

*Kings Canyon, The Red Blade.* This formation is easily seen from the Cedar Grove roadhead up the hill to the east of North Dome. In May Fred Beckey, Mike Scherer and I climbed a route on the southeast face. We walked up the Copper Creek trail for about two miles, and from there approached the northeast end of the rock. Once the southeast face was reached, we climbed a crack system in a recess to reach the ceiling that diagonals across the face. Our route continued up crack systems rising from the left end of this ceiling. NCCS III, F8, A2.

MICHAEL WARBURTON

*Tower à la Neptune, Wheeler Crest.* This is the farthest left of the "Hot Tuna" towers, a row of pink granite spires about 3000 feet above the Owens Valley floor on the Wheeler Crest. In December Mike Graber and I started before dawn and roped up at 8:30 A.M. below a direct start into an obvious chimney system on the left side of the 1000-foot wall. After several starts and a couple of hours time, the first pitch was completed with a move of aid where a nut placement interfered with a fist jam, and the leader, me, chickened out. Graber followed the pitch free, finding it moderate F10 with difficult protection. Time dictated an 80-foot leftward traverse into a chimney system at the end of the second pitch, rather than having a go at a more difficult single crack directly above. The chimney provided consistent F8 and F9 climbing for two pitches, before breaking back into easier going near the top. The eight pitches took seven hours, and the descent into darkness took another three. NCCS III, F10, A1.

GALEN ROWELL

*Hot Tuna Tower, Sargasso, Wheeler Crest.* In April Tony Puppo and I climbed this route that ascends the right side of Hot Tuna Tower, following the similar but smaller dihedral to the right of Starkissed. Two pitches led to the base of the corner that was ascended in two more pitches. Above, a snow-filled gully blocked progress, so we traversed right around a corner and up a difficult crack. One more pitch led to the north ridge. A more direct finish seems desirable. NCCS III, F9.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*

*Thor Peak, Rainbow Bridge.* Allan Pietrasanta and I climbed this route in May. It starts in a long, slender, right-facing book a short distance right of the Principal Dihedral Route. Two pitches lead to a point just below the top of the book where a hand traverse left takes one to a ledge. A brushy crack leads to another stance, then one moves left and up past two bolts to a crack. Three easier pitches lead to the east shoulder of Thor, a long way from the summit. NCCS III, F10.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*