

SCRAMBLE TRIP REPORT

DATE OF TRIP 7-15-84

TYPE: ROCK SNOW OTHER

DIFFICULTY: 1 2 (3) (CIRCLE ONE)

DESTINATION: Kaleetan Peak

AREA: Snoqualmie Pass

MAP: USGS Snoqualmie Pass

GUIDE BOOK: Beckey - Vol. 1, p. 152

ASCENT ROUTE: East Face, as described in Beckey

DESCENT ROUTE: same

ALTITUDE: 6259 ELEVATION GAIN: 4000' MILES ROUND TRIP: 12

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT REQ'D: Ice Axe - could easily have done the route without one though

LEADER: Andr Boos

TEL# _____

ADDRESS: _____

PARTY MEMBERS

TEL#

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MEETING TIME: 8:00 PLACE: trailhead - Denny Creek

went to wrong trailhead and was 45 minutes late

LEFT TOWN: 6:30 (Lynnwood) REACHED SUMMIT: 2:00

LEFT ROAD: 9:00 LEFT SUMMIT: 3:45

ARRIVED AT CAMP: _____ RETURNED TO CAMP: _____

STARTED CLIMB: _____ RETURNED TO CARS: 7:15

RETURNED TO TOWN: 10:00

STUDENT

REACHED DESTINATION

POTENTIAL LEADER

ENJOYED TRIP

COMMENTS NOTED BELOW

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Dense fog and clouds - No visibility on Summit, some visibility on decent, but tops of peaks stayed obscured. Summit was calm and warm, Melakwa Lake was breezy, cool and damp.

ACCIDENT INVOLVED: NO YES (SUBMIT ACCIDENT REPORT)

TRIP NARRATION/COMMENTS (ABOUT CONDITIONING AND SKILLS WHEN INADEQUATE):

Since this trip involved only experienced scramblers who all performed quite adequately, I'll comment mainly on the condition of the route.

The Denny Creek trail was well maintained and easy to hike all the way to Melakwa Lake, with some snow patches, mainly near the lake and beyond. The scramble route went along the left (west) side of Melakwa and Upper Melakwa, though I'd recommend crossing the channel between the lakes and going around upper Melakwa on the right side. We continued up the basin toward Melakwa pass, route finding by compass due to the very poor

CONTINUE ON BACK

Row 5014

visibility. In accordance with Becker's description, we were seeking a gully and tree strip along the east face, at which point we'd turn to ascend to the ridge. We used a gully route, possibly Becker's, possibly not, but it worked just fine. There was steep hard snow in the gully, but a route on a rocky spur north of the gully was rather easy, with low exposure. Once we gained the ridge, a way trail led us the final $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north to the summit.

The main problem we encountered was the talus basin leading to the previously mentioned gully route. It appeared to us that a large rockslide has recently broken off Kaleetan's East face. Evidence is provided by a prominent band of lighter than normal, yellowish rock on one portion of the face, quite obvious when viewed from the basin. Due to this rockslide, a lot of the large talus blocks in the basin were very loose. I managed to send a 3-foot diameter boulder sliding down the slope at one point. Most of the large boulders were covered with a scattering of small fractured rock - another clue that recent major rockfall had occurred. This made the footing treacherous on what normally is a very sound surface.

We spent almost two hours on the summit hoping for a clearing that never came. Our round trip time of just over 10 hours could have been trimmed had we shortened the summit stay, but that time was probably quite quick because we were a small, experienced party. With a group of students, I would allow 10-12 hours. No ice axes would be needed if this were done later in the year. A large party would have to be VERY cautious about rockfall when ascending from the basin to the ridge. Hard hats might be a good option.