

## Egmont January 1 2004

Egmont is the classic volcano, a cone with few features, rising out of much lower undulating countryside mostly devoted to dairy farming. Egmont lies in a National Park whose boundary is a circle centred on the summit, so when you drive into it the terrain changes abruptly from farmland to forest. The forest (temperate rain forest) peters out as one goes higher and dwindles to alpine herbs by around 4,000'. You can drive up to that height. The East Ridge is a somewhat featureless rib of lava. It's not all that steep (around 36°), but there are almost no flat areas or big ledges, no sheltering gulleys or chimneys, and the mountainside just sweeps away beneath your feet to be lost in the greenness of the lower slopes the best part of a mile below you. So, the exposure is considerable and either exhilarating or frightening depending on your outlook!



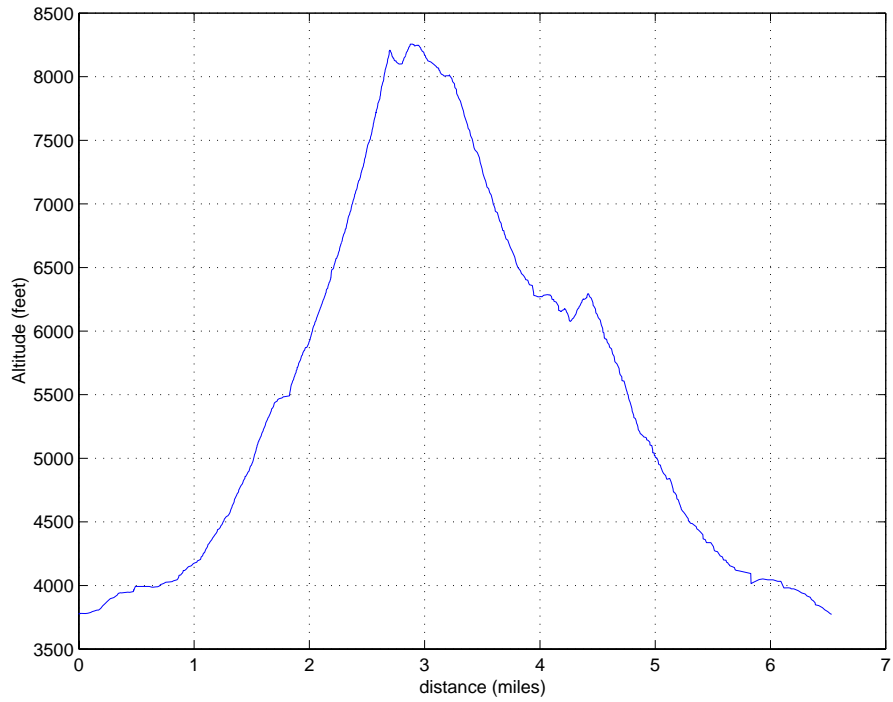
Mount Egmont from the East; yellow line is the route up the East Ridge, red line is the route down.

### Facts and figures:

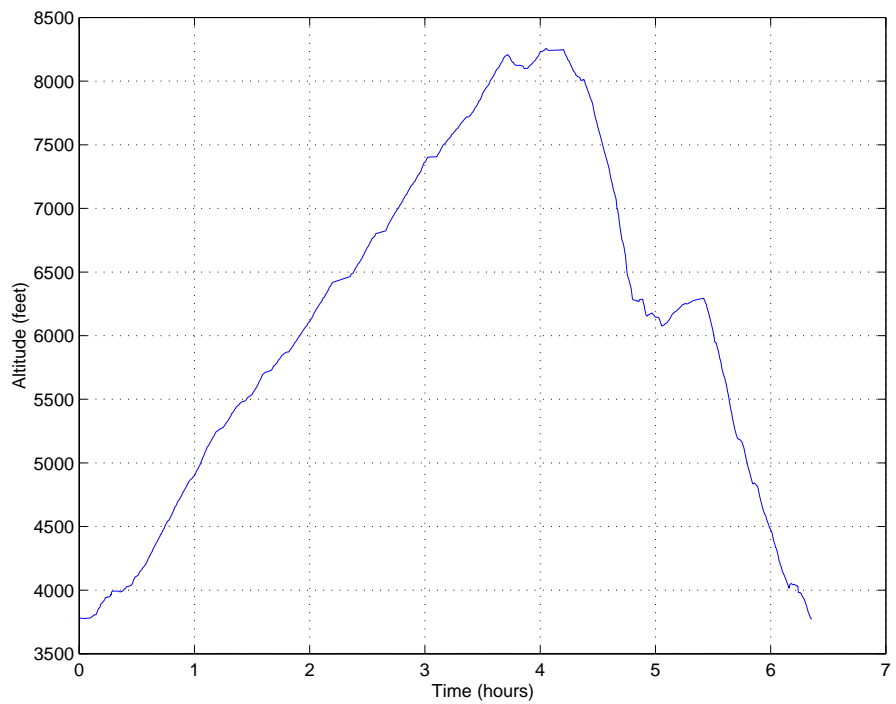
Average angle of top part of East ridge 36°

Rate of ascent quite steady at 1225 feet/hour; descent 4234 feet/hour

Two profiles from my GPS data follow:



Altitude versus distance, vertical scale exaggerated!



Altitude versus time so you can see I went up at a nice steady rate but came down quite quickly apart from where I had to contour round.