

THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

TRIP REPORT

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

I'm happy that we were able to resume our monthly meetings in September by following all COVID-safety precautions including masks, hand sanitizer, recording attendee names, limiting numbers and physical distancing between chairs. It was great to see friends again and thanks to VP Christine for sending out the meeting summary to those who could not attend due to COVID concerns. Our October meeting will again be at the Yarrow Hall as the schools are not being rented at this time. Hopefully members don't find it too far out of the way to attend. It's a very nice venue.

A word on Club communications – all Board notices, announcements and documents are shared through the Google Groups Email, supplemented with postings on the Club website and occasionally on the Private Facebook Group site for added emphasis. Our precious few trip leaders are free to use whichever social media platform they are comfortable with, although to ensure widest distribution of trip posts, both email and FB are recommended. Personally, I use email but obtained a FB account a few years ago mainly so I could see all the great photos that members post.

I hope you all enjoy this month's Tripper. Thanks to the contributors and to Jocelyn for making this publication possible.

- Grant

DAY HIKING IN BANFF, JASPER AND YOHO NATIONAL PARKS: AUG. 25 – SEPT. 2



Beauty Creek



Bow Peak

Seven COC members took advantage of this strange Covid year to hike in our National Parks. For most of us, these hikes were some of our firsts and they were amazing. The trails are well kept and well graded for any generally fit person. The peaks, however, were a scramble and took some of us out of our comfort zone.



Bow Lake

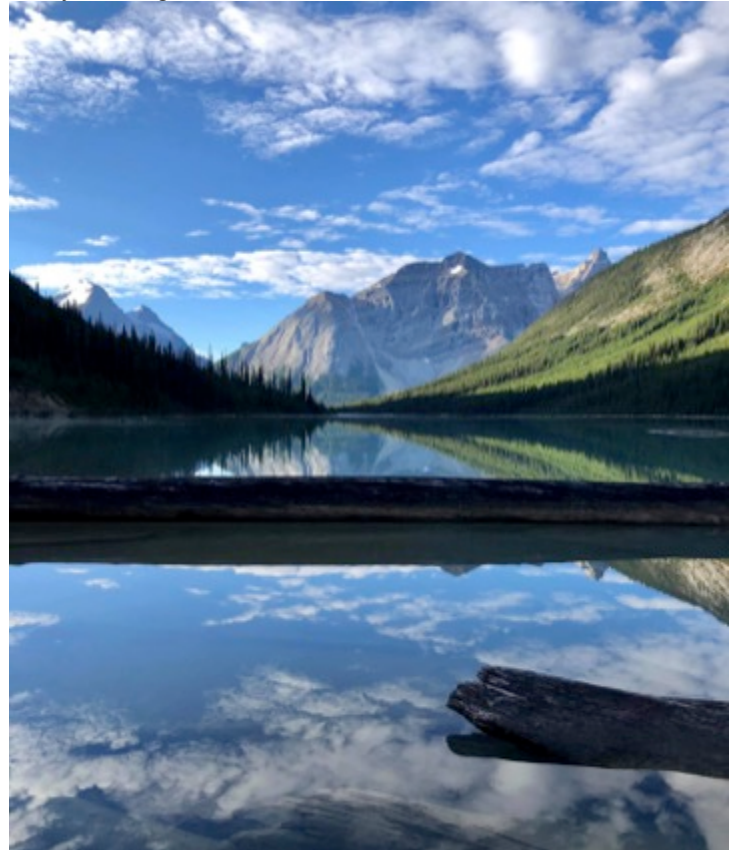
Because of Covid, we were able to take advantage of Boondocking at trailheads. This gave us the advantage of starting early and getting a good night's sleep. Nothing is better than waking up in the morning and stating your hike right from your doorstep. Yes, there were still a lot of people, but not the bus loads of tourists which is usually the norm. Vehicle traffic was down 69% in Banff this year. After hiking all day, it was lovely to get back to the RV for happy hour to

relax and enjoy the surrounding views. The hikes were amazing. The scrambles up Eiffel Peak, Bow Peak and (for me) the attempt up Nils peak comes to mind. These were definitely a challenge but such a reward when you reach the top. Thankfully, there were no exposure issues but they were very steep and full of either boulders or awful scree. My heart and legs were working overtime.



