



Seth Keena opping out pitch 1, with the 'fluffy clouds' looming above

## LITTLE FLUFFY CLOUDS

**Grade:** M7 WI4, 155m

**Location:** Johnson Creek, Don Getty Wildland Provincial Park AB

**Base Elevation & Aspect:** 2100m, Southeast facing

**First Ascent:** Seth Keena, Maia Schumacher, Raphael Slawinski, Jan-Feb 2020

**ATES:** Simple (1)

*Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from Raph's blog post on his personal blog. For more info, check it out here: <https://raphaelslawinski.blogspot.com/2020/03/little-fluffy-clouds.html> -NB*

"From a distance, the ice blobs looked inviting; the featureless rock between them, less so. I wonder if we're wasting our time, I thought. Given enough time and bolts you can get up anything, but we didn't want what Steve DeMaio called a science project. We wanted a line, something we could walk up to and (mostly) just climb. [S]ure enough, as we got closer, as if by magic cracks and corners appeared."

### Approach

Park at the Waiparous Creek trailhead.

Cross the creek and hike or ski up the cutline to the trail to the Phobias cirque, and follow this trail to the bog. Head right onto another cutline, and at its west end bushwhack into Johnson Creek. The route should be visible above the creek to the right; walk up the creek until below the route then head straight up to the base. 1.5-2 hours from the car.

### P1: WI3+ 30m

Steepening ice leads to a ledge. Traverse right to a single-bolt belay that can be backed up with a #5 Camalot behind the flake on the right.

### P2: M5+ 40m

Traverse right to an ice blob, and from its right edge climb past 3 bolts to a left-facing corner. Climb the corner (bolt) to the left edge of another blob and a 2-bolt belay on its top.

### P3: M4+ 20m

Move right from the belay and climb past 4 bolts to an easy wide crack that leads to a 2-bolt belay on top of a small ice blob.

### P4: M7 30m

Tricky drytooling leads to easier but more committing climbing. Another tricky bit leads to a 2-bolt anchor on a small ledge. This pitch is fully bolted but a #3 Camalot may be comforting.

### P5: M5 WI4 35m

Long reaches lead to the right end of a foot ledge. Shuffle left along the ledge to the hanging curtain. Snag the ice and climb it to where it backs off into snow. Belay from ice. This pitch is all bolted and only requires screws.

### Descent

Rappel the route, clipping back to descend P5.

### Rack

Cams from #0.2-0.4, 3-4 (#5 optional). Screws, 14+ draws including alpinines, 70m ropes.

### FA Notes

- For convenience, rap stations are set up with quick links and biners instead of rap rings. Unless you really need to add to your collection of crappy old biners, please leave the biners in place.

