

Alpine Scrambling Trip Report

Everett Mountaineers

Destination: Kaleetan Peak	Date of Trip: 5/21/2005
Map(s): USGS Snowqualmie Pass, GT # 207 Snowqualmie Pass	Scramble Rating: SR4/5
Guidebook: Falcon Alpine Guide	Summit Height: 6259'
Trailhead: Denny Creek	Elevation Gained: 4280' in/600'out
Miles Round Trip: 12	

Leader: **Jack LaMont**

Phone #

Email

Driving Instructions: **Everett PUD to Exit 22 (160th St P-N-R) to Issaquah P-N-R to Denney Creek TR**

Ascent Route: **Denny Creek Trail (#1014), past Melakwa Lake, up steep snow gully on east face just before Melakwa Pass then up snow filled rocky gulley to summit**

Descent Route: **Scrambled the Southeast ridge route to the outlet of Melakwa Lake and the rerum trail to TH.**

Weather conditions: **Overcast, windy and cold.**

Trip Summary	From	To	Elapsed Times
	Carpool: 5:30 am	Trailhead: 6:30 am	
Trail head: 6:45 am	Summit: 11:30 am		4.75 hours
Summit: 11:45 am	Trailhead: 4:00 pm		4.25 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):

Accident Involved: **No** (If yes, submit an accident report):

Trip Comments: Due to 4-6" of new snow on the summit gulley and the Southeast ridge I changed the rating from 4 to 5, which slowed our travel due to snow on the exposed sections of the route. Hiked up to upper section of Melakwa Lake in < 2 hours where we ate and studied the route to the summit. Suggest crossing the outlet of the upper lake and approach the upper basin (below the east face) along the right side of the upper lake. We worked our way around the right side of the tree cluster in the center of the basin then traversed left to the obvious snow filled gulley (rock band with trees on it), which is near the top of the basin. Near the top of this gulley we exited to the right and scrambled on snow covered rock to the top of the ridge where we followed a snow covered trail to the base of the rocky gulley. We cautiously worked our way up the snow filled gulley to the summit [4.5 hours from TH]. Views were great, but the weather wasn't. Took pictures, signed the register and departed after 15 minutes on the summit. We all agreed not to return down the east face gulley due to snow on the rocks, especially the slab near the top of the ridge along with snow and rocks sloughing off in the gulleys. Worked our way up and over the first section of the ridge (very exposed), down a gulley, skirted along the rest of the craggy ridge then ~250' up to the top of the crest that lead to the 5700' high point in the SE ridge. Followed the steep climbers path down the SE ridge that lead to the outlet of Melakwa Lake. From here we hiked back down the trail to the TH. Stopped off in North Bend and chowed down on pizza. This was a strong group of scramblers. I would not take inexperienced students on the SE ridge. The student that was with me confirmed he was comfortable with the SE ridge route and has past climbing experience.