

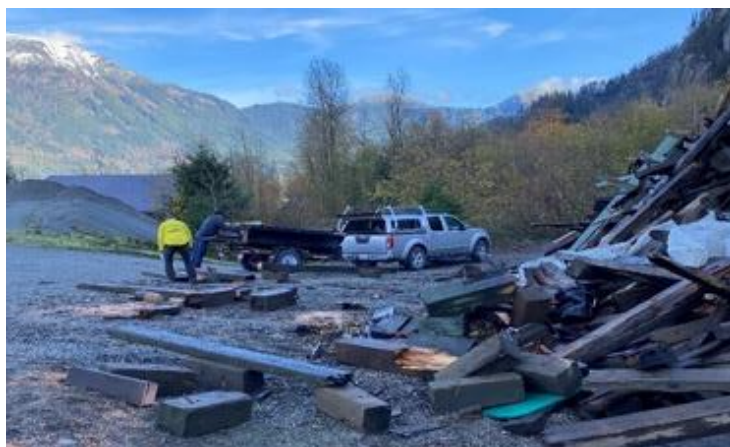


COC TRAIL MAINTENANCE – DECEMBER

During November and December, a small crew of Trail Maintenance workers went out on 3 days to retrieve repurposed construction material from Emil Anderson Group Centre Creek Pit near Hope and their Rosedale Compound. Following the material pickup days, a larger crew was assembled on 5 days to complete the reconstruction of the 100-foot-long boardwalk/bridge east of Riverside Campground.



Jim S examines the pile of material at Centre Creek pit to identify useable timbers.



Johnny G and Patrick R load material that was cut to size for the decking onto the 20 ft trailer.



Additional 4"x12"x 20 ft long timbers for stringers were picked up at Emil Anderson Compound in Rosedale and loaded onto the 20 ft trailer.



The replacement was carried out in sections starting with the far bank approach which has deteriorated to an unsafe condition. On November 15, the original material was removed to allow construction of new piers and placement of the stringers, decking and curbs. Heinz, Em Gary and Jim A worked on the demolition while others carried the required material from the trailer to the boardwalk.



Patrick, Lorenz, Jim S, Gary added the curbs and trimmed the edge of the decking on the first section.



On November 20 additional material was brought in from Hunter Creek for the decking and stringers. The material was stockpiled at the trailhead campsite. Fortunately, only a few pieces of 6"x6" timbers were burned by campers.



November 23 the crew replaced another section of the bridge. New piers were constructed using the 6"x6" timbers and the large stringers. Brad and Don work on connecting the stringers.



Heinz, the human leveller, gives his nod of approval.



As the next section was constructed on December 12, the decking was cut and secured to the stringers, Tim added final blocking to secure the stringers and Don checked out the depth to the bottom of gully. Brand and Lorenz worked on the new curbs.



Next Don and Lorenz secured the decking to the stringers and Heinz and Brad secure the curbs along the completed deck.



On 12 December we returned to complete the replacement of the last section on the boardwalk/bridge. The depth to the ground below the deck was about 8 feet and Jim S slipped down to check it out.



The process was repeated by removing the deteriorated deck and constructing new timber piers; the old cedar deadfall made the task of aligning the piers and the stringers

very challenging. Tim and Jim S work on the blocking and stringers while Don and Lorenz secure the decking.



The ice and leaves were removed from the deck so the expanded metal mesh provided by the Back Country Horsemen Society could be applied. Kelly and Dave worked on the first section of the deck while construction proceeded on the next sections. The metal mesh certainly reduced the slip hazard.



The finished 100 foot long boardwalk/bridge with the curbs and expanded metal mesh.



On December 15 the crew returned to add the expanded metal mesh 5 bridges in the Thurston Meadows section of the Trail and to the last section of the boardwalk east of Riverside.

Push brooms were brought along to clear the leaves and debris off the deck before the metal mesh was attached. At one bridge, a beaver damn was encountered so Heinz, under close supervision by Em and assistance from Eileen, removed most of the blockage using the push broom.



