

## Sefrit 7151'

April 25, 2010

Franklin Bradshaw,

Stefan Feller, Martin Shetter, Dave Creeden, Carla Schauble, Matt Burton, Eric Johnson

Note: Day before the wind was from the south, snowing 11" accumulation, snow level around 2900'

Met P&R at 5:30. Martin drove, matt in the back sleeping. Getting light on the freeway felt odd. Turn off on the Hannegan Pass road and about 4.3 miles to big opening view area between two concrete creek overflows. Just before the one that was avalanched last year.

Arrange packs –avy gear, two 60m ropes... Head out at 8:40, nasty bushwhack down to Ruth Creek. Work up river to find a good crossing. Made a little bridge to a log jamb. Then a log for Stefan to chaval across. Matt and I created a bridge with a split piece of log making an easier cross (2770').

There is a small clump of large trees where we crossed (none west ). Now up nasty devils club, alder and vine maple. If gong up 150' then move right 50 feet is a creek providing an easier brush free route (walk p creek). It took 50 minutes to get to the bottom of the snow (3200', .3m, 9:25a). Then up a narrow looking gully (Wallstreet) right at the first fork. From the road looks narrow, but is over 50' wide. Snow had slid down the gully in the past. Now only 4-6 inches new snow. Martin and Dave C put in steps. An hour and 15 minutes to the top of the gully (5000', .9m, 10:40a).

The pitch mellowed into a large basin with tall vertical walls of Sefrit to the south. Head east staying middle left. The slope pitched up. To the right we could see the toe of a glacier. Pitch gets steeper then mellowed with another pitch leading to the saddle of the north ridge at 6410' (12:00, 1.6m). Before gaining the ridge to the right (south) is a steep gully with large cornice on top. The tip to the left is the high point of Sefrit. From the bottom of the ridge right and south up the windblown ridge stopping below the wall (12:45, 1.8m, 6800'). To the left (east) a traverse leads below a buttress to pitch that turns south and up. Harness, helmet, rope up. Stefan leading off, Martin in middle and I tailgunner. Matt on lead of next rope of four (then Eric, Carla and Dave). Stefan worked hard in deeper than expected snow. He set deep pickets at 30m intervals. Past the buttress the slope opened above. Below a hundred feet then a drop off. Eric and I noticed a crack 20-30 feet below Stefan. Asked Matt, and we called out to Martin. No response. 1:00p, Stefan keeps going and suddenly the slope starts to move. Stefan yells "Hold Me!" and Carla, "Avalanche!". The first picket pops. Martin holds then is dragged down. I watch impending doom and dig in. Second picket pops, rope tightens and I hold. Then I'm being sucked downhill fighting to arrest. Spun right side up and try digging, feeling pretty useless as I'm covered and moving. Not sure if I'm in an avalanche too. I feel movement stop. Covered in snow I hear Matt's voice. I don't feel force on rope. I reset axe as anchor and ask Matt to set the anchor below me for safety. I can hear Stefan, not sure what is up. He went over the ledge. Martin stopped above it. We took up the slack as Stefan climbed up. Back to the ridge Dave put our rope on belay having set an anchor.

Stefan and everyone was up. He was visibly shaken and quiet just sitting on his pack. Some discussion and all agree on a turn around. Everyone packed, coiled ropes and started down the mountain. I waited as Stefan just sat there quiet. Soon we left (1:10p) slowly heading down, with looks up to the steep col. Plunge stepping to Wallstreet (top of gully) 2:10, 2.7m, 5030'). Down gully, mix plunge step and small glissades. The side gully had slid fist plus size balls. Bottom of snow extended past the gully (2:56, 3.3m, 3212'). Follow creek as far as possible then bushwhack right and to tree clump, then slightly west to Ruth Creek crossing (3:15, 2801'). Cross street and up rightish to cars. Looked like a slightly cleared path. The 90' up and reach the car at 3:26p, 3.6, 2902', 4144ascent.

Nice warm spring feel of a day, winder up higher. Not to worn, but sore from two big trips in a weekend.

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An image of the [area from slabbyd \(Oct, 1, 2008\)](#)

**Learned:** Legs and calves get sore after the trip the day before (stretch). Even with all the experience of the group, STOP, LOOK, AND DISCUSS...

Just because looks okay in one spot can be vastly different just feet away (or a hundred feet away)

Play it safe.

-fwb2