

MUSKRAT EXPRESS

WILLIAMS LAKE FIELD NATURALISTS
OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER



I like the
Tall Tumble
Mustard Pods
at Jim's



IN CASE
YOU COULD NOT TELL
I'M A GREY CROWNED
ROSY FINCH!



I'm off to
Fred's for
Sunflower Seeds

IS SUE GIVING OUT
CRUNCHY
CANDIED
CATTAILS?



HAPPY
HALLOWEEN



The newsletter for the:
Williams Lake Field Naturalists
1305A Borland Road, Williams Lake BC, V2G 5K5

Membership fees: Family (\$30), single (\$25) or student (\$10) memberships can be mailed to the above address. Please complete the membership and waiver forms available at the Nature Centre (250) 398-8532, muskratexpress@shaw.ca or the web site below. For more information about the club please contact Fred McMechan at 392-7680 or e-mail Fred_McMechan@telus.net

Williams Lake Field Naturalists Website <http://www.williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca>
Scout Island Nature Centre Website <http://www.scoutislandnaturecentre.ca>

Executive of The Williams Lake Field Naturalists: president Fred McMechan, secretary Ordell Steen, treasurer Katharine VanSpall and directors Nola Daintith, Cathy Koot, Peter Opie, Ray Hornby, Brian Chapman, Don Lawrence and Christie Mayall



Editors: Thanks to all of you who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter. Please expect your next edition of the newsletter near the end of November. If you have comments, suggestions or articles for the next Muskrat Express please contact Margaret Waring (398-7724), Jim Sims (296-3638) or e-mail us at muskratexpress@shaw.ca



Svalbarb

With Allison Ruault on Wednesday November 18th starting at 7:00 am at Scout Island Nature Centre

Svalbard, (also known by its former name – Spitsbergen) is one of the world’s northernmost inhabited areas. It is known for its rugged, remote terrain of glaciers and frozen tundra sheltering polar bears, Svalbard reindeer, and Arctic foxes. It is also breeding ground for large numbers of seabirds. The Lonely Planet describes it as “the Arctic North as you always dreamed it existed. This wondrous archipelago is a land of dramatic snow-drowned peaks and glaciers, of vast icefields and forbidding icebergs, an elemental place where the seemingly endless Arctic night and the perpetual sunlight of summer carry a deeper kind of magic”.



And that’s what Allison Ruault found when she travelled there in the summer of 2014 and did a circumnavigation of the archipelago by small ship.

Christmas Bird Count

The date has been set for this year’s annual Christmas Bird Count for the first available Sunday in the bird count period, Sunday December 20th. I see the snow is falling here at Rose Lake as I write this and the feeder is full and a pair of Pine Grosbeaks just arrived at the feeder. Phil will be providing more information in the next edition of the Muskrat.

Chocolate is Coming

Today’s short snow fall along with the mug of hot cocoa has reminded me it is that time of year we all look forward to “**Chocolate Time**”. The order form can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Earth Friendly Holidays (a Free Family Event at the Arts Centre)

Friday November 27 5-9pm

Saturday November 28 10:30- 2:30

JOYFUL, EARTH FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

- Wrapping and Decorating—many groups leading these [Wreaths-frames provided, natural item decorations, and wrapping]
- Scout Island Tables will be for the birds!—see below
- Wonderful Local FOOD

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS AND HELP

- Do you have a simple craft idea that could be done by a person in 1 hour or so using either recycled items or natural items—let Sue know about it and if you want to lead it one of the days, let her know that too
- Can you bring buns, bread, finger foods (vegetables or fruit) or a pot of soup--Let Sue know
- Can you help out on one of the days for 2-3 hours
 1. in the kitchen
 2. setting up (2-4 on Nov. 27) or clean up 2:30-4 on Nov. 28
 3. guide a craft at a table—we need help at our bird table where we will be making suet feeders, chickadee and owl ornaments.

