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Trip Report

Comox Glacier (hiking) return to Reports list

Sat Sep 03 to Mon Sep 05, 2011

Leader: Ken Rodonets

Co-Leader:

Under sunny and warm conditions, everyone met at the leaders house at 9 am and were soon off to the Comox Glacier Trail Head. Going thru the cross ditches with no problems we were soon at the trail head and got ready for the hike. The "Magnificent 7" started off at around 10:40 am. With some rest breaks going up the steep trail, we were at the alpine area at 1:30 pm. After a short break there, we continued along the ridge to the end. With a lot of snow still around the 1st. ridge we did find spots to pitch our tents on dry ground.

Thinking that it might be a cold night we were all prepared for one, but that was not the case. In the morning the tent flys were dry, no dew on them. After breakfast, we were under way by 8 am heading for the summit. We were at Lone Tree Pass by 10:15 am, and after a snack, refilling our water bottles we were off for the South Summit. We got to the south summit by 11:35 am. After some picture taking we headed off towards the north summit. Arriving at the North Summit by 12:20 pm we all "high fived" each other for a hike well done!!

One of our members then brought out a bottle of wine, which everyone had a drink of to go with lunch. Much picture taking was done and everyone enjoying the 360 degree view. (not to mention that we had the glacier to ourselfs) !! Over the past 2 years we have had lots of snow up high, and this has resulted in the glacier "rebuilding" itself, with about 20 ft. of snow/ice on it now, compared to 2009 when it was almost all gone. Before we knew it, it was time to head back down to the tents. Before leaving the summit, the "magnificent 7" did the summit picture. Leaving the North Summit at 2 pm we were back at our tents by 5:30 pm. A hike well done !! Enjoying everyone's company over dinner, we watched the sun go down behind the glacier, and the quarter moon get brighter. It was another perfect night.

Monday morning: After breakfast and packing up the tents, it was time to take a group photo and head back down the trail. Leaving the 1st. ridge at 9:10 am, we were back at the trucks by 11:30 am. Driving back along the Comox Lake road, we stopped by the lake and had a quick swim and lunch. We were back in the valley by 2 pm. Thank you for the members that signed up and came along.

Some facts: starting elv.: 539 meters End of the 1st. ridge: 1,391 meters

about 4 hrs. of uphill hiking the 1st. day. around 7 kms.

Lone Tree pass: 1,504 meters

South Cairn: 1,845 meters (3.5 hrs. hiking)
North Summit: 1,969 meters (4.20 hrs. hiking)
Roughly 11 kms of hiking from bottom to summit.



September 2009, from south summit [Ken Rodonets photo]



September 2011, from south summit
[Ken Rodonets photo]



The Frog Pond still had some ice left
[Linda Hamilton photo]



Eilish and Ken in a snow tunnel at the summit [Linda Hamilton photo]



An interesting snow patch seen from the summit
[Linda Hamilton photo]



Eilish climbed the highest of all of us [Geoff Brameld photo]





Sunrise from our campsite on climb day [Geoff Brameld photo]



Hiking back to the South
Summit
[Linda Hamilton photo]

The Magnificent 7 at the summit [Geoff Brameld photo]



Playing with Glow Sticks that Eilish brought for us [Linda Hamilton photo]

Report contributors: Geoff B, Linda H, Ken R,

Participant list (7 of 7): Geoff B, Linda H, Eilish M, Kurt N, Tom P, Ken R, Otto W,

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