

Repulse (7923')

June 27, 2010

FranklinB, CarlaS, DaveC and EricJ

A peaceful eve at our secluded car camp site. Matt did the same route last year so had gone off to sleep on the summit of Wallaby. For this trip the group was DaveC, CarlaS and EricJ. We were up as the day began to light (4:30). Ate, broke camp and to the wide shoulder east of swamp creek (west end of strip). Last night on the way back from East 20 Pizza we walked to the creek to assure that the log was still there. The river is roaring and without the log we'd not have crossed. Less than 50' east of Repulse Creek(?) is a very large log with bark intact. We slept better knowing it was there and where it was.

I heard the peak got its name from a naval ship that sank in WWII.

At 5:40 we left the cars heading SW parallel (barely in earshot) of Swamp creek. In sight of Granite creek we veered leftish to the convergence with Repulse creek and to the log. A scenic spot in itself with high creek walls, narrowing waterway and a ledge to view up and down creek. Flow coming in from SW from Fisher and SE from Granite looking tight.

Across the river we followed the ridge staying right and in earshot of the creek. A beautiful area, no appearance of any sort of path or human intervention. Majestic old growth Spruce, Pine and Cedar, with many very short (3-5') new trees. Bushwhack (BW1-2), a few wetter areas, some open, loads of blueberry bushes, staying right and avoiding the urge to go up hill. Very important at 4200 to be right and not get suckered left and into the wrong side of Point 7241. Long sleeves were a must, even with the wider open areas under the old growth enough thicker bush would tear. At c4500 we crossed a very small stream and along the bottom of an alvy field with medium density of slide alder (and the first of spotty snow). Again into the large trees traversing about 100' above the creek to avoid the wet and brambles. Dumped into a talus field with full views of Fisher on right and Repulse on left.

Staying in the traverse we rotated slightly left as we worked through a sparse slide alder green monster. Now full views of the basin and gully we'd take past waterfalls and cliffbanks mostly via snow. At 2hrs in (c4800') we took a break and left our trekking poles for the return trip.

Snow leg one, axes in hand we ascended the ever steepening snow SWS toward two small waterfalls on the left of the gully. Not knowing the thickness of the snow near the waterfalls we gained the treed rock on our right scrambling up with vegi belay to snow and face first into a small cliff. Maybe some fun with shoes and no pack, but the wet rock gave pause. We found a nose on the far left that had good hand and foot holds up to a wet knobby slab with a very thin snow patch. A step on it and it dissolved – hmmm. A tree above this had a blue webbing and rap ring. Noted for a return rap (a 30m rope would suffice).

Snow leg 2, slope fairly shallow 15-20 degrees and looking like a direct line on the far left would avoid falling snow from above an upper cliff and moats opening in the middle. The pitch increased to between 20-30 degrees as we attained a ridge with rock starting to show. Dicey took the lead staying left up some ever steepening snow, mostly good steps to what felt like a ledge under the cliffs of the ridge that runs west from point 7215.

Snow leg 3, upper gully turns right, WNW. Now time for helmets. The sun was out with some weather changes beginning. We were in great spirits, making good progress and looking forward to the glissading back. Across and up we went. Staying away from the wall working to a ridge center of the gully. Wall on left, large saddle, smaller upper saddle and on the right the ridge leading up Repulse. Attained the left lower ridge on the right side avoiding the crevasse and only six feet or less of near vertical. On the

west side of the saddle were several 1by2 sticks with 2" wide ribbon. We figure from the Helicopter skiing.

On rock (west side). A little right (NWN), down about 30-50' we left excess baggage, harnessed up and prepped in case we hit an area needing protection. As we were told, this is where it gets complicated... yeah, we saw that ;) A 2-4' wide sandy ledge with tree on left, a short bit of rock and on snow veering up and right. Looking up a gulley that forked –most likely to the upper saddle seen from the east side. To a level knife edge of a rib. Outer left of this knife a small bump with bushes and a good viewpoint and seat west of the bump. From the knife down snow about 30' then traverse under a small buttress to a narrow gulley (8-15'). Cross and onto and up a steepish face with mainly portable handholds, c13+ (due to slip potential) and up 100' (or so). Here again left to another snowfield up and slightly left quite steep. We topped out this snow –some up the rock/tree/shrub island left, some on the complex rib right and Carla being smart going direct up the snow.

A right SES traverse 20' and up along the side to the top of this snow patch on some c14 rock (nice steps and grips) right to a closed book. It had looked like the left face was do-able at c14, but very exposed. I stemmed up the book, made fun by the running water and the only real good hand hold being portable. Darn, I don't like, well, just pull through... Only 10-15 feet class 5 and from there on to easy c12-3. Figured some would clear it okay and maybe more a risk than needed. We had plenty of time –always time to do it safely. Tied the rope on a 4" diam yet less than 3' tall stout tree and Dave used as a safety line. Bringing Carla up Dave took off to check out the route. Carla up, then belayed Eric. Coiling the rope I looked up just Eric and I left. I'd seen where Dave had been heading. Looking up the gulley went up and rightish with a saddle up leading left. C13-4 up through, sighting of Carla and Dave just gaining the summit traverse. From the saddle a traverse, rib cross, traverse, up the very wide gulley with loose talus and rock staying right gaining the ridge.

