

gully below the north face and back down the trail to Boyden Cave. The climbing is very enjoyable, on good limestone, a rarity in California. (IV, 5.10+, 10 pitches.) In August, Eddie Joe and I hired borros to ferry loads to the junction of Charlotte and Bubbs Creeks below Charlotte Dome. We spent the next 2½ days completing one of the Sierra's only two Grade VI back-country routes. *Crystal Banzai*, on Bubbs Creek Wall. (The Kroger route on Tehipite Dome is the other.) We chose an obvious line of cracks, arches and corners on the longest section of the wall (2300 feet), just left of the center. This line curiously follows a bizarre white crystal band from base to top. The route went 90% free with less than 200 feet of aid and entirely clean. We used bathooks to pass a blank section on the fourth pitch and a total of 15 bolts on the 17 pitches. Start at a big pine 100 yards up and right of a huge, white, left-facing dihedral which marks the beginning of the crystal band. Diagonal up and left, intersecting an obvious ramp, to the "Crystal Palace" (ledge) with its "Dungeon" at the top of the huge white dihedral (3rd pitch). Follow the "Crystal Corner" and arch above up and left to bathooking which leads past four bolts to a small stance (2 bolts). From here we climbed up and slightly right to join the main crack-and-corner system, which followed for five more pitches, ending at "Zero Point Ledge," just above the obvious huge "Seagull Roof." Two more pitches of cracks lead up and slightly left to a good ledge. Above this, climb up and right for 100 feet to the arching right-facing dihedral which is visible from the ground. Here, instead of following the corner system up and right, face-climb left for 20 feet to a large right-facing flake and follow this and the thin crack above for a full pitch to "Dead Tree Ledge." Above, face-climb up and left to gain entry into a huge right-facing corner one pitch below the top. Here, instead of climbing the perfectly blank corner above, face-climb left over the corner to easy knobs which lead to the top. Descent is via Charlotte Creek to the west (toward Charlotte Dome). Recommended rack: tiny nuts to 4" (2 each), 1 #5 Friend, 1 skyhook, 2 bathooks, 2 Leeper cam hooks, hammocks. (VI, 5.11, A3.) In July, Karl McConachie and I finished a new all-free route on the south face of North Dome, above Zumwalt Meadows, *A Tall Cool One*. We followed the obvious continuous crack system to the right of the original Frost route for 11 pitches to the very top of the dome. This is a serious route involving some climbing on less than perfect rock with 8 of the 11 pitches being 5.10 or harder, ranging from finger to off-width cracks. This route is best done late in the season as the third pitch can be very wet and slimy. Recommended rack: Friends-3 each to 4", 1 #5 Friend. (V, 5.11, 11 pitches.)

DICK LEVERSEE, *Pro Leisure Society*

"*Scarlet Slipstream*," Cedar Grove, Kings Canyon National Park. In July, Eric Rhicard, Vaino Kodas and I climbed this 6-pitch climb, four of which are 5.10 and the other two 5.11. The rock is superb and the route follows a prominent red water streak for its entire length. Two 165-foot ropes should be taken to rappel the route, which is primarily protected by 30 bolts, but RURPS, a few

small stoppers and small to medium Friends are useful. To find this easily accessible route, park in the day-hiking parking lot at the end of the road near Zumwaldt Meadows. Cross the Kings River on the foot bridge just east of the parking lot and follow the trail upstream along the south bank for 1½ miles. Look for a reddish streak on a low-angle slab on the south wall of the canyon. Climb the red streak for six pitches, starting on the right side with a series of steps just left of the corner in order to reach the first bolt. Then follow bolts, small cracks and corners to the top. Runouts are moderate.

HERB LAEGER, *Unaffiliated*

*North of Eden, North Dome, Kings Canyon National Park.* In July, Roy Swafford, Todd Vogeland and I climbed an 11-pitch route on the east buttress of North Dome. The route follows a distinct corner system consisting of wide cracks. The crux reminded us of the "Ear" formation on the Salathe Wall, only much harder. Where cracks end, face climbing left around a headwall leads to bushy ledges and more face climbing to the top (V, 5.10+.)

E. C. JOE, *Stonemasher Alpine Club*

*North to the Bone, North Dome, Kings Canyon National Park.* In August, Dick Leverage, Mike Meng and I climbed this 11-pitch route which starts left of the 1968 Herbert-Frost Route in vertical left-facing corners and goes up thin cracks near the arête left of the 1968 route. Two sets of roofs are passed at about mid-height and airy free climbing eventually meets the 1968 route near the summit (V, 5.9, A3.)

E. C. JOE, *Stonemasher Alpine Club*

*Mama Told Me Not To Come, Voodoo Dome, The Needles.* In October, Steve Brower and I climbed this "indirect-direct" start to the *White Punks on Dope* route. Starting left of the normal start, several bolts protect difficult moves leading to a belay at the edge of a giant arch. Two easier face pitches take one to the dihedral pitch on *White Punks*. We found evidence of a previous ascent which had traversed in from the side on the first pitch, and we used their anchor bolts. Higher, though, we felt compelled to remove two bolts that were placed next to good cracks or knobs. (III, 5.11.)

E. C. JOE, *Stonemasher Alpine Club*

*It's No Game, Schaffer Buttress, The Needles.* In October, Dick Leverage, Steve Brower and I climbed this four-pitch wall which is located across the Kern River from the Needles, near Schaffer Meadow/Cedar Canyon. The climb starts in a gouged-out area with some solid, but dubious looking brown blocks and cracks. A ledge below a steep headwall is the belay. Thin cracks lead to an overhanging slot and a stance right of the crack. After ascending the right side