Bow Creek

There are some lovely videos and photos on our COC facebook site. I loved all the hikes and can not pick out a favourite. Sherbrooke Lake looked so inviting to jump in for a swim (Heather did, I'm jealous). Bow river crossing forced everyone to get a little wet and cold.

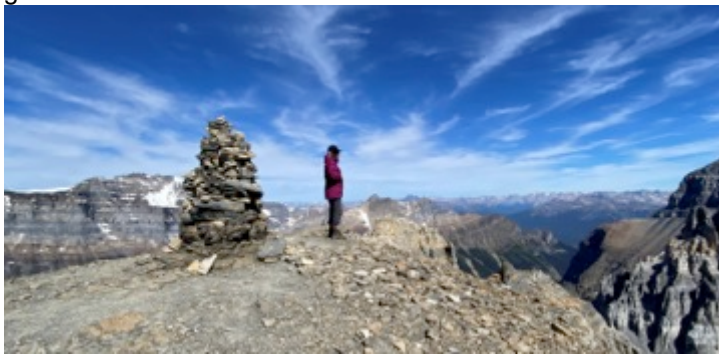


Sherbrooke Lake



Eiffel Peak

We all took photos of flowers and majestic Larches in Paradise Valley and Sentinel Pass. Not to forget the family friendly hikes we took to Beauty creek, Wenkchemna Pass, Mistaya Canyon and Tangle falls. It was a trip that I and my fellow travel companions will always cherish. Definitely, I will go back.



Along for this adventure were **Cal F**, Heather F, **Irene H** (reporter), Cindy W, John M, Janice H and Lori Y. Photo credits go to **John & Cal**

BRAZEAU LOOP TRIP, JASPER: AUGUST 31 TO SEPT 3

80 km total distance



This was a backpack trip I only heard about in the past few years. I had been to many places in the Rockies, including a day trip to Nigel Pass but I had no idea that this much beauty lay hidden behind the mountains of the Icefields Parkway. I was worried it would not happen when the pandemic started in March but I was hopeful. Fortunately, the parks opened again in June. However, the pandemic did impact people's plans and bit by bit our group size shrank. Luckily on the 31 August, there were still 3 of us who started the trip.



And what a glorious day it was on Sunday as we headed for 4 Point via Nigel Pass. There were splendid views of Parker Ridge, Saskatchewan Glacier and many other peaks. One of the mountains at the pass had a dramatic slab missing from its middle. I can only imagine what that would have been like to be there when that chunk slid off.



We also saw some cute mountain goats lingering nearby. I knew this was grizzly bear territory but it was surprising how many stories we heard from people finishing the trip, including a story of a bluff charge by a grizzly bear at Jonas Pass.

After Nigel Pass we wandered along through a beautiful grassy meadow with the creek meandering through,



surrounded by grey granite mountains. We got to 4 Point campsite in the mid afternoon and spent some time by the river. We spend a pleasant evening sharing stories with a couple from Quebec who were going south on the Great Divide Trail. (We later met them 2 more times - in Yoho and on the Rockwall!)



The next morning was chilly and there was lots of fresh snow on the peaks. This day the traveling was fairly easy – 17 km but only 273 m of elevation gain. It was mostly walking along Boulder Creek and through some open forests with a few views of distant snowy peaks.



We spent the night at Brazeau Lake. It is a huge glacial lake! The cold wind howled along the soft clay shore but we did manage to have a quick dip to get rid of the day sweat. It was indeed a beautiful campsite with brand new picnic tables and bear cache area. The trail crew had left lots of firewood. We met a couple from the Maritimes who were doing the same loop as us and they kindly built a warm fire that we shared.



The next day was also cold and slightly overcast. There was more climbing (2100 m) to get to Jonas cutoff. The wind continued to challenge our ability to stay warm and to effectively bear call as we spent the whole day walking into the wind. We had heard about more grizzly bear encounters (a group had to stop on the trail while a grizzly bear munched on berries before wandering off) and we saw a lot of bear tracks and poop on the trail.



