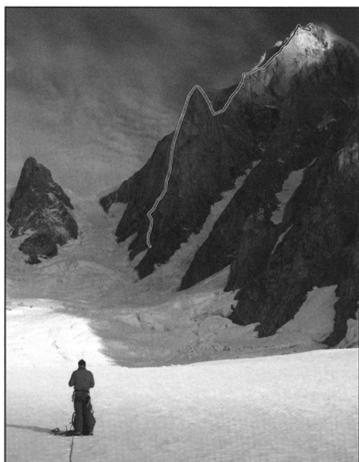


The East Ridge of Desire. *Matt Van Biene*

which we presumed was from John Clarke, who arrived in 1993 from the west and south [CAJ 1994, p. 78]. Our descent to the west began by a scramble down to a small col, then rappels down a steep snowfield and bergschrund, which put us within a hundred yards of our camp.

Mike and I climbed another two new routes, on unnamed peaks along the south ridge of Desire. Menergy Ridge ascends the west ridge of Gayle Needle (III 5.8, optional 5.9+ variation on summit block). The Wanderlust Traverse bags Wanderlust Peak (south of Gayle) via a three-pitch rock and snow climb (5.10) that gains the north ridge, climbs to the summit, then continues along the east ridge over two smaller peaks.

MATT VAN BIENE, AAC



Defiance, on the southeast face of Mt. Combatant. The initial prominent tower is the Incisor, home to two other routes: Belligerence (Child-Collum-Mascioli, 1994), to the left of Defiance, and Smoke Show (Furneau-Maddaloni, 2004), to the right. Perseverance (Cusick-Kearney, 2000) climbs the next buttress to the left on Combatant's summit. The thin rib right of the Incisor, across the glaciated couloir, is Southwest Bartizans (Condon-Edwards, 2002) on Mt. Tiedemann. *Joshua Lavigne*

*Mt. Combatant, Defiance.* After warming up on über-classic Skywalk Buttress (600m, ED1 5.9) with my girlfriend Carlyle Norman and our friend Scott Everett, Craig McGee and I turned our attention to a line on the southeast face of Mt. Combatant, with hopes of establishing a free climb up the Incisor and continuing along the ridge to the summit.

On August 26 Craig and I climbed the lower portion of the Incisor, encountering steep technical climbing with multiple loose, run-out 5.11 pitches. The crux pitch had intricate thin crack climbing that required cleaning and two pins (the only gear we left). After the crux pitch we discovered several pins, probably from the route Belligerence. (We think we shared three or four pitches with it). After seven pitches of intricate, sustained climbing, we rappelled, fixing our two lines and leaving gear at the base.

Two days later we returned and quickly reached the crux pitch. After a couple of attempts and additional

cleaning, Craig sent the pitch. However, the wall then steepened, with thin, bottoming cracks forcing us to resort to aid for 20m. After 15 sustained pitches, we found a comfortable bivy directly below the summit of the Incisor and fell asleep under a clear sky, with warm temperatures.

The next morning we continued along the Jawbone, a knife-edge ridge that connects the Incisor to the upper ridges of Mt. Combatant in eight chossy pitches. We exited this section after lunch and continued to the base of the Toothless Tower, where we stashed gear and simul-climbed a mostly independent line to the summit. (We descended the gully to the northwest of the Toothless Tower in eight rappels.) The rock on the Toothless Tower, in contrast to the Jawbone, was some of the most spectacular rock either Craig or I had ever touched; we padded our way up scooped dishes of bulletproof granite to the summit. After 20 hours of climbing, we sat on the summit enjoying the fruits of our labor: a warm breeze, a jaw-dropping view of Mt. Waddington, and a route to remember. Defiance (4,500', ED2 5.12 A3). Thanks to Mountain Equipment Co-op for making this trip possible.

JOSHUA LAVIGNE, *Canada*

*Mt. Bute, School of Rock.* In mid-August, Jimmy Martinello, Jay Sinnes, and I flew northwest out of Squamish for the head of Bute Inlet. Once there we transferred for a quick bump to the head of Galleon Creek, below the 6,000' west buttress of Mt Bute. The next morning saw us simuling and rope-stretching up a few spooky pitches of slab, aiming for a single corner system



Mt. Bute, with (1) the 50-pitch School of Rock (Kay-Martinello-Sinnes, 2009), and (2) West Face (Foweraker-Serl, 1986). The Northwest Buttress (Down-Fletcher, 1991) roughly takes the left skyline. Soon after the Foweraker-Serl ascent, starting just left and joining it at the first big ledge (where (2) traverses right), is the Beckey-Lewis-Nelson 1986 variation. *Jimmy Martinello*