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Comox Glacier 3 Day Trip (hiking)

Sat Aug 31 to Mon Sep 02, 2013

Leader: **Ken Rodonets**Co-Leader: **Amber Gargus**

While watching the weather forecast for the couple of days before the hike, it did not look good, but closer to the weekend the weather was to improve. So with that in mind, the 3 day hike was on.

For this trip, we welcome 5 new members to the club !!! With 3 joining on the Friday afternoon. Meeting at my place on Sat. morning at 9 am to fill out the paperwork, and carpool, we were off by 9:20 am. When we got near the Timberwest gate along Comox Lake, there was a guard "on duty". She just asked us for our drivers license, took down our plate #, and the # of people in the trucks. Seems now it is hunting season, so the gate/roads are open on the weekends. The gate does get locked at 5 pm !!! We also understood that a wedding was going to happen on the Sat. afternoon on top of the glacier.

Driving in the roads was not a problem until we got closer to the major washout that I spent 3 hrs on filling it in so we could drive thru it. We notice all the 4x4's park near it, so as we got closer and looked at the crossing we understood why everyone was parked. It seemed with the heavy rain that we got on the Wed./ Thursday nights before the hike, caused the creek to flow, in turn causing the rocks to move and wash the road out !!! So with that in mind, we parked and started to get ready. We left at around 11:15 am heading up to the start of the trail. At the start of the trail, I notice a "shining apple" on the ground which I almost stepped on. It was one of the person's I-phone from the wedding party who lost it. So up the trail it went.

We got to the end of the good trail at about 12:45 pm, rested for 20 mins., then continued up the trail, leaving at about 1:05 pm. With everyone doing a different pace, it was everyone for themselves going up. Take a break when you need/want one or go straight up. We did have Otto taking up the rear with a FSR radio. Coming up into the 1st. Alpine rest area at about 2:50 pm, we had a break for 15 mins. We got to the end of the 1st. ridge at about 3:40 pm. Everyone then set out to find a good spot to pitch their tent and get things set up. The weather still looked good for the Sunday hike up. In the evening, we did notice the "new" husband/wife up at the South Summit of the glacier, flashing their flashlight down to the party at the frog ponds. Around 9 pm, everyone was in their tents getting a good rest for the morning hike to the glacier.

Sunday Sept. 1/13...... Up at 6:45 am, breakfast done, packs ready, we left for the summit at 8 am. Once over at the 2nd. ridge or frog pond area, the wedding party was on their way out. With talking to the party and congratulations to them,handing over the I-phone to the owner, they showed us the beautiful rings that they had made up. So in honor of them, we gathered on both sides of the trail, and raised our hiking poles as they walked under them !!! We quickly got back under way, and got thru the rope section, and continued going up. We were at Lone Tree Pass around 10:30 am. Taking a break to fill up the water bottles, eat, and rest. We left at 11:10 am, and got to the South Summit at 12 noon. With the clouds blowing around and visibility very poor we called the hike at the South Summit. You could not see very far ahead, and why take the risk? With lots of time at the South Summit, lunch was eaten, pictures were taken, and a small walk on the glacier was taken.

We left the South Summit at around 1:30 pm, stopping at Lone Tree Pass for water and a

short break. Taking our time and being careful going back down we were back at the tents at 4:30 pm. The clouds were still hanging around the top of the glacier. After dinner, a couple of special drinks and listening to Otto's stories of hairy beasts that could be out there (somewhere) it was time to try to get some sleep.

Monday Sept. 2/13...... At about 3 am, that little pattery of rain drops on the tent was happening. It did not last long and then another burst of rain happened, but that too did not last long. When we got up at around 7 am, the clouds were low over the glacier and the wind was blowing. Being on the cool side, breakfast was finished, packing up the tents happened and we were ready to go for 9 am. After the group shot with the glacier in the background (this year in the cloud) we were heading back down the trail. Having some short breaks along the trail, to make sure that everyone was O.K, we were at the creek crossing at 1 pm. With time to spare, Glen did his famous sit in the Comox Creek. Now this water is just above the freezing temp., as it is the fresh snow/ice melt water !!!. I do not know how Glen can stand the cold water, but he does. Leaving at 1:20 pm, for the short walk back to the trucks. Walking back thru the wash out, it was now dry !! Back at the trucks by 1:45 pm. No problems going out, and there was another person manning the T.W. gate when we went thru. We were back in Courtenay by 3:30 pm.

A big thanks to the 13 members who went on this trip. It was a great trip with all of you !!. A special Thank you to Otto for being rear guard going up, and to Amber for looking after the party going down and making sure that they did stop along the way. Great Co-Leader(s).

If anyone is interested in looking at my pictures the link is: https://plus.google.com/photos/102036064655499519475/albums/5919437437324643569? authkey=CMXz--bwkqXM... I have more if you are interested and I can email you a copy too. Amber :D

Hello Everyone, Am on FB - I will had the rest of the pictures. It was so much Fun :-0) Claude



Ice is slowly breaking away
[Ken Rodonets photo]



Solid Blue Ice on the glacier
[Ken Rodonets photo]



Part of the group at the South Summit. [Ken Rodonets photo]



Group picture at the tenting area. Yes, the glacier is somewhere behind those clouds !!!

[Ken Rodonets photo]



Sunset at Camp Saturday night [Amber Gargus photo]



Sunrise Sunday [Amber Gargus photo]



At the glacier looking towards the South Carin [Amber Gargus photo]



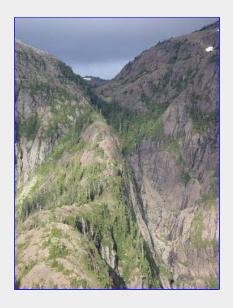
Monday coming down
[Amber Gargus photo]



The wedding couple coming thru on Sunday morning.
[Juanita Wells photo]



Sunday Morning [Juanita Wells photo]



The trail comes up this narrow ridge, and very steep.

[Juanita Wells photo]



Group shot at the South Summit.
[Juanita Wells photo]



Bright Lovely Sky, just before going to Bed [Claude Poirier photo]



Ken, balancing his way back across the log. [Juanita Wells photo]



Noooooooo, don't step there.....
[Claude Poirier photo]



Not the Picture I wanted - So cute.. [Claude Poirier photo]



Kenny, our Amazing TL - Thanks
[Claude Poirier photo]



Please Dodo, don't even think about it :)
[Claude Poirier photo]



Group Photo "Juanita Missing" [Claude Poirier photo]



Yessss Harold, U did it... [Claude Poirier photo]

Report contributors: Amber G, Claude P, Ken R, Juanita W,

Participant list (12 of 11): Glen C, Amber G, Sheila H, Don K, Louise M, Harold O, Claude P, Ken R, Ryan S, Ronnee S, Juanita W, Otto W,

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