

# CDMC

## Trip Report

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**Iceberg Peak Via Mirren Lake** (hiking)

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Fri Aug 15 to Sun Aug 17, 2014

 Leader: **Glenn Ord**

Co-Leader:

Celestial hiking: Mirren Lake, Iceberg Peak and Mt Celeste

The 2 night trip was shortened to 1 and half days because of an inconvenient Friday rain-day. The original objective of a possible camp up high and a visit to Iceberg Peak remained.

We started the hike on Saturday morning at a civilized 11:15 am with clouds that stubbornly clinged to the mountain-sides. Six of us energetically moved up through the slash, forest and meadows and the now standard summer route which bypasses, in places, the central Kweishun Creek valley. Ian, who had been on the Mirren Lake hike a week earlier, remarked on the amount of snow melt that occurred in less than a week. We examined the mischievous boulder that caused such grief the previous week; it was still delicately balanced, so Steve pushed it safely over.

We reached the shores of Mirren Lake early afternoon, without making any wrong turns, and continued on to about half-way along the lake. A group discussion ensued and we unanimously agreed to push on up with our packs. We followed glacial creeks up, then along a small moraine wall up to a splendid Mirren Lake overlook. We moved as a compact group up the steep but fairly obvious route until we reached a pretty, little meadow alongside a glacial stream and a view across to a hanging glacial (below the Comox Glacier "summit"). Cloud obscured our views to the west over to the Rees Ridge. That was home for the night.

After dinner, a short shower hit our camp and some retreated to their tents while a couple of others wandered up along the glacial edge and reconnoitred the route onto Rees Ridge.

The following day, the camp bustled with activity under a clear sky and we set out at 6:45am, first for Rees Ridge and then steadily up towards Iceberg Peak. We reached our destination at a leisurely pace by just after 9:00am, admired the view, took photos. Mt Celeste exerted a pull, so the group decided to continue on to the nearby peak. There was quite a bit of snow around the Celestial peaks but the group was on a secondary summit just after 10:00am. We decided that it was sufficient and turned back to camp around 10:30am.

Legs started to tire a wee bit, as the return leg to camp took as long as the ascent (including a lunch stop overlooking Mirren Lake). Tents were taken down and we were back hiking within half an hour descending the ridge down to Mirren Lake. At the bottom a few of us poked our heads into one of the ice tunnels that have formed at the bottom of a glacier, just above the lake.

Beyond the lake, it was a some what tiring descent back to the vehicles. We managed to keep the group tight and despite a few minor slips on "greasy" slopes and creek crossings, it went without incident. We were all happy to return safely back to the trail head. We were tired from a 12+ hour day and muscles were calling for cold beer.

All in all, it was rewarding, day and half.

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And

here:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/111843407128389137437/albums/6049138306303614369>



*Lunch stop on the way up*  
[Glenn Ord photo]



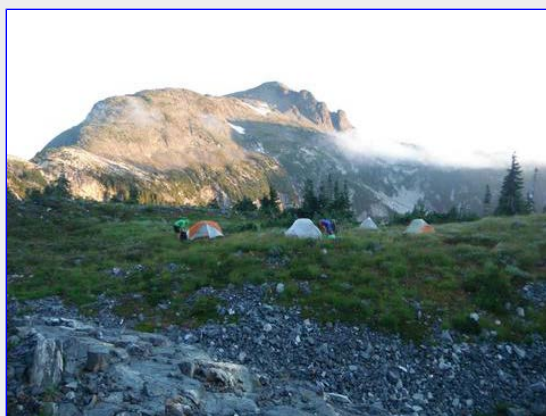
*Group shot, Iceberg Peak, with Mt  
Celeste to the right*  
[Glenn Ord photo]



*Happy hikers on the way in*  
[Al Tranfield photo]



*View from camp to Mirren Lake*  
[Al Tranfield photo]



*Early morning Iceberg peak in the  
background*  
[Al Tranfield photo]



*Our illustrious leader*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*Snow Bridge*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*Picture perfect*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*One of the snow caves by Mirren Lake*  
[Carol Hunter photo]



*A Northern Pygmy Owl keeping  
an eye on us as we packed up  
camp*  
[Carol Hunter photo]

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