

to the wall with four days of supplies and gear. After waking the next morning to rockfall hitting the portaledge fly, we began our steady progress up the wall. The climbing was predominately moderate aid with some good free climbing mixed in. Our line proved to be every bit as beautiful as it had appeared from the ground. When the prow that we were following ended, we climbed a long chimney pitch followed by a fourth-class gully to a false summit. I climbed the last 200-foot pitch via a system of broken cracks and ledges to the top. We summited on our fifth day on the wall and were greeted with good weather. We called our route of first ascent *Freebird* (VI 5.9 A2+).

While we were on the Phoenix, Cogie and David were starting a route on a feature directly across from us dubbed the Golden Buttreass. Cogie, David, John, and I all summited several days later via *Golden Wing* (III 5.10 A2+).

After completing our objectives in the first valley, we moved camp up to the previously described Vampire Spires. We spent the next three days humping loads up talus slopes and bushwhacking through willow thickets. The Vampire Spires are composed of three distinct spires (The Fortress, The Canine, and the Vampire Spire) that sit in the head of the valley we were camped in. The Vampire Spire was climbed by a party in 1994 (see account by Mike Bengé on p. 194), but the Fortress and the Canine remained untouched.

After spending a day bouldering and sorting gear under blue skies, Cogie and I set off to attempt the Fortress. Once again we were blessed with a straight-forward and striking line up the center of the feature. Clean dihedrals and splitter cracks gained us about 600 feet to a spacious ledge for our first bivy. We made good progress the first day and were hopeful of our summit chances the next. Cogie gave me a good scare the next day by taking an ugly 15-foot ledge fall when the rock exploded around a stopper he was on. A couple of hours beforehand, John ended his trip by spraining his ankle while taking a big fall attempting a line to the right of ours with David. After topping out on the buttress late that afternoon, we then picked our way through false summits and rotten gullies until we finally ran out of rock to climb. We rappelled back down to our portaledges as a storm was coming in and settled into sleeping bags with the satisfaction of having accomplished one of our goals. We called our route *Cornerstone* (IV 5.10 A2+).

With only a few days left until our pick-up, Cogie and I decided to try the last unclimbed spire, The Canine. The rock on the Canine proved to be much looser than anything we had previously tried. The climbing demanded our full attention. After a couple of short falls, a stopper that busted my chin open, and a 40-foot head-first fall, we were definitely taking our situation seriously. We were finally forced to retreat about 100 feet from the summit due to impending blizzard conditions, a bizarre, criss-crossing dihedral crack system that lay ahead, and a pick-up date within two days' time. In retrospect, our line will go using a variety of angles.

MATT CHILDERS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

COAST MOUNTAINS

Waddington Range, Various Activity. This was an interesting year, with a long, dry, hot introduction to the season putting the glaciers into very difficult conditions for travel, but shaping up the mountains (especially the rock lines) better than in most summers. A lot of activity was

recorded, most of it focused on peaks other than "The Wadd," which was climbed only twice—the Bravo Icefall was not in friendly shape!

The year started with an incredibly adventurous outing when Frenchman Lionel Daudet and his friends (his brother Damien, George Jougeau, and Swiss big-wall specialist Jean-Michel Zweacker) spent three weeks ferrying 300 kilos of gear on foot and skis into the range to attempt a new route on Combatant Mountain. Lionel and Damien eventually climbed a snow/ice approach plus six difficult mixed and rock pitches (to 6c A1) left of *Skywalk* on the southwest pillar. Four days of storm forced retreat from a portaledge bivy well short of the summit, although a nut in a crack was passed on the last pitch, so the route may have joined *Walk on the Wild Side*.

Jim Haberl and Keith Reid made the first repeat (with minor variations) of the very fine *Risse Route* (IV 5.8 ice to 50°, 700m) on the south face of the Northwest Peak of Waddington in June, which is usually a washout month.

Ben Gilmore and Kevin Mahoney flew into the Waddington-Combatant Col early in July (again, earlier than is typical), and made the second ascent of the complete North Couloir (IV 5.6 A1, ice to 65°, 1500m) of Mt. Hickson over two days as a warm-up. They followed this with a new two-pitch 5.10a direct start to *Skywalk*, and topped off their visit with a steep new rock route (*Solo Blue*, IV 5.6 A3, six 60m pitches) on the west face of the Middle Buttress on Combatant. Ben completed this route on his own because of a tendon injury suffered by Kevin.

The "old-timers" from Seattle (Glen Cannon, Dave Knudson, Mike Martin, Peter Renz, Mickey Schurr, and Jon Wellner, with youngster Chris Fast) visited the Sunrise Glacier. Numerous first repeats were made, and several first ascents. Of particular note were the climbs made on the small rock peaks between Cataract, Isolation, and Malemute glaciers, attractive and seldom-visited destinations, and the first ascent of d'Artagnan Spire in the Four Guardsmen.

