

south face forced us onto the ridge. We followed the ridge until an obvious talus-filled gully on the north side let us make quick progress. The terrain stayed easy and guided us around to the south side. Toward the end we traversed under a steep wall, until easy terrain let us proceed to the summit. From the southwest summit we descended easy, but somewhat dangerous, ledges down to the upper snowfields of the Isella Glacier. From here we traversed high on the Isella Glacier toward the Southeast (a.k.a. Holden) Ridge and a chimney that leads up to the saddle on that ridge. The chimney went at about 5.7 (near its start) on solid rock with loose surface stones. We belayed a full pitch that got us to easy fourth class terrain, which led to the col. A long rappel then brought us to the safety of the Mary Green Glacier, from which we reached our ascent route. The route is a full Cascadian adventure in a spectacular setting. You get to climb on an exposed ridge at over 9,000' for many hours, which is rare in the Cascades. Total time from Lake Holden to Lake Holden was about 19 hours.

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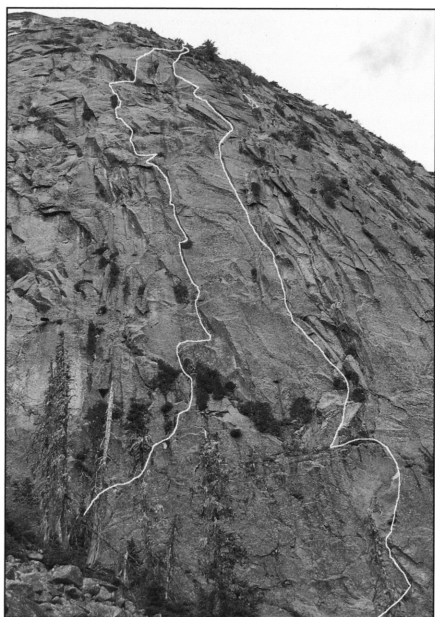


Mt. Formidable. The complete East Ridge follows the crest from the Spider-Formidable Col to the summit. *Martin Volken*

*Mt. Formidable, complete East Ridge.* On July 30 Kurt Buchwald and I completed the ridgecrest traverse (IV 5.7) from the Spider-Formidable Col to the summit of Mt. Formidable. From the Spider-Formidable col at 7,350', we moved northwest and around a rotten tower on the left into the first notch, to get onto better rock. We then climbed generally near the crest to a flat, easy ridge. Next we climbed a blocky ridge on good rock, generally staying a bit north of the crest to the top of a first distinct tower. Then a rappel (or downclimb) was made into the next notch on the north side of the ridge, reaching a spot at the base of a two-pitch headwall, which leads toward the distinct summit that we called the "Two County Summit" (Chelan and Skagit). Climbing the two-pitch headwall (5.6 or 5.7) slightly north of the ridge, we found good rock

and awesome ambiance. An easy but exposed blocky ridge brought us to the Two County Summit. Climbing over small towers, we gained horizontal, walkable terrain with stunning exposure and continued down easily to the next notch (first ideal bailout spot to the south). We continued up a steep, narrow tower with exposure and good rock. We next encountered a series of lofty gendarmes that involved steep rappels, which made for slower going and harder bailouts. Eventually we gained the notch that leads to a distinct summit just east of the Formidable Glacier (another north or south bailout option). From the Formidable Glacier col we stayed on the crest, crossing over the subsummit (not very good rock) to the summit proper, which didn't present any new challenges. This last section takes a little longer than the southern ledges described in the Beckey guide, but the scenery is wild and the rock good. We descended the summit ridge a short way and then a distinct couloir heading south. The route can be split into three sections: section one goes from the Spider-Formidable col to the Two County Summit. Section two goes from that summit to the Formidable Glacier. Section three goes from the Formidable Glacier to the summit. The second section is certainly the most complex and time-consuming, even though the hardest climbing occurs on the way to the Two County Summit. The ridge is about 2km long, involves a lot of exposed 4th- and easy 5th-class climbing, and offers pitches of 5.6 to 5.7 in the center section. We spent 11 hours moving from the Col to the summit of Formidable and approximately 13 hours from camp to camp. It resembles the Torment-Forbidden traverse in many ways. The route features more complicated ups and downs than the T-F traverse, but it is more reasonable to bail in two or three places.

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The 1,100-foot Witch Doctor Wall of Exfoliation Dome, showing Voodoo Wall on the left, and Solaris on the right. Dave Burdick

*Witch Doctor Wall, Voodoo Wall and Solaris.* The summer saw two aid climbs put up on Exfoliation Dome's 1,100' Witch Doctor Wall in the Darrington area. The Voodoo Wall (IV 5.10 A2), established by David Burdick and Michael Swanicke, starts on stepped ledges 400 feet uphill from the original 1969 route. The climb then follows a series of steep left-facing flakes and corners for seven pitches to the ridge crest. A moderate amount of nailing is required, though most of the route consists of clean aid and free climbing.

David Whitelaw, Chris Greyell, and Mark Hanna established Solaris (IV 5.10b A2+), a slightly longer and more sustained climb featuring a long and elegant offwidth, as well as many sections of thin nailing. Solaris is located 200 feet to the right of the Voodoo Wall. Both routes are equipped with bolted chain belays and are featured in the new guidebook *Rattle & Slim: Darrington Selected Rock Climbs*.

DAVID BURDICK