

repeated the climb the next summer, hoping to add a direct start and finish, we found two fixed pitons, and 50' of beautiful vegetation had been torn out of the final corner pitch. Despite the heavy hand of another party, this is a worthwhile climb, with lots of great climbing packed into six excellent pitches.

ROGER BRIGGS

BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK

Various activity. In late May I completed my long-term project of linking The Free Nose (V+ 5.12) and Tague Yer Time (V+ 5.12), all free, in a day, leading every pitch. I began with The Free Nose and finished with Tague Yer Time, completing the link-up in 13.5 hours from North Rim to South Rim. I'm indebted to Phil Gruber and Jed Wareham-Morris (they belayed and jugged for speed) and Erinn Kelly for their generous support. In November Zack Smith and I made the first ground-up ascent of Leonard Coyne and Mick Haffner's 827 GO! (V 5.13-). Although probably slightly easier than its reported grade, the climb is without doubt a wild addition to the North Chasm View Wall and a testament to the pioneering vision and creativity of one of the Black's greatest climbers, Leonard Coyne. Unreported from 2005 is the addition by Kent Wheeler (and ?) of Stand Up Comic (IV 5.11) to the Comic Relief Buttress. The climb is of excellent quality and, like many Wheeler routes, has already become popular. Information on these climbs is available from the North Rim Ranger Station.

JOSH WHARTON, AAC

The Blacksmiths. The steep wall between Cheap Shot and Dry Hard has been the scene of aborted aid attempts due to loose rock and massive roofs. In fall 2005 and spring 2006, Jared Ogden and I tried to find a free variation, but were unable to force the line. In May we ended up climbing the first five pitches of the Earl Wiggins sketch-fest Dry Hard, and then traversed left above the roofs into a steep, airy position halfway up the wall. From there we did six new pitches on gently overhanging, high-quality rock to the rim. Four of the new pitches are 5.12, and it is the steepest bit of rock we've yet found while free climbing in the Canyon. The Blacksmiths (1,600', 5.12).

TOPHER DONAHUE, AAC

Sistine Reality. The fourth lead was mine: the first and most prominent roof. Jonny Copp handed me the rack, raised his eyebrows, and wished me luck. As I entered the hollowed chamber beneath it, the sky and ground disappeared. I no longer could tell which way was up, only out. I was inside an enclosed box a few hundred feet above the ivy-choked gully. I reached for the first jam and it was solid, deep hands. Perfect. Twelve feet later, when I pulled the lip, I trembled and fumbled with every piece of gear that I wedged into the scaly, bone-white rock. This was only my second time on the intimidating pegmatite of the Black. My confidence grew as I continued on the flaring thin-hands corner above, particles of granola-like rock crunching beneath my rubber soles. I built an anchor and glanced over my shoulder to the inner canyon. The sky had turned black, the wind roared, and an ominous rumble sounded on the horizon. Jonny arrived,

and we quickly escaped, sprinting to the car amid thunder and laughter.

Jonny took off for Alaska, and I headed home to Missouri, but we promised to return at our next opportunity. This chance didn't happen until two years later, in April 2006, although the Gothic was often on my mind. The scrappy riverside limestone in my home state offered perfect training.

Four pitches up at the belay, white dust collected in my lap. I pretended not to notice the incoming snow; maybe we could sneak by without the weather knowing we were there. We carried on. I followed the fifth pitch admiring various sections of offwidth, perfect hands, a clean slab, and eventually a broken roof. The stone looked as though it had been burning in a fire for the past hundred years, scalloped and fire red. The crux pitches beneath us, we sped up the remaining 700' of highly featured rock, connecting clean faces, deep cracks, and sharp dihedrals. The white stuff came and went, and we summited in a heavenly orange and violet sunset.

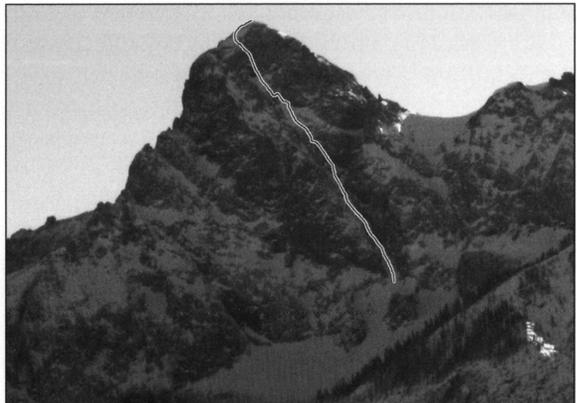
Our route begins a few hundred yards left of Kor's Route on the west face of Gothic Pillar. Approach by passing Exclamation Point, passing two gullies, and descending the third. Where it cliffs out, rap or traverse left to the next gully, descend it for 20 minutes, pass beneath a huge chockstone and continue to a large white boulder on the left. The route starts here, with the fourth pitch roof crack visible above.

On our initial attempt, I'd just returned from Rome, where I'd seen Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel painting. Inspired by the ceilings on the route, we titled our own masterpiece *Sistine Reality* (IV 5.11+, no bolts, no pins, no lassoes, no big whoop).

JEREMY COLLINS, *Kansas City, Missouri, AAC*

SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS

Peak 13,134', Ski Line. In late October I recruited Dave Ahrens to help me finish a project I started years ago, the north face of Peak 13,134' in the northern San Juans. The face can be clearly seen from Dallas Divide, and I had made several attempts with different partners over the past few years. The most serious attempt was with the late Johnny Soderstrom in October 2004. The route more or less follows a left-angling ramp directly through the center of the rocky north face.



Ski Line on Peak 13,134'. Jared Vilhauer

After a fairly short approach, the route starts with a couple of hundred feet of 50° snow. As you near what seems to be a dead end in the couloir, a beautiful cascade of water ice comes into view to the left and is the entrance to the face. We soloed the first 100' pitch of WI3 and kicked steps up more 50° snow. After a few more steps of low-angle ice, we reached the high