

Indian Creek, Various Activity. In Indian Creek, there is ever more development, little of which gets reported. Previously unreported is *Sports Page* (5.10), climbed by Steve DeFino and Jonathan McCue. The route is approximately 200 feet down the Newspaper Rock Nature Trail at the #7 marker post. On Reservoir Wall, Jay Smith and Dave Medera established two new routes. *Shattered Faith* (5.11a, 190') climbs a left-facing corner with a couple of roof pulls and is the second corner system left of Steve Hong's *Thank God for Pods*. *Goddamn* (5.12b/c) ascends a corner to a splitter crack just right of *Thank God for Pods*. In April, on Meat Wall, approximately 100 yards right of *T-Bones Tonight*, Carol Ciliberti, Will Gilmer and James Garrett established *No More Meatloaf* (5.11). The route is 25 feet right of *Camping Under the Influence*. A short chimney with a small roof marks the start of the climb.

ERIC BJØRNSTADT

Valley of the Gods. In March, on the Seven Drunken Sailors formation, Mike Baker and Leslie Henderson established *Borracho Grande* (5.9 C2, two pitches, 180').

ERIC BJØRNSTADT

Zion National Park

Zion, Various Ascents. A major route was established across from Angels Landing, between Weeping Rock and Touchstone. *Beyond the Pale* (VI A3 5.11a) was begun by Mike Baker and Leslie Henderson and finished by Baker and Chris Ducker. *A Future With No Days* (VI 5.8 A2+) was established by Ben Folsom and Lance Bateman. The route climbs a line between *Angel Hair* and *Empty Pages* on Angels Landing.

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The Sentinel, Brown-Eyed Girl. In late April, a certain Montana boy (who wishes to remain anonymous) and Joel Nolte climbed a new route on the north face of the Sentinel formation, in the Court of the Patriarchs. *Brown-Eyed Girl* (V+ 5.8 A3+) follows thin, bottoming cracks and seams up the left side of the steep, shield-like headwall. Not to be confused with the beautiful but (sadly) bolted crack to its right, our route has holes only for belays and for the crossing of blank terrain.

JOEL NOLTE, *unaffiliated*

Traverse of West Temple and Towers of the Virgin. On the spring equinox, Dan Stih and I made a complete traverse of the West Temple and the Towers of the Virgin. The idea materialized while making the first ascents of the towers in the winter of 1997. Dan and I originally climbed Altar of Sacrifice straight on, during a four-day push, fixing ropes and hauling as far as the plateau. Once on the plateau, we climbed each of the towers in succession. The following summer we planned a lightweight alpine-style traverse of the towers, including the West Temple, which would be used as a staging point.

In March, Dan and I climbed the Southwest Ridge of the West Temple (II 5.5) and made five rappels from trees and bushes into the hanging valley between the West Temple and the Sundial. We then made an exposed fourth-class traverse across the east face of the Sundial

and behind the towers into Christopher's Valley, where we bivied. On March 20, we climbed the Sundial (5.10+, seven pitches), The Witch Head (5.10, five pitches) and The Broken Tooth (5.10, four pitches). We then climbed the Rotten Tooth from the south via a grotesque route (5.3, three pitches). We climbed the Altar from the west via a prominent gully (5.9), summiting just before dark on the 20th. We then spent the night on top of the Altar's east face, one of the most spectacular of our 75-plus bivies in the park. The following morning we rappelled down the Altar's north face, becoming temporarily stranded in the center of a 200-meter blank vertical wall while drilling hanging rappel stations. In the end, self-preservation sent me prussiking in search of better rock. Twenty meters above, I found stone hard enough to trust three equalized anchors, and after one more station, the descent ended in a hanging valley. We made an unsuccessful attempt on the southeast ridge of the unclimbed Meridian Tower, then spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the valley between the Altar and Meridian Tower, bivying that night in the hanging valley beneath the Altar.

On March 22, we rappelled 460 meters down the gully just left of the east face, using only natural anchors. In all, we rappelled more than 1800 meters and climbed at least that much rock. The only fixed anchors on the entire traverse are on the north face of the Altar.

RON RAIMONDE

Zion, Enchainment. It was reported that in April, Mike Pennings and Jeff Hollenbaugh linked the routes *Touchstone Wall*, *Space Shot*, *Monkeyfinger Wall* and *Moonlight Buttress* in 18 hours, free climbing through 5.11 and simul-climbing much of the terrain. The pair also made the third ascent of the Anker-Stump route on the far left side of the Streaked Wall, presumably on another day. (*Climbing* 178)

Mt. Kinesava, Arrakis. In early October, Dan Gambino and I climbed a new route on the southwest face of Mt. Kinesava. *Arrakis* (V 5.8 A2+) is ten pitches long and took three days to complete. Located about 600 feet left of *King Corner*, the route follows cracks and dihedrals on the last section of clean face before the wall breaks up into corners and arêtes on its left side. This face is plainly visible at sunset. The flat pillar at mid-height offers a superb bivy; the sloping ledge system at three-quarters height is not so superb. Descent was made by rappelling the route (this required the addition of an extra set of anchors to the left of the sixth belay). All belays have at least one bolt; those on the upper half of the route generally have two. All bolts are 3/8" x 3" except for the single 3/8" x 2 1/4" atop the final pitch. Sixty-meter ropes were used, but the route could probably be done with 55-meter ropes. Gear ranged from birdbeaks to large tube chocks. In a fit of genius, the first-ascent party failed to take free-climbing shoes. These would have allowed most of the lower half of the route to go free at 5.11 or less.

JOEL NOLTE, *unaffiliated*

Emerald Star Mountain, Leaving Llamaland. From May 30-June 3, Amanda Tarr established the route *Leaving Llamaland* (V+ 5.7 A2+, 1,000') on Emerald Star Mountain, two buttresses right of the route *Emerald Star Majesticus*. A full account of her solo climb appears earlier in this journal.