

FERRETHAWK

Grade: M6 WI3+, 160m

Location: Mount Murchison, Banff National Park AB

Base Elevation & Aspect: ???m, South facing

First Ascent: Sebastian Taborszky, James Walter, November 2020

ATES: Complex (3)

Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from the original post by Seb on the Facebook group Canadian Rockies Ice Climbing. All photos, text and any errors are from that post -NB

"This was first attempted with the Ferret [Jasmin Fauteux] and the Fish [Maarten van Haeren], and ended up with the most amazing Ferret flight ever. Clean 20m+ fall that gently deposited an unharmed Ferret into space, level with the belay ledge. A black Totem cam held the fall, breaking the 6 inch wide wedged block sitting in the crack. A few days later I returned to finish the route."

Approach

Approach as for *Cosmic Messenger*. Park in an unsigned pullout 9.5km north of Waterfowl Lakes campground opposite the drainage one south of *Murchison Falls*.

Cross the road, and hike eastward in the forest. Follow the drainage up to the lowest cliffband of Mount Murchison, and find the pillar of *Cosmic Messenger* at the back of the bowl. *Ferrethawk* climbs drips on the left, lower cliffband of the cirque, below the bench leading to *The Hand of God*. 1.5-2hr from the car.



Jas about to take the namesake fall on P4



P1: WI3+ 60m

Climb a short steep pillar and continue up lower angle ice. Ice or rock anchor, many options.

P2: WI2 30m

Head up ramby ice staying in the left runnel, then traverse right on the big ledge to the obvious corner. Sling the big boulder for an anchor.

P3: M5 20m

Climb up the corner on decent gear, pull around the pillar then traverse right to a bolted anchor.

P4: M6 25m

Climb the great corner, first on good gear and then pass 3 bolts to "disposable" ice. Gear anchor 10m after topout on the right side of a medium-sized rock, up and right.

Descent

Rappel to the top of P3, then rappel twice down the ice on climbers' right.

Rack

Cams to #4 with doubles #0.2-2, nuts, pins (KB, LA, peckers). Screws plus a couple stubbies.

FA Notes

- On pitch 4, screws were only found in the last 5m of the ice. All remaining protection was on rock.



Seb Taborszky tacking the thin pillar before pulling onto the ledge of P3