

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

TRIP REPORTS

PALM SPRINGS TRIP – FEB. 1 – 12



Our original plan was to go to Palm Springs for 5 days and then carry on to Arizona to check out the Tucson area and the Superstitious Mts. But as it turned out, once there we realized how much there was to do in Palm Springs so everyone stayed 2 weeks except for me & Case. We left after 9 days and spent another week scouting out Tucson & Superstitious Mts. for next year's trip.

Our group of 8 were not the only COCers at the campsite. There was another group of 10 just a few sites away from us in the Oasis Palm RV Resort in Thermal. This is a small town 33 miles southeast of Palm Springs and 9.5 miles north of the Salton Sea. It was quite the gathering. Dave Walton, a former member of our club guided us on a few hikes. He lives there 3 months of the year.

HIKE 1: FEB. 5 – ART HILL TRAIL

This trail was on the west side of the oblong valley of Palm Springs. What a stark contrast the lush green golf course was to the dry barren landscape as we rose above the city.

But the thick pale green leaves of the Agave plants and stick-red blooms of the Chuparosa bush and the red spikes of the fat Barrel Cactus lent some color. At about 5 km we arrived at the oasis where date palms grew in a cluster in a dry ravine, rising high to the sky.



There we turned back, our bodies still adjusting to the heat (15C). Johnny & Coulette spotted some Mountain Goats near the parking lot.



Stats: 10.4 km / 470m gain / 3:15 hours MT (moving time)

Participants: Dave B, Terry B, Irene H, Case & Joce T + Dave W

Back at camp we got into the habit of happy hour, dinner, hot tub or swim, play games at Johnny's or movies at Dave's or poker in the campsite's communal room.

HIKE 2: FEB. 6 – THE PAINTED CANYON HIKE



What made this hike challenging and fun? The ladders and the ropes. Hind sight, we should've done the loop clockwise. But other than some scrapes and bruises, we all came out in one piece.

As we walked in the box canyon, high limestone walls surrounded us on both sides. A few massive chunks of rock had broken off of the walls. We almost walked past a large arrow on the ground made of smaller stones. From there it was a scramble of ladders and boulders. It was great teamwork, handing each other backpacks or a helping hand. A few of the ladders were not so stable so one of us would hold it while the other climbed it.



At the end of the canyon the trail rose up and out, onto a ridge where we could see the Salton Sea. We walked up to a large stone cairn where we had lunch. From there there were several trails to choose from. But we backtracked a bit and then turned right, and went down into another canyon.



As we approached the first rope, we carefully peered over the edge but couldn't even see the wall. It went straight down for 20 feet! We agreed we were not going to do that and we're turning back when Case lumbered up to the opening, took a look over and threw his hiking poles down. There was a moment of stunned silence when all at once we



asked him in frustration, “What did you do that for???” Turns out, at the end of the day we were glad he did it.

We all ended up following him down. It was not easy, as the last 8’ had no footholds and the rope knots were too far apart. From there there were more ropes but shorter although some still needed careful negotiating and

angling. As did the canyon itself as it got more and more narrow. At one point we had to squeeze through sideways without our packs on.



Wind and water had shaped these canyons, the swirls and holes and cracks and breaks giving testimony to the flash floods and forces of nature.

Stats: 9.5 km /
245m gain /
2:45 hours MT

Participants:
Dave B, Johnny
G, Irene &
Simon H +
Case & Joce T

HIKE 3: FEB. 7 – PALM SPRINGS ARIAL TRAM

Four of us took the tram up to 8516’, which brought us into a forest of huge Ponderosa pine trees. After talking to the ranger at the station close to the tram, we started hiking on the Round Valley Loop trail. The plan was to hike it to the ranger cabin. But we got about ¾ way there when we hit a

very icy section of trail. Irene & Simon turned back but we stubbornly kept going, picking our steps beside the trail. Lesson to be learned: even in Palm Springs you need micro-spikes!



We didn’t get too much farther when a man approached from the opposite direction. He was only wearing sneakers. When he told us we were ¾ we decided to turn back too.



