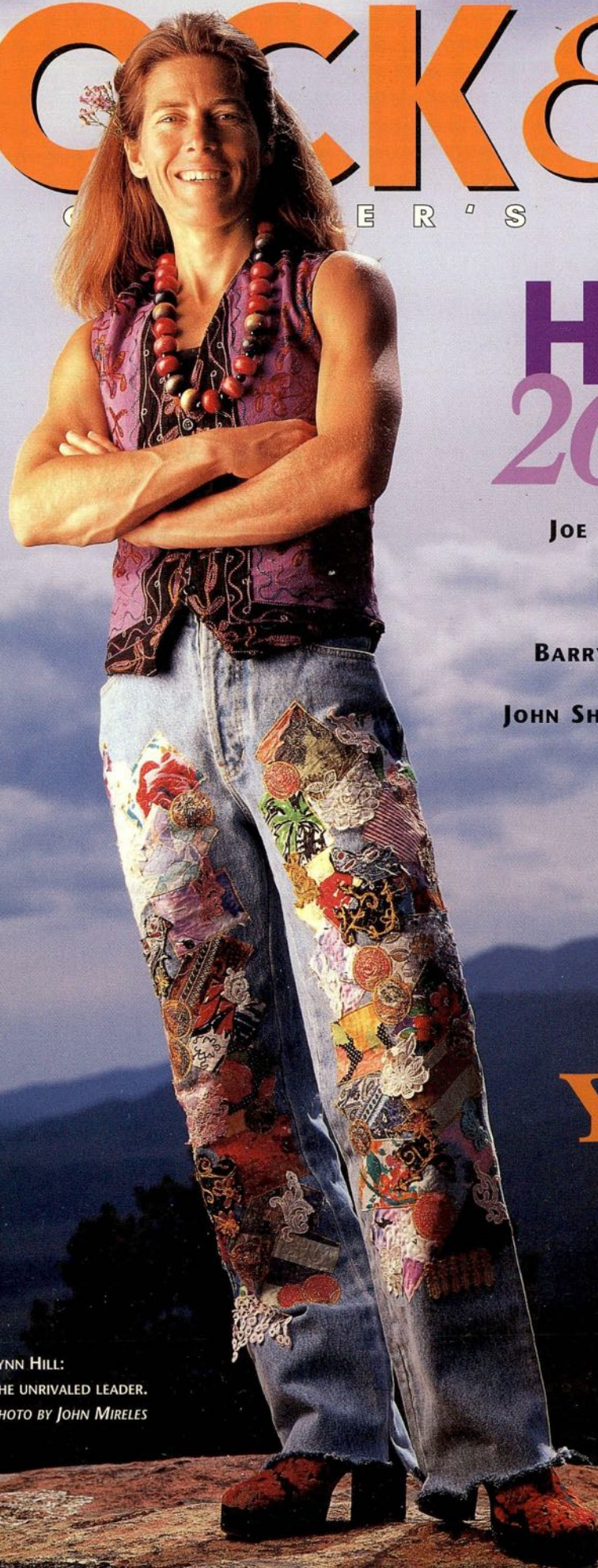


Chris Sharma's Bouldering Rampage • Low-Cost Ice Tools

# ROCK & ICE<sup>TM</sup>

THE CLIMBER'S MAGAZINE



LYNN HILL:  
THE UNRIVALED LEADER.  
PHOTO BY JOHN MIRELES

## HEROES!

26 WHO INSPIRED

GREG CHILD *on* **DOUG SCOTT**

JOE SIMPSON *on* **WALTER BONATTI**

PAT AMENT *on* **ROYAL ROBBINS**

BARRY BLANCHARD *on* **GEORGE LOWE**

JOHN SHERMAN *on* **ANDERL HECKMAIR**

*... and many more*

*BONUS POSTER*

## YOSEMITE LEGENDS

5 DECADES OF YOSEMITE CLIMBERS





# ADVANCED BASE CAMP



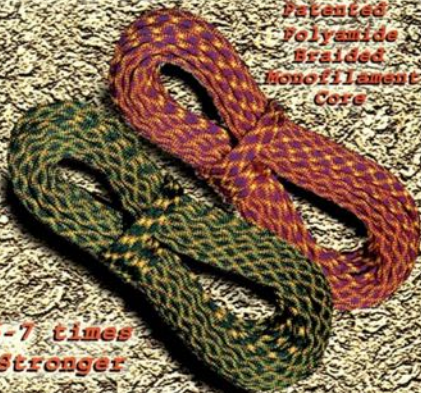
**Climb Tech RB's**  
Removable bolts



Wilderness  
Sensitive  
Saves  
Drilling time

**Edelweiss Stratos**

Patented  
Polyamide  
Braided  
Monofilament  
Core



6-7 times  
Stronger

**USHBA Hauler**

Lightweight  
Hauler  
and  
Pulley  
4.2 oz



Helping you make the impossible possible



**1-888-90-CLIMB**

[www.advancedbasecamp.com](http://www.advancedbasecamp.com)  
[sales@advancedbasecamp.com](mailto:sales@advancedbasecamp.com)







# Bad Fit

## Isn't Always This Obvious

You wouldn't consider heading into the mountains in boots that don't fit, or boots that are "one-size-fits-all". Unfortunately, a lot of people end up with the wrong pack and discover the importance of a properly fit pack the hard way - it's a pain in the back! At Gregory, we've spent the last 30 years refining the science of fitting a backpack to the human body. We know that, as with your boots, comfort is king, which is why we offer a complete range of frame sizes, pack bags, and interchangeable harnesses and waistbelts for a perfect fit. Visit your authorized Gregory Packfitting Dealer before your next climb and let their trained professionals help you slip into something a little more comfortable.



