

Alpine Scrambles Trip Report

Everett Mountaineers

Destination: Mt Mastiff & Howard
Map(s): Mt Howard, GT Wenatchee Lake
Carpool at: Stevens Pass Mountaineer Lodge
Trailhead: Merritt Lake Trail #1588
Scramble Rating: R-5-5

Date of Trip: Aug 29, 1998
Summit Height: 6,741' / 7,043'
Elevation Reached: 6,741' / 7,043'
Elevation Gained: 5,610'
Miles Round Trip: 12

Miles one way from Bellevue to trailhead: 91 miles, 2 hours. Drive Hwy 2 to approximately 12 miles east of Stevens Pass to Merritt Lake Trail access road. Turn left onto access road and drive 1.6 miles to end of road.

Ascent Route: Merritt Lake Trail #1588 (elevation 3,000') to Nason Ridge Trail junction (2 miles). Take the Nason Ridge trail south and then northwest to approximately 5,400' where the trail turns left at the ridge top and starts to level off. Leave the trail here and continue heading northwest. Follow this ridge to Mastiff. At the summit, head W/SW to Howard — either take the ridge between Howard and Mastiff, or drop directly down to the basin between the two mountains, and then head directly towards the summit of Howard (dropping down to the basin is a little easier than following the ridge).

Descent Route: Reverse route back to Mastiff. Follow the south ridge down to about 5,900', and then turn NE into a relatively large, open flat area. After ¼ mile, go east on a way trail to the saddle between Lost Lake and Merritt Lake. Then follow the trail SE—SW down to Merritt Lake, and then back to the trailhead, crossing Nason Ridge trail on the way.

<u>Party Members</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Reached Destination</u>	<u>Adequately Prepared</u>	<u>Comments Below</u>
1. Lewis Turner			■	■	■	□
2.						
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<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Elapsed Times / Gain / Distance</u>
Trailhead (9 AM, 3,000')	Nason Ridge Trail junction (10 AM, 4,800')	1 hour / +1,730' / 2 miles
Ridge Trail junction	Leave trail (10:40 AM, 5,300')	1/2 hour / +530' / 1 mile
Leave trail	Serrated ridge 11:30 AM, 5,900')	.75 hour / +650' / .75 mile
Serrated ridge	Mastiff summit (1 PM, 6,740')	1.5 hours / +940' / 1 mile
Mastiff summit (1:30 PM)	Howard summit (2:45 PM, ???)	1.25 hours / +1,050' / 1 mile
Howard summit (2:45 PM)	Mastiff summit (4 PM)	1.25 hours / +640' / 1 mile
Mastiff summit (4:15 PM)	Across serrated ridge (5:15 PM)	1 hour / 1 mile
Across serrated ridge (5:15 PM)	Merritt Lake	.75 hour / 70' / 1 mile
Merritt Lake	Trailhead	1.25 hours / 3 miles
Trip Totals: In to Mastiff — 5 miles, 3.75 hours, 3,850'; round-trip to Howard — 2 miles, 2.5 hours, 1,690'; Mastiff out — 5 miles, 3 hours, 70'		

Overall Pace of Party: Leisurely Moderate Intense
Steepness: Can't Fall Could Fall Don't Fall
Terrain Encountered: Rock Snow Brush Other
Equipment Recommended: Hardhat Crampons Rope Snowshoes
Weather conditions: 70's. Hot on final 1.5 hours to Mastiff, breezy & cool after that
Was a handline used: No Yes (If yes, describe circumstances)
Accident Involved? No Yes (If yes, submit an accident report)

Trip Narrative / Comments: Strong party. Nice scramble ridge below Mastiff summit block. Two members () elected to stay on the Mastiff summit while the rest of the group tried for Howard. Since the route to Howard is mostly visible from Mastiff, and because we had several leaders in both groups, we decided splitting the group was okay. The route to Howard was not technically difficult. We followed the ridge most of the way to Howard, although at the low point you need to drop down a couple of hundred feet to a basin bottom to avoid thick brush (trees) on the ridge. On the way back to Mastiff, we went from the basin below the ridge directly up the southwest slope of Mastiff to see if this route worked better than the ridge. Was about the same, except without brush. On the way out we elected to go back via Merritt Lake so that we could get water. (There's no water above Merritt Lake.) Was an excellent trip. Good route to do Howard.