

On July 5, we jumared up the fixed line and tried the fourth pitch. The beginning of the pitch was an easy, grassy chimney, but above, in the middle of the pitch, we used three points of hooking and did delicate face climbing. The fifth pitch and beginning of the sixth contained very loose rock and expanding flakes, so much time was required. Above, in the middle of the sixth and on the seventh pitch, we enjoyed serious aid climbing with hooking and nailing, include birdbeaks. On pitches eight to ten, we climbed a beautiful crack that varied from thin to fist width. But since we had to climb while cleaning mud and moss, we had to aid it with cams and nuts. I hope someone will free climb the beautiful crack next time. We called the vertical pitches from pitch seven to ten "The Headwall." Above the tenth pitch, the inclination became gentler. We climbed in a chimney and easy face for the 11th and 12th pitches. The 13th and final pitch, a corner and overhanging crack, led us to the shoulder of Bustle Tower. We found a route that was possible to easily climb to the summit, but we decided to go down because we expected it to storm soon.

Naturally, we didn't fix any protection except for each belay anchor. We stayed two nights each in the portaledge at the end of the fourth and eighth pitches. We rated the difficulty 5.10a A3.

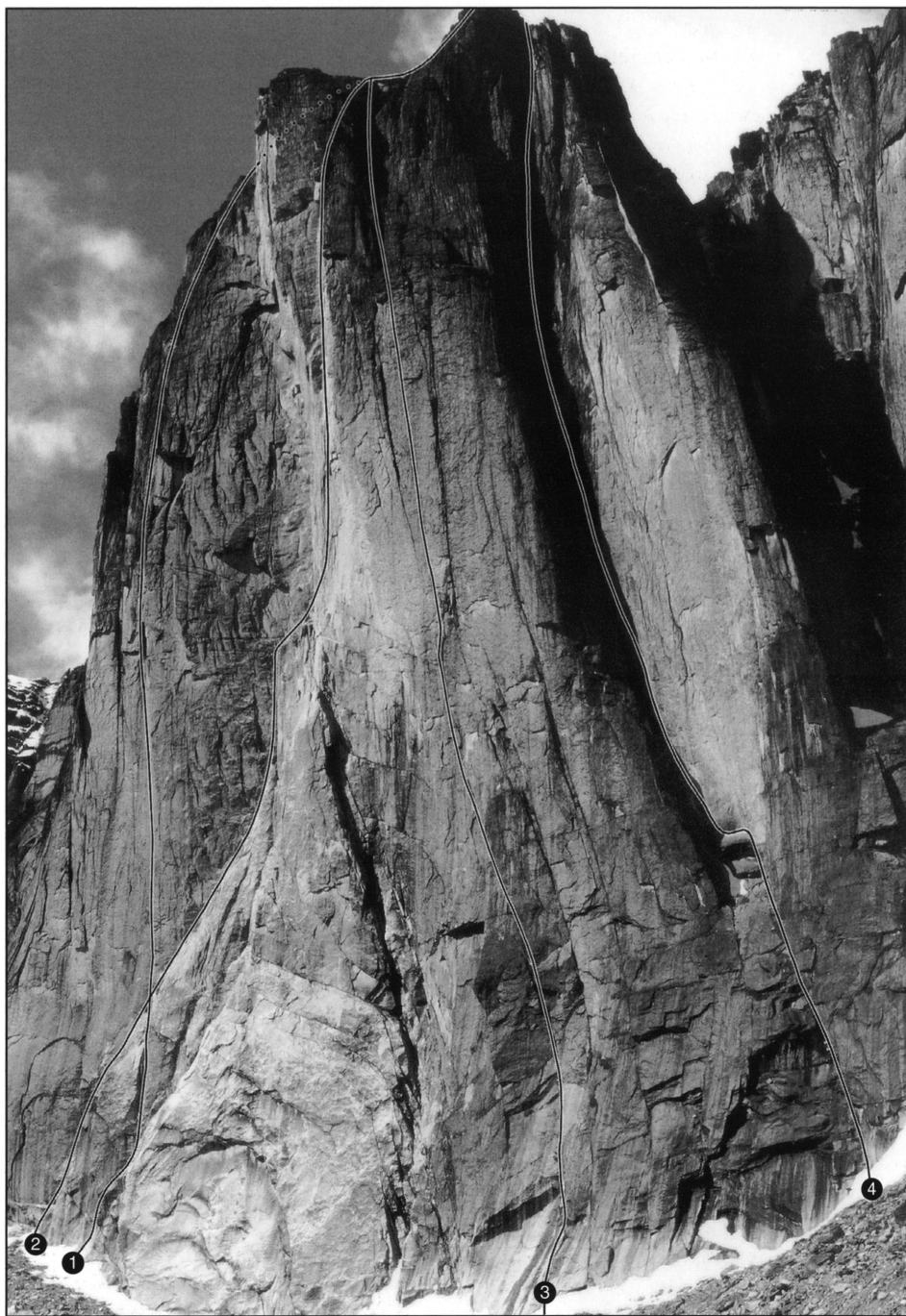
SHOGO KADA, *Japan*

The Minataur, Run for Cover, New Route. On July 20, Chris Van Leuven and I were dropped off in the Cirque of the Unclimbables in Canada's Northwest Territories. We spent 11 days in the Cirque, during which we climbed the Lotus Flower Tower, before we were flown into the Ragged Range for some exploratory climbing.

On August 2, Chris and I were picked up from the Cirque. Our first attempt to find the east sanctuary of Mt. Nirvana brought us to an area to the east with no flat ground to land on and a distinct lack of appetizing peaks. We would later learn that this area was aptly called "Valley of Chaos." After aborting that flight, we went back the next day with better directions. We landed on an incredible alpine meadow on the east side of Mt. Nirvana, the highest peak in the Northwest Territories.

According to Jack Bennett's 1997 AAJ report, Buckingham and Surdam were the first to climb in this area, summiting Nirvana in 1965, and a couple of parties have since climbed in the region. Still, the area is rarely visited. Our objective stood out like a beacon in a storm. The untouched south face of the Minataur rose dramatically out of the glacier for almost 2,000 feet. We were experiencing the best weather of the trip at this point and immediately began humping loads. There was a beautiful line that split the south face and continued to the summit corner systems. After a five-hour approach, we fixed the first