

Stilliquamish (5720') via Perry Creek

April 24, 2010

Okay... here goes again. Wrote this and it magically disappeared...

With what looked like a partial sunny day at home I was hoping the good of the weather would spread east. No matter. I'll go til I don't like the weather... At the trailhead the light rain turned to snowing.



notice the streaks of wetness :-)

Heading up (Sharon, Mike and I) we hit snow at c2800' and started breaking trail at c3000'. A quick break at the waterfall and on up.



the creek cross area and way up to Twin Peaks

Mike started off, but the trail totally disappeared. I had an idea of where it was and broke trail. The trail up was covered (gone) with snow and snowshoes needed.



the trail



another creek

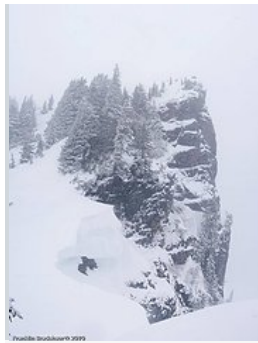


time to head up towards the ridge

At about 3 miles (the big switchback) we headed up and then left to the open area. Traversing at c4950' below the ridge. Passing a ravine and up a few steep spots.



traversing west at 5000'



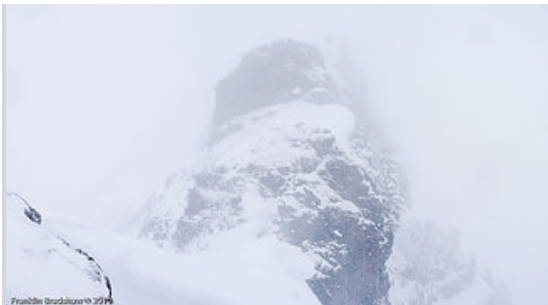
dip area

Second to the last dip Mike called it a day. The sun had popped out for a moment, and then back to heavier snow and a fierce wind.



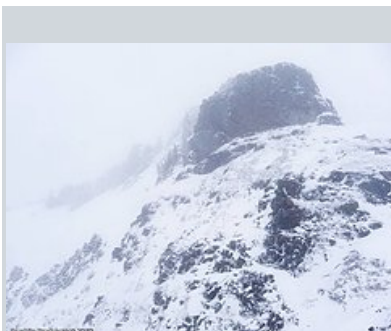
a brief view of the peak

Snow depth was ~6", deeper in drifts and bare to the snice where the wind had scored it. Last big dip Sharon camped out in some trees and waited. Up a steep stretch and across the open to a ridge then saddle to the summit block. It didn't look fun crossing to the summit block,



Hmmm, to get across to the summit block

then saw a small ledge (catwalk) covered in snow to get over to a windblown snice pitch to the summit. I'd brought a rope since last time was told the group ahead turned around not feeling safe with the snow on the catwalk.



Catwalk is lower quarter from middle going left

Up the pitch using ice axe and crampons, was a little right and finished with a little mixed climb, cleaning handholds and crampons finding good grip. Definitely needed crampons for this last pitch. Summited, a few quick pictures then down.



Summit shot looking down the way up



from the summit block looking across the catwalk back south to the ridge

I'd used snowshoes to the saddle and going down used crampons tracing my way back the way I came.



Path gone...



found a little of the route up



knee deep in white stuff. Isn't this the end of April?

snow is getting deep

Path up was gone from wind and snow. In places the snow was now 9-11", with drifts knee deep. The creek crossing was shallow and just walked across (nice having semi-plastic boots :-).



the creek crossing



The waterfall

Back at the level of the waterfall the snowflakes were massive.



trail passing the valley avy areas south of the waterfall



and a little less snow



finally bare path

Back at the car (c2125') there was a bare amount of snow on the car. Nice to strip down and crank the heat for the drive in the heavy rain. Some Teriyaki in Granite Falls... Beautiful scenery, a good workout.

Used: rain poncho, snowshoes, crampons, ice axe, trek poles, good humor.
Took and didn't use: rope and nuts...

Happy trails and be safe!

-fwb2