

## CMC TRIP REPORTS

### **Mt. Shasta June 14 - 17, 2007 Hotlum-Bolam Ridge Route By Jan Lorenzen**

And there she stood, practically naked. Our jaws were agape as we got our first glance at Mt. Shasta with hardly any snow on her. We began to wonder.. "What are we going to climb?" Our group consisted of Joe White, Tom Ritchie, Ron Norton, Paul Morash, Chris O'Donnell, David Mayhew, Ellen Holden and myself.

We gathered for breakfast in Weed, and Joe and Ellen filled us in on their findings as they had hiked our route to the Whitney Glacier two days prior. The Whitney glacier itself was in very poor shape with rock fall coming from both sides. After breakfast we drove toward North Gate trail head stopping along the highway to take a look at the mountain in hopes to find something to climb. After quite a bit of road-side discussion, and phone calls to the ranger, we went to the North Gate trailhead and headed towards the Hotlum-Bolam Ridge Route.

We camped on the moraine just beneath the Hotlum-Bolam Ridge. There was no snow and we were still a few hundred feet beneath where the snow started. We spotted a bergschrund above the glacier, but could see that it was attached and could be easily by passed. After we set up camp and watched a pair of climbers come off the route we were all anxious for the next day to start climbing. That first evening we celebrated Paul Morash's birthday. We had carried up cupcakes and candles, and had a surprise party.

The next morning we headed up. After putting on our crampons, once we hit the snow, Ellen, Paul, David & Chris chose to go to the right of the glacier and the rest of us went around to the left hoping to miss some of the obvious ice. It didn't work, the ice was still there just under a very thin layer of snow.

We all met under the bergschrund about the same time, so it was perfect. Above the bergschrund there was another long glacier.....which was a lot longer and steeper than it looked from camp. Having to maneuver on snow and scree heading for the summit, we made it to the top in great time. Coming down was much easier since the ice we had walked up on was turning soft under our feet by mid day. We reached camp early and some of the group pulled up and went down to camp in the parking lot, so they could get an early start on the drive home the next day.

Despite the lack of snow on Mt. Shasta this year, it was a fun trip. A plus during this low snow year was our packs were lighter than expected since our ropes and gear were not needed, we able to leave them in the cars.

Joe, thanks for a great trip!



Paul's 40th!! Photo: Jan Lorenzen



Tom Ritchie and David Mayhew on the Hotlum-Bolam Ridge Route.  
Photo: Jan Lorenzen