

pig pillar. Both routes climb the buttress (what we call the North Pillar) west of the Plunge Pillar and are mostly 5.10, with bits harder.

JONATHAN COPP, *unaffiliated*

North Chasm View Wall, Black Planet, Second Ascent and New Variation. Over the period of March 15-25, I left my home in Gunnison and soloed what I believe to be the second ascent of Jim Beyer's route, *Black Planet*, in Black Canyon National Monument. This route was established on North Chasm View Wall, solo, in 1991. Beyer's topo listed it as 5.11 A4d, using his unique rating system. The route was established with no bolts or rivets. Sadly, my ascent resulted in the addition of one bolt to the 12th belay. I found the 5.11 pitch to present only five feet of difficult climbing, but other pitches contained mandatory and spicy 5.10 climbing. The crux aid pitch presented a serious stretch of number 1 and 2 heads with ramp-fall potential. I am experienced with the modern A4 grade in Yosemite, and feel this route is graded fairly. No one will go up there and say it is not A4 or A4+.

I spent one day skiing my load in four miles to the north rim and descending the Cruise Gully, and the next day sat out a snow storm. The following day I began up the climb. En route I established a total of six and a half new pitches, the first an A3- variation to Beyer's first A4 pitch. I did not wish to avoid the A4; my variation just seemed a bit more obvious to me. Five of the new pitches are completely original and three are significant variations to existing pitches (that's how I came up with the six and a half figure). The total hole count for my new pitches is five: two rivets and three enhanced hooks. I spent eight nights on the wall, with five and a half days climbing, and three days spent in my ledge because of stormy weather.

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WYOMING

Grand Teton National Park

Prospectors Mountain, Northeast Face Direct, Previously Underreported. The Northeast Face Direct route (IV 5.11a A1) went up in ground-up traditional style over two days in September, 1999, with only two bolts placed (on lead). The climbing is varied and largely follows the path of least resistance up the right side of Prospectors Mountain's major feature, the big orange face. Our route ascends the northeast face on a wall to the right of the Lynn Hill and Yvon Chouinard route. Climbing this route was challenging and extremely fun, with a wide variety of climbing on very high-quality rock.

Once at the base, Brendon Danon and I simply set our objective as the steep orange face high above and began climbing the path of least resistance up to a big ledge. There are several distinct features that define the lower half of the route, and we chose to begin climbing just to the right of a mossy and steep drainage. Six pitches gained us the ledge, from which we headed up and right to the most obvious weakness that leads to the right side of Prospectors' face. A roof system and some cracks are visible above. Pitch nine is one of the best and climbs out right through hand and fist jams, then pulls over a small roof and continues to a hanging belay below a huge roof. From this stance, the route changes character to steep face climbing, including the crux, which was done largely on aid (I placed two bolts on lead; it will probably go free at between 5.11d and 5.12b). More quality climbing gains the