

could easily picture the roof being very wet and therefore unfreeable. Sustained, slightly loose 5.9 climbing brought us to the summit. We rated the route III 5.11, and thought that the A1 roof was not much harder than the rest of the route. After asking around camp and reading route information, we determined that the route had not been freed prior to our ascent.

While on The White Tower we spied a possible line to the right of the prominent pillar. We fixed ropes on the first two pitches, pitches shared with The White Tower. The third pitch proved to be the crux, and on our first attempt I fell onto a poorly placed .75 Camelot. I then aided to a good anchor, and we cleaned and worked the section on top rope. Dirt in the cracks and the subtlety of the moves required us to resort to this maneuver. An onsight ascent would certainly be a feather in one's cap! After pulling the rope, Yan led the pitch. Above this pitch the crack widened to an awkward, overhanging chimney, which finally led to a belay on a huge wedged block.

We had been climbing on the right side of the prominent white pillar. Above the block we could stay on the right side of the pillar and surely top out without much additional difficulty (the right side showed evidence of a previous, probably aid, ascent), or we could veer left up a steeper crack system splitting the pillar itself. We headed left, up very steep hand and finger cracks, passing three roofs along the way, giving ourselves three added pitches of sustained 5.11. The last pitch looked relatively easy, and we wearily congratulated each other on our new route, thinking the ascent was in the bag. The last move before the summit, however, presented a serious problem: a sloping, slightly overhanging mantle onto a grassy ledge. After much difficulty and many expletives, the move was accomplished by a dynamic lunge into a moss-filled crack, fingers buried in mud and moss, and the adept use of a knee. Yan and I named our route Light in August (8 pitches, IV 5.12-).

JAY KNOWER

Mt. Proboscis, Piton Karmik and various repeats. The story starts from a discussion we had with Paul Piana and Todd Skinner in Greenland, in the Tasermiut Fjord, in 1998. They told us about Proboscis and their route Great Canadian Knife, and we learned of possibilities for new routes. So last year on July 10 Thierry Bionda, Antonin Guenat, and I were at the Geneva airport, ready to visit the land of gold for a six-week trip. The trip was organized from Switzerland with Warren LaFave of Inconnu Lodge.

Four days later the magic of a helicopter brings us to the base of the southeast face of Proboscis, with our gear and food. We contemplated some lines, but when we looked closely, there were bolts or belay anchors. Finally, we chose the left pillar. There is no route on this side of the wall, it dries quickly, and the rock seems solid. There is no risk of rockfall, as in the central part. After two days of continuous rain the sun came out, and six days of perfect weather awaited us. Six days later our route, Piton Karmik (550 meters, VI 5.10b A3), is finished. The rock was as good as we expected, and the crack systems were clean and nice to climb. The route was mostly aid climbing, with some free pitches.

Three days later, after a friendly visit from a grizzly bear that we witnessed from the top of our route, we started the Great Canadian Knife (VI 5.13b). On the 26th we fixed 200 meters and came back the day after to finish the route. We stopped one and a half easy pitches before the end of the route because of a heavy hailstorm. Now we decided to come back to civilization. By the 29th all our gear was on What Notch pass, and we took it to base camp in Fairy Meadow. On August 2 we climbed the Lotus Flower Tower's Southeast Face route (V 5.10) on a rainless

day. The climb is very amazing and dry except the first two pitches. After some days of bouldering with locals we climbed the route Jonny Copp and Tim O'Neill freed one week before, Club International (V 5.11b) on Bustle Tower's south face.

We took the next helicopter out and went fishing and climbing near Whitehorse until our return to Switzerland.

DENIS BURDET, *Switzerland*

Phenocryst Spire, The Hustler. Mark Reeves and Steve Sinfield, supported by the Welsh Sports Council, arrived at Glacier Lake on July 30. They slogged to Fairy Meadows, set up camp, and waited most of a week for better weather before climbing the classic Lotus Flower Tower in about 12 hours.

After a couple of rest days under blue skies, the Welsh team went to what they think is Phenocryst Spire. They fixed three pitches up a clean white rock pillar. The next night they slept at the base and woke to rain at 3:00 a.m. One and a half hours later the rain ceased. They climbed nine pitches above the fixed three, gaining a 16-foot square subsummit at the top of the white pillar. They had freed all pitches onsite. The sky grew dark, rain fell, and they began descending the route. They placed three bolts for rappelling (one of which can be clipped for pro on pitch 7). The Hustler (1,500', V 5.10-R) involves clean granite slabs and corners, some avoidable loose rock, and runouts on the harder sections.

BASED ON REPORTING BY MARK REEVES AND MOUNTAIN INFO, *High Mountain Sports*

COAST MOUNTAINS

SQUAMISH CHIEF

Warriors of the Wasteland, Second Ascent. Warriors was a communal effort that spanned over 20 years, with over 10 people involved in the ascent. At IV 5.12c it was first completed and free climbed continuously by Matt Maddaloni and Ben DeMenech in September 2000. Colin Moorhead and I did the second ascent in July 2001. Warriors starts by coinciding with Western Dihedrals for two pitches of steep 5.10+/5.11- slab and face climbing. Then more 5.11- face and crack. Pitch four gets real, with a sustained 5.12 ultrathin crack. The fifth pitch, the crux, is a steep, difficult face. (The rock to the right looks easier.) Pitch six is an incredibly burly, overhanging corner (50 meters, solid 5.11). This is followed by a rather unpleasant traverse right along a dike into a corner. The finish is on Colin's awesome 5.10+ Cloudburst. Colin and I climbed Cloudburst, mostly in the rain, freeing most of it. With the exception of Scott Cosgrove's free version of the Grand Wall, we deem it the most difficult free climb on the Chief.

STEVE SEATS

Alaska Highway, free solo. In July I was walking up the North Walls trail with my shoes, chalk bag, and the ashes of my friend Ben DeMenic. The plan was to climb Angel's Crest, a 15-pitch 5.10, and scatter his ashes along the way. I'm not sure what I was thinking, but I found myself at the base of Alaska Highway, a 5-pitch 5.11+ I'd climbed with Ben a few years before and had