

Wasakie Pass. Cameron Teague and I made the first ascent of *The Skeptic* (IV 5.11, seven pitches, 900') on September 27. The route takes a line up the center of the east face that gains a major left-facing dihedral before following a 200-foot featured wall to the summit. The route was completed with no prior scoping in one day. Descent is via slabs to the southwest and a short rappel into the gully.

KATH PYKE, *United Kingdom*

Point 12,612', East Face, The Illness. In August, 1988, Franziska Garrett, James Garrett and Fred Beckey traveled to the seldom-visited St. Lawrence Basin of the Wind River Range to attempt the east face of Point 12,612' on the Wolverine. James and Franziska spent the night at the top of pitch 5. They climbed two pitches in the morning and then descended. The three of them then climbed the beautiful ridge (complete with a gendarme rappel) on Saddleback's north face (5.8, 1,800') the next day.

Then, in the summer of 1997, Franziska Garrett, James Garrett and Kris Pietryga returned to Wolverine. This time, equipped with ample aid gear and portaledges, James and Kris made it to pitch 8, whereupon the weather turned bad just as Kris pulled off a huge block, nearly hitting James. They descended.

Finally, in August, 1999, James Garrett, Fred Beckey, Ryan Hokanson, John Chilton and Kris Pietryga traveled to the St. Lawrence Basin once again. Kris and his friend, Fisherman Sam, fixed the first two pitches and carried huge loads for us. In the next two days, Ryan, James and Johnny made the first complete ascent of *The Illness* (IV 5.10 A3, nine pitches) on the east face, with Fred providing spiritual advisement at camp. The route consists of nine full 200-meter pitches, and requires some thin nailing and a few heads. We used a horse packer to get our stuff to within three miles of the wall, well worth the exorbitant prices charged; contact the Ft. Washakie Chamber of Commerce. This climb exists on the Wind River Indian Reservation so restrictions may apply.

RYAN HOKANSON

Squaretop, AC/DC. To the left of the great bay in the east face of Squaretop, the wall forms a long fin that ends in a tower. From Granite Lake our route and the formation are quite obvious. We called the tower "Squaretower" and our route on the face AC/DC. It is an excellent, varied and difficult route. I first tried it with Mike Weis and Carol Kacza about a million years ago, then returned with my son Dan last summer for another attempt. He and I were stormed off, but we climbed gullies and short headwalls left of the tower and reached the summit in a fun way.

In general, the route ascends the south face of the tower, starting from an obvious grassy ledge at the base of the steep upper wall. The approach is not trivial, and we roped up both times prior to reaching the ledge. Careful route finding and better climbers might avoid that necessity.

From the right end of the ledge, follow cracks and chimneys on the right side of the formation, then trend left across the middle of the tower, aiming for the crack and corner on the left edge of the wall capped by an enormous triangular roof. At the base of the roof, traverse right about half a rope-length out to the east edge, and from there, follow cracks to the summit. By the way, the triangular roof has a very wide crack splitting its right side (five or six inches?) that will make a very exciting pitch, which we were fortunately not prepared to tackle.

I would recommend this climb, and future parties should be very aware of the loose block on pitch 2 if they choose that crack. One can climb over it or do the crack/flake system to the left (which is what we did the first time) but the right crack is outstanding and hard, and the

second should definitely honk that deathblock.

I lost my watch with wedding ring attached somewhere on the third pitch. Maybe it will turn up one day. Ten pitches (some short) to the summit, an 80-foot rap to the notch, two pitches to summit plateau (some 5.7 on the first pitch). We'd rate the climb IV 5.10. Good pro, recommended. Harder variations are quite apparent. Descend east gullies to Granite Lake. Catch trout, eat dinner.

ANDY CARSON

MONTANA

Glacier National Park

Glacier National Park, Various Activity. The 1998-'99 ice climbing season was largely a feast of leftovers in Glacier National Park. Routes that had been on the table for years but were not as choice as the rest finally got devoured. Many of these routes were done early season and are included in last year's journal. Later in the season, I skied in to the southwest face of Cannon Mountain and soloed *A Walk in the Park*, a nice 900-foot WI3 just to the right of *Lost in a Crowd*. I returned to Cannon with Julie Vance to establish *Sunken Battleship*, a 350-foot slabby mixed line to the left of *Cannon Barrel*.

On the south side of Cannon Mountain lays the Hidden Creek drainage. Through a series of scouting missions, local climbers discovered a reasonable approach (only five hours) into this narrow valley. Just below the level of the lake, the canyon opens into a virtual cornucopia of water ice. Here, partnered with Blase Reardon and later with Jim Earl, I climbed a total of eight WI3s and 4s up to three pitches long. Due to the high density of routes and the relative lack of climbers in Hidden Creek, thinking of names for all of that ice seemed pointless. Suffice to say that there are still plenty of hidden morsels for the FA-starved ice climber.

KIRBY SPANGLER, *unaffiliated*

Mt. Edwards, Various Activity. On the left side of Mount Edwards' north face is a large triangular buttress. At mid-height, this buttress is dissected by a distinctive snowy ledge. From this ledge, water ice seems to ooze from deep within the mountain to form spindly 'sicles and thin curtains that descend the steep rock to the snow slopes 500 to 800 feet below.

In the winter of 1996-'97, Jim Earl, Kelly Cordes and Chris Trimble began the quest to reach this ledge. They climbed three pitches up the rightmost (and longest) line on the buttress but failed to attain the ledge. They named their incomplete route *Baby Semler* in honor of one of Glacier Park's finest. For three years, this was the extent of activity on the buttress.

With Y2K, fat ice and motivation returned. Earl and two others attempted a line just to the left of *Baby Semler*. Again they climbed three pitches but fell short of the elusive ledge. Sticking to the theme, Jim dubbed this line *Holy Moses* after another park ranger. Two days later, Jim was again making the four-hour slog to the bottom of the buttress, this time accompanied by me. We climbed two pitches up yet another line, but due to heavy snowfall and increasing avalanche danger, we opted to retreat. (We refrained from naming this incomplete route because we knew that another party had been attempting it as well.)

After that first trip up to the buttress, all of those almost-done routes were all that I could think about. With Jim gone to Ecuador for a month, I was left scrambling for a partner. I con-