

National Park. This three-year project had involved Richard Leversee, Mike Davis, Scott Thelen, and Brandon Thau on two previous forays. While the route can be approached from the valley floor, it is in the best interests of future parties to rap the route and climb out. The climb is 23 pitches long, free at mostly 5.10-5.11, except for one short tension traverse and one short bolt ladder that spans a blank bulge. A spacious wooded ledge, Sherwood Forest, offers bivy options at the midpoint, though the final complete ascent was done in a long day. There are now several independent finishes on the upper section of the formation that alone are worth the hike in.

DAVE NETTLE

*Citadel, Nothing But Time.* On September 2 Jimmy Haden and Michael Pennings climbed a new route on the north face of the Citadel. Their route, Nothing But Time (IV 5.10+) starts just right of the low point of the face and climbs the leftmost of three parallel cracks through an obvious, large roof.

MICHAEL PENNINGS

*Angel Wings, South Arête, Original Route.* In February 2002 Jason Magness and I made what we believe was the first winter ascent of the South Arête of Angel Wings, in Sequoia National Park. After an 18-mile snowshoe approach, we pulled off our plastic boots, put on the rock shoes, and started climbing 5.10 off the snow. The route is on clean, golden Yosemite-like granite and follows a nearly continuous crack system, all the way up to the 5.11+ Black Roof.

We led in blocks, French freeing when necessary for speed, and my leads got us to the Black Roof. Jason Magness then took over and with a few pulls got through the roof and traversed straight right to a chimney. The chimney, presumably dry in summer, was a raging creek. On sparse and marginal pro, Jason ascended the chimney with his back pressed against the wall, water cascading over his back. When I reached his belay, Jason poured so much water from our only chalk bag I expected to see fish.

A wet sitting bivy ensued, and by the next morning we were eager to reach dry ground. We decided the Rowell-Jones 1971 line (V 5.11+) would offer the quickest way to the summit plateau. Full of ice, flowing water, and squeeze chimneys, it was the wrong choice. Without an axe or crampons I tried to chimney above the ice in plastic boots, eventually wriggling out of the chimneys, after two pitches, into a lower-angle gully filled with snow. The ice I knocked down shredded the ropes and nearly took out Jason. Finally we emerged from the gully and after a rappel and another gully attained the summit plateau.

CRAIG CLARENCE, AAC

*Mt. Stewart, Patterson Bluff, Amphitheater Wall, Arctic Lake Wall, Mt. Newcomb.* Mike Pennings and I established a direct line (Fallen Angels, IV 5.10+) to the west summit on the north face of Mt. Stewart, following a prominent crack system that widens enough at one point to inspire the pitch name The Sleeping Bag Simulator. The climbing is on clean, solid rock, and most of the ten pitches are consistent 5.10.

Brandon Thau, Joe Reichert, and I linked up ten long pitches of steep, sustained free climbing with a short bolt ladder (perhaps freeable face climbing) on Patterson Bluff. Our

route, Way of the Dragon (IV 5.11 A0), brings the number of routes in this area to well over a dozen, though it may be the first on what is called the “back wall.” As with the main bluff, this route is reached by rappelling to the base.

On the Amphitheater Wall in Kings Canyon National Park, Sigi Vogl and I put up Center Stage (IV 5.10), following a steep crack system that goes directly up the center of the main wall in the cirque. Virtually all of the ten pitches have some 5.10. There are no written reports of any previous technical activity in the cirque, though there are at least half a dozen enticing formations in this beautiful lake basin. This area is a long way from anywhere, but we chose to approach via Bishop Pass, Knapsack Pass, Cataract Creek, and Amphitheater Lake—20+ miles, half of it cross-country, making for a substantial day.

In Sequoia National Park, on the Arctic Lake Wall, Mike Davis and I climbed Arctic Blast (IV 5.10), a right-facing corner system that ascends directly to the east summit. We also climbed an eight-pitch route (5.10+) to the main summit that may be all or part of Galen Rowell’s Arctic Dreams route. It’s hard to tell, as there are impressive crack systems about every 50 feet across the face. Also in this park Aaron Zanto and I climbed the obvious central crack system up the east face of the fortresslike formation that lies along the south ridge of Mt. Newcomb, above the Sky Blue Lakes cirque. The seven pitches of The Keep (IV 5.10) follow brilliant cracks of all widths and end in a clean, strenuous corner that is set back inside a huge cleft. A unique climb in an amazing setting.

DAVE NETTLE

*Whitney Portal Buttress, Ghost rider.* In June 2000, with Charles Byrne, I first attempted a new route on Whitney Portal Buttress between Satoris and Wonderwall. Alan Bartlett, who established these routes and acknowledged that both had lousy 1/4-inch bolts, long runouts, and a few unsafe belays, encouraged us to add a safely protected route and indeed to retrobolt his climbs.

We climbed the first pitch of Wonderwall to a giant ledge 100 feet up. This grainy pitch’s protection involved rusty, spinning bolt hangers, and we added a bolt. We gained the base of the right-facing dihedral system 100 feet right of the Satoris start. There we found old bolts, which we replaced with 3/8-inch bolts, adding one more protection bolt. The climbing was 5.10c friction, the hardest moves of the climb. Rock quality improved, and we climbed the dihedral to a belay beneath a wide undercling and roof, which proved to be 5.10. We reached a ledge and called it a day.

I later returned with Mark Husbands, and we reached my high point three pitches up. We surmounted a 5.6 overhang formed by a horizontal dike and made a short, bolt-protected traverse on the dike. A slab with one bolt (5.7) led to a large ledge. A Sierra storm forced us off the wall.

I next enlisted Raleigh Collins. We hauled a night’s provisions to the ledge and went to work. The fifth pitch was splendid feldspar knob climbing that went at 5.8. We toproped the prominent stain to its left and found it to be 5.11. The next day we set off for the top. From the ledge at the top of the fifth pitch we joined Wonderwall and climbed a stain for 30 feet to a large bowl. Wonderwall follows the path of least resistance to the right, while Ghost rider continues straight up (5.9) to a diagonal dike. The next pitch is 200 feet of great knob climbing, with bolts 10 to 20 feet apart (5.9). The wall steepens for the eighth pitch with a squeaky move that is barely 5.10a. Raleigh continued up, taking the path of least resistance, and ran out 50 feet (5.9) to a diagonal dike, the eighth pitch of Satoris. We rappel-bolted the runout and discovered that the path of least resistance missed an exquisite bit of edge climbing (5.10c), so we bolted that