We met up with Lory and Erica (the couple from Brazeau Lake campsite) at lunch. They were faster stronger hikers so they went on ahead of us. Lory had an extremely powerful loud bear call so we were happy that he was ahead. The trail went up more steeply as we gained Poboktan Pass and we were in shrubby alpine meadow. The valley continued to be wide with rough, rocky peaks in the distance. I realized that Brazeau is not the “in your face” dramatic mountains of Banff, but rather quietly majestic beauty that takes time to

fall in love with. After the pass it was downhill to the campsite and luckily it got a bit sunny so I did warm up a bit and was able to jump in the creek by the campsite. That evening we met a woman who had come the other way who warned us that there was a fresh goat carcass that was ½ eaten by a grizzly bear right beside the trail near Jonas Pass. So we planned to go in a group of 5 the next day by joining up with Lory and Erica. We decided they would be honorary members of the COC because they were such good company and incredibly strong hikers.



The next morning was very cold and we could see some ominous dark clouds looming over the mountains north of where we were. There had been some rain in the night but now the rain was light as we ate breakfast and packed up. As we started hiking the clouds got lower, the wind stronger (at least it was behind us) and the rain steadily heavier. Just before Jonas Shoulder, the rain turned to sleet and hail. We could still see brief views of the mountains as the dark



clouds swirled around. As we headed to Jonas Pass the sleet turned to snow. As long as we kept moving it was not too bad. We continued to bear call often and we did feel safer being in a group of 5. Just before the pass we saw ½ goat at the side of the trail and luckily no grizzly bear in site. We kept moving and soon we were over the pass. When we looked north we could see some blue sky and then suddenly we had blue sky and sun as the clouds blew off to the south. We went on for a bit till we felt safe enough to stop for lunch behind a hill to get out of the wind. It was suddenly a beautiful day. As we stopped for lunch, we saw a park helicopter in the distance by the pass. They landed the



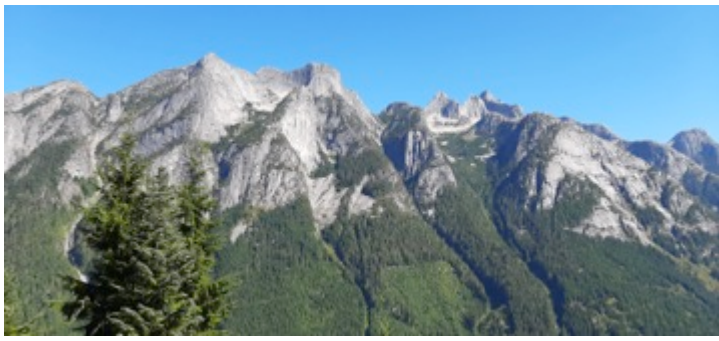
helicopter near us to ask if we had seen any grizzly bears which we had not. They were there to remove the carcass. Apparently they had some problems with grizzly bears coming into the campsite to attempt to get into bear caches and had not even been chased away by air horns. It was a long day and I felt quite tired by the time we got back to 4 Point campsite for our last night. Lory made another fire which we sat around in our group of 5 and shared hiking stories.

The last day was a repeat of day one but in reverse. It was high overcast which made the mountains look different than the first sunny day. It seemed like an easy day and soon enough we were back at our vehicles. Thank you Maryann, Lory and Erica for making this a very enjoyable adventure.
Sue L and Al S.

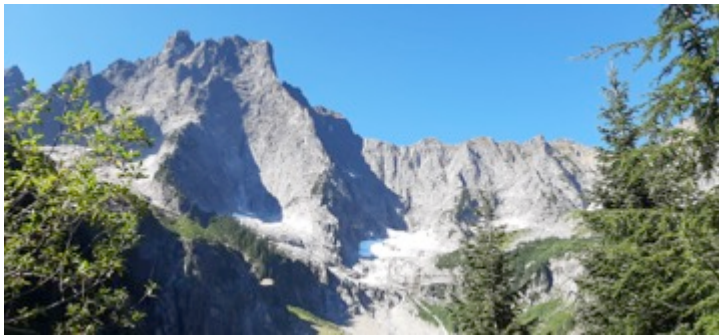
SLEESE MEMORIAL TRAIL – SEPT. 10



Eight Club members hiked to the propeller cairn at the base of the Slesse spires on September 10 in glorious weather. The Nesakwatch FSR is pretty rough and four-wheel drive (and some nerve) is required to get through all the drainage ditches. The trail is in very good condition, in no small part due to the efforts of Club members who have participated in



the work parties. Thanks! Many hikers turn around after visiting the plane crash memorial but continuing on to the propeller cairn is recommended. The trail gets steeper after the memorial but the views from the alpine area at the cairn are worth the extra effort - Slease massif, the Cheam range and the Rexford area range.



