

The Horn's West Buttress. The ascent route closely follows the left skyline. *Rodger DeBeyer*

Buttress we descended the Austerity Glacier to Unicorn Meadows and the base of the buttress. Rodger and I climbed about 10 pitches of beautiful cracks and featured slabs on black rock to the huge halfway ledge, where we bivouacked. The next morning we made our way through shattered gray rock to break out onto the ridge proper, where we enjoyed a couple of spicy au cheval pitches. Several more pitches of fine crack climbing deposited us on the summit. A couple of raps and gulps of water in a tarn, and we climbed up and over the col to the Austerity Glacier camp.

This was my third effort on the route in two years. The week before the successful ascent, Conor Reynolds and I pushed the route to the halfway ledge, where we ran out of time and water. We placed two bolts to get to the ledge—one placed on lead to protect a blank section, and another to bypass a grunty overhang (A1).

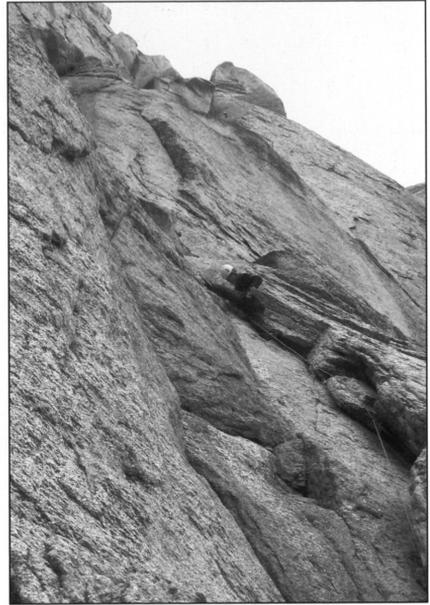
TIM McALLISTER, *Canada*

PURCELL MOUNTAINS

BUGABOOS

South Howser Tower, Catalonian Route, first free ascent. There we were, back in the Bugaboos, in August, on another blue-sky day. Beginning in the dark, we were excited. Not sure what we were up against or where the Catalonian Route (VI 5.10 A2) went, we knew we were in for an adventure. Having found the start the previous day, Dave Edgar headed up the polished slab with headlamp bobbing. A few moderate pitches to cut the chill, and we hung a left as the wall steepened. A clean corner with a perfect finger crack dissolved into tiered overlaps. Aid or free?

Some wandering about provided the answer. Up we went and quickly found the Catalanian's bivy with a fixed pin, so we were on route after all. Again it was Dave's turn to take on the evil (we were leading in blocks, with the second jugging), so into the wet chimney he went, loose flakes and all. He styled it with class, and our pace kept up. Overhanging moves, a shift change, and a couple of thin pitches put us in an open area headed for the summit ridge. A storm that had been beckoning finally hit, and we picked up the pace. Off route with no pro, I downclimbed and settled on the correct option. By passing a small roof on the right, we had gotten all the aid sections to go on sight at 5.11. Cruising past, Dave took the lead, and we simul-climbed to join the Beckey-Chouinard, reach the top, and descend. A quick dash down the rappels, blowing snow, a stuck rope that came free at the last second, and we were on the glacier, 17 hours or so roundtrip from the base. The storm dissipated. We romped down the packed trail and glissaded below the col, making quick time back to camp for dinner and laughs. We remembered what climbing was all about that day—lots of fun with a close friend, some uncertainty, and the persistence to figure out the answers.

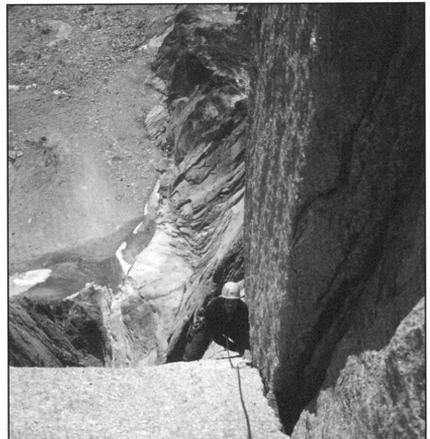


Dave Edgar at it again on the Catalanian Route, South Howser Tower. *Chris Geisler*

CHRIS GEISLER, *wandering in Canada*

South Howser Tower, Soul Cinders; East Pigeon Feather Peak, Ride the Snafflehound; other activity. During an amazing high pressure system from August 25 to September 4, Renan Ozturk and I climbed two new routes in the Bugaboos. Camped below South Howser, we were the only people in the range, as, unbeknown to us, B.C. Parks were closed due to forest fires.

We started by establishing a six-pitch free line in the Pigeon Feathers. Ride the Snafflehound (III 5.10a) ascends the previously unclimbed northwest rib (Snaffle Puss Pillar) of East Pigeon Feather Peak. The route follows corners and splitters on the left side of the pillar for three pitches, before it gains the ridgeline arête and rides the snafflehound for three more pitches to the summit.



Renan Ozturk cornered and loving it on Soul Cinders. *Nick Martino*