

CDMC

Trip Report

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Sun Jul 14, 2013

 Leader: **Tim Penney**

Co-Leader:

Mirren Lake 14-7-2013

The weather was was warm and sunny and 22 of us in total, including a small contingent from Port Alberni, turned out for this, the fourth club trip to Mirren Lake since 2009.

From the courthouse, we headed out in a convoy of seven 4WD vehicles for the trailhead. Thanks to the road clearing that Ken and I recently completed, and then a group effort on Sunday to level off the creek crossing, all the vehicles were able to make it most of the way to the end of the road and the trailhead. Two vehicles managed to make it right to the end of the road. My Tacoma, being one of them, suffered some slight cosmetic changes in the process and managed to grade out the road in several places as well.

The 700 foot climb up through the logging slash proceeded in a nice orderly fashion and was aided by our having recently ribboned a good route.

A short distance from the Park boundary we dropped down to an awe inspiring lush green valley with almost sheer sided cliffs rising two or three thousand feet above us on both sides of the valley. Needless to say, we stooped here for a short break to enjoy the views, take lots of photographs and check out the route ahead.

We followed Kweishun Creek along the valley bottom to the waterfall and then climbed two different routes to the next level. One route followed close to the cliff face in a fairly deep bergschrund which made the going somewhat awkward especially climbing up and back onto the snow at the top. It didn't help that the snow was on a fairly steep angle. No real problem, though, as the nimble footed hikers complete the manoeuvre without mishap. The other route stayed further away from the cliff face and was the easier route. We returned that way on the way back.

Once beyond the waterfall we had an easy walk on and off snow all the way to Mirren Lake without having to resort to the side route that we had to use in 2009. Both Mirren and Gordon Wood lakes were ice free.

We had plenty of time to enjoy our lunch break perched on the rocks with a magnificent view of Mirren Lake, Mount Harmston and Iceberg Peak. After lunch we reluctantly started on the trek back which, due to the nature of the terrain, meant a fairly slow and careful descent of the snow slopes, the waterfall area and the logging slash.

For those of us who had done this trip before it was nice to reacquaint ourselves with the spectacular scenery and, for the first timers, it was well worth the effort for a chance to see this beautiful hidden valley.

GPS start time from trailhead: 10:15 AM

Distance 11.5 kilometres
Accumulated elevation gain: 1800 feet
GPS finish time back at trailhead: 5:15 PM

[You can feast your eyes on, and enjoy, these additional pictures](#) from my Fotki site.



Many hands make crossing work
[Tim Penney photo]



First meadow and looking west to the waterfall and climb ahead of us
[Tim Penney photo]



Melting snow as we head out of the meadows
[Tim Penney photo]



Crossing the creek just below the waterfall
[Tim Penney photo]



Climbing up to get around the waterfall
[Tim Penney photo]



Still lots of deep snow beyond the waterfall
[Tim Penney photo]



Above the waterfall
[Tim Penney photo]



*Gigantic split rock just before
Gordon Wood Lake*
[Tim Penney photo]



*Snow breakdown alongside
Gordon Wood Lake*
[Tim Penney photo]



*Mirren Lake with Mount
Harmston and Iceberg Peak in
the background*
[Tim Penney photo]

Report contributors: Tim P,

Participant list (22 of 22): Sylvia A, Barb B:*guest*, Pat B:*guest*, Glen C, Karen G:*guest*, Linda H, Myra K:*guest*, Don K, Kathryn L, Lorne L:*guest*, LeRoy M, Marianne M, Don M, Pam M, Kurt N, Tim P, Ken R, David S, Joan S, Karl S, Ron T, Otto W,

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