski slope, we crossed and continued on the Upper Limits trail to the Seventh Lake to the Lake District trail, which led us to the warming hut. Again we crossed the ski slope, got onto the Ridge-Fall-Line trail, which turned into the Ancient Giants trail, which led right to First Lake and the lodge.

In 1924 a group of Scandinavians converted the abandoned Nasmyth mill buildings on Hollywood Ridge into the first commercial ski operation in the North Shore mountains. In 1926 they moved Hollyburn Lodge to First Lake where it still stands, with the old windows hanging in



the new ones and the old floor boards framed and on the walls. John joined us there again for refreshments at the restaurant. From there it was only a 15-minute showshoe to the parking lot.

Stats: 10 km / 460m gain / 1330m high / 10:15 am – 3:15 pm

Along for this fun day were: Vic D, Cal F, Joe K, Dawn L, Peter V + Case & **Joce T**

BRIDAL FALLS, FLOOD HOPE FALLS, OTHELLO TUNNELS AND KAWKAWA LAKE - FEB 23



Six Chilliwack Outdoor Club members went out for a short road trip to look for some icicles. First we went to Bridal Falls. Bridal Falls was much prettier in the winter than the summer. No crowds and a lack of bugs make this a nice first stop. The gates to the parking lot were closed but you could park to the side of the road in front of them and walk right past them.



Second stop was Flood Hope Falls. These falls were almost completely frozen. Halfway up were a group of ice climbers from Washington State practicing their skills. We stayed for a bit as we enjoyed ourselves watching them. They falls are located just before Hope, south of Highway 1 by exit 165.



We then drove to the Othello tunnels near Hope. The previous week Jocelyn had been there and had some awesome pictures of the ice. Sadly the tunnel area was mostly closed for a movie shoot. The movie company has also removed all the ice from the tunnels.

We still had a good plan "B" though and did a short hike around the backside of the tunnels to a viewpoint of Hope MT. We then went to Kawkawa Lake for a short stop before heading over to the Blue Moose Café in Hope for some refreshments.



Club participants were **Cal**, Judy, Ted, Dawn, Jessica and Peter.

ZOA MT. COQUIHALLA HWY. - FEB 24

Eleven of us headed up the Coquihalla to the Zoa Sub peak. Seven were wearing snowshoes and 4 were on skis and were equipped with beacons, probes and shovels. We were sheltered from the wind during the first part of the hike in the forest. As we left the tree line the winds kicked up and the jackets started zippering up and the toques and gloves were put on.



Shortly after leaving the tree line we saw a quinzhee hut off to the left so we went and checked it out. The seven of us on Snowshoes ducked in for a short break while the skiers continued on. The hut was warm and very spacious. A dozen people could easily fit in the hut comfortably. We then left the hut towards the sub peak. When we arrived at the sub peak the skiers had just finished their first run down



to the bowl on the north side. The winds were howling and if you are not moving you get cold fast. A couple skiers had started lunch in the freezing cold. After about 5 min I announced that I was going down to the hut for lunch.



Everyone but the skiers came as they wanted to do another run. The seven of us on Snow shoes had a very nice entertaining and comfortable long lunch in the hut. After lunch the skiers met up with us and we headed down through the forest. A couple Km from the trail head is excellent sliding possibilities. Heather had brought 3 crazy carpets and they were well used for the last part of the trip. Taking part in the trip were Pat L, Heather F, Wesley L, Lorna F, Robert, Dennis L, Dawn D, Peter V, Jessica F, and **Cal F**.

COQUIHALLA PIPELINE / LAKE – FEB. 27

We call this “Joe’s route” since he’s the one who showed us the way last year and now this year again. And he made a new discovery! A small lake that we’ve now named, “Joe’s Lake”.

The snow was not as fresh as last year and more consolidated so breaking trail was not as hard to do. We



parked 9:00am at the bathrooms south of where the toll-booths used to be on Hwy. 5. From there we dropped down to the fence, turning right and following it a little ways to a point where we could step over it. Then we turned left, continuing along the fence until we got to the pipeline road. From there we went right onto the road and looked for a feasible spot to cross the Coquihalla River.