Other club members arrived and provided additional direction to Heinz and Eileen, the only ones working.



Finally Jim A arrived with the proper grubbing tool and completed a few finishing touches just for the photo op.



The Happy crew at the Riverside east board/walk bridge. Completing a major task brings a pride of the accomplishment to the team.



The complete crew with selfie: Jim A, Ingrid F, Kelly H, Patrick R, Lorenz B, Eileen R, Em & Hein B, Brad M, Jim S, John L, Steve D. Others that participated on various phases of work: Gary B, Tim Y, Don F, Dave S

By **Jim Alkins**



The 79 Grind trail takes you to a viewing platform that was built by the City of Mission in 2022. It overlooks Stave and Devil's Lakes. The trail was muddy, rocky, rooty & steep. With all the rain we'd had the week before, we just had to check out Fiddlehead Falls, turning right on a short side-trail.

As we drove towards Mission, a low blanket of fog hung over the valley. This stayed for the day, keeping the lakes from revealing themselves.



But about halfway up, we rose above the clouds and wow! We had to shade our eyes as brilliant beams of light shone through the dark forest. We didn't encounter any snow or ice on the trail till we emerged out into the open, close to the viewing platform and the outhouse.



The peaks stood out in stark white against a cobalt blue sky; the Breakenridge Range to the north and Shuksan + Mt. Baker to the south.

We returned the way we came.

Stats: 6.6 km / 638m gain / 750m high



Since it was only 12:30pm, we decided to do the half-an-hour Rolley Falls loop trail which was about a 10-minute drive back down the Florence Lake FSR. You could already see the rushing falls from the road. A bit higher up, by two railed viewpoints, we noticed a perfectly round black hole in the cliff carved out by the falls. It

piqued our curiosity. What would be in that cave?

Yet higher, and we crossed over a bridge close to the top of the falls. Then we followed a very good trail through mossed covered trees, back to the road.

Stats: 1.6km / 135m gain

Participants: Denise D, Brigitte G, Johnny G, Janice H, Mary R + **Joce T**

WATT CREEK – HORSE TRAIL BY CULTUS LAKE – DEC. 16



Jan, Mark and I did a forest hike on the south side of Cultus Lake under the watchful ridge of the International Ridge Trail including my first time up Tea Pot Hill. I was saving it for my 90's but they convinced me to do it now and I was glad I did. It was a very beautiful forest walk. I could not believe all of the large trees that are in that forest. Plus the moss was outstanding. If you don't like the colour green then this is definitely not the trail for you.

Thanks **Jan S** & **Mark S** for a great day in a great forest, **John McL** (report + photo).

HARRISON GRIND TO CAMPBELL LAKE – DEC. 16

This is somewhat more than a moderate hike, involving some hoisting, pulling, grasping and balancing on a steep rough trail that takes you up to a viewpoint overlooking Harrison Lake. Truck-sized moss-covered boulders and old wood stairs and bridges are featured on this trail deep in a dark damp forest.



It was with relief that we approached the top-of-the-2-hour grind viewpoint, having completed most of the climbing (714m gain). A layer of low cloud covered the massive lake. The last third of the hike was on a gentler grade, involving a sketchy crossing on wet boulders. Welcome sun beckoned us on from the other side of the frozen lake.

At the far end we turned a sharp right on the FSR, ignoring a side road to the right a bit farther on. In about 10 minutes we stayed right at a fork that got us slightly higher, under the powerlines with a view of Harrison Lake. But this wasn't our destination. So we backtracked a bit, turned right and then another quick right. In about a 5-minute walk, we were there. The stubborn cloud would not part, but we could see the peaks of Robie Reid, Sasquatch Ski resort with Mt. Klautt in the foreground, Breakenridge Mt Range and Slollicum Peak.





about 20m to get onto the ridge. That's where we stopped and stood in awe.



