

easiest way to go, had paid off. The line slotted together perfectly, and that evening we found ourselves racing toward the exit chimneys as a big storm approached. Fortunately, this fizzled out before it reached us, but we ran out of time and had an uncomfortable bivy in the chimneys. Next morning half a dozen more pitches took us to the top of a superb climb (700m, V 5.10a)—perfect granite, all free, and far easier than it had any right to be.

SIMON RICHARDSON, *Scotland*

*Mt. Dione, Cheech and Chong.* On July 21 Jamie Chong and I summited a new route on Mt. Dione in the Tantalus Range. They dubbed it Cheech and Chong (700m, 16 pitches, V 5.10d). The line ascends the central buttress of the west face. Chong and I were prepared for aid pitches but didn't need to bust out the hooks and copperheads: Cheech and Chong is the first free route on Dione's west face.

The route starts at the toe of the west buttress, about 200m up the prominent couloir. After pitch five we unroped for 100m of 4th and easy 5th class, leaving us on a perfect bivouac ledge. The following three pitches, up the central buttress, proved to be the crux. One rivet was placed for protection near the bottom of pitch eight, and one piton was left on a traverse just before the belay station. We deemed pitch nine the most difficult of the route because of an awkward offwidth. The climbing eased a bit until the upper headwall, where protection was somewhat meager.

We spent two nights on the mountain—the first on an excellent ledge halfway up, the second on the summit, which offered spectacular views of the setting sun. Note that this route could probably be done in one long day with the help of a topo. A double rack of cams to three inches and a set of nuts are required; also bring four pitons for belay stations. Descend the standard Southeast Ridge route.

CONNY AMELUNXEN, *Canada*

*Mt. Joffre, Smell the Roses.* Joffre's northeast face has a nice chimney/gully line, just left of the central pillar. It rimes up well in winter, with just enough snow and ice to be tempting. On my first attempt, with Mike Spagnut and Andrew Port, in early April 2000, we climbed four pitches to where the chimney steepens to vertical.

On the second attempt, in April, John Millar joined me. We were highly motivated: the route had been a skeleton in my closet for two years. The first few pitches were as challenging as before; clearing snow off the rock and searching out cracks for pro kept the mental challenge high. Three rope-stretching leads took us back up to the previous high point. It was getting dark, so we fixed the rope and descended one pitch to a snow cone, where we were hoping to excavate a bivy ledge.

We kicked and hacked through the ice and snow to create a 12-foot-long bench with room for two. Around midnight the spindrift valve was opened. My legs were buried, and our ledge started filling up with snow. The comfort level wasn't high. Finally morning arrived.

We regained our high point and delved upward into the steeper upper chimneys. I surprised myself with Rockies-like mixed moves up an overhang, moves I certainly wouldn't have tried if the gear hadn't been good. The next pitch was even more formidable. John had to resort to aid. He then belayed me from a perfect hip jam in a strange hueco. More good mixed

moves and a smidgen of good ice gave way to the upper snow couloirs. A last mixed pitch and then a steep snow arête led directly to the summit.

Whiteout conditions and the onset of dark almost tricked us into spending another night out. But the old ski-touring trick of tossing a bright-colored stuffsack ahead gave us enough definition to make out the snow surface.

This route (Smell the Roses, 500m, V M7-, some aid) has eight mixed pitches, and is certainly another good line on one of British Columbia's most accessible alpine peaks. The protection is natural yet sufficient; and the climbing is of great quality for Coast Range winter alpinism.

GUY EDWARDS, *Unemployed*

*Mt. Cheam, northwest face.* Mt. Cheam, at the north end of the Cheam Range, rises 2,100m above the Fraser River. Its north face was first climbed in the 1970s as a summer route, and Cheam became semipopular for winter climbing in the 1980s. In 1987 Carlo Zozikyan and Bruce Kay climbed the northwest face. In the 1990s winter mountaineering in southwest British Columbia fell out of fashion, as ice climbing began to dominate winter activity. Only recently has winter climbing begun a Coastal renaissance.

January 2003 saw almost ideal alpine conditions in the mountains of southwest British Columbia. A Christmas snowfall was followed by two weeks of sunny weather, warm at first, then cooling steadily. Fred Touche and I decided to try the northwest face of Cheam, which was, to our knowledge, unrepeated since the first ascent. I had wanted to climb this face ever since moving to nearby Chilliwack, as I see it every day from my apartment.

We left the car at 6:00 a.m. The face begins as 1,000m of steep, forested slopes leading to a bowl. The headwall of the bowl is an 800m wall consisting of 500m of snow-covered rock and 300m of steep snow that end on the ridge crest. We began bushwhacking by headlamp, but when the sun rose, we were on route. At 11:30 a.m. we emerged into the bowl after a long session of jungle and steep bush-climbing. We donned crampons, and progress up the bowl on frozen avalanche debris went quickly. The headwall lacked obvious lines, but we thought we saw a potential route and began climbing. The climbing consisted of steep snow (50°-65°) mixed with short, bouldery rock steps overlain with verglas. About 400m up the headwall we reached a series of higher rock walls and roped up. Two 60m pitches, climbed 4th class due to a lack of opportunity for gear placement, got us through this crux section (M3). We dispatched the remaining snow slopes (to 50°), avoided remnant cornices, and topped out on the ridge at 3:30 p.m. The West Ridge is a popular hiking route that we had both climbed; we decided to forego the summit and began descending immediately. Fifteen km of postholing, hiking, and scrambling down the West Ridge and logging roads below got us back to the car at 9:30 p.m.

I subsequently questioned Bruce Kay about the route he and Carlo climbed in 1987. They began in a narrow 1,600m avalanche gully, bypassing our bushwack approach, then apparently climbed to the right of our line; their route was on steep snow save for one boulder-problem rockband. Thus, it seems that what Fred and I climbed was largely or entirely new terrain. We rate our climb D/D+ IV M3.

DREW BRAYSHAW, *Canada*