

SOUTH FORK OF SHOSHONE RIVER

South Fork Ice Routes. In April 1999, while flying over the South Fork near Cody, I discovered a new arena of ice. A day later we began the epic approach, six miles into the Shoshone Wilderness. We named the first and largest amphitheater Garden of the Gods; it hosts one of the largest concentration of icefalls on the South Fork. Andy Cowan and I spent two days climbing in the area, establishing new routes in the Garden of the Gods and Garden of Eden amphitheaters. All routes were between WI3 and WI5+. The remoteness and commitment level kept me out of the area for another year. I returned in January 2001 with Solon Linton, Kristine and Cole of Missoula, and Mike Snyder from Cody and established more great, pure lines. The climbing is some of the best I have ever done, and the ice is just plain big! During the past two trips the following routes have been established: Sucker Love (WI5), Forbidden Fruit (WI4), Redemption (WI5), Revelations (WI5), Wet Dreams (WI5), and Tales from the Crypt (WI3). The climbs range from one to four pitches. With so much ice still to be pursued, there's no doubt that new routes will continue to go up for many years, along with a few great mixed climbs.

With the last few years being very dry, Cody locals have ventured farther into the South Fork's depths. First ascents are limitless for those who want to get in there and get after 'em. New routes are going up all the time, such as Spying and Flying (7 pitches, WI5), Wyoming Rodeo (WI5 M5), Top Hooker (3 pitches, WI5), Roeshamboe (WI5), and Dragon's Tail (WI5+). These are just a few routes established by Mark Devries and me. Photos and route descriptions can be found at www.coldfear.com.

AARON MULKEY

WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS

Squaretop, East Face, The Miscreant Line and The Conveyor Belt. Two routes were established in August 2000 by Tod Anderson, Skyler Crane, James Donnell, and Ernest Moskovics on the left side of the east face of Squaretop. The lines, climbed by different pairs, are predominantly independent and about V 5.10d. Both routes follow right-leaning cracks and dihedrals for 18 pitches (2,200'). At the end of the tenth pitches, the climbers bivouacked. The climbing is reportedly excellent, on solid rock with generally good pro.

WWW.ROCKANDICE.COM (NEW ROUTES PAGE)

Mt. Hooker, Loaded for Bear. I wasn't sure if I'd get my Czech friend Jakub Gajda to accompany me on another climbing trip, and I wasn't sure that I was ready for another adventure. But by June I was excited for another trip. It had to be short and cheap, since I only had ten days off work and very little dinero. I turned my attention toward an unclimbed feature I had seen in the Wind River Range—Mt. Hooker's east face. The east face is separated from Hooker's better-known northeast face by a broad couloir. The face comes to a point with diving-board overhangs. Its shallow grooves would be ideal for Jakub to practice his newly acquired skill of placing heads.

We rented a horse for the gear and hiked 18 miles to a lake, just off the Bear's Ears Trail, at the

base of the awesome feature. From our camp on top of a big flat rock, we scoped a great line that split the wall. The highlight was what looked to be a succulent hand-crack that ran for two full pitches just below the blocky tip. We fixed two lines over the bottom slab pitches, which Jakub described as some of the most fun friction he had ever done. The next morning we packed the haulbag and headed up. Jakub's memory must have been giving him hunger flashbacks, for although the wall was only 1,200 feet high, he wouldn't stop packing until the huge bag was bursting.

The alpine granite was spectacular. The third and fourth pitches were beautiful shallow grooves that required several 'biners worth of heads. Lugging our massive bag-o-rations we moved steadily. A small traverse at the top of pitch four brought us to the bottom of what we'd thought was the great hand crack. "Oh sheet," said Jakub. "Hand crack, my azz." The crack turned out to be a nasty little offwidth. We suffered through that evening and into the morning before we perched below the summit overhangs. I led the last pitch over the upside-down stairs, and finally a heart-stopping mantle put us on the summit.

We unpacked the haulbag and noticed that we still had five beers, three-quarters of a pack of Oreos, a tin of sardines, cheese, and ten liters of water. We had gone heavy; we had gone Loaded for Bear (V 5.9 A3).

BRENT EDELEN, AAC

Mt. Hooker, Pay to Play. On their first trip to the Wind River Range in late August, Chattanooga climbers Jim Hewett and Neeld "Off the Couch" Messler established a new route on the Northeast Face of Mount Hooker. In nine free pitches and four of aid, Pay to Play (VI 5.11 A3) ascends the face between Brain Larceny and Red Light District, continuing straight up from Der Main Ledge to the top. It was completed over five days of climbing in good weather, with the team enjoying about four hours of sunlight each day.

A day of scoping revealed many potential lines. A distinct roof crack attracted the team's attention, along with a line of corners and cracks with just one blank section. Pitches one through three climb moderate cracks topped by an awkward 5.9 squeeze/offwidth. Pitch four, the free-climbing crux of the route, blasts through the offwidth roof crack and up a lower-angle squeeze to the bottom of the blank section. The next pitch involves slabby face climbing, protected by two 5/16-inch buttonheads. The sixth pitch and aid crux comes next, a seam with thin nailing to a string of bat-hook holes, protected by one rivet, that leads up and right to the next feature.

The left-facing dihedral of the seventh pitch continues to arch left until it becomes the traversing roof beneath the eighth pitch. Two crack pitches then gain Der Main Ledge. The eleventh pitch traverses up and left to gain the left-facing corner that leads to the top in two final pitches.

The climbing is, for the most part, straightforward and enjoyable, though there are some loose sections. More good routes await climbers willing to brave the inconvenient approach and possible bad weather.

JIM HEWETT

Cathedral Buttress, Northeast Face, The Flight of the Golden Camelot. Around to the right from the Orion's Reflection wall is more good rock, though the wall is not as high. There Jason Keith and Alan Hunt established The Flight of the Golden Camelot (IV 5.11). The route begins with a ramp, followed by a step left. Pitch two ascends steep cracks. A hand traverse left (5.10+)