



## AAC Publications

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### **Axis Peak, Arctic Axis**

Washington, North Cascades, Stuart Range

**On October 29, 2019, Adam Butterfield and I completed a likely new route on the northeast buttress of Axis Peak (7,550'), above Eightmile Lake in the Stuart Range, near our homes in Leavenworth.**

Arctic air had spread south into the region, and the Pacific Northwest experienced a rare window of time when ice formed anywhere there was previously water, but snow had yet to fall in the mountains. Many routes that often get covered by early season snow were in prime form throughout the range.

After two reconnaissance missions, we completed Arctic Axis (1,300', WI4+ M4+ R). We found an enjoyable mix of ice, rock, and even a pitch of frozen-moss climbing in a chimney. Later in the season, this climb would be easier though still quite enjoyable, with a descent on snow rather than talus.

— Matt Primomo

## Images



The northeast buttress of Axis Peak in October conditions, showing the line of Arctic Axis (1,300', WI4+ M4+ R). Mt. Stuart is in the background.



The northeast buttress of Axis Peak in midwinter, showing the line of Arctic Axis (1,300', WI4+ M4+ R). The first ascent was in much drier and icier conditions in October.



Adam Butterfield leading the crux second pitch during the first ascent of Arctic Axis (1,300', WI4+ M4+ R) on the northeast buttress of Axis Peak, in the Stuart Range of the North Cascades.



Matt Primomo topping out the second pitch during the first ascent of Arctic Axis (1,300', WI4+ M4+ R) on the northeast buttress of Axis Peak, in the Stuart Range of the North Cascades. Eightmile Lake is below.



Matt Primomo partway up the first pitch of Arctic Axis (1,300', WI4+ M4+ R) on the northeast buttress of Axis Peak, in the Stuart Range of the North Cascades.

## Article Details

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