

FULL MOON CORNER

Grade: M6 WI4 R, 400m

Location: Arnica Lake, Banff National Park AB

Base Elevation & Aspect: 2200m, Northeast facing

First Ascent: Yamada Toshiyuki, Kikuchi Noboru, November 5 2017

ATES: Complex (3)

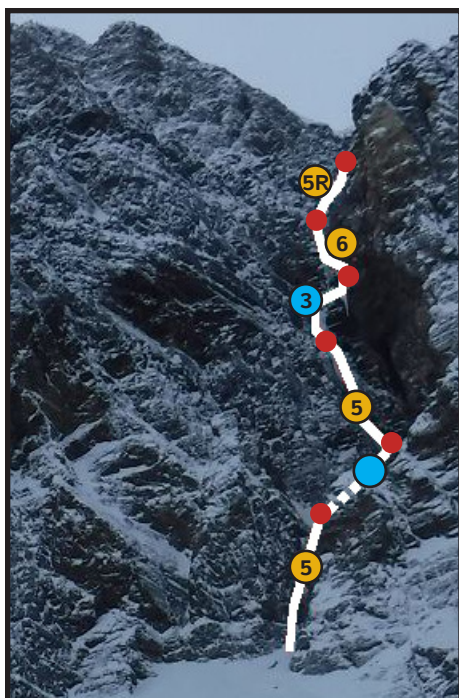
Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from the original post by Toshiyuki on the Facebook group Alpine Climbs in the Canadian Rockies. All photos, text and any errors are from that post -NB

"I and Noboru made a new line at 2695m Unnamed peak. We saw one fixed anchor near the top of the route but it seemed to be used for rappeling so we believe we are the first people to climb this line. We named it *Full Moon Corner* since the full moon really helped us climb in the dark."

Approach

As for *Unnamed Direct*. Park at the Vista Lake trailhead on Highway 93S.

Take the Vista Lake trail, continuing past Vista Lake itself and heading up through the trees to the north end of Arnica Lake. Either cross the frozen lake or traverse around its bank to the cirque on its southern end. Bootpack up snow and scree along the wall on the left, and traverse along the base of the wall to the gash on the right side. Gear up in a cave below a massive chockstone. 2-3 hours from the road.



P1: M5 50m

Start from the left side of the cave in a right-facing corner and climb 20m of delicate slab. Head right at the overhang, exit the corner system and continue up snow to the next band and a gear belay.

P2: Snow 60m

Climb an easy snow slope to the base of an ice smear. Belay on the right wall with rock gear.

P3: M5 WI4R 40m

Follow the ice smear to thin ice pillars (stubbies useful). At the upper pillar, protect on rock behind the pillar, wrap around and climb the rock a few meters until the ice is fat enough to belay.

P4: 5.5 WI3 50m

Climb easy ice towards the overhanging wall. Traverse a narrow rock band toward the right to the base of a chimney.

P5: M6 15m

Head straight up the chimney system, on steep terrain with good tool placements. Belay on the right wall just before a thin ice smear.

P6: M5R 35m

Crux of the route - climb patchy thin ice with rock gear to protect. Ice screws are not useful at all. Delicate climbing leads to a upper shallow groove heading up to a snow slope and a rock belay.

P7-9: Snow 150m

Keep going up the snow slope to the summit ridge.

Descent

Downclimb and rappel the route.

Rack

Rock gear including cams, nuts and pitons. Screws including stubbies. Double ropes or single/tag.



Noboru leading the 'alpine part' on P1 of the route