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Flower Ridge (hiking) [return to Reports list](#)

Fri Aug 24 to Sat Aug 25, 2012

 Leader: **Tim Penney**

Co-Leader:

Flower Ridge - August 25, 2012

Thank goodness for fairly reliable weather forecasts. This trip was scheduled for Sunday, but was moved ahead one day to what worked out to be an exceptionally good day for fine weather and beautiful clouds. The clouds evaporated away as the day progressed. Only 3 people on the trip, so at least it qualified as a club trip.

We made an early start from the Henshaw Creek trailhead where Kim and I, who had camped at Ralph River camp ground on Friday night, met up with Geoff, who had made an even earlier start from Comox, but was waiting for us when we turned up. The hike starts out on a fairly gentle grade and even includes some steps on a couple of rough sections. It does slowly start to increase in steepness, though, and then continues mostly that way until it opens up at the start of the ridge. We were expecting to have to navigate around some blowdown across the trail at the 5 kilometre, but it had already been cleared.

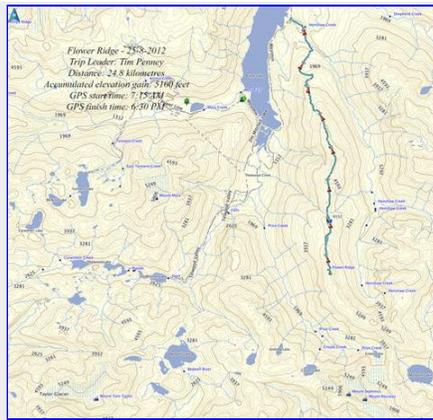
Once on the ridge the views were really quite spectacular except for the view down to the Westmin mine site. The ridge isn't flat, but undulates up and down as you progresses along, with an elevation gain of another 1000 feet to our high point. We finished up at about 5000 feet at our highest point, with another 250 feet to climb to one of the ridge summits. However, that meant dropping down again into low point before climbing to the high point of 5249 feet.

Our hike along the open ridge was almost exactly the same length as the climb up to the ridge. We didn't find much water on the climb up to the ridge, but there was no shortage at the higher elevations. We did encounter lots of snow patches along the ridge with evidence of recent melt elsewhere. Surprisingly, in view of the Flower Ridge name, we only saw a few flowers. I am not sure whether we were too early, or too late for the flowers.

All good things have to come to an end, so we eventually had to turn around and head back along the ridge to the start of the main descent through the trees. The trail going down had a few slippery sections but was clear and easy to follow.

This was the first time on Flower Ridge for the three of us and turned out to be a very enjoyable bit of exercise in good company and great weather conditions.

[More photos from this trip](#) can be seen here.



GPS route map
[Tim Penney photo]



View of Mount Albert Edward
[Tim Penney photo]



One of many tarns along the ridge
[Tim Penney photo]



Looking south along Flower Ridge
[Tim Penney photo]



Help!
[Tim Penney photo]



Along the ridge looking east
[Tim Penney photo]



Big Interior
[Geoff Brameld photo]



9 Peaks and Cream Lake
[Geoff Brameld photo]



Red Pillar in the distance
[Geoff Brameld photo]



Group shot, & Golden Hinde
[Geoff Brameld photo]

Report contributors: Geoff B, Tim P,

Participant list (3 of 3): Kim B, Geoff B, Tim P,

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