

Paria Point, Blitzkrieg. Established in May by Jason Stevens and Jared Nielson, *Blitzkrieg* (IV 5.9+ A2+/C2+) is an excellent Zion route with a moderate approach and excellent solitude. No other climbers and only a few hikers were encountered during the establishment of the route. The route, which is approached by hiking to Paria Point from the parking area at the mouth of the South Fork of Taylor Creek, offers excellent clean and aid climbing on splitter cracks and is fairly easy. The route begins by climbing into a dihedral using blocks on the right and working to a bolt. A bolt ladder traverse across the face also marks the first pitch. If climbers are willing to make the approach, the route could be a popular Zion moderate. Great attention was paid to the quality of the belay stations and bolt ladders. All belays have at least three Rawl bolts (1/2" and 3/8") with epoxy reinforced hangers to prevent spinning. All belays have chains and rap rings. All bolt ladder bolts are 3/8-inch Rawl bolts. There are no rivets or "cheap" bolts on this route.

In addition to the regular array of cams, nuts, hooks, and pitons, critical gear includes two 60-meter ropes, one set of HB Bronze Offsets, one set of DMM Peanuts, one set of Ballnuts, one each of Pika Toucans number 1-3, one each of number 1-6 knifeblades, and two Black Diamond Peckers.

This route could be taken to the summit of the wall to gain the 800-foot scramble to the top of the formation. Due to time constraints, poor rock condition, and "Zion jungle bush-whack pitches," the first ascent team ended the route at the top of the seventh pitch and did not explore a less direct route to the top. It is hoped that a future party will push the last pitches to the top.

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Zion Canyon

Cathedral Mountain, Various Activity. On April 1, Tom Jones and I established the nine-pitch *Fool's Buttress* (III 5.8 A0), which ascends the northeast buttress of Cathedral Mountain. Two pitches of fourth-class friction on the left side of the sub-buttress led to the start of the main buttress. The third pitch required a move of aid at a bolt to gain moderate free climbing for three pitches on the left side of the crest of the buttress. The route crossed the crest of the buttress and exploited weaknesses until the manzanita veldt was reached. A short hike to the southeast revealed an easy fifth-class friction route up the final summit block. Most belay anchors consisted of a single bolt and shrubbery. We used a standard rack, with single cams to number 4, 200-foot ropes, and shallow angle pitons that provided some measure of security in the soft, white rock. We searched the summit block for a cairn but found no evidence of a prior ascent (odd!). We rappelled off a small shrub on the far side of the summit block and descended the "hook" canyon (four rappels) on the western side of the peak, eventually hiking out beneath the north face of Cathedral Mountain prior to reconnecting with the West Rim trail.

On October 17, we were primed for some tomfoolery exploration and ascended the "hook" canyon (III 5.8 A1) on the north and west side of Cathedral Mountain. We belayed a short pitch at the first pourover and another in a short chimney. The canyon splits in its upper end and we chose the west fork. Noting a couple of pitons from a previous attempt, we climbed a short head-wall (100 feet to the climber's left of the watercourse) for two pitches (5.8 A1) to gain the Cathedral Mesa. After spending the night on the mesa, we descended the deep canyon that drains to the south behind the Spearhead. This descent required 17 rappels, many of which were high