**GREGORY®**  
The Fit Experts  
[www.gregorypacks.com](http://www.gregorypacks.com)



NAKED



WARMTH

Finally, insulation that won't weigh you down, melt you down or blow the zippers off your pack. Built for the alpine dream world of infinite ice and boundless possibility, Regulator insulation is lighter, warmer and more compressible than fleece. Travel warm, dry, light and fast.

**R3** Warmest Regulator Fabric

Radiant Jacket

- Weight: 18 oz.
- Compressibility: 2.7 liters
- Warmth rating greater than 300/Original-Weight Synchilla®



**R2** Most Versatile Weight

R2 Jacket

- Weight: 14 oz.
- Compressibility: 2.6 liters
- Warmth rating greater than 200/Lightweight Synchilla®



**R1** Lightest/Most Breathable

Flash Pullover

- Weight: 11.5 oz.
- Compressibility: 1.2 liters
- Warmth rating greater than 100/Expedition Weight Capilene®



800.336.9090 • [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com)

Chris Cummings soloing Montmorency Falls, Quebec, Canada. Photo: Henry Georgi © Patagonia, Inc. 1999



EXCLUSIVELY FOR PATAGONIA®



Polartec® is a registered trademark of Malden Mills, Inc.  
Regulator™ is a trademark of Patagonia, Inc.



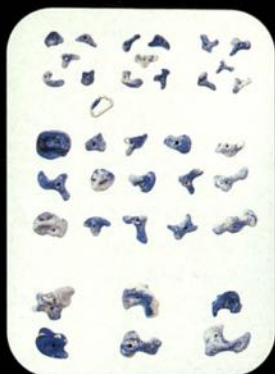


**patagonia®**





# POWER HOUSE



Turn your home into a house of power. Call for a free catalog, campus board brochure and our 'How to Build a Climbing Wall' booklet with plans. 541-382-7585



[www.metoliusclimbing.com](http://www.metoliusclimbing.com)







# Companions in the extreme

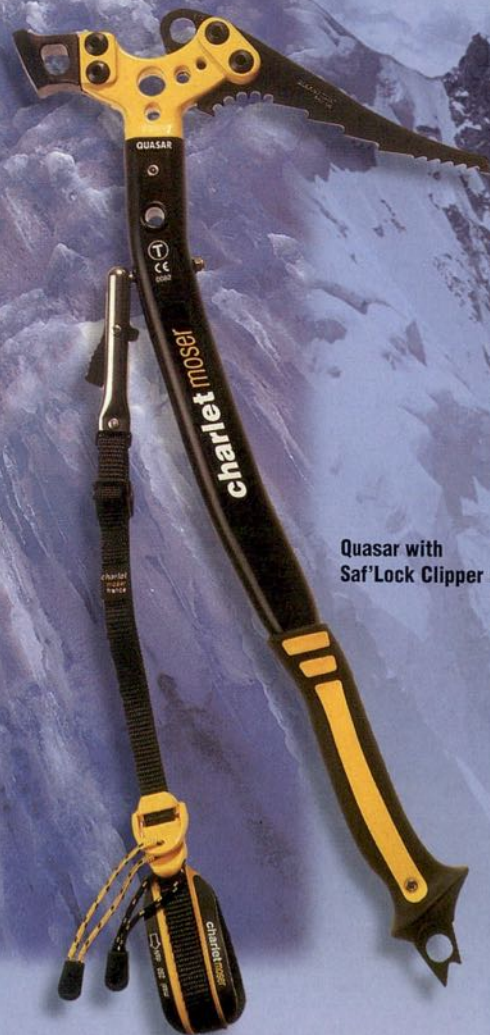
Bruno Sourzac  
on Cerro Stanhardt  
Patagonia

Agence THURIA 100 Albertville 69412 - Cédric Grégoire - Laurence Monneyeur - Marie Odol - JP Burgeat

**New** Axar with  
Saf'Lock leash



Quasar with  
Saf'Lock Clipper leash



Grade 8 Monopoint  
crampons



**New** Ice Screw Rack  
with Laser Ice Screws



**New** Turbine



**New** MultiHook

**charlet moser**  
équipement d'alpinisme

For a catalog and information on a dealer near you, contact:  
**charlet moser** - Wild Country USA, Inc  
230 East Conway Rd. Center Conway, NH 03813  
Tel : 603-356-5590



Our 15th Year  
**ROCK&ICE**  
DECEMBER 1999 #97

### Features

#### 56 in search of colder pastures

by Bobby Model and Todd Cozzens

The remote south fork of Wyoming's Shoshone River is host to ice climbing that rivals the Canadian Rockies.

#### 64 the wanting

by Steve House

Three men wage alpine war on Canada's Howse Peak — and barely come back alive.

#### 68 heroes

At the close of the 20th century, *Rock & Ice* asked some favorite writers to describe their personal climbing heroes. Here's what they came up with.

#### 80 yosemite legends

Bonus pull-out poster!

On September 25, more than 625 Yosemite veterans gathered in the Valley to celebrate the sparing of Camp 4. Photographer John Mireles captured this historic day on film.

#### 86 monkeyin' around

by Josh Lowell

Turning a blind eye to roped climbing, Chris Sharma capers about some of the country's best bouldering areas.

