

CDMC

Trip Report

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5 Days, 5 Mountains (hiking) [return to Reports list](#)

Wed Sep 07 to Sun Sep 11, 2011

Leader: **William Wright**

Co-Leader:

William, Tim and I hiked the Augerpoint Traverse, with Castlecrag Loop added in, from Raven Lodge to Buttle Lake, and summited 5 peaks along the way. It was a most excellent adventure. Five days of arduous hiking, and flawless navigation by William, on a route that has some tricky sections. Throughout the trip we had cloudless cobalt skies, just a whisper of a breeze, and hot temperatures. Lots of bugs sometimes too. The nights were warm, and the almost-full moon lit up our tents. We were surrounded daily by spectacular vistas in every direction: panoramas of snowy peaks, jewel-green lakes, and birds-eye views of Georgia Strait, Discovery Passage and the coastal mountains. Thanks to last winters record snowfall, there were snowfields scattered everywhere, amongst emerald green vegetation. There was always snow available to put in our hats or down our shirts to cool us off, freezing-cold water to drink, and tarns or streams to bathe in at our campsites. And an abundance of wildflowers in full bloom.

Day 1: We hiked from Raven Lodge to Circlet Lake, then past Moat Lake and around the back side of Castlecrag. The hike around Castlecrag is very tiring with a full pack! Steep climbs, rough trails, and a big rock field to cross near the end of our 10 hour day. Tim and I struggled a bit, but WW did not. Eventually he found us a beautiful ridge to camp on, with a fine view of King George V, located a short distance before the side trail to Castlecrag's summit.

Day 2: Was the pay-off. We went up to the Castlecrag summit early in the morning, then hiked up Frink. Took off our packs to walk to the summit of Mt. Frink, where we found a gentle cool breeze and beautiful views of the peaks to the west, including the Hinde. Great views in every direction as we took up our packs again and made our way down a steep snowfield to the saddle between Frink and Albert Edward, then hiked up AE to our campsite: a fabulous spot with clumps of bonsai trees, a babbling brook surrounded by intensely green vegetation, and several scattered tarns for our private bathing pleasure. There was a welcome breeze, keeping the bugs down to we could enjoy the vistas.

Day 3: More non-stop views as we joined up with the main trail up AE, summited AE (hot and buggy there even at mid-morning), then took the Augerpoint route down the ramp on the southwest side of AE. We stayed left (south) to descend from the ridge at the foot of the ramp. Heading southwest towards our destination of Ruth Masters Lake, we continued to descend into a valley, then had to hike upwards again (this was all rather arduous) to reach our campsite in the meadows at the base of the waterfall below the lake. I loved this place: the sound of the waterfall, meandering stream beside us, little meadow and forest, surrounded by mountains. The cold night here was a refreshing change.

Day 4: After strolling past RM lake, we did a steep climb up to the saddle between Syd Watts peak and the base of Augerpoint Mountain, then hiked up to its summit. From here we had a birds-eye view of our entire days route, and most of yesterdays

route, as well as the south end of Buttle Lake, and the Bedwell Valley. I thought the steep scree on Augerpoint would be terrifying to descend, but it was OK. Then we did a steep gravelly hike up from the saddle to a ridge, and were back to non-stop views as we walked up the ridge to the top of a big hump where we had our lunch. We met a hiker here: the first time since Day 1. We went down a ramp on the snowfield, followed the trail past Jack Shark Lake (same aquamarine colour as Ruth), and camped on a plateau at the base of Northwest Peak.

Day 5: Pleasant early morning hike without packs to the top of Northwest Peak, enjoyed the views of Buttle Lake, then started the 4000 foot descent to this lake. After we stopped at the pond for a break, the trail became steep and gruelling, with gravelly sections where we were slip sliding away. The descent went on and on until our legs and knees were burning. Tim eventually lost his footing in the gravel and had a spectacular somersaulting tumble, but landed on his feet with no harm done. Soaking our hot bodies and aching legs in Buttle Lake at the end of the trail was bliss! After Christine picked us up, this was followed by the pleasure of a good meal and a cold beverage in the garden patio at the Royal Coachman Pub in Campbell River.

Thank you to William for leading the trip, Tim for carrying his camera and taking the photos (they will be great, be sure to check them all out), Kathy and Christine for providing the transportation.

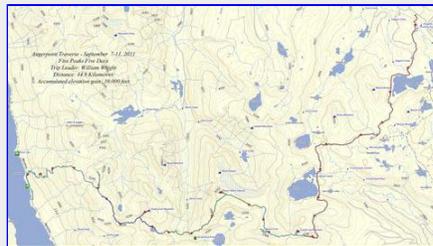
Some facts (WW or Tim, you may edit these):

Distance: 45k over 4.5 days.

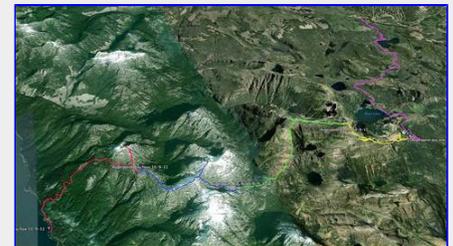
Accumulated elevation gain: 10000 ft. (3050 m)

Summits: Castlecrag, Frink, Albert Edward, Augerpoint, Northwest Peak

[More photos](#) are available for viewing.



GPS Map showing each day's route in a different colour
[Tim Penney photo]



3D Satellite overlay
[Tim Penney photo]



First night's campsite just before



Heading up to Mount Frink

the trail to Castlecrag
[Tim Penney photo]



*On the way from Mount Frink to
Mount Albert Edward*
[Tim Penney photo]

[Tim Penney photo]



*On the ramp down from Albert
Edward*
[Tim Penney photo]



*One quick way to cool down.
Outflow waterfall from Ruth
Masters Lake*
[Tim Penney photo]



*George V reflection in Ruth
Masters Lake*
[Tim Penney photo]



Golden Hinde
[Tim Penney photo]



Sunset on our last evening
[Tim Penney photo]

Report contributors: Paula F, Tim P, William W,

Participant list (3 of 3): Paula F, Tim P, William W,

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