Total moving time 5.75hrs; Distance 16km; Elev gain 1096m
Thanks for coming out to: Anne; Denise; Regina; Christine; Cal; Setsuko; Brigitte; **Grant**.

HOPE MT: SEPT. 27

The Forest Service Road to the trailhead is in fantastic shape. Recently a logging company has done a lot of work on this road in preparation of doing some logging. The stream crossing on the road now has two large culverts and you could not tell this was a major obstacle to getting to the trailhead in past years. Any AWD vehicle can make it to within 500 MR of the trailhead.



The weather was foggy and cloudy and we were hoping that it would blow over. The wet and slippery trail goes up and down on some very old logging roads. The grade did get very steep when going through the trees. The trail was a bit wet so we all had to tread carefully. At the top, the clouds played peekaboo with the views. We did see the Cascades range, Silver lake, Skagit Valley: Hope and the Fraser valley were still fogged in. It's a tough 9km hike with over 800m cumulative gain and I'm sure there is a fantastic rewarding view. Definitely I will have to return.



- **Irene H** (reporter) **Sonia L** (picture credit), **Cal F** (organizer)

Along for this trip were Sonia L, Ingrid F, Annette I, Dorothy F, Brigitte G, Jan S, Regina F, Anne O, Irene H, Cal F, Darren J, Lorna F, and Charlie J.

WELLS PEAK: SEPT. 29



Wells Peak shares the same parking lot as Hope MT. The 8 km road gains more than 1000 MR and is in great shape. This has been a decades old long neglected trail that has been getting some use lately because of the upgrades to the road. Wells Peak is challenging, but never extreme and there are three peaks to summit, which a couple members did on this sunny day.



The trail starts on a nicely graded old overgrown logging road for the first 500 MR and then it gets steep through the forest. I was surprised that we had an actual trail in the forest and it was in good condition. As you leave the forest you arrive in the alpine with alpine heather all around and the peak in front of you glistening in the sun with its towering cliffs. After climbing up through the heather we took a left turn to cross the boulder field to gain access to the lower ridge. The climb to the lower ridge was steep and then very

steep for a short distance. Some of us used microspikes to assist us in coming down. Once on the ridge it was a short walk to two of the summits and a 20 minute climb to the other summit. We all enjoyed a long lunch while basking in the sun and enjoying the 360 degree views. The return trip to the cars was fairly quick as several members glissaded down the steep heather. I highly recommend this hike.



Along for this wonderful day were Grant A, Steve O, Christine C, Steve C, Tammy W, Brian F, Cindy W, Lynne D and Andrew D + **Cal F**

BRANDYWINE SUMMIT – SEPT. 30

This excursion involved a long drive: 3 hours one way (about a third of that on a rough road) and the added cost of gas + eating out. So I was surprised when 16 hikers signed on for this trip. I think we'd all agree it was a tough one, but well worth the effort. The views, although faded somewhat by smoke haze, were far-reaching and stunning.



Four four-by-fours left Whatcom Road at 7:00am, picking up 3 more hikers along the way. Two hikers had done this hike last year so we had expert guides with us. We parked at the highest parking lot so it took only about 20 minutes to hike to the meadows. Waterfalls poured into the hanging Ushaped



valley from all three sides. After crossing a creek, we turned left and began a 2 to 3 hour steep ascent to the summit. The first slope was particularly steep, the lower half being sod and dirt and the upper half being talus. We followed cairns upwards to the ridge.



From there Mt. Fee stood before us, separated by a deep valley. Its unique finely pointed edges dominated the southern horizon. On we trudged westward, doing a lot of high steps on rock reflecting the heat of the day. Once on the next ridge, we could see the summit and the massive snowfield below it. Large parallel cracks had formed on its smooth surface. We never did need to use our micro-spikes. As we neared the summit it became a bit trickier to find the correct way to go between the massive boulders.

