

## Mt Adams Ski Descent 5-24-25 Trip Report

Led by Shonee Langford & Gabe Starr

Link to photo album <https://photos.app.goo.gl/LjiDQrx1MJuJHgYL6>



On Friday Evening five Chemeketans (Shonee Langford, Adam Lambert, Tracy Bluhm, John Conley, and Gabe Starr) made their way to Cold Springs TH or 1.2 miles from the TH as that is as close as the snow level allowed.

Shonee got there first and was able to chat with people returning from a Friday ski/climb. Based on their feedback and current conditions we decided on a 4:30 am departure Saturday. We briefed the team and said our goodnights.

A few hours of crummy sleep and the team assembled at 4:20 am and did our gear checks and started up the road towards the TH with skis on our backs. The air was warm and not a cloud in the sky. After 1.2 miles we hit the trailhead but the snow was still intermittent enough we decided to continue on foot. We hit the round the mountain trail after a little over 2 miles and

stashed our hiking boots (little did we know the pain this would cause hours later) for our return and switched to skis and continued skinning on up the mountain.

We were making good time ~1,000'/hr but then had some longer unplanned breaks for gear malfunctions and taking ski crampons on/off. We took a break to regroup around 8:30 just below the lunch counter. The sun was heating up and snow was starting to soften.



Tracy has some gear issues and a haunting old foot injury so it was decided she'd ride down from the lunch counter and meet us at our shoes. We all had radios and could communicate, so with the favorable conditions and the crowds for the Holiday weekend it felt like an easy call.

After much debate whether to try to skin up the headwall to pikers peak or carry skis we decided to carry as the transition on the flat was easier done than midhill. The added weight of the skis mixed with the thinning air would've been an a\*\* kicker alone but at this point the sun was beaming down on us with unrelenting intensity. We were sweating up a storm.

We took a break 500' below pikers peak and Shonee, Adam and I were content forgoing the true summit to rest up for our true objective- skiing the SW Chutes. John however wanted the summit and was itching to kick it in the next gear so we told him he could go on his own pace and tag the summit so he went on and pulled ahead.

Shonne & I arrived at Pikers peak (the entrance to the SW chutes) at noon and took a welcome break in the wind. Adam arrived shortly after to join us. We ate and rehydrated as we waited for John to return from the summit and for the snow in the chutes to soften.

The first skiers entered the chutes around 12:30 pm and from the sounds and sight the snow was still a bit hard/icy for our liking. So we waited..

John returned from the summit around 1:15pm and we entered the chutes for our descent shortly after 1:30pm.

Conditions were FANTASTIC! With over 3,000 ft of ~35 degree uninterrupted perfect spring corn we were whooping and hollering with glee the whole way down!







After 5,000' of descent we hit the round the mountain trail and transitioned to skins where we had to skin back up slightly and traverse E back to the ascent route and where our boots were stashed. At this elevation and time of day the snow was slush and sun unrelenting.

Finally hitting Suksdorf ridge we transitioned back to skis/board and had to maintain as much elevation as possible to continue E to where we stashed our boots. The disappointing part was it would've been an easy and enjoyable ride to angle down and go straight to the TH but we needed our boots! We finally arrived at our boots at 3:40pm. We strapped them on our packs and continued down towards the TH, we linked back up with Tracy who had a nice ride down from the lunch counter and rode/skiied all the way just below Cold springs TH until the snow ran out.

We switched back to our hiking boots and walked the last mile back to our rigs to enjoy a cold beverage!

It was a 12 hour day going just over 13 miles and gaining 6,329ft.

Congrats to John Conley on his Adams Summit and to the team for a very memorable and enjoyable day in the mountains with fantastic spring skiing conditions!

Respectfully,

Gabe Starr & Shonee Langford