As we neared the ranger cabin we veered off trail a bit to inspect this massive rock higher up. We could not safely climb it but we saw a very gnarled pine tree and the back of the rock was alive with orange and yellow color and round pockets in the rock face. Just before getting back to the tram we ran into Irene who’d been basking in the sun with Simon on a big flat rock. Irene & I went on to hike the 1.5-mile



Lookout trail by the tram. This proved to offer the best views yet, the second pump being the best. It overlooked the Palm Springs valley below and rows of mountain ranges on the horizon. Back at the tram we watched the sunset cast a pointed shadow of the mountain below a full moon in a pink & blue sky.



Stats: 10 km / 380m gain

Participants: Irene & Simon + Joce & Case

Feb. 8 – Terry, Coulette, Case & I went to the [Living Desert Zoo & Gardens](#). It was well worth it. Half the park featured wildlife from Africa and the other half from North America. As we were entering it, I recognized the man we'd passed on the icy trail the day before. His arm was heavily wrapped up. He said he had fallen on the trail shortly after we'd talked to him and had to get first aid!

The rest of the group went cycling.

HIKE 4: FEB. 9 – WHITEWATER PRESERVE

The mountains of the Sand & Snow National Monument surround this preserve. Part of the trail was on the PCT! A sign at a junction read: "Northern Canada: 2444.9 km ". We crossed over a 'bridge' on Mission Creek very carefully. It was actually just a narrow wet log. After crossing the broad

boulder strewn wash, we got back onto a trail. But soon Dave W led us off of it onto a fainter trail where we saw two jackrabbits.



We climbed onto a knoll for lunch and then dropped down, turned left to pick our way across and back to the wash. Eventually we hooked up with the PCT again. Back at the trailhead we checked out the visitor center. There was a very green wading pool there, pretty stone restrooms and white eucalyptus trees.



Stats: 17.2 km / 455m gain / 4.5 hours MT



Participants: Terry, Dave B, Case & Joce + Dave W



This day we spent checking out the visitor center and what remains of the Bombay Beach Resort + Slab City built in the 1950s along the Salton Sea. This is called the “accidental sea” because diverting floodwaters of the Colorado in 1905 unintentionally created it. It is California's largest lake, at 35 miles long, 15 miles wide and 235' below sea level. It has no outlet to the ocean. Water is lost by evaporation and percolation into the ground. This sea is 50% saltier than the ocean.



Some amazing life-size pieces of art were created from junk by the few residents in Bombay Beach. In the 1950s the Salton Sea had become a popular resort area. Yacht clubs, marinas and golf courses attracted celebrities but by the 1970s recurring floods had marred the dream of a desert Eden.

HIKE 5: FEB. 11 – THE GROTTOS



We wouldn't have found the trailhead to this one if it wasn't for Dave talking to some local residents the day before. The sign that the “140 Hikes in Palm Springs” book mentions is no longer there. And there are many pullouts. What distinguished this one were the 3 big boulders and the tree.

First we had to do a 20-minute climb up to the ridge where there was a memorial plaque for Hank Koenig 1936–2008, who was co-author of the “104 Hikes in Palm Springs” book. The Salton Sea glimmered in the distance. Then we went down into the canyon where upon hitting the bottom of it, we crossed a wash, following 4' high iron poles. Dave had brought the book along. We had to refer back to it to figure out which side canyon to enter.



One wouldn't think by looking at the wall at the end of the box canyon that that would be the way to go. We had to climb onto a boulder that was higher than our bodies, and then into a hole, up a ladder and through a thin crack. Then it was time to click on our headlights. We were now in a dark chamber. After about 20 minutes it led us out into the open. As we approached another rock-fall with a high narrow



passageway, we decided to turn back. But Case & Dave kept going.

We went out of that canyon, retreated a bit and entered the next one parallel to it, walking a short distance to the Hidden Oasis. It didn't take more than 10 minutes for Dave & Case to meet us there. They said we were almost out anyways and there wasn't much to see beyond where we split up.



From there we went back to the main canyon and carried on to the second grotto. This one wasn't as large and even more difficult to climb into. A 12' high wall blocked the end of it.

By then we were ready to head back. Close by were the impressive Painted Rocks; jagged slopes streaked with layers of white and pale

purple & pink rock.