### MiniGuide

#### 98 san luis obispo, california

by Tom Slater

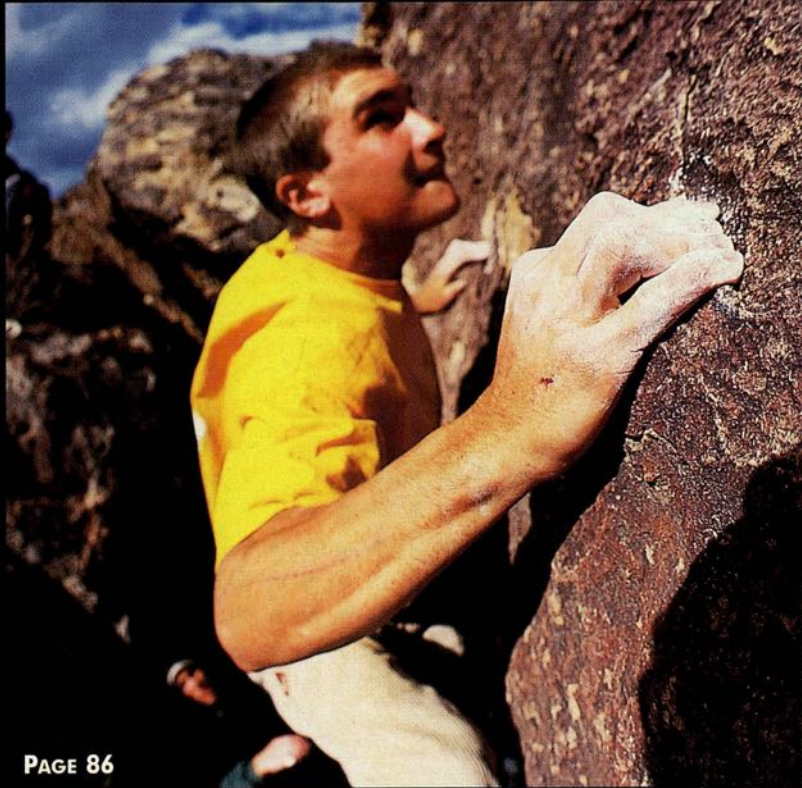
This hip coastal community has climbing to suit your mood — sport, trad and bouldering.

### Etc.

#### 12 the sharp end

#### 15 letters

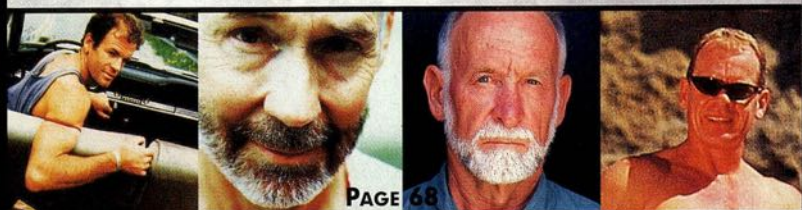
#### 92 exposed



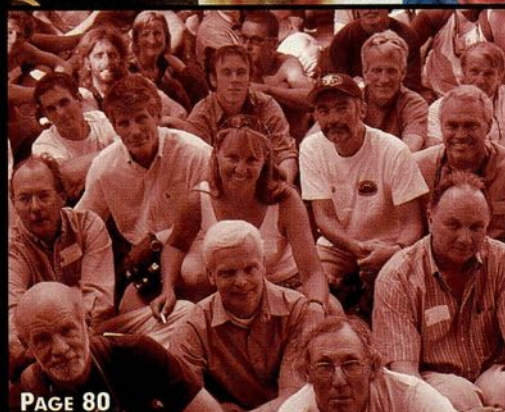
PAGE 86



PAGE 56



PAGE 68



PAGE 80

FROM TOP: CHRIS SHARMA IN BOULDERING BLISS ON RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE (V12), HUECO TANKS; TODD COZZENS SAVORS THE ICE FEST (W15) NEAR CODY, WYOMING; FOUR HEROES BY JOHN MIRELES: CHRISTIAN GRIFFITH, JOHN GILL, ROYAL ROBBINS AND JOHN LONG; HEROES AND LEGENDS REUNITED AT CAMP 4.



planetoutdoors.com



- The North Face® Denali jacket
- Cascade Designs Ridge Rest™ pad
- Primus Fuel Bottle -1000
- Moonstone® 650/Zone 3 Dryloft bag
- Primus Multifuel stove
- Marmot® Tech Fleece pants

These days, everything has a website. For sweet outdoor gear, it's planetoutdoors.com



dinnerinapinch.com



 **PlanetOutdoors**.com<sup>sm</sup>  
Get on. Gear up. Get out.<sup>sm</sup>

planetoutdoors.com supports the American Alpine Society





# ROCK&ICE

## cliff notes

- 24 kryptonite 5.14d** The latest (hardest?) US sport route.
- 26 cap trinité** Quebecois youth set it free. Also: Paul Petzoldt.
- 28 alex lowe** Public mountaineer, personal hero.
- 30 speed of fright** Yosemite soloists make waves.
- 32 comp news** Arco Rockmaster and Youth Worlds.
- 35 'tis the season** Non-profit gift-giving ideas.
- 37 small wires** In Europe, Katie Brown flashes 5.14a!

PAGE 105

## DEPARTMENTS

### 39 access

by Julie Garrison  
Darrington, WA;  
Flatirons, CO; more.

### 48 ★★ ★★

by Jeb Tilly  
Smear yourself silly  
at North Carolina's  
preeminent crag,  
Looking Glass Rock.

### 52 goldline

by Gregory Crouch  
Shafted on the first  
ascent of the north  
face of Alaska's  
Mt. Johnson.

### 105 urban cragger

by Rebecca Gonzales  
Austin: Hueco Tanks  
isn't the only climbable  
rock in Texas.

### 140 classic

by Shannon Stegg  
Starshine: The search for ice  
in the South stops here.

