

# NAGA

**Grade:** M8 WI5+, 145m

**Location:** Storm Creek Headwall, Kootenay National Park BC

**Base Elevation & Aspect:** 2400m, Northwest facing

**First Ascent:** Ethan Berman, Grant Stewart, March 28 2022

**ATES:** Complex (3)

*Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from the original post by Ethan on his personal Facebook page and added some text for Scar Tissue. All other photos, text and errors are from that post -NB*

"The newest addition to the mythical Storm Creek Headwall. For the last few winters, ice at the head of the valley seems to defy all logic, pouring over the high point of a buttress instead of down the more natural drainages. *Naga* snakes it's way up a sliver of solid black rock to reach the left side of the ice beside the route *Scar Tissue*."

## Approach

As for *Scar Tissue*. Park at the Stanley Glacier parking lot off of Highway 93S.

Hike up the road for 800m to the firebreak, and hike or ski uphill to a trail on the left side. Follow the trail marked by flagging tape and reflectors up and into the Storm Creek drainage.

Continue up avalanche slopes to below the ice of *Silmarillion*. Keep going up-valley to the prominent buttress at the back with ice dripping from its prow. Hike up to the base of this buttress and the ice of *Scar Tissue*, 2.5-3 hours from the road.

## Scar Tissue P1: WI3 45m

Climb up the low-angle curtain of ice (may be thin) and continue up ice and snow to a belay on the higher ledge.

## Scar Tissue P2: WI5 30m

Head up the steep pillars directly above the belay, and belay at the base of the steep rock band. Head left to a 2-bolt belay at the base of a black streak of rock.

## P1: M8 35m

Climb ice blobs to reach bolted face climbing that heads up and slightly back right through roofs to a two-bolt hanging belay.

## P2: M6+ WI5+ 35m

Step left from the anchor and maneuver past a few bolts to gain the ice. Climb it to the top and belay off ice.

## Descent

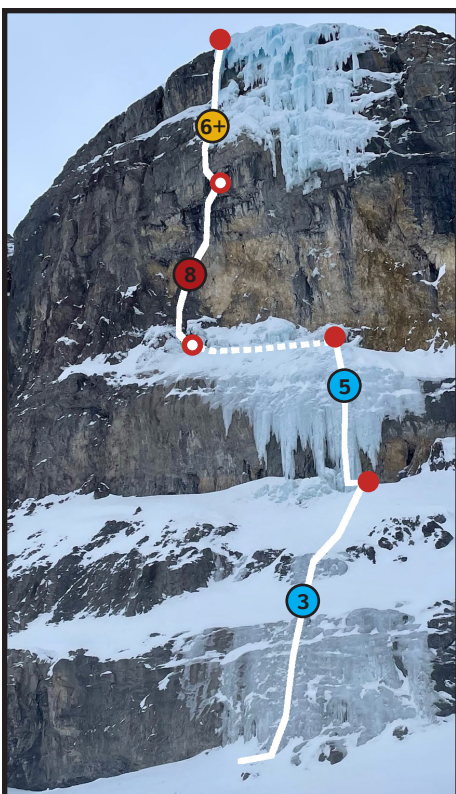
Rappel the route with double ropes. With 70m ropes, rappel once to the base of P1, and then to the ground. With 60m ropes, rappel 4 times down the route and down P1-2 of *Scar Tissue*.

## Rack

Ice screws including a few stubbies. 18 draws including alpiners. Single/tag or double ropes.

## FA Notes by Ethan

- [Grant Stewart] and I [Ethan] spent two days bolting the route on lead, continuously surprised to find quality holds the entire way.
- Thanks [Simon Parsons] and [Zac Colbran] for egging us on and for the awesome photos taken from *Scar Tissue*!



Heading into the roofs on pitch 1 of the new terrain on *Naga*. Photo: Zac Colbran

