

granite had been tried only once, in 1992 by Greg Collum and Andy Selters. In the fall of 1994, Collum returned with Steve Masceoli and me to make its first ascent. On August 23, we were helicoptered to near the foot of the wall. After ascending an icefall and climbing 16 rock pitches up to 5.11 and A3+ on Yosemite-like granite, we stood on the top of the first of three towers that adorn the buttress. That section had taken us four days. Then came two days of shuttling four loads along a knife-edged ridge, along which precariously balanced blocks presented real hazards. Tyroleans were set up to move equipment along this section, which was the main objective danger of the route. We reached a talus ledge at the end of the ridge in a minor storm, where we rested on the seventh day. We climbed the final tower to the main summit on the eighth day on clean granite and with exposed 5.10+ face climbing. After scrambling to the summit at five P.M., we radioed White Air Services to arrange a helicopter pickup for August 31 on the col between Combatant and Waddington, 2000 feet below. We rappelled into the night to the talus ledge and then spent Day Nine descending to the pickup point.

GREG CHILD

*Snowpatch Spire, Bugaboos, 1993.* Spanish Catalans, Marc Arbós and Jaume Clotet, climbed a 600-meter-high new route in the center of the east face of Snowpatch Spire, which they rated at 6a, A3. They were on the face for three days and two nights, having prepared the first few rope-lengths previously. They reached the summit on August 19, 1993.

*Snowpatch Spire, East Face, "Hockey Night in Jersey," Bugaboos.* From August 7 to 11, Keith Johnson and I established an 11-pitch route (V, 5.9, A3) on the east face of Snowpatch Spire. We started 100 feet to the right of the clean, left-facing corners of Warrior Way and followed a beautiful straight-in crack system. On two pitches, the cracks widened to more than 4 inches, requiring large camming units. Toward the end of the sixth pitch, the Tom Egan Memorial route was joined for the pendulum into the slot behind the Penalty Blocks. An awkward traversing pitch to the left led to the base of a right-curving crack on the left side of the striking white headwall. A challenging pendulum at the end of the curving crack led to easier climbing and the top of the shoulder where Banshee finishes. We headed down to the Penalty Blocks, where we spent a second night, before some tricky rappelling down Warrior Way to the glacier.

STEPHEN C. GROSSMAN

*Little Snowpatch Spire, West Face, Bugaboos.* On July 29 and 30, Steve Sheriff, Jon Turk and I climbed the west face of Little Snowpatch Spire, southwest of the Howser Spires. We climbed three pitches up the center of the face, then angled rightward for several more to a point near the right side and

finally ascended a ramp/dihedral system back to the center of the face near the top. We bivouacked at darkness three or four pitches below the top. The next morning, we climbed over the top and descended the 1961 route to the glacier. The Buckingham-Geiser-Garneau note is still in the summit cairn. No other names have been added since their first ascent of the peak. The rock is excellent Bugaboo granite, solid except for a few pitches with loose debris in the lower third of the route. (17 pitches; V, 5.10, A2.)

GRAY THOMPSON

*North Howser Tower, Southwest Buttress, "Young Men on Fire," Bugaboos.* After a grueling, multi-day 25-kilometer approach to the base of the 3000-foot-high west face of the North Howser Tower, we looked up the massive face, a classic big wall of similar steepness to the Nose on El Capitan, though in reverse. The first half was vertical or overhanging and the top angled back until it finally hit the summit ridge. I spied our line, well to the right of previous routes on the right edge of the west face. Right up the center of the buttress lay an outrageous dihedral that seemed to go on for miles to what we nicknamed the "Sundial Tower," a semi-circular formation of cleaved granite. Above this was a huge roof of large hanging blocks. Then, the line eased a little as it continued on to the summit ridge. August 28 was the first full day for Canadian Warren Hollinger and me on the wall and we managed six pitches of hard direct aid. The technical crux was two very thin pitches right in the middle of the dihedral, taking 0- and 00-TCUs and small knifeblades on body weight only. It snowed on the 29th but on the 30th we were back up the ropes and forged ahead. The granite was generally good, but there was a particularly loose section of the Sundial, where I had to equalize ten pieces all to one point to set up a safe haul point. Hollinger finished the day with a brilliant lead by torch-light through the huge jammed blocks at the top of the Sundial Tower. On August 31 we each led three pitches at a time up the really fine arête. On September 1, we had a bleak Patagonia-type day. By midday we had reached the summit ridge. At past seven P.M., we rushed to the top and bivouacked a short distance below. Bang! We were in the middle of a lightning storm. Lightning was flying in all directions. Bangggg! We both received a direct hit and our clothes and bodies were burnt. Unconscious, Hollinger couldn't move at all and had suffered a very bad second-degree burn to a third of his back. I had severe burns on my left buttock and on my right thigh. I had no feeling in my right forefinger. After 30 minutes, I managed to get Hollinger to his feet. Other storms swept in. At 6:30 A.M., we packed the sacks and checked the rope. The only complete rope left had three large burns, revealing the core. We repaired them with duct tape and started down the east face. A few hours later, we were on the Vowell Glacier. At the Kain Hut, a girl who was helping us had a book. I glanced at the title: *Young Men on Fire*.

JERRY GORE, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Mount Tsar, East Ridge, Canadian Rockies.* Steve Sheriff and I climbed this classic ice, snow and rock ridge on August 3 and 4. Once one of the most remote