

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

TRIP REPORTS

LYNN LOOP - FEB. 1

16.5 km, 500 m elevation



The weekend weather in the Fraser Valley seemed terrible with torrential rain in the valley and high avalanche risk and tons of snow in the mountains. Al and I had been exploring urban hikes in Vancouver area when this happens. So, we thought we would invite people along with us this time. Turns

out that power was out in many places, streets were flooding in East Fraser and even the road to Hemlock washed out, it was actually sunny in Vancouver.

Ten of us went to explore the Lynn Link Loop trail. North Vancouver has so many great trails with beautiful creeks, forested sections and parks that you almost forget you are in the city. We started the loop at Inter Rivers Park. At first you are walking on short trails and quiet neighbourhood roads. Once you get to Princess Park the forest section begins for real. We used to live in Lynn Valley when our son was young, so we often had his birthday parties at Princess Park. The trails have really improved since then with better signs and bridges. From there the trailheads up to join the Baden Powell trail, which is shared with cyclists. There are very interesting names for all the steep downhill trails which don't really encourage me to take up mountain biking! The Big Stupid, The Crippler, Espresso were a few that stood out for me. Eventually you come out at Upper Lynn Headwaters park where there is a great café called The End of the Line. We had lunch there before heading into Lynn Canyon Park. The water in Lynn Creek was the highest I have ever seen it. Unfortunately, the Suspension bridge is being repaired so we could not walk across it. However, the bridge below it had a very spectacular roaring waterfall cascading down, shooting out spray high into the air. Soon enough we were back at the cars and heading home.

For a look at the map and some photos, click on this link <https://www.relive.cc/view/v26M8DgnyEO>

Al ran out of power so the loop on the map did not finish. It was a 16.5 km loop that started and ended at Inter Rivers park. Thanks Lisa S., Carolyn H, Lynn B, Len and Miriam S, Don F, Lonya, Marlene for coming with us. **Al & Sue**



Lonja, Robyn and Lynn went out for a peaceful snowshoe around Lightening Lakes.



The weather cooperated and not another was soul present. Had a relaxing lunch, took some photos and some wonderful conversations. Headed back for the journey to civilization.



Thanks for a great day ! -Lynn M

This snowshoe hike will likely go into the record book as having the biggest group to start out on any club winter event. Twenty-eight club members and 8 guests from Mission, Abbotsford, Agassiz, Surrey, Burnaby and Chilliwack arrived to an overflowing parking lot at Manning Park Ski Resort. The word was out; it was a 'POWDER DAY' as over 30 cm of feather light snow had fallen overnight and 100 cm during the previous 4 days. Five club members had pre-set the track the previous Monday, but there was no hope of finding any sign of it. We would have to set a new track in knee (and sometimes thigh or hip) deep snow. It was going to be a 'grunt', particularly climbing up from the meadows to the Poland Lake summer access trail.

To conserve our trail setters from complete exhaustion, we instituted a strategy, take 25 steps and step aside. This worked reasonably well crossing the flat marshes. On the climb, it was more like 10 steps, step aside for most of the trail setters. With a group this big, there were bound to be equipment problems, and there were, and of course a wide range of abilities and fitness. We had strong, experienced individually, we had experienced but slower folks, and everything in between. This was one person's first time on snowshoes. She remarked that I 'had grilled her' to be convinced she would be up to the task; she definitely was. Any doubts that I might have had about how this group would work together were totally unfounded. Folks you were great!

The weather was all over the place: heavy snow, low clouds hung at tree top level, sunny periods (an unexpected bonus), cold winds (at the lake). Overall the weather was great.

I think it fair to say that most of the group were gob smacked by the beauty of the meadows, the penetrating silence (yes silence can penetrate) the somber moods of the forest, and the sense of joy that explodes through the trees as the sun breaks through and reflects off the snow..... Sublime! Interesting, I don't recall seeing or hearing a single bird or critter. Where were the Whiskey Jacks?

