

The 11,000ers of the Canadian Rockies – Updates and Corrections

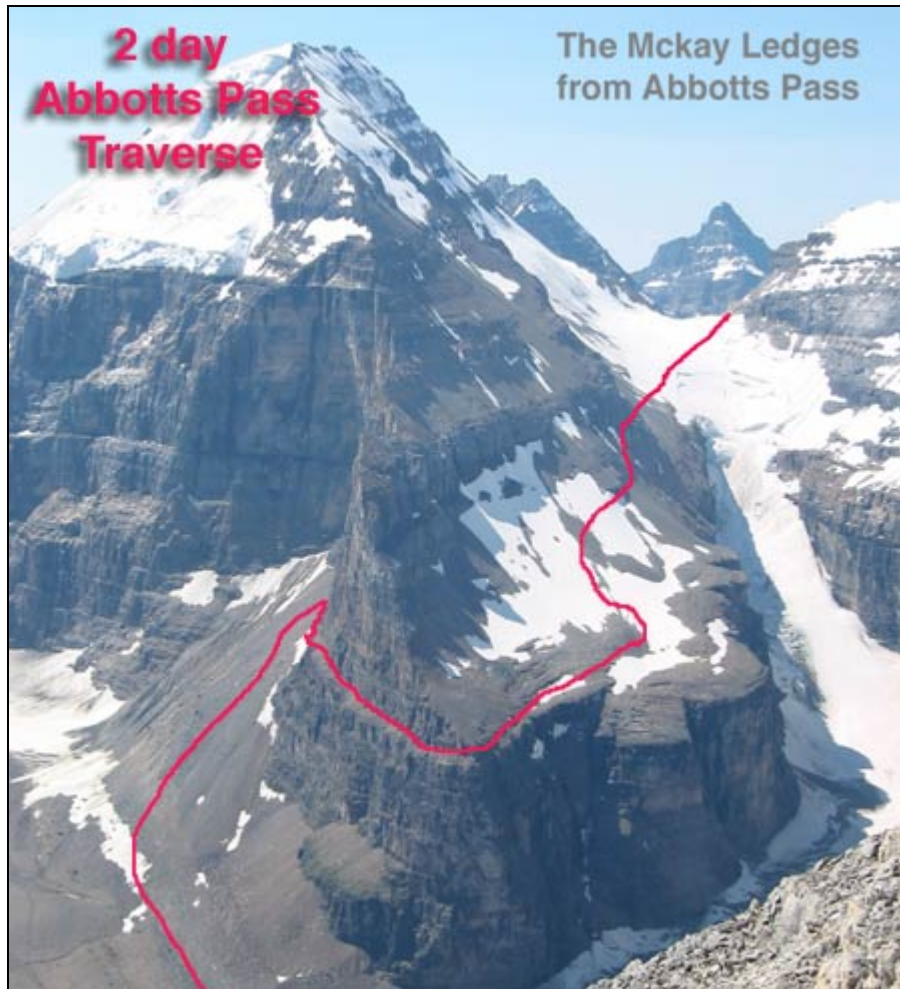
If you have any updates or corrections to the book or want to pass on some interesting 11,000er feats, please e-mail them to me at (info@billcorbett.ca) and I'll post them.

Updates

- The Sullivan River Road is no longer a viable access route to the Clemenceau Icefield (pages 96-99). The upper section of the logging road was decommissioned and a critical bridge removed in the summer of 2005. The options now are to fly in or to walk in the old way, from the Icefields Parkway – a four- or five-day (for most folks) but spectacular approach. For a 2005 trip report, and photos, of one such loop trip on foot, see the “Trips” link on this website.
- Is there a 55th 11,000er? Perhaps. In the spring of 2005, I skied and then walked up the south ridge of Mount Cromwell, at the north end of the Columbia Icefield, near the Twins. At the tip top of the mountain, my GPS registered 11,006 feet. See the Mount Cromwell entry under the “[Trips](#)” link for more details.

Corrections and Clarifications

- Page 14 – John Lauchlan and Jim Elzinga made the first winter ascent of the Ramp Route on Mount Kitchener in 1977, not of Grand Central Couloir, as was stated. The first winter ascent of the latter was by Tobin Sorenson and J. Roberts in 1978.
- Page 99, *Icefields Parkway Approach* to Clemenceau Icefield, second paragraph – The Athabasca River is crossed on a bridge at 15 kilometres, not forded. Note: In the next paragraph, the Toronto Glacier has greatly receded (as have many of the lower glaciers in the Canadian Rockies), with a large lake (unmarked on the map) below its toe.
- Page 144 – On the upper photo, of the North Ridge route on Mount Cline, a more direct way to access the ridge is to go straight up the big snow slope, rather than go way around to the right as shown by the red line.
- Page 157 – The Fuhrmann Ledges route on Mount Lefroy is incorrect. The correct, lower line is shown in this photo by Joe Mckay, who improved the route.



- To clarify the approach description for the Goodsirs (pages 185-87), replace the first two paragraphs under Approach with the following:

From the parking area, walk north on a good trail that swings east into mature forest above Ice River. The trail is briefly interrupted by a logging road and then picked up again in a clear cut, just before a side road enters from the right. When the Ice River trail is intersected at the bottom of the jumbled clear cut, turn right and follow the trail along the right side of the Ice River for about 7 km to a warden's cabin (2-3 hours).

From the warden's cabin, head down to the edge of the Ice River and follow an intermittent trail north along its right side. Preferably with running shoes and shorts, slosh around the left side of two ensuing ponds and, where the river forces you onto its right bank, go open an open slide path for about 20 metres to intersect a faint trail. Follow

this trail left through forest to another, alder-strewn slide path and go up its left edge for about 150 metres and then into the trees to reach a broad trail, which is followed left around the shoulder of Zinc Mountain.

Feats – I'm not advocating speed over the pleasure of spending a few days in sublime surroundings, but these are still impressive accomplishments:

- In the summer of 2005, Jason Thompson became the seventh person (that I know of) to climb all 54 of the 11,000ers in the Canadian Rockies. He climbed his last four peaks during the summer, finishing with Mount Alexandra.
- In the spring of 2005, a small group (don't have their names yet) climbed all four 12,000-foot peaks in the Canadian Rockies – Robson, Columbia, North Twin and Clemenceau – in a span of 10 days. They did fly into the Clemenceau Icefield but then skied from there over to the Columbia Icefield.
- Most people need three full days to climb Recondite, an approximately 75-kilometre round-trip trudge, with a total elevation gain of 10,000 feet. Yet an obviously super fit Mike Haponiuk of Edmonton soloed it, car to car, in 19 hours, carrying a 22-metre rope for the short rap and six energy bars for food.
- Similarly, Mount Alberta is considered a three- or four-day expedition by most parties. Yet Raphael Slawinski, Dana Ruddy and Tim Haggerty climbed the standard Japanese Route in 18 hours, car to car, in 2004, shaving 15 hours off the previous record. Incidentally, the previous record of 33 hours by Richard Jagger and Shep Steiner was accomplished in 1994, not 2004 as it says on page 58. In February of 2005, the juggernaut team of Slawinski, Scott Semple and Eamonn Walsh made the first winter ascent of Alberta, again by the Japanese Route. This time, though, it took three days.