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[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](#)

Trip Report

Beech'S Mountain, Quadra Island (hiking)

[return to Reports list](#)

Sat May 12, 2012

 Leader: **Bob St.John**

Co-Leader:

This relatively short loop in the Chinese Mountains offers 3 peaks accessed easily by well signed trails. Beech's Mountain and South Peak offer the best views, while North Peak completes the trio with decent views as well.

Everyone made it up to Beech's, the highest peak, where we had our first lunch on a bluff just below the summit. I thought the trip may finish here, as many seemed very content to just lie in the warm sun and stare up at the random flights of turkey vultures. But mountaineers we are, and before long the urge to summit motivated the crew to attain the top. From here we could see that the route to West Peak would involve quite a descent and a much longer trip meant for another day.

South Peak, though lower, offered arguably the best views of all. While having our second lunch we could look west to the alpine peaks of Vancouver Island, then stroll over to the view looking east to Cortez Island, Desolation Sound, and the peaks of the Coast Range.

Most of us made the optional climb up North Peak, the lowest of the three, which offered great views if on any other trip. Here Tim could finally have his lunch, as photography kept him too busy on Beech's and South Peak to think about food.

Flower wise I heard that yellow violets where out, and saxifrage adorned the mossy bluffs. While the saxifrage didn't look like the saxifrage I googled, I trust that the Chinese Mountains sport their own variety.

Thanks to all who came out to enjoy this outing on such a fine day! Leading a party of 23 folks could have been a challenge, but everyone behaved which made it an enjoyable day for me too!

Nine of us stopped to have dinner at Dick's Fish and Chips on the dock just south of the ferry terminal in Campbell River... highly recommended!



GPS map and details

[Tim Penney photo]



Bob points out some details of the route

[Tim Penney photo]



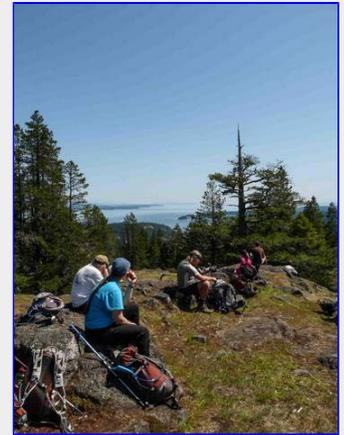
*View west on trail to Beech's
Mtn*
[Bob St.John photo]



Summit of Beech's Mtn
[Bob St.John photo]



*From Chinese Mountains South
Peak looking down to Rebecca
Spit*
[Tim Penney photo]



*North Peak of Chinese
Mountains*
[Carol Hunter photo]



*On top of Beech's
Mountain*
[Carol Hunter photo]



lunch with a view
[Carol Hunter photo]



[Linda Hamilton photo]



[Linda Hamilton photo]

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