Crossing the three lakes/marshes was slow going but at greyhound speed compared to the progress on the 'big climb'. The folks who rotated through the first 2 or 3 positions at the front were figuratively killing themselves. It's hard to visualize how hard it is to lift a boot and snowshoe 8 cm up and 15 cm forward when 50-60+cms of snow (even powder snow) has collapsed around your legs. This climb up through the forest is a route finding puzzle. The goal was obviously go up while, at the same time, avoiding steep creek ravines to the west and east sides of the desired



best route. The plan/hope was to access the summer trail as far to the west as possible. Why? To do otherwise increases the amount of climbing and lengthens the final trek into the lake. While the trail breakers were deciding to go left or right around a fallen tree or whether to climb up a steep knoll or switchback around it, those behind likely were wondering what the blazes was happening in front. As the doubts likely were amplifying, 'voila' the lead hikers stepped onto the 'set' summer trail. I had been in talks with an Abby meetup hiking group that had hiked to the lake from the



chairlift the day before. Thanks guys for pushing through to the lake; it must have been tough going.

Once on the summer trail, we were at the lake in a matter of minutes. The Poland Lake sign that had been visible several feet above the snow when we were there only 5 days prior was buried, detectable by a raised mound of snow. I dug it out for a laugh!

From the sign, it is about 100 m up a steep pitch to the lake. As we were pushing our designated turnaround time, the decision was to stop there for our lunch break. We could see that the Friday hikers had not attempted to push through to the cabin, no visible tracks. Randy did venture out onto the lake but made a strategic retreat because the snow was surprisingly deep, making for very slow going.

,As we settled down to enjoy our lunch, a wintery wind began to swirl around us, just strong enough to cause a chill and prompt folks to seek shelter and to head back. Randy was the first to head off at my request to do a little trail clearing. On the 'recon' hike, we encountered a small tree blocking the trail, so I had carried a saw with me this time to cut it out. Mission accomplished, thanks Randy.

As is off the case, the group stretched out on the return trek to the vehicles; the stronger, faster, those more comfortable descending and those with the best smell (the proverbial barn) were off at a brisk clip. The slower, perhaps more tired, more cautious descenders moved at a pace better suited for them.

Several of the hikers, moi included elected to stay back to accompany these folks. My safety rule: Have a minimum of three hikers together at the back if possible. It's always possible, it's a conscious choice!

It's amazing how packed down a snowshoe track becomes after 36X2 sets of snowshoes have tromped over it.

Once back on the ski hill, the entire group bunched up prior to the descent to the cars - at least momentarily before half the group made a dash to the washrooms and their cars at one end of the parking area, and the other half of the group headed to the far and lower parking areas.

As is a custom many of the group, including most of the new comers and guests, headed to the Blue Moose – a fitting end to a wonderful day on the snow, in the forest, in the mountains. To all who were along, thank you all for being part of a fun day!

- Gary Baker

SKAGIT RIVER SNOWSHOE – FEB. 12

9 club members, 9.8 km return, 218m elevation gain



8 club members joined our leader, Margaret T, for a beautiful snowshoe on the Skagit River on a brilliantly sunny day. Getting over the hill of snow behind our vehicles, that had been pushed there by the snowplow clearing the parking area, turned out to be the biggest challenge of our day.



The trail was well packed and easy to follow. The snow was very crunchy, making it hard to have conversations, so we stopped several times to chit chat and take photos. We also stopped to check out the old truck, the mine and admire the falls. The old cabin had snow so high that we couldn't get a close look, but the icicles hanging off it and the falls area were very impressive.



We stopped at Delacey camp for lunch. The warmth of the sun and sound of the river beside us, made it difficult to leave the lunch spot.

It was a quicker trip back since we had made all our stops on the way to the camp. We got back early enough to have time to enjoy a drink at the Blue Moose.

Along on the trip was **Margaret T**, Anne O, Robin Y, **Bernadette Y**, **Tim Y**, Ingrid F, Annette L, Claudine A , and a new member on her first outing with the club, Michelle M.

