

BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club

Newsletter

Volume 97, Issue 3



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We want you to write for us! Any submitted news, events, trip reports, letters relevant to the BCMC will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise.

For photos, high resolution is much appreciated. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity, or for consistency with club policies. Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the BCMC.

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*Cover Image by
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WILLSON PEAK TO DESERTED PEAK TRAVERSE

BY ALEXANDRU ROMANCIUC

A while ago when I saw Mount Tinniswood from Mount Currie I started to think of ways to get into that area and do a traverse in there and at first I've tried it with Ben Shewan and Dean Perez to do it as a ski traverse starting from Buck Mountain and the plan was to finish at Willson Mountain but we had to change our plan and we skied out at Limelight Creek with 14 days of food, it wasn't fun, so then I started to plan it for 2019 but it didn't work for us because of the weather so I was hoping to get in there in 2020.

Finally we had a window and Steven Song and Vladimir Martinak were able to join me this year which was great and on July 18th we started our traverse.

DAY 1

We met early at Squamish Airport with our pilot Marco and after we discussed our location for the food drop we soon started our flight.

On our flight we could see most of the traverse and we were trying to get some photos to look later at the terrain and once we got near John Clarke Mountain we found a flat spot just below the summit in between the two lakes where we decided to leave our food cache and from there we flew to the other side where we landed just before Willson Mountain.

It was only a few minutes hike for us to get to Mount Willson from where we started our traverse.



Images left to right: Going towards Pivotal. Going down Hammerstein-George Edwards col.

The snow was still pretty firm and we were moving fast despite the huge packs we had.

Once we got over Pollock S2 we decided to go up towards Pollock and just before the summit to leave our packs and go for Mount Ralph with day pack, so at about 2400m we left our packs, got what we need in our day packs and started our way towards Mount Ralph.

The way to the summit was pretty easy, we had to descend to 2200m from where we started going back up towards the summit of Mount Ralph where there was one crevasse that we had to go around.

Once we were getting closer to the ridge we went to check the north side of Mount Ralph in case there will be a easy snow line to the summit, but it was pretty broken and then we went back on the ridge which was a pretty easy ridge, mostly a class 2 ridge to the summit.

From the summit of Mount Ralph we then started our way back to our packs from where it was only a 5 minutes hike with our huge packs after what we dropped them again and went light to the summit of Mount Pollock.

We decided to go first to the furthest summit, the West summit of Mount Pollock where we found a cairn but no register, my GPS was reading 2499m but we still decided

to go to the other one and check the height, there was one class 3 step near the summit but the rest was pretty easy and once we got on the summit my GPS was showing 2500m.

Once we got back at our packs we started our way towards Oswald Mountain and just before reaching the summit the clouds started to roll in but we got lucky and got some views from the summit which was a easy walk.

We were worried about our next section, from Oswald-Vanstone col where we knew we might have some problems looking at google earth but we were hoping we will find a way to get up to Vanstone.



Soon we left the summit of Mount Oswald and started our way down to the col.

As we were going down we could see the col and see the part of the route we were worried about and we saw a line that looked promising from up there so we were hoping it will work.

Lower down, closer to the col we had to do some navigation and look for a easy way to get down and even had to lower our packs with the rope in one section where Vlad lost his pole in a moat and we didn't had a extra one so for the rest of the trip he was with only one pole.

Once we got down to the col we just set up our tents and while having our dinners we were looking up at Vanstone and none of the lines looked like it will work so we decided to go to bed and decide tomorrow since we still have the plan B option which none of us were excited about it.

DAY 2

We woke up and after our breakfasts we packed our gear and after looking closer to some of the lines that

we thought it might work we decided it will be safer to just go down and around Mount Perkins.

Most of the way down the valley wasn't too bad and we were going down pretty fast but closer to the bottom at about 1000m it was getting pretty bushy but it was only a short part and then we were back in open terrain and were going up towards Whiting Glacier now.

