

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

Carey Lakes And Ridge Beyond (hiking) [return to Reports list](#)

Sat Sep 14, 2013

Leader: **Tim Penney**

Co-Leader:

This trip was originally scheduled for Sunday but was moved up one day because of the poor weather forecast. Seems like it was a good decision as we had perfect weather for the trip on Saturday and, as we now know, Sunday was stormy and completely overcast.

We had a foggy and overcast start whilst meeting at Harmston Avenue but, from viewing the webcams for the mountain, we could see clear and sunny skies just waiting for us to climb a few hundred feet.

The gate was open again this weekend with a TW person taking licence plate numbers and enquiring about our purpose for driving their roads. The cheery clipboard man had no problems with granting us access to continue our journey. By the time we were getting close to the junction for the Mirren Lake turnoff we were already seeing the sun breaking through the low mist. Shortly beyond that point we started on the serious 2000 foot elevation gain to the trailhead. A viewpoint on the road partway up provided us with some great views of the truly Alone Mountain, rising from a sea of low level mist. The view to the west and the Comox Glacier was almost as spectacular, with the fog in the Kweishun Creek valley looking almost like a lake.

Shortly after 9:00 we were heading out from the trailhead for the climb up to the lower grouping of small lakes. The weather was now warm and sunny with not a cloud to be seen. Fortunately, though, we were all enjoying the bushwhacking and the shade, with an occasional break to enjoy the still abundant blueberries and huckleberries. We reached our usual lunch break spot in 3 hours from the trailhead and enjoyed relaxing for awhile with the splendid 360 degree views. After lunch we left our packs and walked west across the plateau to the edge of the next major gully. The views from there of the local mountains, along with Otto's and Sylvia's stories of earlier exploits, made the extra distance very worthwhile.

At 1:30 we left the lunch area and returned partway, more or less on the outward route, until we turned off to the north for the highest of the Carey Lakes. Several of our group took advantage of the refreshing cool water of the lake for a quick swim before we continued on. One more stop gave us some good views of the waterfall in the gully below the lake. Quite a good flow of water made a nice backdrop for another group shot.

Below the waterfall we were into another exciting and enjoyable bushwhack session down to the lower lake and then back out on the same route that we came in on.

Back to the trucks at 5:00 PM and the 20 mile drive back to the TW gate that was, as expected, locked and no longer manned. Several of us stopped at DQ for some cool ice-cream delights to round out the day before heading home.

Another excellent trip with an evenly matched group of hikers who all loved lots of

bushwhacking.

I had a flat tire after checking out the roads to the trailhead on Wednesday evening. Also had another flat tire on the way home after the trip on Saturday. The sharp rocks on the TW roads are really quite hard on tires. Speaking with the good folks at KalTire they tell me that they have 4 or 5 TW trucks in each week for tire repairs. I have now ordered a set of heavy duty Wrangler tires for my truck that I hope will prevent any more problems.

Stats:

Distance = 13 kilometres, but seemed like more because of all the bushwhacking
Accumulated elevation gain = about 2000 feet, but seemed like more because of all the bushwhacking

Start time: 9:12 AM

Finish time: 5 PM

Did I mention all the BUSHWHACKING?



*Comox Glacier and the
Kweishun Creek Valley*

[Tim Penney photo]



*Alone Mountain, an island in a
sea of fog*

[Tim Penney photo]



*One of many tarns on the
plateau*

[Tim Penney photo]



Lunchbreak group shot

[Tim Penney photo]



Waterfall group shot, sans the photographer
[Tim Penney photo]

Report contributors: Tim P,

Participant list (8 of 8): Sylvia A, Leslie D, Jill H, Ian H, Richard N:**guest**, Tim P, Andy R, Otto W,

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