

*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.

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*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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