

day. The climb is very amazing and dry except the first two pitches. After some days of bouldering with locals we climbed the route Jonny Copp and Tim O'Neill freed one week before, Club International (V 5.11b) on Bustle Tower's south face.

We took the next helicopter out and went fishing and climbing near Whitehorse until our return to Switzerland.

DENIS BURDET, *Switzerland*

*Phenocryst Spire, The Hustler.* Mark Reeves and Steve Sinfield, supported by the Welsh Sports Council, arrived at Glacier Lake on July 30. They slogged to Fairy Meadows, set up camp, and waited most of a week for better weather before climbing the classic Lotus Flower Tower in about 12 hours.

After a couple of rest days under blue skies, the Welsh team went to what they think is Phenocryst Spire. They fixed three pitches up a clean white rock pillar. The next night they slept at the base and woke to rain at 3:00 a.m. One and a half hours later the rain ceased. They climbed nine pitches above the fixed three, gaining a 16-foot square subsummit at the top of the white pillar. They had freed all pitches onsite. The sky grew dark, rain fell, and they began descending the route. They placed three bolts for rappelling (one of which can be clipped for pro on pitch 7). The Hustler (1,500', V 5.10-R) involves clean granite slabs and corners, some avoidable loose rock, and runouts on the harder sections.

BASED ON REPORTING BY MARK REEVES AND MOUNTAIN INFO, *High Mountain Sports*

## COAST MOUNTAINS

### SQUAMISH CHIEF

*Warriors of the Wasteland, Second Ascent.* Warriors was a communal effort that spanned over 20 years, with over 10 people involved in the ascent. At IV 5.12c it was first completed and free climbed continuously by Matt Maddaloni and Ben DeMenech in September 2000. Colin Moorhead and I did the second ascent in July 2001. Warriors starts by coinciding with Western Dihedrals for two pitches of steep 5.10+/5.11- slab and face climbing. Then more 5.11- face and crack. Pitch four gets real, with a sustained 5.12 ultrathin crack. The fifth pitch, the crux, is a steep, difficult face. (The rock to the right looks easier.) Pitch six is an incredibly burly, overhanging corner (50 meters, solid 5.11). This is followed by a rather unpleasant traverse right along a dike into a corner. The finish is on Colin's awesome 5.10+ Cloudburst. Colin and I climbed Cloudburst, mostly in the rain, freeing most of it. With the exception of Scott Cosgrove's free version of the Grand Wall, we deem it the most difficult free climb on the Chief.

STEVE SEATS

*Alaska Highway, free solo.* In July I was walking up the North Walls trail with my shoes, chalk bag, and the ashes of my friend Ben DeMenic. The plan was to climb Angel's Crest, a 15-pitch 5.10, and scatter his ashes along the way. I'm not sure what I was thinking, but I found myself at the base of Alaska Highway, a 5-pitch 5.11+ I'd climbed with Ben a few years before and had

done a few times that summer. I had been toying with the idea of soloing the route for some time. I knew it was dry, I knew the weather was only going to last another day or two, I knew I'd already cheated the first crux (it would be an awfully stiff march up that trail all alone and empty handed). One question remained: Can I get to the top without falling off? I ran over the route in my mind: I'd felt supersolid on the last few goes. I took the bag of ashes out of my pocket and put a large pinch in my chalk bag. "Bet you never thought you'd do this one," I said. The first pitch is always a struggle, it involves weird (classic Squamish) tree-humping through a roof. It went smooth. The second is the crux for most people. It's way steep, way awkward, and way physical. It's also the type of climbing I find I'm best at. It went too quickly. The only part that was at all scary was the last 30 feet of 5.8 face climbing. I'm an awful face climber. I dug a little hole at the top to put Ben's ashes in. Then I said goodbye. The walk down was weird, dreamlike but hyperfocused. Kind of sad and lonesome, too. The locals seemed to think it was the first free solo of the route, when word got out. This surprised me; I figured Croft had most likely done it and maybe somebody else as well. All in all, I don't care. It was a fun solo and it's a great route. It was also the last time I climbed with Ben.

STEVE SEATS



Monarch Mountain, central Coast Range, March. There is only one route on the south face, shown. *Guy Edwards*

*Coast Range B.C./AK, first complete ski traverse.* From Feb. 2 to July 17, 2001, we traversed the spine of the Coast Range Mountains from Vancouver, B.C., to Skagway, Alaska. The trip was 2,015 km. in length, and was done primarily on skis.

The Coast Range is a very rugged range that receives a lot of precipitation, and thus is very heavily glaciated. Many of the sections of our route had been traveled before by such explorers