

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

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

TRIP REPORT

TONQUIN VALLEY JASPER: AUG 25 – SEPT 1



On Sunday, August 24th we all made our way to Jasper and met at the Hostel International Mt. Edith Cavell. This is a perfect location from which to start the Tonquin Valley hike. The 3,363-metre peak of Mt. Edith Cavell towers over the hostel, which is set in a narrow valley. That evening after supper a few of us made our way up to the Path of the Glacier Trail, a short 1.6 km hike that offers spectacular views of Mt. Edith Cavell and the Angel Glacier. A perfect after dinner stroll.

On Monday morning we started off at 0800 am to hike to the Wates-Gibson Hut, which lies 20 km up the valley. The trailhead is conveniently located right across the road from the HI hostel.

There had been heavy rain in the area in the weeks preceding our hike. From the trailhead to Astoria campground, at the 7km mark, the trail was in great shape however; just after the campground we crossed the Astoria River onto the Chrome Lake Trail. The path narrowed and became very muddy at this point. We could not complain though since the weather was great and there was no smoke

from forest fires. There is not much elevation gain on the trail but we were still thankful when the hut came into view around 4 pm. A large male grizzly had been making himself known at the Astoria end of the trail all summer. Old Grumpy Pants, as he was known by the locals, was reportedly not giving up the trail to hikers. Fortunately, we did not see him on any of our hikes but others in the hut who had hiked in from the Portal Creek trailhead had some good stories to tell about meeting him along the way.



On Tuesday we decided to hike up the Eremite Valley. The weather was cloudy and it was a bit cool but no rain, so again no complaints. The Eremite Valley is a one way in, one way out hike, which gives jaw-dropping views of several glaciers. There are also several large glacial moraines in the area that were deposited after the Little Ice Age in the 17th century. We made our way up the valley past Arrowhead Lake with the hike ending at the toe of the glacier at the south end of the valley. Despite the clouds most of the peaks were still in view so we enjoyed our hike into this highly modified postglacial terrain.

We awoke to a beautiful day on Wednesday with clear blue skies. It looked like a perfect day to head up towards



Amethyst Lake to see the Ramparts, a line of significant glacier covered peaks that the Tonquin area is known for. We stopped at Surprise Point, which is one of the major campsites in the area. There is a lot of grassy marshland near the lake here and we did see some mosquitoes. We had heard that in mid summer the bugs are just about unbearable in this area. Fortunately for us, Ron Dart had planned the hike later in August so the bugs were not bad at all. After leaving Surprise Point we hiked up the slopes of Mt Clitheroe to a huge open meadow area. The views from here of the Ramparts and Amethyst Lake were spectacular. Total distance hiked was 16 km, again with minimal elevation gain.

Thursday was another sunny day for our hike out of the Tonquin Valley. We had been hoping for sunshine all week to dry out the trail but we did get heavy rain on Tuesday night...so unfortunately more mud. The hike out was uneventful with no signs of Old Grumpy Pants. We arrived back at the HI Hostel where most of us spent the night again.

On Friday morning we took the Jasper Tram up and climbed Indian Ridge. We were quite amazed at how quickly you can leave the Jasper crowds behind with just a bit of hiking. We



had some clouds but the visibility was unlimited so we enjoyed views of all the surrounding mountains, including Mt. Robson in the distance. Friday night we enjoyed an excellent dinner in town and stayed in the brand-new Jasper HI Hostel. It is a great facility but bring earplugs as is right beside the railway track.

Saturday our group split up for the drive home. A few of us stopped off and enjoyed a hike up to the Conrad Cain hut in the Bugaboos. A great way to end a great trip.

Special thanks to Ron Dart from everyone who did the Tonquin Valley hike. Ron organized the entire trip and told us exactly where to go and what to see. As usual, his advice was spot on. Unfortunately, Ron was not able to join us for the hike.