PAGE 40

## reviews

### 108 ice gear

### 116 field tests

### 119 showstoppers

### 120 mixed media

PAGE 108

## performance

**40 six months to mckinley** by Stacy Taniguchi  
Get fit for North America's highest.

**42 herbal altitude meds** by Peter Sherrill  
Do dietary supplements really work?

**44 technique snapshot** by Chris Wall and Jeff Cloud  
Skull-saving spotting at Flagstaff Mountain, Colorado.

**46 Q&A**  
The editors answer your questions.



ONLY ONE IS ALLOWED TO BE  
CALLED WINDSTOPPER

3

GORE-TEX, WINDSTOPPER, GORE and designs are trademarks of W. L. Gore & Associates. © 1999 W. L. Gore & Associates. Rosenberg McCann. Photo: Stefan Berg.



WINDSTOPPER™ products combine absolute wind protection with outstanding breathability so you stay comfortable with fewer textile layers and less bulky garments.



FROM THE INVENTORS  
OF GORE-TEX®

For more information please call 1-800-431-GORE. Or visit our web site at: [www.windstopper.com](http://www.windstopper.com)





**Why make gear for a sport that prides itself in not using much gear? Because we believe that the future of bouldering is absolutely limitless. It's cheap, accessible and fun with a little bit of danger thrown in for thrills. Anyone with enough motivation and an eye for a good line can develop an area in a matter of hours. The amount of bouldering that has been developed in the last thirty years is a fraction of what has been developed in the last three. The American Fontainebleau is out there somewhere and all you would need is a few brushes to clean it up. That's what keeps us awake at night. That's why we make bouldering gear.**



**209-B W. UTOPIA AV.  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT.  
84115 USA  
tel: 801.486.5955  
free: 888.cordles  
www.cordlessclimbing.com.  
Catalogs? Free as the breeze, baby.**

# sharpend

## Heroes

by Dougald MacDonald

**W**hat makes a climbing hero? It's more than just feats on rock and ice. To be a hero, a climber must somehow inspire other climbers, and everyone is inspired in different ways.

That's why a lot of big names are missing from this issue's "Heroes" piece (page 68). Brad Washburn, Charlie Porter, Alex Lowe, Sir Edmund Hillary, Peter Croft, Chuck Pratt, Robyn Erbesfield, Yvon Chouinard — you could go on and on. To many climbers, these (or others) are the truly heroic figures of our sport. However, we at R&I weren't interested in merely assembling a roster of this century's "greatest climbers." We wanted to know who individuals cared about and why.

Our only stipulation to each writer was that the subject had to be someone many readers would recognize. However, when we asked Boulder alpinist Jack Roberts to choose, he dropped a few well-known names, then said, "The person I really consider a hero is Ray Snead." Never heard of him? Well, Snead may not be famous, but he's heroic in his own way. Here's what Jack wrote:

*Some climbing heroes are imposing figures, sporting a huge physique or a reputation for bold and dangerous adventures. Others have a more understated presence, but they set an example of just how much positive energy can come from a life of climbing. Such a person is 44-year-old Ray Snead, all 5-foot, 8-inches and 215 pounds of him.*

*Ray has managed to blend a life of constant rock climbing with a marriage of 21 years, an 18-year career as a computer programmer in Boulder, and the challenge of raising a smart and exuberant 11-year-old daughter. Many years ago, he was a leading climber at Seneca Rocks, West Virginia. But now he leads in a different way.*

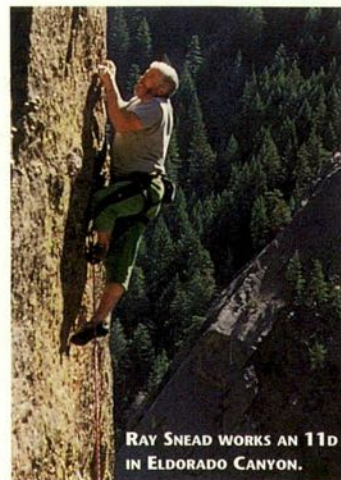
*Ray motivates me by his mere presence. Though not naturally gifted (Ray doesn't exactly have the ripped physique of today's rock warriors), he possesses a single-minded determination and focus that often gets him up routes others would have thought impossible for him. It is because of these qualities that he inspires others to climb at their best.*

*Ray recently got it into his head that he would redpoint Bolt Action, a bouldery and pumpy 5.11d at Rifle. He and his partner of many years, Gregg Hand, began leaving Boulder at 5 a.m. for the four-hour drive to Rifle, where Ray would attempt the route all day. This happened for many weeks until Ray finally got it.*

*His positive attitude is infectious. This winter, I know he'll be at the Boulder Rock Club on Monday and Wednesday nights, and he'll greet me with his usual, "Jack, how ya been? Hey! There's this route you gotta do. Man, it's perfect for you. You'll love it!"*

*And he'll always be right.*

We may be inspired by legendary figures like Messner or Robbins. But it's local heroes like Ray Snead who make for great days out at the crags. ▲



**RAY SNEAD WORKS AN 11D IN ELDORADO CANYON.**

RAY SNEAD COLLECTION





## THE FOCUS

Our newest all-around high performance climbing shoe brings together sensitivity, edging and crack climbing performance all in an incredible new fit impeccably hand crafted in Italy. With a 3mm Salpa midsole, a sweet heel cradling slingshot rand and super sticky Vibram XSV rubber, the Focus holds on even the smallest edge, flexes well for friction and climbs cracks with the best of them. Extremely versatile - this jack of all trades can either be fit comfortably for long gear routes or tight for sport climbing. Sending, training, or just plain cruising, the Focus is one tough shoe that can meet the demands of almost any terrain you can bring its way. Get your feet in Focus and watch it all come together.

