

Westman Wilderness Club

Trip report - **RMNP 3 day backcountry cycle trip**, Sept 26-28, 2020

Club members Judy, Bert, Pascal and Clarke set off with loaded panniers from the Bison Enclosure Saturday enroute Gunn Lake. The weather was warm and the trail in good condition. Caution was the order of the day on the challenging spur trail into the campground.

We arrived to find Joe, a solo hiker from Regina, setting up and we swapped tales during our mutual stays. After hearty suppers we opted to set off on a hike to the nearby warden patrol cabin and weather station.

After a sound sleep and wearing extra layers we cycled "light" along the Central trail to Gunn Creek where we met the first of many teams with wagons and riders. Throughout the day we visited with many interesting horse men and women.

Judy opted to continue visiting at Gunn Creek and scored fresh brownies for the three of us who rode on to the herder's cabin beyond the Birdtail River.

On the return we hiked up the Sugarloaf hills and later to another warden patrol cabin before devouring the brownies and setting off to Gunn Lake for supper and an enjoyable evening around the fire solving the world's problems!

Monday brought another cool start to the day before hearty breakfasts and the ride out. Pascal managed to frighten off a bear and stare down a bull moose but we arrived at our vehicles with no flats or mechanical issues after a pleasant fall outing in our world class National Park. Clarke Wilkie