TRANS CANADA TRAIL/ RADIUM LAKE BRIDGE – FEB. 19

12 members, just over 10 km, 320m elevation gain.

Twelve members enjoyed a day of sunshine, after a short drive to Chilliwack Lake. The snow through the campground was fairly deep and surprisingly there wasn't a packed trail. Some members chose to just wear their micro spikes so they wouldn't have to carry their snowshoes. Those of us that did wear snowshoes, took them off when we got to the bridge. The trail was dry with some snowy, icy sections all the



way to the lower edge of the river. We stopped there to admire the view before we started climbing. The snow got deeper as we climbed. We wished we could change from spikes to snowshoes at the snap of a finger. It was a trail that was packed in parts and deep snow in others. As we crossed the many creeks, our spikes got wet, making the snow stick to them, so that sometimes we felt we were hiking in high heels.

We got close enough to see the cable suspension bridge, but could not see a good way to get to it, so we opted to



have our lunch in a sunny spot, close to it. There was plenty of snow on the trees in that area and the day was warming up, so chunks of snow and ice were landing on our heads and in our lunches.

The way back was mostly downhill, so we made it back quickly. With just a short drive home, some of us had time for a drink at Waves.

Along for the trip with leaders **Bernadette and Tim Y**, were Margaret T, Jackie C, Anne O, Robbin Y, Ingrid F, Ted S, Steve C, Gary A, Gary B and Sue A.

ZOA PEAK SNOWSHOE - FEB. 25

I hadn't been up there for several years, so it was time! The announcement went out, and the replies first in a burst and then in a steady trickle added up to a group of thirteen (Annette LeB., Jayne F., Margaret T., Steve C., Mark S., Don F., Anne O'L., Claudine A., Ingrid F., Ling L., Michelle M., Mary Anne G. and moi) a very manageable number (see Poland Lake report...also just manageable).

The weather looked OK, but there were concerns about the road and snow conditions as there had been a huge 'dump' of snow over the previous 24hrs. The road was mostly bare pavement until we reach the Yak rest area, and it was well cleared after that. So far so good. I had chosen to go on the Tuesday in the expectation that the weekend crowd would have left a well-trodden route to the summit. Would that track be buried? Thankfully, it was not!



We were the first vehicles at the Falls Lake parking area and, as it turned out, we were to be the only hikers on the mountain that day. The first 'grunt' on this route is the steep pitch from the Falls Lake Trail up the start of the pipeline cut. Once past this section it is a long steady, moderate grade up to the access point into the forest. The usual summer access point had seen no use (and required a steep climb through deep unbroken snow; so we proceeded to a well used secondary trail further up the pipeline cut. This trail meandered upwards, eventually connecting with the main trail.

As we reached the sub alpine meadows, the snow draped trees stood as welcoming sentinels, and we were presented with wonderful views to the north and east. Three hours of hiking and we were at the "false summit" (which we rarely go past). But the weather was changing. A light but cold wind was starting to blow, and the cloud cover was definitely descending.



Coming down across the open alpine meadows of Zoa is one of my favorite places, particularly when there is a blanket of deep, fresh powder...perfect for bounding out of the trail (actually easier on the knees), kicking up snow, for making snow angels, and doing the Cal' 'flop' (see Claudine's photos posted to the club Facebook photo page). Including playtime to indulge our inner child, we were down in 90 minutes. Of course the day was not over, and as this was Michelle's first hike with the club there was the usual stop at the Blue Moose. It was a GOOD DAY!!!!

P.S. This was the first unveiling of the new club flag on a club event. How cool!

- Gary Baker

Masthead: Poland Lake

THE COC HAS PURCHASED 2 BANNERS AND 5 FLAGS.