Once we were getting to the toe of the glacier we saw 2 goats on the glacier.

The glacier wasn't too crevassed and it was pretty dry so it was easy to navigate.

Once we were just below the summit of Perkins we made a decision not to camp on Whiting glacier but keep going since we knew we only have 4-5 days of good weather before some rain moves in and of course we had to skip Mount Perkins.

Then we started our way towards Mount Boardman area where we camped at a col at about 2200m from where we could see Mount Boardman, Sergeant and Corporal.

After our dinners we went to bed with a plan to wake up early and do Mount Bordman first thing.

DAY3

We woke up at sunrise and while the snow was still firm we left our camp towards Mount Boardman.

The way to the summit was pretty easy, didn't see any crevasses on the glacier and once we got closer to the summit tower we found a gap in the rocks where we were able to get on the NW side of the peak from where we followed the North ridge to the summit which had only few moves of class 3 scramble and mostly was easy.

Once we got on the summit we found our first summit register of the trip but we left our pencil at the camp.

After lots of photos we started our way back to our camp.

Once we got back to our camp we had some food and started packing our gear after then we started our way towards Sergeant Mountain.

The way towards Sergeant wasn't too bad, just had some few big crevasses that were open and it was getting pretty warm by that time of the day so we were moving pretty slow already.

Once we got on the SE ridge we left our heavy packs there and started our way with day packs towards Sergeant Mountain.

There was a small portion of steep snow 45-50 degrees from where we went on the rock where there was few moves of class 5 scramble after what it was a easy walk to the summit.

From the summit of Sergeant we were looking how to get to Corporal and we tried to follow the ridge which didn't looked that easy so we decided to take the snow and found only one spot where the moat was still not open and we could join the snow easy.

The way up Corporal was pretty easy, we had to take the rock just before the summit since the moat was open higher up and the rock was pretty easy to follow.

Once we took a bunch of photos we started our way back to Sergeant and back down to our backpacks.

Our next objective of the day was Mount Whiting, the travel was pretty easy but we were going pretty slow with those huge packs and that heat.

Just below the summit we left our heavy packs again and went to the summit which was about 5 minutes

away where we found a lot of burned material, not sure if it was from a tent or something and lots of other burned stuff.

From Mount Whiting we decided to keep on going and make it close to Pivotal Mountain and camp there.

We pretty much stayed on the ridge and had to go over few bumps where we found some cairns and we finally had a view of Mount Tinniswood, Hammerstein and George Edwards.

Once we got to our camping spot Vlad suggested to just set up our camp and go for Pivotal now since we still had over 2 hours before sunset.

Took us a bit longer than we thought but we made it just before sunset to the summit of Pivotal which was just a easy hike to the summit.

After few photos we went back to our camp where we had our dinners and went to bed.

DAY 4

We woke and it was a little bit cloudy but we were hoping the clouds would lift and we won't have a rainy day.

After our breakfasts we packed our tents and started our way down towards Blumlisalp Mountain.

The way down was pretty easy and in no time we got up on the other side where we left our packs just 800m away from the summit.

The views from the summit of Blumlisalp were pretty nice and as we knew that this will be the last time we will see this views on this trip we took a bunch of photos and kept looking back where we came from and then we started our way back to our packs.

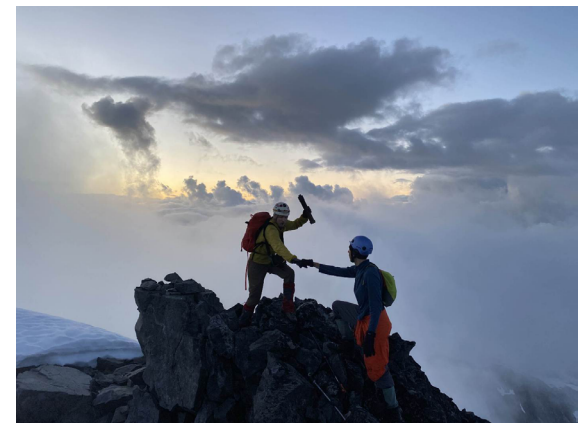
Going to Pearkes



Going to Blumlisalp Peak



Tinniswood Summit



Once we got to our packs we started our long descend towards Hammerstein col and as we were getting lower we looked to our right and saw the beautiful and mighty looking Hunaechin Peak with it's lake, that was for sure a beautiful view.

