

Alpine Scrambles Trip Report

Everett Mountaineers

Destination:	Amabilis Mountain	Date of Trip:	Dec 23, 1994
Map(s):	Stampede Pass (GT Snoqualmie Pass)	Scramble Rating:	Snowshoe WS-2
Guidebook:	Cross-Country Ski Tours 2, pg 57	Summit Height:	4,560'
		Elev Reached:	4,560'
Trailhead:	Cabin Creek Sno-Park (I-90 Exit 63)	Elevation Gain:	2,320'
Carpool at:	Issaquah P&R (Exit 15) @ 7:30 am	Miles Round Trip:	6.5

Ascent Route: Drive to the Cabin Creek Sno-Park (exit 63) on I-90 (55 miles fr Bellevue). Walk across to N side of I-90. Go past Trollhaugen Hut, a x-c racing club; past the hut the road splits. Go right on Amabilis Mtn Road and start to climb (you can follow logging roads to the summit if you are on skis - and you can do a loop on the upper ridge (road splits at 3,300'), but the S portion of the loop crosses a steep avalanche chute; stay on the N loop except in stable conditions). From W of the ski hut, we left the road, turned uphill and followed a ridge directly E to the summit ridge, then turned S along the summit ridge to the summit. We slightly over-shot the summit when we were in the clouds, but corrected ourselves as we broke out of the clouds; the true summit is in the middle (on the E) of the 2 mile-long summit ridge. The logging roads do not go to the actual summit, but stay just below it and go to an old radio tower site @ 4,554'.

Descent Route: As we would be heading back down into the clouds, we elected to generally follow the same route down that we had taken going up.

<u>Party Members</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Student?</u>	<u>Reached Destination</u>	<u>Adequately Prepared</u>	<u>Comments Below</u>
1) Lewis Turner	643-2446	Leader	■	■	□

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Elapsed Times</u>
Bellevue (8:30 am)	Trailhead (8:30 am)	1 hour
Trailhead (8:45 am)	Summit (11:45 am)	3 hours
Summit (1:00 pm)	Trailhead (2:30 pm)	1.5 hours

Overall Pace of Party: Leisurely Moderate Intense
Steepness / Difficulty: Can't Fall Could Fall Don't Fall
Terrain Encountered: Rock Snow Brush Other
Equipment Recommended: Hardhat Crampons Rope Snowshoes
Weather conditions: 30's, foggy & cloudy, good snowshoeing weather, but windy on the upper ridge
Was a handline used: No Yes (If yes, describe circumstances)
Accident Involved? No Yes (If yes, submit an accident report)

Trip Narrative / Comments: This trip was substituted for Mt Persis because the road to the Persis trailhead was closed @ Hwy 2 due to snow, adding 9 miles to a Persis trip.

Amabilis: The snow conditions on the way up were excellent - the best I've been on in snowshoes: there was a nice crust which the snowshoes would just bite into, which provided easy & excellent traction. We were in clouds & fog most of the way up, breaking out above the clouds just below the summit. We found a sheltered spot at the summit, warm with sun and tremendous views, and took a leisurely lunch. The snow on the upper ridge was "pillowed" from the winds -- just beautiful. There was a thick layer of surface hoar at the summit, which would reflect diamonds from the sunlight. On the way down, we stopped to dig a snowpit just below the summit ridge. Snow depth was approx 5' (after a week of heavy rain). Rutschblock test @ 4,450' on S slope indicated a thin surface crust with approx 12" of loose non-cohesive snow below, and then another ice layer and then well-consolidated and cohesive snow below that down to the ground (this consolidated snow was from a previous week of rain). We easily stepped thru the surface crust on the Rutschblock and knocked the loose snow (top 12") off, but after that, we could not get the lower consolidated-snow to break loose no matter what we did. If heavy snow falls on top of the existing surface crust with the weak layer below, avalanche conditions will be high until it settles. Afterwards, on the way down the mountain, the surface crust had warmed slightly (both from the air temp & from the southerly exposure), and we continually broke thru the crust as we descended the ridge going down. Overall, was an excellent and fun trip - one of the best this year!