

Ledge, arriving tired, red-tipped, and nearly out of food and water.

Still determined to do things right, we dragged butt up the last four pitches of the Roman Chimneys, taking the easiest line. On top, we smoked the peace pipe and praised the gods for our good luck.

Previous to my redpoint, I worked the route eight times from the ground up. I never rappelled in to work the cruxes. We added a bolt to supplement the two old fixed pins in the Underfling and added the new station. Finally, I added a bolt to the last moves of the final traversing link. In keeping with local tradition, I named the final traverse The Chief after my half-Indian friend Peary Beckman, whose friendship, support, and vision led to my success. I'd also like to thank the wonderful community of Squamish for their friendship, support, and good vibes. You have my humble regard.

SCOTT COSGROVE

*Squamish Chief, The Fortress.* In September, Hamish Fraser and I completed a new free route on the Sheriff's Badge, a 1,000-foot formation on the northern section of the Squamish Chief. This was the last of the three main walls to go free. *The Fortress* (V 5.12, 9 pitches) starts on the *Daily Planet* and climbs the big corner in an amazing 60-meter pitch that exits that route via a foot-swinging roof to the left, where the *Planet* jogs right. Bolted face climbing followed by thin cracks leads several hundred feet to the "Big Roof." Arapiles-like jugging out the roof lands you at a cool belay at the lip. The last two pitches basically follow left-leaning corners.

Hamish, Greg Foweraker and I spent a number of days that summer exploring upward and hitting deadends until finally breaking through to the lip of the "Big Roof" that cuts across the entire cliff. I came back later with Dave Humphries and aid climbed the last two pitches to the top. Some days after that, Greg and I rappelled in and dug and scrubbed these last two in lousy weather. We hoped that the rain would wash away the residue that our efforts had scattered. It didn't work out that way.

On my last available climbing day before flying home to California, Hamish and I went for the big push. Things went smoothly until we cleared the Roof and met the unfreed last two pitches. The crux 5.12 holds were wet and above that the route was slathered in muck. Easy sections were hard and hard sections were absolutely pooping. We topped out as night fell.

On the down side, there was no shining summit, I had to yo-yo the wet 5.12 pitch and, worst of all, Greg wasn't there. On the up side, we got buttered in mud and after finishing our climb after sunset, had to feel our way down in pitch dark, on all fours, like bugs. Perfect.

PETER CROFT, *unaffiliated*

*Squamish Chief, Bald Egos, New Route.* In June, Conny Amelunxen and I braved rain, long falls, the unknown, and more rain in an attempt to put up the longest aid route on the Squamish Chief, *Bald Egos* (5.9 A4). We climbed the wall in impeccable Squamish style using an "anything goes" combination of siege tactics, fixed lines, and capsule-style pushes, climbing the wall in ten days spread out over a three-week period (anything to insure that we always climbed in the rain, for which we achieved a remarkable 80 percent success rate).

Our route links 1,500 feet of discontinuous features over two distinct walls, venturing onto a previously unclimbed section of the Chief for the second part of the route. It was here that we committed to capsule-style climbing when a friend who had joined us for the two previous pitches rappelled down, taking our two extra ropes with him from halfway up the wall. It