After lots of photos we continued our way down to the col from where we started climbing back up again towards Hammerstein Peak.

At about half way up the ridge we saw another beautiful view, the view of the valley with Hunaechin lake.

The way to Hammerstein was pretty easy, we were just staying on the glacier below the rocky ridge and once we got at the col we went on the East side of the peak where we had to traverse a small section of steep snow from where the way to the summit was class 2 scramble.

Once we got on the summit we spent there some time and got lucky since the clouds lifted a bit more for us and we could see the view of the north side of Mount Tinniswood.

Soon we started our way down towards Hammerstein-George Edwards col, about 80% of the way was pretty easy and mostly snow but soon we got closer to some

bushy sections where we had to do some veggie belay and there was one section about 300m distance from the col where we had to do some route finding for a bit but we found a bushy spot that was ok to get down.

Once we got down at the col we decided to push a bit more and get up closer to George Edwards so we re-filled our waters and started our way up.

While we were going up there was a rock fall so we looked up and saw a goat that was above us and was pushing rocks towards us, so we had to move fast and get out of his way and get up on George Edwards glacier.

The way up was a big slog, we were all tired after another long day but we all made it to 2200m where we left our packs and went towards the summit of Mount George Edwards which of course was in full whiteout.

Once we got back to our packs we again decided to push a bit more and get as close as we can to Mount Tinniswood and started our way towards Mount Tinniswood.

As we were getting closer to Mount Tinniswood the clouds were lifting u a bit and we were starting to have

some views and finally could see Mount Tinniswood closer.

Once we got near the base of the climb for Mount Tinniswood we decided to camp there and we set up our camp and had our dinners.

The latest forecast we got was saying that the weather might hold until afternoon and might just be cloudy and then rain so we decided to give it a try and set up our alarms for 3 AM for the next day.

DAY 5

Our alarms woke us up at 3 AM, we looked outside and we could see some starts so it was climbing time.

After 30 minutes we were all ready to go and started our climb towards the summit of Mount Tinniswood.

The way up to the summit was pretty easy mostly just hiking and small section just before the summit which was class 2 but very loose.

We got on the summit pretty much just before the sunrise and we spent a lot of time on that summit, taking lots and lots of photos, reading all those summit entries and all that history of John Clarke that is up there.

After our summit photos we started our way back down to our camp and the clouds were lifting more and we had some incredible views on our descent.



Going down Casement-Loquilts col

Once we got back down to our camp we had some food and slowly started to pack and we started our way to Casement-Loquilts col.

Getting down towards the col wasn't too bad, there was mostly snow for our way down to almost near the creek crossing which wasn't too bad from where we just traversed under Casement to the col.

From the col there was one section that required some navigation and ended up with few moves of class 3 from where we continued our way towards Casement.

At about 800m from the summit, just before the sub-summit it started raining pretty hard on us and we had to act fast and set up our tents before we get all wet, but that didn't happen.

Took us a bit to make the ground flat and then set up the tents and by the time we got it all done we were all wet.

Once the rain ended up we got outside and had our dinners and were thinking how we could have camped an hour before the subsummit on a nice flat spot and dry.

Just before we went to bed the clouds started to lift again and we started to have some views that we didn't see during the day and soon after we went to bed.

DAY 6

Once we woke up we looked outside and saw that the weather is on our side so we got out and got all of our wet gear outside to try and dry it all out, it was almost like a gear sale.

