

PUNTERS OF THE STORM

Grade: M7+ WI5, 150m

Location: Storm Creek Headwall, Kootenay National Park BC

Base Elevation & Aspect: 2100m, North facing

First Ascent: Leif Godberson, Raphael Slawinski, December 2 2023

ATES: Complex (3)

Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from the original post by Leif on the Facebook group Rockies Ice & Mixed Conditions. All photos and text are from the post and personal communication -NB

"Climbed a fun new route up at Storm Creek with Raph yesterday and figured some others might be interested in checking it out, hopefully before the ice disappears on it. This route shares most the same first pitch as *Check Your Head* and *Riders of the Storm* (recently put up by Jon and Jas)."

Approach

As for *Check Your Head*. Park at the Stanley Glacier parking lot off of Highway 93S.

Hike up the road to the firebreak, and hike or ski up to a trail on the left. Follow the trail marked by flagging tape and reflectors to the drainage. Continue up avalanche slopes to the upper tree band. Continue straight up to the base of *Check Your Head* 1.5-2 hours from the car.

P1: WI3 30m

Climb easy ice to a snow ledge below a cave and an ice screw belay.



Raphael making the traverse on P2

P2: M6+ 30m

Head directly up the ice then climb trending left on a mix of rock and thin ice as for *Check Your Head*. As the climbing is getting easier, look for a single bolt on the slab to your right. Step out of the left trending ramp and onto the slab on thin hooks. Traverse right past the bolt around the corner on tenuous tool placements to the 2-bolt anchor.

P3: M7+ 30m

Head directly up past bolts towards the overhanging crack on the right wall of the corner. Climb the crack on good tool placements, and at its top make a tricky move rightward past a bolt. Keep going on thin ice, protecting on rock and ice with a bolt at a small roof. Take easier thin ice upwards, and belay under a small roof with 1 bolt, 2 pins, and rock gear on the right.

P4: WI5 60m

Climb thickening ice to the top of the wall.

Descent

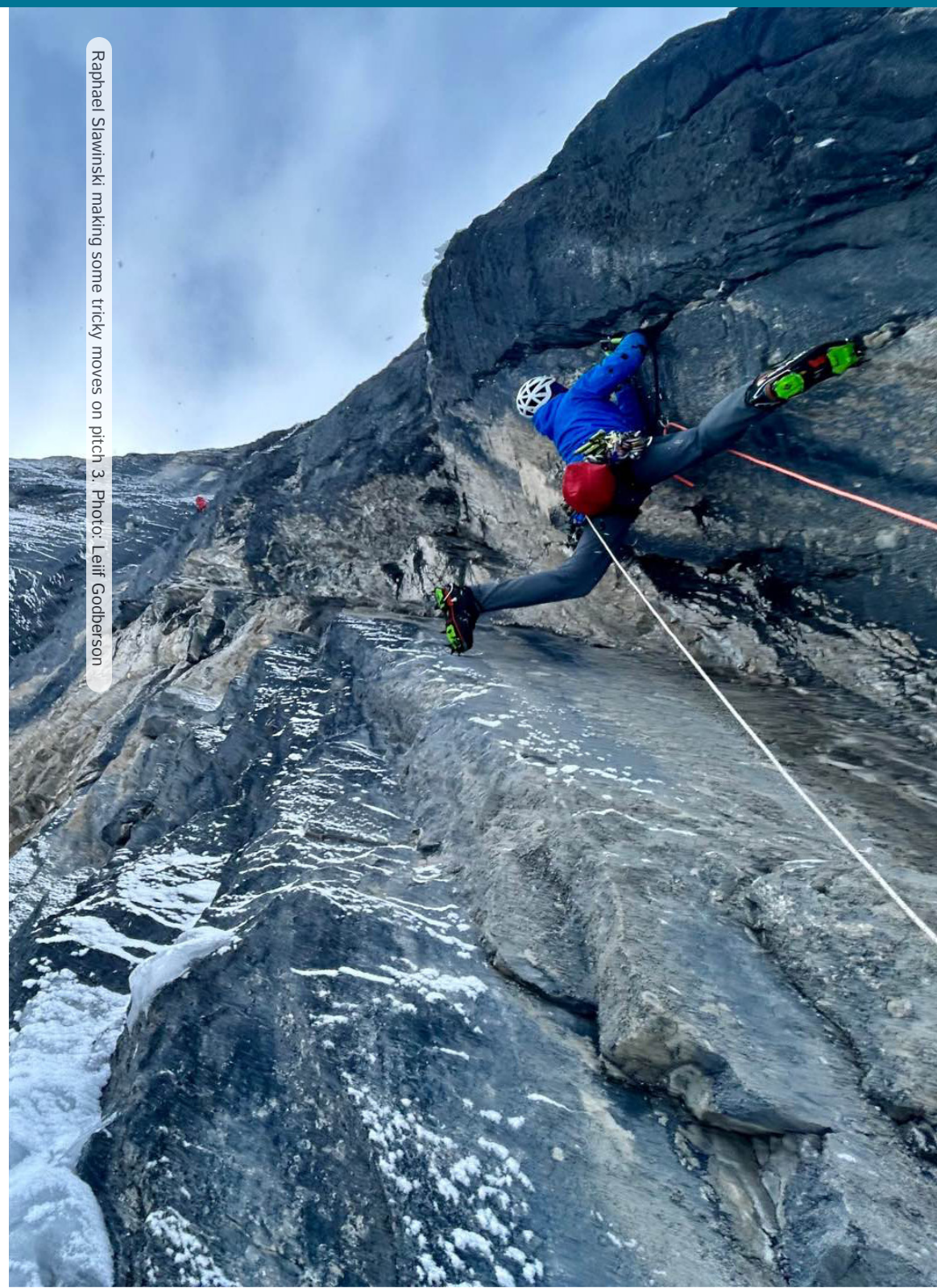
Rappel the route on V-threads and bolts.

Rack

Cams to #3, nuts, tricams, ice screws including stubbies. Double ropes or single/tag.



Photo: Jasmin Fauteux



Raphael Slawinski making some tricky moves on pitch 3. Photo: Leif Godberson