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Trip Report

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Moat Lake (snowshoeing)
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Sat Apr 23, 2011

 Leader: **Tim Penney**

Co-Leader:

Three skiers and four snowshoers had ideal weather for our trek out to Moat Lake on Saturday. This trip was originally scheduled for Sunday, but was changed to Saturday to take advantage of good weather. It turns out that it was a good choice as the weather today is quite overcast and dull.

We made a fairly early start with temperatures warmer at Raven Lodge than in Courtenay when we left Harmston Avenue at 7:30. The snow conditions were excellent with a firm crust and no recent snow. We took a brief stop at the Piggott Creek bridge to admire the depth of snow that looks more like midwinter compared to how it was on this same trip a year ago.

We had easy going across Lake Helen Mackenzie and up to the saddle on our way to the Rangers Cabin where we had our morning coffee break. From there we continued to the north of Hairtrigger Lake towards Circlet lake, around the head of Cruickshank Canyon and then south to Moat Lake. We followed Bob's Bench route along the side of the canyon, that saves a good amount of unnecessary elevation gain, as we were closing in on Moat Lake. Thanks Bob for good route finding.

We took quite a leisurely lunch break at the edge of Stuart Wood Island, just below the "A" frame cabin that is almost completely buried under this winter's heavy snow load. It's a wonder that it still remains standing under such a heavy snow loading.

Before heading back a few of us took a walk out to the southeast rim of the lake where we had a good view down to John Brown Lake, and could look up to some other snowshoers tracks heading off towards Castlecrag Mountain. I wonder if they made it to the summit.

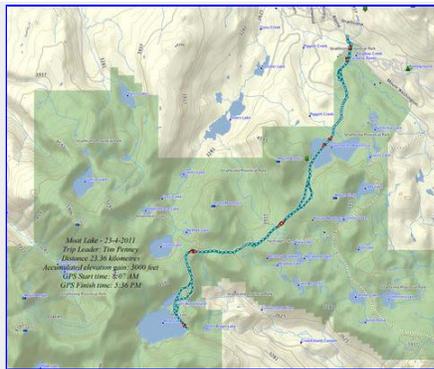
As usual with a trip to such a beautiful spot, it was hard to finally start on our long trek back to the Raven Lodge. The snow was a bit softer on our return, but still we had fairly easy going. We overtook a group of 3 very tired snowshoers, who had camped overnight, and were returning from their early morning start to summit Mount Albert Edward.

This was another trip to remember and I would like to thank an enjoyable group of outdoor enthusiastic club members for turning out for the trek.

[More photos](#) are available for viewing.



From the southeast rim looking



GPS route map
[Tim Penney photo]

*down to John Brown Lake and
the Cruickshank Canyon*
[Tim Penney photo]



*Photo op at the Piggott Creek
bridge*
[Tim Penney photo]



*4 people can be seen on the
ramp up to the summit of Albert
Edward*
[Tim Penney photo]



*Helen finds a cave with lots of
icicle teeth, but no bears*
[Tim Penney photo]



*The full group, thanks to
Photoshop*
[Tim Penney photo]



*On a high point above Moat
Lake*
[Tim Penney photo]



*Tim and Geoff crossing Moat
Lake*
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



*Andy, Tim and Geoff
preparing our lunch
bench
[Darrell Tomkins photo]*



*The watering hole
[Darrell Tomkins photo]*

Report contributors: Tim P, Darrell T,

Participant list (7 of 7): Geoff B, Helen F: ***lapsed***, Tim P, Andy R, Bob S, Karl S, Darrell T,

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