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Trip Report

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Mt Albert Edward (snowshoeing)

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Tue Jun 21 to Wed Jun 22, 2011

 Leader: **Bob St.John**

Co-Leader:

For once the weather window didn't collapse, giving us two fine days for our ascent of Mt. Albert Edward. The plan was to leave the Raven Lodge trailhead around 1 pm on Tuesday, camp at Circler Lake, then ascend the peak Wednesday morning, break camp, and come out. Basically that's what we did... read on for more details.

This was a 'winter' trip in summer. We had two on snowshoes, and one on skis. One could have walked with only boots, but the suncups on the snow surface would have made that more tiring, let alone the fact that the snow was soft enough during the mid-day sun to break through in spots. Helen MacKenzie Lake was slushy with a small, jumpable moat forming around the edges. The creek at the west end of the lake was 50% open, but easily passable. The Piggott Creek bridge was showing damage from the snow load, but again passable with careful manoeuvring.

We took our time on the way into Circler Lake, stopping at the Ranger Cabin which was mainly visible, but still had about 15 feet of snow surrounding it. We also stopped at Sid's cabin which had just a peak of the roof showing. We arrived at the lake after 3 1/2 hours to see William and Christine making dinner at their camp. They had left earlier in the day, and were now ready to celebrate the solstice. We setup camp nearby, made dinner, and enjoyed the warm evening of the longest day.

The next morning we set off with lighter packs on a course that would take us around the south side of a small hill north of the lake until we came to a moderately sloped ramp system leading south-west up to the Jutland-Frink ridge. (William joined us for the first few hundred meters, then turned off to visit Amphitheatre Lake.) This ramp system is preferable, in my mind, than the normal summer route up the headwall. Perhaps this is not the case in summer as the deep snow may be covering small rock bands and/or thick underbrush.

Once on the main ridge the route was very straightforward. Occasionally low clouds would obscure the way, but in the main we had clear views of the surrounding peaks. Ahead of us we saw a lone deer make the climb to the summit where it apparently continued on as if doing the Augerpoint Traverse! Three hours after leaving camp we arrived at the top, and had an early lunch on some of the snow-free patches of rock. It wasn't a perfectly clear day, but most the main alpine peaks were visible. While peering over the edge into Gem Lake we witnessed a cornice break off sending a cascade of snow and rock down the cliffs below us. It kept going for several minutes.

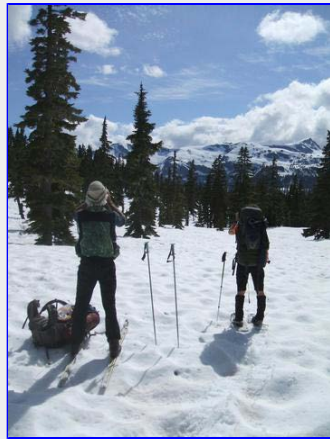
We returned to camp a little after 1 pm, had a tea break, broke camp, and were on our way out by 3 pm. It always seems twice as long to return from a camp than to go in and this trip was no exception. We were very happy to see our vehicle at 6:30. New member Kim is a great addition to our club, and after this tiring day was still keen to do more trips of this nature.



GPS track of our route
[Bob St.John photo]



Piggott Creek bridge
[Bob St.John photo]



Our destination from
Hairtrigger Ridge
[Bob St.John photo]



Karl by Sid's cabin
[Bob St.John photo]



Christine and William at Circlet
Lake camp
[Bob St.John photo]



Coffee Charge for Summit Party
[William Wright photo]



*Kim and Karl enroute to Albert
Edward*
[Bob St.John photo]



Panorama from the summit
[Bob St.John photo]

Report contributors: Bob S, William W,

Participant list (3 of 3): Kim B, Bob S, Karl S,

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