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Paradise Meadows Stormshoe (snowshoeing)

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Sun Mar 13, 2011

Leader: **William Wright**

Co-Leader:

What a day for a stormshoe as 3 hardy souls put the mountaineering back in the club for Sunday's mystery trek! Leaving at 9:30 a.m. from the old trailhead, 800 metres shy of the Raven Lodge, we headed southeast through Paradise Meadows into the face of a blustery storm.

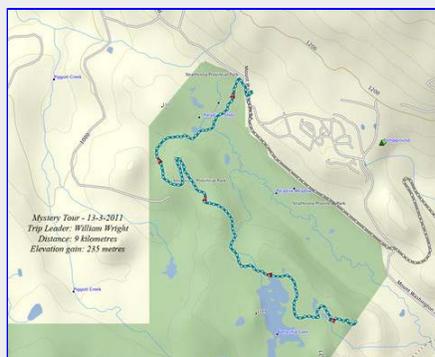
We were bundled tightly in weatherproof gear but the blowing snow managed to find any clothing crevasse that was left ajar. Because of the high avalanche advisory and the amount of accumulating snow, coupled with this Sou'easter, we were trying to find terrain that would accommodate safe passage.

We followed the meadows out of the park until just east of the western ridge of the Ramparts Creek watershed and then turned west at a ridge that would allow us access onto the eastern shores of Battleship Lake. If it were not for both my handheld and digital compasses plus confirmation from Tim's GPS, navigation in the limited visibility of this white landscape of swirled snow would have been near impossible.

The southeastern flank of this rise was so encased in snow that at times, even though on tailed snowshoes, we found ourselves waist deep in snow. Our crew all remarked as to never having experienced snow to this depth whilst on snowshoes and while moving into downward gaps, the deep snow would toss us like floundering fish in an unfamiliar medium.

For the next hour it was a real slugfest to get to the shores of the lake but once past the northern tip of the lake and through the cut of Battleship Ridge, the western slopes of this ridge were not as heavily laden with snow. We continued west until shy of Rossiter's Rise and then, turned northeast to cross Paradise Meadows, again.

We finished up at 2:30 p.m. for a debrief and a well-deserved bowl of hot soup in the Sushimon. A great way to wrap our near 10 km adventure and share stories of such extraordinary conditions.



Paradise Meadows
[Tim Penney photo]

*GPS route Map started recording partway up the ridge
[Tim Penney photo]*



*So much fresh snow that it was hard to follow the old snowshoe trails
[Tim Penney photo]*

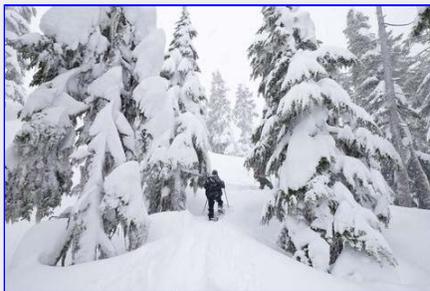
*The old snowshoe trails were getting quite buried again
[Tim Penney photo]*



*William enjoying the scenery
[Tim Penney photo]*



*Heading up the steep ridge from the south west corner of the Far East Nordic trail
[Tim Penney photo]*



*Hard going in such deep snow
[Tim Penney photo]*



*Side hill traversing is the only way we could gain elevation
[Tim Penney photo]*



*On the un groomed nordic trail at
the north end of Battleship Lake
[Tim Penney photo]*

Report contributors: Tim P, Bob S, William W,

Participant list (3 of 3): Tim P, Len W, William W,

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