

dark, compact northeast face of Sharkstooth Peak, also in the Andrew's Glacier area. This promising face turned out to be a haunted house of sundry horrors, including excessively licheny rock and disposable holds, one of which landed squarely on the small of my back as the rain began to fall, heightening the peril of the situation. Needless to say, we persevered on our route, *Decline of Western Civilization*, finding climbing up to 5.10 and wishing to never find ourselves on this chunk of choss again. On the walk out, I spied a line Matt Hobbs had told me about and he and I returned with Sari Nicoll to establish a six-pitch climb, *Heat Wave* (5.11c), that we held in very high esteem. This line climbs the sunny pinnacle on the south face of Mt. Otis, also in the Andrew's Glacier area. With solid rock, four pitches of 5.10, and one acrobatic roof at 5.11, it ranks as one of the best free climbs in the Park at its grade.

Later in the summer, I teamed with up Sari Nicoll again for an exciting, three-pitch variation to the *Flying Buttress* route on Mt. Meeker's south face. *Kiss The Sky* featured a 5.11 hand-to-finger crack through a small roof and some very loose rock that was cleaned up for subsequent ascents. Next on tap was a trip into the Glacier Gorge to the south face of Arrowhead Peak with Kath Pyke. We climbed two excellent three-pitch lines, one, *Goldfinger*, a beautiful 5.11d crack on the golden central buttress, and the other, *Raindance*, a 5.9+ on the slabby left face. I returned a couple of weeks later with Jon Allen to establish another climb, *Refugium*, to the left of *Raindance*, finding excellent rock and intricate climbing up to 5.11. That same day we established a wonderful 5.10d/5.11a, *Dreams of Babylon Burning*, a seven-pitch route up the center of the east face of McHenry's Peak.

After another new route with Kath Pyke on Wisteria Tower (see above), I wrapped the summer season up with a great climb, *Solar Arête*, on Solar Wall above the Loch Vale near Zowie Pinnacle. Jon Allen and I found five pitches of stimulating face climbing through roof bands on a sunny arête, the crux being a stemming dihedral that fell at 5.11b. No bolts or pitons were placed on any of these routes, nor were any taken along. I'm certainly not against use of bolts in the Park, but wish only to see them used tastefully. It is hoped that the huge resource of rock will be respected for future generations to enjoy and cherish.

The 1998 ski mountaineering season in RMNP was somewhat bleak, as there was precious little snow on the steeper aspects. Nonetheless, I managed to repeat some of the classic testpieces established by John Harlin III and Jimmy Katz in the early 1980s. I skied the north face of Longs Peak, twice solo, and the ominous, committing Y Couloir on Mt. Ypsilon, also solo. I then added a few testpieces of my own, including the West Face Couloir of Mummy Peak, the South Couloir of Chuiquita Peak, both alone, and the western-most couloir above Ptarmigan Glacier on Flattop Peak with Jon Allen.

In the Indian Peaks Wilderness, I skied the stunning South Couloir of Shoshoni Peak and the exposed East Face of Apache Peak in a fine solo outing.

DOUG BYERLY

*Longs Peak, Four Pitches, 24 Hours.* In the first week of September, Mic Follari and I completed a new route on the Upper East Face of Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park. Three brilliant pitches of 5.6-5.8 were done to get to Broadway. Pins were noticed along the way; we later learned that this was the 1956 *Glendennings Arête*. After reaching Broadway, it is possible to solo up another 400 feet; a short section of 5.7 is encountered upon leaving Broadway, then it is easy fourth to fifth class scrambling. A prominent right-facing dihedral

system to the east was taken after the angle increased. The dihedral yields four pitches of 5.9-5.10 climbing. Descent was made via the Loft between Mount Meeker and Longs Peak. The route was named *Four Pitches, 24 Hours* for humiliating reasons I'd rather not discuss.

MATT HOBBS

*Longs Peak, The Diamond, Left For Dead.* During the first week of August, Shane Wayker and I finished a new route on the far right side of the Diamond, approximately 50 feet to the right of Sunshine. Peter Takeda and I fixed the first four pitches of this route in the fall of 1996. Terrible weather forced us to retreat one pitch from the top. I then returned in the fall of 1997 with Mike Duncan. Once again we were stopped by horrible weather. This year, to increase the likelihood of clear skies, Shane and I hiked in on August 3. There was one drawback to going in during the summer. The runoff from the melting north face would be draining down the route.

We hiked in under stormy skies and bivied under a tarp on Broadway. Unfortunately, we awoke to an inch of fresh hail, but by mid-morning the sun came out and dried things off nicely. As I started up the first pitch (5.7 AI wet), dark clouds moved in and it started to rain, hail and snow. Shane led the second pitch (5.9 AI) in relative comfort due to the steepness of the wall. We fixed these two pitches and retreated to the tarp.

During the night three inches of snow fell. We slept in, and by 9 a.m. the sun was out and most of the snow was gone. We jugged our lines to the start of the fixed ropes Pete and I had installed on pitches 3 and 4 in 1996. The old lines looked great, so we jugged on lead and placed gear every ten feet or so. (Pitch 3 was AI+; pitch 4, which required some thin nailing, a few beaks and heads, was A3.) By the time we arrived at the start of pitch 5, we were both soaked. The weather was stable, but the north face had started to drain. Luckily, it was my lead. (I would rather climb in a cold shower than belay in one.) Forty feet of tied-off knifeblades, beaking, heading and hooking took me to the base of a large roof (A3+). Easy aid led out right for 15 feet and then up an overhanging chimney and onto the north face. Incredibly, Shane had not gotten hypothermic while belaying for three hours in an icy shower. He cleaned the pitch and we carefully rappelled the route (which we called *Left For Dead*, VI 5.7 A3+, 800'), stripping the fixed ropes as we descended. The tarp was warm and dry!

DAVE SHELDON

*Longs Peak, Lower East Face, Babies 'R' Us. Babies 'R' Us* (III 5.12a) is a five-pitch route on the Lower East Face of Longs Peak that offers steep slab climbing on mostly high quality granite. It starts 250 feet right of the North Chimney, immediately right of a conspicuous black streak, and eventually crosses the black streak several times. Because the black streak is often wet, the best times to do the route are either late May/early June or late August/early September. The first three pitches weave their way up discontinuous weaknesses and when these features end, you can expect some difficult thin edge climbing with bolt protection. The first pitch is 5.11a and requires some route-finding skills at the bottom, but four bolts steer the climber to a nice belay perch. The second very difficult pitch involves a fair bit of 5.11b face work with an improbable 5.12a crux sequence and eventually crosses the black streak. The third short pitch traverses leftward to an arête (5.11a) and reaches a comfortable belay. Pitch four traverses back right across a tenuous face section to reach a welcome crack system (5.9+) that leads to another good belay. The last pitch traverses rightward to avoid easy cracks