Stats: 14.44 km / 611m gain / 3:40 hours MT



Participants: Terry, Irene & Simon, Case & Joce + Dave B

HIKE 6: FEB. 12 – PALM CANYON TO INDIAN POTRERO TRAIL



This hike had the most Palm trees we'd yet seen. Most of them had been burnt in a fire in 1980 but they made an amazing comeback. At the visitor center we dipped down into the canyon and followed the creek, appreciating the shade of the California Fan Palms and the Date Palms.



At the end of the canyon we climbed up and out into the open rocky landscape, dotted with Cholla & Barrel Cactus.



After about an hour we got to a junction to a loop. We turned right onto the Indian Potrero Trail and soon got to the stone pools where we had lunch. There we met 4 COCers from our campsite. Water had left the rocks smooth and carved curves in the cracks.

By now it was getting pretty warm out. We wandered through a meadow before turning the corner, passing the junction at



the other end of the loop, and going left back onto the Palm Canyon Trail. As we climbed up to the visitor center we passed a replica of a domed hut that used to be inhabited over 2000 years ago by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. In the summer months they migrated to higher altitudes, namely the Chino Canyon where the arial tram is now located.

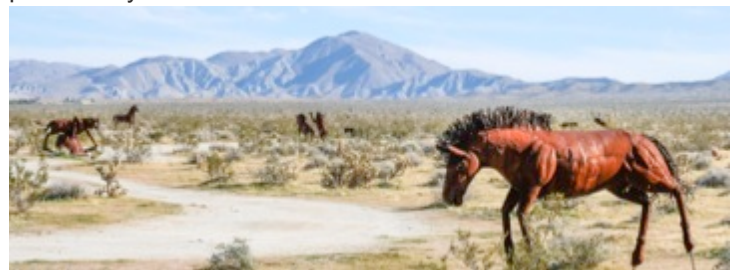


Participants: Terry, Dave B, Simon & Irene, Dave W + Case & Joce

FEB. 13 - ANZA BORREGO



After wandering through the shops on the main street of Anza Borrego, we then got into our vehicles and did the desert art drive where life-size copper coloured prehistoric sculptures can easily be spotted in the barren landscape. The eagle stood out, being more than life size, about 20' tall. The SkyArt was done by Ricardo Breceda. The next day we parted ways.



A big thanks to **Irene** for putting this trip together. – **Joce T** (report + pics))

There are so many hiking trails in and near Palm Springs thus I highly recommend "140 Great Hikes in and near Palm Springs. All the hikes Jocelyn and I mentioned are in that book. After Jocelyn and Case left, we got together with the other group from the Fraser/Chilliwack Area. It was lovely to see and hike with Fred, Cisco, Keith, Lannie, Theresa, Herb, Sue, Russ, John, Bev, Carol, and Dave. We had some great evening fun, playing games, singing by the fire, and munching down on Taco's at a local family farm. We had such a great time that plans are in the making to come back next year.



There were 2 longer day hikes that we did as a big group. First one was **BIG MORONGO CANYON TRAIL**. This trail is in a lovely preserve with an interpretive centre. The main trails are very accessible and quite easy so we decided to head down box canyon. Box canyon was nothing special so after about 1 hour we decided to go back into the preserve and have our lunch on the ridge. We hiked up Yucca Ridge trail, found a great view, sat and ate.



After, we walked on Willow and Mesquite trails. This was a very easy, pleasant day. Only down side, it's a long drive from our RV park.

The 2nd hike was a lot harder. We went to **CAREY'S CASTLE**. Fantastic day but we were all tired at the end. First, you park in the middle of nowhere, and head up towards a canyon with no exact trail or signage. Then you're hiking in what appears to be an ancient riverbed so there's trudging through sand, jumping on rocks and scrambling up boulders. Also, don't get lost, there's a few turns. It was a tough 8 miles (return). The reward was a unique structure that Carey, a miner, built under some huge boulders.



We also, peered into the mineshaft – a long way down. The scenery was gorgeous too. Thanks to Fred, who'd been there before and lead the group.



The rest of the time went by so quickly. Simon, Dave and Johnny went golfing one day so the women went shopping. Borrego Springs, which lies in Anza Borrego is very tiny community but it does have a great thrift store and 2 cheap golf courses. Collette, Terry and I had a ball trying on clothes even walked away with a couple of treasures. After, we all met up for drinks with the men and had a few laughs. We did a few more walks, went to the Living Desert (Zoo), fixed our trailers, and just chilled at the pool. A few days

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 favourite places, particularly when there is a blanket of deep, fresh powder...perfect for bounding out of



later, Johnny and Collete headed to Arizona and Dave, Terry, Simon and I headed home. Fantastic time - see you next year...