After our breakfast we waited a bit more time and once all our gear was dry we packed our tents and started our way to the summit of Loquilts.

Was only few minutes for us to reach the summit of Loquilts which again was in a full whiteout.

After our summit photo we started our way down towards John Clarke area.

As we were getting lower the clouds were lifting up and we were starting to have some views and we went down a ramp that I could see on Google earth which worked perfect and we got down on the glacier pretty easy.

Once we got on the glacier it was a long slog to go across it and then go up on the ridge towards John Clarke.

Once we got up higher we started to see a trail that we started to follow and finally had our first view of the inlet where we spent some time enjoying that view.

We continued following the trail and soon we had to go down from one of the subsummits along the ridge and this one was pretty steep and mostly just wet slabs going down.

Took us some navigation and here and there we were following something that looked like a trail and we all made it down safely.

We had one more small uphill in front of us and we were pretty much home for the day.

Once we got at the laker bellow John Clarke, 1500m, we found a flat grassy spot that will work great for us and we went to look for our food drop since that was where we left our food drop few days ago.

After few minutes of looking in few spots we found the spot where our pilot left our food drop and happy we got down to our campsite to enjoy our fancy meals.

Once we were done with our food it started to rain and we went to hide in our tents but after few minutes we discovered that the water was just collecting under my tent so once the rain stopped for a bit me and Vlad had to get out and dig some channels so the water would run down and wont collect around our tent and after we went to bed hoping we won't wake up in a lake.

DAY 7

It was raining pretty much all day so we didn't even bother to try and move the camp and go further, we took

our sleeping bags and pads out to try and dry the tent floor a bit when the rain stopped for a bit.

DAY 8

We woke up and after we packed our gear we started hiking up towards Mount John Clarke which wasn't too far away.

It wasn't too long until we were getting closer to the summit and getting some really nice views of that area and soon we dropped our packs and went to the summit of John Clarke where we spent some time before heading back down to our packs, that was the first spot

Going up Mount John Clarke

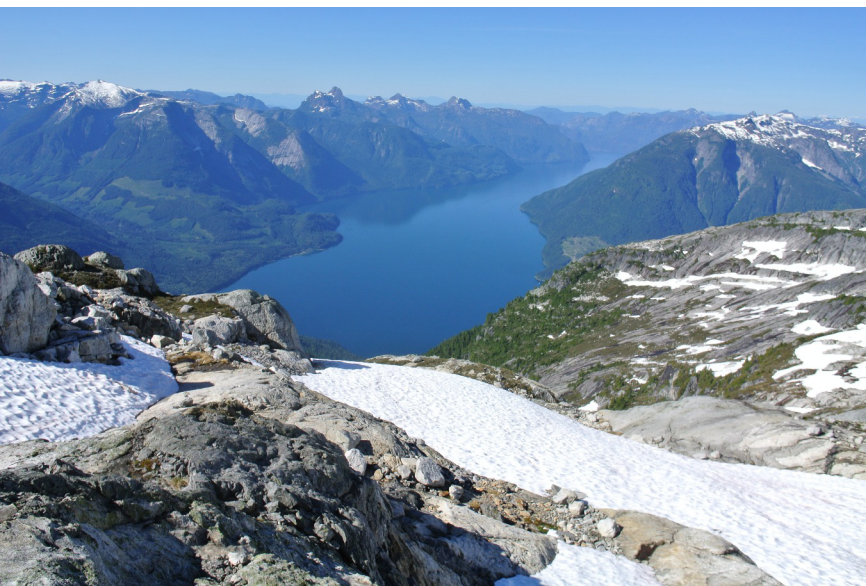


where we had cellphone service during the traverse where we took our time.

Then we continued our way down towards the col going to Outrigger which was a pretty long descend after what we had one last uphill for the day to get up on the ridge.