Please contact Sue at 250 398 8532 or shemphill@xplornet.com

Mount Polley Mine Hazeltine Creek Rehabilitation Field Tour

By Katie McMahan (Mount Polley Mine Environmental Department and WLFN member)

On Saturday October 17th, a group of 25 people from the Williams Lake Field Naturalists and the Cariboo Central Interior Branch of the BC Institute of Professional Agrologist joined Colleen Hughes and Katie McMahan from the Mount Polley Mine Environmental Department for a tour of rehabilitation works underway in Hazeltine Creek, downstream of where the tailings dam failure occurred in August 2014.

The morning started with a presentation at the Scout Island Nature House to provide background information on the event, discuss the rehabilitation approach, and summarize work completed to date.

Out at the mine site, the tour was held in lower Hazeltine Creek (the lower reach of the creek, accessible from the Ditch Road, where it joins with Edney Creek and flows into Quesnel Lake). Highlights of the tour included:

- Touring the reconstructed and armoured Hazeltine Creek channel, as well as the lower Edney Creek channel which has been reconstructed, armoured with rock, and had fish habitat features, such as riffles and pools, woody debris, and spawning gravels, installed. Temporary fish fences have been removed and Edney Creek is now accessible to fish.
- Seeing implementation of various sediment and erosion control techniques, including the large constructed sedimentation ponds which had just been cleaned out. Other measures seen were re-contoured slopes, surface roughening, application of wood chips



Tour group down at the Quesnel Lake shore



Edney Creek fish habitat features

- and coarse woody debris, and use of willow wattle bio-engineering along the creek floodplain.
- Talk of techniques being used and considered for soil rehabilitation, including use of woody debris, soil transplants and salvaging of organic matter, and use of nitrogen-fixing plant species.
 - Discussing the re-vegetation approach and seeing the first phases of work. The current focus is the creek floodplain, where live willow cuttings from the site are being planted along with other primary successional native species, such as sitka alder, black twinberry, red osier dogwood, and prickly rose.
 - Discussing some of the operational challenges, such as gaining access to the work areas, working through the winter, prioritizing various project components, managing regulatory expectations and requirements, and removing and hauling tailings back up to the Tailings Storage Facility.



Hazeltine Creek floodplain revegetation

It was a great opportunity to talk about the science behind the reclamation work being done and to provide an in depth update for interested community member. If anyone is interested in learning more about the ongoing environmental monitoring and rehabilitation work following the Mount Polley tailings dam failure, please refer to the [Imperial Metals Mount Polley Updates website](#) for results from monitoring, photos, videos and more.

Thanks to Katie and Colleen for leading this outing and especially for all of their efforts put into the restoration project.

Report on the Tatlayoko Valley Fall Camp

By Christie Mayall

Twenty-six naturalists from around the province were drawn by the lure of the Chilcotin to a camp hosted by the Williams Lake Field Naturalists at the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) property in the Tatlayoko Valley from September 6 to 12.

We were generously welcomed by Peter Shaughnessy, NCC Tatlayoko Project Manager, who explained the history of the NCC in the area and the ecological importance of their sites in the West Chilcotin. Avery Bartels talked about the Tatlayoko Bird Observatory, now in its 10th year of operation, and its significant role in monitoring bird populations on this flyway.

Each morning began with half a dozen early-risers heading out to the bird observatory to walk the nets and observe the banding. Several participants also went out in the evening in search of Northern Saw-whet owls. The first night of owling Avery almost caught one in his bare hands! And the next night, those who had ventured out were rewarded with watching as these experienced banders extracted a Saw-whet owl from a net and weighed, measured, and banded it with only a few bites and scratches to their person.



On the north Shore of the lake

The first full day dawned bright and blustery as we set off for a hike along the north shore of Tatlayoko Lake. A boat was available for crossing the Homathko River, but several intrepid individuals waded through the fast flowing stream in bare feet. Participants learned about the Chilcotin War and the importance of the Tatlayoko Homathko River protected area while enjoying spectacular views of the Potato Range, named for the wild potatoes harvested by First Nations, and the Niut Range. In the evening, local ecologist Ordell Steen gave an interesting presentation about the forests, grasslands, and wetlands in preparation for the field trip the next day, which took us to an old-growth Douglas fir stand, a grassland site overlooking Choelquoit Lake and a shrub carr. Much of the area that we toured was recognized in the 2014 Supreme Court decision as part of the Tsilhqot'in title land.