A large group from Seattle (five members) and Germany (three members) spent the last week of July and first week of August in the range, accomplishing several significant climbs and establishing new records for intra-group angst. Bruno Boll, Daniel Hamann, and Forrest Murphy made the second complete ascent of the South Buttress (VI 5.10 A1, 1600m) of Tiedemann in five days round-trip. Dan Aylward and Forrest then climbed the long-admired North Rib (IV 5.10, 800m) of Marcus in a day and a half round-trip, while Bruno and Daniel blitzed the neighboring North Face (IV 5.6, 900m) of Merlon in only 17 hours round-trip. Unfortunately, the rock on Merlon was dangerously poor, and this impressive face earned a "Not Recommended." Later in the trip, numerous climbs on the Upper Tellot Glacier were done, with perhaps the finest being a new line (5.10d, three pitches) by Bruno and Daniel on the superb east face of Dragonback.

Doug Clark and Keith Pankow attempted the South Buttress of Tiedemann a week or so after the above party had made their ascent, reaching the base of the final 13-pitch upper pillar after three days. Here a storm moved in, pinning the two in their bags for a very unpleasant day before they were able to force a retreat. Bad weather is always a factor to consider in the Coast Mountains, even in the finest summer.

Michael Down and Graeme Taylor were on the Upper Tellot Glacier twice during the summer. On the first trip, in August, they climbed the impressive Northwest Buttress (IV 5.9, 500m) of Mt. Shand, which unfortunately finished with a couple of extremely precarious, dangerously loose pitches. This was followed by several other smaller day-climbs, including

the pleasant North Face (II, ice to 55°, steeper at the 'schrund, minor mixed, three 55m pitches) of Dragonback and the excellent Southeast Pillar (II 5.10+, three pitches) of Mt. McCormick. The later trip, in early September, netted the Northeast Face Direct (III 5.9 A2, nine pitches) on the impressive prong of Stiletto Needle.

The redoubtable Fred Beckey revisited the range for the umpteenth time, accompanied by Kai Hirvonen, Lorne Glick, and Witt Richardson. The latter three made a very fine new route, climbing the oft-admired, occasionally attempted Southwest Face (V 5.10 A2, nine 60m pitches) of Stiletto Peak in two days. Numerous other shorter routes on the fine granite of the Upper Tellot Glacier peaks followed, including the first free ascent of the south face (II 5.11a, three pitches) of Tellot Spire.

DON SERL, *Canada*

CANADIAN ROCKIES

Mt. Quadra, Gimme Shelter. In March, Alain Massin and Steve Pratt managed the second ascent of *Gimme Shelter* on Mt. Quadra. First climbed over two days in 1983 by Kevin Doyle and Tim Friesen with exceptionally thin ice for seven pitches, it was easily the hardest ice climb in the world at the time. The last few seasons, it has been forming as a fat pillar of straight-forward water ice. Despite the WI 5+/6 conditions, the seracs at the top of the route have become very unstable, with several close calls keeping most suitors away. The significance of this long-awaited second ascent is somewhat diminished due to the relatively easy conditions of the route and the fact that repeating the route is now simply a matter of being willing to brave the obscene serac hazard.

One of greatest and most sought-after alpine water ice routes in the world, *Slipstream*, in the Columbia Icefields, also has a disintegrating serac barrier. Until recently, the serac atop this 3,000-foot route has been relatively mild, but a large blue hole has appeared directly over the route and is now regularly discharging down the climb.

Other hanging glaciers in the Rockies are in various states of disrepair. Numerous alpine routes are now decidedly unsafe. The North Glacier of Deltaform, *Photofinish* on Andromeda, the *Hourglass Route* on the north face of Athabasca, the Elzinga/Miller on the north face of Cromwell and, most disturbingly, the glacier atop the Lowe Route on the north face of Mt. Alberta have become or are quickly becoming a toss of the dice.

JOE JOSEPHSON, *Calgary Mountain Club*

North Face of the Saskatchewan Mountain Massif, The Silver Lining. On April 5, Barry Blanchard, Steve House and I left the Big Bend parking lot on the Icefields Parkway and skied several kilometers toward the toe of the Saskatchewan Glacier. Our objective was the first steep chimney cutting through the 2,000-foot wall on the left side of the valley. The approach was made up a wind-blown slope to the base (about two hours from the car). The first pitch was the crux, requiring difficult dry tooling to spotty ice above a large roof. Due to unprotectable, detached ice, the next pitch followed a tricky rock corner to a cave on the left, followed by an exposed dry tooling traverse back to the ice. These pitches do not always form and in better times may be straight-forward ice. The next seven pitches followed classic alpine mixed and ice terrain up the gully. Highlights include a wild mixed section coming