

## Random thoughts of **tapio**

The mountains, you know, do not talk. But they are able to say..., yes! When they want to mean: "Here you can not pass", they do you understand, and they do the same when they spread a carpet under your boots. This time, it is neither the first nor the last time, the mountain said no, and the wind and the snow said the same. The first blew strong and increased with the passage of time more and more, the second immediately required unusual efforts to be tamed, as soft as cotton wool. With this background, we still tried. We tried until we could. We tried until the evidence that the strong inclination of a slope, where, if you slid you do not stop anymore, we have preferred not to know how many meters we could have a free slip. It was good even then. Three hours of climbing in the fresh snow, to which they would be followed by other two down seemed to be enough for us, for this our first tour made together. Other tours will follow, hoping that the conditions may be more favorable. Even on a slope facing north, just as today.

Thanks Giulio for the great adventure in the snow

## ...and now the thoughts of **gbal**

It seemed a good day for coming true many things: the meeting with Fabio (Tapio) delayed many times, the opportunity to implement a long-dreamed trip on Monte Tamaro from Alpe di Neggia; a good weather was expected ... But some things did not go fine as Fabio has already told , but mainly the snow conditions have literally broken our legs. We encountered soft snow like recent fallen snow even it was 3-4 days old and should be more compact. From the first glance we knew we had to heavily change our original plan and after worn immediately the snowshoes and tasted the snow we understood that it would be nice to reach at least the summit. But no! Not even that .... According to predictions, with regular soil or compacted snow we should have reach the summit of Tamaro in 1h45 'and instead we came to the Tamaro's NW shoulder after 2h55' (q.1760) but the usual criteria were not applicable with that snow. An beautiful eagle that elegantly flew above us ridiculed our laborious gait, even digging in the snow. I have developed an interesting technique: with three knee strikes I first brought down the top of the snow in front of me, then using the snowshoes as a shovel by foot I compacted as I could the remaining snow until he could support me enough to be able to climb. In any case the snowshoes sank at least 30-40cm at their best, we both tried to bury ourselves in holes that suddenly opened beneath us, right in the path.

The best was yet to come: once arrived to the shoulder we understood we had to pass on a narrow strip of snow that hung over a chute of at least 70% slope to arrive safely on a small terrace where the track resumed the usual width. Probably the chute was a more or less recent landslide covered by snow. Crampons and ice axes would not be of any help with that snow and they were a silent and heavy company in our backpacks for the entire journey; instead a half rope that perhaps could give us at least a psychological comfort. ... we decided to leave it in the car. So we choose: to go back .... or to go back. Too much hazardous to go! So, sadly we did return having consolation of climbing a small top, the Colle di Medè, where a bright sun and a beautiful view have dissipated the bad mood and encouraged us to think the classic "Next time it will be ok". We ame to the car under the lash of a strong wind and we quickly greeted ourselves pressed by the storm, however happy to have lived together our unsuccessful attempt.

Thank you Fabio for the excellent and good company.

### **Travel times:**

Alpe di Neggia - Spalla q.1760 **2h55'**

Back **2h15'**

**Key data (round trip)**

Real altitude difference **394m**

Total length **4.25** km

Average ascending slope ab. **20%**

Total time **5h10'** stops included

Estimated time **2h10'**

SLE = **12.7 km**

**gbal** : <http://www.hikr.org/user/gbal/>

**tapio**: <http://www.hikr.org/user/tapio/>