Poisonous snake.
Second half of this report by Irene and pics by Terry

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!

- Submitted by **Gary Baker**

MT KELLY MANNING PP - BC MARCH 1



A large group of 23 met outside the maintenance yard at Allison Pass for this hike. The weather was almost perfect. Overcast, warm and numerous sunny breaks. The trail was broken and well traveled. Most of us went up gradually at various speeds. The main group waited at the top of the stunning ridge for everyone to catch up. After a bit of socializing Peter V caught up with the main group and informed us that one member was feeling nausea and to not wait. Many thanks to Gary A for staying with this member. Sometimes being the sweep is a thankless job but it is always much appreciated.



We then headed to the end of the ridge to a knoll for lunch. The entire km long ridge walk and lunch area had almost



360 degree views. The snow on top of the ridge was pristine and fluffy. Perfect for snowshoeing in. Upon arrival at our lunch spot we met fellow member Sue A and her husband who had started on the trail before us. We also met Fotis who many members knew from his countless years as a club member. After a long lunch we all headed back along the ridge where we met Gary A and the sick member who took a few gravel pills and was feeling much better. We then took another group picture.

At this point we split into two groups. One group would continue down to the cars on the same path that we came up on. The other group of nine would make their own trail down the mountain on very steep and challenging terrain. MSR snowshoes were a must for anyone going this way. Just before descending another group of four well known and experienced hikers including COC member Karen S met up with us and joined us for this off trail adventure. It took the adventurous group 30 min longer to get down the MT but they all ended up with more confidence in their snowshoeing abilities and all had a great experience.

Stats for the marked trail were 9.3 km / 700 MR cumulative gain / 1910 MR high.

Group picture: Jessica F, Lorna F, Darren J, Eva, Cam, Charlie J, Peter V, Mary- Anne, Claudine A, Anne O, Gary B, Wayne H, Brian F Cathy C, Robbin Y, Peter E, Regina F, Patrick R, Gary A, Don T, missing Christine C, Pat L and **Cal F.**

LYNN PEAK TRAIL – MARCH 4

Rooty and rocky and steep = a good work out + being rewarded with a lovely view overlooking Vancouver. Thankfully no one forgot their micro-spikes.

As we gathered by the outhouses before beginning our journey for the day, back lit steam floated off of the museum's roof. This historic museum was purchased in 1908 by Captain Henry Pybus of the Timber & Trading Co.



It was the first prefabricated house in the North Shore. It later became a school and then was moved to its present site in 1998 where it became a museum. Since then hikers have brought logging artifacts to it, that were found in the woods. It's open on Sundays from 11:00 – 3:00.

Once over the bridge, we went right and then a quick left onto the Headwaters Trail. Soon we got to the junction to the Lynn Peak Trail where huge ancient stumps stand guard. The ax cuts in them were proof of logging days gone by. Now the trail became steeper, requiring our full attention as the roots and rocks were abundant. About halfway up was my favorite section, where the ground plateaued and a grove of old-growth giants reached high up into the sky.



There we put on our micro-spikes and a good thing, because the rest of the trail was icy and snow covered. A short side trail led to a western view of Mt. Fromme.

The snow path led us to an open viewpoint where we had lunch. There we could see the mighty Fraser highlighted by the sun and Vancouver Island on the horizon and the Port

Mann Bridge to the left with the city in-between.

Two ravens kept cawing back and forth. I threw 4 bread crusts out and 1 of them managed to greedily squeeze all 4 into his beak. Then along came an eagle, keeping a bit farther back but so gracefully soaring by.



Once back we all went to the historic End of the Line café by the beginning of the road that leads to the park entrance. Then Dave's carload went home but ours went to visit our son on a nearby jobsite and then we went out for dinner with him and his crew. It was a special treat at the end of a wonderful day (and we avoided rush hour).