Soon the reward of summiting was ours to claim. What a view! To our southwest we could now see the jagged peaks of Pryoclastic and Cayley Mts, which look similar to those of Mt. Fee. To our north was Rainbow Mt. and farther away to the east were the familiar Wedge, Blackcomb, Whistler, Castle Towers, Black Tusk & Garibaldi Mts. Within a 1:15



hour period, the large group of hikers filtered onto the summit.



But with daylight hours being more limited, we had to turn back at 3:30pm. So some did not get much of a rest. We did 4 wait-ups on the descent, thus entering the parking lot at the same time, which was half an hour before sunset at 6:30pm. By the time we got to Squamish, tired and dirty and hungry eating out was no longer so appealing. So we settled for some fast food to eat during the long drive home.



Stats: 12 km / 967m gain / 2213m high

Participants: Terry B, Nadine B, Joachim B, Denise D, Peter E, **Cal F**, Ingrid F, Brigette G, Tracy G, Janice H, Irene H, Bote M, Brett R, Margaret T, Robbin Y + Case & **Joce T**

GOLDEN LARCH FEST, LAKE LOUISE:

SEPT 26 – OCT 1

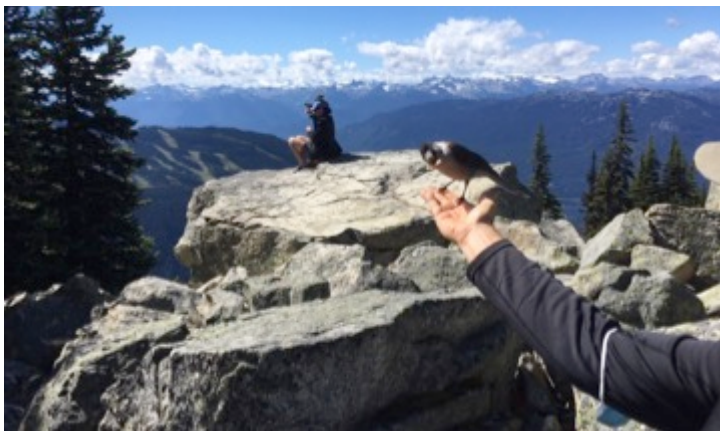
We departed Abbotsford September 26, the drive to Lake Louise the usual 8 hour cruising time. The fact we were in Louise by the afternoon meant a ramble by the Lake made for a good end of the day leg stretcher, Fairview lookout is a lovely and quieter bench to see the lake and rock sentinels from.



September 27 we rented E-Bikes from Wilson's in Village Lake Louise and did a 48 KL day, the morning the Great Divide (former highway) Road (nordic skiing in the winter) just down the hill from Lake Louise and the towering Chateau, through the wooden portal (see photo) to Lake O'Hara parking lot and back (26 KL). The, Moraine Parking lot was packed, so we biked the 22 KL return trip to Moraine and back in the afternoon-plenty of golden larches to see.

September 28 we trekked to Saddleback Pass, leaving at dawn, parking lot not quite as full, the golden larches at their exquisite best, a forest of them like a lantern glowing sheer beauty. Saddleback Pass once had a tea hut but such is now faded and forgotten history. We lingered and loafed at

Saddleback bathing in the light and warmth, debating whether we should do Fairview Peak, trek back via Paradise-Sheol or return the way we came. The golden



larch bounty held us and multiple photos were taken from various angles.

September 29 began with a visit to Ruthie Oltmann in Exshaw. Ruthie wrote the 1st guide book to the Kananaskis and the biography of the legendary Lizzie Rummel, Ruthie a good friend of Lizzie's. Ruthie mentioned that as Lawrence Grassi was aging, Lizzie would often take him dinners, but given her aristocratic German background, she found Lawrence's constant use of his spittoon quite irritating. It was, though, Lawrence who built the solid and artistic rock steps up to Lake Oesa in Lake O'Hara and the magnificent rock steps beside the cascading waterfalls at Grassi Lakes (named after Lawrence Grassi and where we spent the afternoon after seeing Ruthie). Needless to say, golden larches were ever abundant.



