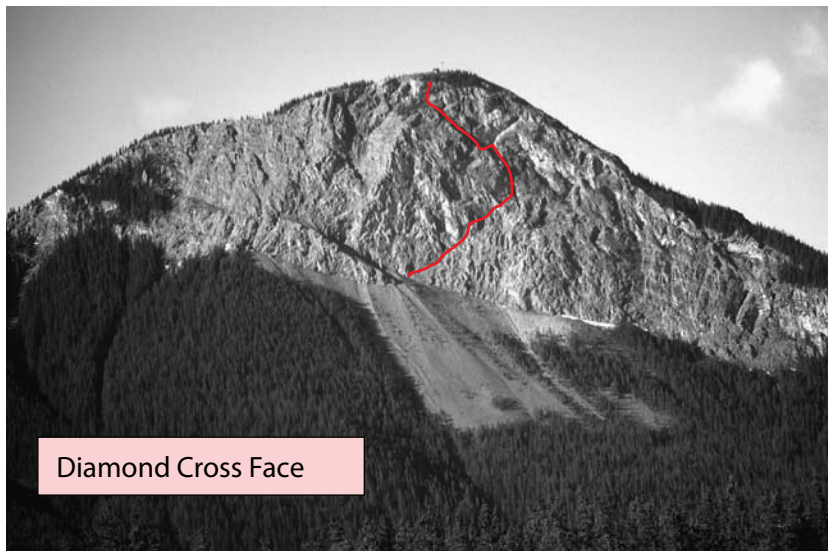


McCONNELL RIDGE

The Diamond Cross Face is a large cliff situated high on the north side of McConnell Ridge directly across the Bow Valley from Yamnuska. During the early days of Bow Valley exploration a route was climbed on the face and has probably not been repeated.

Approach

The face was originally reached directly up the scree in about 1.5 hours from the Yamnuska Centre (Bowfort Lodge), previously part of the Diamond Cross Ranch. An alternative approach may be possible using the Prairie View hiking trail on the back of the mountain beginning at Barrier Lake dam. The trail follows the east ridge to a fire lookout on the summit and is accessible by mountain bike. From the ridge it should be possible to drop down to the east end of the face and then traverse across to the start of the route. The Yates Route from the Yamnuska Centre also links up with the Prairie View trail.



Diamond Cross Face 330 m, 5.8 A0

D. Vockeroth & K. Hahn, August 1963

The only climb done to date follows an obvious rising traverse line up and right across the centre of the face and then diagonals back left to the summit. It is reported to be quite loose and has probably still not had a second ascent. The original description is given below and the line drawn on the photograph is approximate.

- 1-3) 100 m Follow an easy traverse line up and right to the base of a steep crack.
- 4) Climb a short distance up the crack and then move left and go up loose rock to easy ground. Move right along a rising ledge to a belay above a hole.
- 5) 45 m Continue right along a grassy ledge to a large boulder. Move farther right and make a rising traverse to the foot of a short, smooth wall.
- 6) 20 m Climb the wall to easy ground above.
- 7) 15 m Traverse up and back left over grassy rock to a large cave.
- 8) 35 m Use the rope to descend 30 m down and to the left (piton in the upper west corner of the cave) and then climb an easy ledge system to a good belay.
- 9-10) Follow ledges up and left over easy ground.
- 11) 35 m Climb a short corner and then move up and right to a ledge. Traverse up and back left to a cave.
- 12) 15 m Climb steep rock left of the cave to join the east ridge 30 m below the summit.

Opposite: Bruce Keller on the first ascent
of Rough Mix on Heart Slab.