



Matt climbing *Bent Screw*

short ice smears when weather conditions remain sufficiently cold to allow ice accumulation. The hike to Danger Cliff is a quick 40-minute approach from the vehicle.

During the summer season Portland based climbers usually suffice by visiting Eliot Glacier on the northern scarp of Mt. Hood to hone skills. The glacier offers good and accessible crevasse or serac climbing. For the hard core enthusiast seeking the edge of adventure, visit the glacier from mid-September thru October. Superb ice conditions can be found throughout the Eliot and Coe Glacier region.

Stellar extreme mixed black ice conditions are available on the Eliot Glacier Headwall. This Headwall provides six-to-seven pitches (IV AI3) of classic 60° high altitude alpine ice.

When it is extremely cold there was rumored to be a small selection of ice smears on a steep bluff immediately south of the I-84 freeway 6-10 miles east of The Dalles, Oregon. Search and you will find.

### INTERNET WEBSITES

Internet websites provide high resolution meteorological short-range weather ensemble forecasting and are able to give reasonably accurate data on weather patterns 0-48 hours lead time, with general broad-range forecasting up to seven days in advance. Check the link to the Doppler radar, which displays very localized weather radar information in real-time (1-2 minutes) using a display of six or more image layers which include precipitation, velocity, structure, etc. These websites also have links to satellite photographic images showing current conditions available on a 24-hour basis. Check various university websites for links to jet stream observations, or atmospheric weather and climate data displays covering the Pacific Northwest.

NOAA - National Oceanic and Aeronautic Administration

<http://www.weather.gov/>

## SOUTH SIDE OF THE GORGE

The ice climbing beta begins with Tunnel Vision, at the west end of the Gorge along the south side of I-84 freeway. This initial ice climb of interest is located on an east-facing bluff immediately east of a prominent outcrop of rock where a short railroad track tunnel slices through the scarp. A minor roadside viewpoint is located here for the west-bound freeway tourists who stop to take in a scenic view the Gorge. This promontory is commonly referred to as Tunnel Point. Both Rooster Rock and Crown Point are visible to the east of this site.

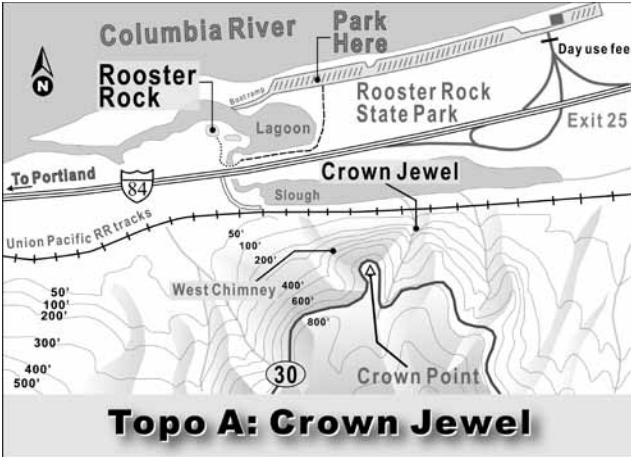
### 1. Tunnel Vision

*Length: 120' WI 3*

Park on the south side of I-84 approximately ¼ mile east of Tunnel Point where the railroad tracks cut through an outcrop of rock along the freeway. Walk east until you see the ice smear on an east facing bluff. Left of Tunnel Vision in the forest is an easier ice climb called *Wind Tunnel* WI 2 which was also climbed by the same ad-



Forrest Kaye on *Organic Mist*



Wayne leading the stellar Life Shavings

venturers.

---

## CROWN JEWEL AREA

---

Crown Point is one of the great visual capstones of the Columbia Gorge with a nearby stream that forms the most prominent ice route in the western Gorge.

### 2. Crown Jewel (aka Crown Point)

*Length: 300' II WI 3*

A super classic ice climb in the Columbia Gorge. This popular and moderately difficult ice face is quite obvious from the highway and holds a spectacular position for all to see. Because of numerous parties ascending this route, it is wise to make an early start. Even though it takes a bit longer it is best to park your vehicle at Rooster Rock state park (exit #25) and walk over to the ice climb. There are several 'No Parking' signs on the freeway exit ramp shoulder so beware of the risk if you consider parking along the roadside shoulder. The approach takes about 15 minutes.

This two-pitch climb has a fair bit of moisture dripping through the ice so prepare to get a bit wet. The ice face is wide enough for several climbing parties to utilize the smear at the same time without problem. After the second pitch the ice climb eases to a large amphitheater where you can either rappel or continue up the easy gully to the scenic highway and the overlook, and then descend down a steep dirt ravine west of the Vista House parking lot.

### 3. Latourell Falls area

*Length: 35' WI 2*

Some minor but limited ice bouldering left of the main waterfall.

---

## WEST BRIDAL VEIL AREA

---

The ice formations west of Bridal Veil develop at a wind sheltered site that offer multiple ice routes at one central location. From I-84 Bridal Veil exit #28 drive west on scenic U.S. 30 for approximately two miles passing the Bridal Veil Falls state park site. Park at a large dirt pullout on the north side of the road just before a residential ranch home. The climbs here often remain climbable days after other ice smears have collapsed. The ice climbs are as follows from right to left (west to east).

### 4. Cruiser

*Length: 100' WI 2 (WI3+ on 2<sup>nd</sup> half)*

Facing west-*ish* Cruiser is a nice little hidden ice lead offering a very thick low angle formation on the lower half. The second half is usually running with plenty of water which makes leading

Bill Price leading *Waterheater*



Matt on *Waterpipe*



Adam on *Waterpipe*



it far more challenging (WI3+).

**5. Waterpipe (aka The Column)**

*Length: 90' WI 3+*

This is the right-most route immediately above the road. A short, steep climb with a large volume of water. The Column needs an extended cold spell to fully develop. Another ice formation exists uphill around the corner to the right, but it is a minor short strenuous lead.

**6. Bent Screw**

*Length: 150' WI 3*

One of the first to form and one of the last to fall apart, because the water source is from seeps and not stream flow. Bent Screw provides very good steep plastic ice. Near the top of the lead it is usually a bit moist or slightly muddy.

Considering the minor drawbacks Bent Screw is still the *pièce-de-résistance* ice smear in this

