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Trip Report

Ball Lake (hiking) [return to Reports list](#)

Sun Mar 15, 2015

 Leader: **Tim Penney**

 Co-Leader: **Darrell Tomkins**

It was good to see that 9 club members turned out on this rather dull morning for the trek to Ball Lake.

Starting from the Raven Lodge soon after 9:00AM, carrying or wearing a mix of crampons or snowshoes for the soft/icy conditions, we were pleased to find Battleship Lake still well enough frozen to walk the whole length of the lake on the ice. At the end of the lake we were back onto the trail where it seemed almost impossible to predict where one would break through the snow. In fact, two of our group hurt their knees after unexpectedly post holing, but nonetheless carried on with the trip.

We stuck to the winter route beyond Battleship Lake, crossed Lady Lake on the ice and followed the gully up to Croteau Lake where we stopped for a morning snack and refreshment break. From here we turned to the east and took the steep snow filled gully down towards the Ball Lake route, weaving in and out between the trees to find the best route down to the lake.

We had a pleasant lunch break at the edge of the lake, no wind, but decided not to continue on to the lookout because of the low clouds and lack of any views. After lunch we returned to Lady Lake along Bill Browns lower route rather than climb up the steep gully back to Croteau Lake. Bills route is still well flagged and was easy to follow.

We crossed Lady Lake on the ice and followed our outward route back to the vehicles.

Even in the dull weather, this was another fine day in the hills with a great group of hikers. Much better than just sitting at home moaning about a dull day.

Total time for this nearly 15 kilometre trek was just under 6 hours.



Recently broken off tree parts sitting on the still thick ice of Battleship Lake
[Tim Penney photo]



Easy walking on the lake
[Tim Penney photo]



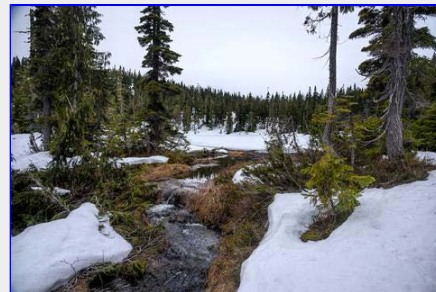
Low clouds as we near the south end of Battleship Lake
[Tim Penney photo]



Heading down the snow filled gully from Croteau Lake
[Tim Penney photo]



Everyone enjoyed the view of the Coastal Mountains from Croteau Ridge
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



Ball Lake from the outflow
[Tim Penney photo]



Ball Lake meltwater
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



Bubbles and lichen frozen in time
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



Aptly named Lipstick Cladonia
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



Heading back down to Lady Lake from Bill Brown's route
[Tim Penney photo]

Report contributors: Tim P, Darrell T,

Participant list (9 of 9): Geoff B, Patricia Gould G, Michele H, Helen J, Joe L, Tim P, Ken R, Petra S, Darrell T,

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