



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

What can you say about 2020? Wow! Crazy! Good riddance!

I want to thank everyone for their understanding and patience during the pause in club activities in this period of heightened coronavirus restrictions. For the new members who have joined us in recent months, welcome and rest assured this is definitely not normal. You will be amazed by the talent, enthusiasm, adventurism and all-around nice people in the Chilliwack Outdoor Club.

Since this will be the last Tripper before the new year, I want to share my COC Christmas wishes that I whispered to Santa as I sat (virtually) on his knee:

That our collective efforts, and the new vaccines will soon bring an end to the pandemic.

That more trip leaders will step forward to lead members on many awesome adventures.

That 2021 will bring sunshine on all our trips, plenty of space in campgrounds, few others on our trails and the amazing vistas, sense of accomplishment and fraternity that we so value about our outings.

Thank you Santa.

-Grant

METROPOLITAN CYCLE TOUR - OCT 3

Six of us met at Hume Park in New Westminster for a lovely bike tour on Saturday October 3. It was a perfect day for an urban ride as the fog lifted and the sun came out with just enough strength to keep us warm as we travelled 62 km on wonderful trails and bike paths throughout the city. The smoke of the days before lifted enough for our views of the city, with the north shore mountains a hazy memory off to the north.

We followed the Valley Greenway from New Westminster through Burnaby, taking a bit of a "scenic route" through Burnaby Lake park and then back on track to pick up the Frances St/Adanac Bike route. Gary and Dan had fond childhood memories of the amazing backyard gardens in the residential areas we passed through, so we detoured along some back lanes to see that the passion for vegetable gardens was still alive and flourishing!



Some of the group had never explored the big city this way, so Gary shared his knowledge of the areas we passed through - history, landscape, and fond memories of living in Vancouver...since we were a small group it was like a riding field trip and we all thoroughly enjoyed it!

We traveled through East Vancouver and the Strathcona area to False Creek where we stopped for a lunch break. As a first-timer, I expected the traffic and pedestrian volume to be daunting while cycling, but the bike paths were so well defined for cyclists and the side roads thankfully quiet.

After lunch we headed south along the Arbutus Bike Route then east along the 37th Ave bike route through upper Shaughnessy towards Central Park. We connected to the Expo Line Bike Route which led us back into New West.



62 km, 1 flat tire, 1 Japadog (a must-stop food truck experience by George), 5 hours of cycling, and 6 happy, tired cyclists.

Participants: Don F, Dan K, Gary B, Geoff L, George D + **Tammy W**

(sorry for missing this report in October's Tripper – Joce T)

LIUMCHEN RIDGE – NOV. 1

This hike has been called, "Chilliwack's best kept secret". But this beautiful spring-like day (hard to believe it was November) it didn't seem like such a secret anymore. We shared the mountain with one other large group and several other small groups of hikers. Few trails like this one, offer views 95% of the time. And its so close to home. But you do need a 4WD high clearance vehicle that may end up getting some superficial scratches on it. Just one week earlier a group had done this hike and ended up walking an extra 4 km one way on the snow covered Liumchen FSR just to get



to the trailhead. So I was very happy when we were able to drive with all four 4x4s to the 1455m high trailhead. We never had to resort to Plan B which was shuttling passengers back & forth so the other two 4X4s didn't have to drive those last few very rough km.

It was quite a sight when we all filed in to the parking space and then immediately half of the group of 16 quickly fanned out into the bush, seeking to claim a peaceful private spot to relieve ourselves. The other half wandered over to the edge to absorb the amazing view of the Cheam Range & Elk & Thurston Mts separated from us by the Chilliwack River Valley.

By 9:30am we were up on the ridge after a steep half hour climb zigzagging through the forest. Some of us took a quick left for a short climb to the Windy Knob viewpoint. The view was similar to that at the parking lot but more expansive. Once we were all together again, me and Irene led the way. Why? Because we had done this hike before (12 in our group had not) and didn't want to take the risk of making the same mistake for a third time. The Church Mt. trail that branches off of the Liumchen trail (that leads to Liumchen Lake), has a tiny sign that's high up on a tree and set back from the trail. The trail since then has become more distinct so its not as easy to miss.



The four of us that had done both Church and Old Baldy peaks all agreed that Old Baldy has more to offer in the way of views. Church has trees at the summit that obscure the view. So we stayed right at the fork in the trail and climbed up the short steep icy piece of trail to the summit which is only 14m higher than Church's summit. This had taken only 1.5 hours (including breaks which generally are longer with a larger group). From the northeast to southwest we could see: the Cheam Range, Slesse, Tomyhoi (behind Church), McGuire, Goat Mt, Shuksan (mostly behind Liumchen), Mt. Baker and the US Church Mt. To our west we could even see the ocean. From Old Baldy's peak we had 3 options: hike to Church, continue on the ridge or hike down to the lake. We all agreed to stick to the ridge. But from there on it was more



over-grown and less distinct. We had to do some bushwhacking. There were orange tapes in trees to guide the way. By noon as we approached an open area on the ridge, we decided to stop for a long leisurely lunch break and call this our turn around point. I'd been on that slope before in the summer and it was just loaded with flowers. Not so now but it being autumn, the air was so much clearer.

