

## Mix Meister \*\* 5.10d, 722m

### Goat Slabs Bow Valley Alberta

F.F.A. Andy Genereux & Urs Kallen of entire route, July 2007.

Pitches 1 through 14 established by Andy Genereux & Jeff Marshall, June 2006

Pitches 15 through 22 established by Andy Genereux rope solo July 2007

This is a very good route that climbs a direct line from the lowest to the highest point on Goat Slabs. Overall the rock quality is very good to excellent and the climbing consistent at the 5.9 and 5.10 grades. That said this is an alpine rock climb in the Canadian Rockies and the route has not been manicured to sport standards. Expect to encounter some loose rock. There are also a couple of scree covered ledges to negotiate, thus wearing a helmet is advised. Although rated 5.10d do not take this route lightly there is a lot of climbing at the stated grades. The leader will have to be competent and be comfortable placing traditional protection at these grades. Several pitches require substantial clean gear placements while other are mostly bolt protected. The upper third of the route is quite steady at the 5.10 plus grade and this rig is big, I mean really BIG. Competent parties will require 8-12 hrs to climb the route and 1.5 hr's to get off descending down the **Coire Dubh Gully**. Plan on having to deal with a short rappel as the gully squeezes in above water worn slabs on this decent. Unless you know the way, down climbing this slick section is not recommended and is way harder than 5.4 stated grade stated on this route. The **Loder Peak** decent option is straight forward down the long undulating ridge, allow 2.5 hrs for this lengthy option. The third option described down the **Goat Buttress Gully** is not a recommended option. Allow 1.5 hr's for the approach. Approach and decent details are available in **Bow Valley Rock guidebook** on pages 68 & 69 the climb starts just left of **climb H** on the photo on page 69 in that guide.

To locate the route start directly below the obvious right facing corner which meets the left edge of a huge yellow roof located roughly in the center of the cliff about 60m above the base. This feature is plainly visible from the meadows below this section of Goat Slabs. From the lowest point at the base of the cliff locate a shallow right facing corner with bolts visible starting about 5m above.

This route has been established ground up in the Modern Mixed Trad style drilling on lead with no hooks. This style employs both bolts and clean gear for protection as the rock dictates. Climbers will require a standard rack of gear to 4" (double cams from 1"-3", set of micro cams, set of wires with 16-18 draws of which several should be shoulder length). Double ropes techniques will allow some pitches to be combined. Having two ropes will prove to be invaluable if retreat is required. A single rope will suffice if the route is being pitched out as shorter pitches as described below. The route can be rap-

pelled as a fourth possible option to descend. However, this option requires two 60m ropes to connect to the ring bolt stations. **Note: The belay station on pitch 14 does not have ring bolts and the hangers should be changed or slings used here if attempting to rappel the route!** All other rappel points on the route are off ring-bolt stations. An average time to rappel this climb from the top is 3.5 hr's for the sixteen rappels required so this option is not recommended as a standard course of action.

**P1) 5.9, 28m.** Climb the right facing shallow corner to a ledge and traverse left to belay.

**P2a) 5.8, 23m** Climb directly above the belay on bolt protection angling slightly left to a bulge. A thin move to gain the upper slab which leads to a small ledge to belay from two widely spaced bolts.

**P2b) 5.9, 28m.** Another option for this pitch is to move past the spruce tree left of the belay on easy terrain and angle leftward up to a groove with bolt protection on the left wall. Sustained stemming leads up the corner to the belay.

**P3) 5.10a, 37m.** Make hard thin moves past the right bolt on the belay, traverse left to a bolt and make sustained slab moves upward past two bolts. Work up through bulging ground to enter a gully left of an obvious large spruce tree. Easy climbing up the gully past bolts to the belay.

**P4) 5.7, 30m.** Climb the scrappy looking corner and crack directly above the belay.

**P5) 5.10a, 30m.** Climb the wall just left of an obvious hand crack, move into the crack at two thirds height as the crack ends angle up and right across a slab past bolts to an overlap. At a bolt on the overlap climb directly up to a ring bolt belay.

**P6) 5.10b, 27m.** Climb left of the belay to reach bolts make a delicate traverse right to a third bolt and then move up to a right facing corner. Steep moves climb the face just right of the corner to easier climbing in the corner above. Move right on a small ramp to a two bolt belay with a small ledge.

**P7) 5.10a, 27m.** Climb up the stepped slab above moving left into a right facing corner. A awkward move over a bulge gains easier ground with some suspect rock. Work up and then left to a short corner. Step up and around left to a small ledge to belay off hidden ring bolts.

