



Boeing Employees Alpine Society

Waterfall Ice Climbing Seminar

Overview

This outing teaches high angle ice climbing skills that you'll be able to use for future water ice endeavors and to supplement your alpine skills. Along with learning about equipment and evaluating the ice, we will practice ice climbing technique and become familiar with the process of leading and following a route.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this weekend you should be able to:

- Learn and practice steep ice climbing skills that can be used for future waterfall climbing or to tackle alpine routes.

Meeting Place

The Reynolds Hotel restaurant in Lillooet, BC at 6:00 AM Saturday and Sunday morning. Yes, this is a brutal hour but it still allows a hot breakfast in the restaurant, which opens at 5:00, and it nearly guarantees our group will be first to “claim” the ice. If you need more sleep and want to skip the restaurant breakfast you can simply meet in the lobby at 6:30, ready to go.

Driving Directions

In good weather expect this route to take you about five hours. Going via Hwy 99 through Whistler is very scenic and a little shorter distance but not recommended because of longer border crossings, Vancouver area traffic, and Whistler-Blackcomb traffic. Going this way is likely to add one to two hours to the trip. However, it works well if you're climbing Friday afternoon on the way before reaching Lillooet, which is further north than the Hwy 99 climbing areas such as The Rambles.

Watch out for ice on the roads, especially Hwy 1 North of Hope and Hwy 12 from Lytton. Heavy fog also just appears instantly. There are a couple dangerously exposed curves on Hwy 12—do not push your speed too fast; in Canada they don't always have guardrails like our US roads do, so if you lose control in the wrong spot...

1. Drive I-5 N. to Bellingham exit 255 for SR 542, the Mt. Baker Hwy.
2. Take Hwy 542 east 10 miles to the Hwy 9 junction; go left (North).



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3. Follow the jogs to stay on Hwy 9 N to the Canadian Border at Sumas.
Watch out! There are some right angle corners on this road!
4. Continue through the border, now on Hwy 11 to Hwy 1, the Trans-Canada Hwy, and go East.
5. Drive about 45 miles to the exit for Hope and to continue on Hwy 1. You will exit off the highway, and then turn left when you can to stay on Hwy 1. This can be confusing—make certain you keep on Hwy 1 East, which now heads North for a long ways.
6. Drive about 65 miles to Hwy 12 (town of Lytton). Turn onto Hwy 12.
7. Drive Hwy 12 about 37 miles to the Hwy 99 junction near Lillooet. Turn left onto Hwy 99 South.
8. Drive 0.75 miles to Seton Lake Road and turn right to take you into town in 0.5 miles.
9. Main Street and the Reynolds Hotel should be directly in front of you. It's an old western looking structure; parking is behind the building.

Itinerary

Saturday:

- 06:30 Meet in Reynolds Hotel lobby
- 06:45: Load up into carpools and drive to climbing area(s)
- 07:15: Approach to climbs, 15 to 45 minutes.
- 07:45: Discuss safety, equipment, and ice evaluation
- 08:30 Top rope climbing practicing technique on moderate ice. Practice various skills as appropriate for the individual. Eat lunch “on the go”
- 16:00 Break down and head back to town.
- 17:00 Take a hour to put clothes and equipment out to dry; clean up.
- 18:30 Group dinner in town somewhere, TBD.

Sunday:

- 06:30 Meet in Reynolds Hotel lobby
- 06:45: Load up into carpools and drive to climbing area(s)
- 07:15: Approach to climbs, 15 to 45 minutes.
- 07:45: Discuss safety, equipment, and ice evaluation
- 08:30 Top rope climbing practicing technique on moderate ice. Practice various skills as appropriate for the individual. Eat lunch “on the go”
- 15:00: Break down and return to Reynolds Hotel.
- 16:00: Hit the road for Seattle shortly thereafter; home by 22:30 PM.



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Preparation

Clothing:

- All the typical stuff but definitely a top & bottom shell as climbing ice can be wet.
- Warm clothing. It's usually cold and you do a fair amount of standing around.
- Gloves, mitts, and liner gloves (Try out different combinations; rubberized palms are helpful.) It's easier to climb in lighter gloves and better to belay in heavier ones. Bring several pairs as they will get wet.

Equipment List – Standard:

- Ice axe w/leash sized for ice climbing, rather than basic snow climbing or glacier travel
- Crampon-compatible leather boots or plastic boots
- Crampons
- Harness
- Sunglasses, sunscreen
- Helmet
- Personal anchor
- (2) locking biners
- Rescue prusik (short)
- Belay device
- Trekking poles (optional)
- Cordelette (optional)

Equipment List – Specialized:

- V Thread Perlon (6mm) or 9/16" tubular webbing (not sewn runners)
 - 2 lengths @ 5ft, burn ends
- Ice screws (if you have them)
- Ice tools (if you have them)