FOR A FREE CATALOG: SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER  
[WWW.SPORTIVA.COM](http://WWW.SPORTIVA.COM) 303.443.8710

ITEM #999

\$124.95



MANASLU +  
DHAULAGIRI 1999

## WAYS TO SHAVE OUNCES

- \* SLEEP IN DOWN SUIT  
— NO BAG!
- \* CUT TAGS OFF ALL  
EQUIPMENT
- \* DRILL HOLES IN  
TOOTHBRUSH



Ed Viesturs  
Mountain Hardwear Technical Consultant  
Manaslu & Dhaulagiri back-to-back, May 1999



Gore-Tex® PacLite™  
fabric allows the  
new Aurora jacket  
to pack as small as  
a first-aid kit. So  
you'll have room  
for both.



You don't have to be a type-A minimalist like Ed Viesturs to be totally obsessed with weight. Fewer ounces on your back means more energy in your legs, no matter what your elevation. That's why our new Aurora jacket will work as well for you as it did for Ed on his recent alpine-style ascents. The PacLite™ fabric is durably waterproof and very breathable.

And at a mere 17 ounces, it's about the only thing in your pack that can't possibly weigh less. See it at your local dealer. Or at [www.mountainhardwear.com](http://www.mountainhardwear.com).

©1999 Mountain Hardwear. GORE-TEX, Guaranteed To Keep You Dry, PacLite and the design logo are registered trademarks of W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.



*No wonder it works*



# letters

ROCK&ICE WELCOMES LETTERS. SOME MAY BE EDITED FOR SPACE OR CLARITY.

## ☛ trouble in paradise

I just picked up the latest edition of the SuperGuide [R&I #96] and was pleased to see your coverage of Thailand. Having just been there, I can testify that southern Thailand is as beautiful as it looks and well worth the trip.

Unfortunately, the reports of climbing hardware at Rai Lay Beach breaking on a regular basis are true. Many bolts are severely discolored and the corrosion has extended onto the nut and the hangers. I lost count of the number of hangers that had visible cracks. What's more, some anchors are badly rigged — though slings are attached to both bolts, the lowering carabiners were frequently clipped in a loop, not in an "x" or a cordelette configuration. Some of the fixed 11mm ropes and slings looked as if they had been there since the routes went up.

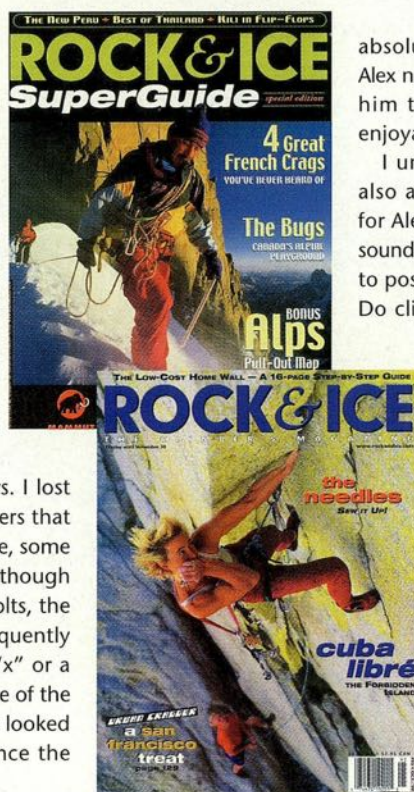
Even more worrisome was the general lack of concern over the hardware issues. The local guides didn't seem to understand how much jeopardy they put their clients in when climbing on these routes. I re-rigged an anchor for a popular route on the main tourist wall that had cracked hangers and a single, rusty quick-link held by webbing without the "x" or cordelette configuration. I spoke with several people who had seen the same things at different areas, so the problems seem to be widespread. One guy from New Zealand even had a fixed piece of webbing break on him during a rappel.

The bottom line is simple: The area is an accident waiting to happen. There is a revolting effort in the works, but with the high season coming, it's inevitable that people will be climbing on questionable hardware. I'm not saying that people shouldn't go — the climbing there is too good to be missed. But if you go, be sure you're armed with enough webbing, quick-links and hangers to make anchors safe, and consider staying well below your limits on routes that aren't rebolted to ensure that you don't take a dangerous fall.

Mike Shelton  
Niwt, Colorado

## ☛ responsible beyond death

In past magazines, *Rock & Ice* has run in memoriams and dedications to fallen climbers — no doubt you'll run one for Alex Lowe, who



absolutely deserves it. I met Alex numerous times and found him to be one of the most enjoyable people.

I understand that there is also a memorial fund set up for Alex's family. At the risk of sounding cantankerous, I'd like to pose the question, "Why?"

Do climbers not know about life insurance? Alex never struck me as irresponsible, so surely he has life insurance to support his family. Even if he was dumb enough not to have taken out a policy (which I sincerely doubt), don't you think that his corporate sponsors would do something? [Editor's note: Lowe's sponsors have contributed money to the family.]

Please do me a favor and let the climbing world know that it is each climber's responsibility to provide for his or her family — that includes making arrangements in case of accidents. Climbers who engage in high risk activities need to be responsible by taking out life insurance.

Ed Verosko

Wareham, Massachusetts

## ☛ guides go home

In "Guiding in the US" [Rap Station, R&I #95], Jorg Wilz complains about bureaucracy and paperwork interfering with guiding on public lands. I'd like to propose an alternate solution: Ban all guiding for money on public lands!

Anyone who's been to the Grand Teton lately will agree. The upper Garnet Canyon is a circus. A good part of the problem comes from guiding companies dragging up all manner of people to their fixed camps: troubled teenagers seeking their souls in the Lower Saddle, fathers trying to bond with sons, and the occasional out-of-town climber without a partner.

