

*Long Canyon.* Another impressive tower climb of the past year was the free ascent by Steph Davis of Jim Olsen and Alley Hunt's 1995 ascent of the Warrior in Long Canyon, a branch off the popular Potash Road southwest of Moab. The route was rated 5.12a by the first ascent party and referred to as one of the best they had done in 15 years of desert climbing.

*Day Canyon.* In Day Canyon, also accessed from the Potash Road, Keith Reynolds and Alan Stephenson climbed *Prohibition Crack* (three pitches, 5.11+) on a new spire (Raptor Tower) left of Bootleg Tower. Bootleg itself, first climbed in 1974 by Eric Bjørnstad, Ron Wiggle and Terry McKenna, received a nine-bolt sport route on its west face, *Buzz Lust* (5.12), by Kevin Chase and Jimmy Symans.

*State Highway 313.* Sunset Tower up the road from Dead Horse Point and the Island-in-the-Sky district of Canyonland National Park (nine miles north of Moab) was climbed at 5.6, C2 by Mike Baker and Leslie Henderson. The team also established routes on several previously unclimbed spires north of the road on the Island-in-the-Sky mesa: *Match Stick* (5.10 A2+), *Blind Faith* (5.10+), and (on the Joker) *Dominance* (5.9) and *Submission* (C1).

*Courthouse Pasture.* Jason Keith and Hollis McCord climbed to the summit of the Merrimac Butte by a new route up the east face (5.10 A1).

*Island-in-the-Sky.* Dave Madera, Bob Novellino, Jorma Hayes and Bret Sutteer climbed a virgin butte approximately one mile north of the Tombstone, establishing *Rest in Peace* (5.10) and *Shallow Burial* (5.10).

*San Rafael Swell.* Mike Friedrichs and Anne Yeagle put up an eight-bolt sport climb, *Anti-Swell* (5.10b), and Friedrichs and Todd Leeds climbed a 15-bolt sport climb, *Bradley Mountain Wear* (5.11d), both in Buckhorn Wash. Further south, James Garrett and Franziska Garret climbed the three-pitch *Home Haunt* (5.10 A1). Rob McKeracher and Matt Fetbrod established the multi-pitch *Ladies of the '80s* (A2+ C1) and *Vertical Smile* (5.7 A2+). On Wisdom Tooth, Dave Medara and John Merriam climbed the *Toothache* (5.12c), and *Cryptogamic Forest* (5.11b) was climbed by the duo along with Mike Friedrichs and George Jamison.

Mother Hubbard's Shoe, a tower between Window Blind and Assembly Hall Peaks, was climbed by a three-pitch 5.8 route by James Garrett and Lorne Glick. Sand Worm Buttress saw an ascent by Jon Allen and Doug Byerly (5.10 A2), and Petrified Wood Tower was climbed by Lorne Glick and James Garrett via a three-pitch 5.10 A3 line on the north face and a second route (four pitches, 5.10 A2) up the southeast side of the spire. The first free ascent of the Weasel Tower was made by Seth Shaw and Beth Mallory, and Breezeway Tower, located between Weasel and Pinnacle on Oil Flat Road, was climbed at 5.9 by Jim Howe and Tommie Howe. In the Dirty Devil River Gorge area of the southern San Rafael Desert the spectacular Meerkat Tower was climbed by Frosty Weller and Jonathan Auerbac (5.10b R A1). This Wingate spire was named for the small African desert animal that is getting fans because of its stance when alerted.

*River Road (Scenic Byway 128).* Dave Glouderman rope soloed the 5.9 tower high above the River Road at Mile Post 6 in December.

*Fisher Towers Area.* Mike Baker soloed the northwest corner of River Tower, correcting its rating to III 5.8 C2. On the 900-foot Titan, Steve Haston, partnered by his wife, French alpinist Laurence Gouault, made the first clean (C3, hammerless) ascent of the popular tower by the *Finger of Fate* route. Pitches one and two were climbed at 5.11 and 5.12 respectively. Pitch 4 required only two points of aid. The bolt ladder on the arête was freed at 5.12, with less than a dozen total points of aid. The route is now 80% free at 5.11b. On Cottontail Tower, the *West Side Story* was climbed clean by Dave Goldstein and Mark Hammond over a three-day period in October (VI 5.9 C3). King Fisher's *the Jagged Edge* was soloed by Andres Zegers (from Chile).