



AAC Publications

Hall Peak, east face, new routes

Canada, Purcells, Leaning Towers Group

In August, Winter Ramos and I ventured into the Leaning Towers, a remote and rarely visited bleb of granite just south of the world-famous Bugaboos. After two friends, Ryan Leary and Evan Reimondo, put up a new route on the east face of Hall Peak (AAJ 2014), Ryan told me the best line in the range was still unclimbed: a direct route up the east buttress of Hall Peak (3,040m). [This buttress is located just left of the McComb-Myers-Twomey Route (1975).]

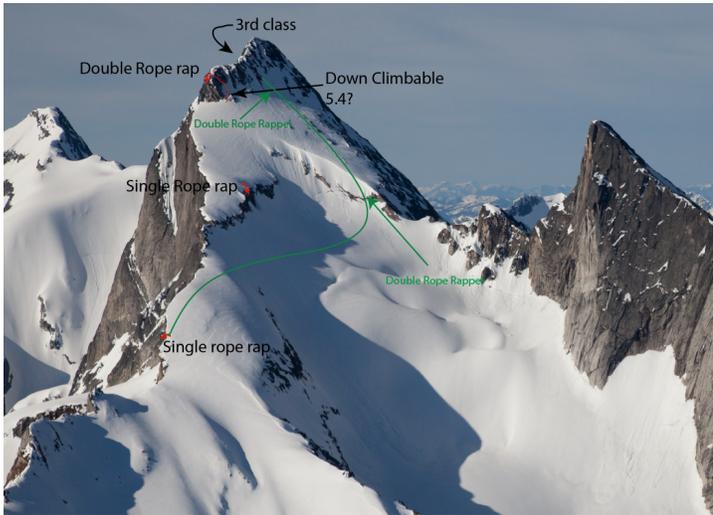
A two-day approach was made much easier with the help of Kootenay Raft Company's horse packers, who carried our gear for the first 12km. Once in, Winter and I spent a day scouting the descent off Hall Peak, took photos, and recovered from two days of brutal hiking. On August 6 we roped up for our attempt. From the ground, the crux of the route appeared to be a roof two pitches off the ground; however, Winter snuck to the right just below the roof on airy 5.8 edges. From there we followed our noses pitch after pitch. The crux turned out to be a 5.9+ jam crack on pitch nine. After summiting a tall gendarme on the east buttress, we began following the ridgeline on lower-angle, less difficult climbing, where shorter pitches led us to the summit. Our 17-pitch route was comprised of great granite and diorite, and we only encountered a few loose blocks: Direct East Buttress (2,000', IV 5.9+).

With more food and time available, we examined some of the cracks along the northeast side of Hall Peak. On August 8 we climbed a prominent 500' corner. Atop the wall we traversed 100' left and rappelled: Post Credit Cookie (4 pitches, 5.10a).

– Matthew Morriss, USA

Editor's note: The caption for the photo of Hall Peak that was published in AAJ 2015 incorrectly identified two of the routes. The caption has been corrected below.

Images



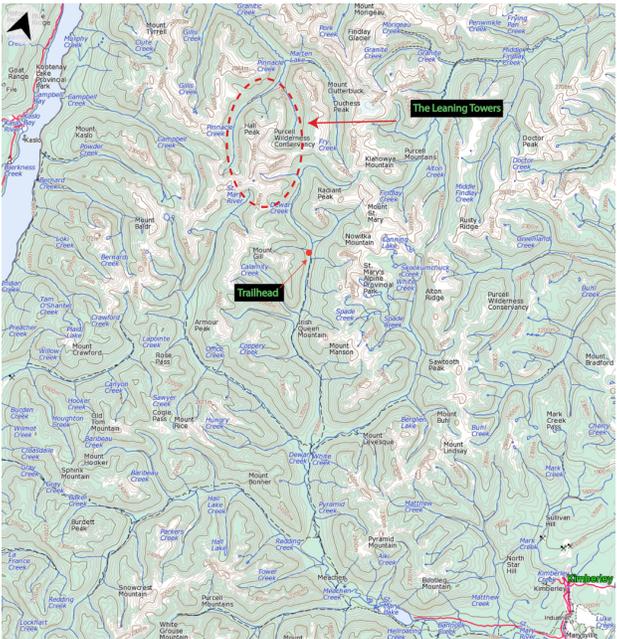
The northwest-facing snow ramp on the back of Hall Peak, with the green line showing the team's descent route. The black text and red arrows indicate other possible, though un-vetted, descents.



Looking down some meandering, low-angle climbing.



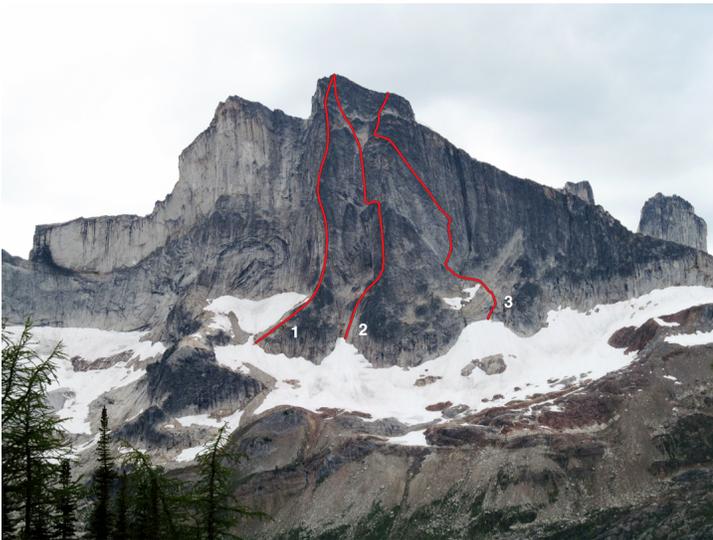
Looking up the route Post Credit Cookie (4 pitches, 500', 5.10a) with belays marked.



A topo of the area showing the trailhead and Leaning Tower Group.



The east faces of Block and Wall towers.



Hall Peak's east face, showing: (1) Direct East Buttress (Morriss-Ramos, 2014). (2) McComb-Myers-Twomey, 1975. This was free climbed with some variations in 2014 and dubbed Quarter Life Crisis (IV 5.10, Bono-Kadatz-Preston). (3) Upper Ramp (Leary-Reimondo, AAJ 2014). Post Credit Cookie (Morriss-Ramos, 2014) climbs the short wall on the far right, topping out on the lower north ridge. To the left of Hall Peak is the Pulpit, and Sharkshead is located out of frame further left. The tops of Block and Wall Tower can be seen far right.

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