

*Mt. Hoffman, North Face, Meteor Shower.* The north face of Mt. Hoffman is a wide face with many potential lines. In August, Sarah Schneider and I established what we believe to be the fourth technical route on the face, the farthest left one done to date. It follows the second continuous crack system from the left edge of the face (there are two lesser faces left of the “main” north face. Both of these have potential lines, but I don’t believe any routes have been done here yet). A prominent overhanging offwidth was passed via a traverse right about 150 feet up. The climbing then went up and left on flakes to regain the crack above the offwidth. In general, the route, *Meteor Shower* (III, 5.10a), slants slightly right for much of its length. The route involved four pitches, with the crux—a fist crack through a small roof—on the last one. Poor rock, continuous climbing and dicey protection and anchors seemed to be the norm on this potentially dangerous route.

ALAN BARTLETT, *unaffiliated*

*Balch Camp Flake, Flicker of Time Arête and The Passionate Life.* On February 23, David Cotter and I climbed the east (right-hand) arête of the huge Balch Camp Flake, naming it the *Flicker of Time Arête* (5.9 AO). We started on the bolt ladder of the original 1954 route, then free climbed up the arête to the top. A day later, Jay Anderson and Ann Yeagle climbed the left-hand of the two very impressive and obvious wide cracks on the south side of Balch Camp Flake. This offwidth and squeeze chimney, which they named *The Passionate Life* (5.11c), had been attempted before, but never completed.

RICHARD LEVERSEE

*The Fin, North Arête Chimney.* In June, Dave Nettle, Kevin Daniels and I climbed an obvious crack system directly up the north face of The Fin starting on the spine of the ridge that joins the base of the north face. Based on the old rusty quarter-inch bolt and sling we found about halfway up the first pitch, we think the route, the *North Arête Chimney* (III 5.10+, five pitches) had been started a long time ago.

RICHARD LEVERSEE

*Tehipite Dome, Too Hip.* In July, 1996, Ron Felton and I climbed a crack and face line, *Too Hip* (III 5.11, six pitches with 60-meter ropes) starting about 400 feet left and up from the point where the Kroger and Beckey routes intersect on the huge bush-covered “Halfway Ledge” high on the southwest face of the dome.

RICHARD LEVERSEE

*Tehipite Dome, Southwest Face, In the Niche of Time.* In October, spending 14 days out from the trailhead and six days climbing, Ron Felton, Guy ‘Zelly’ Zielsky and I succeeded in establishing the first completely independent and first big new route to be climbed on this immense wall in 27 years, *In the Niche of Time* (VI 5.10 A3+, 21 pitches with 60-meter ropes).

In October, 1991, John Vargas and I hiked the 20 miles to Tehipite Valley only to be overwhelmed by heavy backpacks and debilitating heat. In October, 1995, Ron Felton and I returned again and made the approach but retreated before beginning. In the autumn of 1997, we returned again, this time recruiting Guy Zielski to assist in the project. Ron and I led while Guy graciously helped with the moving of freight.

We spent a day and a half hiking in and, during the next two and a half days of welcome, cooling rain, we moved loads toward the base of the wall. After periodically hiding from the