Most of these guided clients are too inexperienced and out of shape to have made it without someone else to haul their gear and provide technical assistance. As Dougal Haston said about guiding on the Matterhorn (*In High Places*): "Guides drag up clumsy and incompetent clients

## AURORA DEALERS

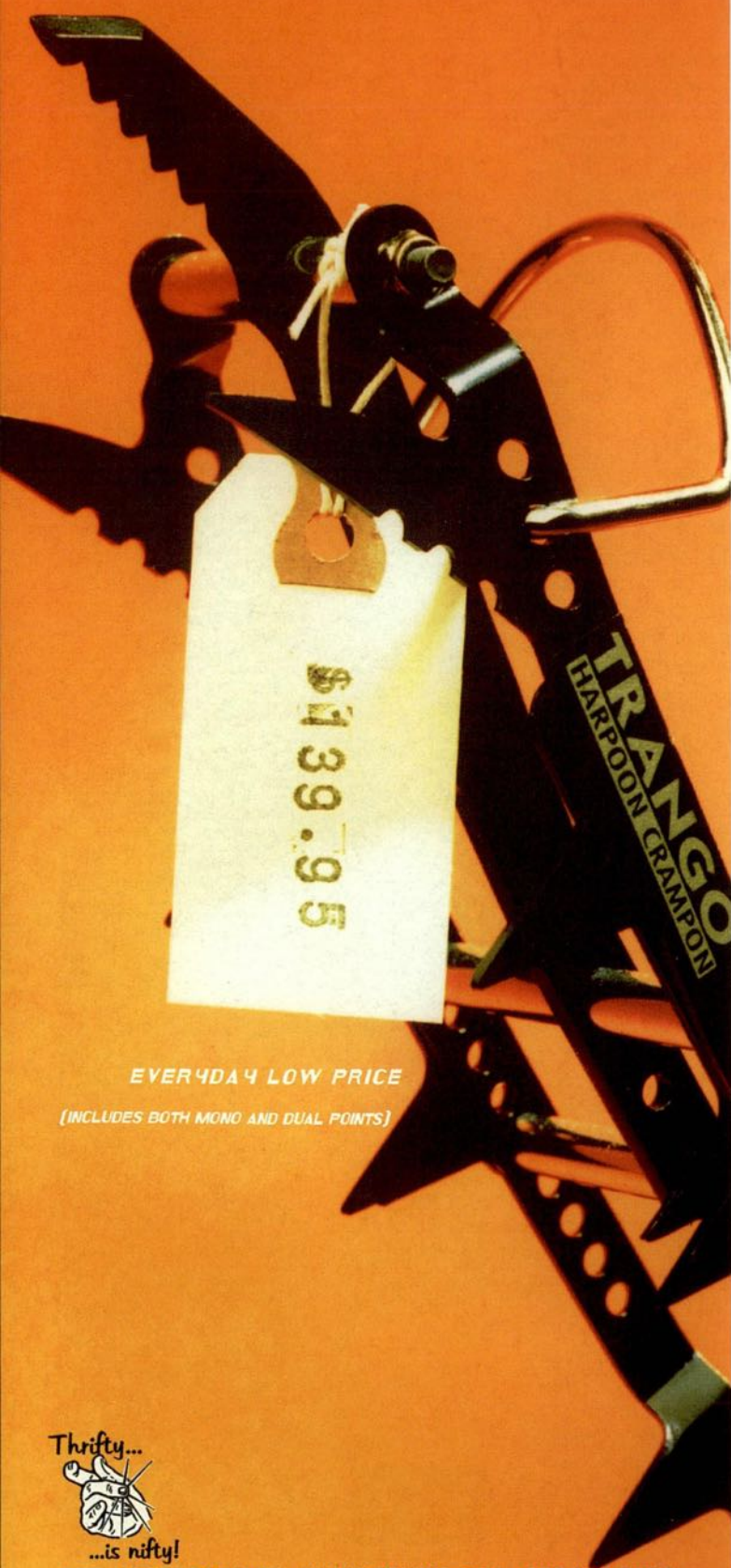
<b>Alaska</b> Beaver Sports	The Benchmark Ski & Sport
<b>Alabama</b> South Appalachian Outfitters Kinnucan's Cycle Path Alabama Outdoors	Lee's Sporting Goods Ann Arbor Bivouac
<b>Arkansas</b> Ozark Outdoor Supply	<b>Mississippi</b> Buffalo Peak Outfitters
<b>Arizona</b> Summit Hut Mountain Sports Babbitt's Backcountry	<b>Missouri</b> Baltoro Mtn. Outfitters
<b>California</b> Wilson's Eastside Sports Valley Sporting Goods Upstream Flyfishing Turtle Mountain Sports Truckee Mtn. Sports The Fifth Season Sunrise Mountaineering Sugar Bowl Sports Fever Sonoma Outfitters Sierra Outfitters Redwood Trading Post Nomad Ventures Mountain Sports Mountain Air Sports Marin Outdoors Lombardi Sports Kittredge Sports Cutting Edge Sports Adventure 16	<b>Montana</b> Base Camp
<b>Colorado</b> The Mountain Shop Summit Canyon Mountaineering Specialty Sports Ventures Neptune Mountaineering Mountain Sports Mountain Chalet	<b>North Carolina</b> The Trail Shop Outdoor Supply Co. Footloggers Diamond Brand
<b>Connecticut</b> TrailBlazer	<b>Nebraska</b> Moose Tooth
<b>District of Columbia</b> Hudson Trail Outfitters	<b>New Hampshire</b> North Country Outfitters
<b>Delaware</b> Gore Outdoor	<b>New Mexico</b> Mudd-N-Flood Active Endeavors of Sante Fe
<b>Florida</b> Travel Country Outdoors Enviro-neers Brasington Trail Shop Bill Jackson's Black Creek Outfitters	<b>Nevada</b> Reno Mountain Sports
<b>Georgia</b> Wilderness Outfitters Southeast Adventure Outfitters Mountain Ventures Kinnucan's Charbon's Outfitters	<b>New York</b> Wildware Tents & Trails Saratoga Outfitters Paragon High Peaks Cyclery American Terrain Outfitters
<b>Iowa</b> Active Endeavors	<b>Ohio</b> The Wilderness Shop The Benchmark Newman Outfitters Nature Outfitters Galyan's Appalachian Outfitters
<b>Idaho</b> The Benchmark	<b>Oklahoma</b> D & B Outfitters
<b>Illinois</b> Active Endeavors	<b>Oregon</b> US Outdoor Store Skjersaa's Ski Shop Mountain Supply McKenzie Outfitters Cascade Ski & Sports Anderson's Sporting Goods
<b>Indiana</b> Quest Outdoors J.L. Waters Hodson's Bay Company	<b>Pennsylvania</b> Wildware Trail Creek Outfitters Nestor's Sporting Goods Langhorne Ski Shop Appalachian Trail Outfitters Appalachian Ski and Outdoors
<b>Kansas</b> Sitzmark The Sunflower Group	<b>South Carolina</b> The Backpacker Quality Gear Half Moon Outfitters Appalachian Outfitters
<b>Kentucky</b> Quest Outdoors Philip Gall's Inc. Hooper's Outdoor Center	<b>Tennessee</b> Rock Creek Outfitters Outdoors Inc. Mahoney's Cumberland Transit Cumberland Mountain Outdoor Sports
<b>Maryland</b> Hudson Trail Outfitters	<b>Texas</b> Wilderness Equipment Mountain Sports
<b>Massachusetts</b> Bob Smith's Wilderness House	<b>Utah</b> White Pine Touring Out-N-Back
<b>Maine</b> Maine Sport	<b>Virginia</b> Rockfish Gap Outfitters Mountain Sports Hudson Trail Outfitters Highlands Ski Haus Casual Adventure
<b>Michigan</b> Wilderness Outfitters Venture Outdoors The Yachtsman	<b>Washington</b> The Great Adventure Skookum Bay Outfitters Outdoor & More Mountain Supply of Yakima Base Camp
	<b>Wisconsin</b> Ashbee's Activewear