September 30 it was to the golden larches at Taylor Lake, O'Brien Lake above Taylor yet a grander beauty, the ridge above Taylor a short ramble with outstanding vistas and larches strutting their autumn stuff. Many go to Larch Valley-Sentinel above Moraine to see the golden larches, but Taylor and Saddleback put on a finer show. While Karin and I were sitting by Taylor Lake (mist and clouds lifted revealing fresh snow clothed mountains), we were delighted and surprised to meet Martin-Sue Abegg (who were in Louise for the week). We spent a couple of hours at Taylor Lake with them, then it was back to the hostel in Louise for the night (the hostel closing for a couple of months, Covid having its impact).

October 1 it was to Abbotsford again, a fine golden larches fest stored in pleasurable memories.

- Ron/Karin Dart

Afternoon with Martin-Sue Abegg Taylor Lake.



Golden Larches

Rock cathedrals, dusting of snow on them, gaze down, silent, much seen. They will last the winter. They have weathered many storms and winters.

Spring and summer season of the journey finished for the golden larches, no return to beginnings, their season in time over and done.

Final autumn gift, thin needles turn golden yellow, high alpine trails carpeted in soft larch middens, pathways to walk for those, carving their way to the high regions, easing their journey, trees aglow like lanterns, beckoning to another dimension.

Snow returns, golden needles fade, return to the soil, final autumn phase bountiful beauty, a royal road for others to walk.

70TH BIRTHDAY TREKS

Oh how that glittering taketh me.

The end of seven decades does call forth some rambling memories from the past and repeat trips in the present. I lived in Switzerland from 1972-1974 and took in some fine Swiss peaks. I was asked in 1975 to assist in the building of a mountaineering program in the Crowsnest Pass (see photo of rappelling) and in February of 1976, a few of us did a winter touring ski trip into Cathedral Provincial Park, snow caved and skied Quiniscoe Lake (see photo). The COC also did a weeklong trip in Cathedral more than a decade ago, doing most of the charmers of pathways. So, July 23-26 this year, Karin and I wandered Diamond, Glacier and



Ladyslipper Trails, the rim ever beckoning, Smokey the Bear and Giant Cleft ever welcoming, the goats ever friendly and more than willing to patiently pose for photos.

A few of us skied under the full moon in December of 1976 to Mount Assiniboine, nights bright with the lantern of the night, full moon hours spent on the slopes, warm fires in the small wooden cabins luring us homeward after hours under the bright stars. I led a COC trip (30 in the group) for a weeklong trip to Assiniboine in 2013, those on the trip now with memorable albums of the diverse rambles and exquisite loafing days under the blue canopy. My many trips in the area either Sunshine to Assiniboine, Arnica Lake-Shadow Lake-Sunshine meant an alternate trip was in the offing.



Our daughter was keen to do Decker Loop and Blackcomb Lake in July for her 36th birthday so a splendid day by the lake, snow still lingering, views across the Fitzsimmons a beauty, Black Tusk prominent, birds on heads and hands ever eager for a treat.

Karin and I brought our bikes with us, spent the night at Louise Hostel (August 30), and backpacks on, biked the 10 KL-1000 foot ascent Redearth Trail towards Shadow Lake August 31 (so many fine trips in the alpine from Shadow Lake). We locked our bikes to a tree after the initial 10KL, and did the final 2.2 KL to Shadow Lake (trip took about 3.5 hours from Redearth trailhead to Shadow Lake). September 1 we took to Gibbon Pass (Twin Lakes beneath), then



headed ever upward to the summit of Little Copper Peak—such sights seen from the spacious perch. The day still a lingering beauty we crossed the Valley and did a lazy afternoon, warmth of the sun spoiling us, at the base of Storm Mountain. September 2 we headed to the expansive waterfalls and Amphitheatre at the far end of Shadow Lake and up over rock faces, foaming waterfalls and thinning forests. I might add that neither the Little Copper Peak nor Amphitheatre-ice caves trails are on topographical maps. The ice cave at the far end of the Amphitheatre is a crawl in not to miss when in the Shadow Lake area. September 3 we did a quick trip round the opposite side of Shadow Lake in the direction of Ball Pass and Whistling Pass. The day ended with a return to our bikes, the rapid descent on cycles taking less than an hour. Many are the superb treks from Shadow Lake radiating into different directions, rock cathedrals and glaciers in abundance. Indeed, a lovely way to celebrate my 70th.



montani semper liberi
- Ron/Karin Dart



Brandywine Meadows



Masthead: Mt. Fee on Brandywine Ridge

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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