

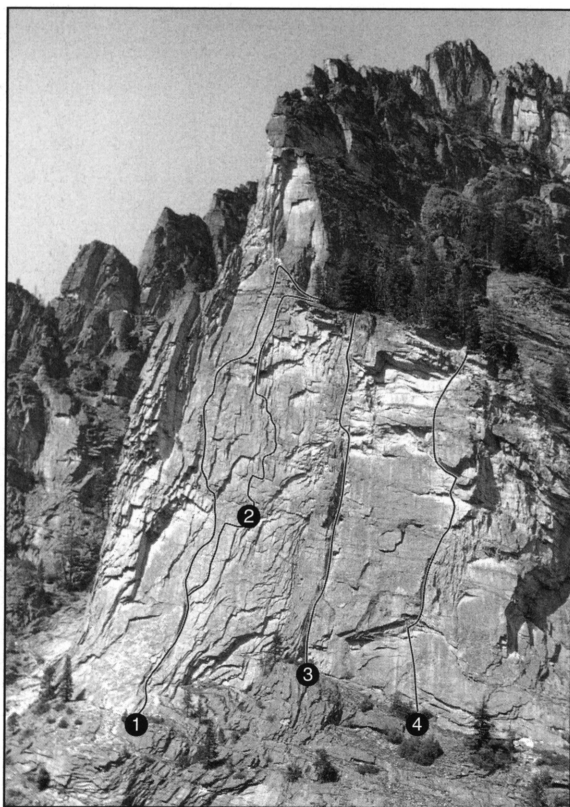
ascends 200 feet east of the Drip Buttress Route on the south face and is marked 20 feet up with a hanger. It climbs five pitches of mostly aid and tackles two large roofs. Excellent climbing was interspersed with occasional gardening (mostly completed for those interested in repeat ascents). All belays except the top offer two bolts, and retreating from the fourth pitch or rappelling the route will require 60-meter ropes. This route is fun, safe, and eats up knifeblades, so bring lots! In addition to a normal aid rack, bring a few medium heads and circleheads, and all kinds of hooks. While the fourth pitch is the crux, the entire route is pretty consistent. In naming this route, we paid homage to our main source of sustenance on the climb: McDonald's was practically giving away breakfast sandwiches that day.

BEN OSBURN, *unaffiliated*

*Bitterroot Mountains, Various Activity.* An entry for new climbs in the Bitterroot Mountains is well overdue, since the last AAJ entry was made by Stephen Porcella five years ago. Since

1997, many significant first ascents have been established in Blodgett, Mill Creek, and Lost Horse canyons by a core group of dedicated Bitterroot loyalists, most notably Brad Stevens, Jim Crossland, Jimmy Pinjuv, Chris Trimble, Kelly Cordes, Rafael Graña, Kevin McCracken, Jim Earl, and Stephen Porcella.

In Blodgett Canyon, the north face of Point 8252 was climbed in a single push by Trimble and Stevens. Their 20-pitch route *Caesar's Palace* (IV 5.10) is, along with the north face of Point 9883 (Tin Cup Canyon), climbed in 1992 by Graña and Keith Schultz, and the north face of North Trapper Peak (first ascent unknown), one of the longest technical routes in the Bitterroot Range. On the 700-foot south face of the U.K. buttress, above and right of Nez Perce, McCracken and Graña completed the elegant *Juanita's Wall* (IV 5.11). This direct line awaits a second free ascent. To the right of *Degrees of Freedom* on the south face of the Drip Buttress, McCracken and Jeff Shapiro established *Trowelhead* (V 5.9 A3+), with McCracken exclaiming that it contained "some of the best nailing I've ever done." The summit pyramid



The Drip Buttress, showing 1. *Degrees of Freedom* (Anderson-Porcella, 1992). 2. *Trowel Head* (Shapiro-McCracken 2000). 3. *Original Route* (Griffin-Herbine, 1980). 4. *McWonder Muffins* (Osburn-Roberts, 1999). The ridge-line to the left is the formation referred to as the *Cornler Ridge*, home of *The Cornler* (Cordes-Graña-Kehoe-Stevens-Trimble, 2000). STEVE PORCELLA

of this formation has yet to be climbed and a complete ascent of the Drip still awaits. Of particular note is Crossland's first solo ascent (with aid) of the 1,000-foot south face of Flathead Butte, via the *Rich Pierce Memorial*. This was the first solo of a grade V in the Bitterroot. Kudos to you, Jimmy King!

On the next formation west of The Drip, the combined efforts of Stevens, Trimble, Cordes, Graña, and Mike Kehoe produced *The Cornler* (IV 5.11). The route climbs a sustained dihedral on the west face for three pitches (5.10+), followed by "many" pitches (up to 5.11) along the gendarmed south ridge.

Mill Creek Canyon, a relatively untapped drainage with as much rock as Blodgett, saw a motivated revival, led by the tireless Crossland. At near the four-mile mark, Crossland and Graña climbed five pitches of sustained finger and hand cracks on a south-facing buttress to produce *Ozzie's Wall* (IV 5.10+). While not as long as the popular *My Mom's Muscle Shirt* (5.10+) in Blodgett, it is easily superior in quality. On the steep wall right of Dihedrals East, Crossland and Earl finally topped out on *Another Day at The Mill* (IV 5.10/11), with help on the lower pitches from Tiffany Scrymgeour and Warren Hollinger. On the 1,000-foot-plus wall one-quarter of a mile west of the popular *No Sweat Arête*, Crossland and Graña, after many bivies, completed *Bittersweet* (V 5.11 A3, 9 pitches) with much help and inspiration on the lower section from Stevens, Pinjuv, and Trimble. Pinjuv free climbed the fourth-pitch dihedral on top rope at "at least 5.12"; when entirely freed, the climb will certainly be the most difficult long route in the Bitterroot Range.

On the south- and west-facing cliffs above and upstream from the campground in Lost Horse Canyon, over 50 one- to three-pitch routes from 5.7 through 5.12 have been established. The discovery and development of this area is particularly significant to Bitterroot climbing, in that for years (decades) locals have sought to find just such an area endowed with the quality and concentration of crack climbs found here. Porcella, Pinjuv, Graña, Crossland, Stevens, Cordes, and Trimble are primarily responsible for new route development and access trails at Lost Horse.

RAFAEL GRAÑA, *unaffiliated*

*Fred Burr Canyon, Fred Burr Buttress, The Chimney, New Route, Previously Unreported.* Bruce Anderson and I climbed this route, *The Chimney* (IV 5.10+, 8 pitches), in a one-day push in mid-summer 1993. The route, on the north side of the creek, lies on the largest, most prominent buttress in the first three miles of the canyon. This buttress is quite striking when viewed from the west or east in the canyon. The route begins in a large, broken corner that lies 50 feet up slope on the southwest corner of the buttress. The climbing is fairly easy to begin with, until the corner steepens and the crack pinches down. A traverse right leads to a thin crack that gains broken ledges and easier rock. The next pitch is the great chimney. Easily visible from the trail, this is the most classic pitch (5.9) on the route, and was led by Bruce in typically good style. The pitch exits the chimney with easier climbing leading right and onto the buttress's south face. Another five to six pitches, varying in length but comprised of short sustained cruxes (5.8 to 5.10+), constitute the rest of the climb, as it meanders up the south face. No bolts, pitons, or heads were placed. Take a good supply of water, as we shared only a quart between us that day, turning our bodies into hallucinating raisins.

STEVE PORCELLA, *The Access Fund*