The next evening we were lucky to have a presentation by well-known author Chris Czajkowski, who talked about her life in the wilderness.

The trip to Chilko River was a highlight of the trip for many. An interesting presentation by Keri Benner, Senior Biologist for Sockeye Stock Assessment on the Fraser River was followed by a tour of the remnants of several earth lodges. The Chilko River has a consistently high salmon run and has always been a gathering place for First Nations to procure their winter salmon supply. As everyone settled in along the river to enjoy a picnic lunch and watch the spawning salmon, we were thrilled to observe a mother grizzly and two cubs, one completely silver, emerge from the woods upstream and gradually make their way along the river in front of us. The cubs played and wrestled and the mother swam out and brought back salmon for them to eat.

That evening Pat Teti took us back in to Deep Time in British Columbia, with his presentation about the complex geology of our province. This was followed the next day by an exploration of some of the post-glacial features evident in the valley.

On our trip to Skinner Meadow we learned about the wetland fens that are so common in the interior and how the water balance is critical to their maintenance. A short walk took us to a bear marking tree and we learned that, in fact, these trees are really more like a community notice board advertising who is around. Most predators leave a sign that they have been there in the form of urine or rubbing scent against the tree and, not surprisingly, the prey just sniff the tree to see if its safe to stick around. We could smell the musky scent of the bears and decided that it would be best to move on leaving as little of our own scent as possible. We observed nearby evidence of bears feeding in the numerous anthills that had been excavated, overturned rocks, and decaying logs that had been mauled. We also visited the unfinished, but still standing square-timbered lodge built by Charlie Skinner in anticipation of a railway that was proposed, but never built, across the Chilcotin to Bute Inlet.

The final presentation was an exquisite slide show of wild flowers by Sally Mueller of the Tatlayoko Valley.

An additional day hike with Jim Sims on a perfect fall day took many of us in to the alpine on the Potato Range with its magnificent vista of the valley and lake below and the surrounding mountains. After the hike a few hearty souls refreshed themselves with a swim in the crystalline waters of Tatlayoko Lake.

Many participants stayed in tents near the NCC yurt, which was our home base. Others stayed in RV's, and some slept in the luxury of two near-by B&B's. Everyone enjoyed the delicious home-cooked meals at the Homathko River Inn, a real Chilcotin working ranch, and meeting Connie Bracewell and her three adult children, who worked together to

make us all feel at home. Connie's partner, Rudy, helped out in the kitchen, but was



Silver Grizzly Cub with Spawning Salmon Splash



On the top of the Potato Range

even more essential when, 250 km from the nearest garage with a mechanic, he fixed one person's flat tire, and then the next day replaced a leaking Subaru radiator of one of the participants with one from a Ford that he kept on the back 40 for parts.

The natural curiosity and knowledge of all participants was a pleasure to be around. As one person said, “ These people are just like my kids when they were little, climbing rocks, wandering off, and bringing back bugs and mushrooms and bark and flowers.”

Many thanks to the organizing team of Fred McMechan, Brian Chapman, Don Lawrence, Dave White, Ray Hornby, Ordell Steen, and Jim Sims. Fred made sure that every single detail was taken care of, Brian organized the wiring and floor covering for the presentation building, Fred and Jim built two showers and two outhouses, and Don organized the first aid plan and the appearance of the grizzlies on cue. Thanks also to Christie for your dream of the camp and pushing all of us to see it through a very successful completion!

Annual Junction Field Trip Report

By Jim Sims

Several members of the club joined Leader Fred for our annual year end field trip to Junction Sheep range Protected area. The sheep did not fail us as we enjoyed several sightings during the day including this group we all photographed from the road on our drive back from the cairn. Kim's 2 students Ty and Sam helped us turn the tiny spots way below us on the south shore of the Chilcotin River into a small group of Bighorn Sheep and then just before we left the cairn they found another group on the benches of the East side of the Fraser River.