Stats: 12 km / 835m gain / 927m high / 4.5 hours moving time

Participants were: Terry B, Dave B, Brian F, Deb H, Janice H, Anne O'L, Mark S, Lori Y + Case & **Joce T**

IAGO PEAK – MARCH 9

What a gorgeous day! Sunshine with a few clouds, pristine powder snow & no wind. We call this the “accidental” mountain because many years ago we were aiming for Zupjok Peak and ended up on Iago Peak. It was truly a “Wow!” moment. No regrets about making that mistake.

Parking at exit #217 off of the Coquihalla Hwy, we set out at 9:20am. The “Ooohs & aaahs” started as soon as we stepped out of our vehicles. Yak loomed before us and the Needle’s pointed peak was not far from us on the other side of the highway. But soon Yak was at our back as we trudged through tall trees, past the concrete bunker and creek and to the meadow. The elevation gain this first hour was quite gradual. There was a large group camping on the edge of the meadow, making igloos.



Then we started climbing more, as the trail continued west, along the base of Zupjok. This is where the tricky part came and where we’ve gotten off course in the past. But thanks to my All Trails app, the day was a success. We left the Zupjok trail to do a bit of trail breaking till we ran into another snowshoe trail at the base of the ridge to Iago.



Now we were breathing heavy but also stopping constantly to take pictures of the awe-inspiring views. In 3 hours we made the summit. To our south was the Needle and you could even see Mt. Baker to the SW. NW were the nearby peaks of, Gamuza, Steinbok, Ibex, Chamois, Serna, Gemse + Reh. On Google Earth it looks like they’re all in a circular pattern, surrounding a deep valley. Then east of it are the

climable familiar Gaunaco, Vicuna, Alpaca, Lama + Zupjok Peaks.



After a long and leisurely lunch break (maybe not so leisurely because Cal insisted on doing a snowshoe race – lol), we began the fun journey down. Yes, we did mess up that sparkly pristine blanket of snow, but moon-walking down those steep slopes in fresh powder is fun and it provides a natural brake. Just going down wasn’t enough for Cal & Gary. They both jogged, slid and jumped off of a snow hump. Gary got a fuzzy white “snow face”, but not Cal. It proved to be too much for him. He lost his head. It had disappeared in a snow hump. Not to be outdone, he tried once more to get a “snow face” But the snow just didn’t stick like Gary’s did and he got brain freeze. Perhaps a lack of hair? Thanks for the entertainment, Cal. By 3:30pm we were back at the cars and 4:00pm we were feasting on goodies at the Blue Moose.

Stats: 13 km / 750m gain / 1730m high / 5 hours MT (3 hours up)

Along for this adventure were: Sue A, Gary A, Claudine A, Terry B, Brian F, Cal F, Judy P, Don T + **Joce T**

THE POLAND LAKE-MELAMOOSSE CREEK TRAVERSE –MARCH 13

First some background before I get into a description of this amazing, challenging, fun, hard, and for some perhaps even a scary traverse (cross over) that started from the Gibson Pass Ski Hill up to Poland Lake finishing at the Allison Pass Highways Maintenance Work Yard.

I don’t have a so called ‘Bucket list’, but hiking this route in the winter has been on my mind from the mid-2000s when Hans Roos and I first mapped out the Gibson Meadows/Poland Lake route. It was a route Hans said he had done in the summer but was very suspect of doing it in the winter as there were some very steep, avalanche prone areas that had to be traversed.



How the years have passed! I don't recall the circumstances, but the topic of doing this crossover came up in discussions with Cal. We both became excited about the idea and independently began to pour over maps, satellite imagery, old route reports, etc. We concluded the terrain was likely very similar to terrain we had encountered on steep descents of Mt. Kelly and on the several traverses I had led from Cambie Creek, through the Heather Meadows and down to the Manning Resort using the descent pioneered by John LaBlanc (straight down through the woods from the Cascade Lookout). The satellite photos suggested we could work our way around any hazardous areas.

With the great snow conditions at Manning, both Margaret T. and I were keen to organize some easier level SS hikes, and I had an idea; let's hike the Melamoose Creek trail from the Works Yard. Margaret liked the idea and organized a hike (see her report). I was hoping we would be able to go far enough up the creek to perhaps get a look at the terrain on the slope down from Poland Lake. This wasn't to be.