two pitches of the route. We returned the next day with plans to blast the wall in two days. The climbing turned out to be a frightening/loose/awesome mixture of free and aid. The steepness of the wall dictated hanging belays when the rope ran out. We bivied about 1,000 feet up the climb after the first day. That night the temperatures plummeted and a storm dumped over a foot of snow on us, forcing retreat the next day.

After we gathered our wits and rested for two days, the weather finally looked like it would give us a shot. Being familiar with the terrain allowed us to gain our high point earlier and get one more pitch in before dark. As we were setting up the portaledge, snow began to fall again, but we woke up to a cold, clear morning. We hightailed it out of camp and raced for the summit, gaining a chimney and corner system that split the upper wall. The climbing was consistently loose with iced-up wide cracks that were often unprotectable. Chris contin-



The southeast face of Bustle Tower, showing the approximate lines of 1. Club International (V/VI 5.10+ A2, Isaac-Taylor, 1997); 2. Southeast Face (VI 5.10 A1, Collar-Ramouillet-Lorenzi, 1977; all but 200 feet were freed by Mark Wilford and Bill Wylie in 1980); 3. Beppin (V 5.10a A3-, Kada-Kuroda, 1999); 4. Southeast Dihedral (V 5.8 A2, Ammerer-Mochacek, 1977). SHOGO KADA



The south face of the Minataur, showing Run for Cover (Childers-Van Leuven, 2000). Mt. Nirvana is the steeped peak left of center. MATT CHILDERS

ued to step up with bold free climbing as we aimed for the top. The weather was alternating snow and sun all day. As I pulled the summit mantle it was dumping snow, but by the time I set up the anchor the weather had cleared. The summit offered a brilliant view of Mt. Nirvana and the surrounding peaks. We rappelled the route and touched the ground without placing any holes on the entire route. We named the route *Run for Cover* (V 5.10 A2).

MATT CHILDERS*

*Recipient of an AAC Lyman Spitzer Climbing Grant and an AAC Mountaineering Fellowship Fund award

COAST MOUNTAINS

Mt. Monarch, North Ridge, New Route. From August 4-7, on my fifth attempt of the route (the first way back in 1983), Bill Durtler, Bruce Fairley, and I finally made the first ascent of the North Ridge of Mount Monarch (3573m), the “big” peak south of Bella Coola. The 900-meter route presents itself as a tower-studded rock ridge (and there are in fact several pitches in the 5.8-5.9 range), but the majority of the climbing was on steep ice and mixed ground on ramps and gullies weaving amongst the towers. Three days were spent reaching the summit, and a third bivy was made on the descent. *En passant*, we also climbed Monarch’s North Summit, at about 3250 meters likely the highest unclimbed subsidiary peak in the Coast Mountains.

DON SERL, *Canada*