

CDMC

Trip Report

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Sun Nov 08, 2015

Leader: **Ron Lepine**

Co-Leader: **Ian Holm**

This was another great adventure in the Port Alberni area enhanced to some extent by the weather conditions. Many thanks to Ron and the hard work of the AVOC for the excellent trail work that made this trip so much easier.

Tim

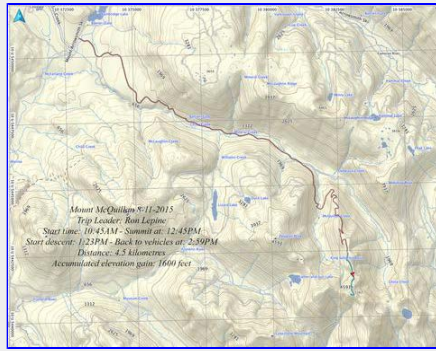
The early morning's rays, fractured by the mist lit up our travels to P.A. after leaving Courtenay at 8:10 am. Five of us CDMCites, via Tim and Jim's vehicle met four from P.A. at 9:30 and continued to the trail head, 40 minutes away, eventually up an ever increasingly steep logging road. Stepping immediately into the forrest, we found that the 8cm of snow "enhanced" the up and down traverse across small avalanche areas, scrub bush and treed steep side hill. Navigating up the numerous benches and heather covered draws enabled us to gain elevation and get intermittent views of the valley below through the ever changing cloud patterns. The final approach to Mt. Maquillan appears to be quite intimidating as we look at a rugged, barren, fissured rock face. The black and white nature of the sights around us due to the contrast of the snow and rock under heavy skies add to this overall picture. The route leads to the NE side of the peak where there is an exposed rock face of 80' or so or a narrow cleft to negotiate to make the summit of 5167 '. Four of us decided on the 1st choice, which got the blood pumping just that much more. A 10 minute window of sun greeted us as the 9 of us crested the suprisingly flat peak area. Ice on the small ponds here prompted us to layer up for the 1/2 hour lunch break. The surrounding mountains and valleys disappeared and reappeared with the mist and cloud floating about, resulting in a "sitting on top of the world" feeling.

Descending through the slippery snow covered Heather and scattered rock demanded attention to one's footing. Tim, Karl and Ron had the ace cards of trail crampons to aid in their stability while the rest of us struggled to keep our heads above our feet. Just under 6 hours later, we all arrived back at the vehicles. The facial glow of a good time in the wilds shone through the mist and light snow that followed us at trails end.

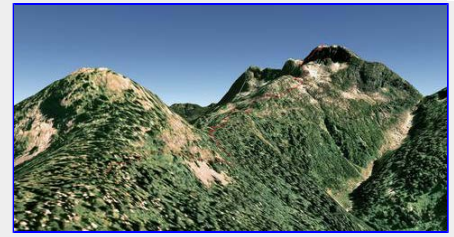
Again, many thanks to the conscientious P.A. hikers that work on the trail maintenance that enables us to enjoy this area in a more comfortable manner. The group worked well together and we all thank Ron for initiating this trip.

Regards, Ian

More images are at this location: <http://public.fotki.com/TimPenney/cdmc-trips/mount-mcquillan-8-1/>



GPS track and stats
[Tim Penney photo]



Google earth track overlay
[Tim Penney photo]



Plenty of snow on this trip
[Tim Penney photo]



One the way up. The summit is visible through the fog
[Tim Penney photo]



On the summit
[Tim Penney photo]



[Lubosh Kloucek photo]



[Lubosh Kloucek photo]



[Lubosh Kloucek photo]



[Lubosh Kloucek photo]

Report contributors: Ian H, Lubosh K, Tim P,

Participant list (6 of 8): Jim G, Ian H, Lubosh K, Ron L, Tim P, 🟡Karl S,

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