The snow went from being ankle deep to almost a foot deep towards the end of the pipeline road. The sun was beaming down on Mt. Thar to our northwest, which was separated from us by a long valley through which Coquihalla River wound its way. Gary gathered all our cameras while we trudged over to a protruding rocky bluff high above the valley for photographs.



After lunch we continued into the forest, past a small tarn we remembered from last year. Gary showed us, by poking with his pole that there was a black cavity underneath the top snow layer. Shortly after that we heard a yelp. Cal's leg disappeared into it. Good going Cal. We had to wait up a few times because a few of our group had fallen into tree wells. But that was OK. With an early start we had lots of time to explore and play. Joe could not contain his excitement when we broke out of the forest and onto a new larger lake. There three of our members made face molds in the snow.

In about half an hour we were back at the pipeline road.

This time when we got close to the fence, we did not cross the Coquihalla River. Instead we carried on, crossing another smaller creek and were soon at Coquihalla Lake. We started snowshoeing back along the Coq. River again but it got too sketchy with the running water and insecure snow bridges. So we made our way up to the fence.



I was begging Joe not to do it. I recognized that gleam in his eyes when he was looking longingly at those tall snow hats on the fence posts. So first Cal, Joe & Peter hugged the fence posts, face beside the snow hats. Then they licked them. And then they got the idea to put the snow hats on their own heads. In the end, the hats fell and broke. Oh well. There were plenty more of them.



Joe was trying to show us another viewpoint overlooking where we'd just been but by then it had started to snow in earnest and it was 2:00pm so we headed for my car.

Stats: 9.2 km / 276m gain / 1180m high

Thanks **Joe K**, for being our guide and to those who came out for this successful expedition: Carol A, Gary B, Cal F, Peter V + **Joce T**

2019 C.O.C MULTI DAY TRIPS

TRIP: MAR 6-10, SS, CC SKI, DOWN HILL WHISTLER-BLACKCOMB

LEADER: RON DART @ RDART@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: STAY AT HOSTEL OR 6 PERSON YURT, 6 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: MAR 15-17, BACKCOUNTRY WINTER CAMPING, GARABALDI PP

LEADER: SUE LAWRENCE & AL SMITH @ GWELU@TELUS.NET

ACCOMD: WINTER TENT CAMPING, 8 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: MAY 6-10, DAY HIKE/BIKE IN THE OKANOGAN & SPRING WINE FESTIVAL

LEADER: IRENE HOFER @ IHOFLER@TELUS.NET

ACCOMD: TRYING FOR A HOUSE THROUGH AIR BNB, 10 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: MAY 22-23, OVERNIGHT HIKE AT MEGHER CREEK, PEMBERTON AREA

LEADER: LORI BODKIN @ FIRECHICK@TELUS.NET

ACCOMD: TENTING

TRIP: MAY 27-30, CENTRAL SECTION OF THE SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL

LEADER: RON DART @ RDART@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: HUT TO HUT, 10 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: JUNE 10-14, SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL

LEADER: RON DART @ RDART@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: HUT TO HUT, 10 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: MAY 25-JUNE 01, KAYAK THE BROKEN ISLANDS GROUP, VAN ISLAND

LEADER: DAVE BIEHN @ DAVE.BIEHN@GMAIL.COM

ACCOMD: WILDERNESS TENTING, 6 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: JUNE 21-23, HIKE THE DEWDNEY TRAIL TO HORSEGUARD CABIN

LEADER: CHRISTINE CAMILLERI @ 4CHRISTINECAMILLERI@GMAIL.COM

ACCOMD: TENTING & POSSIBLE CABIN, 8 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: JUNE 29-JULY 01, HIKE THE DEWDNEY TRAIL TO HORSEGUARD CABIN

