

# Alpine Scrambling Trip Report

Everett Mountaineers

Destination: <b>Labyrinth Mtn.</b>	Date of Trip: <b>18 September 2004</b>
Map(s): <b>USGS Labyrinth Mtn / GT Benchmark Mtn</b>	Scramble Rating: <b>R2-1</b>
Guidebooks: <b>75 Scrambles in Washington pages 119 – 121 Cascade Alpine Guide Vol. 2 page 142</b>	Summit Height: <b>6,376 feet</b>
Trailhead: <b>FR 6704 &amp; Trail # 1517 (3,800 feet)</b>	Elevation Gained: <b>2,576 feet</b>
Miles Round Trip: <b>7 miles</b>	

Leader: **Rick Proctor**

Phone #

Email:

Driving Instructions: **Meet at Monroe Park & Ride at 7:00 AM. Drive 56 miles east on US Hwy 2, then north on Smith Brook Road (FR 6700), then about 5.5 miles to Minotaur Lake road (FR 6704), then about 1 mile Minotaur Lake trailhead and trail #1517.**

Ascent Route: **Follow Minotaur Lake trail #1517 for 1.6 miles Minotaur Lake. Cross over the south end of Minotaur Lake, follow the ridge east of the lake northward, then scramble NW to the summit. Take a break.**

Descent Route: **Reverse of ascent. Consider options for mud glissade, either standing or sitting.**

Weather conditions: **Mostly cloudy with intermittent showers of rain or snow depending upon elevation. Temperatures ranged from mid 30s – low 40s Fahrenheit. Light variable breeze at exposed positions. Low clouds / fog passing through at times obscured views. Total of several sun breaks estimated at less than a minute.**

Trip Summary	From	To	Elapsed Times
	Carpool: 7:00 am	Trailhead: 8:40 am	1 2/3 hours
	Trail head: 9:00 am	Summit: 12:05 pm	3 hours
	Summit: 12:40 pm	Trailhead:	2_ 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:

Snow began to fall as the six of us regrouped at the 5,000' level of the Minotaur Lake trail. This was supposed to still be summer! The temperature was 37° F. when we arrived at the trailhead, and stayed in the 30 - 40° F. range through this day's activity. Minotaur Lake trail # 1517 is shown correctly on the 2002 edition of Green Trails map #144 Benchmark Mtn. An older edition of the Green Trails map and the 1987 edition of USGS Labyrinth Mtn both indicate an older routing of the trail. The Minotaur Lake trail gets right down to business with a long series of steep switchbacks upward through forest. The grade eases shortly after passing the boundary sign for the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness (4,800') at about the same level where we crossed the snow line. Up to an inch of the first snowfall of the season indicated the probable end of summer. We crossed over the lake outlet (5,550') and followed the ridge on the east side of the lake to the NNW, then scrambled upward and to the NW to reach the summit (6,376'). Fresh snow slowed our progress somewhat, but did not dampen our spirits. Another group of six behind us caught up

as we ate lunch during our return. Our scramble route provided us with opportunities for mud glissades during our return, which a couple of us took advantage of. Today this enjoyable trip took 5 hours round trip, including a 1/2 hour lunch stop near the summit for 2,576 feet of elevation gain and an estimated 6 miles for the route we chose.