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Tue Jul 08 to Sat Jul 12, 2014

Leader: **Harold Osborne**

Co-Leader: **Amber Gargus**

5 of us left Courtenay at 7.30 am to catch a flight with Nootka Air to Louies Lagoon at 10.30. Great view of whales on our 30 min flight and on splash down we had a raft of Sea Otters in the lagoon. After our wet exit we put on our packs had started for our 1 hr trip to Third Beach. It was a nasty trip. Over windfall and under in the mud but when the beach opened up it was fantastic. The rest of the day we lounged around watching the whales feeding right in front of us. Day 2 we started out for Calvin Falls and the first 2 hrs was difficult. More under and overs then walked mostly on a pebble beach to our camp at the falls. 6.5 hr day. At our regular 7.30 start on day 3 we started for Beano Point. Tough 4.5 day on the beach. Big rocks, small slippery rocks and then pea gravel that tortured your legs. Great camp site. Day 4 was the toughest day . 9.5 hrs and 95 percent of the day was working up and down the headwall trail to our camp on the other side of Maquinna Point. We are now looking at the church at Yuguot across the water. We crossed the Tidal creek at 7.30 at low tide then set up breakfast. 1hr walk through that damn pea gravel to catch the Uchuck 111 at Yuguot . Great lazy cruise back to Gold river. The trip started off as 4 ladies and me but sorted ended as 5 and me. We had another independent female hiker loosely hanging around until one day in the middle of the trip she was sitting on a rock on top of one of the walls waiting for us. She had got turned around in a bog marsh like us but all the the bear skat freaked her out so we adopted her for the rest of the trip. I have travelled halfway around the world more than once hiking but this ended up my best ever .I do not believe I could have found better people to share 5 days of my life with . Thanks you the LADIES OF NOOTKA. I want to especially thank Amber who was my co-leader but lead the point . My gratitude. To all the hikers that never came. This is the big fish that you let get away

Co-Leader:

This was the BEST TRIP EVER!! The weather was great, the people that went are fantastic and the hike is spectacular!

The float plane ride took us up the trail to see everything from the air and Susan spotted a whale feeding on kelp. The first beach campsite was the best. The beach, waves, view and the whales that came in to feed was amazing TV. We even made a few new friends.

Every day after that was amazing in itself. The views, smells, discovery, endurance, support, good times and laughter had us up and going every morning 5:30am to see what else we could conquer.

Stephanie became our 6 member in our group. She started off as a solo hiker in which we all became very close and adopted her into our hiking family. Wishing her all the best in her endeavors.

There was a big group of us at the last campsite where we all witnessed the Super Moon rise as the sun set. It was simply awe inspiring.

We woke to marine fog our last morning on the trail which served us well since we lazied

around a campfire all morning after we forged our last creek. The Uchuck III was a wonderful experience with yummy food to be purchased.

Thank you Harold for coordinating this trip. This was something I've been wanting to do for 3 years and finally with a spectacular outcome, I can now check off Nootka Trail off my list. And thank you to Susan, Raelene and Patricia for being amazing women to hiking with.

Here is my link to look at the pictures I took:
<https://plus.google.com/photos/102036064655499519475/albums/6035775497029938817?authkey=CIKXm-am5b2a...>



[Harold Osborne photo]



[Harold Osborne photo]



[Harold Osborne photo]



[Harold Osborne photo]



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[Harold Osborne photo]

Report contributors: Amber G, Harold O,

Participant list (5 of 5): Patricia A, Raelene B, Amber G, Harold O, Susan O,

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