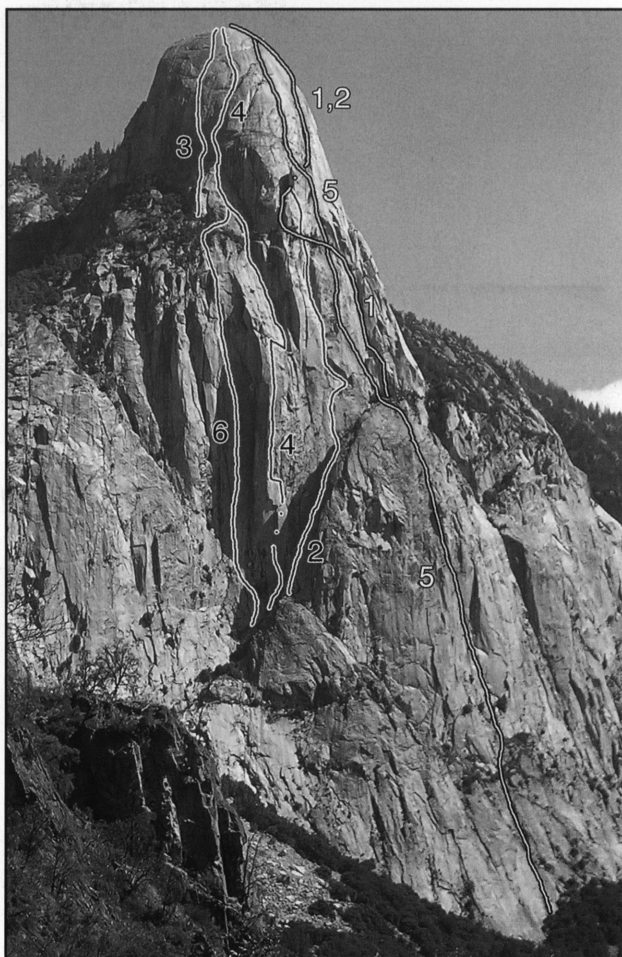


I nearly freed the crux fifth pitch—we climbed it with one hang—which should go at 5.13-. Other than anchors, we only needed to add about six bolts. Where our route ends, at the big ledge system below the upper dome, one can walk off or continue on one of the upper dome routes. We finished with six rope-stretcher pitches on the upper part of the 1997 route, In the Niche of Time (Felton-Joe-Zielsky).

The route has every type of crack climbing on it, from tips to hands to offwidth—and no hanging belays! The wall required little to no cleaning and was a spectacular experience. Dust and ash covered us daily and the hours on the wall were long; but when it came time for climbing, the soreness and pain went away and were replaced by the joy of climbing an amazing line in a wonderful place.

