



### SLOLLICUM PEAK – SEPT. 8

Serious hike on Friday. Done with Cal, Mark, Jan, Cindy and Iraj. Cal Francis posted the hike in the Chilliwack Outdoor Club. He knew I wanted to do it and I thank him for it. Slollicum Peak is on the east side of Harrison Lake, BC and the hike is 12.36 kms (7.68mi) with 1082m (3550ft) elevation gain.

This was the last, and long overdue, hike of mine in Harrison Hot Springs in order to complete all the hikes I wanted to do in Harrison. So glad to have finally got it done. Definitely worth the suffering. I had started my hiking in Harrison, at age 70 on a wonderful walk through the beautiful Spirit Trail with Pat, which led us to the Sandy Cove/ Whippoorwill Point hike. Then that motivated me to try the Campbell Lake hike (Harrison Grind), which hooked me on hiking. I followed that with Bear Mountain and have been trying to complete that with Slollicum Peak ever since. Now it is finally done. The length and elevation gain on this hike are extremely misleading as there is a long section of Forest Service Road (FSR) that is just a steady incline which means that to gain all that elevation it is done in a much shorter distance and that translates into STEEP.



The start of the trail is right off an FSR where we parked, and it is the steepest start on any trail I ever ever done with maybe the exception of Nicomen Mountain. It's almost vertical.

I should mention that my little Ford Escape once again earned its keep in getting us to the trailhead,



as there were numerous cross ditches to cross and a couple of them required me to engage the 4x4 option. This saved us 153M (502ft) and 1.36 kms (.85mi) of hiking, which is steep stuff. She's earned her keep already by getting me to 3 trailheads that I couldn't have gotten to otherwise. McGuire, Slesse and now Slollicum as well as relieving us of that tortuous FSR slog at the beginning and end of this hike. Marina Schroevers-Striker was a great help in sharing a route track of this hike. Her track included the brand-new trail down to Slollicum Lake. This would have added too much distance and especially elevation gain onto an already tough hike 1.3kms and 255m (0.84mi + 837ft) and none of the group was up for it, which didn't hurt my feelings. They are all superb hikers too.

This trail is a mix of everything. Steep dirt steps. Steep rocks to get over. Rock garden to negotiate. Muddy STEEP slopes to try and survive. Dry STEEP slopes to try and survive. Beautiful soft needle-based trail sections. Very little mild or flat sections. Beautiful meadows. There were even creek crossings on the FSR and the trail which were insignificant as they were easily crossed without risk of getting wet feet. Most of the trail was in the beautiful forest until we got to the ridge and then it was almost all in the open.

When I finally saw the ridge in front of me, my legs were more than happy for a walk along a ridge. I should have known that it wasn't going to be that easy, as we still had a long way to go and a lot more UP. And down. And UP. However, by using that little known secret of physics, by putting one foot in front of the other, over and over again, the summit was finally achieved. We enjoyed a long break there with many photos and good conversations, before heading



back down. We weren't far away from the summit when Jan came back and said he heard a bear. He didn't see it but heard it making bear sounds and was certain. I am not afraid of Black bears and because I am the slowest they used the tried and true method of saving themselves from a bear attack by putting the slowest person out front. Cindy even made a comment about 'fresh meat'. Some friends they turned out to be. I tricked them by not getting attacked by the bear. In fact, it seemed to be scared of the sacrificial lamb because it never showed itself.



The trip down was tiring but uneventful until I got my pole strap caught on my bladder tube and that distracted me enough to make a wrong step and slipped and fell backwards onto my butt. No damage done, thank goodness. We got back to the long FSR and it seemed like it was 3 times as long as it felt like when we were going up it. That's the first time I have experienced that as it is always the opposite.

We finally got to the trail entrance off the FSR and started down that steep section too. Eventually, we made it back to the vertical section to the FSR and the uplifting feeling of having accomplished another objective. Tick that one off. A great day out with wonderfully nice people. Well, except for the bear story. There was a big bonus to this one though. We had all met up at Earl's in Chilliwack to group into 2 cars and after we got back there, the group decided to go to Earl's for a beer and a snack. It was something that doesn't often happen, and I really, really liked it. It always seems like something is missing when you finish a punishing hike and then just disperse into the mist. We ended up having great conversation and a real bonus to this really important hike of mine.

EDIT: I forgot to mention that this is an extremely well marked trail marked by The Chilliwack Park Society trail crew. Thank you.

The Joy of Life and Relish the Struggle.

Enjoy Life folks in the best way you can.

