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Boston Ridge Mount Becher (hiking)

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Sun Aug 14, 2011

Leader: **Otto Winnig**

Co-Leader:

Nine of us piled into two cars and drove up to the old Forbidden Ski Hill parking lot under sunny, clear skies. The first section of trail is a little disconcerting with the somewhat long descent into Boston Creek before we even start the climb up Boston Ridge. Boston Creek itself was a bit of a scramble with a steep embankment and several fallen logs to negotiate. The trail is still in good shape considering Otto and Ruth Masters first put it in during the late 1970's. The trail wends its way up through a nice mature forest until... clearcuts! This past year intensive logging has wiped out the trail for much of the way up to the first summit on the ridge. We wondered at the seemingly wasteful practise of leaving so many logs laying around. If they are going to raze the forest, then at least don't waste it! So, after trudging up roads through the devastation, we again picked up the trail at the top of the cutblock. From here it was only a short while before we had a break on the first summit.

This hike certainly has a fair amount of elevation gain! From our perch we saw that the route descended again before climbing up to the main summit of Boston Ridge. While ascending this peak we noticed that the sun had disappeared and the air had turned decidedly cooler. Otto knew this trail like the back of his hand... he lead us to his favourite lookout on the main summit overlooking upper Comox Lake with a great view of the expanse of mountains across the Cruikshank Valley. Here we had a leisurely lunch, all the while watching the gathering rain clouds to the west.

According to William the descent from the main summit down to the col with Mt Becher was about 500 feet, and the ascent to the Becher summit about 1000 feet. At the col it started to rain a bit. Out came the rain gear, but it was debatable if we got damp more from the rain, or from the contained effects of the exertion from the climb. The ascent had a few fun scrambly bits which made it interesting. We ran into snow about halfway up, and soon we we spending more time on snow than not.

No views from the top of Becher... completely socked in, so we did not linger. The descent of Becher by the normal route was uneventful, save for one small route finding glitch which was quickly corrected. Note that navigation on Becher (or on other alpine summits) can be tricky in low clouds.

We reached the cars by 4 pm, giving us about 7.5 hours of activity time. Boston Ridge certainly can reward a hiker with good views and a good workout. A worthwhile trip despite the current logging activity. Thanks Otto for leading this trip so confidently, despite your having a few back pains.... (Bob)



GPS track of route
[Bob St.John photo]



Log-jam in Boston Creek
[Bob St.John photo]



Recent clearcut
[Bob St.John photo]



Boston Ridge summit, Becher summit
[Bob St.John photo]



Group on Boston Ridge summit
[Bob St.John photo]



lunch spot looking west
[Bob St.John photo]



*scrambly section up to
Becher*
[Bob St.John photo]



*still lots of lingering
snow*
[Bob St.John photo]



latest in rain fashion
[Bob St.John photo]

Report contributors: Bob S,

Participant list (9 of 9): Kim B, Marissa B:*guest*, Geoff B, Glen C, Susan H, Carol H, Bob S, Otto W, William W,

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