

## West Kokanee Park Objectives

### Mt. Kitchener

W Ridge I 5.3 – This is a fun, short climb with great views and a fine position. Mainly 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class with 2 short sections of 5<sup>th</sup>. Hike up Smuggler's Ridge (might as well climb the Pyramid on the way) to the W ridge where the angle steepens. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class rock lead to a steep section that is avoided on the left via loose gravel ledges. Continue slightly on the left side of the ridge up to a platform where the N. Couloir joins the ridge. Above this a short steeper bit leads to an obvious cairn on the right of a steep headwall. Climb the face directly at about 5.3 or bypass this via sandy ledges past the cairn on the right and eventually regain the ridge higher up. Below the summit another steep wall is climbed on its left side. The loose and dirty gully on the far right seems a paltry alternative. Continue south on the glacier to reach the true summit. Descend the glacier to the base of the N ridge to regain snow or scree slopes. When the shrund is open in late season, it may be necessary to downclimb part of the N ridge (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cl.) to gain the glacier lower down or traverse above towards the Battleship.

N Couloir to W Ridge 5.3 – About 150m of 40 to 50 degree snow and/or ice lead to the W Ridge at a convenient platform for removing crampons. Approach via Smuggler's Ridge.

### The Pyramid

NE Ridge I 5.6 – Ascend the snow rib to the base of an obvious gully/groove. Climb solid rock left of the groove to avoid loose blocks in the bottom and then step left back into it higher up to surmount a small roof. Horn belay (25m 5.6). Climb 4<sup>th</sup> class terrain up and left for ~30m to belay in cracks at the base of a nice looking open book corner. Climb the corner, trending right at the top to avoid loose blocks and belay in the corner off horns and/or cracks (30m 5.4). Traverse left out of the corner and scramble up to the summit ridge. Hike left easily to reach the summit. To descend walk south on the ridge until easy ground leads right and down to Smuggler's Ridge OR continue south until it is possible to step left onto the glacier that leads back to the start of the route.

W Slope class 2.

S Ridge – short, level hike over some talus blocks.

### The Battleship

Battleship Traverse I 5.4 – This is the showpiece feature of the north glacier and deserves more attention. Follow the terminal moraine crest up and around the left side of the bump that extends north of the main Battleship to avoid the loose dirty gully that climbs up the west face. (1.5 – 2hrs from the lodge). Access the N ridge from the east side via a low angled ramp just to the right of the obvious loose gully. Pleasant scrambling on black lichen covered rocks dotted with flowering moss campion soon leads to a notch in the ridge. Stay left past the notch on ramps until an easy break regains the ridgecrest. The next feature “The Destroyer” is a prominent prow of vertical rock that can be climbed on the left or right sides at about 5.4. Next comes the “Shark's Fin” on the far side of a deep cleft in the ridge almost short enough to jump across (although it would be a very bold jump). Instead, downclimb on the left (or rap off the large block at the edge), then climb up towards the Shark's Fin and over the airy gendarmes on the ridgecrest. Alternatively, traverse left of the ridge on sandy ledges below the level of the Shark's Fin to regain the ridgecrest further along. Next comes a yellow corner that looks better than it is. A better option can be found further right. Easy terrain then leads to the massive saddle. At the bottom of the saddle, turn the steep, green gendarme on the left and then pass through a notch in the ridge to the right (west) side where ledges lead to a corner. Climb this up and left of the

steep, green rock to reach the summit. More 3<sup>rd</sup> class terrain leads to the glacier where the quickest descent is to boot ski the continuous snow gully immediately west. If this is icy or melted out, take to the rocks on skier's left of the gully.

### **The Giant's Kneecap**

**South Ridge I 5.6** – Scramble up the ridge to a perch below a steep left trending arête. Climb cracks on the right side of the arête into a big corner and up a steep wall to easy ground and a horn belay (20m 5.6). Continue on a bench right of the ridge crest and then up to gain a neat corridor followed by an awkward downsloping ramp on the left that leads to within spitting distance of the perched summit block. Drop into an alcove and rap the west face off a horn (~30m to good ledges), or reverse the ridge until it is possible to scramble off to the west.

A north-south traverse looks mostly 3<sup>rd</sup> with some 4<sup>th</sup> class. From the south the summit is accessed more directly if climbed after the Battleship Traverse or Mt. Kitchener, or from the Keyhole.