Other highlights for the day included the observations of several Golden and Bald Eagles including a Golden Eagle feeding on a carcass near the Farwell Canyon Road. One of the highlights for me, each time I go with Fred on this trip is to see the reaction of club members who have never before stood by the cairn at the end of the road as they take in the views of the 8th wonder of the world. For me one of the provinces most spectacular natural vistas right here in our back yard.



Chocolate is Coming—Great Holiday Gifts

Scout Island Nature Centre is once again doing a bulk order of organic free trade chocolate bars from Cocoa Camino (www.cocoacamino.com) again. The prices for the chocolate bars went up this year after three years of staying the same and some of the products are no longer available. The prices for the hot chocolate and the baking chocolate have gone down. The chocolate bars are fresh when they come and keep really well (tasting good one year later when kept at a steady cool temperature). We charge less than in a store and still make a bit of a profit for the Nature Centre



Notes from the Executive,

Fred McMechan

- 1) The BC Nature Camp was a successful event. Positive comments were received from the registrants. Fortunately the weather behaved. The field trips and evening presentations were led by excellent resource leaders. Connie Bracewell from the Homathko River Inn B&B and her staff were wonderful caterers. The campsite at the Tatlayoko Lake Ranch was a fine site for both tenters, and people with campers or trailers. We had 26 registrants and about the same number on a waiting list, so we decided to consider organizing another camp in 2017. A big thank you to all the volunteers and resource people who contributed. Also thank you to DFO and the Nature Conservancy of Canada for their cooperation and contributions. A special thankyou to the Xeni Gwet'in Nation and who welcomed us to their territory. Christie Mayall will be preparing a report about the camp and it will be presented in a future newsletter
- 2) This current year will be Fred McMechan's last year as president. He announced in 2014 that there should be a transition in leadership and that this change should occur at the AGM in 2016. We decided to form a committee to examine the options for succession planning. Sue Hemphill, Christie Mayall, Ordell Steen and Fred McMechan have volunteered to be on the committee.
- 3) We approved to plan for the completion of the renovations on the east and north walls of the caretaker's house next year, and to pursue a future project to install solar panels at the Nature Centre. Thanks to Rodger Hamilton for volunteering to coordinate these two projects.
- 4) We are planning to construct a new kiosk at the Nature House parking lot later this fall.
- 5) We are concerned about the need to control the future use of drones around the Nature Centre. We decided to develop a drone policy based on the present guidelines from Transport Canada. After it has been finalized we will communicate with the City of Williams Lake and The Nature Trust of BC to request their approval and support.
- 6) A report, listing items we wish to be considered by the City Council in the 2016 budget, has been given to Darrell Garceau, City Manager. These items include the replacement of the Nature House front doors to improve the insulation and ease of use, the re-roofing of the roof of the Nature House since there has been leaks this year, the installation of metal soffits for the Nature House to prevent the entry by squirrels and birds into the attic, the replacement of the two garbage containers on the trails by bear-proof ones, the increase in the operating grant from \$12 500 to \$30 000.
Note: good news! we have recently been told by the City that a contract to do the re-roofing has been let and this work should be completed this fall.
- 7) We will be partnering with the Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society to submit a joint letter on the application by the Williams Lake Power Plant to burn railway ties at their plant.
- 8) We have submitted a letter to the City requesting that the lands owned by The Nature Trust of BC be given a tax exemption. FYI: You can refer to a notice in the "Williams Lake City Page", page A2 of The Tribune, October 21, which lists the Williams Lake Permissive Property Tax Exemptions. These requests will be considered by the City Council during a future meeting.

Air Quality in Williams Lake Update

As part of our sponsorship of Air Quality education for Williams Lake we keep the Air Quality Website up to date and answer questions about air quality. Many people have questions about the proposal from Atlantic Power Corporation, Williams Lake's biomass-fueled electricity generation plant to burn railway ties to extend the plant's energy purchase agreement with BC Hydro. There is a page on the website <http://breatheasywilliamslake.org/railway-ties/> that presents a collection of articles and statements published on the topic to help you understand the application and possible effects on local air quality.

