

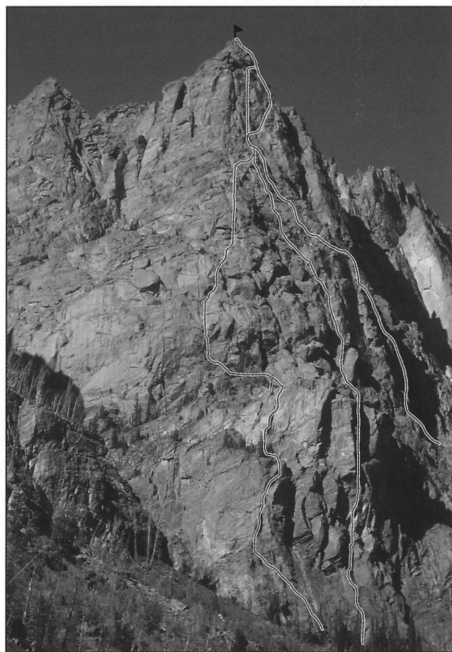
or “THIS SLOT PROBABLY HAS SNAKES!” The most special times have been spent with my dad. We climbed Apocalypse Couloir in June, and in July he fired the Snazette variation on the Snaz. At 69 he is a total inspiration and a reminder of what is possible with kindness, patience, and a good attitude.

With all this in mind, Joel Kauffman and I set out on September 2 to explore the south wall. After crossing the creek and ‘shwacking through the alders, we reached the face. The first 150m were easy 5th-class, with a few moderate roped pitches of run-out face climbing. We eventually gained the bench where the real climbing starts. After an initial pitch of 5.6, we veered from Predator onto the steep face to the left. As Joel bravely traversed out, the sun hit the wall, the angle eased, and the climbing got even better. We kept going and climbed the route in seven 55m pitches. The Alien Wall (400m, IV 5.10-) follows a fairly direct line left of Predator, with wild and varied climbing for the grade—steep face-climbing, stem-box corners, thin flakes, and cracks, from cranking fingerlocks to a small offwidth section. Pitch 4 would be a face-climbing classic anywhere, with some of the wildest rock I’ve seen in the Tetons: dense, dark, and solid, with knobs and chickenheads twisted into psychedelic forms. Pitches 5–7 were also stellar. Nine long rappels from trees, plus some downclimbing get you to the base of the wall and back to terra firma. My thanks to Joel for making the climb so special.

MARK GIVENS (1971–2009), AAC

WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS

Twenty-Hour Tower, You Gotta Want It and Alexander’s Band; Flat Top Mountain, Trundler. Laramie boys Oliver Deshler and I made two trips into the Clear Creek valley in the northern Winds this summer. As a warm-up, on June 23 we climbed the previously unclimbed north-facing wall of Flat Top Mountain, via the northeast arête: Trundler, 9 pitches, III 5.5–5.8. Descend via the gully behind the wall, hooking west and then north back down to the valley. Moving at 4:30 the next morning, we started up the giant buttress/pinnacle [later revealed as Twenty-Hour Tower, as named by Paul Horton and Sean O’Malley, who’d climbed it on June 7, 1997] on the north side of the valley, west of Mt. Osborn’s Forlorn Pinnacle. The granite was of extraordinary quality and we climbed directly up the center of the formation, with Deshler leading the crux 5.11 layback finger crack. After 15 pitches of mostly 5.8 to 5.10, we summited at dusk, then rappelled in the dark, at one point using a ridiculously dangerous bush as an anchor. About halfway



Twenty-Hour Tower, from left: Alexander’s Band (Deshler-Jenkins, 2009), You Gotta Want It (Deshler-Jenkins, 2009), Horton-O’Malley (1997). Mark Jenkins

down the face, exhausted, I took off my pack (with \$1,000 worth of climbing gear) and managed to forget it. Too beat to climb back up, we got back to camp at 3 a.m. We walked out the next day, naming the route You Gotta Want It (IV 5.11). Three months later, Deshler and I returned on a recovery mission. On September 13 we climbed a route (8 pitches, 5.10R) to the left of YGWI. It ties into YGWI at its 10th pitch, and we retrieved the pack. It was spitting sleet and snow the whole day, then began to rain; then a double rainbow came out just at dusk, prompting us to name the route Alexander's Band.

MARK JENKINS, AAC

East Fork Valley, various routes. The north-south ridge between Ambush and Raid contains a lot of rock. A long, attractive east-facing slab two buttresses north of M Buttress, two buttresses south of Raid, lured us in. On August 28 Felix Hörmann and I started at the lowest toe of the slab, near two vertical brown dots on the granite, and 4th-classed up and right to a two-bolt ledge. (We bolted belays while rapping the route, with other bolts drilled on lead.) Son of Raid (1,150', III 5.10) climbs interesting features more or less straight up for seven pitches. Two 60m ropes allow a quick rappel descent. We placed two cairns up top, at the ridgeline, to facilitate finding the raps for climbers descending from Raid, which is otherwise long and involved.



The East Fork Valley, with Son of Raid (marked) and the obvious M Buttress of the left. James Garrett

In the same valley, back on July 23, 2006, Franziska Garrett and I climbed 10 pitches (1,300', III 5.9) on the east face of Ambush, starting at the lowest part of the face and ending directly below the huge roof, where difficulties drastically change. We called it Ambush Plaisir; *plaisir* is a Swiss word meaning pleasurable and casual at the same time. With belay/rappel stations installed, this makes for a low-commitment Winds outing. A week later we established Triple Shot (9 pitches, 1,500', IV 5.7+), which traverses three gendarmes to the top of Ambush. A huge dike forms the letter M at the lower part of an east-facing wall/arête that's really its own mountain, north of the north summit of Ambush. We started climbing at the far left lower side of the M and followed the beautiful left-facing dihedral, and then the arête, to the top of the first tower, which is part of a huge ridge leading to the top of the mountain.

JAMES GARRETT, AAC

Watchtower, Hay Fever. In mid-July 2008 Dave Stewart and I climbed what we believe to be a new route on the east face of Watchtower. We started from camp in the Cirque and approached up the broad scree directly below the formation. Our route takes nondescript rock left of the