As we were approaching Old Baldy Mt on our way back, I said to the group through the trees, "There's Old Baldy". Then Andrew said, "No, I'm over here". We used our microspikes when we descended the short steep icy slope on the other side of Baldy. By 3:30pm we were all back at the 4WDs. And we all agreed it was an amazing day, hiking in T-shirts in November!

Stats: 9.9 km / 775 m cumulative gain / 1795m high point

Participants were: Grant A, Sue A, Terry B, Jane D, Cal F, Janice H, Irene H, Sonia J, Michelle K, Teresa P, Allana W, Lori Y, Poebe Z + Case & **Joce T**

Mt. STRACHAN – NOV. 6



Mt. Strachan was the hike that **Cal Francis** of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club, chose for our hike Nov 6th. There were 7 of us. Cal Francis, Brigitte, Brian, Cindy, Tammy, myself and Ingrid. Ingrid is my BFF, ever since 5 of us did Needle Peak off the Coquihalla Hwy. That group started out as 18 and only 5 of us even tried to summit the Needle. She was one of them and we all made it. Even more

impressive is that she is 'short and stocky and not flexible' (her words), plus she has bad knees. Overriding these challenges is that she doesn't know the word Can't. She also doesn't know Quit or Fear. She's one heck of a woman and I love the fact that I know her. All the other people on this hike were fun and nice too. COC has an abundance of those people. As usual, Cal did an extremely good job of leading the group.

The start of the hike is from the Cypress mountain Ski area parking lot in North Vancouver. Once more Cal picked a very worthy hike. It is steep, rugged, rooty, rocky and quite icy for



most of the hike. Oh, I almost forgot to mention how much water and mud there was. Did I mention that we had a lot of fallen trees to scramble over? I was surprised that nature didn't throw any snow into the mix. Except that there was even a pile of that at the bottom of the chair lift. Fortunately, it was in a pile.

We started out on a very wide and smooth, highly developed trail that was, at least at a decent upward angle. These are my least favorite hiking trails. They have no challenge except for the incline.

We got to a really nice viewpoint before continuing on where the trail started to get rough. Yaaay.

Then we finally got to the highlight. Christmas Gully. This was serious stuff and I could have taken hundreds of photos of this wonderful part of the hike, but you will have to just put up with only quite a few.

Christmas Gully leads you up to the Col (belly) between Mt Strachan's north peak and south peak. We went to the north peak first as it has the most spectacular 360 view. South peak has great views too, but they aren't 360.



The hike up to the peak was also very challenging with more ice-covered rock walls to scramble up. We spent quite a bit of time up there having lunch, taking photos including our group photo and playing with the Whiskey Jacks.



Eventually, we headed down and across the Col and up and over the south peak. We took more photos and continued down the top of the chair lift. The trail down was completely different than the up trail. It was virtually all in the trees and had tons of mud and water sections with slippery roots to cause you grief. At least 2 people slipped and fell. Fortunately, nobody was seriously injured. This whole trail was also very steep in a lot of it.



Eventually, we came to where an Air Force T-33 jet had crashed into the mountain side. It is now a memorial site. After that it was more of the same until we came to a nice, pretty creek crossing. The trail was moderately tame after that and too soon it was all over. Until the next time. Be happy folks.

-Don Tocher

VEDDER RIDGE LOOP - NOV.7

I was joined by Don F., Dan K., Ganna R. (guest), Anne O'L., Patrick R., Lynn M., George D., & Jackie C. on this 10km hike that took us to the mountain summit following the Ridge Trail and returning via a series of dirt bike trails on the north side of the mountain. Thanks to the efforts of club volunteers the Ridge Trail is in excellent condition that made for a comfortable walk to the top. Weather conditions were such that we did not get to see Mt. Baker looming to the south or the view east up the Chilliwack River Valley. These views are a nice bonus to the wonderful, various forest views encountered on the 4km hike from the parking area to the summit. There was a raw southerly wind blowing at the top so we quickly retreated to the newly found Sumas Prairie lookout on the north facing side of the summit to enjoy our lunch and the view.

On the return trip we descended a very steep, crude trail that leads down towards Yarrow. 'Old timers' have told me this trail was part of an old trail that Yarrow residents used to get to the Summit. This trail in turn connects with a series of Dirt Bike Trails and old logging skid roads that traverse SW to NE across the north side of the mountain. The route we took, in turn, connects with what is now known as Tower Rd. which was reactivated and then decommissioned several years ago from the Upper Ridge Trail parking area for logging to take place. At one point this road is only about 100m from the Ridge Trail. At that point we bushwhacked through the forest and followed the Ridge Trail back down to the vehicles. It was a good day!

- Gary B



Three self-proclaimed ol' baldies heading for Ol' Baldy peak.

Masthead: Cheam Range, Canadian / American Border Peaks, Slesse, McGuire & Liumchen Mts. -by Joce T

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 transceivers	1 avalanche probe
6 climbing harnesses & a few carbineers	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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