

KNEE DEEP IN IT & OLD AND CRUSTY

Grade: M5 WI5, 120m & M5+ WI5, 110m

Location: Storm Creek Headwall, Kootenay National Park BC

Base Elevation & Aspect: 2340m, Northeast facing

First Ascent (KDII): Ethan Berman, Zac Colbran, Stefan Sander-Green, February 2024

First Ascent (OAC): Ethan Berman, Jasmin Fauteux, Stefan Sander-Green, February 2024

ATES: Complex (3)

Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from the original post by Ethan on the Facebook group Rockies Ice & Mixed Conditions, plus some personal communication. Photos and text from those posts -NB

"With the warmer temps and good stability I wanted to share an update from Storm Creek. Many routes are still in great condition with good ski access. A few new technical thin ice/mixed routes were climbed over the last couple weeks for those into that sort of thing..."

Approach

As for *Cloudburst* & *The Unconditioned*. Park at the Stanley Glacier parking off of Highway 93S. Hike the road to the firebreak, and head uphill to a trail on the left. Follow the trail up and into the Storm Creek drainage, and keep going up the valley to the prominent buttress at the back. Walk up to the right, and head back left along exposed snow ledges. 2.5-3 hours from the road.

Knee Deep In It

P1: M5 50m

Left of the *Cloudburst* start, climb a right-facing corner. Gain the ice, take it to the big ledge and then traverse left to a gear belay.

P2-3: M5 WI5 70m

Thin and delicate mixed climbing gain the smear of ice, which is taken to the top.

Descent

Rappel twice with double ropes or single/tag, straight down off V-threads.

Old and Crusty

P1: Varied 50-60m

Climb P1 of *Cloudburst*, *Knee Deep In It*, or *The Unconditioned* to the ledge. Traverse to the route.

P2: M5+ 50m

Follow the iced up corner past blobs and several rock-ice transitions. Gain the ledge and build a gear belay on the left.

P3: M5+ WI5 30m

Follow ice up and left past an overlap to the top.

Descent

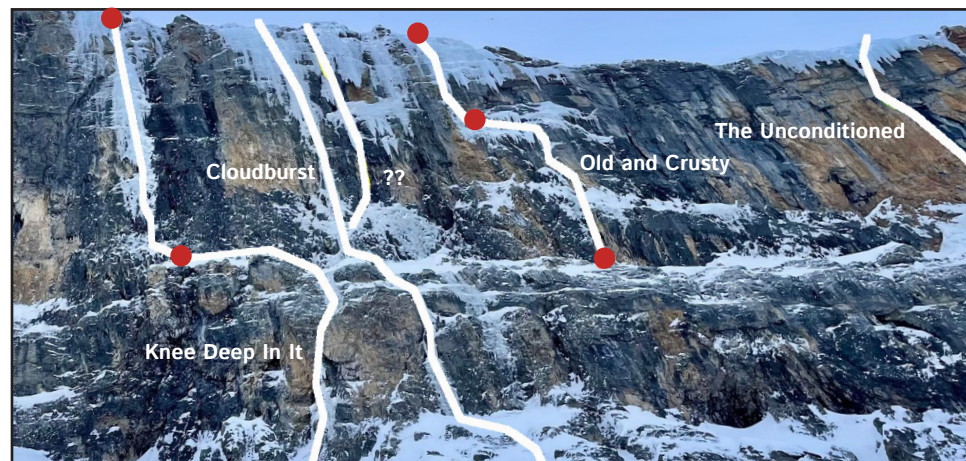
One 60m rappel off ice down to the big ledge. Traverse to *Cloudburst* or *The Unconditioned* and make one more rappel off ice.

Rack

Single rack from #0.1-2 or #3, a couple doubles in finger sizes. Nuts and a few pitons. Screws including 2-4 stubbies. Double ropes or single/tag.

FA Note by Ethan

- The line just right of *Cloudburst* was climbed by Mercier et al. in the fall I believe.



Ethan Berman on P2 of Knee Deep In It. Photo: Zac Colbran

