

Reynolds, Chase. In the popular Fisher Towers east of Moab, Reynolds and Matt Laggis made the second ascent of Jim Beyer's King Fisher route, spending eight hours on the crux pitch. A sling from a previous second-ascent attempt was discovered 80 feet up.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

*Fisher Towers, 1992-3.* The major event of the Fisher Towers was Rob Slater's repeat of all the towers listed in Eric Bjørnstad's *Desert Rock*, including all the "Mystery Towers" and River Tower, a grand total of 23 formations—nothing short of outstanding. Slater made all the repeats between the summers of 1992 and 1993 except for an ascent of the Titan in 1986. Partners included Stu Ritchie, Sue Wint, John Sherman, Mike O'Donnell and Alan Lester. Between Christmas, 1992 and May 31, 1993, he spent every single weekend except one at the Fishers. Harvey Carter and Bruce Hamilton picked off their own first in the Fishers recently, a small 200-foot tower (III, 5.10), located north of the main formations. The climb was done in a healthy rain. Also in the spring of 1993, Duane Raleigh and Pete Takeda climbed a major new line on the west face of the King Fisher (V, 5.10, A3+) in four long pitches. The route followed a natural line and, according to Raleigh, required a minimum of bolting but a little bit of everything else, from bird beaks to an ice axe, which was used for "dry-hooking." Also in the Fishers, Mike Baker and Leslie Henderson climbed Dragontail Rock (III, 5.8, A3+) in the spring of 1993, a major butte-like formation with a cork-screw summit similar to that found atop Ancient Arts. The four-pitch tower lies directly uphill from and behind the King Fisher.

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*Castleton Tower, North Face.* Newsworthy is the first ascent of a new route on the north face of Castleton Tower, *The Sun, The Moon, The Stars* (IV, 5.11, A3+), climbed by Jim Beyer and Pat McInerney. Started in October, the five-pitch climb was completed in November. It has only four bolts, two of them for a belay. The first pitch followed a 5.11 finger crack right of the original aid-crack start on the regular north-face route; that is right of the start used today. This pitch had been climbed previously. A short second lead joined the regular north-face route above the top of its first pitch. Then the third launched right into completely virgin land, following a vertical seam, jaunting right on a horizontal seam, then continuing up another vertical seam. Beyer reports that he used mostly A5 Bird Beaks for the A3+ lead. Atop the third, the route followed a 5.11b finger crack, which met the corner of the north and west faces. Then a 5.10d offwidth brought them to a roof on the corner. Above the roof, the route was 5.8 to the top.

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