

# LA MONTAGNE DU COQ

Personal notes, sandbags, death traps and other suggestions, by Pascal Simard, 2018



## Long Mixed Climbs Sector



4 – Avec pas de glace 5 – Va vite (à terminer) 6 – Un projet d'envergure 7 – Passer un sapin 8 – Poulaigle 9 – De bonne heure su'l

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### **(1) Les Trois Vices 25m 3+ à 5- (several alternatives)**

The area completely on the left of Coq Mountain offers several distinct and interesting lines throughout the season.

### **(2) Le Coq à l'âne 80m 4-/M3**

The easier left line of this sector. Take the flow that follows a dihedral and heads under an overhang. Bolted belay. The second pitch traverses for 20m to the right on mixed ground and joins Case O'beer to the top.

### **(3) Case O'Beer 80m 3**

The main waterfall of the area. Very reliable, but on the other hand, be very careful at the end of the season because it is known to fall all at once! Rappel down to the right. There is a bolted belay on climber's right at about 60m, and slings on trees at the top.



Case O'Beer, photo Yann Troutet, Guide des cascades de glace et voies mixtes du Québec



1 Les Trois Vices, photo Yann Troutet, Guide des cascades de glace et voies mixtes du Québec

### **(4) Avec pas de glace M3 R**

This climb is located in a gully 20m to the right of Case O'Beer. It is an excellent option, easy mixed and can be done in all conditions. A first rope length of 60m leads you to a large pine tree when exiting left on a short ramp. A short second pitch finds you at the top after a battle with a tree in a short dihedral.

*The following climbs 5, 6 and 7 are accessible by a 4th class ramp protected by a fixed rope (2017), the towing express (A).*

*For climbs 6 and 7, two abseils with 60m ropes bring you back to the towing express ledge.*

### **(5) Le va vite M4**

The first pitch starts in a crack in front of a small tree after a walking a short section of the towing express traverse. Belay in a coniferous group of trees after about 30m. The second pitch, look for a dihedral slightly to the left, go around a small roof to the climber's right and finish on a ledge with a large tree, 30m. Third length to be completed.

### **(6) Un projet d'envergure M6 R**

Fantastic long mixed climb, alpine style and sometimes committing. Unique in the area and an excellent line to test your skills for the long alpine mixed routes of Western Canada. The climb consists of 4 pitches, but the first one is easily avoided by using the towing express.

L1- M6; A rather difficult start, in a crack with an engaging mantel (piton) on a ledge when there is no ice. Continue to the left in a snowy dihedral until reaching the towing express ledge.

L2- M6+; Beautiful pitch. Follow the wide crack and dihedral system facing right to the first roof/alcove. Go around it by the right, a bolt protects the thin ice vertical section that leads to thicker ice under the huge roof and hanging cedar. Possible to make a belay in the dihedral on the left, but recommended to continue the ice section traversing under the cedar and roof to a bolted belay.

L3- M4; Very enjoyable dihedral. At its end, go right by a cedar to a bolted belay under the roof above.

L4- M6; Go around the roof traversing right and protected by two bolts, re-establish on the large suspended cedar and head to the top with an easy slab, but without substantial protection.



(6) The discreet start!

### **(7) Passer un sapin M5 R/X**

Very nice mixed itinerary, especially the first rope two lengths.

L1- M3; Follow the left facing dihedral at the end of the towing express to a belay on a small cedar (slings).

L2- M5; Some options are available to you...

A) Continue in the dihedral, but before being forced to traverse the left, make an improbable exit out up and right to reach over the dihedral using good cracks. Once on the committing but easy slab traverse to the left to join the belay on the last fir tree.

B) Continue to follow the dihedral which gradually traverses left to join a belay on the last small fir tree.

C) Traverse left early to reach L3 of the climb Projet d'envergure.

L3- M5 X; A step up from the belay and traverse right to reach and overcome a bulge with a thin curtain of ice reaching an unprotected slab.

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### **(8) Poulaigle 4– R**

Full ice climb but thin and often unprotectable. On the other hand, when in conditions, it offers a unique route in the centre of the main wall, at a relatively moderate level. The start is made by a right leaning ramp, generally without ice for the first few meters.



### **(9) De bonne heure su'l piton 4+/M7 R**

In my opinion, the classic of the crag. Requires ideal conditions as well as an arsenal of techniques and experience to succeed. Shares the start with Poulaigle.

L1-4/M5 R; Overcome the difficult and uncomfortable ramp that leans right. Then, in good conditions follow the thin ice to join a bolted belay at a ledge to the right at the base of the big dihedral and over a struggling cedar. In thin/mixed conditions, at the end of the ramp, it is possible to go straight up on a series of frozen blocks, small scrubby cedars and mini dihedrals. The climbing is a little more difficult and the protection is rather rare in some places.

L2-Some options are available to you....

- A) Take the dihedral directly above the belay, and make an intermediate belay (sling in place) before joining the final dihedral, magnificent, 4+/M6
- B) From the belay, go down one step and traverse left to reach the second pitch of Poulaigle, 3
- C) From the belay, take a step down and make a long unprotected traverse to a birch tree a little higher. Then come back right, follow a dihedral and go straight up to the gear belay at the base of the final dihedral, M3 R

L3-M7; The crux pitch and the most beautiful. Follow the icy chimney and exit left with a small mixed overhang. The belay (pitons, slings) is on the left in the cedars.

*Rappel down the climb with two 60m ropes, passing by the birch tree in the middle of the wall, directly under the final dihedral.*

### **((10) Les trois font la paire 3+**

A little 3 meter ice pillar perched in the middle of nowhere. Further to the right of the wall, you will find a section of ice partially enclosed in a large chimney. Climb this section and continue to the trees higher up to make a belay. A snow corridor/gully is on the left. Go down and cross it in class 4 to come back over on the main face. Follow a left leaning ramp and make a belay on small cedars. You'll see the short ice pillar. A belay and rap sling is on the cedar at the top of the pillar.

### **(11) La discrete 3**

I think this route is the same start as Les trois font la paire but continues straight to the top following a tongue of ice in 2- which is therefore generally snow-covered.

### **Equipment**

A standard rack for mixed climbs at Montagne du Coq includes:

- Single set of cams, from 00 to camalot #2
- Set of nuts, with micros
- Some knife blade, lost arrow and baby angle pitons.
- Ice screws 10mm, 13mm
- Spectre ice pitons
- A few 24" slings and explosive draws
- 60m ropes