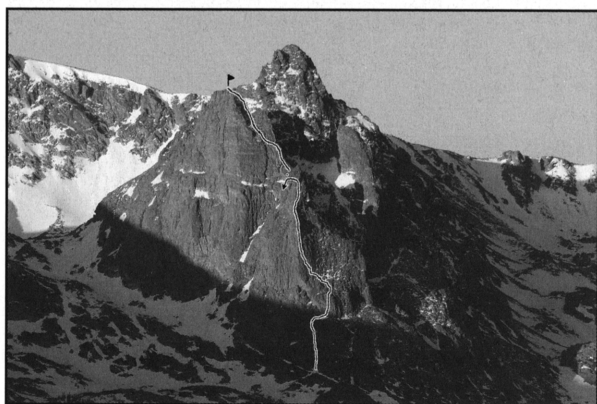


access the upper corner system of the Boissonneault-Larson. Before reaching this downclimbing pitch, you may see an errant bolt (sorry, I thought it would go but failed) to climber's right. It would be a significant variation and a way to go straight up into the Boissonneault-Larson route rather than do the downclimbing pitch (good luck either way!). Though each pitch was onsighted or redpointed by one of us at some point, none of us made a continuous free ascent. While we added a couple of bolts to new free-climbing variations, we did not change the existing routes. We're pretty certain that they remain in original condition. A4 remains serious as ever.

TAKI MIYAMOTO

COLORADO

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



Hayden Spire from Trail Ridge Road, showing the north ridge route (Dumbest Idea in the Park) on the East Pinnacle. *Richard Ryer*

Hayden Spire, East Pinnacle, Dumbest Idea in the Park. In early July, Chris Trimble and I had the brilliant idea of climbing the prominent north ridge of Hayden Spire's East Pinnacle, which looks great from high on Trail Ridge Road—except that it's a *long* way away. We convinced ourselves it wouldn't be so far if approached from the Flattop Mountain Trail, and so, bluffing with a pair of twos, we hiked in and then dropped down 1,500' into the spire's cirque. From the lowest point of the north ridge, staying mostly along the

crest, we climbed to the top of the pinnacle in nine roped pitches, plus lots of scrambling (up to easy 5th class), and with a 100' rappel off the first tower. It's pretty clean, with three excellent pitches and the rest being, well, mountain-y. We scrambled off and slogged back toward the Divide and the Flattop trail, returning to the trailhead after about 22 hours and 25 miles roundtrip. We couldn't find any history of the route having been climbed before, so we informally named it after a friend's statement upon our return: "That sounds like the dumbest idea in the Park" (1,400', 9 pitches, 5.9).

JUSTIN DUBOIS, *Estes Park, Colorado*

Chief's Head, Flight of the Kiwi. Two pitches up the classic route Birds of Fire, I looked 400' left to a series of inviting cracks and corners. One more route appeared on my ever-growing to-do list. When the RMNP guidebook and other founts of local knowledge came up short regarding the line, it bumped to the top of my list. Graham Zimmerman and I began climbing on a cold and misty day in July, "Washington conditions" to us two Northwest natives. And despite our best efforts to find moss and wet cracks, an array of clean edges and dry stone abounded. The route's crux came early on pitch two, with a tenuous rightward slab leading to the clean cracks that had drawn us here. After six pitches of well-protected climbing, we topped out amid active storms. A week later, I returned