

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.

BRENT ARMSTRONG, *unaffiliated*

## 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

right skyline, which presents a four-inch crack, boulders, and small towers and finishes with a perfect 5.10a finger crack up a sheer wall. One more short pitch leads to the summit.

The descent from the summit follows the gully to the left for a long way. We were in the dark without headlamps, and the descent, complete with multiple dark rappels and stuck ropes, was treacherous. This route is outstanding and apart from the two bolts on the crux pitch goes completely clean with great anchors for belays. For teams planning to attempt this route, start early and move fast, as there are a number of challenging elements to finding the start, reaching the top, and, most importantly, negotiating the gully if you are short on daylight.

ZACK MARTIN, *unaffiliated*

*Teton Range, Various Activity.* The summer of 2000 was another exceptionally dry one in the Teton Range. Many of the big alpine routes on the Grand Teton were essentially dry rock climbs by midsummer, a condition that has become all too common during the last decade. The *Black Ice Couloir*, a local indicator of this global warming, has melted back significantly over the past few years. Fixed pitons, once within easy reach along this classic climb, are now difficult to clip simply because a substantial portion of the ice is no longer there. The dry conditions and hot summer days made for excellent climbing on the north side of the Enclosure, however, with *Emotional Rescue*, as well as the rarely done Lowe Route, receiving multiple ascents.

Mt. Moran has received renewed attention from Colorado climbers Jim Beyer and John Kelley during the past few years. An article elsewhere in this journal details their routes, including last summer's Kelley-Beyer route (VI 5.12a A0) on the initial 1,500-foot rock wall of the South Buttress.

One highlight of the summer was the recovery of a note left by legendary climber Jack Durrance and partner Michael Davis in a sealed glass bottle during their first ascent of the Grand Teton's Northwest Ridge on August 8-10, 1938. This note was found at the pair's first bivouac site, located just below the level of the Valhalla Traverse, by climbing rangers Tom Kimbrough and David Bywater. Still legible after 62 years, the note described the conditions that the pair had encountered and their feelings as they prepared to spend the night. Found with the note was a small stamp with the symbol of the Dartmouth Mountaineering Club plainly visible.

The winter season of 2000-2001 was marked by especially treacherous avalanche conditions. Beginning in the late fall, low temperatures and a thin snowpack contributed to the formation of weak, faceted layers that persisted throughout the winter and spring. These atrocious conditions no doubt kept many aspirant winter mountaineers out of the range. The Grand Teton had only one known ascent during the winter period. On January 22, the popular rock climb on Disappointment Peak known as the *Open Book* was climbed by Hans Johnstone and Rolando Garibotti. Two days later, Johnstone and Stephen Koch made the first winter ascent of *Sunshine Daydream* in Death Canyon. This climb is rarely done in the summertime and includes crack climbing up to 5.11. The Enclosure Couloir/Northwest Ridge was climbed for the second time in winter, by Christian Beckwith and Evan Howe, on January 28. (Beckwith climbed the Enclosure Couloir four days earlier with Jeff Hollenbaugh.) Finally, the Direct South Buttress of Mt. Moran was climbed in its entirety on March 5-7, an accomplishment detailed in a full story earlier in this journal.

RENNY JACKSON