Atlantic Power has now (October 8) applied to Environmental Protection to change their permit. The application explaining the requested changes in their permit are in the file is on this webpage.

If you are concerned about how the burning of rail road ties may affect local air quality, take a look at the webpage for more information. We are adding to this page as we gather more information. You can provide relevant information or make comments about the application until November 8. You can send these comments to:

Director, Environmental Protection

400-640 Borland St. Williams Lake BC V2G 2T1 Or by email: authorizations.north@gov.bc.ca

Be sure to reference the applicant's name (Atlantic Power, 4455 Mackenzie, Williams Lake BC V2G4E8)

Also copy your comments to Glenda Waddell, waddellenvironmental@gmail.com

Scout Island Nature House News



By Sue Hemphill

Have you ever held a full sized Chinook salmon in your arms? The 11 students (grades 9-12) who came on the 2015 Salmon Trip have. There is always so much excitement the day we do the netting of the Chinook. The thrill of removing the egg and sperm from these beautiful fish is matched equally by the thrill of actually doing the fertilization. We rounded out the day by preparing and cooking the fish under the supervision of Esketemc Band Chief Fred Robbins.



Chinook being removed from the net

The three day trip also included a day at Gavin Lake hiking and canoeing and learning about the ecosystems, a day at the Quesnel River Research Centre learning about research related to Chinook and to the Mount Polley tailings pond, and a tour of the restoration work Mount Polley has done to date. The students always impress me with not only their questions, but with their feelings about the salmon and their concern about the salmon and their own future.

Now we have the eyed eggs from these salmon and they are being distributed to classrooms in the district. The younger students show the same excitement about the eggs as the older students did about holding the adults. It seems no matter the size, wildlife up close touches the human heart.

There is a group of us providing various programs to the schools in the district. Frances has told you about her adventures with teachers eager to get outdoors. Mary Forbes has been sharing her enthusiasm about spiders, owls and wolves with classes. Paula Laita is focusing on bats and raptors. I keep busy with ecosystem and adaptation programs for older students. All of us take turns having adventures with Kim’s outdoor education class. Roy Argue and Paula are working with the two high schools environmental groups and planning future wilderness camping trips.

Many of you will have read about the outdoor education Kindergarten that will run next year from Scout Island. (2016-2017). This is something we have been working on with the district for 2 years, so we are very pleased that it is now approved. The nature centre is providing space this year for the Tales and Trails program. This is a once a week outdoor program for preschoolers and their parents being lead by Joan Lozier from School District 27.

I want to say a special thank-you to all the members who acted as volunteer hosts this year and made it possible to have the Nature House open to the public on the weekends when staff members were not available. Also a thank-you to all the people who helped control weeds, clean up trails, plant trees, water trees, put down and pick up walkways, put new railings on, and the list could go on and on. We are never done but there always is someone who is ready to pitch in. This is a joyful place to work and play.

Bring your old cd’s to the Nature House. We will use them for a craft at the Earth Friendly Holiday Event.

A sample of some poetry from Students of the Grade 7 Outdoor education Class who also spent a day with the Salmon:

Adult
Scales, red
Jumping, splashing, spawned
Swimming faster than turtles
Hiding, eating, playing
Small, eggs
Fry

Aliyah Barta

Chinook
Enormous, strong
Swimming, splashing, struggling
Pushing up the river
Floating, calmed, helping
Tiny, weak
Fry.

Emil Kniec

Adult
 Slippery, fast
 Swimming, jumping, splashing
 Helping educate kids everywhere
 Sweeping, spawning, dying
 Red, wet
 Young

Nadia Napoleon

Red chinook
 Crimson, swift
 Swimming, eating, breathing
 Flashing brightly for today
 Silvered, quickening, spawning
 Luminous, massive
 White chinook

Brooklyn Pelchat

Cariboo Chilcotin Outdoor Classroom’s September Pro-D

By Frances McCoubrey

Thanks to the new outdoor education resource teaching position funded this year by Scout Island and the School District, I was able to offer a teacher led Pro-D workshop on September 25th. It was a great way to start the year off as there was also a nature based conference at TRU for early childhood educators that weekend as well as a Kindergarten Wild BC workshop. Between these 3 events close to 100 people involved in educating children in the Cariboo Chilcotin went home with new ideas and inspiration for engaging their students/preschoolers with nature.

