

Philosophy

I am careful, fit, and well prepared. I climb with partners who approach the outdoors with the same reverence and humility that I do, always with respect for local cultures and customs. I work hard for the top, but no summit is priceless... Everyone comes home, fully intact. Every time.

Goal

Climb the Seven Summits before my 50th birthday.

Mountaineering Experience (listed by summit elevation)

Everest (29,028 ft)

Spring 2016

South Route with IMG Hybrid team, Justin Merle guiding.

Aconcagua (22,837 ft)

February 2013

False Polish Traverse with IMG guides Mike Hamill, Josh McDowell, and Leandro Villegas. Fourth of 11 to the top on a very challenging summit day due to strong winds and descent in whiteout below Independencia. Resuscitated a climber from a different team with HACE at high camp.

Everest (Camp 2 high point 21,300 ft)

Spring 2015

South Route with IMG Hybrid team, Andy Polloczek and Phinjo Sherpa guiding. Great progress and no issues until the earthquake hit while we were at Camp 2, and the season closed to all climbers.

Denali (20,320 ft)

May 2012

West Buttress expedition with Mountain Trip and lead guide John Race. Favorable conditions allowed us to summit on day 13. Prep: IMG Seminar on Rainier in epic winter conditions with guides Greg Vernovage and John Race.

Kilimanjaro (19,341 ft)

August 2010

Rongai route with African Walking Company. Beautiful conditions, no complications.

Anapurna Trek (Thorong La high point, 17,769 ft)

July 1985

Non-technical hiking as a teenager, a blast but complicated by giardia and shigella dysentery!

Vinson (16,067 ft)

January 2014

Fabulous expedition with IMG guides Greg Vernovage and Aaron Mainer.

Mont Blanc (15,781 ft)

August 2011

Beautiful climb via Tête Rousse with IMG guide John Race.

Rainier (14,410 ft)

June 2010, June 2011, June 2014

Emmons route 2010, including a gear cache trip the prior week. Submitted in clear but high wind conditions. DC route 2011 with huge amounts of snow on the Cleaver. On first attempt in June 2008, we turned back due to unstable conditions in icefall circa 12,500 ft.

Torreys, Colorado (14,275 ft)

November 2014

Fun day climb with buddies Jim Arnold & Ann Sparks, via Dead Dog Couloir. Storm hit just below the exit cracks, and we wisely chose to turn back below the summit. Excellent training day!

Quandary, Colorado (14,265 ft)

January 2015

Great day climb with buddy Ann Sparks, cold and windy conditions, great training day.

Bierstadt, Colorado (14,065 ft)

November 2013

Fun day climb with buddy Ann Sparks.

James Peak, Colorado (13,294 ft)

November 2009 & 2010

Soloed this day climb twice from St. Mary's Glacier.

Adams (12,276 ft)

August 2008, June 2009

Southern route. Assisted an abandoned, ill-prepared climber at lunch counter in 2008. Soloed in high wind conditions in 2009.

Pingora (Cirque of the Towers, 11,884 ft)

July 1983

South ridge route, seven pitches at 5.6-5.8. Rapped down in a hurry with a storm approaching!

Aiguille du Tour (11,614 ft)

August 2011

Warmup climb for Mont Blanc with IMG guide John Race.

Hood (11,249 ft)

April 2009

Standard southern route. Protected the summit bid via the old chute with pickets.

San Jacinto (10,834 ft)

**December 2010, May 2011, November 2014,
March 2016**

Cactus-to-Clouds route day hike (circa 10,000 ft gain). In December 2010 we turned back at 9,600 ft due to blizzard conditions after 10 hours of climbing. In May 2011 we stopped at the tram (8,500 ft) due to heat exhaustion. Finally made it in 2014, amazing sunrise-sunset day, with Doug Black.

Glacier Peak (10,541 ft)

July 2013

Three days and nights on this amazing expedition with five friends. Full snowstorm on second night, but beautiful summit conditions the following day.

Camp Muir (10,000 ft)

May 2009, April 2010, June 2013

Training climbs to Muir, including whiteout conditions in 2010.

Stuart (9,415 ft)

August 2013

Day climb via the Cascadian Couloir with Doug Black. Mountain goat jealously guarded the summit block... Fun scrambling, and perfect views from the top.

Shuksan (9,131 ft)

September 2012

Shannon Ridge route as a day climb. Scorching sun, epic views, awesome summit.

Okanogan Silver Star (8,876 ft)

August 2009, July 2012

Clear, hot, bone dry. Turned back circa 7,000 ft due to impending nightfall in 2009, ice climbed an 80 m pitch of 45-degree angle ice in couloir to regain Burgundy col. Made it to the top in 2012.

