

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

TRIP REPORTS

CHAIN LAKES LOOP HIKE MT BAKER
RECREATION AREA - NOV. 2

The weather forecast was perfect. I jumped at the opportunity to go back to MT Baker one last time before winter and the avalanche danger kicked in. Seven of us started the hike in sunny skies. About 5 minutes into the hike the micro spikes were on and stayed on for most of the hike. There was lots of frozen ice and snow on the trail.



We went up the very steep Wild goose trail to the closed Artist point parking lot. About halfway around Table MT we stopped for what I thought would be a short break. The sun

had warmed up the rocks and it felt like we were on a warm beach in Mexico. No one wanted to leave. Two members eventually said that they were not leaving and planned to soak in the rays and views and take an extra long lunch before heading back to the parking lot. We said goodbyes and the five remaining hikers carried on.



An hour later we rounded the corner and came upon the half frozen iceberg lake, which was in the shade. We decided to continue on to Hayes Lake in the hope it would be in the sun. Fortunately for us it was in the sun so we had lunch break number two. After another nice long lunch we knew we had to get going so off we went and hiked up to the top of the Herman saddle for another sunny break. After taking in the breathtaking views of MT Baker, Iceberg Lake, MT Shuksan and the surrounding area we headed downhill at a quick pace to the parking lot. Participants were **Cal F**, Jessica F, Regina F, Peter F, Don F, Ingrid and Ingrid's sister.

HOPE MT – NOV. 6

Thirteen Chilliwack Outdoor Club members headed out to MT Hope for this 10.5 km and 950 m cumulative gain hike in sunny skies. Many thanks to the Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning for clearing the overgrown brush from the

road making this hike possible without pin-striping your vehicle. The road was in good shape and we drove over a few icy sections with no problems. Most of us put on micro spikes at the trailhead and kept them on for the whole hike. The trail had snow but no more than 6 inches.

The first few kilometers of the hike were in the shade, making this area of the hike frozen. We encountered lots of ice, icicles, leaves frozen in the clear ice and very large areas of crystallized snow. We eventually worked our way to the sunny south side of the mountain where we stopped at a nice large rock overlook to take in some rays and views. After a short break, I mentioned it was time to go and put my pack on. Thankfully there was no revolt, but I am sure some considered it. I guess everyone still had the same goal of reaching the summit.



The trail to the summit was very steep in places and we lost the track briefly in the snow at times but we knew it was basically just up. Before the hike, I was concerned that a short rocky section just before the summit may have ice on it. I was very happy when I arrived at this section and was able to knock off the bit of ice that was there, making the trail passable.



All thirteen members made it to the summit and the 360-degree views. The views up top were outstanding and no one was in a rush to leave. It was nice that we were able to take our time on the summit for lunch. At this time of the year, we do not usually have the warmth of the sun or enough time left in the day for a long summit lunch. After an awesome group photo by Jocelyn we headed back to the cars at a quick pace. In Hope, the whole group stopped at the Blue Moose Cafe and in a strange occurrence every single person ordered a bowl of soup, it's like we became an extended family.

Participants were Johnny G, Claudine A, Robbin Y, Tina W, Christine C, **Cal F**, Carol A, Sonia J, Darren J, Jocelyn T, Ingrid F, Heather B, Terry B.

HELIOTROPE RIDGE MT BAKER – NOV. 14



9.75 km and 907 MR

It is rare that we can get vehicles up to the trailhead at this time of the year, but I saw a recent trip report that said the road was good. I thought I may have one; maybe two vehicles go on this mid week hike. Much to my surprise within a couple hours of posting this hike I had 14 sign up. Before I was able to send out an email indicating the hike was full, I had 19 signed up. I am sorry I was unable to



accommodate any more. I am sure we could have filled a bus. On some hikes I can accommodate everyone, but on many hikes there has to be a size limit. Hopefully we will start getting more members posting hikes so we will be able to please everyone. MT Baker area actually has a rule that you are not allowed to hike in a group larger than 12 people.



This ended up being another great hike. After about three and a half km of walking up a nice grade through the forest you turn left at a junction. Shortly after the junction there are a couple creek crossings that can be fast and deep flowing. We were fortunate that the flow was low and the creeks mostly frozen. Microspikes are a wonderful piece of kit that we all carry at this time of the year. After crossing Heliotrope creek it was a short walk to Heliotrope Ridge adjacent to the Coleman Glacier's lateral moraine with MT Baker rising above. The views for the rest of the hike are now spectacular. Here the glacier is a jumble of seracs (giant chunks of ice cleaving and tumbling in the slow progression of the glacier) We hiked up and along the steep ridge for another km. We eventually stopped a few meters from the edge of the glacier for lunch and a group photo. The weather was great and we were all able to enjoy a long lunch with

great views. Hiking with such a large group can sometimes be challenging but everyone on this hike was gracious. Special thanks to Johnny G for being the sweep.



