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Mount Menzies (snowshoeing) [return to Reports list](#)

Sun Feb 26, 2012

Leader: **Tim Penney**

Co-Leader:

On Saturday morning I was snowshoeing through 24" of fresh snow, pushing a trail out to the Piggott Creek bridge. Whilst doing this I was thinking how futile it might be to try to do the Mount Menzies trip on Sunday. Surely with this much snow on Mount Washington the trip to Menzies will be a no go. However, being a born optimist, I didn't cancel the trip, but really thought that we would be lucky to make it much beyond where we park at the start of the logging road.

Well, what a difference 80 kilometres makes. We were able to drive off the highway several hundred feet and park on about 1" of snow. From the very start of the hike we were able to use our snowshoes. This was quite a change from my two previous trips to this area that were both about 1 month later. We started off on hard packed icy snow and, as we headed higher and higher, I was keeping my fingers crossed that we were not going to get into deep soft powder. Luck was on our side, though, as the conditions were just about perfect. We were hardly breaking through the surface crust and it continued like that for the complete trip.

We stopped for our first break at the old forest fire lookout area, about 900 feet above our starting point. This area was, unlike my previous trips, covered with deep snow and provided us with some excellent views to the lakes below and the interior mountains. Another 780 feet of elevation gain and we were up onto the more level plateau area.

Once out in the open we were exposed to the very chilly northerly wind and had to stop for a clothing adjustment. From this point we could almost see across to our destination that was still about 3 kilometres away, and another 1300 feet to climb.

Last year's trip to this location was a lucky diversion from the originally planned trip. It worked out so well that this year we were able to take a more direct route to our target area and Bob, who was well ahead of all the photographers, who were snapping away in the rear, led us through a beautiful snow covered old growth forest on our way to the main assault to our destination.

The last 700 foot of the climb was fairly steep, but headed up through an amazing forest of snow covered giants. Needless to say, the photographers amongst us were hardly able to make any headway at all. By just standing still in one spot we were provided with boundless photo opportunities. A move a few feet away and one could start on the next set of award winning pictures. We did finally all make it to the top but didn't linger longer than was necessary to take another fine set of pictures before making a hasty retreat to a much less windy area to have our lunch.

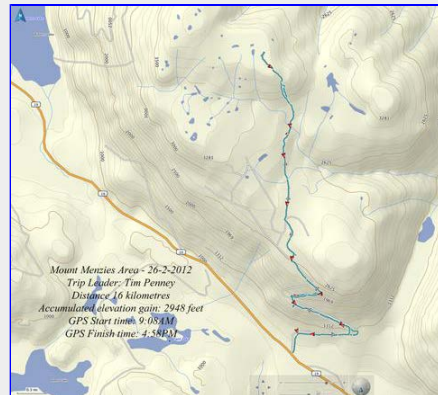
After an easy climb down to the lower plateau we were left with a fairly uneventful walk back to the vehicles. The fairly eventful part was that one of my snowshoes broke and I had to walk a few kilometres in boots only. It wasn't too bad and I was only breaking through the snow crust from time to time. Then, on a short cut, a bit

before the last dogleg, I took a tumble and broke one of my hiking poles. Hiking poles are \$149 and new snowshoes \$250. A bit more than I had expected for a snowshoe trip, but better by a long shot than any broken bones.

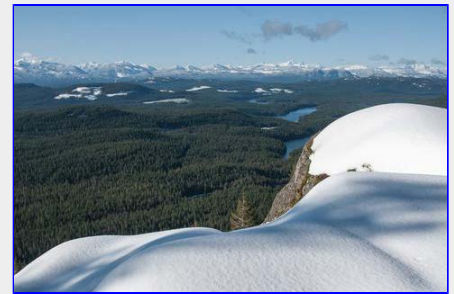
This trip was what I wanted to do on my 70th birthday on Monday, but doing it one day earlier and in such good weather, worked out just fine.

This was another wonderful trip into the mountains with a great group of snowshoers who, I am sure, all enjoyed the day as much as I did, even though the pesky photographers slowed things down a bit.

[More photos from this amazing trip](#) can be seen here.



GPS Map
[Tim Penney photo]



Great view from the lookout point
[Tim Penney photo]



At the viewpoint
[Tim Penney photo]



Slogging up the logging road
[Tim Penney photo]



Karl deciding what to photograph
[Tim Penney photo]



Well covered trees
[Tim Penney photo]



Wind sculpted snow at the summit

[Tim Penney photo]



Snow canyons carved by the wind

[Darrell Tomkins photo]



View from the summit to Kanish Bay through to Waiatt Bay, Quadra and beyond

[Darrell Tomkins photo]



Wind chiselled mesas

[Darrell Tomkins photo]

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Participant list (6 of 6): Linda H, Tim P, Andy R, Bob S, Karl S, Darrell T,

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