But there was no sun, so we backtracked to the powerlines where we sat on a sunny knoll for lunch. On the way down we checked in at that first viewpoint again. This time the clouds had parted enough for us to see a large part of the lake with Echo Island in the middle of it. Back at the parking lot at 3:30pm, our carload decided to stop in at the waterfront café, Muddy Waters in Harrison Village. It was neat to see the Christmas light decorations along the beach as the sun tucked behind the mountains.

All round us, except to our south, we could see white-capped peaks. The Hozameens, Mt. Brice and Silverdaisy stood out on the horizon.



Stats: 14.7 km / 1030m gain / 728m high

With sun, no wind and balmy temperatures hovering above 0, we were in no rush to leave our lofty lunch spot. Ingrid discovered it wasn't such a bad thing to forget your lunch. She got many delicious hand-outs from fellow hikers. Thanks John & Susan for letting us help you get rid of those Christmas chocolates!

Participants: Ann A, Denise D, Irene H, Jaco N, Carmen P, Susan V + **Joce T**

MT. KELLY – DEC. 29



I posted this excursion as a snowshoe, only to find out it was not. Due to the lack of snow, micro-spikes were the better option. There was a mix of ice and old snow on the trail. The first hour through the forest was steep, providing a viewpoint about halfway up of the tops of the Hozameens. But the evergreens were devoid of snow. When we cleared most of the trees and the grade eased off somewhat, we could see the Fourth Bros. & Nicomen Mountains to our right/east. We trudged past the knoll called the summit and dropped down

The camaraderie didn't end at the parking lot. It was only 1:00pm so we all met again at the Blue Moose in Hope. Jerry & John managed to snag the nice cushy chairs for our large group.

It was a great way to end a great day.

Thanks for coming along: Sue A, Dave B, Herb C, Iraj F, Ingrid F, Johnny G, Charlotte H, Susan H, John McL, Kim McL, Judy P, Maureen S, Lucy S, Jerry U + **Joce T**

CHRISTMAS PARTY – DEC. 8



Thanks, **Charlotte** for organizing this wonderfully fun evening. Photos by Terry B & Tracey G

2024 MULTI DAY TRIPS

TRIP: Hilton Grand Vacation Club in Whistler - 1 to 2 nights. Will post with short notice. Resort skiing but can also snowshoe, cross country ski, or just explore Whistler.
DATE: Jan–May **LIMIT:** 6
CONTACT: Cindy Waslewsky: twin-creeks@shaw.ca

TRIP: Kees & Claire – backcountry skiing
DATE: Jan 17-19 **LIMIT:** 12
CONTACT: Cindy Waslewsky: twin-creeks@shaw.ca

TRIP: South Africa – day hiking
DATE: February **LIMIT:** 6
CONTACT: Jaco Noteboom: jaconoteboom@gmail.com

TRIP: Kees & Claire / Wendy Thompson – backcountry ski
DATE: Feb-March **LIMIT:** 12
CONTACT: Cindy Waslewsky: twin-creeks@shaw.ca

TRIP: Bow to Yoho Traverse – ski traverse with guide, training, catered + portered. Dinner at Truffle Pig in Field.
DATE: March 26-31 **LIMIT:** 6
CONTACT: Cindy Waslewsky: twin-creeks@shaw.ca

TRIP: Arizona, New Mexico & Utah – day hiking & car camping (RV convoy) in Serpentine Mountains, Sagauo NP, Cataline SP, Kodacrome SP
DATE: March 25 – April 13 **LIMIT:** 12 – this trip is now full but I can put you on a waiting list
CONTACT: Jocelyn Timmermans: jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com

TRIP: Kees & Claire – snowshoe
DATE: April 5-7 **LIMIT:** 8
CONTACT: Dave Biehn: dave.biehn@gmail.com

TRIP: Golden Ears – beginner backpack. Evening workshop Wednesday, easy backpack Sat/Sun.
DATE: April 10 + 13-14 **LIMIT:** 10
CONTACT: Al smith & Sue Lawrence: hikethepeak@gmail.com