These items have our Logo on them. Many thanks to club members Robbin Y for designing the logo and Jocelyn T for providing the photo. The photo shows Welch peak and The Still. These items will be displayed at the entrance to the classroom for our COC monthly meetings, FMBC meetings, Christmas party, Summer BBQ, Snowshoe clinic and various booths and events the club attends. The club president will store the two banners and one flag. Trail Maintenance will also keep a flag. The other 3 flags will be encouraged to be signed out by members. We are hoping the flags will be used in group shots of COC events. They are very durable and light-weight.



- Cal F

TRIP: SS INTO KEES & CLAIRE HUT, WHISTLER AREA
DATE: MARCH-APRIL 2020, TBA VIA CLUB EMAIL
LEADER: SUE LAWRENCE @ GWELU@TELUS.NET & AL SMITH @ HIKETHEPEAK@GMAIL.COM
PEOPLE: 6 PERSON LIMIT

TRIP: SS/SKING MT BAKER AREA, STAY IN AIR B&B
DATE: APRIL 24-25-26 2020
LEADER: IRENE HOFER @ IHOFER@TELUS.NET
PEOPLE: 3 QUEEN SIZE BEDS & 2 SINGLE BEDS

TRIP: SS/SKING AT LAKE LOUISE & LAKE OHARA , YOHO NP, STAY AT HUT/HOSTEL
DATE: APRIL 04-12 2020
LEADER: RON DART @ RDART@SHAW.CA & DAVE BIEHN @ DAVE.BIEHN@GMAIL.COM
PEOPLE: 8 PERSON LIMIT

TRIP: CHURN LAKE PROTECTED AREA RECI, CHILCOTIN AREA, CAR CAMP
DATE: JUNE 8-9 2020
LEADER: JUDY PASEMKO @ JUDYPASEMKO@SHAW.CA
PEOPLE: ANY AMOUNT

TRIP: SOUTH SIDE OF MT BAKER, WASH., 2 DAY BP AND 2 DAYS DAY HIKE, CAR CAMPING
DATE: JUNE 18-19-20-21 2020
LEADER: CHRISTINE CAMILLERI @ 4CHRISTINECAMILLERI@GMAIL.COM
PEOPLE: 8 PERSON LIMIT

JUNE 22 IS THE COC ANNUAL BARBECUE PICNIC

TRIP: KAYAK NUCHALTZ/GOLD RIVER ON NORTHWEST VANCOUVER ISLAND
DATE: JUNE 24 – JULY 03 2020
LEADER DAVE BIEHN @ DAVEBIEHN@GMAIL.COM
PEOPLE: 8 PERSON LIMIT

TRIP: TWIN LAKES AREA @ MT BAKER WASH, DAY HIKING (CAR CAMPING)
DATE: JULY 30 – AUGUST 01 2020
LEADER: CHRISTINE CAMILLERI @ CHRISTINECAMILLERI@GMAIL.COM
PEOPLE: 6-8 PERSON LIMIT

TRIP: CDN GLACIER NP, BUGABOO PP & YOHO NP, CAR CAMP, DAY HIKE AND 1 3 DAY BP
DATE: JULY 4-18 2020, CHOOSE EITHER OR BOTH WEEKS
LEADER: CHRISTINE CAMILLERI @ CHRISTINECAMILLERI@GMAIL.COM & GRANT ACHESON @ ACHESONGRANT9@GMAIL.COM
PEOPLE: 8 PERSON LIMIT

TRIP: ICEFIELD HIGHWAY, BANFF & JASPER NP, DAY HIKING, CAR CAMP & HOSTEL
DATE: JULY 18 – 24 2020
LEADER: RON DART @ RDART@SHAW.CA & DAVE BIEHN @ DAVE.BIEHN@GMAIL.COM
PEOPLE: 12 PERSON LIMIT

TRIP: WHEELER HUT @ ROGERS PASS, DAY HIKE STAY IN HUT & CAMPGROUND
DATE: JULY 25 – 31
LEADER: JUDY PASEMKO @ JUDYPASEMKO@SHAW.CA
PEOPLE: 12 PERSON LIMIT, 8 IN THE HUT AND 4 IN THE CAMPGROUND

