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Trip Report

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Lakes Circuit Or A Bit More (snowshoeing)

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Tue Feb 07, 2017

Leader: **Tim Penney**

Co-Leader: **Susan Osso**

The weather didnt look too promising this morning but, nonetheless, seven of us met at Harmston Avenue at a bit before 8:50. The road to Mount Washington was better than expected and had been well ploughed and gritted.

Temperature was about -6 at the Raven Lodge with not very good visibility. No problem, though, for this keen bunch of snowshoers. Starting out from the lodge at 9:40, at a leisurely pace, had us at the north end of Battleship Lake by 10:30 where we stopped for a morning tea break. From the tracks, it looked like at least one snowshoer had been out ahead of us and, although we have had a fair amount of snow, it was quite easy going until the other snowshoer turned off towards Helen Mackenzie Lake. From thereon we took turns to break trail.

Our route took us to the very south end of the lake and then on to Kooso Lake. It was sad to see at Kooso that snowmobilers had done their best to obliterate any virgin snow with their tracks that just about covered the whole lake. It would seem that this winter the snowmobilers are just ignoring the park rules as I have seen their tracks all over Lady Lake, Croteau Lake, Croteau Ridge, Panther Lake and all across the side hills and ridges of Mount Drabble. Most frustrating for the skiers and snowshoers who enjoy heading out to the pristine areas under their own steam.

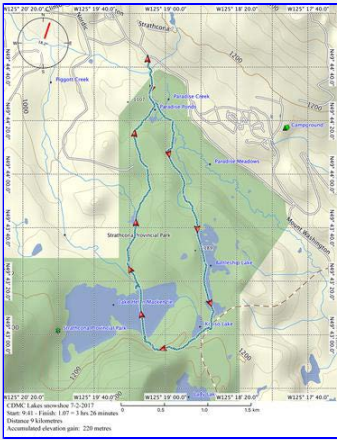
From Kooso Lake we followed the gully heading southwest until we found a nice steep drop off leading down to Helen Mackenzie Lake. Lots of deep powdery snow in this area that made for an enjoyable descent to the lake. After crossing the lake to the outflow area we stopped by the bridge for a short lunch-break. From there it was a quick hop back to the Raven Lodge for our usual refreshment break.

Heading back to town, the Mount Washington road was quite wet and completely devoid of snow and ice most probably attributable to lots of salt. I took my truck through a car wash before heading home.

Many thanks to the snowshoers who turned out for todays stroll in the park and, of course, to Susan for being my co-leader.



*On Battleship Lake heading to
Kooso Lake
[Tim Penney photo]*



GPS route map and stats
[Tim Penney photo]



Evidence!
[Tim Penney photo]



Heading out from Kooso Lake
[Tim Penney photo]



Deep snow in this area
[Tim Penney photo]



Heading down to Helen Mackenzie Lake
[Tim Penney photo]

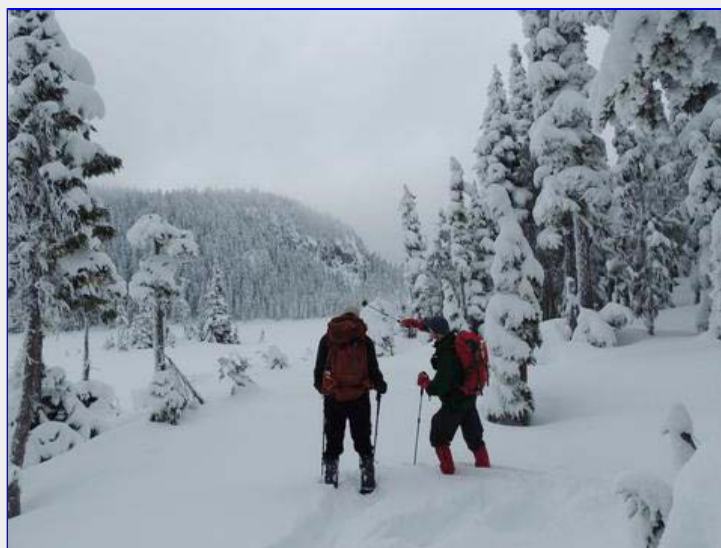


Crossing the Helen Mackenzie Lake outflow bridge
[Tim Penney photo]



Towering Giants

[Susan Osso photo]



Planning the next trek
[Susan Osso photo]

Report contributors: Susan O, Tim P,

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