LEADER: TERRY BERGEN @ TERRYBERGEN@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: TENTING & POSSIBLE CABIN, 8 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: JULY 8 -13, HIKING IN STRATHCONA PROV PARK, VAN ISLAND

LEADER: MARG TRANAH @ MARGARET_TRANAH@HOTMAIL.COM

ACCOMD: CAR CAMPING & TENTING

TRIP: JULY 08-12, DAY HIKING IN THE WHISTLER - BLACKCOMB AREA

LEADER: RON DART @ RDART@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: STAY AT ONE OF THE HUTS, 8 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: JULY 13-28, SAWTOOTH MTNS IN IDAHO & BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS IN WYOMING.

LEADER: JOHN MCLELLAN @ JHMCLELLAN@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: 2-4 DAY BACKPACKS SO WILDERNESS TENTING, DAY HIKING, 10 MAX --FULL

TRIP: JULY 27-AUG 05, HIKING FROM THE WHEELER HUT,
GLACIER NP (CANADA)

LEADER: JUDY PASEMKO @ JUDYPASEMKO@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: STAY AT THE WHEELER AND ASULKAN HUTS, 12
PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: JULY 27-AUG 05, DAY HIKING IN THE JUMBO
GLACIER AREA OF B.C.

LEADER: CHRISTINE CRAIGEN @
COZYTUES4US@GMAIL.COM

ACCOMD: CAR CAMPING, 10 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: JULY 27-AUG 05, DAY HIKING IN GLACIER NP (U.S.)

LEADER: CHRISTINE CAMILLERI @
4CHRISTINECAMILLERI@GMAIL.COM

ACCOMD: CAR CAMPING, 8 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: JULY 29 – AUG 1 HEATHER TRAIL IN MANNING PARK

LEADER: JOCELYN TIMMERMANS

JOCELYNTIMMERMANS@HOTMAIL.COM

ACCOMD; TENTING, 10 PEOPLE MAX -- FULL

TRIP: AUG 03-05, 3 DAY BACKPACK TO MOWICH CAMP @
MANNING PARK

LEADER: TERRY BERGEN @ TERRYBERGEN@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: TENTING, 12 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: AUG 25 - 30, HIKING IN TO HUT IN TONQUIN VALLEY,
JASPER NP

LEADER: RON DART @ RDART@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: HUT AND TENTING, 10 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: AUG 17/18, OVERNIGHT TO PIERCE LAKE/MT
MACFARLANE

LEADER: GRANT ACHESON @
ACHESONGRANT9@GMAIL.COM

ACCOMD: TENTING, 10 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: AUG 12 -17, Monashee PP, KEREMOS B.C.

LEADER: JOCE TIMMERMANS & DAVE WALTON @
JOCELYNTIMMERMANS@HOTMAIL.COM

ACCOMD: BACKPACK AND WILDERNESS TENTING, 10
PEOPLE MAX -- FULL

TRIP: SEPT 02-05, DAY HIKING FROM JACOBSEN LAKE,
TULAMEEN FSR

LEADER: CHRISTINE CAMILLERI @
4CHRISTINECAMILLERI@GMAIL.COM

ACCOMD: CAR CAMP/TENTING, 8 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: SEPT 07-14, BIKE THE CASCADE LOOP, 700K
WASHINGTON & B.C.

LEADER: STUART WOOD @ STUART_WOOD@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: TENTING, MOTEL, 4/6 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: SEPT 16-20, BACKPACK THE ROCK WALL, KOOTENAY
NP

LEADER: SUE LAWRENCE & AL SMITH @
GWELU@TELUS.NET

ACCOMD: WILDERNESS TENTING, 8 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: SEPT 25-28, DAY HIKING AT WHISTLER-BLACKCOMB

LEADER: RON DART @ RDART@SHAW.CA

ACCOMD: STAY AT HUT, 8 PEOPLE MAX

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. The equipment is being examined to determine its state of repair and will be reviewed by the Board of Directors as to what should be retained, scrapped or sold.

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

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