

CDMC

Trip Report

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Sun Nov 29, 2015

 Leader: **Ron Lepine**

 Co-Leader: **Julianna Wells**

Another remarkable day in the hills - blue skies and great company.

The group of 6 traveling from Courtenay met before daybreak at the Courthouse and made the drive to Port Alberni where we met up with Ron and Tia. Then in two vehicles we made our way to the trailhead for 5040. We were on the trail around 8:45am, heading up the steep climb through the trees, past the freezing creeks with beautiful ice formations, and up in to the snow.

The snow was not deep enough for snowshoes, but crampons were definitely a must-have on this trip. We made our way up to the lake where we had a short break for photos of Triple Peaks, Cat's Ears, Pogo, and the surrounding hills behind us as well as the ridge above the lake. The group split into two with one larger group heading up to the summit for lunch, while the smaller group stopped below the saddle out of the wind for lunch break.

After lunch the groups reconvened and made our way back down the steep, slippery, snowy trail to the trees and back to the vehicles, arriving back around 3:30pm in time to make the journey back to Port Alberni and then Courtenay.

Thanks to Ron for leading another great trip!

Report from Tim P:

We started from the trailhead at 8:45AM and, in a little over 1.5 hours, climbed the 1750 feet to Cobalt Lake, arriving at 10:20AM. After a short tea break in the warm sunshine and out of the wind, five of our group started out for the summit still 1300 foot above us. Part way up another member decided to head back to the lower group. Four of us continued on and arrived at the highest point at 12:15PM just as a group of youngsters, some in shorts, were heading down. Although it was sunny on the top, there was a strong wind blowing in from the ocean so, with nowhere to shelter, we didnt take too long to have our lunch. The views were great, but after cooling considerably in the steady wind, we packed up and started on our climb down.

From Cobalt Lake to the summit our crampons were essential as we were crossing several snow slopes where it would not have been a good idea to start sliding. They were also very good on the steep snowy/icy trail all the way back to the vehicles.

On heading down into Port Alberni in the morning we encountered quite thick fog in places and -5 temperatures. Also, especially from a photographers point of view, some impressive looking frost covered trees. They were even more interesting as we were heading out from PA along the Taylor River. With no time to stop in the morning, I was really pleased to see that not much had changed on our return to PA after the hike. Needless to say, we stopped for several photo sessions before the light faded.

Three of us stopped for an excellent meal in town before leaving PA at Bare Bones Fish and Chips. It is in an old church building on Johnston Road. I am sure that we will be stopping there agin after the next hike in the Port Alberni area.

This was another trip that greatly benefited from the amazing trail work done by the AVOC members. Thanks again to Ron and his friends for all their hard work.

Stats:

Started hiking at 8:43AM

Cobalt Lake at 10:20AM

Summit at 12:15PM

Leave summit at: 12:39PM

Vehicles at 3:15PM

Distance: 8.5 kilometres

Accumulated elevation gain: 3150 feet

A few more images can be seen here:

<http://public.fotki.com/TimPenney/cdmc-trips/mount-5040-november/>



Google Earth GPS track overlay
[Tim Penney photo]



Not enough snow for snowshoes but crampons were essential for the icy conditions
[Tim Penney photo]



Above Cobalt Lake heading on to the summit
[Tim Penney photo]



Crossing one of several snow slopes - Good use for the crampons
[Karl Stevenson photo]



Getting closer to the summit
[Tim Penney photo]



*Enjoying a stroll on frozen
Cobalt Lake*
[Karl Stevenson photo]



*view of Triple Peak on the way
down*
[Julianna Wells photo]

*Just starting to head down from
the summit*
[Tim Penney photo]



*the group heading
back*
[Julianna Wells photo]



*Impressive frosty
conditions alongside
Taylor River on the
way back to PA*
[Tim Penney photo]

Report contributors: Tia-Hanna B, Tim P, Julianna W,

Participant list (8 of 8): Tia-Hanna B:**guest**, Jim G, Ron L, Joe L, Susan O, Tim P,
👤Karl S, Julianna W,

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