

NORQUAY UPDATE © Mark Klassen 2023

LONGRIDER (NEW ROUTE)

MOTHER, JUGS, AND SPEED (ROUTE UPDATED WITH PERMISSION)

These routes probably have the best rock on Norquay.

APPROACH for both routes:

Normal Escargot Corner approach as described in Banff Rock. Walk below the middle of the cliff and look for a single bolt ring anchor below an area of short slabs interspersed with ledges, and before the cliff becomes steeper. This is just before the trail descends slightly towards the start of Escargot Corner and is a few metres right of a new ring bolt at the base of the direct start to Escargot (make sure you have the correct ring bolt or you will climb the wrong route).

DESCENT for both routes:

Normal Escargot Corner descent as described in Banff Rock. Continuing up the ridge and then using the via ferrata staircase to the chairlift and taking that down is a fun way to finish.

Longrider

5.10-

6 pitches

FA 2022/2023: Mark Klassen, Adam Greenberg, Shaun King, Marco Delesalle

Gear:

Double BD cams 0.4 - 2, one #3

14 QD + 10 alpine draws (24 total)

Bolt anchors

All bolting and cleaning was top-down. The grades are negotiable, let me know what you think so we can get a consensus. Make sure you stretch your achilles before climbing this sustained, high-angle slab climb!

P1 Range Road 221

5.6, 25 m, 4 bolts

Climb up and right on short slabs and over ledges. The first bolt is hard to see.

P2 All The Pretty Horses

5.7, 50 m, 15 bolts, 1 small-medium cam

Follow the bolts up and left.

P3 The Brave Cowboy

5.10-, 55 m, 16 bolts, multiple cams

Follow the bolts on the left (MJ&S goes right). Alternating face and corner climbing, sustained at whatever grade it turns out to be.

P4 Losin' Lately Gambler

5.8, 30 m, 5 bolts, multiple cams

Mostly a corner with some face moves. The crux is near the start.

P5 The Man Comes Around

5.9, 59 m, 13 bolts, multiple cams

Alternating face and corner climbing. Use a long sling on every cam placement to reduce rope drag. Make sure your rope is actually 60 m. Sustained at whatever grade it turns out to be.

P5 brings you to a ledge which enables a walk-off down the S Ridge. Or climb the final pitch and descend the S Ridge rappels as described for Escargot Corner in Banff Rock, you can leave gear on this ledge if you want.

P6 Four Strong Winds

5.9, 50 m, 12 bolts

10m of 3rd class leads to a short overhang. Carefully pull through this on big holds with slightly friable rock for the feet, past closely spaced bolts. A solid slab above leads to the ridgecrest and the rappel anchor as described in Banff Rock.

THE NAMES

A Longrider is a cowboy who has spent at least 10,000 miles in the saddle. I am not a cowboy but I always wanted to be. Mountain climbing seemed like the closest thing I could get to it in the modern world.

Range Road 221 is where I spent a good part of my youth.

All The Pretty Horses is a Cormac McCarthy novel, the first in the Border Trilogy. Dreamy.

The Brave Cowboy is the best cowboy novel in my humble opinion. Edward Abbey.

Losin' Lately Gambler: if you don't listen to Corb Lund you should.

The Man Comes Around: Johnny Cash wrote and recorded this shortly before he died. A bit of a scary song.

Four Strong Winds: Ian Tyson of course, but also appropriate if you have spent much time climbing on Norquay.

Mother, Jugs, and Speed

5.9+

5 pitches

FA John Forrest, Tom Black, 1987

Gear:

BD cams micro to #2, double .5-1, optional #3

13 QDs and 10 alpine draws (23 total)

Bolt anchors

Route updated in the fall of 2020 and summer of 2021, with permission from John Forrest: Mark Klassen, Margie Smith, Adam Greenberg, Mike Stuart

All cleaning and bolting was top-down. More steep slab, stretch your achilles! Grading is negotiable.

The first ascent was bold, with long runouts on sustained 5.9(?). The original grade was 5.8. The route was first approached by traversing in from ledges on the left, but a better start will be to climb the first 2 pitches of Longrider.

P1 & 2

Climb the first two pitches of Longrider.

P3

5.9+ 55 m 20 bolts, 2-3 small-medium cams.

Follow the bolts on the right (Longrider goes left). Occasional gear placements are required on a long and sustained steep slab pitch.

P4

5.8 31 m 11 bolts, green cam, red or yellow cam.

Follow the bolt line to the right of the belay. Some gear placements required.

P5

5.9 40 m 9 bolts and numerous cams.

Climb up the crack and slab above to the ridgecrest.

