Thursday Tour, 21st January 2010

By Derek Wills

Rendezvous: 10:15 a.m. at Le Parc des Campeurs (Ste-Agathe) (Carte Réseau friendly)

Trails skied: Grignon, Belvoir, Cohen, Davis, Deux-Lacs

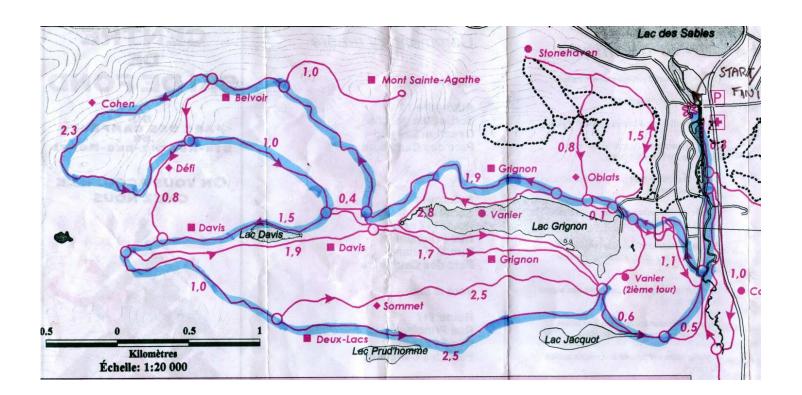
Round trip skied ~ 15 km On-trail duration ~ 3 hours

Conditions: -7°C, some rare sun sigh tings, mostly hazy, track set trails

Full info at: www.parcdescampeurs.com

Something odd about the reoccurrence of the number 21.

We had 21 attendees last Thursday, and now this Thursday- the 21st - we also had 21 attendees?! comprising: Doug Bowes-Lyon, Gordon & Sorel Cohen, Tim Baker, Chris Lyle, Linda Collier, Murray Moss & Judy Lazarus, David MacDonald, Ismo & Eeva-Liisa Makkonen, Celia Lang, Howard Bussey, Rolf & Wilma Christiansen, Wilma Wiemer, Bill Pollock, Audrey Speck, Judy Rogers, & Derek Wills. We welcome Thursday Tour returnee Sheila Mason, and first-timer Frans Blom.



Are we becoming creatures of habit...... as we ski the same 15 km loop we did in January 2009 ...and getting soft too, as we likewise had post-ski lunch in the ski centre....as heated trails not available!



Deservedly award winning - Les Grands Prix du Tourisme Quebecoise 2002 – Le Parc des Campeurs centre offers full facilities, complimented with delightful 47 km network of groomed trails.





Assembly and first junction body count.....following the first kilometre of skiing through a summer community of camper–trailers, picnic tables and various stored water craft....all entombed in snow and ice.....
......and awaiting the inevitable stir of mosquitoes!!



Why take the "facile" trail when you can take the "difficile" one?



Glad we were not passing by when this one decided to fall trail side!

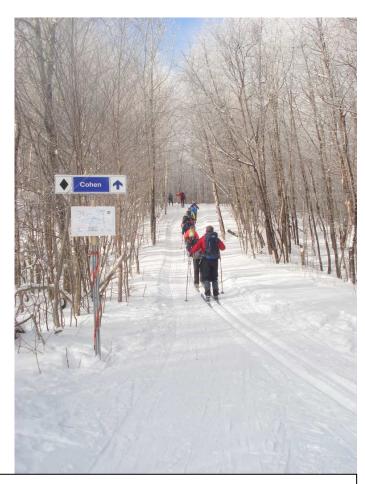


More or less democratic decision made to skip the 2 km side trip to Le Mont which offers a vista of Ste Agathe.



Some sections offer the luxury of dual tracks.....handy for ski-chat mode.





And so this exhilarating run down takes us to junction of the "très difficile" COHEN trail.





Let the climbing begin!!.



Alas, on one of the faster descents, the top half of one of Tim's ski poles decides to part company from the bottom half!

Various carriers of emergency duct tape in their backpacks come forward, but frustratingly, the bottom half cannot be found to effect a crude repair.

Reluctantly, Tim parts company and takes the direct 4 km link trail back to the ski centre while we all press on for the longer 7 km return routing.

These poles had apparently withstood the rigours of several Canadian Ski Marathons, but a Viking tour seems to have pushed them over the edge!

Tim will no doubt pursue a warranty claim!







Only in French can the descriptions of the downhill runs be rendered in terms of culinary delights!

Translation - how do you wish to fall, "soft", "medium" or "rare" !!



All tours should end like this...with seemingly endless long (and safe) downhill runs.

And Le Parc des Campeurs certainly has them.....kudos to the one who laid these trails out!



After skiing 15 km, tourers are eager to get back to enjoy lunch in the warm ski centre.

However, it seems here that maximum ski speeds must be respected ...Ismo, be warned !!