### **Esmeralda Peak**

**SW Ridge II 5.6** This is the most obvious and esthetic feature of the Kokanee drainage and has fun climbing and airy positions on mostly good rock. Follow the Keyhole trail until it is possible to traverse over to a break in the ridge above treeline. A grassy slope leads easily up to a saddle (the lower of 2 obvious breaks in the ridge). Skirt the next 2 bumps in the ridge on the south side and then gain the ridge proper on pleasant 3<sup>rd</sup> class terrain until the ridge is broken by several towers and gullies. Bypass these on the right (south) and climb the last gully to regain the ridge. At a Y junction, avoid the steep chockstone chimney on the right via easy ramps left that eventually cut back right to the main ridge higher up. As the rock quality improves, so does the difficulty of the climbing. Ascend cracked slabs to a short down climb followed by the crux – a perfect finger crack at ~5.6 Varied climbing on a classic ridge eventually leads to the summit. A short jaunt north drops to the keyhole to descend to Gibson Lake or descend the glacier back to the Lodge.

### **Giant's Rib I 5.0**

The south & SE facing ridge across the glacier from the Giant's Kneecap that leads to the skyline NW of the repeater. Mostly 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class with a neat traverse on an exposed ridge below the summit. It is a very low commitment line as there are lots of options to bail off at various points. Follow the Keyhole trail as it gains elevation to the NW. Leave the trail when it heads back to the SE and work your way up to the lowest part of the rock ridge. Climb a left leaning rock rib (or the snow couloir right of it) to the top of a ramp. Now take to the steeper rock above which eventually leads to a short down climb into the top of a couloir which is an easy out when snow filled. Cross the couloir and climb a short gully to gain slabs on the right and the ridge above. Continue up the buttress (past the tops of 2 more couloirs) all the way to what looks like a false summit above. There are some easy ramps out left that regain the ridge further up, but the high ground is more esthetic. When the ridge flattens out there is another option to bail off the other side. The best climbing on an exposed ridgeline leads to the top. Descend the snow couloir / rock gully east of the ridge back to the Keyhole trail.

### **Grays Peak**

**N. Face I 3<sup>rd</sup> cl. or snow to 45°** From Gibson Lake, follow the main trail to the second switchback and continue on the old alder strewn mining road for a short distance until a flagged opening in the bush on the left presents itself. Follow the faint trail and flagging uphill, staying

climber's right of the creek until reaching a boulder field. Ascend this on the left and then skirt beneath it, trending left to cross over to the right side of the creek. Work left into the woods to pick up another flagged trail ascending discontinuous rock slabs. When the angle steepens, sneak left to more ramped terrain that avoids steeper rock slabs and a creek drainage. When the ground levels out higher up the Kokanee – Grays Col will come into view. Ascend this (best early season on snow) to a ridgeline north of Grays Peak where the main summit will come into view. Now head south, contouring left around a few bumps along the way. The final 10m to the summit is about 45 degrees. (1200m vertical gain + 8km round trip)

### SW Ridge III 5.6 (aka the Cosmic Arête)

A grand adventure on an intricate ridge with enjoyable climbing, neat gendarmes, healthy exposure and great views. Follow the Gibson Lake trail to the second switchback where an old mining road heads right across a creek. After ~30m exit the overgrown road to the left and climb through the forest to regain the road higher up. Follow it left for a short distance then climb up a sandy bank on the right and follow the path of least resistance straight up through the forest gaining about 150m vertical to reach a boulder field at 1850m. Climb diagonally up and right across boulder patches to gain the treed rib above and contour around this until the lower, treed portion of the SW Ridge comes into view. Cross the flatter avalanche path below, aiming for a lower angled bouldery ramp between steeper rock steps and diagonal up past this to reach the SW Ridge at about 2030m. Hike up the ridge and begin 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class terrain at ~2400m. Drop into the first major cleft in the ridge via a narrow sandy gully on the SE side and go over or around a small tower to reach the base of the main crux tower. Climb the arching gully to belay through a notch up and left (40m 5.6) or take the corner crack system left of the gully (30-40m 5.6). The next major obstacle is the “Slot Machine” – an impressive solid towering block split by a vertical slot part way along the ridge. Start up a corner crack on its left side that ramps up to a ledge and climbs straight up to a horn belay on the first step in the ridge (~35m 5.5). A second pitch traverses to another horn belay above “The Slot”. Rap ~15m into The Slot off a rock horn and climb easily out the other side. Note that the Slot Machine can be bypassed entirely via dirt ledges and a loose gully on the NW to regain the ridge further up. After more monkeying along the ridge, pass “The Finger” (a super cool pointing gendarme) and climb large, increasingly steeper blocks leftwards to “The Notch” (the only weakness in a wall that bars access to the top of the Grays Peak Couloir (which gets skied in the spring). A 20m rap off a good rock horn right in “The Notch” gets you down. Continue up more large blocks and climb through “The Window” (a hole in the boulders that passes through to the NW side of the ridge). Some tricky route finding along the climber's left of the next tower leads to the top of the ridge and the West Summit of Grays Peak. Descend via the North Glacier and Kokanee-Grays Col to grassy ramps and rock slabs skier's right of the boulder field, then retrace your uptrack back to the main trail.