For info, call  
810-559-6700 (U.S.)  
800-465-9637 (Canada)  
www.mountainhardwear.com

[Continues on page 18]





EVERYDAY LOW PRICE

(INCLUDES BOTH MONO AND DUAL POINTS)



FOR A FREE CATALOG: WWW.TRANGO.COM 800.860.3653

ANOTHER LOYAL SUBSCRIPTION / PHOTO: TRP / © 1999 TRANGO USA

# ROCK&ICE

## EDITORIAL

**publisher/editor-in-chief** | dougald macdonald | [dougald@rockandice.com](mailto:dougald@rockandice.com)

**managing editor** | aaron gulley | [aarong@rockandice.com](mailto:aarong@rockandice.com)

**senior editor** | clyde soles | [csoles@rmi.net](mailto:csoles@rmi.net)

**associate editor** | julie garrison | [julie@rockandice.com](mailto:julie@rockandice.com)

**editorial assistant** | brad bond | [mail@rockandice.com](mailto:mail@rockandice.com)

**proofreader** | andy moore

## CREATIVE

**art director** | connie poole | [connie@rockandice.com](mailto:connie@rockandice.com)

**photo editor** | stephen miller | [photo@rockandice.com](mailto:photo@rockandice.com)

**ad production coordinator** | chris sheldon | [chris@rockandice.com](mailto:chris@rockandice.com)

**online design** | trevor steinbacher

## ADVERTISING SALES

**senior account executive** | tanya faw | [tanya@rockandice.com](mailto:tanya@rockandice.com)

**account executive** | kim santangelo | [kim@rockandice.com](mailto:kim@rockandice.com)

**account executive** | jennifer judge | [jen@rockandice.com](mailto:jen@rockandice.com)

**account executive** | bryan berkowitz | [bryanb@rockandice.com](mailto:bryanb@rockandice.com)

## CIRCULATION/BUSINESS

**circulation director** | priska berkheimer | [priska@rockandice.com](mailto:priska@rockandice.com)

**retail coordinator** | cindy souply | [circulation@rockandice.com](mailto:circulation@rockandice.com)

**office manager** | laura hilton | [laura@rockandice.com](mailto:laura@rockandice.com)

**circulation database** | jo johnson **business manager** | marilyn hanna

## CONTRIBUTORS

jeff apple benowitz, cameron burns, gregory crouch, topher donahue, stewart green, skip harper, david keaton, fred knapp, josh lowell, craig luebben, alden pellet, eric perlman, tom prentice, jack roberts, john sherman, kevin thaw, jim thornburg, jean-philippe villemaire

**WARNING!** The activities described in *Rock & Ice* carry a significant risk of personal injury or death. DO NOT participate in these activities unless you are an expert, have sought or obtained qualified professional instruction or guidance, are knowledgeable about the risks involved, and are willing to assume personal responsibility for all risks associated with these activities. *ROCK & ICE* MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, OF ANY KIND REGARDING THE CONTENTS OF THIS MAGAZINE, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY WARRANTY REGARDING THE ACCURACY OR RELIABILITY OF INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN. *Rock & Ice* further disclaims any responsibility for injuries or death incurred by any person engaging in these activities. Use the information contained in this magazine AT YOUR OWN RISK, and do not depend on the information contained in this magazine for personal safety or for determining whether to attempt any climb, route or activity described herein.

The views herein are those of the writers and advertisers; they do not necessarily reflect the views of *Rock & Ice's* ownership. • Manuscripts, photographs and correspondence are welcome. Unsolicited materials should be accompanied by return postage. *Rock & Ice* is not responsible for unsolicited materials. • Please allow up to 10 weeks for the first issue after subscribing or a change of address (to expect continuous service).

