



AAC Publications

Horstmann Peak, Path of Most Resistance; Peak 10,050', White Line Fever

Idaho, Sawtooth Mountains

In May, Ky Hart and I climbed a probable new route on the north face of Horstmann Peak (10,475').

This huge, striking face, which can be seen from Stanley, is what initially drew us to the area.

After hiking in, 750' of gradually steepening snow climbing brought us to the base of the face. Temps were warm, and we chose a line up the middle of what we called the Central Pillar, hoping it would be protected from the near-constant avalanches and rockfall on either side.

We climbed the first pitch with ice tools and crampons due to very wet conditions, then switched to rock shoes and enjoyed nine pitches of varied rock climbing. Nearly every pitch had sections of unprotected, loose 5.9 climbing, and there were at least two pitches of 5.10. There were occasional glorious cracks and sometimes even fun climbing! We pulled on gear a few times when the rock was too wet to climb or when a fall would have been too dangerous.

At the top of the pillar, we switched back to tools and crampons and climbed an easy mixed pitch to the northwest ridge. Two more pitches of easy snow and rock brought us to the summit. We bivied on top of the fourth pitch (not recommend) and again at the summit (all-time).

Several technical routes have been climbed on Horstmann Peak, but details are sparse. Our route, Path of Most Resistance (1,900', 13 pitches, V 5.10 A1), showed no evidence of being traveled previously.

Later in the month, Ky and I returned to the Sawtooths and climbed a probable new mixed route on the north face of an unnamed peak (10,050', 44.14017846, -114.99961688), the eastern-most point on the ridge leading east from Thompson Peak (10,751'), which is the highest summit in the range.

Four pitches of mixed climbing up to M5 brought us to a false summit, where we were shocked to discover a beautiful water ice pillar tucked into a gully on the north face. Finding something like this was something I've dreamed about since the day I swung my first ice tools!

After climbing the wild pillar, more pitches of steep snow, and easy rock brought us to the top. We named the route White Line Fever (1,100', 9 pitches, M5 WI6). Peak 10,050' is a spectacular summit that doesn't appear to have any nontechnical routes to the top, though I couldn't find any information on previous climbing activity.

— Matt Ward

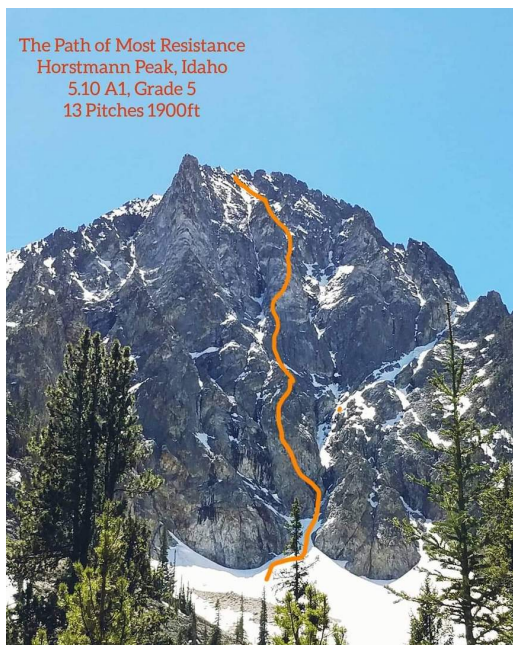
Images



Looking back toward the belay with the Stanley valley stretched out behind, during the first ascent of Path of Most Resistance (1,900', 13 pitches, V 5.10 A1) on the north face of Hortsman Peak.

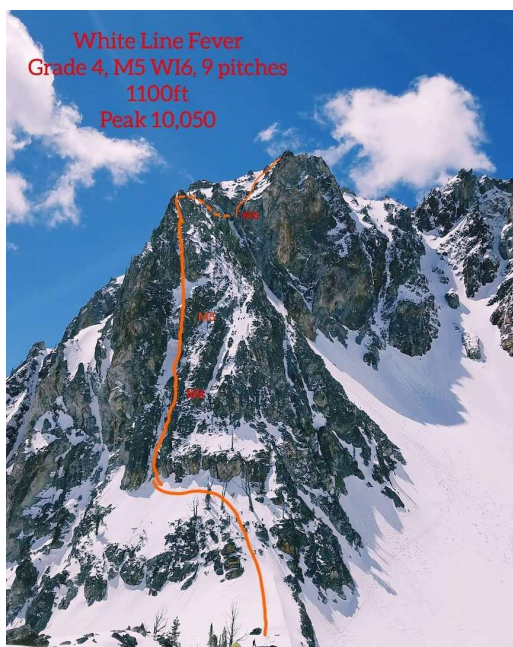


Ky Hart climbing the upper ridge of Hortsman Peak before switching back into snow travel during the likely first ascent of Path of Most Resistance (1,900', 13 pitches, V 5.10 A1). He and Matt Ward climbed the route in May 2020.



The Path of Most Resistance
Horstmann Peak, Idaho
5.10 A1, Grade 5
13 Pitches 1900ft

Hortsmann Peak in Idaho's Sawtooth Range, showing White Line Fever (1,100', 9 pitches, M5 WI6). Ky Hart and Matt Ward climbed the new line in May 2020. The Northwest Buttress (IV 5.9, Bachman-Young, 1979) follows part of the right skyline.



White Line Fever
Grade 4, M5 WI6, 9 pitches
1100ft
Peak 10,050

Peak 10,050', a subpeak of Thompson Peak, the highest summit in Idaho's Sawtooth Range, showing the line of Path of Most Resistance (1,900', 13 pitches, V 5.10 A1). Ky Hart and Matt Ward climbed the new line in May 2020.



The crux pillar on White Line Fever (1,100', 9 pitches, M5 WI6), a new mixed route on a subpeak of Thompson Peak, in Idaho's Sawtooth Range. Ky Hart and Matt Ward climbed the new line in May 2020.

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