TRIP: Spain – day hiking
DATE: June-July **LIMIT:** 6
CONTACT: Jaco Noteboom: jaconoteboom@gmail.com

TRIP: Kootenay Loop Cycling – 340km road & rail – no ebikes
DATE: Jun 9-15 **LIMIT:** 10
CONTACT: Carol Ault: carolault@gmail.com

TRIP: Castlegar to Christina Lake Cycling - 190km rail trail, may be supported – ebikes permitted
DATE: June 16-17 **NO LIMIT**
CONTACT: Gary Baker: garywbaker@shaw.ca

TRIP: Olympic Marine Park – backpack, 115 km
DATE: 3RD week of June **LIMIT:** 12
CONTACT: John McLellan: jhmclellan@shaw.ca

TRIP: Austrian & Swiss Alps – hut to hut, 80km & 6000m gain
DATE: July
CONTACT: Christine Camilleri: 4christinecamilleri@gmail.com

TRIP: Howe Sound Crest Trail – backpack
DATE: July-Aug **LIMIT:** 8
CONTACT: Cindy Waslewsky: twin-creeks@shaw.ca

TRIP: Howe Sound Islands – day hikes. Car camping in Porteau Cove, water taxi or ferry to islands.
DATE: June 20-23 **LIMIT:** 8
CONTACT: Al & Sue: hikethepeak@gmail.com

TRIP: Mt. Calliope – backpack
DATE: July 8-11 **LIMIT:** 12
CONTACT: Patrick Ramsden: patrickwramsdn@gmail.com

TRIP: ACC Mountaneering Camp – guided, catered, helicoptered in. Register with ACC.
DATE: July 8-13
CONTACTS: Dave Biehn / Cindy Waslewsky: dave.biehn@gmail.com / twin-creeks@shaw.ca

TRIP: Illal Meadows – backpack. Loop route through Illal with help from John McLellan
DATE: July 14-15 **LIMIT:** 8
CONTACT: Al & Sue Lawrence: hikethepeak@gmail.com

TRIP: Monashees – backpack. In and out backpacks. This will be 2 different backpack trips in the Monashees .
DATE: July 17-25 **LIMIT:** 6
CONTACT: Carmen Pellegrino: carmen.pellegrino80@gmail.com

TRIP: Mt. MacDonald & Mt. Webb – backpack.
DATE: July 26-28 **LIMIT:** 12
CONTACT: Allana Warkentin: allanalee@shaw.ca

TRIP: Lake Lovely Water – heli camp & day hiking. Possibly staying in hut, helicopter into Tantalus range to base camp.
DATE: end of July **LIMIT:** 5
CONTACT: Cindy Waslewsky: twin-creeks@shaw.ca

TRIP: Itlaian Dolimites, Alta VIA 1 – guided tour.
DATE: Aug. 10-17 **LIMIT:** this trip is now FULL
CONTACT: Irene Hofler: ishofler@gmail.com

TRIP: Nootka Island – backpack.
DATE: Aug. 4-10 **LIMIT:** 10 – this trip is now FULL
CONTACT: Owen Williams: owen.williams911@gmail.com

TRIP: Mt. Conway & Lucky 4 Mine – backpack.
DATE: AUG. 9-11 **LIMIT:** 10
CONTACT: Allana Warkentine: allanlee@shaw.ca

TRIP: Bella-Bella Kayak – camping.
DATE: Aug. 12-19 **LIMIT:** 8
CONTACT: Dave Biehn: dave.biehn@gmail.com

TRIP: Cancer Ride – 100km/day for 2 days. Need to raise \$2500.00 in donations.
DATE: Aug. 24-25
CONTACT: Dave Biehn: dave.biehn@gmail.com

TRIP: Italian Dolomites, Alta VIA 2. Register with bookatreking.com
DATE: early Sept
CONTACT: Cindy Waslewsky: twin-creeks@shaw.ca

