

Day three was incredibly hot, and we were incredibly tired. Looking up, we realized we had crossed the ridge several hundred meters farther south than we intended and had rappelled down the tallest aspect of a buttress we tagged Mirage Peak. Reconnaissance proved that our intended ascent would have required a 5th class pitch; our actual line was the best possible. The loss of our ropes and two cams in the rappels meant that our intended climbs and descents of South and North Twin Sister Peaks had to be scrubbed, so we spent the day skiing the Sisters Glacier, crossing back to the west and hiking out the last five miles to the car.

We actually traveled for 30 hours over three days, covered 26 miles, gained 12,000', descended 14,000', skied every single permanent snowfield/ice field/glacier (except for the Twin Glacier) according to the USGS map, and made significant descents across the range.

Special thanks to John Scurlock for his aerial photography.

CHRIS SIMMONS, AAC

### *Spectre Peak, Haunted Wall.*

Wayne Wallace and I braved the round trip 50 miles of hiking and 20,000' of elevation gain to climb the south face of Spectre Peak in the Northern Pickets in August. This is in one of the most remote places in the Lower 48, and a hauntingly beautiful area. We accessed the mountain via Easy Ridge, over a col right of Challenger's summit, and a few miles down to a camp below Phantom Peak's south face.

The 2,100' of climbing was solid, but devoid of cracks for protection. Our route, the Haunted Wall (IV 5.9+), starts in the center of Spectre's south face. Runout climbing for ~800' turns into a deep, spooky chimney inside the mountain (completely enclosed at times!), then continues to the great gendarme on the prominent, towered south ridge. One rappel gets you into the notch—and fully committed—then exposed face climbing up and right of a giant offwidth leads to a long ridge traverse to the summit. Downclimbing snow on the other side of the mountain took us to an amazing series of ledges to skier's right, around Spectre back to the south face.



The Haunted Wall on Spectre Peak. No other routes are known to exist in this photo. John Scurlock

MIKE LAYTON

*Mt. Fury, West Peak, Mongo Ridge.* It started by our looking, again, at a stupid map. The coolest USGS quadrangle in the Lower 48 is, by far, the Challenger map. It contains both the Northern and Southern Picket Ranges, with long, serrated ridges and enormous vertical relief rising from remote valleys. "Mongo Ridge," as it was pre-named by local enthusiast John Roper, is the South Buttress of the West Peak of Mt. Fury. The map reveals a mile-long, 4,000' vertical rise,