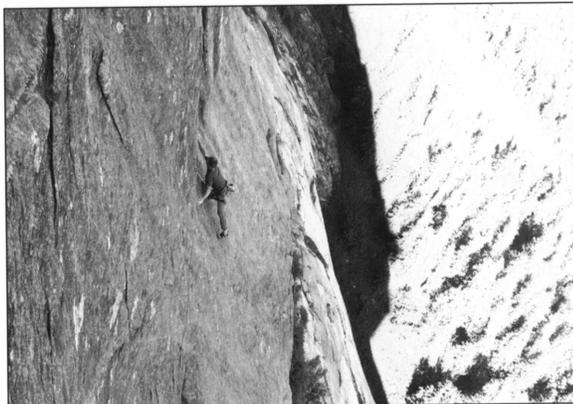


pain forcing me to let go and fly off. Only five pitches from the top, good finger or bad finger, going up would be the fastest way off the wall. Except for a 20' bolt ladder and one other move, I had freed every move on the route at some point. Our goal was always to free climb as much as possible, but I had to change into survival mode to get off the wall. I taped my tendon to the bone and continued wrapping the finger until it was splinted half-bent. Sean was now on rope-gun duty.



Aaron Black on pitch 19 (5.12b) of Call of the Granite. Dave Humphreys, www.dlh-photos.com

The last pitches went as smoothly as could be expected, and at around noon Sean pulled me over the West Main's summit lip to complete the first ascent of Call of the Granite (23 pitches, V 5.12 C1).

AARON BLACK, *Canada*

SELKIRK MOUNTAINS

Mt. MacDonald, North Pillar. At 7 a.m. on August 19, after a heinous two-hour approach, Bruce Kay (Squamish, B.C.) and I racked up at the toe of the steep pillar on the right side of Mt. MacDonald's 1,000m-high north face, for our first adventure together. We were surprised to see a bolt at the first belay, although we knew the pillar had been attempted a few times before. On the second pitch (5.7), two unnecessary and appalling protection bolts appeared, both within a few feet of bomber Camalot placements. The nut on the first one was tight, but Bruce managed to get the second one loose, remove the hanger, and unleash the fury of his hammer on the stud. It was the first time he had chopped a bolt in some 30 years of climbing. The pillar now steepened, and Bruce led a nice pitch of 5.10-. One final bolt appeared at the belay above the third pitch. The fourth pitch and the technical crux of the route involved moving right onto the arête. I welded two knifeblades for protection, before pumping out and having to hang on a short section of 5.11 face climbing. At the top of the sixth pitch we passed the last signs of other attempts. Pitch after pitch of sustained 5.10 climbing followed, with one more section of 5.11 on the eighth pitch. Finally, after 11 pitches, eight of which were sustained 5.10 and 5.11, we topped out on the pillar. Ahead, the angle eased a little, as the wall split into a series of gullies and buttresses.

It was 4 p.m., and we knew it was going to be a long night. We moved left into the gully, the line of least resistance, and simul-climbed for three long pitches to the final headwall. A more direct buttress line had been our original goal, but time was of the essence. In the fading light Bruce led a pitch of 5.10, to a small ledge below a dripping squeeze chimney. By headlamp I found a way to avoid spending the night there, by climbing a knifeblade-protected 5.10 face to the right, followed by a desperate 5.10+ bulge above a ledge. Climbing by headlamp



Mt. MacDonald: (1) North Pillar (Kay-Walsh, 2005). Little Face: (2) Prime Rib (Moorhead-Walsh, 2004). (3) North Face (Waterman-Waterman, 1974). *Jon Walsh*

seemed better than shivering away the seven hours of darkness. More pitches of 5.10, 5.9, and 5.8 followed. Finally, at 1:30 a.m., we hit the ridge just below the summit, after 18 hours of continuous climbing. The full moon lit the Southwest Ridge descent route, allowing us to descend without headlamps. Near the base of the ridge we made five rappels: two to the col and three down a chossy couloir into a bowl. The bowl descends to the highway, where talus, creeks, and bear tunnels led us through the jungle and back to the car, 30 hours after leaving it.

Summary: 1,000m, 19 pitches, 5.11- A0 (for a couple of hangs—would go free at about 5.11b). Nice corners, cracks, and featured face climbing up excellent quartzite, with excellent protection the entire way. Rack: a double set of cams (one #4 Camalot), one set of nuts, and a couple of KBs and LAs. We placed about six or seven pitons and left three fixed.

JON WALSH, *Canada*

PURCELL MOUNTAINS

BUGABOOS

Snafflehound Spire, Snaffleophagus. The northern part of the Bugaboos has a collection of less-impressive spires called the Vowells. The rock tends to have less-perfect lines and less-climbable features than the Bugaboos proper. Overall we were a bit disappointed in the many lines that turned out to be unclimbable seams, but in late August Vera Schulte-Pelkum and I did find an eight-pitch new line up the previously unclimbed east face of Snafflehound Spire. We climbed it after two attempts, following a corner system up the middle of the face. It was mostly good crack climbing in the 5.10-5.12 range, with one heinously thin 5.13- pitch that is probably the first 5.13 in the Bugaboos. It follows a nearly blank, overhanging corner that is unfortunately positioned above a teetering pillar the size of a truck, which would make a painful landing if too many of the thin pieces pulled out. I redpointed the dicey pitch with pre-placed gear, which included thin pins and a beak. The beak did hold a fall when a handhold broke, but I have no ethical insecurities if someone wants to add bolts to the pitch to make it more fun. Vera skipped the crux redpoint but had her own thrilling moments on other pitches. We rappelled from the top of the face rather than join the East Ridge route, which follows a broken but beautiful ridge to the summit. *Snaffleophagus* (IV 5.13- R).

TOPHER DONAHUE, AAC