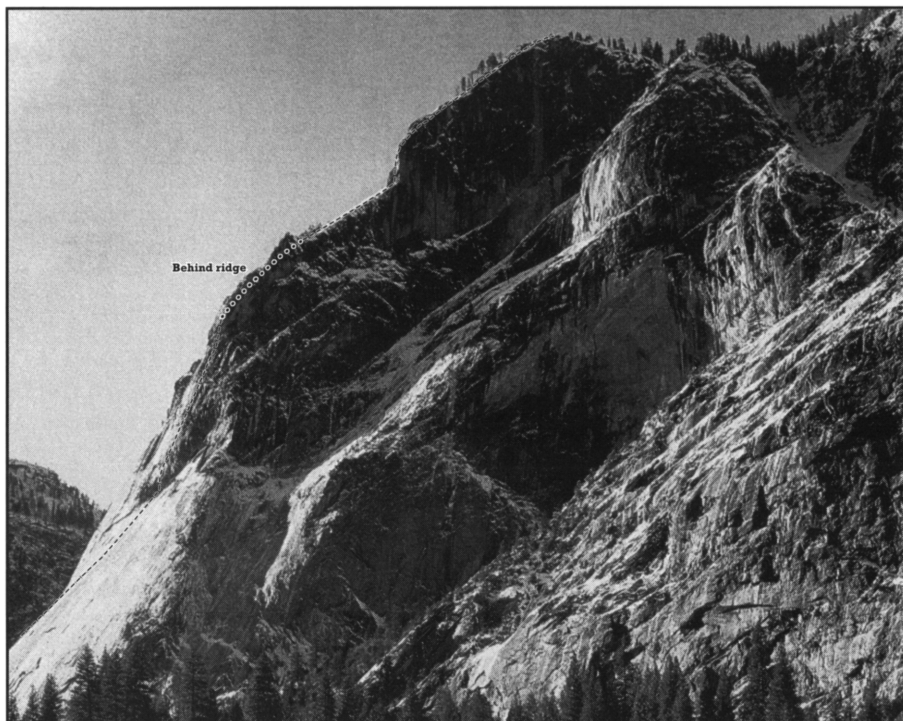


West Quarter Dome, Quarter Pounder. Urmas Franosch and I had originally intended to free climb the North Face route on West Quarter Dome, but when we arrived at the face we found that route obliterated by rockfall, so we opted for a series of flakes and cracks to the right of the scar. We were rewarded with a sustained 800-foot face climb that to my knowledge is the sole intact route on this graceful formation. An 11-mile approach from Tenaya Lake over Clouds Rest took us to a gully on the west side of the dome. We found an outstanding camp on a narrow fin of rock overlooking Tenaya Canyon and the northwest face of the dome. Water is available at a hidden spring one-half mile before the summit of Quarter Domes on the Clouds Rest Trail. On the route we placed one fixed pin and no bolts in four 60-meter pitches (5.11a, 5.10d, 5.11b, 5.10a). Route-finding and protection are challenging on this climb, which we named *Quarter Pounder* (III 5.11).

AL SWANSON, *unaffiliated*

Glacier Point, Galactic Hitchhiker. On October 14, Lou Renner of Santa Cruz, California, and I (from San Francisco), completed a first ascent of a new Grade VI "big wall" in Yosemite Valley. The climb, *Galactic Hitchhiker*, is located behind Curry Village on Glacier Point. (It is unaffected by the recent rock slide.) We established the new route over a year and a half, mainly working on the climb on long weekends. We finally completed the climb on October 14, 1995, making a continuous ascent from the base of the route to the summit in five days. I attached a kid's snow saucer to the side of the haul bag to ease the hauling over the slab section on the lower part of the climb.



Glacier Point Apron, showing Galactic Hitchhiker. Matthew Brooks

The first eight pitches of the *Galactic Hitchhiker* route are the old Goodrich Pinnacle route, which we rebolted. The route ends a short 10-minute hike from the Glacier Point Lookout, which is where the Fire Falls used to take place. Each pitch on *Galactic Hitchhiker* is set with a three-bolt anchor system with rappel rings, so the route can be completely rappelled. *Galactic Hitchhiker* is over 6,000 feet of climbing—41 full rope length pitches on excellent Yosemite granite rock. It is tentatively rated as 5.11a/b or 5.10a A2.

The route's name is based upon a Scottish climbing story, which we used as a tribute to the climbers whose development of skills and techniques made modern climbing possible.

MATHEW BROOKS

Ribbon Falls Amphitheater, Hole in the Head. Rick Carlton Studley III and I climbed a 1,000-foot variation to the route *Hole in the Sky* located in Ribbon Falls Amphitheater this September. The variation started out on *Reason Beyond Insanity* and headed straight up where *RBI* headed left. The route went at 5.6 A2+ with no holes and all natural belays (only two belays had partial failures during jugging/hauling). It was Rick's first wall. A 60-meter rope is a must for the route, which we named *Hole in the Head*.

JEFF APPLE BENOWITZ, *unaffiliated*

ARIZONA

Oak Creek Canyon, Christopher's Tower and Lucifer's Tooth. On January 13, Dan Stih and I climbed a freestanding tower in Oak Creek Canyon, just north of Sedona, Arizona. The line involved two mostly aid pitches on a steep compact face following corners and good splitter cracks. We feel it is the best climbing we have done in the Sedona area. We named the formation *Christopher's Tower* (III 5.8 A2 C2) after my late friend Chris Clark who fixed the first pitch but was killed climbing in the Sierras before he could return to finish the tower.

Also in the same canyon, in late September, Dan Stih and I climbed another freestanding spire we called *Lucifer's Tooth* (II 5.10+ or 5.9 C2). The line consists of four free pitches, the last of which was initially climbed on aid, but re-climbed free at 5.10+. We drilled no holes on the route, but fixed one piton on the second pitch to eliminate the need for a hammer on subsequent ascents. Both towers are located in a canyon just south of Slide Rock State Park.

RON RAIMONDE, *unaffiliated*

Oak Creek Canyon, Pic de Coubertin. In celebration of the Olympic Centennial, the UIAA (which was in the area for a committee meeting) hired two local guides, Cameron Kern and Richard Elmquist, to climb an unclimbed formation, fix both pitches, and allow the UIAA delegates present to jumar to the top. The climb took two days; the delegates named the formation Pic de Coubertin. By all accounts, the quality of the rock ranged from horrid to wretched, and the formation may never see a second ascent.

Vermilion Cliffs (above Lee's Ferry), Toothrock, East Buttress. On December 29-January 1, Paul Gagner and I finished a 1,500-foot east buttress route (11 pitches, 5.10 A2) started by Glenn Rink et al and never completed. Noebels, Mish and George Bain went up to try the route, but there were "too many people," so Rink and Noebels bailed. They got halfway up the first pillar pitch (sixth pitch overall) on that effort, in 1980, and left water bottles. In 1994, Rink and Jason Keith completed most of the pillar (to the eighth pitch), but then Keith announced he had to be