

Alpine Scrambling Trip Report

Everett Mountaineers

Destination: LaBohn Peak via Necklace Valley	Date of Trip: 11 - 13 Oct 2002
Map(s): USGS Big Snow Mtn / GT Skykomish / Stevens Pass	Scramble Rating: Exploratory
Guidebook: Alpine Lakes pages 34-35, Cascade Alpine Guide Vol. 1 page 203	Summit Height: 6,585' Planned 5,500' Actual
Trailhead: FR # 68 to East Fork Foss River Trail # 1062 to Necklace Valley	Elevation Gained: 5,045' Planned 3,900' Actual
Miles Round Trip: 18	

Leader: **Rick Proctor**

Driving Instructions: **Meet at Monroe Park & Ride at 7:00 AM.**

Ascent Route: **Via East Fork Foss River trail #1062 and the Necklace Valley**

Descent Route: **Same**

Weather conditions: **Friday was mostly overcast, with temperatures from the 40s to 50s, then later dropped into the 20s F, calm winds. Saturday was clear, low 20s to 40s F, variable winds. Sunday was clear, low 30s to 50s F, calm airs.**

Trip Summary	From	To	Elapsed Times
	Carpool:7:00 am	Trailhead:8:00 am	1 hours
	Trail head: 8:20 am	Camp: 3:00 pm	5 2/3 hours
	Camp: 8:40 pm	Trailhead:5:30 pm	8 5/6 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):

Reached Adequately Comments

Four of us were on the East Fork Foss River trail # 1062 at 8:20 AM on Friday, October 11, 2002 under overcast skies and temperatures in the 40s. The trail into the Alpine Lakes Wilderness is in great shape as it meanders for five miles gaining only 600 feet through forest before the crossing of the river. The fall colors were subdued by the gray skies. As the bridge area is approached, the old broken bridge comes into view first, which brought on fallen feelings, as it would not have been passable. Travel a few more feet to see the nice new bridge, with a handrail too!

Across the bridge the going becomes more challenging as it crosses a big log and heads up a steep talus field to the trail. Over the next 3 miles, the trail gains 2,600 feet through mostly forested slopes. The trail was in generally good condition although a few patches could be described as mud bogs. There are also enough roots, rocks, and water in a few places to suit most anyone's fancy. A couple of downed trees were easy to get around. The trail along the shoreline of Jade Lake has been built up of rock to provide a lake edge trail with views into the clear depths of the lake and of LaBohn Peak beyond the end of Necklace Valley.

Pressing onward, we arrived at Emerald Lake (4,800 feet) at 3:00 PM. The snow of the previous day still clung to the trees and in patches on the ground. The lake is disappointingly shallow. The Adirondack shelter on the west side was built in 1950, is now rather rustic, but is still usable. We pitched camp a hundred yards or so away where the views of the shelter amidst the rugged mountain setting added a measure of ambiance. By 5:30 PM, the temperature had fallen to 28° F under partly cloudy skies. Shorter days this time of year brought darkness by 7:00 PM and bedtime.

Saturday morning was cold enough to solidly freeze the mushy and muddy areas. Hoar frost was everywhere under foot. After breakfast in the low 20s, we continued south-south-westerly toward the end of Necklace Valley, passing Opal Lake under bright, clear, warming skies which melted off the snow on the trees and ground. One party member --- waited for us at the end of the valley while the other three of us scrambled up a lower snow field and steepening talus slope toward LaBohn Gap, with the goal of summiting LaBohn Peak. The upper snow field in the visible gap was thoroughly iced over. Too hard to kick steps into. An ice axe could not effectively penetrate it. Crampons were needed, but not available. An inch or so of recent snow coated the talus above 5,300 feet elevation. While one skilled rock enthusiast managed to scramble up to the ridge, the other two of us found the rock walls too challenging. After trying for an hour and a half, we all turned back toward camp from 5,500 feet max elevation. This is probably why the Williams Lake route from the other side of LaBohn Gap is a more popular route.

---twisted his ankle while crossing from the talus field to the lower snow field on the return, which significantly slowed our return to camp and exit on Sunday. The rest of us reduced his load by carrying most of his gear and loaning him trekking poles.

Saturday night was cool, clear, and breezy with mild frost on Sunday morning. The fall colors were brilliant along the lower five miles of the trail on Sunday. No bugs to speak of all weekend.