

Graybeard Peak (7965')

New Morning (7230') 110' prom

June 26, 2010

FranklinB, CarlaS, MattB and EricJ

fwb, dicey, MattB and Cartman

A peaceful eve at our secluded car camp site. A spectacular moonrise through the trees, but missed the partial eclipse. Dave was already camped out and going to hit the Easy Pass trail a couple hours ahead of us to make a trip to Little Johannesburg (aka Arches). Morning had a little chill, but warm compared to summer. We made a leisure start at 7:20

Down and across granite creek on a nice flattened log bridge with hand rails. Then up nice trail a creek cross with a moving log. Snow coverage, bear tracks and soon first view of basin and Easy Pass. Rather than even try following where the trail was we made a beeline for the Pass on the left side of the creek. Hill was only mellow steep and soft enough for no crampons. Looks like Dave had used crampons two hours ahead of us. The angle mellowed and were at the larch treed pass (c6430', 1.4m, 1h55min). Greybeard to the left and New Morning, Kitling, Cub and Mesahchie to the right. In front and an awesome view was Fisher Creek –gorgeous!

After a long break (35min) we went east up the west ridge of Greybeard. At c6900' (1.8m, 2h50min) a flattening and we traversed right. Don't go higher, you will lose some elevation passing the false summit. Then more into the basin south of the true summit. From the basin (c6770, 2.1m, 3h15min) there is a good gully and narrows that will lead and become the notch of the other route. If you do the gully go as high as possible then a left and you are on the summit ridge. From the basin on the right side is a ridge that had a large cornice. The right far side offered an exposed route around the cornice and onto a lower angle slope. Up the steep slope below the cornice under it in a filled moat. Traversed right and up onto the flatter slope. Then followed the slope left and up, passing Little Tack far on the right. Some gulleys up higher we stayed to the left mellow ones gaining rock ridge and looking down the gully from the basin. Up the ridge to a short shelf to cross to the gap. Then up to the ridge –we were there (7965', 2.8m, a leisure 4h27min).

Sun was out and the view spectacular. Looked but couldn't find Dave on the Arches –After our stay I looked again and saw glissade and up tracks. He had already descended –man he's quick. Under a couple flat rocks I found an old spice jar register dating from 1990 in perfect condition. A few feet from it a Fay register that was unfortunately mildewed. The day was young and comfortable, while we lounged, played 'name that peak' and ate, I built a fitting cairn for the registers.

Having our fill, we left and descending the gap-gully. First plunge stepping then when it opened and could avoid the three foot deep runnel glissaded. The snow was getting soft and wet. I retraced our footsteps. Traversing back I had poor traction so used crampons. At Easy Pass (1.1m, 1h from the summit) I kept going west up and right the snow to a rock ridge. As I ascended I saw Dave arrive at the pass. And as I arrived at the ridge crest, below I could see the others arriving at the pass. I traversed right lowering along the ridge and loose rock. Then along walls, scrambling, avoiding the snow having left crampons, pack and ax earlier. The gully to the summit looked steep and nasty –yuk Do I really want to go up it?. I told myself to keep going til I was to the point I wouldn't go further. As I moved along the wall the gully appeared better than I expected. In the gully I headed up decent rock for the Cascades and within a hundred feet the small summit on the right (7230', 1.5m, 1h50min from Greybeard summit). On the south side a rusted tin can containing a flag. Maybe BoeAlps? And a packet of foil. I opened the foil to find an old original register with a poem (New Morning or Wedding Gift).

Under the summit rock in a notch I found a small film can with a slip of paper from Fay. I signed this and added the older pieces with this into the small film canister.

Back down following my traverse route along the east side of the west wall. Then up to the ridge and sidehill back to my pack. I was 40-50 minutes behind the group from when I saw them glissade. Fifteen minutes to Easy Pass. A few good glissades and the snow still firm enough to hold. Soon enough across the moving log creek cross onto dry dirt. The trail dragged on a bit as trails do on the return. Arriving at the TH everyone was relaxing and refreshments being partaken. We took out time then loaded in the Westie to head out for East 20 Pizza. Stopping at Cutthroat, Blue Lake and Big Snagtooth Trailheads looking for familiar cars from two groups we hoped to run into. Dwayne, Loper and Jenny were to be doing Cutthroat and Nikolia was up bagging Big Snagtooth. Didn't see either so we kept on to town. Perfect temps, beer, good pizza and a relaxing day... Life is good.

On our way back to Easy Camp we explored finding the log bridge to cross Granite creek for our morning trip to Repulse. Camp waited, warm, no bugs, new picnic table, clean restrooms and free :-)
We all drifted off to sleep with smile and looking forward to the early morning trip to Repulse. Except Matt, he'd left returning to the TH and headed to summit Wallaby and bivy on its summit. I envied him up there.

Gear: crampons, ice ax, sunscreen

Happy trails!
franklin