-Don Tocher (report & photos) + Cal F

### WATERSPRITE LAKE VIA DEMON RIDGE – SEPT. 15



Here is a quote from a recent post that I found " I finished a new route this year. It is well marked and flagged. Turn off of the main Watersprite trail as mentioned. All new signage. [The first part after you turn off needs the shorter soft vegetation cleared but the foot bed is there and solid. I've done my part. Others can please clear this soft vegetation away.]



Then follow the old road all the way to its very end. You can

see the BCMC cabin from here and the lake. Looking up to your left are the new trail markers leading up to the ridge. 400 meters later you are on the ridge. A 360-degree vista. For the more fit and adventurous you may follow the new trail down from the Demon summit to the lake and return to the trailhead via the main Watersprite trail doing a loop. Enjoy. David Scanlon - BCMC"

Participants were: Dave B, George D, Heather F, Janice H, Irene H, Sheri K, Jan S (photos) + Cal F

### FROSTY MT – SEPT 16



Awesome cool but sunny weather. 8 degrees at the top. Not a cloud all day. 22km, 1200m ascent. The larches were still their nice light green colour. Mt. Frosty is the highest point in Manning Park. Along were: Liz L & Maureen Smith



-Herb Chlebek

### WELLS PEAK – SEPT. 17

This is the last hike on my written list of hikes I wanted to accomplish this year and thanks to Cal Francis I got it and Slollicum Peak done. Thanks to Mark Schmale for Mt McGuire and Mt Slesse - to the very base of the mountain.

He was also my guardian on the Zupjok, Llama & Alpaca peaks hike just before my birthday. That hike was organized by Jan Simons and was also joined by Sonia Jacobsen. It's been a great year and Cal tells me we will do Mt Frosty in October to see the Golden Larches. This will be a bonus hike.

My interest in Wells was initiated last year when I did the fabulous Hope Mountain hike. The trailhead for these two mountains are in exactly the same spot, with Hope to the west and Wells across the parking area to the east. I read a trip report on Hope Mountain by Redina Borros a few years ago and wanted to do it ever since then. Redina is a great hiker and does excellent trip reports and photos and that is what hooked my interest. In fact, she did Hope Mountain and Wells Peak on the same day. Incredible.

We started out at 10:20 in the morning after meeting up in Chilliwack and driving to the trailhead up a long and rough FSR. This road requires a bit of clearance and short overhang front and rear. The more overhang you have the more clearance you will need, but almost any SUV should make it with moderate driving skills. AWD or 4x4 are totally unnecessary. For anybody interested you take the Hwy #3 exit to Manning Park and right after you enter #3 there is a downhill and the entrance to the FSR is right at the bottom of the hill.





The first part of the trail is through foliage and this chilly, damp day the foliage was dripping with water. The front few put on ponchos, and they would have been a good thing. I was at the back and just put on my waterproof windbreaker. I had to wear it due to the temperature anyway. There was about an inch or two of snow on the ground and a good dusting on the mountains around us. After the fairly long foliage section there was a rock outcropping and boulders to navigate before getting into the steep switchbacks which reminded me of the recently done Slollicum Peak trail, only there were a lot of really steep, muddy sections here that required careful attention and effort. There was also some really nice pine needle-based sections of trail, but very little of it wasn't steep. Any reasonable person would call this trail gnarly. All of the trail going up was in the beautiful forest until the very last bit.



There were fallen logs to climb over and a long log bridge over a gully that was flat on the top. I'd seen photos of this and wasn't looking forward to it, with my questionable balance and it being wet. It turned out that I crossed it ok, although very carefully, and even better on the way down with my microspikes on. Just before we exited the trees some evil person decided that we should have a really good test and this section was almost vertical, very muddy and extremely slippery with very little in the way of defined stepping spots. There were a few other steep, slippery sections but this was the clear winner. A few of us put on our microspikes to come down this and I have no idea how those that didn't even made it down.

We had a very long boulder field to cross which was mixed with sections of trail that were shale. The boulder field was a challenge as you had to be very careful not to step on a boulder that would move and that could lead to disaster. The narrow shale sections of the trail were straight forward but you still had to be careful not to step near the outer edge or it would give way and more disaster would happen.

Eventually we made it up to the col (lowest point of a ridge or saddle) and then it was a straightforward mountain hike to the summit. Wells has 3 summits. Our lunch point was the middle summit, which is where most people finish. The west summit is quite a few meters descent and then a serious scramble to the top. Sheri and Sonia headed over there but came back saying the surfaces were far too slippery to risk it. After a long, fun lunch break we packed up and headed over to the east summit. This was straightforward hiking, and the views were outstanding there too. There was a big boulder that looked like a cave so I sat in the opening for a photo, but the photo was blah.