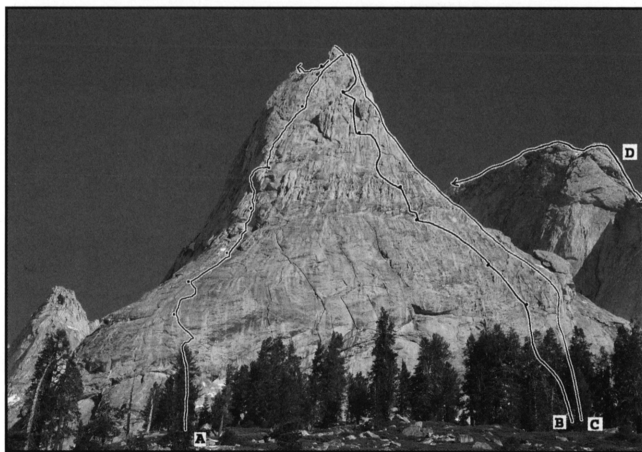
ROB PIZEM, AAC



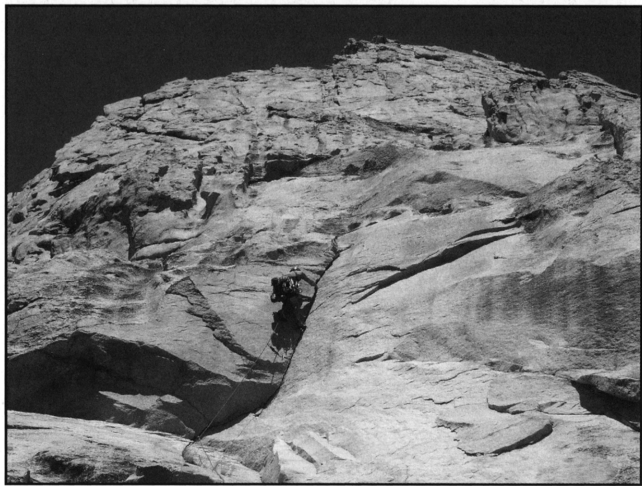
*Sequoia National Park, Tamarack Lake area, new routes. On a winter trans-Sierra attempt in the*

Tehipite Dome: (1) South Face/Time Warp (Beckey-Swedlund & Ahern-Weeks, 1963; FFA Bard-Harrington-Leversee, 1983). (2) Southwest Face (Chadwick-Kroger-Weeden, 1970). (3) Too Hip (Felton-Leversee, 1996). (4) In the Niche of Time (Felton-Joe-Zielsky, 1997). (5) Wall of Ages (Fehrman-Nettle-Sweeney-Thau, 2001). (6) Tehipite Sanction (Brumbaugh-Menitove-Pizem, 2010). Jay Wilkerson

coldest week of 2007, Chris LaBounty, Neal Harder, and I spotted a beautiful granite tower, surrounded by snow and set against a blue sky above Tamarack Lake. Even from a distance, we could see scoops, knobs, and chickenheads. It was like falling upon an unclimbed Charlotte Dome. We returned in the summer, and on July 13, 2007, we established the first route on the Prism (our name for the tower). The Left Facet (13 pitches, 5.10a R) starts on the lowest part of the tower and follows the left skyline to the pointy summit block. The route climbs featured slabs, cracks, runnels, and a steep face up high. Once atop the summit block we were surprised that the climb wasn't over. Another four pitches of ridge traversing and downclimbing up to 5.8 were required to descend.



New climbs above Tamarack Lake (the first three are on the Prism): (A) Left Facet (Harder-LaBounty-Thau, 2007). (B) Pig with Lipstick (LaBounty-Thau, 2010). (C) Right Facet (Harder-LaBounty, 2009). (D) Saber Ridge (Dille-Thelen, 2008). *Brandon Thau*



Brandon Thau leading the 5.9 crack on pitch 5 of Left Facet Crack. *LaBounty-Harder photo*

Justin Dille. He thought the name appropriate, and agreed with our thinking that it's one of the best ridge traverses in the Sierra. One could argue that Saber Ridge is better than Matthes Crest in terms of exposure and commitment. It's nice to know that Beckey and Rowell left a few Sierra plums for the rest of us to pick.

BRANDON THAU, AAC

Since then, among the three of us, we've established two more routes on the Prism. In July 2009, Neal and Chris climbed the right skyline (Right Facet, 11 pitches, 5.9). Last July, Chris and I established Pig with Lipstick (11 pitches, 5.9 R), a distant reference to Charlotte Dome that starts near Right Facet but heads up and left on golden knobs, chickenheads, and flakes. During the same trip, Chris and I also climbed the giant rock ridge right of the Prism. Our plan was to remain roped up for the nearly half-mile ridge, but after difficulties up to 5.7 on the first third, we coiled the ropes and continued. Spots require hand traversing on a knife-edge ridge with big air beneath, and once you start, the easiest way off is continuing to the other side. Unlike other ridge traverses in the Sierra, this ridge doesn't have any spots to bail from easily. We called the climb Saber Ridge (~20 pitches, 5.7), though subsequently learned that our friend Scott Thelen had climbed it in 2008, with

*Fourth Needle, East Face.* Over the summer, Greg Corliss, my wife Hjördis Rickert, and I climbed a new line on the thin spire just south and essentially part of the Third Needle along the Whitney Crest. The route goes through two roofs and corners on the east face of the narrow pillar. We did a couple