The 11 teachers who participated in my Pro-D workshop titled Getting Started have since been taking their students outside to find a tree to observe throughout the year, nature journal, play games that help them “live” an ecosystem as well as various other activities. The Pro-d included an introduction to Joseph Cornell’s Flow Learning approach to planning learning paths and Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. This helped us frame in our minds how to maximize student’s ability to learn outside by thinking about attention spans, comfort and engagement. We also looked at a few basic outdoor learning tools like clipboards, picture frames, large garbage bags and blank/unlined notebooks. The workshop finished off with an introduction to various activities that connect students to the outdoors while also meeting curriculum and classroom management needs.

The appetite of students and educators alike in the Cariboo Chilcotin area for being outside learning is significant and recognized both by Scout Island and School District #27. It is an exciting time to be a teacher or student in our community.

Grey-crowned Rosy Finch
(Leucosticte tephrocotis)

Researched by Jim Sims

Source “Checklist of Cariboo Chilcotin Birds” and “The Birds of British Columbia” Volume 4

A week ago I was entertained by a couple of flocks of Grey-crowned Rosy Finch along the shoreline of Eagle Lake. The first flock of 12 I found was busy feeding on the seeds of plants that have grown up on the newly exposed rocky/sandy beach. During the following days I had a much closer look at a smaller flock of 4 birds that spent most of their time stuffing the bill full of the seeds of Loesel’s Tumble Mustard



A bill full of Mustard Seed

pods. I often nearly stepped on one before I realized I was in the middle of the flock. Once I found them they carried on with little regard for me so I was able to watch and photograph their feeding habits from a couple of metres away. All of them could have used a small table napkin to wipe the bill clean or at least a longer tongue for the same purpose.

The Checklist of Cariboo Chilcotin Birds designates them as a Common (more than 20 individuals per locality) during the non-breeding season. The Birds of British Columbia suggests an even higher rating of “very” common at times. In April of 1958 there was a report of 3000 individuals in a Kleena Kleene migrating flock indeed

very common at that time and place. During the breeding season they disperse into the Cariboo Mountains as well as the west and south Chilcotin Mountains. Here they are downgraded to an uncommon species with between 1 and 6 individuals per locality per day. I expect there will be a few summer locations such as Perkins Peak where they exceed this count. Remember these ratings apply to a species in the right habitat.

Since the Finch tends to reside in habitats that we tend to avoid they have little contact with us and perhaps therefore little fear of us. They spend the breeding season well above the tree line on rocky exposed terrain where alpine seeds and insects are plentiful. The few nests that have been found are usually well hidden in crevasses on exposed rocky cliffs. One of the easy summer alpine areas to find them in is Perkins Peak near Kleena Kleene. Here they nest on the steep slopes of the peak and can be found near the cliffs feeding insects to young once the young have fledged. There is a mining road access into the mountain but avoid the heavy logging activity. At this time of the year and through the winter they can be found feeding on seeds and insects along roadways and on the low elevation grasslands especially near clay or rock bluffs. Look for them in the Farwell Canyon area or along the Mission Road bluffs where they congregate sometimes in large winter flocks.

Loesel's Tumble Mustard (*Sisymbrium Loeseli*)

By Jim again

Source "Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia"

Wow once again something for Jurgen, it's not about birds. Since I mentioned this mustard in the previous article I thought I'd share some of what I learned about this plant that the Finch was feeding on and I have taken notice of at Eagle Lake. I have been amazed at how hardy the plant is. It is one of the first flowering plants I find in the spring. Two weeks ago I found it on the early morning walks each morning at -5°C limp and covered in frost. A half hour later it was vibrant up lifted and as healthy looking as a summer day following a little rain fall.



