



AAC Publications

South Howser Tower, northeast face, Ethereal

Canada, Bugaboos

After reaching the Kain Hut around midnight on October 10 and sleeping in past our alpine start, Tim McAllister and I hiked out toward the Howser Towers intent on some winter-conditions climbing. Sighting excellent conditions, we chose a line to the left of Perma Grin (AAJ 2003) and the Big Hose (AAJ 1979) on the northeast face of South Howser Tower.

Climbing through the 'schrund provided a pumpy start through steep icicles to a Styrofoam-like ice ramp. From there we found ribbons of sn'ice interspersed with mixed climbing up a prominent, left-facing corner system. Near the top we veered left out of the corner to continue up a lower-angled snow and ice ramp. From the summit we descended the standard rappel route.

Our route, Ethereal (1,000', D+ WI4 M6 R), has eight pitches with excellent thin ice and mixed climbing. It shares some terrain with the Thompson-Turk summer route (5.10 R, 1990).

Jennifer Olson, Canada

Images



Tim McAllister climbs through the 'schrund at the start to Ethereal on South Howser Tower.



Jennifer Olson leading the crux fifth pitch (M6).



The northeast face of South Howser Tower showing winter routes: Ethereal (1,000', D+ WI4 M6 R); Perma Grin (1,000', TD- M5 WI4), and the Big Hose (1,000', D+ 5.8 WI3).



Jennifer Olson starts up a thin ribbon of snow on the third pitch of Etheral.

Article Details

Author	Jennifer Olson
Publication	AAJ
Volume	57
Issue	89
Page	0
Copyright Date	2015
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions