

Glacier's rock was indeed much worse than that of the routes we had done in the Canadian Rockies. Within a few hundred feet we roped up for a steep bulge, and kept simul-climbing. The climbing remained easy, but was too loose to safely free solo. Ropelengths disappeared below us, and we found ourselves part way up the headwall.

It was my lead. I began looking for a weakness through a crux, but every path proved to be some of the worst rock I had ever tried to climb. Eventually I passed the lead to Ryan. He repeatedly tried, but every time was turned back by terrifying rock quality. After hours of effort, we accepted defeat.

Knowing that our light rack and single rope were inadequate for rappelling 2,500' the way we came, we searched for another way off. The only way seemed to be a mile-long ledge that led to a huge choss gully far away.

With one rappel and a short bit of downclimbing, Ryan and I made it to the ledge. The day was ending, so we made haste and started our mile-long traverse off the mountain. A few hundred meters of traversing to the east granted us a new view. Ryan spied what he thought was a weakness above. With the remaining rays of light, we scrambled to the base of the head wall and spent the night.

Out of water and with only dry food, we suffered a night of agony. Desperate for water, we racked up and began climbing. Immediately we knew this weakness would take us to the top of the face. The line was loose but manageable. After some 4th-class, then six or seven pitches of delicate 5.9, I chimneyed up a gash onto the summit ridge.

The summit was a short distance away, and melting snow shimmered in the sunlight. After much-needed water, Ryan and I were standing on the summit. (Upward Descent, 750m, V 5.9)

CHRIS GIBISCH

Wyoming

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Mt. Moran, South Buttress Houdini. In three days in October, Hans Johnstone and I fixed some protection and opened the beautiful corner system 15m right of South Buttress Right. The first two pitches are 5.11 classic corners with excellent protection and strenuous, cryptic, Houdini moves. We crossed South Buttress Right at its crux pitch and continued directly up and left. Two more quality pitches, including a nice 5.11 roof, led into a left-leaning weakness that took us all the way to the top of the South Buttress Drifter route, where we rappelled from its fixed anchors.

The most dangerous passage came on our late night return across Leigh Lake. A strong, windy tempest surfed our canoe east, down cold, foamy faces and through deep black troughs. We fought a final crossing to Boulder Island as waves broke over the bow, reaching String Lake in record time.

We recommended our route, South Buttress Houdini (V 5.11d), as a direct start to the South Buttress Right, but lots of Teton 5.10R traversing keeps us from recommending its top half 'till we straighten it out.

Also of note is the May FFA of Death Canyon's O-Mega Crack (III 5.12). O-Mega Crack

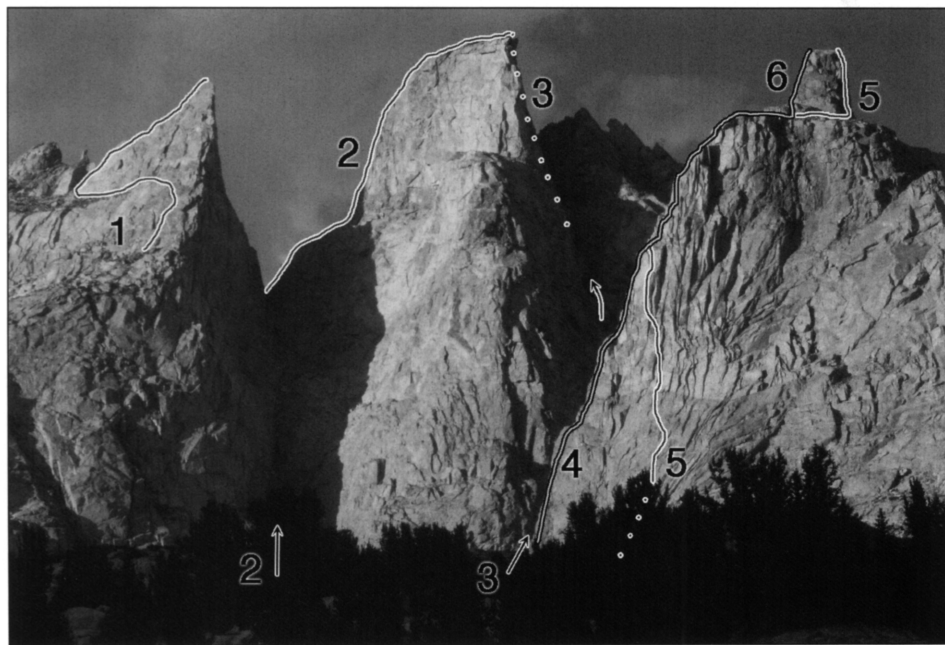
has had several repeats from well-traveled climbers, who have compared it to the best granite classics of its grade.

GREG COLLINS, AAC

WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS

South Continental Tower, Continental Drifters. From the idyllic upper meadows of the Little Sandy Valley, the South Continental Tower consists of a lower west-facing wall separated from the freestanding summit pinnacle by a large talus bench. In 1994 Joe Kelsey and Paul Horton scaled the lower wall via the northwest arête, continued up the west ridge of the summit pinnacle, and were surprised to encounter ancient soft-iron pitons. Apparently, an unknown party bypassed the lower wall via a talus gully to the southwest and made the first ascent of the South Tower via the west ridge of the summit pinnacle.

On August 11 Nick Stayner and I established an excellent new route up the west face of the lower wall. We began a couple of hundred feet right of the northwest arête and linked dihedral systems for five pitches, before joining the northwest arête for the sixth pitch, which



The Continental Towers (north, main, south) from the Little Sandy Valley. (1) Aristeia (III 5.9R, Bowman-Stayner, 2001) and (2) North Ridge (II 5.8, Horton-Kelsey, 1994), with scrambling until the solid lines. (3) East Chimney (III 5.7 A2, Beckey-Stevenson, 1967) finishes from the southern notch, with most of the lower gully and climb hidden. (4) Northwest Arête (III 5.8, Horton-Kelsey, 1994) finishes on (6), where Horton and Kelsey found pre-Chouinard-era pitons in the final pitches (5.3 and 5.7) of the summit tower. This final section, above the broad shoulder, can be approached by scrambling up the descent gully (off-frame to the right), as the pair did two days later to retrieve part of their rack that they forgot on the summit. "The next morning, when we were racking for the main Tower [route (2)], we found the rack to be surprisingly skimpy," Kelsey said. (5) Continental Drifters (IV 5.11a, Bowman-Stayner, 2007). (6) Upper West Ridge (5.7, Unknown). Nick Stayner