Participants: Anne, Mary-Ann, Carolyn, Margaret, Lucy and **Dave B**

WHISTLER AREA HIKING: SEPT 25-27



This trip was originally intended to go into the new Kees and Clair ACC Hut at the beginning of the Spearhead Traverse behind the Whistler-Blackcomb ski area. Unfortunately, due to the Whistler lifts not operating mid-week, it was decided to turn this into a trip with some day hikes around the Whistler area. We will plan on doing the hut again in mid December once the ski lifts are operating to the top of Whistler Mountain.

We drove up to Whistler on Wednesday and checked into the HI Hostel at Function Junction. This hostel was originally built to house athletes for the 2010 Winter Olympic. Hostels International took over the building immediately after the Olympics. It is a great facility to have in the Whistler area; very clean, modern and quiet.



On Wednesday afternoon we did a short hike right behind the hostel called the Whistler Train Wreck Hike. It is one of Whistler's most unique spots and well worth seeing. There are seven old railway cars from a wreck in 1956 scattered across the valley floor. They are covered in graffiti artwork and have been used as a mountain bike park and horror movie set in the past. It is quite an easy hike so even if you have friends or family along that don't hike you can do it with them. It is only one km from the trailhead into the area where the wreck is located. If you haven't been here in a couple of years it is worth seeing again. The town of Whistler has developed a new trail and bridge to access the area so you don't have to hike along the railway track.



On Thursday morning the fog was forecast to lift so we decided to do the Iceberg Lake Trail. The trailhead is located about 4 km north of Whistler Village just off Hwy 99 on Mountain View Drive. The hike to Iceberg Lake takes you high into the alpine, following the scenic forested trail near 19 Mile Creek before arriving at a beautiful meadow in the foreground of Rainbow Glacier. The trail then ascends a boulder field to Iceberg Lake next to Rainbow Mountain

offering great views of the region. (Stats: 16 Km return, 900 m elevation gain.)

Friday morning was drizzly with snow showing on the ski runs about 500 meters above the valley floor. We decided to hike the short Ancient Cedar Trail, which is several kms north of the village. It was a wet hike but a good one for rainy day. (Stats 5 km return, 200 m elevation gain.)



We all enjoyed our short stay in Whistler. Judy and Dave really enjoyed the Pure Bread bakery.

Participants: Judy, Susan, Lucy, Cal and **Dave B**

MT BAKER RECREATION AREA HIKE. – OCT. 1

PTARMIGAN RIDGE/GOAT LAKE/ EAST PORTAL/COLEMAN PINNACLE

Fifteen COC members headed out to MT Baker for an outstanding hike on the first day of Oct. The views start before you even exit the car and continue all day. This was Barbara's first of hopefully many more hikes with the COC. The weather was good with rolling clouds. We broke into 2 groups at the parking lot as there is a limit of 12 for group hikes in the Baker area. We all met up again near beautiful Goat Lake. Down near the lake was a herd of mountain goats. Claudine and Scott who left Chilliwack 30 min before us headed down to the lake and got some wonderful pictures of the goats.

Four members of our group decided to have a long lunch break overlooking the bright green lake with MT Baker as the backdrop before heading back. The rest of us had to move on quickly so we could meet our goal for the day. We all met up again near Kaiser camp, which has glaciers on both sides. Four of our more ambitious members left quickly as they desired to summit the East Portal and the Coleman Pinnacle, which would take another hour. Microspikes were very beneficial for this last part of the hike. The East Portal summit is very small with dead-ending at a



precipice with sheer drops. The up-close views of MT Baker are outstanding. After enjoying a brief break at the Portal we headed back to Goat Lake. Upon arriving at Goat Lake we met up with our other group that were just coming down from summiting the Coleman Pinnacle. While enjoying a break overlooking Goat Lake, Robbin Y a long-time COC member strolled by heading towards the Portals for a sunset view. After a few hellos we all headed back to the cars. This was a wonderful outing with 3 groups and 3 different objectives.