Whew! Views east of our entire approach and even the van at the highway. Barely touched a rock and it dropped only 18". Very sharp and enough to feel like I could have an issue... a check, nothing broken, just going to hurt a bit. C1 3 up less than 20' and on the summit ridge. A few bumps away Dave was already seated (laying down) taking a break. C1 2 to the true summit. Cornice on the east side to be avoided.

A small summit cairn hide a preserved aluminum film canister in good condition. Inside the original reg from June 29, 1971 labeling as Peak 7925 by the Fireys (Joe, Joan, Al) and Jerry Swanson.

After them:

Group 2, Oct 18, 1980: The Bulgers and Outriggers –Russ Kroeker (Koala), Silas Wild (Wallaby), John Roper (Rhino).

22 years to the next group to sign in.

Group 3, June 11, 2002: Mitch Blanton, Don Beavon and Fred Beavon

Group 4, Oct 13, 2006: Mike Collins, Tom Sjoleth

Then and onslaught in 2009 to over double the visits in a single year.

Group 5, June 19, 2009: Greg Koenig, Fay Pullen, ErinB! Reading and Stefan Feller.

Group 6, June 27, 2009: Matt Burton and Mike Torok.

Group 7, July 11, 2009: Gordy Skoog and Crispin Prael (N Rib 5.6 III –Good rock)

Group 8, Sept 12, 2009: Scott Bingen, Jason Griffith, Gordon Faust and Tim Halder

Only 8 groups and 19 people then...

Group 9, June 27, 2010: Dave Creeden, Franklin Bradshaw, Carla Schauble and Eric Johnson

Wow, so close to the highway and so few having summited. So many familiar names and faces...

Lunch and a nap. We could even see the new summit cairn on Greybeard. On the way up the rock we'd heard climbing commands from NE Ridge of Black, but could not spot any figures or tracks. Ski clouded and rested, well relaxed and sun baked we started down retracing our route. Down the loose wide gulley, traverse left, lower over the little saddle to the gulley with a 6-10' tree on skiers left and our belay rap tree on right. A full single rap to a nice packed out snow. This field went down to a narrow gulley (3-6'), not sure if the snow ran though. We traverse back NW to the snowfield we came up. Then worked left, down the exposed portable handhold face, left across the narrow gulley, traverse a rib to snow traverse under the mini buttress and up to the knife ledge. Down leftish nice shallower snow to the sandy ledge area and our gear.

A deep breath, we'd made it off the rock. Much easier from here out. Prepped for glissades, rain pants and gloves. Up the saddle and downclimbed 20' to a 6-700' glissade in a little over a minute. Reset and another shorter traverse. Traverse again to the far east side of the gulley to avoid cliffs and moats. A glissade to the rib with rocks exposed and another fast long one curving right left and right to above the gulley leading left to the rap station or down to waterfalls. I ventured right to explore what I thought an option between the waterfalls as Carla and Dave went to the rap station. Loose sand, vegi belay, wet slime on rock, safe on dry, nubs, cross et, lower to sand and rock and a leap to snow dropping to a glissade and a loud Whoop! Another bomber glissade slowing to near the poles. Well too a bit to spot them. All in all nearly 2200' of glissading. Seeing me dart by Dave and Carla foolishly figured I'd found a good down walk and followed. Luckily they made it without slipping on their keisters and soon we had all glissaded to remove rain pants, harnesses and stow axes.

We basically followed our route back. As Fred would say line of least resistance or the obvious route. As per usual I found mylar balloons (3). Well, I think Carla or Dave spotted them, I hike up and packed them out. The skies had turned gray and we felt a few drops. Luckily they didn't persist. Felt like we kept whacking right on a traverse. A pretty area, often open underbrush below old growth and mostly blueberry bushes and small conifers. We stayed above and out of sight yet in hearing range of the creek (on our left). The ridge narrowed and we looked down to see the coveted log. I was so happy the log had bark (was it a spruce?) having earlier tried walking a bare log with moisture on it dropping and getting bucked like a beginner rodeo rider.

Across the log we attained the flat above the log and veered leftish. Hearing Swamp creek on the left a slight adjustment right and ahead in an opening the van. We'd ended up sans trail exactly where we'd started. It was 4:30, odd to be done so early. A note on the windscreen from Matt. He'd had a good night atop Wallaby and was on the way home. A little celebration, clean clothes and we were heading on the long drive home.

This was not a long day, but it was full. No trail, route finding, steep snow, nasty rock and awesome views looking into Grizzly Creek, Black Peak, Repulse Basin, Ragged Ridge and views of yesterday's summits. Best was missing the rain that hit us driving home.

Thanks to everyone for the great trip and a special thanks to the info from previous TRs (Fay, Stefan, Matt, MikeT, MikeC, Randy...).

Gear: 60m rope (40-50 would do), harness, helmet, sunscreen. Brought some pro –but useless, use slings, crampons (un-used)

Be Safe and hay trails (if you have them),
Franklin (fwb2)