

several vertical steps of aerated and chandeliered ice, the longest about 20 meters. We rappelled off trees on ledges just west of the climb, then meandered back to our camp, enjoying the spectacular evening. The next day we moseyed over to *Feather Woman Falls* (III WI3, 90m) and climbed a line just left of center on ramps and short corners. Later that week, Don Scharfe and Jandy Cox climbed another line just right of center on the same falls, then, on their hike out, climbed *Beaver Medicine Falls* (II WI3 55m). Both falls had probably not been previously climbed.

The cold, dry weather and low avalanche hazard continued through the month, providing ideal climbing conditions, and people began repeating some of the many new routes done in recent years. The two gully climbs on Mt. Brown's big northwest face became downright crowded, as over a dozen parties enjoyed the routes' short approaches, negligible bush-whacking and long stretches of fun, easy ice. No one managed to climb high enough to run out of ice or to summit massive Mt. Brown, though Brandon French soloed to within roughly 500 meters of the top in the left gully. At the same time, Gabe Boisseau and Chris Gibbisch established *Cerebral Aqueduct* (III WI5 M?, 60m) just right of *Controlled Burn* on the Brainstem Wall in Snyder Basin. The route ascends rock to a free-hanging curtain, then climbs a mixed ramp to a WI5 finish. It is visible in the guide book photo of the wall. Unfortunately, the great climbing conditions meant for scary avalanche hazard when snow finally arrived in early December, so climbing activity ceased for some time.

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*Mt. Edwards, North Face, Chaos Theory.* On previous trips in previous years, I often found myself drooling hopelessly as I looked up at a very elegant unclimbed line of mixed rock and ice on the north face of Mt. Edwards. This year, because of an early arctic blast and nearly nonexistent snow pack, most of the melt-freeze-dependent routes on Edwards were not more than a few smears and icicles scattered across the walls. But our hopes were realized in March, after a few heavy dumps were followed by increasing temperatures. We knew the conditions could only be improving.

On a high-pressure weekend, Chris Gibbisch and I skied up to Snyder Basin for a better look, and possible attempt, at the line I was twitching for. We skied across the upper lake and up the initial snow slopes to the base of the established route, *Six Pack*. From there, we simul-climbed the first 600 feet of *Six Pack* to where our route started.

The first pitch was up a flaring chimney with fun dry tooling and sporty gear; it ended with a long section of one- to three-inch ice and a hanging belay. Next, we climbed up a lens/cone to the base of a large overhanging dangler that creaked and moaned like an old farmhouse door. After sneaking up the acoustical dagger, another 165 feet of ramping WI3-4 led to the base of an orgasmically beautiful, blue, freestanding WI4-5 pillar that ended at a luxurious snow ledge. This snow ledge marked the end of our route, *Chaos Theory* (IV 5.10 WI5+, 1,100'), and we happily threaded our way down the wall to join our friends, Kevin McCracken and Patrick Knoll, who had just climbed a new variation on *Six Pack* (WI4+, 1,600') a couple of hundred feet to our left.

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