Cal and I decided to co-organize this event. We got together finalized our plan and posted the notice to the Google group page and to the COC Facebook Group page. Cal agreed to organize the transportation, which had some challenges as we had to ferry cars and participants back and forth from the Ski Hill to the Works Yard.

Two cars departed from Chilliwack at 7AM. As I was spending the weekend at the Manning Resort, we all met up at the lodge where non-drivers would take the 8:30AM bus from the Lodge up to the ski hill. I would follow the two vehicles back to the Works Yard and then drive everyone back to the ski hill to meet up with the others.

Shortly after 9AM we were ready to head out. The plan was to hike up the Blue Chair, pass through the Gibson Meadows, climb up through the forest to the summer trail and follow it to the Lake. Cal took the lead; I took up my favourite position as sweep. Cal was adamant that we start at a slow pace; it was going to be a long day. To our delight there was a set trail up to and through the meadows and all

the way around the lake. That was 4km of trail we did not have to set. The amount of snow that had fallen since we had been to the Lake in early February was astonishing. It took some digging, but we did find the Poland Lake sign and the cabin was virtually buried.

We stopped for what would be the first of our lunch stops near the cabin. In theory the bulk of the climbing was now behind us. From here we were now on unfamiliar territory. The descent was challenging, the snow was deep, it was steep and for the most part heavily forested, which was comforting (minimal avalanche risk). We knew we had to get through a deep ravine and several times had to climb up and around some tight locations (tough going). Cal for the most part was using his GPS track to follow the Summer Trail, which was approximate at best (GPS units have a margin of error). At one point we were following a narrow bench above a substantial bluff when we were confronted by a rock wall. Clearly the summer trail actually had to be above us or below us. Beside the rock wall all I could see was a steep, featureless snow covered slope below and in front of us. My winter back country experience and avalanche awareness knowledge screamed, "I don't like this!". In 20 years of winter SSing I've only had this feeling once or twice before.



Being in the sweep position I could not see what Cal could; there was a STEEP snow covered 'chute' dropping down below the rock wall. Cal decided it was safe to go down. There was a discernable increase in the group chatter and sense of apprehension about this decision. Down Cal went slowly and cautiously. He stayed at the bottom of the chute to encourage and guide the next two or three folks down; then he hightailed it across the open slope to a treed area on the other side. I had moved up to see what was happening and was in a position to go next. The chute was now a well-formed glissading pathway. Try as I could I was not able to check my speed and slid by the others, who looked on with concern. Down I went, and in the process, started then rode downward in my own mini avalanche. It was kind of fun



with a slight tinge of concern. As I was sliding I could hear Cal 'quietly' shouting, "Don't worry about Gary, I can see where he is sliding, we'll get him later." I didn't slide all that far, when I was able to stop my slide and turned to scamper across the clearing towards Cal I looked up, "holy &^%\$"....That's why Cal shouted quietly; there was a substantial cornice protruding from the top of the rock bluff above the clearing (noise can trigger avalanches). That was enough excitement for the day. Was the situation dangerous, potentially? The avalanche conditions were rated as 'moderate', so there was reason to be concerned and cautious. Once in this potential dangerous situation, we did the correct thing: cross one at a time, quickly.

From here we quickly descended down to the head waters of Melamoose Creek for what would be a long trudge the length of the creek valley to the Works Yard. Fortunately we found the track that we set the week before which made the last 5+km much easier, a blessing as the fatigue was showing.

It was a long day. When we plotted the Track we had estimated the trip distance to be approximately

12/13km. In the end we did 20.7km. with 478 m accent, a 595m descent, total time on the trail of 8:14 minutes. It was a slice, thanks to everyone who came along.

From L to R: Gary B., Claudine A., Gary A., Jan S., Judy P., Brian F., Shelley B., Steve C., **Cal F.** (with the Poland Lake cabin in the background). – report by **Gary B**

FAT DOG – MARCH 16

We had perfect conditions for this classic snowshoe: full sun, a packed trail and no wind. What makes this route more challenging is its length. It's a good 8 km to the lookout on the ridge.

When we set out at 9:30am it was a chilly -12C, snowshoeing in the shadow of a mountain. To our left was Kelly, which we left behind after the final junction to the Cambie Loop. The grade remained fairly steady and gradual till we got to the landing 2 hours later. By then we were thankfully in the sun and soon peeling layers off.



