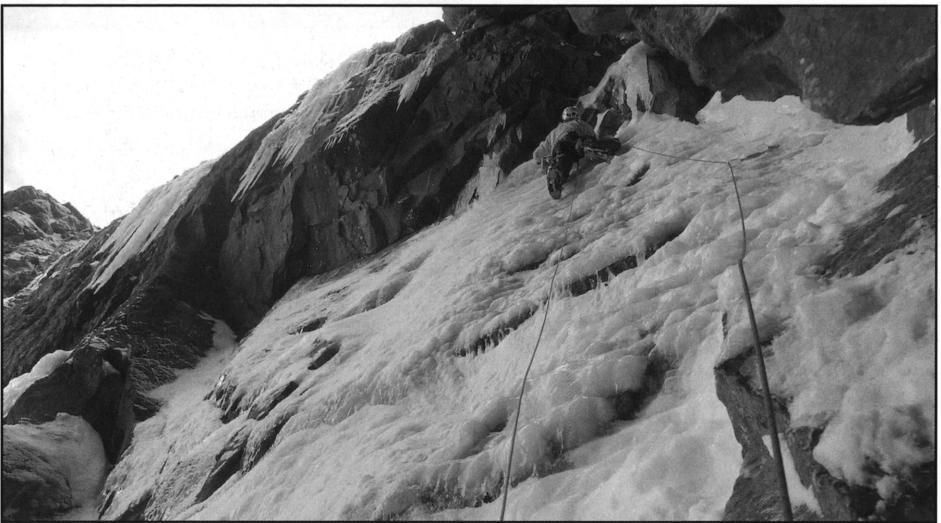




Central Chimney, on Spirit Mountain. Doug Shepherd



Doug Shepherd on the crux pitch, Central Chimney, Spirit Mountain. Aaron Mulkey

Tackle, 1978). We broke out of the gully above the second pitch via a rock wall and climbed an additional five pitches of mainly moderate mixed and ice climbing, with a short M6+ crux at the headwall.

In East Rosebud, on the Giant's Belly of Mt. Inabnit (AAJ 2009, p. 123), to the far left of Ice Dragons (Mike Abbey and Ron Brunckhorst, October 28, 2000) Aaron and I climbed a three-pitch line. Ice Fairies (III WI5) follows an iced-up corner to a ledge and the end of the ice.

DOUG SHEPHERD, Colorado, AAC

## WYOMING

*Mt. Helen, La Mirada del la Gitana.* In mid-October, Craig Pope and I made the quasi-annual pilgrimage from Bozeman to Pinedale with hopes held high for favorable mixed climbing

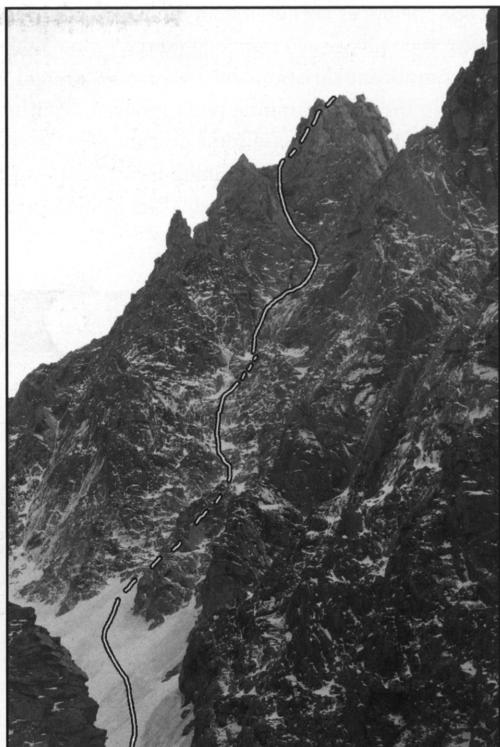
conditions in the northern Wind River Range. The weather gods were on our side: We had just enough precipitation during the two-day march in to inspire confidence in the ice conditions and clearing just as we arrived in camp.

We'd chosen a direct line on the north face of Mt. Helen and were hoping for a series of ice runnels to follow through the gut of the mountain. We found lots of 60° black ice, moderate rock, and a series of enjoyable M4 steps where the runnels were supposed to be, punctuated with two distinct and back-to-back cruxes of well-protected 5.10/M6 followed by much spicier, dry 5.9 rock climbing with serious runouts.

We simul-soloed an approach gully over 45° black ice and névé, followed by the lower portion of the face through some M4 terrain, before roping up and using a running belay for the next 700'. We then pitched out the cruxes, running the second near 100m (some simuling) to reach a decent belay anchor. From here we joined previously established terrain, entering a deep left-leaning gully with mixed black ice and very loose rock to finish back right with a low-5th-class chimney that deposited us directly on the summit.

We were just under seven hours on the route, with a lot of time spent stopping to capture video and still images. A strong party could rally the line in five hours or so. La Mirada del la Gitana (The Look of the Gypsy, 2,500', M6). Do they give stars in the AAJ? If so: \*\*\*\*. Descent was the east ridge to the north col, then down the huge north couloir.

PETE TAPLEY



La Mirada del la Gitana, on the north face of Mt. Helen.  
Pete Tapley

*Mt. Hooker, free ascent.* In August, Dave Sharratt, Pat Goodman, and I completed a free ascent of the northeast face of Mt. Hooker. The line generally followed Third Eye (VI 5.10 A4, Middendorf-Quinlan, 1993) in the lower half, then the upper corner systems of the Boissonneault-Larson (VI 5.11 A4, 1979). Details of the trip, including videos and stills are on both Dave's website ([sharrattphoto.com/news.asp?ID=11](http://sharrattphoto.com/news.asp?ID=11)) and Pat's website ([boulderznwallz.blogspot.com/2010/12/mount-hooker-third-eye-free-var.html](http://boulderznwallz.blogspot.com/2010/12/mount-hooker-third-eye-free-var.html)). By modern standards, our route (which we haven't named as it's not really a new route) is not very difficult. We neither did it very fast nor did we take the most difficult line; but we took an aesthetic line up one of the baddest parts of the wall. In short, the "new" free route is 13 full-rope-length pitches with lots of fun but spicy 5.11 and 5.12 climbing. Routefinding is generally straightforward except for one section with some funky downclimbing to