

*Lichtenberg Mountain, Northeast Ridge.* With mountain bikes offering quick access, Jens Kuljurgis and I made a one-day excursion of this climb. The route began on the west corner of the ridge, where we encountered an awkward (narrow) body jam in half a lead. From there a short scramble put us on the crest. Two more enjoyable leads cleared the difficulties, leaving only a scramble to the summit. The rock was surprisingly sound, encrusted with typical Northwest lichen in places. (II, 5.7.)

GORDY SKOOG

*“Wolf Peak, Howling Ridge.”* This route is located on the north ridge of the minor summit between Sperry and Vesper peaks. Viktoria Stepitova and I approached the climb via the Headlee Pass trail, then over the pass between Sperry and Vesper into the Copper Lake basin. We followed fourth class gullies to the north (right) up to the col between our summit and Big Four Mountain, where the climb begins. (Alternatively, one could approach directly from Copper Lake basin, ascend above the lake until it is possible to cut north to the start of the route. This is likely the fastest approach.) The peak has a substantial unclimbed north face with perhaps 800 feet of vanishing cracks, brush, and questionable blocks. After inspecting the face, we chose to attempt the obvious curving ridge bordering the face on the west and pointing directly at Big Four Mountain. The route is for the most part quite obvious, following the knife-edge ridge for about 8 to 10 pitches. We passed several towers on their west sides. The climbing is mostly quite moderate (5.6 or 5.7) and enjoyable. The route is solid, protects easily with nuts, and has wonderfully exposed belay stances. Towards the summit some minor brush and several short sections of more difficult climbing (5.8 to 5.9) were encountered. (However, we feel it is likely that these more difficult sections could be avoided by future parties.) Climbing time was about 5 or 6 hours; the descent was an obvious walk-off. (III, 5.8.)

DAN JAFFE

*Chianti Spire, East Face.* “Let’s see, the slide is here somewhere. . . . It’s an outer space-like hand crack . . . Looks fantastic! I wonder how steep that direct start is.” Once below the spire we changed our plans: “. . . It would be nice to get there directly, but it doesn’t make sense; it’s all broken and undercut. How about over there? That corner looks as if it might go.” I spied this start, so the first pitch was mine. A spectacular traverse left under roofs led to a hand crack in the corner. Jim Nelson started the second pitch up a wide icy crack leading to the top of the right shoulder of Chianti’s east face. Five pitches up, I approach the crux—it’s wet, and I aid around it. The next pitch is wet too, and our “hand crack” now needs a #4 Friend. We rappel off. Two weeks of hot weather later, we swap the leads, Jim taking the good ones this time. Dry rock finds us quickly free-climbing to our high point and then into the unknown. Very soon we top out, making the fourth ascent of the spire, just a tyrolean away from Burgundy. (May 25 and June 8. III, 5.10 - .)

MARK BEBIE