### South Ridge III 5.4

A long, aesthetic and exposed alpine rock ridge with great views. Rock quality is generally very good with a few loose sections. This route is a bit more of an adventure. It involves more bushwhacking, require stronger route finding skills and spends more time on technical terrain. Plan on a very long day for a round trip.

From a parking spot about 14.5km up the Kokanee Glacier park road, bushwhack up and east towards a west facing bowl a few kilometers south west of Gray's peak. After gaining 320m over a kilometer, you will be at the base of the west facing bowl. From here, continue bushwhacking in a south easterly direction to a 2130m col at the base of the south ridge (grid 906057). The

bushwhacking eventually leads to more open but steeper terrain. From this col, walk and scramble along the ridge in a north easterly direction.

The ridge will eventually turn more northerly as the difficulty increase. Follow the undulating ridge for 1.5 km to the main summit of Gray's peak. Most of the difficulties can be bypass on the west side of the ridge. There is one steep section that must be climbed on the east side closer to the summit. There is a very loose but lower angle section just before the summit. The descent is done via the regular north glacier route as described above. (Description by D. Lussier)

Ico Pico (~1 km NNE of Grays Peak at GR 913091) – E. Buttress 5.7 6p

FA. Ico DeZwart & David Lussier.

The climb follows good granite cracks on featured and solid rock.

**Nansen – Robert Smith Traverse 4<sup>th</sup> cl.** Take the Sapphire Lakes trail to Griffin Lake and hike around the south side of the lake to the Nansen-Giegerich col. It may be possible to shortcut north of the lake on snow bridges (early season) or rocks (low water levels). From the col, hike up snow or scree to the south summit and traverse north. The north summit can also be climbed directly from the east on a short section of 3<sup>rd</sup> class rock. The descent to the NW off Nansen is exposed 4<sup>th</sup> cl. with some tricky bits. Options exist left of the ridge to avoid some difficulties. The traverse over the next two humps towards Robert Smith are 3<sup>rd</sup> with some 4<sup>th</sup> cl. sections. There is some loose rock on the 1<sup>st</sup> hump but the second is much better quality. Descending Robert Smith to the NW, stay skier's left of two loose and dirty gullies to easy downclimbing in the third (cairn), then follow scree slopes down to the col as the ridge proper cliffs out. The traverse to the next hump on route to Boomerang Mountain has some neat positions and fun climbing. Descents exist at several points along the ridge into the drainages north and south of Robert Smith although some bushwhacking is required to reach the trail on the east side of Tanal Lake that leads to Enterprise Pass. From Robert Smith it is easiest to descend into the bowl to the south and then climb over the long ridge NE of Nansen to regain the Griffin Lakes trail.

**Outlook Mountain N subpeak and S Ridge 3<sup>rd</sup> cl.** The hike past Sapphire lakes to Glory Basin and the views from the ridge are the main reason to do this trip. The scrambling is just a small bonus. Gain the ridge just north of Outlook's N subpeak and climb the N Ridge directly (3<sup>rd</sup> cl.). Continue on easily up Outlook and down the S. Ridge for some exposed 3<sup>rd</sup> cl. as far as you dare. For the return trip back to the summit you can traverse easier ledges on the east side of the ridge. Go north now back to the col you came up (skirting difficulties on the N subpeak to the west) where you can follow a diagonal snow ramp back to Glory basin or continue along the ridge to Mount John Carter (south ridge, class 2/3 scramble).

Either way descend Outlook creek on a fun and scenic trail back to Garland Lake.

Mt. Retallack - S ridge Class 2. Follow Enterprise Creek trail north from Tanal Lake until just past the major creek that drains the SW face of Granite Knob. Cross a large avalanche path, then bushwhack up trees on the north side of this avalanche path to the ridge between Granite Knob and Retallack. Many route possibilities exist for this section. The aim is to reach the col between Granite Knob and Mount Retallack. From the col, the final walk up the S ridge to the top is class 2. (5 km from Tanal Lake) (3 hours from Tanal Lake)

Granite Knob - SE ridge Class 2 to 3. From Enterprise Pass, scramble north along the ridge eventually reaching the summit of Granite Knob. It is possible to descend straight west down the face to reach the Enterprise Pass trail but the route is bushy. (4 km from Enterprise Pass) (3 hours one way from Enterprise Pass.)

Kane Peak - E Face *Class 2 to 3. Ice axe*. From the area of Coffee Pass climb up talus or snow (depending on season) to the col due south of the peak. Scramble to the summit from the east side.