



ON THE TRAIL NEWSLETTER

**CALGARY
WEEKEND
HIKERS**

Happy Hiking!

June 2019
**Summer
Edition**

Important Dates

- Potluck Supper
October 26
- Hike Season Ends
October 31
Remember that hikes
after this date
do not count towards
your minimum.
- Shoulder Season
Starts
November 1

From the Online Photo Gallery

- Sulfur Mountain



- Glenmore Park



- Whaleback Trail



From the President

-- by Doug Hackbarth --

Our 2019 season has started out significantly slower than any of the last three years. More details in the Hike Coordinators report but it had to do with the cold spring weather and the early smoke.

The Executive recently discussed whether CWH should have a minimum hike length. We decided that we should not have such a thing – although other clubs do have such limits. Our view is that we do not wish to force members out of CWH just because their hiking capabilities have diminished over time. We want all members to enjoy our camaraderie as long as they possibly can.

More and more members are taking advantage of GPS Apps that allow them to “map” their hikes. Add to this the fact that many of our hikes are a combination of portions of published hikes lead the Executive to decide that we will add a “Maps” section to the “Other” portion of our website navigation panel so that you can share and document your hikes for others to enjoy. Our Communications Co-ordinator has a full description of “how and what” in this newsletter but suffice it to say here that PDF-formatted hike maps can be downloaded there if that is available from your GPS App.

The smoke issues of last year and already this year have caused the Executive to modify the Hike Coordinator Guidelines to indicate that at an Air Quality Index of 7, the Coordinator should consider whether that applies to the actual location of the hike and whether cancellation is appropriate. Just like you do for weather, the individual hiker should use his/her judgement regarding one’s ability to participate regardless of the decision of the Hike Coordinator.

Get out there and coordinate your favorite hike for other members to join!

Regards, Doug Hackbarth, President

The 2018 Executive Committee

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| President: | Doug Hackbarth | Social Coordinator: | Sigrid Wili |
| Vice President: | Mike Cogut | Communications Coordinator: | Fritz Kiessling |
| Secretary: | Susan Rimer | Archiving: | by Secretary |
| Treasurer: | Terry Wilson | Newsletter: | Dorothy Whitson |
| Hike Planning Coordinator: | Gerry Cyre | Webmaster: | Fritz Kiessling |
| Membership: | Pati Roberts | | |



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of the moon at 10:15 PM. The denouement finished into the bright full moon again around midnight.

The plan was a nice comfortable hike up a local mountain many people use to keep in shape for climbing elevation as it gets little snow in the big Rocky mountains rain shadow and is close to home. A very pleasant way to spend a day. Especially one that was warm and sunny. I even got a tan on my face besides the wind burn. It was a bit windy at the top. I even took a few minutes to chop out a few blocks to show how you cut snow to make a wall or igloo in the snow drift at the top for my friends.

A nice pleasant day outdoors but then the fun didn't plan to stop there. It was time to go drive to the mountain with my more adventurous friend to go up with the intention, to witness the GIGANTIC BLOOD WOLF MOON! From the top of the mountain. It was gigantic because the moon was closer to the earth than is average. It was blood because during a lunar eclipse it turns a shade of red from the sunlight bending through our atmosphere just as the light of the sun at sunset time. It is a wolf moon for that is the name given to the first moon of the year (in January). Just like the first full moon in the fall is called a harvest moon.

The specialty hike was thought up to utilize the time outdoors and to be closer to the action at 7250 feet above sea level (2210 meters). The night skies are wonderful from the top. Walking by starlight alone and sometimes by the light of the moon means that the whites on the surrounding peaks highlight all the rock strata and avalanche slopes and enliven the upper crenelated edges of the scenery. All those edges have nice little names for their tops like The Tiara (that has a crown at the top), Romulus and Remus (Romulus has a distinctive 20 foot thick line at the top of it of a snow drift that extends across the 1000 feet of the top- they are named after two brothers of the Roman era that founded Rome after they were suckled by wolves- some Roman tall story huh?) and always

the 7 kilometers of ridge that shows all of its side to Calgary with the avalanche chutes making it look like the teeth of a saw.

If the moon is not shining, the milky way holds sway in the sky as it looks cloudy and luminescent. This stripe in the sky goes from the southern horizon beside the hunter of the Orion constellation and the Pleides cluster of stars to go thru Cassiopeia to the northern horizon.

These themes of rock and sky ran in our discussion with like minded individuals. The constellations were mentioned as they had come out so nice with the big dipper pointing forever to the north star and on the other side the Queen in her chair, (that looks to me like a "double u" but the new generation says it looks like McDonalds classic and copyrighted "m"), called Cassiopeia.

Of course that brings us to the eclipse for it was the eclipse that sent our vision to the stars and the milky way as only the most prominent stars shine when the sky is filled with the light of the full moon. We get to see the red globe that was the full and bright moon at the same time. It made the reddish glow look like a washed up element of its former self. The face wasn't apparent and it looked like an orange golf ball was put up there in replacement of the moon. The stars shine bright and that is the light that you are using to move around with. It doesn't throw shadows and is more like a nightlight from the next room than the bright spotlight that is the full moon. This is the closest to having the wonders of the universe shattering than I have experienced before. I have heard a solar eclipse described as such when the daylight turns to night. (My solar eclipses have been in clouds and it seemed more like the cloud just got thicker than the lights going out so no celestial epiphany due to a lack of radical change).

It is the starlights being turned on full in a grand turnaround to the way things normally work out in the brightness of a full moon. In about a half hour the moon reappears with less of a bite taken out of it as the minutes pass. From a crescent moon with the red still showing to the



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full bright disc leaving shadows of the trees on the forest floor we are walking through. It really is an unholy turning of the world on its head. Of the natural order not going according to plan. Just something to behold.

What I didn't expect was the observation of the bright white crescent being left on the eastern side of the moon and then the addition of the crescent seemed to me to start on that same eastern side? It did not seem to make sense that the moon was moving through the shadow of the earth as it has been described to me. Without sitting in one place to see it I wonder if the crescent left the northeast side and reappeared on the northwest side but then again this is an observation by one person in one location. I did hear reports that the man in the moon face was more prominent in the red glow than in a bright full moon so that may have been due to the ice crystals in the air above me too.

The piece de resistance was, as we were moving thru the shadows of the trees in the moonlight the sky developed a high cirrus precloud of ice crystals and the moon had a hugely bright ring around it like a halo. (But not above it- just around it). Maybe all this stuff is really tied to religion somehow like the Aztec

culture believed.

PS: Perhaps I should mention that I have been going up to the top of this mountain at night for a few years now and that is at different times with the moon light and with the stars shining brightly. I prefer the starlight on a clear night but going up the mountain is nice even with clouds so That is my bias. Steve

ਸਮੁੱਚੇ ਖੇਤਰ ————— ਚੰਦਰਮਾ

Techy Bits

-- by Fritz Kiessling --

Password Reset

In case you are not aware by now, we have installed higher security for our website. Part of that involved encrypting the passwords. That's the up side. The downside is that I can no longer "help" with "your" password management. If you forget your password, the only thing you can do is "reset" your password.

To do that, go to the website, click on "Forgot Password" below the "Login" button, and follow the instructions. That's all there is to it. So no real downside. Just better security.

Happy Trails.

Reprinted courtesy of "The Other Coast"

