

onto new terrain, joining the *Dragon* again a pitch higher, just beyond a rotten yellow band that forms the original route's aid crux. Easier free climbing led to the *Dragon* exit chimneys and juncture with the *Stratosfear* route, with four more moderate crack pitches to the top. The free route involves about 600 feet of new climbing in 1,800 feet overall.

We took four days car-to-car, most of which was spent hauling, carrying loads or drinking wine on our portledge. The main challenges lay in route finding and sparse protection on the steep, intricate wall and in protecting our ropes from the sharply fractured rock. I had climbed the original *Dragon Route* in winter three years earlier with Mark Synnott; Kennan had never been on the Painted Wall before. Other than what I remembered from my previous ascent, we climbed all pitches onsight, using no aid for progress, inspection or placing protection. We placed no bolts. Seven pitons were left fixed and about ten 5.11 sections were encountered. This being a wall climb, we suggest a Yosemite-style rating of new wave 5.9+.

Although we left all our pins fixed, future parties are advised to carry a few knifeblades because the Painted Wall sheds flakes, ledges and fixed gear. The rock that is not loose or fractured is generally flint-hard and excellent for climbing. A good selection of modern micro-gear, wired nuts and long slings is advised; the Kor's Roof pitch requires several four-to five-inch pieces. We led on double 10-mm lines and though we had no serious mishaps, by the end of the climb we had cut or damaged three of the five ropes we carried. A detailed topo, full of helpful beta and gratuitous names for prominent features, is available by sending your firstborn daughter to Kennan Harvey.

JEFF ACHEY, *unaffiliated*

The Serpent, Second Ascent. In November, Jeff Ofsanko and I were looking for adventure about a week after Jeff Achey and Kennan Harvey did the first ascent of a free variation to the *Dragon* on the Painted Wall. With Achey's topo, we found our way to the top in four days of wild climbing. The climbing is excellent although a bit more serious than they noted. Even relative to other climbs in the notorious canyon, we felt it deserved an "X" rating. Harvey and Achey placed the existing pins from tricky free stances, so not all the placements are perfect. Carrying a few pitons is mandatory. Getting dangerously offroute would be easy, so putting a bolt kit in the bottom of the bag is good insurance.

TOPHER DONAHUE

WYOMING

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Grand Teton, New Routes, and Other Climbs. On the east face of the Grand Teton, in July, Zac Martin and I climbed *The Golden Arête* (V 5.11d AI2) with 15 bolts and *Offspring* (III 5.11 A1) with four bolts and three points of aid. Both routes are located to the right of the *Smith Otterbody Route*. The routes went in ground-up with a hand drill. *The Golden Arête* was pushed to the summit in 16 hours via the *Otterbody* and Ford Couloir routes after spending two short days on the first three pitches. In August, I soloed the *Crystal Tower* (III 5.10) on the Grand Teton. This overhanging tower of golden rock with a white serrated summit is located at the base of the Underhill Ridge. This six-pitch route is similar in quality and difficulty to *Caveat Emptor* and is located in the heart of the Tetons. In September, I soloed a new

route on the west face of the Exum Ridge of the Grand Teton. *Got to Kill Captain Stupid* (III 5.9+) climbs the steep wall above the Wall Street Couloir to the left of the Jackson-Rickert at a surprisingly moderate 5.9, joins the West Face of the Exum for its 5.7 offwidth, then finishes in the chockstone-capped chimney just right of the Pownall-Gilkey exit.

In Death Canyon, Zac Martin and I climbed *Braeburn's Corner* (5.11a, five pitches) on the Omega Buttress across the gully from *Ship's Prow Pillar*. Also in Death Canyon, Zac and a partner put in a long Grade V on the south side of the canyon in a two-day effort.

JIM BEYER

WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS

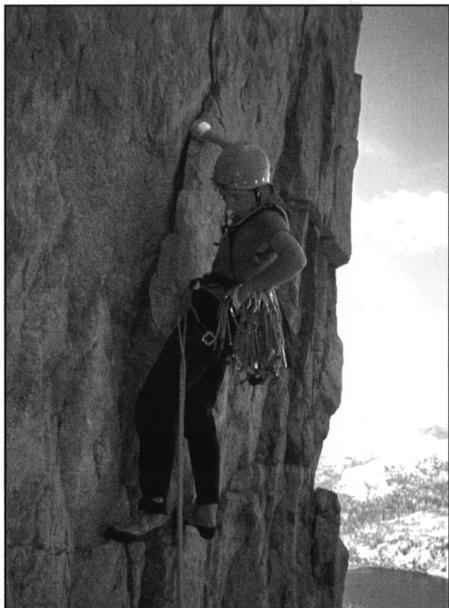
Cathedral Peak, South Tower Direct. The spectacular 1,200-foot face of Cathedral Peak rises above Cathedral Lake, just seven miles from the Dickenson Park Trailhead on the Lander side of the range. Until Chris McNamara and I climbed the South Tower of this 12,166-foot peak in a long day, the only route on it was *Orion's Reflection*, a Grade V 5.10 A3 done by Fred Beckey and Jim Kantzler in 1979 with one bivy, during which they saw, guess what, Orion's reflection in the lake below. Our route took several tries in the vain hope of freeclimbing a line somewhere up the perfect Wind River gneiss, but the lack of vertical crack systems and frequency of horizontal ceilings made us resort to a fair amount of aid on the upper wall. Our *South Tower Direct* (V 5.11b A2) starts up the center of the left of the two towers that are split by a massive couloir on the upper face. Near the top, we veered toward the left side to avoid more overhangs after a strenuous pair of pitches with multiple ceilings. We topped out just as a thunderstorm was closing in.

Spending a week camped at Cathedral Lake, Chris and I also climbed a Grade III 5.10 free route up the lower-angle, 800-foot South Buttress of Cathedral, as well as a four-pitch 5.10 new route with Randy Spurrier up the 500-foot south face of what we called Isthmus Dome, just north of the narrow isthmus between Cathedral and Middle Lakes.

GALEN ROWELL

Mt. Hooker, Brain Larceny, Second Ascent, and Buffalo Head, East Face, The Skeptic. Cameron Teague and I made the second ascent of *Brain Larceny* (Donahue-Harvey, 1994) free in one day on August 25. The grade was confirmed at V 5.12R. The line follows good rock with pitches fairly consistently at 5.11 and 5.12 and contains no fixed gear. We used no route info other than a matchbox-sized, multi-xeroxed photograph from *Rock & Ice* No. 82.

Buffalo Head is the northernmost tower of the ridge between South Fork Lakes and



Kath Pyke on pitch 5 of *The Skeptic*.

CAMERON TEAGUE