

Lighthouse Tower, Free Ascent. On October 24, Bill Wright, George Bell, John Prater and Ken Leiden made the first recorded free ascent of the Northeast Face on Lighthouse Tower (III 5.9S). The crux was a crumbly offwidth crack; oversize friends are mandatory. The Northeast Face was the first ascent route of Lighthouse Spire (III 5.8+S A2) and is now its fourth or fifth free route.

GEORGE BELL

Arches National Park

Hot Wheels Tower, Funny Car. In the Windows area of Arches National Park, Brad Bond rope-soloed the first ascent of *Funny Car* (5.8 A2+) on the Hot Wheels Tower. Bond: "Linus Platt acted as technical advisor during the ascent." The climb is 100 feet south of Tonka Tower.

ERIC BJØRNSTADT

The Penguins, New Route. On the west side of the Penguins, Todd Gordon, Mary Ann Loehr and Margie Floyd established *Petrified Bear's Dick* (5.9 A2) in April.

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Fisher Towers

Fisher Towers, Various ascents. The Minotaur saw a first ascent (IV 5.9+ C2) by Lisa Raleigh and Duane Raleigh in five-and-a-half hours with no pitons and only two bolts. The route begins just right of *Ancient Art* and climbs the formation in seven pitches.

Shawn MacRoe and Chris Van Leuven climbed *Not So Soft* (VI A3+ 5.8), a new line up the northwest face of Cottontail Tower. The route starts 300 feet right of *West Side Story*, and joins *Brer Rabbit* on the big shoulder after five pitches.

In a five-hour, 25-minute solo climb, Brad England, with Phil White in support, made the first ascent of the Finger of Fate Gendarme (5.4 A1) in October.

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Mystery Towers

Mystery Towers, Various Ascents. In March, in the remote Mystery Towers just east of Fisher Towers, Keith Reynolds and Alan Stevenson climbed *The Fortress* (5.8 A3, five pitches) on Kitty Litter Wall. The route ascends the south-facing buttress adjacent to The Citadel, with minimal nailing. Reynolds comments: "The fifth pitch is possibly the worst pitch in the Mystery Towers—loose and crumbling 5.8+ Moenkopi mud cracks." The Reynolds/Stevenson team also made a free ascent of the *Pink Pussycat* (5.10), located up the left drainage beyond The Aliens. It was first climbed nearly 30 years ago by Bill Forrest and Don Briggs and rated 5.9 A3. *Pillar of Hercules* (V A3+ 5.9, 1,000+') was climbed by Duane Raleigh and Tony Wilson in four days with 35 bolts. The route is located between Hydra and Doric Column.

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