TRIP: FROSTY PK MANNING PARK, BP TO PCT CAMPSITE, DAY HIKE TO FROSTY, THEN BP OUT, TENTING 2 NIGHTS
DATE: AUGUST 1-3 2020
LEADER: TERY BERGEN @ TERRYBERGEN@SHAW.CA
PEOPLE: 12 PERSON LIMIT

TRIP: BACKPACKING IN THE CHILCOTIN PROVINCIAL PARK
DATE: AUGUST 10-17 2020
LEADER: JOCE TIMMERMAN @ JOCELYNTIMMERMANS@HOTMAIL.COM & DAVE WALTON @ KELLY.WALTON@ZAYAC.ORG
PEOPLE: 10 PERSON LIMIT

TRIP: HIKE INTO THE KEES & CLAIRE HUT IN THE WHISTLER AREA
DATE: AUGUST ?????????????? 2020
LEADER: RON DART @ RDART@SHAW.CA
PEOPLE: 8 PERSON LIMIT

TRIP: SHADOW LAKE LODGE, BANFF NP, DAY HIKE, SCRAMBLE, BIKE IN
DATE: AUGUST ?????????????????????? 2020
LEADER: RON DART @ RDART@SHAW.CA
PEOPLE: 8 PERSON LIMIT

**TRIP: BACKPACK BRAZEAU LAKE LOOP, JASPER
NP
DATE: AUGUST 29 – SEPT 06 2020
LEADER: SUE LAWRENCE @ GWELU@TELUS.NET &
AL SMITH @ HIKETHEPEAK@GMAIL.COM
PEOPLE: 8 PERSON LIMIT**

**TRIP: DAY HIKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MT
BAKER ALONG HWY 20 TO THE NORTH CASCADES
NP
DATE: 3/5 DAYS AT A TIME IN AUGUST –
SEPTEMBER 2020 AND BEYOND
LEADER: CAL FRANCIS @
CALFRANCIS@GMAIL.COM
PEOPLE: 12 PERSON LIMIT**

**TRIP: CHURN LAKE PROTECTED AREA,
CHILCOTIN AREA OF B.C.
DATE: SEPTEMBER 17-18-19-20 2020
LEADER: JUDY PASEMKO @
JUDYPASEMKO@SHAW.CA
PEOPLE: 8 PERSON LIMIT**

**TRIP: UTAH – ZION NP, BRYCE CANYON NP,
VERMILLON CLIFFS NM ETC ETC, CAR CAMPING
AND DAY HIKING
DATE: OCTOBER 12 – 31 2020
LEADER: DAVE BIEHN @
DAVE.BIEHN@GMAIL.COM**

**TRIP: THE ISLAND OF MAUI & HALEAKALA NP
HAWAII, DAY HIKE, STAY AT HOSTEL OR AIR B&B
DATE: NOVEMBER 13 – 26 2020
LEADER: JOHN MCLELLAN @
JHMCLELLAN@SHAW.CA
PEOPLE: 8 PERSON LIMIT**

**TRIP: DAY HIKING IN PATAGONIA
ARGENTINA/CHILE IN SOUTH AMERICA
DATE: JANUARY 23 – FEBRUARY 15 2021
LEADER: CAL FRANCIS @
CALFRANCIS@GMAIL.COM
PEOPLE: 12 PERSON LIMIT**

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

CLUB CONTACTS

Position	Name	E-mail
President + FMCBC Rep	Ken Orr 604-858-0813	orrke@shaw.ca
Vice President Presentations & speakers	Grant Acheson	achesongrant@gmail.com
Secretary	Jackie Chambers	
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 Tranah	Margaret_tranah@hotmail.com
	Pat Ramsden	patrickr@shaw.ca
	Gary Baker 604-858-4928	garybaker@shaw.ca
Membership Secretary	Tim & Bernie Yochim	timothyochim@gmail.com
Secretary:	Harry Waldron	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
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