El Dorado (8,876 ft)

March 2010, June 2011

Spectacular summit on a clear but windy day. In March 2010 we turned back after hours of punishment punching through wet, deep snow!

Dragontail (8,842 ft)

May 2015

Day climb via Asgard Pass. Very warm spring meant wet, punchy snow on the way up... small avvy out of a couloir beside the route made things interesting.

Hoodoo (8,464 ft)

September 2009

Rain-soaked fun scrambling up the summit blocks, slimy with a strange lichen.

Dumbell (8,421 ft)

July 2011

Very deep snow late season, exposed class 4 scramble to notch just below the summit; Summit block impassable due to steep snow couloir.

St Helens (8,364 ft)

January 2010, November 2013

Winter training ascents. Deep snow conditions on these winter climbs. Turned back in February 2009 circa 7,000 ft due to high winds.

Challenger (8,236 ft)

July 2016

Epic flail in the Pickets. No summit due to rotten weather, but a blast all the same.

Curtis Gilbert (8,184 ft)

July 2009

Beautiful summer overnight climb, fun class 3 scrambling, circa 20 miles and 4,200 ft gain.

Chiwawa (8,134 ft)

October 2010

Epic day climb, 18 miles round trip, fabulous scrambling to the summit.

Daniel (7,960 ft)

October 2011

Lots of snow above the tree line, amazing views of the Stuart Range.

South Early Winters Spire (7,807 ft)

August 2015

South Arete route on a scorching hot day. Mountain goats, wildfires, flying ants... good times.

Aix (7,766 ft)

October 2011

Day climb, from pea soup on the approach to unlimited views on top.

Liberty Bell (7,720 ft)

October 2015

Becky Route with John, Tom, and Kim. Warm and dry. Summit to ourselves. Righteous...

Kosciuszko (7,310 ft)

August 2013

Solo to the top of Australia, in dead of winter... 9.5 hours door to door, no shortcuts, sustained winds of 70 KPH and gusts above 90, not another soul above the ski lifts. A righteous Kozzie!

Pugh (7,201 ft)

August 2008

Summer day climb of this gorgeous Cascade peak.

Earl & Bean (6,743 ft & 7,036 ft)

July 2010

Traverse from Earl to Bean, with great views of Stewart & Dragontail, on this clear and hot day.

Snoqualmie (6,278 ft)

December 2011, March 2012

Challenging climb off-route in deep snow... photographed the lunar eclipse.

Kaleetan (6,259 ft)

October 2010

Amazing scramble up this gorgeous peak, with plenty of snow and ice in the shadows.

Hibox (6,032 ft)

October 2009

Fall climb of this Cascade scramble. Rain and fog most of the way.

Dickerman (5,760 ft)

June 2010

Very deep snow conditions on this early summer day climb.

Granite (5,629 ft)

April 2008, July 2010, January 2011

To the summit via winter and summer routes on this steep training climb.

Silver (5,605 ft)

September 2009

Breezy, cool climb on an overcast day.

Tooth (5,604)

July 2009

South face, four pitches at 5.4, and a nest of ornery hornets at the top!

Defiance (5,584 ft)

August 2008

Unusually sweltering 95°F day and loads of mosquitoes made this a memorable hike.

Putrid Pete (5,220 ft)

August 2008, November 2009, January 2011

This steep and deep bushwhack along the banana ridge is always a thrill.

McClellan Butte (5,162 ft)

November 2008, August 2009

Fun scramble on the pyramid, and amazing views from the summit.

Mailbox (4,841 ft)

Approximately 20 Summits since 2007

My standard winter training climb... 4,000 feet of gain in just over 2 miles, and safe as houses. Speed record: 1 hr 43 minutes to the top.

Tenerife (4,738 ft)

May 2008, November 2010, January 2016

Loads of snow on the summit block in this climb both in Winter and Spring.

Wolverine (4,550 ft)

March 2012, February 2015

Great solo day climb of this peak in the Chugach range. Record snowfall and blistering sunshine made for a fab day.

Si (4,167 ft)

October 2008

Old trail route, fun scramble up the haystack.

Rendezvous (4,076 ft)

March 2011

Scenic snowshoeing up to this lookout point at the top of Arctic Valley near Anchorage.

Bird Ridge (3,361 ft)

March 2009, March 2010

Lovely day climb of this scenic, non-technical ridge on the Turnagain Arm near Anchorage.

Related Skills

Medical Doctor, board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, specializing in Tropical Medicine (online profile: <http://depts.washington.edu/daid/directory/pottinger.html>).

Wilderness EMT (Trained at SOLO in Conway, New Hampshire, 1988), supervised two evacuations from the White Mountains, resuscitation of a climber with HACE at high camp on Aconcagua, and minor trauma care at Everest camp 2 after the 2015 quake.