

June. Later in June, they became the third team ever to climb El Capitan (*The Nose*) and Half Dome (Regular Northwest Face) in under 24 hours, making the linkup in 23:27. Mike Carville and Florine climbed *The Shield* (VI 5.9 A3+) last August in 18:25, just missing the existing record by five minutes.

On the new route scene, the North Face of Lower Cathedral Rock has seen a flurry of activity. A dozen steep, and slab, sport routes have gone up. Scott Burk's *Counterparts* (5.13c), a five-pitch climb, hails as the most difficult route in this area known as "Mecca." Other classics such as *Peasants* (5.11a), *The King and I* (5.11d), and *Empire* (5.13a) have also been established by first ascent parties such as Al Swanson, Steve Gerberding, and Cade Lloyd

On Sentinel Rock, Scott Cosgrove and Bob Gaines established *How the West Was Won* (V 5.12b), an all-free route that climbs the old Robbins solo classic *In Cold Blood* (V 5.8 A4). The climbing varies from side pull/underclimbing sequences to "a smooth ass-kicking off-width," and was climbed in June. On the Middle Cathedral Perry Beckham and Steve Sutton put up *The Grand Wazoo*, a five-pitch 5.11+ route that begins after the second pitch of the *Birchhoff-Williams*.

In Tuolumne Meadows, a stagnation of difficult new routes was broken by Ron Kauk, who added three new 5.13s to the area's new total of 17. *Broken Arrow* (5.13b) is a thin crack near Olmstead Point. On Medlicott, Kauk rap-bolted a long-standing ground-up project of John Bachar's, producing *Peace* (5.13c). When asked about taking over the route from rival Bachar, Kauk responded that he merely wanted to climb the route. Bachar had been projecting on the route for over seven years.

STEVE SCHNEIDER

*El Capitan, New Route.* It was reported that Steve Gerberding, Scott Stowe and Lori Reddle put up a new A5 route on El Capitan in November. The route climbs 14 pitches from Lay Lady Lay Ledge to the rim. The route took 10 days and features a crux pitch involving extensive hooking, Bird Beaks, and two copperheads. (*Rock and Ice* 72)

*El Capitan, Cleanup of the Nose.* The Conservation Committee of the AAC provided a generous grant to a group of climbers from Prescott College in Arizona to clean the Nose Route of El Capitan and to educate climbers about conservation ethics on the big walls. The team was coordinated by AAC member Eve Tallman and included six Prescott students (Eric Adolphi, AAC member Matt Menard, Amos Whiting, Mike Ho, Steve Crillo, and Josh Cross), Yosemite climbers Christopher Trudeau and Constantine Severls, and climbing photographer Bill Hatcher, who provided photos and a press release to several international climbing magazines. Some of the team mem-



bers collected trash from the base of the route, and then ascended to Dolt Tower before being hindered by foul weather. Meanwhile, other team members fixed lines up the East Ledges and collected trash from the summit. The "summit team" then fixed lines down to Camp VI and hauled several haulbags full of biohazard waste and garbage to the summit. In all, two dozen bags of trash were excavated from the cracks on the Camp VI ledge and the summit; the bags were shuttled by the climbers to the "true summit" of El Cap and were removed later in the season by the National Park Service. Equipment for the cleanup was generously donated by A5 Adventures, Mountain Gear, Patagonia, PMI-Petzl, Sterling Ropes, and Rock Exotica.

Tallman, Adolphi and Menard presented a draft of a new Yosemite Climbing brochure at the AAC annual meeting in Oakland, and completed the text for a modified *Big Wall Climbers Brochure* in the spring. The brochure details conservation and safety considerations, includes bivouac information and promotes a "leave no trace" ethic. Printing costs for the brochure were underwritten by the AAC grant.

EVE TALLMAN

*El Capitan, Winds of Change, Second Ascent.* Grega Lajen and Iztok Mihev made a convoluted second ascent of *Winds of Change* (VI 5.10 A5) in six days in September. They spent three days fixing ropes on the first six pitches; after three days of rest, they started the final push. At the 10th belay they discovered they had lost all water when their haulbags burst. They rappelled to the ground, rested, then hiked to the top of El Cap. They rappelled down to the 10th belay and climbed the upper part of the route in one 20-hour push.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planinski zveza Sloveniji*

*Ribbon Falls Amphitheater, Reason Beyond Insanity.* On October 12, Canadian Sean Easton and I started up the previously unclimbed 1,200-foot main wall of the Ribbon Falls Amphitheater. Three days earlier we had climbed and fixed ropes on pitches one and two, first climbed by Sean and partner during the fall of 1994. The route followed obvious features to a ledge system below a huge roof approximately two-thirds up the wall. Two very steep pitches led through the roof and deposited us at the base of the upper headwall. The first headwall pitch was the crux of the climb. Sean aided this beautiful micro-nailing, heading and hooking pitch in an all-day push, finally drilling the belay by headlamp. Two more steep and incredibly exposed pitches led us through the headwall and to the top of the wall. After an hour of hellish bushwhacking we found the Rim Trail and eventually descended the East Ledges descent of El Cap. The climb is of extraordinary