

and finish at a detached pillar. Climb behind the pillar to a tree ledge and traverse right (unpleasant) until you can climb broken rock to the top of the lower buttress, a good bivvy site. Climb a short rotten step and head slightly left onto the northern face. Two pitches of easy rock and heather lead to a nice chimney (5.8). Above the chimney, traverse to the right skyline on a narrow heather bench with an inspiring view down the vertical to overhanging section of the west wall. Climb left past a roof and blocks, then up a clean crack to a mantle onto a small, sandy shelf (5.8 and French free) to easier ground (fixed pin just above clean crack). From here we made a rising right traverse to more mid-5th class rock, with a 5.8 exit. Follow gullies and ribs to the north ridge, 200 vertical feet from the summit. We rappelled and downclimbed the southwest ridge. A fast party that had the descent dialed could probably complete the route car-to-car in a very long day (we bivvied once on the route). On the enjoyable 1,000m buttress we belayed 17 pitches on mostly good rock, with lots of running belays. Our rack included 8–10 wires and cams to 3.5"; pins are not needed.

MARK BUNKER, AAC

*Mount Index, North Norwegian Buttress, Voodoo Proj.* Over five days in mid-July Blair Williams, with William Tharpe, Todd Karner, and me, added a steep new route to the North Norwegian Buttress. Voodoo Proj starts 100 yards to the right of the Doorish Route and joins it at the top of the buttress, after eight new pitches. After having difficulties with the moat, we began the first pitch with a green Alien and continued with beaks and RURPs for 100' to the left side of a large, sloping ledge. This pitch combined aid with free climbing up to 5.8. The following day Blair traversed the sloping ledge for 30' before climbing a 10' head-and-beak seam. He then followed a left-leaning expanding crack, requiring blades, arrows, and beaks, before finishing the rope-stretching pitch with an A1 roof. While cleaning this, the crux, pitch, the second removed every piece before the A1 roof with one or two moderate yanks. The third pitch started with runout 5.10 on bad gear, before gaining a 120' dirty seam requiring multiple heads, hooks, and the occasional tied-off baby angle. It ended at a two-bolt belay below a large roof. Determined to minimize drilling, and acting against my recommendation, Blair started up the fourth pitch using a combination of offsets, blades, and arrows. An offset blew 10 feet up, and Blair fell 20' before stopping, upside-down, below the portaledge. Having gained his senses in the fall, he drilled three rivets to bypass loose blocks in the roof and continued for another 100' of moderate nailing. At this point, because of time constraints, Bill, Todd, and I had to rappel, but left Blair a luxurious portaledge camp two pitches below. Over the next three days Blair climbed the remaining four pitches solo, encountering moderate to difficult nailing. The eighth and last pitch, on which he placed two rivets, followed a 20' discontinuous crack to a large brow, and then traversed downward 100' to where he established a bolted belay parallel to the anchors on pitch seven. With threatening skies, Blair opted to airmail all but the portaledge and hardware to the snowfield above Lake Serene. He made four 60m rappels and reached the bergschrund in time to begin the long journey back to the car in a typical Northwest rainstorm. Blair and I feel that Voodoo Proj (VI 5.10R A4) provided some of the most challenging and interesting big-wall climbing we have found in the Cascades.

ROGER STRONG