However, the opening went right through and Sonia and I got to get our faces photographed by Cal, through the hole. After spending some quality time there we went back to the col and then headed down the mountain. This isn't a long hike, but it is almost all vertical. The hike is 6.7kms return (4.2mi) or 3.35 kms up and over 713 meters (2340ft). That's a lot of elevation gain in that short a distance.

It will be interesting to see what the future holds.  
Participants: Sonia A, Ingrid F, Irene H, Sheri K, **Don T** (report & photos) + **Cal F**

## GOAT RIDGE – SEPT 21



We had perfect weather and conditions. This is a steep hike with 6 rope assists. The first rope assist is the longest, hardest and most helpful. We did not use the other five rope assists but I am sure they would be useful if the trail was wet/slick. I would not recommend doing this trail in wet conditions. Some of our group wore micro spikes. Near the beginning of the trail is a warning sign indicating the high number of SAR calls this trail has received.



Participants: Sonia A, Irene H, Sheri K, Mark Sch, Jan S, Phoebe Z + **Cal F**

## WILLIAMS PEAK – SEPT. 23

15km long 1727meter elevation gain.

Group left the Vedder Park at 7:25am drove to the tail head on Chilliwack Road.

Started our hike at 8am, it was sunny and cool morning 11C, trail went straight up in the dense forest with overgrown vegetation and downfall trees.

(63% grade to the ridge 2.6 km 1071meter)

After two hours uphill we arrived at the ridge from there it was easier hike to the boulder field because of lower incline. At the end of ridge just before the boulder feild we had a great view of the majestic Williams Peak and clouds were covering lower part of valley.

(46% grade on the ridge 5.8km 1377meter)



Boulder field was challenging to navigate but we managed to make it across without losing any elevation.

(-60% grade to the bolder 6.5km 1371 meter)

After the boulder field we arrive at steep chute with dirt and grass staircase all the way up to the peak. At this point clouds were getting lower and causing concern.

We pushed hard and arrived at the

peak at 1:20 pm, it was clear with magnificent 360deg. view, we had lunch then start descending at 1:49 pm. expecting five hours to get to the parking lot.

(73% grade just before the peak 7.5km 1727 meter)

Descending was also challenging through the chute and boulder field, it took us 4:20hrs. to the parking lot.

Total hiking time was 9:30hrs. no water anywhere along the trial, trail was rough in most places not properly marked all the way to the peak, we were fortunate it was beautiful clear and cool day.



This was a challenging hike but hiking with a group of ambitious strong and inspiring hikers made it worthwhile and memorable.



Participants: Lori, Greg, Andrew and Iraj (report & photos) + **Cindy Waslewsky**

### **GROUSE MT TO CROWN, CAMEL & GOAT PEAKS – SEPT. 25**

Time: About 8 hours. Elevation Gain: About 1000m, but lots of up and down. Take water.

COC trip to North Vancouver to attempt to hike Crown Mountain and climb The Camel, both of which were successful.

We drove to the Grouse Mountain gondola, Saturday morning, for the first scheduled ride up at 8:45, but arrived there about 8:20 giving us plenty of time, in case there was a line-up. There wasn't, so we had a second delicious breakfast from Starbucks.



The hike started at about 9am from the top station and we made good time to the summit of Crown, where we were met by quite a lot of early birds who had already hiked the Grind or BCMC trails. After a quick bite and some photos, we made our way along the narrow north side ledge of Crown, then down the class 4 steep chimney and across the open slab to the east side of the Camel. Here we roped up and did a diagonal climb across the face and up to the summit area of the Camel. The climbing was low 5th class, but the 600m of exposure down to the Hanes Valley was mind-boggling. After the hike we made our way back to the Crown for a pleasant lunch and chats with the Crown summiters.



Dinner was a shared bag of potato chips and two bottles of ginger ale before hitting the highway for the very slow crawl to the Iron Workers bridge and to our homes in the valley.



Participants: Cindy W and **Andrew D**

Of course, Cindy, being one to bag as many peaks as possible, hiked to the top of Goat Peak too, before we met up near the Grouse Mountain lodge area to enjoy, along with the other kids, the logger's show which started around 5:15. We hurried to the gondola for the next ride down and were the last two in the car.

### **RICHMOND CYCLE RIDE: SATURDAY SEPT 25**



Great day for a ride. Seven of us enjoyed the trails of Richmond. We started at Ironwood plaza where you can find a bathroom, coffee and a quick breakfast. The route headed south, clockwise around Lulu island. The weather was sunny with a slight breeze.



