

NORQUAY UPDATE

ESCARGOT CORNER (ROUTE UPDATE); LONGRIDER (NEW); MOTHER, JUGS, AND SPEED (ROUTE UPDATE)

ESCARGOT CORNER

- A single bolt ring anchor has been added at the base of the first pitch as described in Banff Rock (direct start). This anchor is a few metres left of the single bolt ring anchor at the start of Longrider (see description below).
- A 2 bolt ring anchor has been added to the top of P1 (direct start), at the base of the corner.
- Cleaning on P1 & 2 and an additional bolt anchor at the tree atop P2 is planned for 2023.

LONGRIDER and MOTHER, JUGS, AND STEEL

These routes probably have the best rock on Norquay.

Start for both routes: Normal 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 the new Escargot ring bolt.

Descent for both routes: Normal descent as described in Banff Rock

Longrider

5.10a

FA September 2022: Mark Klassen (4 days), Shaun King (1 day), Adam Greenberg (1 day), Marco Delesalle (1 day)

Gear:

Double cams 0.4 - 2, one #3

14 QD + 10 alpine draws (24 total)

Bolt anchors

The route was built over 3 days and climbed on a fourth. All bolting and cleaning was top-down.

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

5.10a, 55 m, 16 bolts, multiple cams

Follow the bolts on the left. Alternating face and corner climbing.

P4 Losin' Lately Gambler

5.8, 30 m, 5 bolts, multiple cams

Mostly a corner with some face moves.

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.

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 ever written 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.

Mother, Jugs, and Speed

3 pitches, 5.9

FA John Forrest, Tom Black, 1987

Gear:

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 (5 days), Margie Smith (1 day), Adam Greenberg (1 day), Mike Stuart (1 day)

4 days of route exploration, cleaning, bolting, and one day of climbing. All cleaning and bolting was top-down.

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. Occasional gear placements are required on a long and sustained steep slab pitch.

P4 5.8 31 m 11 bolts, green cam, red/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.