

Alpine Scrambling Trip Report

Everett Mountaineers

Destination: Lichtenberg Mtn.	Date of Trip: 17 July 2004
Map(s): USGS Labyrinth Mtn / GT Benchmark Mtn	Scramble Rating: R1-2
Guidebooks: Seattle Outdoors pages 278 – 279 Cascade Alpine Guide Vol. 2 page 142	Summit Height: 5,844 feet
Trailhead: Smith Brook Road FR 6700 & Trail # 1590 (3,800 feet)	Elevation Gained: 2,044 feet
Miles Round Trip: 7 miles	

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 3.5 miles to Smith Brook trailhead and trail #1590.**

Ascent Route: **Follow Smith Brook trail #1590 0.9 mile to crest at Union Gap (4,200') and junction with PCT trail #2000, which separates Chelan and Snohomish counties. Hang a left on the PCT for 2 miles or so around Lake Valhalla to its southern end. Leave the PCT contouring east around the south end of the lake, then northward up the open south face to the summit of Lichtenberg Mountain (5,844') overlooking Lake Valhalla (4,830') and Lichtenwasser Lake (4,704'). Take a break.**

Descent Route: **Reverse of ascent.**

Weather conditions: **Sunny and clear upper 60s F. in the morning to mostly sunny with high clouds and mid 80s F. in the afternoon. Noticeable humidity all day. Occasional, slight variable breezes.**

Trip Summary	From	To	Elapsed Times
	Carpool: 7:10 am	Trailhead: 8:30 am	1 1/3 hours
	Trail head: 8:40 am	Summit: 12:30 pm	3 5/6 hours
	Summit: 1:00 pm	Trailhead: 4:30 pm	3 1/2 hours

Overall Pace of Party: Leisurely Moderate Intense
 Steepness Can't Fall Could Fall Don't Fall
 Terrain Encountered: Rock Snow/ice Brush Other: **BUGS**
 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: At the trailhead, the five of us booted up, loaded up, and hit the trail to the NW under clear and sunny skies. It was already in the upper 60s F. at the Smith Brook trailhead (3,800'). Trail #1590 is only 0.9 miles long and in great shape with no mud to worry about, and no snow at all. At Union Gap and the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail, we turned to the SE for 1.8 miles toward Lake Valhalla. The milder grade and wider tread of the PCT made for good hiking times. We stayed on the PCT around Lake Valhalla, and then followed lesser trails to the outlet of Lake Valhalla. Until this point, most of the journey had been in forest. After a short break at the lake outlet, the scramble part began as we contoured slightly upward to the ESE toward the southern face leading up to Lichtenberg Mountain (5,844'). Although dry and warm today, the recent rains provided the moisture needed to produce bugs in copious quantities. The open slopes of the mountain provided very little shade, some brush, and about 2,000 feet of class 2 alpine scrambling elevation gain from the lake outlet to the summit ridge. Airs were calm, with only a slight, occasional, and very welcome breeze all day. The west summit is a spire of rock requiring technical climbing gear. The east summit a few hundred yards away has the summit register and

great views of Glacier Peak, Mount Baker, Lichtenwasser Lake, and even the Smith Brook trailhead where we started. After a break, we headed back down through the midday heat in the mid 80s F. and building humidity to the lake for another break. This time we followed a rough, but scenic trail around the west shore of the lake back to the PCT, then the Smith Brook trail, to the trailhead.