

## Point 6 and Murphy Peak, September 2009

Last October, I led a group of Finnish friends, together with Alex, on a hike up the Finley Creek Basin, with the goal of reaching Murphy Peak. You can read that post (named Finley Lake Basin, October 2008) for details, but suffice it to say, we didn't reach the peak, though the day was a fine one.

After a trip with the kids into the Pintler Range this past weekend, I was left with a strong desire to get into the high country again and bag a peak. With the weather looking to be bad this coming weekend, and some good weather hanging on through yesterday, I decided to cut off early from work and make another go at the summit of Murphy Peak.

This time, I started the hike at Snowbowl ski area. The base is about 30 minutes from my house, which is convenient, but hiking up steep ski runs full of knapweed is no where near as enjoyable as a walk up Finley Creek. In fact, for much of this approach to Murphy, the presence of man is impossible to ignore. It is only until after the summit of Point 6 (1 hour 40 minutes in) that you feel you're in wilderness, and that only lasts for about a mile. Nonetheless, the ridge walk to Murphy's summit is the worth the effort.

I summited Murphy at 6pm, 2.5 hours after starting, and was back at the car by 8pm. As I write, I'm pleasantly sore, my knees ache a bit, and I'm praying for some more Indian summer so that I can get into the high country again.

Below are some pictures, which I had to scrounge off of the web since my camera had a dead battery.



**Left: Snowbowl's Beargrass Highway mountain bike trail, which I hiked down.  
Right: the "death star" on Point 6 summit.**



**Murphy Peak in winter. I approached along the ridge on the left.**