

Double Peak, East Face. On June 29, Mark Ronca and I made the first ascent of this sheer face on the northeast summit of Double Peak (6,199') in Mt. Rainier National Park. The six-pitch climb followed an obvious crack system on the left side of the face, then finished on an exposed knife-edged ridge to the summit. The first pitch was the crux, consisting of a fun hand crack followed by a hard 5.10 roof. The second pitch started with a 5.9 fist crack followed by a 5.8 squeeze chimney. Two more pitches of mid-5th class and two pitches of easy 4th class climbing led to the summit. The quality of the rock was surprisingly excellent considering that all the other peaks in the area have extremely poor rock. Some cleaning of moss and vegetation was required on lead, though.

JOSEPH PURYEAR

OREGON

Second Spire, First Ascent. On August 3, Rob Morgan and I made the first ascent of Second Spire in four pitches (5.7 R A1) from a base camp at Jefferson Lake in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, Oregon. This is the second of several striking spires southeast of Jefferson Lake and is readily apparent from the trail. We ascended the east face, which involved 300 feet or so of technical climbing on sometimes loose volcanic rock. We followed a prominent gully from tree line, and then the line of least resistance and best rock. The approach is about six miles on the Jefferson Lake Trail, which starts near Camp Sherman. The first of these spires would be an excellent objective for those who enjoy airy, insecure aid climbing. Routes on the north or west faces of these spires would be considerably longer—probably more than 500 feet.

JEFF MCCARTHY, *Canada*

CALIFORNIA

YOSEMITE VALLEY

The American Safe Climbing Association, Formation and Activity. It's been a busy first six months for the American Safe Climbing Association. We have replaced about 500 old, unsafe bolts in Yosemite, half of the goal for this season. We've picked up support from a strong group of climbers ranging from John Middendorf to Jon Krakauer. We also are getting a boost from commercial sources such as Metolius, Patagonia and The North Face.

Though it now appears obvious that the ASCA's mission is something that needs to be accomplished, we were far from clear about it when the idea first presented itself. In late July, 1997, Jason Smith and I set out to clean up *Zenyatta Mondatta*, removing superfluous bolts, rivets and fixed copper heads. Our intention was to restore the route to a more natural state. In the end, however, we spent most of our time making the anchors bomber for subsequent ascents by removing rusting quarter-inchers and placing new stainless steel 3/8" bolts. After the climb, we decided that although returning routes to their natural condition sounded good in theory, it was a far greater (and more practical) service to the climbing community to focus energy on making the anchors safer.

With this as our goal, Jason, Erik Sloan and I continued to replace anchors for the rest of the summer on El Cap as well as on several free climbs. Although we were able to replace more than 200 bolts in three months, we had just scratched the surface of what needed to be replaced in Yosemite. Clearly more help was needed. With the goal of getting more climbers