

Alpine Scrambling Trip Report

Everett Mountaineers

Destination: Bald Eagle Mountain	Date of Trip: 6/3/2002
Map(s): GT Monte Cristo	Scramble Rating: S-3-3
Guidebook: ???	Summit Height: 5680+
Trailhead: Quartz Creek	Elevation Gained: 3200'
Miles Round Trip: 7?	

Leader: **Andy Boos**

Driving Instructions: **Hwy 2 to Index, left on North Fork Skykomish Road, continue 15 miles, turn left on Road 63 (unmarked), continue 4 1/2 miles to trailhead**

Ascent Route: **Follow on or near Quartz Creek trail upvalley for 2-3 miles. Ascend cross country to the basin below the west face of Bald Eagle. Ascend to the south ridge of the peak (the further south you hit ridge, the easier it is). Follow ridge to summit, no difficulties.**

Descent Route: **Reverse of ascent**

Weather conditions: **Mostly sunny, 65°**

Trip Summary	From	To	Elapsed Times
	Carpool:6:30 am	Trailhead:8:30 am	2 hours
	Trail head: 8:30 am	Summit: 1:30 pm	5 hours
	Summit: 2:10 pm	Trailhead:5:40 pm	3.5 hours

Overall Pace of Party: Leisurely Moderate Intense
 Steepness Can't Fall Could Fall Don't Fall
 Terrain Encountered: Rock Snow/ice Brush Other:
 Equipment Recommended: Hardhat Crampons Rope Snowshoes
 Was a handline used: **No** (If yes, describe circumstances):

Trip Comments: Nice trip, with a full group, on a Monday. We were able to drive to with 1/4 mile of the trailhead. before stopped by lingering snow. Most years, the trail would be mostly melted out by this time. The trail was continuous snow after the first 10 minutes, and could be followed for only the first mile, if that. Once the trail was lost, travel was still easy in the open forest, but we got too high above the creek and had some minor difficulties crossing side streams that usually had deep gullies accompanying them. On the way back, we found that travelling lower, near Quartz Creek, made things much easier. After nearly two hours of going up the valley, we crossed the unnamed stream that flows down NW from Point 5491. From here we ascended NE and then E to the basin immediately below the west face of Bald Eagle. This was great snow travel in open forest, brush-free. From the basin below the peak, there are options. A fairly direct ascent can be done, though it is on steep 40° slopes, with intermittent rock bands. By going SE toward the ridge, you can make it easier. Once on the ridge, there are no difficulties to the summit. Summit is partially tree-covered, so the actual top has only about a 180° view, but by walking around a few feet you can see most everything else. It's a gentle summit area, a great relaxing place. The ridge running south and then southeast over Point 5491 looked to be an excellent route with no obvious difficulties. Somebody might want to try ascending directly from the trailhead, up the ridge to Point 5491 and continuing to Bald Eagle. I wish we had, because the tromp up Quartz Creek valley with little elevation gain for 2 hours was a bit tedious. One other note: Participant #5 had a knee problem and stopped 1000' below the top.