**P8) 5.10a, 37m.** Mount the belay block and make an awkward move onto the wall above left past a bolt. Steady face climbing leads to a pod. Interesting crack moves are required to gain the broad corner above. Stem the corner to easier climbing. The belay is located on the left at a small rock step.

**P9) 5.10a, 28m.** Climb up to a higher ledge to clip a bolt, make thin moves up and past a second bolt to the left. Move up to a overhanging wave of rock. Make a rising traverse

below this feature to a blob of rock and surmount the wave past a bolt to enter a corner groove above. Climb this moving left at the top to a bolt then up to a big ledge to belay.

**P10) 5.10b, 45m.** Climb directly above the belay on superb rock. Move past 5 bolts moving rightward past a fin of rock to a cam placement. Work up an left to gain the base of steep shallow right facing corner. Climb the corner and hand crack to the belay.

**P11) 5.10c, 25m.** Climb up to a short corner, make thin moves up onto a step. Move left and upward into a shallow right facing corner. climb the corner until reaching two closely spaced bolts. Belay from the higher bolt along with gear in the crack.

**P12) 5.10a, 30m.** Continue up the corner until it peters out at a steep bulge move left past a micro cam placement and continue more or less straight above past a couple of bolts to reach a short corner. At the top of this corner move right past a bolt then cross a scree ledge to the belay.

**P13) 5.10a, 45m.** Climb up past two bolts move up and right to a third and make a thin move into a small groove with suspect rock. Move up and left to the left edge of a roof. Turn the roof and move up and right to a easy ramp past trees to a corner. Climb the corner to a slab, move up past two bolts to a good ledge to belay.

**P14) 5.10b, 28m.** Traverse right 3m along the ledge to a bolt. Step right across a broad groove. Move up and right to a second bolt. Work up and left back into the corner. Climb this until it disappears. At a third bolt make an weird move right and then climb up past a bolt to a ledge move left and then up to a bolt belay. **Note: This belay requires ring bolt hangers to rappel or slings.**

**P15) 5.10a, 45m.** Move up and right behind a large block to a bolt. Enter a shallow groove corner system and climb this intermittent system more or less straight up on mostly clean gear with a couple of bolts to show the way to reach an airy suspended perch with a three bolt belay.

**P16) 5.10d, 35m.** Move up and right from the belay to enter a left facing corner system. Steady 5.10 climbing follows the stepped corner up and leftward to a bulge. Off micro cam's pull a burly lie-back sequence to reach a bolt. Climb to the top of the corner and then take a flake (hand crack) on the left up to the ring bolt belay.

**P17) 5.10c, 25m.** Thin move right off the belay to a bucket to clip the bolt. Sustained climbing past a short crack to reach a second bolt. Easy third class crosses a slopping scree ledge to a bolt belay at the base of a dihedral in the white band of rock above.

**P18) 5.10c, 35m.** Move past a bolt to enter the leaning corner. Awkward sustained moves up the corner (gear to 3") to a bolt on a steep slab section above. Climb seams past a bolt and gear placements to reach a ring bolt belay.

**P19) 3rd, 25m.** Scramble up stepped scree ledge locate a two belay on the next band of rock above and 10m right of a large spruce tree.

**P20) 5.10c, 50m.** Climb up and left to a bolt. Sustained climbing up and left past five bolts to overcome three overlapping slabs to a shallow groove. Climb the groove moving right into a corner and crack system. Climb the corner for 25m moving out left to a small ledge to belay off ring bolts.

**P21) 5.10a, 20m.** Continue up the corner to the right and angle up and leftward past two bolts to a awkward small leaning roof. A critical micro cam protects this sequence to reach a bolt above the roof. Move up to a second bolt then move right on a slopping grass covered ledge to a bolt belay.

**P22) 5.10d, 45m.** Move up and left to a overhanging hand crack. Climb this to a V-shaped corner. Awkward at first move past two bolts to an easy ramp leading to a small pillar. Climb the pillar using steep thin moves past two bolts to enter a left facing corner. Climb the leaning stepped corner to the top and a ring bolt belay.

A final easy 3rd class 35m romp out right on a slopping scree ledge to the trees has you off.

Looking at combining pitches. **I would recommend combining: P2 & P3, P4 & P5, P6 & P7, P11 & P12, P16 & P17, P18 & P19.** These will all be close to 60m pitches if combined and will require competent double rope techniques be used. **Do not attempt to combine other pitches other than those stated above. You will either not have enough rope or you will deal with huge rope drag!**

