



Mt. Monarch, showing the North Ridge (Durtler-Fairley-Serl, 2000) and line of descent. DON SERL

Mt. Combatant, Perseverance, New Route. On the evening of July 29, White Saddle Air choppered Alan Kearney and I to a precarious little spot in the icefall of the upper Tiedemann Glacier directly below the immense east face of Waddington. This approach allayed our concerns of serious problems in the icefall and gave us excellent access to Combatant. The ample snow coverage gave us non-trivial access to the base. After a very rough scope of the route, we carried loads on July 30, but were unable to actually get on the route due to weather. The next morning we left early and climbed. Going with just one pack between the two of us and the second jugging, we were able to climb the route in four days and rappel the route back to base camp in one day. Our route was 17 pitches long to the huge terrace that splits Combatant at mid-height on the southwest side, where we joined the previously climbed *Kshatrya* (5.8, 12 pitches) to the summit. The route climbs the last major unclimbed buttress on Combatant, the one left of Child, Collum, and Mascioli's 1994 route *Belligerence*. The weather was intermittent for the first two days, but we were blessed with beautiful weather for the remainder, thus the name for our route: *Perseverance* (VI 5.10c A2+).

BRENDAN CUSICK

Mt. Tiedemann, New Route. From August 4-7, Britons Simon Richardson and Doré Green made the first ascent of the South Pillar (VI 5.10+ WI3, 1400m) of Mount Tiedemann (3848m). A full account of their twenty-nine pitch route and an overview of the climbing on the Combatant-Tiedemann-Asperity Wall appears earlier in this journal.

Tellot Glacier, Various Activity and New Routes. Dead. Not even a flicker when you turn it

on. It was time to go home—not the planned time, not the scheduled time, but nonetheless, it was time.

Mike Spagnum, Mark Hartley, and I were flown to Plummer Hut on the Tellot Glacier and packed a week's worth of food to a beautiful sheltered campsite on a rock knoll above the Cataract Icefall. We were a disjointed group for most of the trip: Mark was brooding over his love life and seemed ambivalent about the climbing, Mike was suffering from altitude but was still really driven to do a big route, and I was on holidays. The first week was low energy; we climbed the East Ridge of Stiletto, the West Ridge of McCormick and a short new route on the southeast side of Shand. The week culminated in an 11 p.m. start to get solid ice for the Northeast Face of Sera III—and it was well worth it!

After the mid-trip trudge back to the hut to get our cached food and run up the ultra classic West Ridge of Claw Peak, a day enlivened by my plunge 15 feet down a crevasse, we looked at our options. We chose a shorter line that we thought would go in one day, and Mike decided to sit it out and take a rest day.

The next dawn, Mark and I started up the prominent 650-meter buttress on the northeast face of Shand. We found many pitches of fourth- and low-fifth-class leading to where the buttress narrows and becomes more defined. It was good rock with solid pro and relatively clean for six to eight pitches (up to 5.9). The crux was high up in a right-facing corner: an unfortunate moss mantle in an otherwise stunning pitch. The rib ends in a small gendarme that marks the “Kitty Litter” pitch, which is a broad horizontal band of poor-quality rock that crosses the entire face. Mark, being a Rockies climber, merrily trundled across this to the base of the final headwall. Some ledges and 80 meters of 5.8 squeeze chimney led to the summit rim. A short walk down the central snowfield dropped us back to our tracks on the glacier and the trail home.

After that climb we had time left, but no motivation. We hiked back to Plummer and tried the radio to call for a pick-up, but it had been left on. Bailing wire, duct tape, a Petzl headlamp battery, two double As, and some prayer....

“Plummer Hut to Whitesaddle?” (Please work, please work, please work, please work!)

“Whitesaddle to Plummer. Go ahead.”

LORNE HOOVER, *Canada*

Mt. Plinth, North Face, New Route and Ski Descent. On February 11, Jia Condon, Sean “Woody” Tribe, Chris “Beeker” Rameski, and Darrel White snowmobiled 50 kilometers to Meager Hot Springs, where they spent a relaxing night. Way early the next morning, they backtracked about eight kilometers and then continued up the Lilloet River drainage to 6,700 feet below the summit of Mt. Plinth. It took about three hours of skinning and about six hours of climbing through deep snow to ascend the north face. Due to a building storm, they spent a few anxious moments on the summit and then the next hour skiing down the north face, negotiating 55- to 60-degree sections to their sleds. From there, it was back to Meager Hot Springs for more lounging and whisky.

JIA CONDON, *Canada*

Squamish

Squamish Chief, Grand Wall, First Free Ascent. On July 18 at 7 a.m., Annie Overlin and I