

Whistler Train Wreck and Cheakamus River Trails

May 29, 2022 – Gerard Laman

On this Sunday we had two groups from the BOC that gathered near Whistler to hike the two trails. Because we had two groups the total number of hikers was seventeen. When we left Burnaby, the weather was dry but shortly before Whistler it started to rain and we all got into our rain gear at the trailhead to the Train Wreck site, our first destination. First, we met a friendly bear that informed us about bear safety and then we crossed the fast-flowing Cheakamus River on a beautiful suspension bridge to reach the Train Wreck site.

The crash occurred in 1956 when several boxcars derailed and blocked the track. The reason that the trees are not damaged around the boxcars, is because the train didn't come off the rails at this point but the boxcars were moved to this location after the accident.

We admired the graffiti on the boxcars including on the inside. We could also climb on the boxcars. After our visit to the boxcars, we hiked along the Cheakamus River to return to the trailhead.

We then drove a short distance to the Whistler Interpretive Forest parking lot that was the start of our second hike, the East and West side of the Cheakamus River. Starting on the Far Side Trail (East) we followed the river upstream, we stopped for lunch before we reached the MacLaurin's Crossing Bridge. After crossing the bridge, we followed the Riverside Trail (West) downstream to take us back to our cars.

Fortunately, the rain was only very light at the start of the hike and we even had some sunshine in the afternoon.

We all had a great hike on a great day.

Photos by Dave and Gerard

