

5. Northeast Face, Left III 5.8

First Ascent: Eric Beck & Steve Roper, 1962

The intimidating northeast face of Warbonnet is surprisingly accessible to climbers. This route takes the steep walls above The Plume, a smaller pinnacle that sits off the eastern side of the main peak. The climb requires good routefinding skills and a high level of commitment; bailing from this climb is difficult.

Approach: The route officially starts behind The Plume, but gaining the start of the climb can be its own adventure. There are two primary ways of gaining this notch. First, and most likely from the Cirque, is to climb the snow/rock gully between the main peak and The Plume. This requires mostly easy snow climbing in early season, and scary loose scrambling on wet rock later in the year. Many parties stray out of the gully proper and climb easy fifth class rock to avoid this mess. The second option is to approach the notch from the south side. This approach takes gullies and ledges above Arrowhead Lake, and although a longer approach from the Cirque, tends to be drier and more solid than the northern approach chute. There are several large right-facing dihedrals above the notch. The route trends right of the rightmost of these big corners.

Beta: A standard rack will be plenty for this climb. Plan on brining a few more shoulder length slings than usual.

P1 **4th Class** From the Warbonnet-Plume col, climb up slabs to a large ledge. 200 feet

P2 **5.7** Climb a small corner near the left end of the ledge, then traverse right on a long, low-angle ramp to the bottom of a chimney. 175 feet

P3 **5.8** Climb up the chimney/crack in a corner to a good belay stance. This stance often has fixed gear/webbing. 160 feet

P4 **5.8** Follow flakes and discontinuous cracks to a small ledge below a large and ugly chimney. 160 feet

P5 **5.6** Traverse up and right along the ledge/crack, climbing down and right where the crack goes vertical and looks hard. 15-20 feet right of here is an easier and obvious crack system, climb it to a stance below a chimney. 120 feet

P6 **5.6** Climb the chimney to ledges above. This takes you to the top of the wall. 180 feet

P7 **3rd Class** Follow slabs to the top. 100 feet

6. Northeast Face, Right III 5.7

First Ascent: Bill Primak, et al 1962

This climb parallels the route of *Northeast Face Left*, but features easier climbing. It is not a classic. Karl Bollinger died in an attempt at this route in 1953 when he fell out of a rope harness system made up of two loops slid over his shoulders like a backpack. He had climbed up to the ridge near the top, over to the west side, and apparently fell. This was near the now-famous feather crest on the Feather Buttress route.

Approach: As per the *Northeast Face, Left*.

Beta: A Standard Rack will suffice.

The Route: This climb heads up slabs to a big ledge below a left-facing corner. Follow this nice corner system of 3-4 pitches, depending on how long you want to make them; ledges abound. From the top of the corner, traverse down a little and left on ledges and some face moves to a big right-facing slot (which is often wet). Climb this slot to the ridge and onto the less steep northwest side of the mountain. Easy ground leads to the summit.

