

In June, Jim Beyer established Captain Hook (VI 5.10 A4), solo. According to his topo at the ranger station, the route appears to begin with the first two pitches of the Hallucinogen Wall, then angles left, shares part of LaVisage on pitch 5, and after 11 pitches joins The Diagonal to the top. Beyer's topo notes, "Adding chicken bolts for free or aid climbing is an act of war against that route and its creator. Belays 3,4, and 5 could, however, use a bolt."

Beyer also established the Diagonal Arête (V 5.10 A2), on the Diagonal Will buttress, in a 24-hour car-to-car solo effort (date unknown). His route climbs on or to the right of the arête, and shares the final three pitches of Pathfinder.

Topos for these new routes, updated topos of The Serpent and Twisted, and more detailed information concerning the Dragon Point locations and approaches are available at the North Rim ranger station.

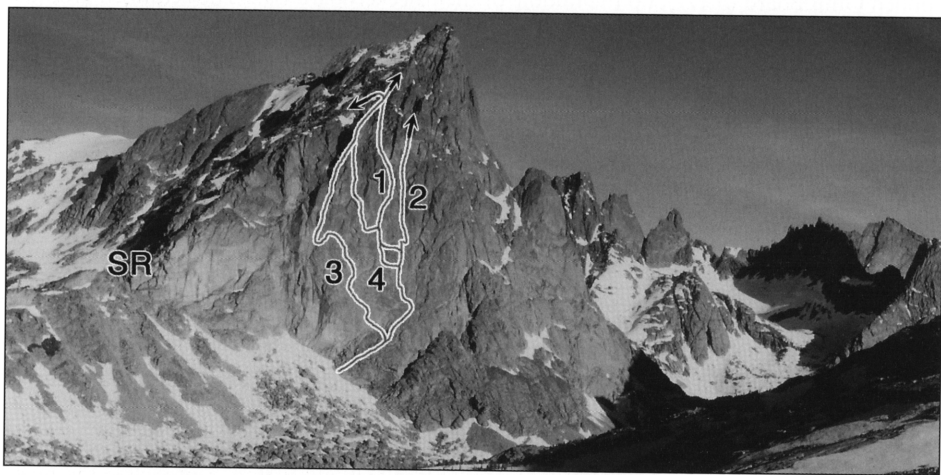
JOSH WHARTON, AAC

## Wyoming

### WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS

*Warbonnet Peak, The Neu Low.* Climbing in the Alps is Alpinism; climbing in the Andes is Andinism; climbing in the Rockies is, therefore, Rockonism. Roconismo (the Spanish version is catchier, sexier, and more memorable) is an emerging movement by a small group of climbers from the Rocky Mountain region dedicated to the pursuit of climbing, the environmental and cultural impacts of climbing, and to always having a darn good time in the backcountry.

Last summer the first Roconismo expedition went to the Cirque of the Towers. Along with several ascents of the Cirque's standard classics, Andy Neuman and I climbed a new line on the southeast face of Warbonnet Peak in early July. Climbed ground-up, in a day, and team-free (minus one pendulum by the second to avoid a difficult and dangerous down-climbing



The southeast face of Warbonnet: (1) Black Elk (Fowler-Lowe, 1981). (2) Dockery-Jenkins (1981). (3) Curate's Egg (Middlemiss-Smith, 2001). (4) The Neu Low (Barlow-Neuman, 2005). (SR) South Ridge descent. Joe Kelsey, author of *Climbing and Hiking in the Wind River Mountains*



crux), The Neu Low (IV 5.11- R) begins on the classic Black Elk but breaks left below the crux fist crack of that route, continuing up and left for five new pitches.

Our day began with a not-so-alpine start and quickly became a morning run over Jackass Pass to escape the swarming mosquitoes. We started by climbing the first two pitches of Black Elk. Upon arriving at the belay below the fist crack, we decided that the clean, splitter, well protected, and utterly classic crack didn't look all that good (silly first-ascent hungry climbers) and went left along a ledge system to another right-facing dihedral.

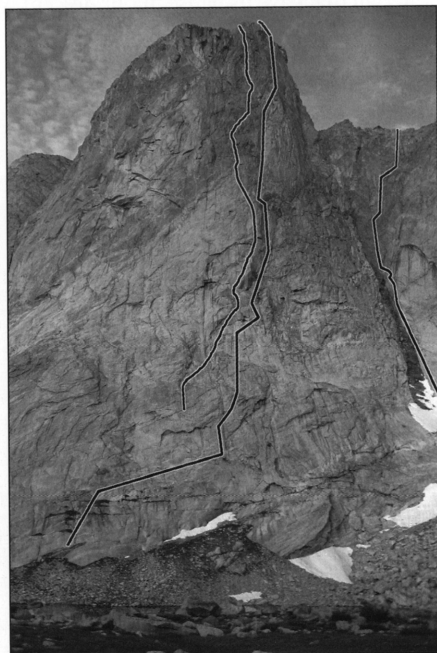
The next pitch had us following a clean, moderate dihedral, crossing a thin, poorly protected slab, and underclimbing down along a steep dihedral (the route's crux) to a small stance. The next pitch went left around a corner, up through a somewhat loose roof, and ended with a long stretch of thin cracks and face climbing to a perch on top of a large flake, with uninspiring thin gear as an anchor. From the flake we climbed straight up a wide corner (5.10 X) to easier ground, then stepped left into a prominent crack/chimney system that reaches the upper left edge of the wall, where we were once again joined by mosquitoes. I believe Dante forgot, in his description of Hell, the circle in which one belays anchored on a granite ridge in a fog of blood-sucking insects. One more 4th-to-easy-5th-class pitch up a gully brought us to the South Ridge and the descent, which we slipped, slid, and swatted our way down.

As much as one would love to sing the glories of his creation, I can't say that The Neu Low will be the modern Cirque classic. While comparable in overall difficulty to its neighbor Black Elk, it is more sustained and serious, though not of as high a quality. The Neu Low nevertheless does serve as a reminder that there are still numerous new lines in the Cirque of the Towers awaiting future Roconistas.

CHRIS BARLOW, AAC

*Ambush Peak, Dike Route.* Ambush Peak's main face rises from a low angle apron, becoming steeper at mid-height, and is capped by large overhangs near the top. The northeast face is devoid of large overhangs, but rises at a constant angle, ending sharply at the true summit. On the extreme right side of the northeast face is a black basaltic dike that divides the main face and the shorter north buttress to the right: the site of two established routes done in the early 70's. In August, my father, Stephen, and I climbed a new 12-pitch route (IV 5.8) that ascends the granite just right of the basaltic dike. At times we were stemming between granite and basalt. The route gradually steepens, entering a wide crack system, and 400' below the summit we followed solid rock to the right, up a steep crack system.

MARK ARSENAULT, AAC



The northeast face of Ambush Peak (left to right): Northeast Face-Left (start unknown; IV 5.10+, Arsenault-Bouchard, 1972), Northeast Face-Right (IV 5.10+, Arsenault-Bouchard, 1994), Dike Route (IV 5.8, Arsenault-Arsenault, 2005). Mark Arsenault