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Trip Report

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Mt Arrowsmith Snowbowl. (hiking) [return to Reports list](#)

Sun Nov 15, 2015

Leader: **Ron Lepine**

Co-Leader: **Tim Penney**

The Courtenay contingent of eight left the Courthouse at 7:30AM and arrived at the Mount Arrowsmith logging road turnoff thirty minutes before the scheduled 9:00AM meeting. Shortly thereafter, Ron arrived followed by Kurtis and Julianna. Twenty minutes of driving on good logging roads took us to the trailhead for our 9:25AM start. The trail initially drops about 140 feet into the creek valley before starting the real climbing. Its a steep climb with plenty of switchbacks.

No snow at the creek, 2900ft elevation, or for the first 1.25 hours of climbing. A dusting at the first rope at 4500ft and then gradually increasing as we gained elevation. Once again many thanks to Ron and the AVOC for their recent chain saw work clearing blowdown from across the trail.

Shortly after the rope assist climb we were into more open country with excellent views of the Arrowsmith bumps and of our actual destination. It looked a long way above us with some rather interesting areas to climb that would have been virtually impossible without the use of crampons.

Although the surrounding peaks were in brilliant sunshine, we were stuck in the shade and, with quite cold temps, we only stopped for a short 20 minute lunch break at 5100ft elevation. After lunch, and another 400 foot of elevation gain, we had the exciting challenge of climbing a steep gully taking us ever closer to our final summit ridge. Another 300 foot of climbing and our view scape became much more open. Our final destination was the last bump on the way to the Arrowsmith Nose route. So, by looking to our southwest we had an excellent view of the complete Nose Route and the summit radio cones.

A few more feet of climbing had us, for the first time on this trip, actually getting into the sunshine. What a difference! We finally had a chance to warm up a bit and really enjoy the views. We discussed the possibility of continuing across some of the bumps, but time and daylight restraints had us turning back at our summit. We had no problems negotiating the steep sections on the way down. Ropes in two areas helped. Soon after starting our descent thick fog rolled up the valley completely obscuring the Arrowsmith bumps. Didn't last for long, though, and the rest of the trip was under clear blue skies.

This route is just about the same elevation gain as the Judges Route, not counting the road section, but in 3.5 kilometres compared to 2.25 kilometres for the Judges. Also, it is not quite as intensely steep.

Our group of happy hikers thoroughly enjoyed the outing and appreciated Ron's wise decision to move the trip to Sunday, which was obviously a good choice.

Soon after starting our drive back to Courtenay we were greeted with dark clouds and a heavy and intense hail/snow storm that thankfully didn't last very long.

The GPS track, Google overlay and some more images can be seen here:

<http://public.fotki.com/TimPenney/cdmc-trips/mount-arrowsmith-sn/>



Rope assist for a steep section
[Tim Penney photo]



Panorama of the bumps. Our route was the snow and scree slope on the right then to the left at the top of the tree line.
[Tim Penney photo]



Hikers negotiating the steep gully
[Tim Penney photo]



Not much further to go
[Tim Penney photo]



Hikers in silhouette
[Julianna Wells photo]



Finally, out in the sun as we get closer to the summit
[Tim Penney photo]





Summit view
[Julianna Wells photo]

*Heading down with a view to the
Nose Route and the Arrowsmith
summit*

[Karl Stevenson photo]



The narrow summit ridge

[Karl Stevenson photo]

Report contributors: Tim P, Julianna W,

Participant list (11 of 11): Shannon C:*guest*, Kurtis F, Jim G, Linda H, Lubosh K, Ron L, Thomas M, Susan O, Tim P, 🟩Karl S, Julianna W,

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