

# PLAY WITH FAY

**Grade:** WI6, 345m

**Location:** Mount Fay, Banff National Park AB

**Base Elevation & Aspect:** 2200m, North facing

**First Ascent:** Sebastian Taborszky, Paul Taylor, Merrick Montemurro, April 2021

**ATES:** Complex/Extreme (3-4)

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

"Great adventure with Paul Taylor and Merrick Montemurro, and a potential [Ed: definite] new line. Solid crew and smooth day."

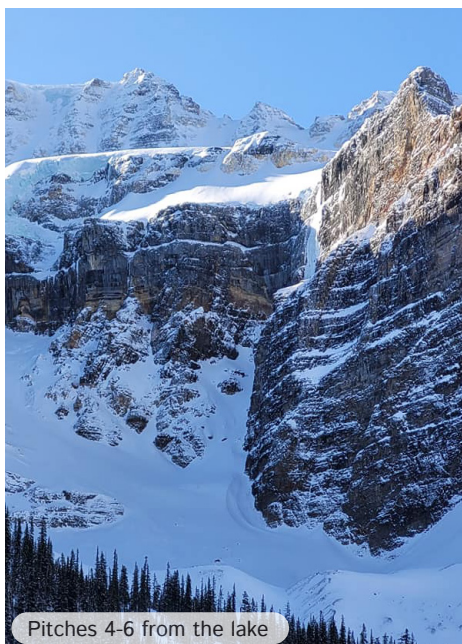
## Approach

Park at the start of Moraine Lake Road (closed in winter), and hike or ski up the road to Moraine Lake.

Cross the lake to the large cirque below the Fay Glacier on the left side of the buttress the Perren Route takes in summer. Head up the cirque, crossing moraine features, and staying right to avoid the worst of the avalanche runouts. Keep going up snow on the back right side of the bowl to the steep cliffs at the back and the start of the ice. P1-3 are not visible until the base.

## Rack

Full rack of screws with stubbies, draws. Single rock rack. Double ropes, 70m recommended.



Pitches 4-6 from the lake



Approaching the runnel of P1

**P1: WI3+ 55m**

Climb the thin runnel of ice.

**P2: WI4 55m**

Continue up the thin runnel as it steepens.

**P3: WI3 60m**

Climb a full ropelength of ice to the a snowslope and the base of the headwall. Belay on the left.

**P4: WI5+ 55m**

Head up steep, sustained, aerated ice. Belay as the angle eases.

**P5: WI5 60m**

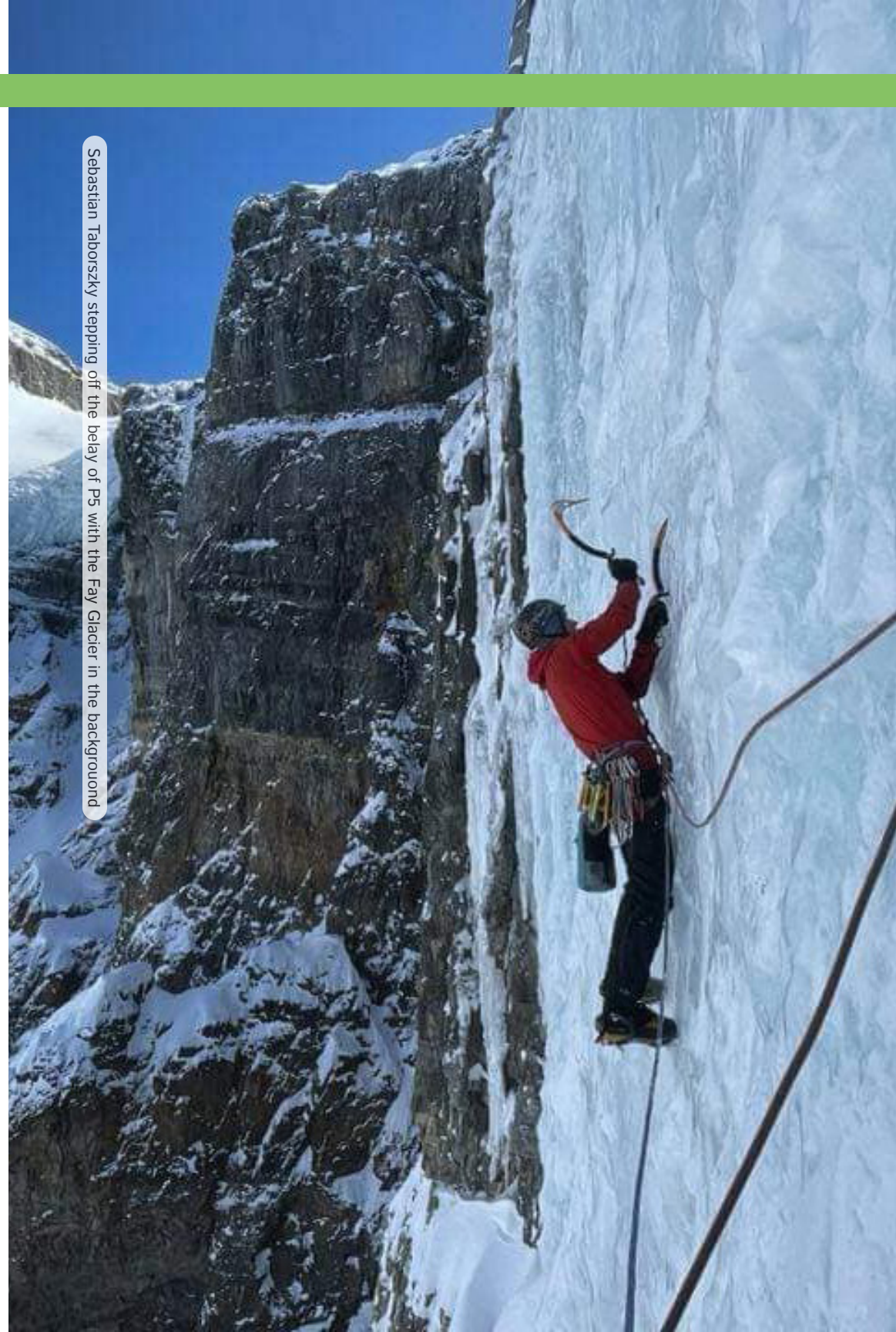
Climb better ice leading to the final pitch. Semi-hanging belay.

**P6: WI6 60m**

Step left and climb steep, sustained ice. Very high-quality climbing in a cool position.

## Descent

Rappel the route off V-threads.



Sebastian Taborszky stepping off the belay of P5 with the Fay Glacier in the background