Now the grade got steeper and led us into the alpiners were we stopped often to take in the views (and catch our breath). The most prominent of the many surrounding peaks were the Hozameens to our southwest. To the distant west were Nicomen Peak and northwest were Skaist & Kettle Peaks. Three hours later we arrived at our destination. Up close and personal were the Three Bros. Mts. and to our left was a large cornice hanging high above the valley separating us from them.



We stayed up there for a good hour. Cobalt blue skies against the bright white snow was quite a sight and by then it was a warm windless -2C.

Gary suggested cutting straight down the steep slope rather than taking the more gradual way down – the way we'd come up. Since there was no view Gary's way, I opted to stay with the other 7. We took our time as the other 3 lower hikers decided to come up yet. Back at the landing we were all reunited, the other 4 having waited only 5 minutes. From there it was 1.5 hours back to the parking lot (4:00pm).



John entertained himself (and us) by poking at the “snow heads” and watching them collapse. Small slopes now had teeny weeny loose-snow avalanches from the warming sun. Some of the snowballs looked like snails and others like cinnamon buns.

Stats: 16.3 km / 732m gain / 1995m high / 4:40 hours MT

Participants: Sue A, Gary B, Terry B, Christine C, Janice H, Irene H, John Mc, Don T, Robbin Y, Lori Y, Tammy W + **Joce T**

WATERSPRITE BACK COUNTRY CABIN - MARCH 15-16

Wow, what a stunning trip! The weather, views and snow formations were perfect. There was no wind or cloud. Nothing but the sun beating down on you. We left Chilliwack at 10:30am and met for lunch in Squamish. We managed to park about 500 meters from the trail around 3 PM. Three members were on skis and the rest were on snowshoes.



We followed a forest service road for a few hours before veering off and following a creek. The creek was barely flowing but had 10 foot snow banks all around. It was like following a jagged 3D jigsaw puzzle. After emerging from the creek and forest we entered a long open meadow. This

is where we got the first views of the saddle that we would have to summit off in the distance. Shortly after, we reached the large snow covered steep boulder field that would take us up to the saddle. We did many switchbacks and went very slow ascending this slope. No one was in a rush going up the boulder field as the views were incredible and the sun was setting. We reached the top of the saddle just as the sun set. The timing could not be more perfect. Five minutes later we were at the cabin.



The cabin was in great shape and so warm that we had to open some windows. Most of us headed to bed around 11. In the morning most of us decided to go for a 30 min stroll across the lake and back. One thing led to another and a few hours later we were on top of a ridge looking down at the frozen lake, cabin and endless views. The heel lifts on the snowshoes were a great asset for this climb. Unplanned, spontaneous hikes can be wonderful. The views were spectacular and this was the highlight of the trip. No one wanted to leave but of course all great things must come to an end.



We quickly headed down to the cabin for a late lunch before packing up and heading to the cars. Since I did not bring any shorts with me I considered just wearing my underwear for the hike back to the cars. Unfortunately I was dissuaded from this and had to sweat it out and wear pants back to the car. After supper at the brewery in Squamish we all headed home.



**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 NUHALTZ/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**

Along for this trip were Eva, Cam Brian, Ken, David, Val,
Pat, Darren, Lorna, Robert, Heather and **Cal F.**

Masthead: pic taken from summit of Iago Mt. looking north

**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**





Please, cut out, add your information, fold lengthwise along heavy line. Then place in a plastic tag container or baggie and put in an easily accessible place in your pack.
Reason: should you suffer an accident, your leader, fellow hikers, or medical personnel will have access to this information.

✂		✂		✂	
Information in case of Emergency					
			Care Card # _____ _____ Address _____ Name _____		
Emergency Contact	Name Relationship	Phone Cell			
Doctor	Name	Phone			
Medication	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> For names & dosages, unfold & see inside				
Allergies	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1. 2.				
Other	Pacemaker <input type="checkbox"/> Glasses <input type="checkbox"/> Contacts <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Aid <input type="checkbox"/> Other				

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
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Treasurer	Irene Hofler 604-824-6741	ihofler@telus.net
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Membership Secretary	Tim & Bernie Yochim	timothyochim@gmail.com
Secretary:	Harry Waldron	harrywaldron@hotmail.com
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