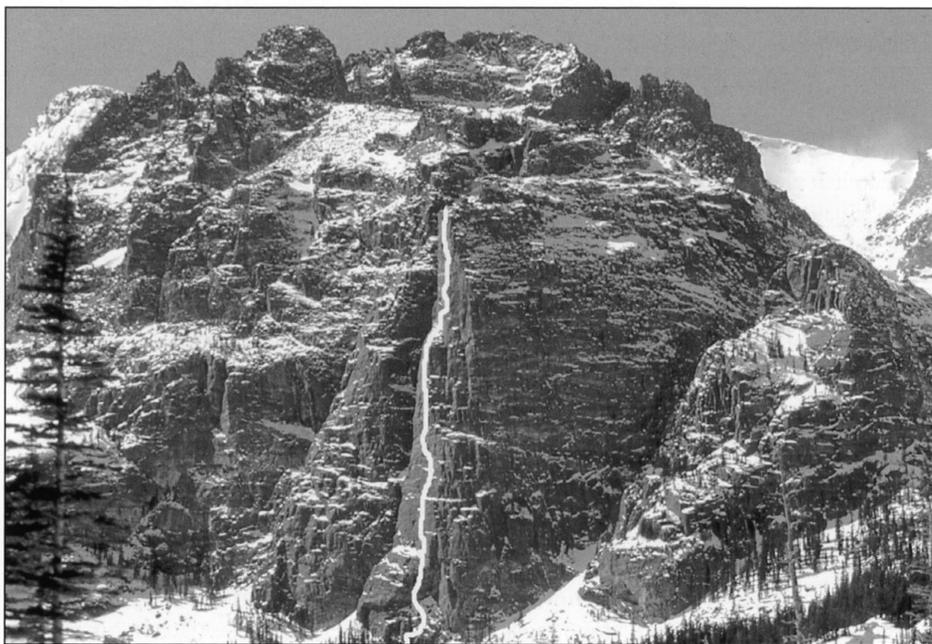


chimney. The chimney pitches inspired the name of the route. No bolts were placed. Rap off pine trees to the east into a notch. A few more raps down a gully get you to the ground. We recommend the route, but with a warning of a few “dodgy” pitches.

ERIC DRAPER

Colorado

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



The Cathedral Wall in Rocky Mountain National Park, showing Sublime Buttress. Ryan Jennings

Notchtotop area, Special K; and Forbidden Peak, Garmar. On June 24 Krista Javoronok and I climbed a new route on the smaller spire to the right of Notchtotop. Special K (600', III 5.10b) climbs this spire in six pitches. The route starts in the middle of a buttress, climbs a 5.10 wide crack, goes through a steep, somewhat loose, 5.10 roof, and aims for the prominent right-facing corner below the summit. Though this spire had no recorded ascents, we found an old sling around a chockstone in the prominent corner and another old sling around a block lower down. We found nothing on the summit and suspect that a previous party may have taken a different line, farther right, joined our route-to-be for the corner pitch, and rappelled before the summit. After summiting, we rigged four rappels between Notchtotop and this smaller spire to the ground.

On June 6 Zack Martin and I put up an amazing route in the Andrew's Glacier cirque. We climbed the Garmar in nine pitches, establishing the second route on Forbidden Peak. This

unique alpine route begins on the central east face with a splitter crack passing through a roof, and continues up for five long pitches of 5.9 and 5.10 to a false summit, which we called the Gargoyle (a beautiful orange plaque of rock). After a 30' rappel from the Gargoyle, the Garmar follows a 5th class ridge for two pitches, then climbs a steep 5.9 corner and reaches the summit via an airy ridge. It's a great mix of steep face, thin cracks, and beautiful ridge climbing. The route does have a few spicy sections, but this aesthetic line is highly recommended. This was my last climb with Zack, and his spirit has been with me since. His unbounded energy and glowing spirit touched the lives of so many. Thanks, Zack, for sharing your motivation and sharing one of my most memorable climbs in the Park. We will all miss you dearly.

KEITH GARVEY

Cathedral Wall, Sublime Buttress. In May Ryan Jennings and I completed the first free ascent of an unreported route we had established five years earlier on the Cathedral Wall. Climbing the tallest, cleanest piece of Cathedral Wall, this should prove to be a modern classic—seven loooong pitches of wildness, ending in a steep hand crack that takes you to the summit. The second pitch presents the technical crux (5.11+), going over a roof. This pitch was the only one not originally freed onsight. The route has four bolts, all at belays. The first three were placed while we were retreating from a nasty ice storm on a winter attempt; they now serve as cairns to let you know you are on route. The fourth bolt was placed on rappel after the original ascent, to improve pitch six's marginal anchor, as Ryan inspected a direct finish. The direct finish, which we climbed on our free ascent, pulls a 5.10 roof and is steep and exposed. (Our original finish ducks around the corner, hard left, for two pitches.) No pitch is a gimme; all require route finding and proficiency with natural protection. In Boulder Canyon all the pitches would be R/X, but really, it's just a good day in the mountains.

BRENT ARMSTRONG

McHenry's Peak, The Kidnapper Van. In the Glacier Gorge cirque, Justin Dubois and I climbed a new free route on an unclimbed tower on the North Ridge of McHenry's Peak. Our route followed a fairly direct line of discontinuous cracks and corners on the east face of this "Shameless Tower" (the lower, or eastern, of two obvious pillars on the north ridge). The best way to find the start is to locate a large worm-shaped pillar at the start of pitch two. Start below and right of this pillar on a ledge 20' below a right-facing corner with a left-angling splitter on its right wall. A bit of 5th class gets you to this ledge, angling in from the right. The second pitch climbs the left side of the worm pillar and the splitter hand crack above it. The final, crux, pitch climbs an obvious dark, right-facing dihedral to the tower's summit. This pitch is 190' long and features sustained jamming and stemming. The Kidnapper Van (730', III 5.11+) was climbed on August 4, in four long pitches: 5.9, 5.10, 5.10+/11-, 5.11+.

JASON SEAVER