

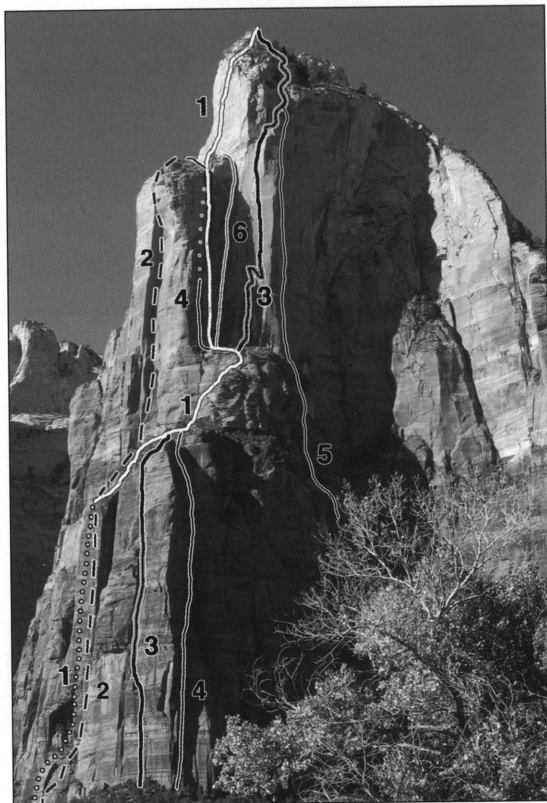
Perfect Day for Bananafish (V A3, September 2002) climbs a series of left-leaning, left-facing dihedrals, with a small tree on a ledge at mid-height (60 or 70m to the left is a striking pillar that harbors Occam's Razor, described below). The easiest path to the start of the climb involves locating the gully immediately below Occam's Razor, climbing it to the base of the wall, and then moving right to the start of Perfect Day. The route is eight pitches long and consists almost entirely of aid climbing, with much thin nailing. Bolt anchors mark the end of every pitch, and we placed an occasional rivet, so scoping with binoculars or spotting scope will reveal the line of ascent. We descended (60m ropes necessary) by rappelling the blank face to the right of the exit pitches to a two-bolt anchor, then to the belay at the end of pitch five, and then down the rest of the route.

In April 2003, immediately left of Perfect Day, we established Occam's Razor, on the right side of the eye-catching pillar. In October 2004 I returned and made the FFA (IV- 5.11+). Approach as for Perfect Day, but instead of turning right at the base of the wall, scramble uphill to the left 30m to the start of the first pitch. This route is seven pitches long (though pitches 2 and 3 are both very short) and ends atop the pillar. The first three pitches are face and friction climbing. We placed protection bolts, ground-up, only where gear placements were not possible. The crux of the route, a 12-foot section of stemming or laybacking, is two-thirds of the way up the fourth pitch. Pitches five through seven all involve hand cracks and are brilliant fun. We equipped the entire route for descent.

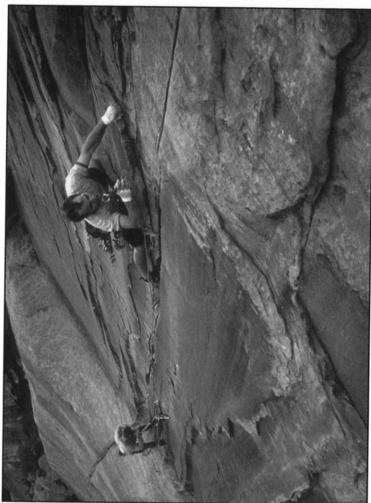
JOEL NOLTE

*Various free ascents.* I will look back on 2005 as the year I became obsessed with Zion free climbing. It started a few weeks before 2005, when I nabbed the first free ascent of Angel's Landing, via the 15-pitch Lowe Route. After that climb, I was addicted to Zion.

I returned in June with my brother Mark. Battling scorching heat, we got the first free ascent of the classic and oft-tried Spaceshot (9 pitches, 5.13a) in a one-day push on June 16. We climbed variations on three pitches, adding three bolts, in addition to the eight installed during



Routes on the right side of the broad south face of Isaac (other routes exist on the left side of the face, out-of-view): (1) Lowe Route (lower portion hidden; Beavers-Lowe-Weiland-Weis, 1972). (2) Sands of Time (dashed line; Gagner-Lovelace, 1994). (3) Tricks of the Trade (Hatcher-Hebert-Middendorf-Quinn, 1993). (4) Iron Like a Lion in Zion (Bloom-Cosentino, 1999). (5) Middle Earth (Miller-Rasmussen, 1997). (6) Freeloader (Anderson-Pizem, 2005). Rob Pizem



Mark Anderson leading pitch 5 (5.12c) on Spaceshot. Andrew Burr

a previous free attempt. It was a nostalgic climb for us, because we had cut our teeth on the route in 1998 as our first-ever big-wall climb.

Over the summer I sought cooler climes in the Kolob Canyons. I reconnoitered the route Golden Years with Colby Wayment, but decided to return later in the year when conditions were more reasonable. I returned in September, this time with a new acquaintance, Rob Pizem. On September 17 we freed Golden Years (8 pitches, 5.12d) in an exhausting 20-hour day. We added four protection bolts, with permission from first ascensionist Dave Jones.

Rob and I made a good team, so we got together for a more challenging line on Angel's Landing. The mysterious Dunn Route (Angel Hair; 11 pitches, 5.13a R/X) had been tried by the all-star team of Brian McCray and Ammon McNeely, but their attempt ended in a near-fatal brush with the loose rock that chokes the route. Nevertheless, Rob and I freed the route in a one-day push on October 22. We were proud to be able to free the route without placing any bolts or fixing other gear. This would also be the first one-day free ascent of Angel's Landing.

Not yet satisfied, Rob and I returned again in November to attempt the Lowe Route on Isaac, in the Court of the Patriarchs, having been assured by the route's namesake that it would easily go free. We were sandbagged! The opening chimney section was the most exciting and terrifying rock climbing I have ever done. Higher on the wall, we lost track of the Lowe Route, but found another line we liked. After three days of prep, we established Freeloader (12 pitches, 5.12d R) on November 24, in an all-out, one-day push.

MICHAEL ANDERSON, AAC

*Mt. Moroni, The Road to Cumorah.* In April, Chris Rowins, Dave Jones, and I climbed a new nine-pitch route on Mt. Moroni. The Road to Cumorah (IV 5.11 C1) begins at the far east end of the of the southwest face. We started in a short, clean, left-curving aid crack, which soon turns into a three-inch jam crack. Higher, Chris led a short, chossy 5.10 pitch to the base of a dark, mottled chimney. I exited this sparsely protected slot early, to a belay just below a 350' section of easy 5th class. This section had some big ledges. Above, Dave led a beautiful double finger-crack pitch in a right-facing corner to an intersection with the old Southwest Face route. We followed a left-slanting corner section (one short 5.11 bulge) to a shoulder behind the top. A 5.7 face pitch led to the small, airy summit. We descended by rappelling Voice from the Dust. The only aid on our climb was on the first pitch.

BRIAN SMOOT

*"Gatekeeper Wall," Locksmith Dihedral.* Dave Jones, Chris Rowins, and I established the Locksmith Dihedral (IV 5.11d C1) on the "Gatekeeper Wall." This wall, the first formation east