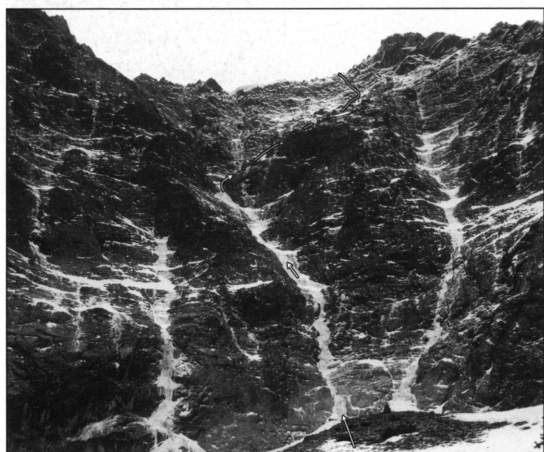




Distal Phalanx, with the North Arête following the longest sun-shadow line in the center. Styloid Peak is on the left, east of the col. John Roper



Buckshot, on the north face of Buck Mountain. Dan Cappellini

*Distal Phalanx, North Arête.* On September 6-7 John Friehe and I made the first ascent of the North Arête of Distal Phalanx, a remote alpine rock peak in North Cascades National Park. We approached from Thunder Creek Campground, traveling cross-country up the Neve Creek drainage to the base of the route and reaching the summit in 17 hours. Our route (1,200', IV 5.10) ascended directly up the ridge crest. We found easy 5th-class climbing down low and more difficult climbing near the summit pyramid. We spent several hours descending the south side of the peak and bivied on its southwest shoulder. The next day we climbed Styloid Peak via its west shoulder on our decent east back to Thunder Creek. Distal Phalanx has been relatively ignored since its first ascent, from the south, in 1981. Prior to our climb we believed the north side to be untouched but upon our return discovered that it had thwarted an attempt a month earlier.

CRAIG GYSELINCK, AAC

*Buck Mountain, Buckshot.* Rolf Larson's and my route, climbed on

December 4, begins up the central ice flow on the north face and eventually moves up right around steep iceless rotten rock. The first four 60m ropelengths went at WI3, WI4, WI4+, WI3. Three simul-climbing blocks followed, with several WI2/3 sections and mixed climbing, separated by steep sugar snow. Late in the day we were at the head of the main gully below imposing shattered overhangs. Overcome with alpine chicken syndrome and a lack of ice and viable protection above, we downclimbed a few hundred feet and simul-zigged right, out from under the looming cornice, and continued up steep sugar snow and névé to a belay. Here we zagged left and up for two pitches (a bit of M4/5) in the dark, which brought us to the ridge. I was unwilling to slog up the west slope to contrive the summit into the line, so we descended the west slopes to the tent on the moraine. A more aesthetic finish would be to continue up the iceless rock where we chickened out and proceed to the ridgetop.

A rock climb was done on this face a few decades back and is assumed to go up slightly less crappy rock to the left, leading more directly toward the summit tower.

DAN CAPPELLINI