

UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE

Grade: M7+ WI4+R, 95m

Location: Mount Lougheed, Spray Valley Provincial Park AB

Base Elevation & Aspect: ???m, Southwest facing

First Ascent: Jasmin Fauteux, Raphael Slawinski, October 29 2023

ATES: Complex (3)

Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from personal communications from Raphael. Any photos and text are from that document, and errors are mine -NB

"This is the smear that sometimes forms for a few days after the first freeze high on a southwest aspect of Mt. Lougheed, before the sun and the inevitable Chinooks melt it out. It's a short route with a long approach, but the position high above the Spray Lakes, with views to Mt. Assiniboine, is hard to beat. When formed, the route is obvious from the Smith-Dorrien Trail."

Approach

Park on the side of the road by the Little Lougheed trailhead along Spray Lake (50.9528°N, -115.3163°E).

Hike up the left (north) side of Spencer Creek between Mt Lougheed and Mt Sparrowhawk on the Little Lougheed trail. After about an hour, leave the trail and hike straight up to the route, initially on pleasant grassy slopes and higher up over tedious scree. A rocky amphitheatre is best bypassed on the right (east). 3 hours.

P1: WI3R 20m

From the cave, traverse right and climb thinnish ice to a ledge below a big roof. Traverse right to a single-bolt belay.

P2: M7+ 25m

From the right end of the ledge, climb gently overhanging rock with bolt protection to an anemic dagger. 2-bolt belay on a small ledge on the right.

P3: WI4+R 30m

Climb a thin and aerated ice strip with poor screws to a good screw belay behind a short pillar.

P4: WI4 20m

Climb the pillar to lower-angled ice. Belay from screws at the base of a short flow of good ice. P3 and P4 can be combined but the belay at the top of pitch 2 might be exposed to falling ice.

Descent

Rappel from a v-thread to bolts at the top of P2, then to the ground.

Rack

12 draws including slings, 8-10 screws including stubbies and 60 m double ropes.

FA Notes

- The route could also be rappelled with a single 70 m rope.

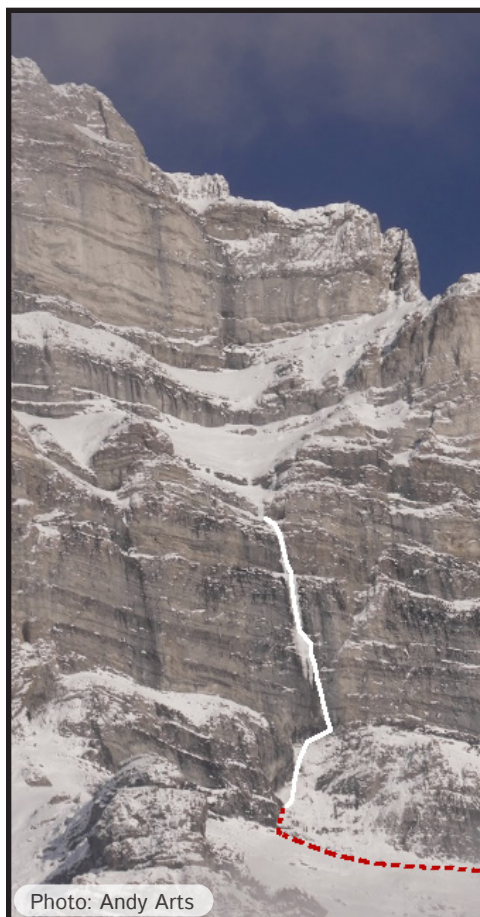


Photo: Andy Arts



Raphael Slawinski on the pillar on pitch 4, with the Spray Lakes far below. Photo: Jasmin Fauteux