This introduced mustard from Eurasia, once established rapidly colonizes disturbed and cultivated dry soils. At Eagle Lake it is found on the dry alkali sandy soils along the lakeshore that has recently been exposed due to the receding water levels. The Finch was feeding on the slender seed pods (2 to 3.5cm long) that grow upright on narrow stalks. At the end of the season as the plant dries out the long stems fold inward into a spherical shape. When it breaks loose from the root the winds "tumble" the plant away spreading seeds as it goes. Given the look of the Finch's bill and its lack of a napkin I'm certain they help with the spreading of the seeds. I pulled up one of the plants and

found it had an amazingly long tap root over 20cm long and several even longer but thinner roots running out just below the surface. The plant is very similar to Tall Tumble Mustard another foreigner.

Our View of the Night Sky – November 2015.

By Steve Capling

Planet Review

Mercury is visible low in the eastern dawn sky well below Venus, Mars & Jupiter.

Mars is visible as a reddish 'star' in the dawn sky in the east in the constellations Cancer & Leo.

Jupiter becomes visible in the dawn sky in southern Leo.

Venus continues to dominate the eastern fall morning sky.

Saturn is visible low in the south-west in the evening sky in Scorpius.

Moon

Full moon - Oct. 27th & Nov. 25th. And New moon - Nov. 11th.

Meteor Showers

The Leonid meteor shower peaks on Wed., Nov. 18th.

Evening Sky Map – courtesy of Skymaps.com. For a printable sky chart go to this web site - Skymaps.com/downloads.html - and scroll down the center of the page to the download button. “October 2015: Northern Edition (PDF)”. At the end of the month it changes to show the next month’s chart.

Member’s Moment from Lubna Khan



“Your friend is your needs answered”

Khalil Gibran (well-known artist and author)

Kris Andrews, Betty Donahue and Sean Donahue (left to right) by the banks of Fraser River near Big Bar watching the California Bighorn Sheep race down a steep hill to have a sip of water. These three amigos have enriched my life in so many ways. If it were not for Kris, I would have never taken any interest in birding! If it weren't for Donahues, I would have never seen the magical Cariboo-Chilcotin. So lucky am I to have my needs answered.

“Member’s Moment” is an opportunity for you to share a special scene, plant, animal, bird or outdoor activity that you have enjoyed and photographed here in the Cariboo Chilcotin. A chance for you to encourage other members to find their own special moments close to home and perhaps share them with all of us. For each newsletter the editors will select one or two photos for inclusion in the newsletter based on the quality of the photo as well as the interesting paragraph you must provide. We will save all submitted unused moments in hopes they may find a place in a future edition. Please email your full resolution photo and paragraph to the muskratexpress@shaw.ca. Thanks to all of you who have made a submission and to Lubna especially for her winning entry.

Chocolate Bars Case (12 bars of 100 g = 1 case=\$50) or you can order a ½ case \$25)

	#of cases	Total
Milk Chocolate		
Milk Chocolate with sea salt		
Dark with Caramel Crunch 55%		
Dark Chocolate with Coconut (67%)		
Dark Chocolate (55% cocoa)		
Dark Chocolate with Almonds		
Dark Chocolate with Raspberries		
Espresso Dark Chocolate		
Orange Dark Chocolate		
Mint Dark Chocolate		
Bittersweet Chocolate (71% cocoa)		
Panama Extra Dark (80% cocoa)		
Milk chocolate with Butterscotch and Sea salt		
Milk chocolate and Hazelnuts		
Baking Chocolate Bittersweet (71%) 10 bars 200 g each = 1 case buy whole (\$55) or ½ \$27.50		

Hot Chocolate Tins (6 tins of 336 g = 1 case) Cost \$40/case

	# of cases	Total Cost
Milk Hot Chocolate		
Dark Hot Chocolate		
Simply Dark Hot Chocolate (No Dairy)		

Use the tables above to order number of each that you want and email or mail the form or call in. You can pay now or pay when the chocolate arrives.

Order is due by November 3 so we can have the chocolate by the Holidays

Name _____ Phone# _____ email _____

Send to Sue shemphill@xplornet.com or phone 398 8532