

CDMC

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Tue Sep 27, 2016

Leader: **Tim Penney**

Co-Leader: **Geoff Brameld**

We left Harmston at 6:20 a.m. and stopped for Starbucks coffee in PA at 7:45. where we met up with Anneke who drove from Parksville. We transitioned to an old logging road at the Marion Main turnoff a short distance after the Sutton Pass summit. We drove 9.5 kilometres on the logging road to the trailhead and started hiking at 9:25 in cool conditions with the temperature hovering around 8 degrees.

The first part of the hike is through an old cut block and then continues steeply on in second growth for a total of 540 metres to Cobalt Lake. With plenty of time on this sunny day we stopped for awhile to enjoy the lake area and some snacks before starting up to the next level area 175 metres above the lake. Again, we stopped to enjoy the views and small tarns at this level before hiking the last section to the main summit. Several of us decided to walk the ridge to the south summit peaks. This is well worth doing as it affords excellent views back to the main summit, down to the Alberni Inlet and out to the islands in Toquart Bay. Don & Lubosh took the opportunity to climb to the top of the nearest stack.

We had an enjoyable lunch on the summit before heading back down the first part of the steep rocky trail to the bench below. The scenery and weather made it too good to just rush on down to the vehicles, so we stopped several more times in some of the best locations before we were finally back to the trailhead.

On the way back we enjoyed more Starbucks coffee and/or the usual ice cream break at Whiskey Creek.

In addition to just being another excellent hike, it was nice to introduce several of the group to their first visit to 5040. Also many thanks to Geoff, my co-leader, who did an excellent job of sweep on the way back down the steep and, in some places, slippery trail.

We always get a take away from any hike. On this magnificent trek are two things 1) fuel up with energy food before you start the ascent /scramble up the hill, 2) the trek down is challenging-root wad, slippery soil etc. take your time; it is a realtest of your legs and concentration.

More images from this trip are uploading here:
<http://public.fotki.com/TimPenney/cdmc-trips/mount-5040-27-9-1016/>



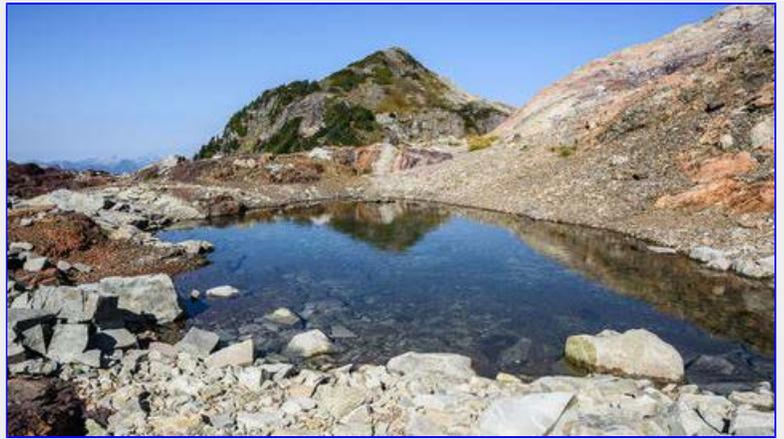
Cobalt Lake panorama shot
[Tim Penney photo]



Looking up to the summit ridge from the bench below
[Tim Penney photo]



Typical rocky state of the upper trail
[Tim Penney photo]



View to 5040 main summit from the ridge
[Tim Penney photo]



On the main summit
[Tim Penney photo]



Heading back down from the main summit
[Tim Penney photo]



*Short brake on the plateau above Cobalt Lake to enjoy
the beautiful scenery*
[Lubosh Kloucek photo]



Lunch break on the summit
[Lubosh Kloucek photo]



such a crystal clear lake
[Lubosh Kloucek photo]



awesome alpine meadows
[Lubosh Kloucek photo]

Report contributors: Lubosh Kloucek, Joe Lumsdon, Tim Penney,

Participant list (9 of 9): Geoff Brameld, Heather Crombie, Paula Field, Mary Finnan, Lubosh Kloucek, Don Kulak, Joe Lumsdon, Tim Penney, Anneke VanderMeer,

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