

Instead of heading to the false summit as per Alan Kane, head into valley between Sarrail and Foch and take scree / slab / snow ledges on top of a “cliff handrail” from an unnamed tarn, to the col between the first false summit (Kane’s) and the second false summit, up the “dragon’s back”. This route should avoid most, if not ALL the 5th class down climbing between the false summits, is shorter and more direct and likely more fun as a result.

The only fly in the ointment is the steep slabs and snow which necessitate taking *steel*/ crampons (glacier) and an ax, adding some weight to the pack. This mountain should only be attempted when very DRY.



[Alternate ascent in purple avoids most, if not ALL difficult downclimbing from the first false summit to the second one.]



*[Looking back from ascent to true summit down “dragon’s back”. Note the snow crossing - definitely want glacier crampons and ax for this section.]*



*[This angle from near the col makes it look almost too easy! I doubt it’s quite this straightforward but this is the photo that has me willing to ‘waste a day’ trying this alternate route. Note the snow slope - take crampons and ax in case this is glacier ice.]*



*[From the ascent to the second false summit along the “dragon’s back”. Angle looks very reasonable, only question is the transition to the ridge but previous photo makes that look almost trivial. Note the “handrail” cliffs that you stick above to help find the correct ramp. The handrail cliff band should be obvious from the lake below.]*



*[Photo from Mount Sarrail showing the tarn and the ramp route over the handrail cliffs. Avoids all the “X” difficult sections of ridge between the two false summits.]*