TRIP: Camp Mowach in Manning Park – backpack
DATE: Sept. TBD **LIMIT:** 10
CONTACT: Terry Bergen: terrybergen@shaw.ca

TRIP: Mt. Frosty via PCT Trail – backpack
DATE: Sept. TBD **LIMIT:** 10
CONTACT: Terry Bergen: terrybergen@shaw.ca

TRIP: Dave Thompson Highway – car camping / day hiking
DATE: Sept. TBD **LIMIT:** 10
CONTACT: Mary Ann Dykshoorn: madykshoorn@gmail.com

TRIP: Peaks & Paleoliths – car camping / day hiking. Two days to drive to Tumbler Ridge. This is a UNESCO Global Geo Park. Return via Alberta & Mt. Robson.
DATE: Sept 6-20 **LIMIT:** 12
CONTACT: Ingrid Fischer: ingyfisc@gmail.com

TRIP: North Cascades – car camping / day hiking. Southeast of Mt. Baker. Sahale Pass, Blue Lake, Hidden Lake Lookout + Sourdough Mt.
DATE: end of Sept. for max 4 days TBD **LIMIT:** 12
CONTACT: Jocelyn Timmermans: jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com

TRIP: Illal Meadows – backpack
DATE: Sept. 27-29 **LIMIT:** 8
CONTACT: Allana Warkentine: allanalee@shaw.ca

TRIP: Gold Ridge Chilcotin – backpack
DATE: Early Oct. TBD **LIMIT:** 12
CONTACT: Jaco Noteboom: jaconoteboom@gmail.com

CLUB INFORMATION

Notice to Trip Participants

It is understood that risk is inherent to some degree in all outdoor activities. Please ensure that you understand the risks involved and are prepared to accept them. As a participant, you are responsible for your own safety and equipment at all times. Trip organizers are not professional guides—they are simply club members who have volunteered their time for your enjoyment.

Inform the trip organizer of any medical conditions that he or she should be aware of in an emergency, for example: diabetes, asthma, and bee sting reactions. Ensure that your previous experience, ability and fitness level are adequate for the trip. Be sure that your equipment and clothing are adequate for the trip. Stay with the group. Wait for other group members frequently and at all route junctions. Tell the trip organizer if you must turn back. **Be safe and enjoy!**

Required Equipment

Trip organizers will be pleased to answer any questions regarding the required equipment for any outing. For more information, it is recommended that you visit one of the many websites that provide such information. Some recommended sites are: www.valhallapure.com (club sponsor), www.backpacker.com and www.mec.ca.

Safety first, last, and always! It is the responsibility of trip participants to be equipped appropriately. Plan for the **worst!**

The Ten Essentials

Before you hit any trail, no matter how easy, no matter how short, no matter how close to home, make sure your backpack is loaded with the ten essentials. When in the backcountry you are responsible for your own safety, and any one of these ten items may help to save your life. Carry them all and know how to use them.

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Extra clothing
4. Sunglasses and sunscreen
5. Headlamp/flashlight
6. First-aid supplies
7. Fire starter
8. Matches
9. Knife
10. Extra food and water

Equipment for Club Members' Use

2 Shovels	2 ice axes
2 pairs of crampons	2 avalanche probes
2 avalanche transceivers	
2 pairs of snowshoes	
	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:	Christine Camilleri	4christinecamilleri@gmail.com
Vice President:		
Secretary:	Jackie Chambers	Jackie.p.chambers@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Carol Ault	carolault@gmail.com
Executive:	Tracy Goodwin Cal Francis Carol Ault Pat Ramsden Charlotte Hall Paul Levett	tracy.g22222@gmail.com calfrancis@gmail.com carolault@gmail.com patrickr@shaw.ca chartuff@hotmail.com plevett@sasktel.net
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Past President & FMCBC Rep:		
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For trips and announcements to be forwarded to all		
Note: also you can post in members:	Facebook: Chilliwack Outdoor Club Group	
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