Group Shot with MT Shuksan in the background; Lorna Farragher, Darren J, Barbara G, Terry Ashe Bergen, David Biehn, Anita Unrau, Peter Veillette, Grant A, Regina F, Manfred H, Christine C, Carol Ault, Judy Pasemko and Andrew D. Missing from photo the photographer **Cal F**.

GOLDEN LARCHES ON MT. FROSTY: OCT. 6

The weather looked promising and we left early knowing the trail would be very busy. Several KM into the hike we had microspikes on as the trail was slick in places. We all regrouped at the campground about 20 minutes before the Larches start. The night before there were 27 tents at the small rustic campground so, yes the trail was busy. After reaching the larches we strolled leisurely along the 2 km meadow enjoying the views, taking pictures and chatting.

We met many friends, long forgotten hiking buddies and numerous Chilliwack outdoor club members on the trail.

There was no breeze and the sun was out. We had a nice lunch break near the end of the meadow. Five of our group decided to go to the summit while the rest of us took another leisurely stroll back through the meadow before heading down to the vehicles at Lighting lake. All of us then met at the Manning park lodge for a wonderful entertaining supper before heading home.



Participants were Jan S, Peter V, Carolyn H, John L, Sylvia, Lorna F, Darren J, Tricia, Lonja, Oliver, Cal F, Tina V, Lori B, Grete H, and Lynn M.



- Cal F

VEDDER MT – OCT. 23

Wow! A whopping 17 COCers showed up for this familiar local hike. After a long week of rain, the sunshine was especially appreciated. Gary Baker wished me well, regretting that he could not come on his favorite hike. He asked me to later report back to him with our opinions on the work they did and whether we thought anymore was required. A big thank you to the group that did the trail maintenance and construction, including the 3 impressive sets of stairs!



Four four-wheel drives got us within minutes of the trailhead. Immediately as we set off at 9:30am, we got to walk on some of those new stairs. The first section of trail now has clear-cutting on the east side as well as the west. But enough of the forest has been preserved for the trail. In just over an hour we got to the first viewpoint overlooking the Vedder River & Sumas Mt.

From there it wasn't too much further to the pond where there was a third set of new stairs. The autumn leaves glittered gold in the still sunlit water and the ground was completely covered in a carpet of bright green moss. It was so peaceful and pretty. From the pond the trail led to a small lake with the longest boardwalk and then to a dark basin in the forest where there's a junction (with 2 new signs). This is where an old steep trail, coming from Majuba Hill meets with the main trail. Minutes from the junction a short bridge hugs the rocks and is followed by a short steep rope climb and then a second rope climb. There used to be a log with footholds there but it has been removed. Then we were up on the ridge where we had views of peaks to the far northeast and of Columbia Valley with Mt. Baker as a distant backdrop.



In 2¼ hours from the start we were at the summit. Lunch was a long leisurely affair, soaking up the sun and catching up on each other's lives. Heather treated us to a tune from her penny flute before we got cozy for a very large group shot.

On the way back, only about 7 minutes from the summit and before the rope descent, Case showed us a really nice off-trail wide-open viewpoint overlooking all of Sumas Prairie. Most of the older viewpoints are quite grown in so this was a real treat. It was only minutes from the trail.



By 3:00pm we were all back at the vehicles. Ten of us went to the Waves for goodies & gab afterwards. Thanks to the many who came out and made this a lovely day: Gary A, Claudine A, Terry B, Heather B, Maureen C, Christine C, Vic D, Cal F, Ingrid F, Manfred H, Steve K, Mary-anne L, Joe K, Judy P, Patrick R, + Case & **Joce T**

EATON LAKE: OCT 26

11km, 937m gain & 5 hours 32 min, car to car.



