

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 rapping Voice from the Dust. The only aid on our climb was on the first pitch.

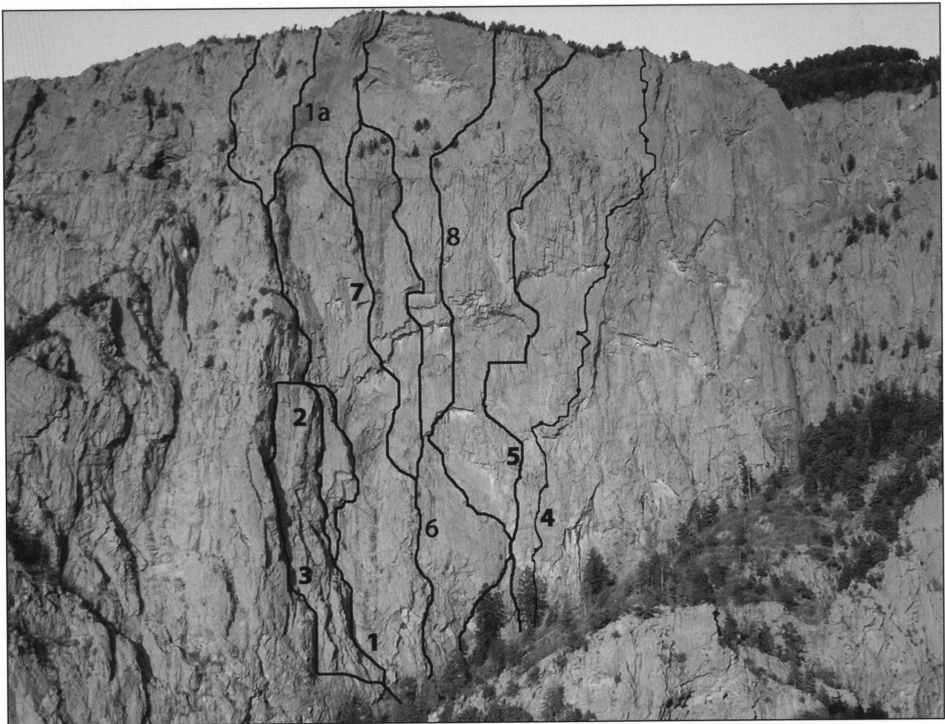
BRIAN SMOOT

"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

of the Watchman, was named by Dave, who spotted the line. In April we made the two-hour approach to the base of the climb. Being heavily laden with gear, we were relieved to see that the line looked good. Our route followed the steep, tasty-looking corner up the middle of the buttress. The first pitch began in a short chimney filled with a block. An off-size hand crack led up to a V-slot and the start of the main corner. The second pitch was one of the best finger cracks I've ever done. I used some aid, but Dave was able to follow it free at 5.11d. We descended in high spirits. The next day, two more great pitches followed, on excellent rock. The final three pitches followed wider cracks in the dihedral to the top of a prominent tower, which was just 25 feet from the rim. Since there were no more cracks, we stopped here. Lots of loose rock trundled down from this top section as we rappelled off...much to Chris's delight. The leader used some aid on three of the pitches, but with the exception of an A0 move on the fifth pitch to pass some loose blocks, we were able to second all of the pitches free.

BRIAN SMOOT

New Mexico



The southwest face of the Shield: (1) Procrastination (IV 5.8, Merrill-Schum, 1970). (1a) Direct finish (IV 5.9, FRA Rumff et al, 1994). (2) Chicken Chop Suey (IV 5.9, Baker-Ware, 1973). (3) Slipping Into Darkness (IV 5.10c, Beauchamp-Hicks, 1976; FFA Brede-Prandoni). (4) The Promise Land (V 5.12c, Kear-Parker et al, 2004). (5) Rainbow Dancer (V 5.11a R, Bridgers-Prandoni, 1979). (6) Purple Haze (VI 5.11 A4+, Hammack-Kear-Lynn, 1996). (7) Orange Sunshine (V 5.9 A4, Hammack-Meleski, 1977). (8) The Rainbow Route (VI 5.9 A4, Mauldin-Roybal, 1973). Photo and route information from John Kear