



Jon Walsh seconding the crack on pitch 3. Photo: Jasmin Fauteux

## RIDERS ON THE STORM

**Grade:** M6+ WI5, 160m

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

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

**First Ascent:** Jasmin Fauteux, Jon Walsh, November 5 2023

**ATES:** Complex (3)

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

"Spicy at times, and a great day of superb thin ice, trad mixed and a beautiful shoulder-width strip of ice to to the top, that enticed us to go there in the first place. I don't think this one will be in condition for long! -Jon Walsh (IG)"

### Approach

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

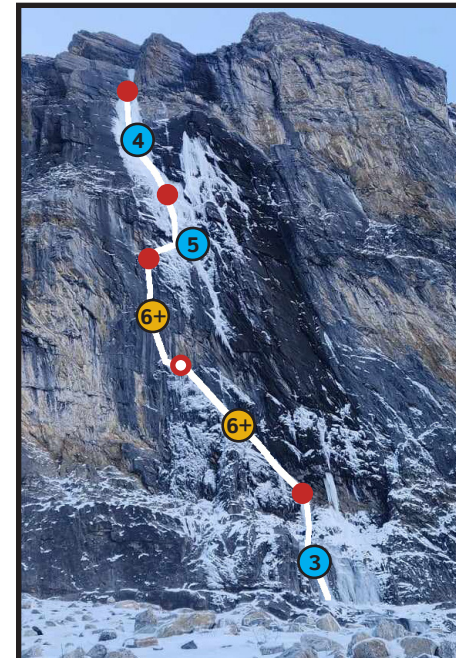
Hike up the road to the firebreak, and hike or ski up to a trail on the left. Follow the trail marked by flagging tape and reflectors to the drainage. Continue up avalanche slopes to the upper tree band. Continue straight up to the base of *Check Your Head* 1.5-2 hours from the car.

### FA Notes by Jaz

- On pitch 3, the lower belay is preferred as it allows you to avoid risking a factor 1 fall on the start of pitch 4.



Jaz leaving the belay on P4. Photo: Jon Walsh



**P1:** WI3 30m

Climb easy ice to a screw belay in the cave.

**P2:** M6+ 30m

Connect small pillars to the left-trending crack covered in verglas. Follow this to the ring-bolt anchor.

**P3:** M6+ 30m

Start up the *Check Your Head* chimney left of the anchor to a roof at about 10m. Instead of going left, pull the roof and keep going straight up the splitter finger crack with copious gear. Belay at either the first or second overlap (see FA note).

**P4:** WI5 40m

From the anchor, traverse rightward and reach the verglas with a full wingspan move. Keep traversing the shell ice to a small pillar, and keep connecting ice veins to avoid hitting rock. Belay on ice.

**P5:** WI4 30m

Follow thickening ice to the top.

### Descent

Rappel off ice to the ring bolts on P2, then from there directly to the ground.

### Rack

Double cams from #0.2-3, nuts, screws. No pins.