

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Vancouver Island

April 1 - April 4, 2011



SEG-GAC Student Chapter
The University of British Columbia



Vancouver Island trip summary April 1-4th, 2011

The UBC SEG chapter ran a successful four-day trip to Vancouver Island in early April 2011. Seven UBC SEG students were joined by thirteen industry members for the trip, which focused on the Paleozoic sedimentary and volcanic rocks of the Wrangellia Terrane and associated Volcanic Massive Sulphide (VMS)-style mineralization.

UBC students arrived in Chemainus, BC, on the evening of April 1st. They were joined on the morning of April 2nd by local industry participants. The day was spent on Salt Spring Island, just off the eastern coast of central Vancouver Island, examining the different arc-derived sedimentary and volcanic units exposed across the island that constitute the Mid Paleozoic Sicker Group and Late Paleozoic Buttle Lake Group, as well as Early Mesozoic intrusions that cross cut them.

April 3rd was spent on Vancouver Island looking at the rocks of the Cowichan Lake area, including the McLaughlin Ridge and Karmutsen formations. This included several stops at past-producing VMS deposits e.g. Lenora on Big Sicker Mountain, where chalcopyrite, sphalerite and galena were mined from stratabound orebodies. As well as seeing typical VMS sulphides, we also saw exhalative iron formation commonly found above the zones of VMS mineralization.

The final day was spent in the Port Alberni area, again looking at Wrangellia rocks, from oldest to youngest. Sadly the usually spectacular views from Mt Horne weren't visible due to the snow that day, but the trip was still a huge success and enjoyed by all! Industry members expressed an interest in further local trips, so we hope to run many ones similar to this one in the near future. Thanks to our industry sponsors and the GAC grant that facilitated this trip, to all the students and industry participants who joined us, and especially to Tyler Ruks, a current UBC PhD student, for leading the trip. We'd also like to thank Leroy and the staff at the Horseshoe Bay Inn for their invaluable contributions to trip morale.