Our photographer stopped everywhere to get some great shots – check out Facebook Chilliwack Outdoor club public. We briefly stopped at Steveston – bathroom break, then headed towards Terra Nova Park. Here we stopped again to



admire all the vegetable plots. Next, we cycled over to Sea Island, everyone had fun negotiating the tight turns on the bridge ramp. Great lunch at the Flying Beaver. Then I lead everyone down an old, bumpy trail that follows the river. It took us behind the West Jet Building where a car race (models) was happening in the parking lot. Miniature Indy 500, lol. Next stop, McDonald beach (bathroom) and then onto Iona spit. We had a longer break here, so Simon and I could fix my flat tire. We had a bit of work returning because of a head wind. My butt was getting tired, so I decided to take a shorter route home. We headed for the Shell Road trail that took us back to the shopping centre. Great day, great ride, thanks Sonia, Annette, Leora, Don, Wayne, Simon for joining me on this adventure.

-Irene H

### DESTINATION HIKES

#### IN AND AROUND SOUTHWESTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Greystone Books: Vancouver, 2021

Stephen Hui

Forward by Cecilia Point

I have before me a few first edition books (collector's items I assume) that were pioneering guide books in their day: *Mt. Garibaldi: Vancouver's Alpine Playground* (1922) by Don Munday, a signed edition of Dick Culbert's 1960s *A Climber's Guide to the Coastal Ranges of British Columbia*, a splendid 1967 copy of Glenn Woodsworth's *A Climber's Guide to the Squamish Chief and Surrounding Areas* (signed by the superb climber and search and rescue legend Tim Auger—we spent some lovely time in Lake O'Hara many a year ago) and the many editions of *103 Hikes in Southwestern British Columbia* by, initially, David/Mary Macaree, then Jack Bryceland. The more recent stepping on the stage by Stephen Hui has enriched and enlarged, updated and revealed yet a greater variety of more and less demanding treks to take.

The publication of *Destination Hikes In and Around Southwestern British Columbia* is a fit and fine companion to Stephen's earlier book, *105 Hikes In and Around Southwestern British Columbia*. The style of both books is much the same, but this new book adds to the possibilities of trails yet to take and destinations yet to see. The book is divided into four regions: 1) Hikes North of Vancouver, 2)

Hikes East of Vancouver, 3) Hikes West of Vancouver and 4) Hikes South of Vancouver (in the United States). Each hike is replete with superb photographs and headings that include distance, time, elevation gain, high point, difficulty, maps and trailhead. Photographs also include a variety of animals, waterfalls, scenic sights, thick forests, carpeted forest floors, signs, alpine flowers, wooden cabins, richly coloured clouds and various types of glaciers. There are also many "Stop of Interest" sections that make a trip to the mountains yet more attractive and worth the effort in doing. Stephen, rightly so, makes it clear that for those keen to take to the mountains (shorter or longer trips) preparation and precautions are needful and necessary—he has a fine few pages that cover the basics of outdoor rambling so that one and all return safely and in good form.

The 55 hikes included in *Destination Hikes* do, as the subtitle suggests,

point to "Swimming Holes, Mountain Peaks, Waterfalls and More". The "More" opens up more enchanted trails worth the trekking. 19 of the hikes are north of Vancouver, 20 of the hikes east of Vancouver, a mere 7 of the hikes west of Vancouver and another 9 hikes south of Vancouver (in the state of Washington). So, the bulk of the hikes in this timely beauty and bounty of a well-crafted book are north and east of Vancouver.

The Foreword by Cecilia Point is a keeper not to miss. Cecilia has an evocative way of inviting those keen to take to such sacred and time tried 1<sup>st</sup> Nations landscapes to realize many have gone before them and their footprints still remain for those with eyes to see and hearts to feel. The Foreword is, indeed, worth a few meditative read and much inward digesting.

The "Overview Maps" (pages 30-37) are well worth the pondering as plans are made for trips into the backcountry and means of evaluating the expectations and demands of such trips, mountain weather and group dynamics, always, of course, the variable and unpredictable elements in any mountain and rambling trip.

I have done most of the trips that Stephen so well describes and there can be no doubt that *Destination Hikes* is a must have book for those eager to take to the mountains, alpine lakes, peaks, ridges and much else in southwestern British Columbia and further southward into Washington. The book also provides most of the information needed for safe trips there and back again and continues the unfolding journey of solid and reliable guide books for those interested and committed to mature trips into the bounty of beautiful British Columbia.

Montani Semper Liberi

**Ron dart**

Masthead – Wells Mt.



## 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](http://www.valhallapure.com) (club sponsor), [www.backpacker.com](http://www.backpacker.com) and [www.mec.ca](http://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: <a href="mailto:calfrancis@gmail.com">calfrancis@gmail.com</a>

**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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