

Wishmaker, first free ascent. In September Topher Donahue and I made the first free ascent on sight of Wishmaker (IV 5.11+R [5.10X]), a route just to the right of Lost Cities, in the Hairdo Gully on the north side of the canyon. Pike Howard made the first ascent but aided a few sections and suggested we try to free it. Wishmaker shares its first pitch with Lost Cities, then branches off right into a series of thin cracks and slabby faces. The second pitch follows a diagonal crack to a ledge. The third pitch follows a barn-door crack off a ledge (hard to protect—tiny cams and RPs) to a scary mantle, followed by unprotectable 5.10 climbing. Falling on this pitch is not an option. I suggest that the next party add a bolt. The crux fourth pitch climbs a sustained finger crack leading to a traverse and is a bit runout. The fifth pitch climbs a funky roof slot to a great crack that finishes below a roof on a ledge. Pitch six climbs steep hands-and-fingers to a big ledge. Pitch seven climbs out a roof to a hands crack, traverses a face, and finishes up a corner. We hiked out from here, but you could climb the last four pitches of Lost Cities to the rim. We removed a lot of loose rock, so the route is safer for future parties.

JARED OGDEN

Hallucinogen Wall, free attempt. In September and October I tried to free climb this route twice. On the first attempt, with Mike Shepard, we rapped to pitch 14 and climbed out from the top of pitch 14, all free at 5.12. Pitch 14 is a bolt ladder and will never go free. On the second attempt Topher Donahue and I climbed all free up to pitch five, at 5.11-. From here I led free past three bolts and finished through the pendulum to Fantasy Island using some aid. Topher followed to the pendulum point, lowered to a series of face holds leading left from my free high point, and on top rope climbed across this face to Fantasy Island at 5.12c/d. He then led pitch seven free, at 5.12a. Pitch eight is protected by RPs and rusty fixed heads, so I freed between them, with Topher following free at 5.11+. The next five pitches are A3 heading, hooking, and bolt ladders and will never be free climbed. We found free passage up to pitch nine in a day and rapped. At least future parties know that much of the route can be free-climbed. We didn't add any bolts or change the route in any way.

JARED OGDEN

Charm School Boutique and Dylan Wall free. In spring 2003 Allan Porter and I completed a new line on North Chasm View Wall, beginning on the Journey Home route and finishing on the Cruise, climbing the smooth shield between those two major crack lines. From the large belay ledge at the top of the first pitch of Journey Home, we traversed 60 feet left (reversing a traverse on the Dylan Wall and Highway 61 routes) to a belay stance, putting us at the start of an unclimbed crack system.

The first pitch above the traverse—an overhanging dihedral leading to technical seams and corners, with very thin gear—was 5.12, took several trips to redpoint, and ends at a small belay ledge where we placed the route's only bolt. From the ledge we aided a thin, vertical corner (50 feet of A2+, with a few pins left fixed, the only aid), hand-traversed left, then finished over bulges to another belay. A short corner ended in the biggest blank section on the route, passed via a very long, old-school 5.10+ pitch with runouts and pegmatite. Allan led the last independent pitch late in the day, through a weird-smelling cave and out across a band of roofs to hit the upper Cruise at bolts on the ninth guidebook pitch, 300 feet below the top of the wall.

The name Charm School Boutique comes from a funky women's shop in Glenwood Springs, where you could find all sorts of bizarre and startling things, kind of like our route.

I first saw the line a year or so earlier with Jason Keith, during an ascent of the Dylan Wall. We climbed that route almost all free (the first "near-free" ascent probably was done by Robert Warren in the mid-1990s), and then explored the lower part of the line that would become Charm School. Later, Tracy Martin and I freed the remaining aid on the Dylan Wall (about 10 feet) at 5.12-, traversing off into the gully once we joined the Journey Home. (The first ascent of the Dylan Wall, we learned from Colorado Springs climbers, included the first ascent of all but the first pitch of the popular Journey Home, which is now started much higher in the approach gully.)

Charm School Boutique is a logical direct finish for the Dylan Wall, avoiding the traverse to the Journey Home crack system. On the last of a half dozen forays, involving lots of approaching and retreating in the gully, Allan and I climbed the last of the missing pieces of this line, but the full link-up and 50 feet of aid remains. Done free, the A2+ will probably be hard 5.12, and exciting but passably safe without bolts.

JEFF ACHEY

Wyoming

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Ice conditions. The most-classic ice routes of Grand Teton National Park melted out for the second year in a row. The Black Ice Couloir on the Grand Teton became unclimbable in the midsummer (2003), and the ice in the Northwest Couloir of Middle Teton was mostly gone as well. Even the usually reliable Enclosure Couloir on the Grand showed gaps near the top. Rangers blamed ongoing drought and eight consecutive weeks of 90-degree heat in the Jackson area for the meltdown.

DOUGALD MACDONALD, AAC, *adapted from www.climbing.com*

Grand Traverse, first winter ascent. On January 24, 2004, after more than three weeks of unseasonably dry and warm weather, two parties set out to complete a long-standing project in the Tetons: the Grand Traverse in winter. Perennial winter activists Renny Jackson and Hans Johnstone set out around 3 a.m., and Stephen Koch and I followed around 3:30. Both parties skied to near Glacier Gulch and climbed couloirs and ramps up the South-southwest shoulder of Teewinot to start the traverse. Renny and Hans set a blistering pace over mostly firm, crusty snow, topping out on Teewinot around 10 a.m. Stephen and I didn't catch up with them until just past the West Prong of Teewinot. The steep, narrow ridge between there and the East Prong of Mt. Owen is some of the trickier terrain on the traverse and was the site of a near miss the previous year when Renny stepped off of a collapsing cornice just in time. The four of us moved together and shared ropes during rappels off the south ridge of Owen into Gunsight Notch and out onto the Grandstand. Hans broke trail into the dark to the top of the Grandstand, where the four of us bivvied just below the North Ridge. One of Renny's boot liners was soaked, and his foot badly needed warming. The next day he had to climb the five technical pitches (up to