

Idaho

Chimney Rock, Selkirk Crest. On August 19, Ann Robertson and I made the first ascent of a new three-pitch route on the north side of Chimney Rock. The first lead was a superb 5.10c crack system that split the middle of an obvious prow just a few feet left of Greymatter. The crux was a 4-inch roof near the top of the lead just three feet from the Greymatter dihedral. The second pitch was of continuous A2 up a very thin seam that burst into an off-width after 40 feet. Because Ann did not want to jümar the second lead, I fixed a bomber second-pitch anchor, then clipped my 180-foot rope through it and ran out the third 100-foot lead to the top. On the third pitch, I turned progressively easier roofs (5.9+, 5.9, 5.8). When I tried to pull up the rope to rappel, Ann accidentally left a knot on her end, making the rope jam through my second-pitch belay. Since the rope had logged over 100 leader falls, I left it, as well as my second rope as Ann and I rappelled off. Ann was hypothermic by the time I reached her and when we reached the ground, she vomited repeatedly. We left the retired ropes hanging and hiked out to the car. Karl Birkinkamp cleaned my mess for me. I am very grateful to him. I did not want to trash out a climbing area where I was just a visitor, but I just had to get my partner off.

CAMERON M. BURNS

Wyoming—Wind River Range

Square Top Mountain 1990. Doug Colwell and I climbed an excellent new 17-pitch route (V, 5.10d) on the east face of Square Top Mountain in September, 1990. We began by scrambling up a series of obvious ramps to an intersection with the main crack system that splits the lower quarter of the east face. We then climbed three 5.5 to 5.8 pitches up the crack system to a grassy ridge. We traversed the ledge 300 feet left to the base of the lower right-facing dihedral marked by a fixed pin. Beginning at the dihedral, we followed the corner system by climbing a 5.10 face pitch with sketchy protection and two more 5.10 crack pitches that led to a large ramp. We traversed the ramp left for 165 feet to a semi-comfortable bivouac. The next morning, we climbed a 5.8 pitch a short distance up the face and left to a small ramp. We continued up another 5.8 pitch that followed the ramp left to a small steep seam. We then climbed the 5.10d crux pitch, placing limited but good protection. We next moved right and ascended a 5.7 slab to a prominent ledge, followed a 5.6 ramp to a second corner on the southwest and climbed straight up the corner system through a 5.9 chimney. We continued up a 5.7 crack to a belay at the right of the big roof, stepped left on small 5.10 holds that led to easier climbing and a big ledge and finally finished with a short 5.2 pitch to the expansive moonscape that forms the summit of Square Top.

DOUGLAS ABROMEIT