Once we got up on the ridge we found a flat spot and decided to camp there since the next day we were planning to go for Mount Pearkes.

We had some time before sunset so we slowly cooked our food, made sure to secure our tents properly since it was pretty windy on the ridge and after lots and lots of photos we went to bed.



*View of the
inlet*

DAY 9

After our breakfast we left towards Pearkes leaving our campsite behind.

The way up to Mount Pearkes was pretty easy we had to traverse the west side of the peak almost to the end of it where we were able to go up easy and get on the east side from where we got some nice views of the Inlet.

Once we got on the summit we took a bunch of photos, talked to the pilot and started our way back to our campsite following the same way we went in.

When we got back at our campsite we decided to have a big lunch since we were planning to move camp that day and we were already pretty tired from that heat wave that was up there.

It took us a while to get up Mount Outrigger but in the end we were happy we moved our camp and camped pretty much below the summit where we found a nice flat spot from where we went to the summit at the sunset.

DAY 10

We woke up in the morning and it was already super warm so we knew we won't have any fun today since we had to drop pretty low.

Once we packed our gear we started to go down towards Outrigger-Deserted col which wasn't that easy as it looked, there were some sections of thick bush and lots of slabs so we had to do lots of route finding to get to the col where we had to stop since everybody was pretty much out of water and we found a small patch of snow that we melted to give us some water after what we were ok to continue again and start going up towards Deserted Peak.

The way up was pretty slow, there was now wind and it was very warm that day.

Once we go near Deserted N1 we looked at the terrain which was all wet slabs to get down o the lake.

We wanted to try for Deserted Peak but for that we would had to drop down to the lake which looked really bad and since we had service up there we decided to give the pilot a call and see if he can pick us up tonight instead of tomorrow morning since there was no point of

spending the night out there and luckily he was free and picked us the same day.

In the end it was a great traverse, I've been looking at it for years now so I was happy to actually explore that area and we couldn't finish where the plan was to finish, we would needed another 5-6 days of food and from the food drop we only took the amount of food we needed according to the forecast we last had since it was supposed to get worse the next day and bad weather was supposed to last for few days and it was good to get out after 10 days out in the mountains.



TRIP REPORT – MOUNT FROMME

BY POLINA ANDREYCHENKO

It was a great experience and went as planned; everyone that was suppose to show up showed up, prepared, and keen to hike! I had some cool conversations about hiking, places to travel, and met some very nice individuals! The views at the top were actually better than I initially thought, which was a bonus.

Overall, it was fun and a good start to the weekend!



LET US THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND

BY CHRIS LUDWIG, 2020

And dance with wolves
Hike in flip flops
Lay siege to an unknown trail and
valley
In the waning hours

In autumn
The sun will fall with a sharpness
Not felt in summer

The bear
Will wander slow
In the underbrush
As the long sleep of winter nears

And in twist, cut or break
Or suddenly off trail without map or
compass

What shall that small fanny pack yield?
Or the school daypack of the weekend
forest weakling?

Shall you be the mountain warrior
Of plenty

Whose first aid kit
brims full with hand chosen
implements
to combat the fiercest of sucking chest
wounds
in style and sport
or shall it yield a headlamp
mighty enough to conquer even the
deepest of nights
and blind those half a kilometer away

Shall your unexpected night stay be
one of comfort and laughter
one of rest with your skilled and amply
provisioned brethren

Or rather
will you the one to perform the walk of
shame
Through the forest night
With only your puny and pathetic cell
phone light
As your guide

Do you assume the helicopter will be
there when the fog settles in deep
Or that your cell phone will always have
reception
In any mountain valley?

Are you of sandals, red high heels,
running shoes or sturdy boots?
Come now
Show me your mettle
When the rain blasts
When the muck is deep and runny
Shall you triumph
Or shall you fall
For want of a decent rain jacket
And a plan
That was left behind

Bear food or prepared
The mountains just don't care.

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