Participants on this hike were: David B, Johnny G, Katie C, Carol A, Margaret T, Christine C, Ingrid F, Claudine A, Steve C, Jan S, Janice H, Tammy W, Sue A, Irene H, Sonia J, Heather B, Anne O, Lori Y, and **Cal F**.

CHURCH MT IN THE MT BAKER RECREATION - NOV 20

14.42 km, 1114m elevation gain, 6 hours 35 min car to car. What a treat. I never thought I would be hiking in this area so late in the season. This hike has serious avalanche risks but with only about a foot of snow starting in the meadow there was no risk. There is a creek to cross on the drive up to the trailhead. David's tires in his Honda CRV were spinning in the air a bit but after reversing and adjusting his driving line he was able to cross without any assistance. The two higher clearance vehicles crossed with no issues. Other than the one creek crossing the road is in excellent condition.





COC members on this hike were, Carol A, Claudine A, David B, Ingrid F, Mary-Anne L, Victor D, Steve C, Allen C, Johnny G, Sonia J, Sue A, Terry B Irene H and **Cal F**.

The first 5 km of the hike are on a nicely graded trail of 17 switchbacks through the forest. Upon leaving the forest we entered a winter wonderland meadow and the views opened up. We all stopped in the meadow beside a wonderful creek for a nice long break. After putting on microspikes, we took our time taking pictures while enjoying the views going up the side of the mountain. The last 50 m of elevation gain to the summit is aided by two cable assists and is very steep. We ditched the hiking poles here and with good teamwork everyone made it to the summit.

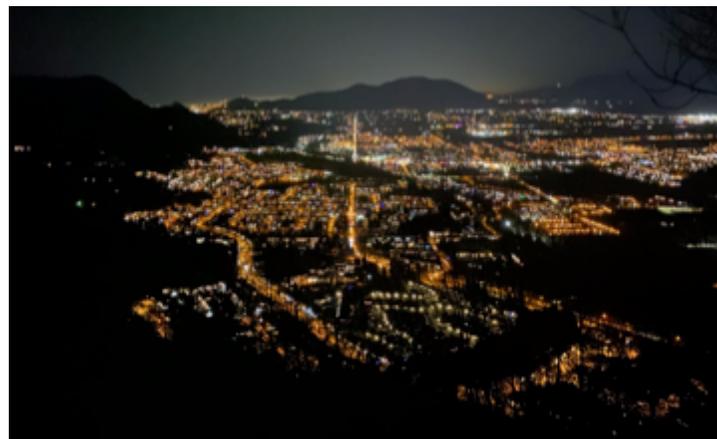
MT. THOM – NOV. 21



30 Members of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club went up MT Tom from Sylvan drive Nov 21 2019. This is a great trail that the city of Chilliwack maintains. It is a wonderful trail for getting into shape at only 6.7 KM return and 340 MR of elevation. What a great turnout for this night hike. Lots of participants wore Christmas lights for this short adventure. The summit was so crowded I was unable to get everyone into the picture. If you have never hiked in the dark before this would be an excellent trail to practice on. The Chilliwack Outdoor club usually goes to Windy Joe in Manning Park, First Pump on Seymour and Elfin lakes near Squamish every winter for a night snowshoe.



The views at the summit were extensive and 360 degrees. There was no cloud, haze or fog in the distance. We all enjoyed a long lunch basking in the sun. Sadly, one by one we started the descent back down to the meadow where we all met up again for a short break. After the break we entered the forest and removed our micro-spikes and gaiters. My legs were cooking with the gaiters on and it felt so good to take them off. We all then headed down the 17 switchbacks at a quick pace arriving at the cars around 3:30pm. Most of us stopped at Boston Pizza in Abbotsford after the hike for dinner. All in all it was a wonderful day to get outside no matter what local mountain you were climbing.



Thanks to **Christine C** for organizing this, and hopefully many more MT Tom night hikes.



Eight members of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club hiked Sendero Diez Vistas hike at Buntzen Lake Thursday 28th Nov. 14.7 KM and 567 MR elevation gain. Where do you hike on a cold windy day during the shoulder season? Buntzen Lake of course. The hike is almost all in the trees and sheltered. The sun was out and the wind was negligible. This ended up being a perfect hike for this day. The sky was clear and the views were superb.



The first views were Sasamat Lake and Belcarra Regional Park with Burnaby and Vancouver off in the distance. The second viewpoint overlooks Buntzen Lake and the beach area. Our lunch spot had the best view and overlooks much of Indian Arm with a clear view of Deep Cove directly ahead and downtown Vancouver off to the left in the distance. On the other side of Indian Arm, towering high above the water are the three visible peaks of Mount Seymour, which we hope to Snowshoe this winter. After a long leisurely lunch soaking in the rays and views we slowly got going as we had a timeline to finish this loop hike. We made it back to the cars with 45 minutes to spare and left the park at 4:15 pm, 15 min before the gate is locked for the night.



Along for this journey were Steve C, Terry B, Irene H, Lori Y, Ingrid F, Case T and Claudine A.



by Cal F



Design made with snowshoes by snow artist, Simon Beck.

Masthead: Hope Mt.

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	13 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

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