

# CDMC

## Trip Report

[Home](#)
[Future trips](#)
[Past trips](#)
[Trip guidelines](#)
[Conditions](#)
[Routes >](#)
[Forum](#)
[Membership](#)
[Reference >](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Photo contest](#)
[What's new](#)
[Member](#)
[Login](#)
[Changes](#)
 today

 yesterday

 < 7 days

 < 30 days

**Nootka Trail** (hiking) [return to Reports list](#)

Fri Jun 26 to Sat Jul 04, 2015

 Leader: **Amber Gargus**

 Co-Leader: **Susan Osso**

What a trip! Amazing weather, hikers and experience for 9 days on Nootka Island.

We loaded the Air Nootka Beaver all bright eyed and bushy tailed excited to get going at 9:45am. The plane did a fly by of the trail and to see what was ahead of us. Landing in Starfish Lagoon with low tide, we unloaded the plane and got ready for our 45 min hike to Third Beach.

When we got to Third Beach is was already full! What? The group found a spot close to water with enough room to accommodate 5 tents, a fire and a kitchen area. This gave us all day and the next to explore the surrounding area.

For our first rest day we explored as far as we could to see the ship wrecks but the tide was not in our favor. When we got to the channel we had a hiker experience a shoe issue. Both her soles fell off! The group came together to do an emergency repair for the boots to last back to camp.

Once back at camp the shoes were being cobbled and explorations were being had. During the making of dinner a hiker or two discovered why there is a need for a stove reflector. Now we are one stove down.

Day 3 was our hike day to Calvin Falls. This was the day we discovered how to hike together as a group. A stop at Skuna Bay for lunch before we turned the corner to head into Calvin Falls.

The falls were not running as high this year which reflects the drought conditions the Island is in. Again, we joined up with a group or two of hikers so we opted to stay on the other side of the falls. The cloud was thick enough in the evening that we had a drop or two of rain.

The next day was another rest day for the group. After a bit of organizing we moved camp across the outflow so we could set up the sauna and have access to the pool of fresh water.

Through out the day Susan Osso organized the group to gather, dig, tie together, calculate optimal plastic coverage, heat rocks etc.... to build a wilderness sauna experience.

What an experience to have! The sauna was amazing. After getting all saunaed up we would run and jump into the cool fresh water of Calvin Falls! This was done several times. This is a must if you get a chance!!

The next day was to be the hardest day as we had to walk through 5km of pea gravel to get to Beano Creek. Unbeknown to us low tide was on our side. Last year it took us 6 hrs and this year 3 hrs. Why? Because we walked on the rock shelf instead of the pea gravel! Yahoo! What a great surprise. Also, we had a heavy fog

bank to hike in which kept us cool for the morning.

Beano Creek landscape had changed with the Winter storms. There was now a gravel bar to connect us across the outflow. Another bonus! Since we were early to arrive we basically had a full day to explore the area. Soon after getting set up the sun came out and kept us hot all day and into the night.

Heading in to Day 6 I had planned a short hike to break up the more difficult part of the hike but as we are starting to find out, Nootka Island is drying up. We stopped at the proposed campsite, searched for water ( found a hole) and discussed options and what the group wanted to do. We decided to push through to campsite Km 32. This made for an extremely long day for everyone and we run out of water getting there.

When we got there and set up camp there still wasn't the best water to be found. The group dealt with it the best they could and made another decision to move again the next day.

This meant from Day 7 to Day 9 we camped at the last campsite with fresh running water. Many of us took advantage of the lake, the glorified lemon aid stand (pop, chips, chocolate and apples), lazy hot afternoons (record highs), tidal pool wandering and lots of rest. Wonderful way to end the trip.

Our last day was a spectacular view of hikers streaming in to catch the Uchuck. There were 50 hikers coming off the trail, all hot and thirsty. We paid our trail fee early and put our packs on the dock to be able to explore more of Friendly Cove. Next time, at low tide, a visit to the cairn is a must do!

Everyone was accounted for and boarded the Uckuck that departed at 3:15pm to arrive in Gold River at 5:15 pm. Once we got our packs and changed we headed out with a pit stop at the Shell gas station for ice cream and drinks. Our last group gathering was at Rip Tide for a yummy dinner and drinks!

#### Comedy of Hot Rocks

- Stove burnt
- Soles fell off
- Boot split
- Sandle blew a strap
- Bent big toe nail
- Hot rock burn
- underwear washed out to sea
- tent summersalts in the wind
- several turtle falls
- Forest wedgie
- Record breaking heatwave
- Fossils? In the rocks
- Full moon sarinade (for days)
- Sauna in the wilderness followed by a dip in the pool of the falls
- Sea Cave exploration: in, out and above
- Broken gaiters
- Mussel muncher
- Fishnet Booties - a new style
- Two Truths and a Lie

Thank you to Susan Osso for co-leading the trip with me. She is a great person to

have along with all of her experience out there. This was her 6th trip.

Thank you to Rae, Ed, Elizabeth and Susan H for your enthusiasm, input and experience as well. This trip wouldn't have been the great experience had without you!



*Getting ready to depart*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Sunset at Third Beach*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Soleless shoes!!*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



[Amber Gargus photo]



*First night at Calvin Falls*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Sauna building*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Calvin Falls with Susan and the sauna*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Group picture before leaving Calvin Falls*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*5km stretch of pea gravel to Beano Creek*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Moon at Beano Creek*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Whale Bone*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Km 33 Campsite*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Happy Canada Day!!*



*The gang*

[Amber Gargus photo]



*Full Moon at Km 33*  
[Amber Gargus photo]

[Amber Gargus photo]



*Enjoying the lake*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Last look at the moon before we leave*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*Friendly Cove Light house and Uchuck at dock*  
[Amber Gargus photo]



*West Coast splendour*  
[Susan Osso photo]



*Scaling the headlands*  
[Susan Osso photo]



*Hiker Hieroglyphics*  
[Susan Osso photo]



*Boots & detached soles - Problem meets solution!*  
[Susan Osso photo]



*Beach finds*  
[Susan Osso photo]

*Rest day indeed!*  
[Susan Osso photo]



*Miles of pea gravel*  
[Susan Osso photo]



*Outstanding vistas*  
[Susan Osso photo]

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[return to Reports](#)