After a long stretch of dreary weather the forecast was 100% sun and 0% chance of precipitation. I opened my curtains Saturday morning excited and expecting the Sun. The excitement was short lived. The sky was overcast. Oh well, I was sure the sky will clear by the time today's hike starts. Well, we all started hiking in the lush green forest with a heavy layer of fog. The fog added to the hike, as it seemed



like this would be a good place to shoot a Hollywood Halloween movie. My imagination was running wild. The trail was in good condition and the roar of the river was constant. The waterfalls were full and raging. After a few hours of hiking, we started encountering snow on the trail and then of course it started snowing turning the hike into a winter wonderland. About a km before the lake we had to cross the notorious log jam but were pleasantly surprised by a nice new log bridge. Many thanks to the Hope Mountain centre for this crossing. Shortly after this crossing is another bridge that has been a bit sketchy for years. I was proud that all members on this hike worked as a great team in getting everyone safely across. A few minutes later we were at the lake. I was hoping for a long sun soaking relaxing lunch but was instead greeted with gusty winds and winter conditions.



The whisky jacks kept us entertained with their dive-bombing sandwich stealing attacks during our brief lunch break. Of course about halfway down the MT the sun came out. We all stopped at the Blue Moose cafe in Hope after the hike for a few well-deserved refreshments. Participants on this trip were Robert E, Mary-Anne L, Jocelyn T, Claudina A, Jan S, Lorna F, Darren J, Sylvia L, Tina W + **Cal F**

Masthead: Mt. Baker Skyline Trail

17 hikers set out for this adventure on a clear and sunny day. The road on the final km to the trailhead was very icy, but the four vehicles all had winter tires, all wheel drives and cautious drivers. The season for getting up to these upper trailheads is closing fast. The parking lot was like an ice rink. We put on micro spikes at the parking lot and kept them on for the whole hike.



After about an hour of hiking in the forest we were in the alpine. We then had spectacular 360-degree views for the rest of the hike. Hungry stomachs, views and sunshine stopped a few hikers from going up the final knoll. Thirteen of us went up the final very steep knoll. On the knoll looking south we had clear views of the ptarmigan ridge trail, the Coleman pinnacle, heliotrope glacier, black buttes, Colfax peak, the climbing route up baker and of course the famous roman wall. To the west we could clearly see the ocean. Sumas prairie, Abbotsford, Cheam range, Slesse, American and Canadian border peaks were very visible to the north. This would be an incredible place for a sunset hike (coming summer 2020?).



Congratulations to 76-Year-old Margaret who went to the end of this hike and did not hold anyone back. I am sure anyone would be extremely happy to be able to do this kind of hike at that age. After a long leisurely lunch we all headed back at a quick pace to the vehicles. Participants on this trip were Claudine A, Ling S, Irene H, Patrick R, Tina W, Margaret T, Glen R, Lori Y, Steve C, Sue A, Sonia J, Robbin Y, Carol A, Jocelyn T, and Terry B + **Regina & Cal F**

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

3 shovels	1 climbing dead man anchor
2 pairs of crampons	8 ice axes
2 avalanche transievers	1 avalanche probe
6 climbing harnesses & a few carbiners	5 ice screws
	contact Cal Francis to use: calfrancis@gmail.com

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

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	Jackie Chambers Ray Daws	raydio@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Irene Hofler 604-824-6741	ihofler@telus.net
Directors:	Johnny Grimm Manfred Harder	johnnygrimm@yahoo.ca mcharder75@gmail.com
	Cal Francis	calfrancis@gmail.com
	Margaret Tra	Margaret_tranah@hotmail.com
	Pat Ramsden	patrickr@shaw.ca
	Gary Baker 604-858-4928	garybaker@shaw.ca
Membership Secretary Secretary:	Tim & Bernie Yochim Harry Waldron	timothyochim@gmail.com harrywaldron@hotmail.com
Club Trip Email	For trips and announcements to be forwarded to all members:	chilliwackoutdoorclub@googlegroups.com Note: also you can post in Facebook: Chilliwack Outdoor Club Group
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