No part of this publication can be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

© Copyright 1999 by North South Publications LLC.



1999  
DIAMOND BENEFACTOR



AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB  
CORPORATE MEMBER



603 S. Broadway, Suite A, Boulder, CO 80303-5926

Telephone: 303-499-8410 Fax: 303-499-4131

**rock&ice online** | [www.rockandice.com](http://www.rockandice.com)





GORE-TEX is a trademark of W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

Protects against  
everything but  
nerves.



### *Devil's Thumb*

If you provide the courage, we'll provide the jacket. The Devil's Thumb is the most advanced alpine shell The North Face has ever built. Made with revolutionary GORE-TEX® PACLITE™ fabric, it's superlight and highly compactable for an easy load on steep ascents. The breathable waterproof fabric manages moisture while core-vents help regulate body temperature. Expedition-tested by Pete Athans on the slopes of Mount Everest, the Devil's Thumb can handle anything that you can.



[www.thenorthface.com](http://www.thenorthface.com)

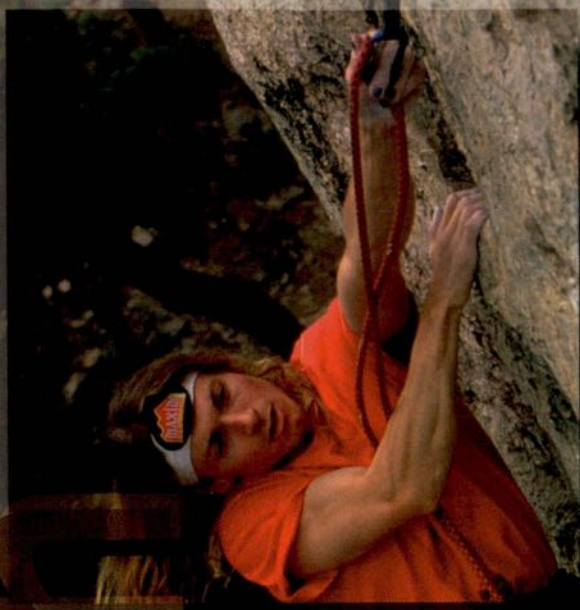
**NEVER STOP EXPLORING™**

Pete Athans, Khumbu Ice Falls, returning from his record sixth successful climb of Mount Everest, Everest Millennium Expedition, Nepal

Photo: ©1999 William Crouse



# Strength



"IF I'VE FORGOTTEN THAT I'M  
TIED INTO A ROPE WHILE I'M  
CLIMBING, THEN I KNOW I'VE  
CHOSEN THE RIGHT ONE."

— TIMY FAIRFIELD

WHEN YOU **feel** WEAK, EXHAUSTED,  
FRAGILE: ALL OF YOUR STRENGTH IS DRAINED  
BY THE CLIMB, TURN TO MAXIM CLIMBING  
ROPES. THE ROPE **strong** ENOUGH  
TO SUPPORT YOUR NEXT MOVE **in** EVERY  
STAGE OF **your climb**. DESIGNED  
WITHOUT COMPROMISE, **Maxim** IS AN  
IDEAL PARTNER. MAXIM ATTRIBUTES  
ITS STRENGTH AND DURABILITY TO THE  
TIME AND ENERGY SPENT ON PRODUCT  
DEVELOPMENT. MAXIM **makes it**  
ROPES **simple** TO KNOT, EFFORTLESS  
TO CLIP AND HAVE MINIMAL HARDWARE  
DRAG. THE CORE IS HEAT SET **to** STAY  
SUPPLE WITHOUT SHRINKING OR CHANGING  
THE HANDLING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE  
ROPE. NEW ENGLAND ROPES CONSTRUCTS  
PRODUCTS THAT **exceed** TRADITIONAL  
STANDARDS SO THAT YOU CAN EXCEED  
**your limits.**

Maxim Climbing Ropes 848 Airport Road  
Fall River, MA 02720-4735 USA  
(508) 678-8200 Fax: (508) 679-2363  
www.neropes.com



AMERICA'S PREMIER CLIMBING ROPES

PHOTO: MICHAEL CLARK. CLIMBER: TIMY FAIRFIELD.  
LOCATION: PALOMAS PEAK, NEW MEXICO

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY FOR A FREE ROPE LOG AND CALL US TO FIND YOUR NEAREST RETAILER

## letters

[Continued from page 15]

who only want to say they've climbed the Matterhorn; they sure as hell don't enjoy it. Even to say they've climbed it is a lie — usually they're dragged up on a very tight rope..."

Commercial guiding is destroying the solitude and wilderness the rest of us seek in the mountains. So, the more restrictions on guiding on public property, the better. Certainly wilderness areas, and preferably all national parks, should be off limits. That way, the rest of us can enjoy the mountains our tax dollars pay for. Let's treat guiding for what it is: a commercial exploitation of our public lands.

Peter N. Steinmetz, M.D., Ph.D.  
Pasadena, California

### oink oink

When I started climbing back in 1970, the climbing community adhered to a strict wilderness ethic: If you packed it in, you packed it out. Simple. These days, whenever I go climbing, I find a disheartening amount of trash scattered at the base of the crags. Just last Sunday, while walking up to Rincon Wall in Eldorado Canyon State Park, I found several pieces of trash, including a wrapper for a Cookies and Cream Clif Bar that weighs a fraction of an ounce. Would it really have been too much effort to stick this in a pocket and throw it away later? Climbers need to realize that littering could affect everyone's access to the cliffs. Don't be trashy pigs: Take your litter with you and dispose of it properly.

Tom Owens  
Eldorado Springs, Colorado

### to photograph or not?

On that cold, clear afternoon in May of 1999, when I saw the body of George Leigh Mallory on Everest's north face, I dropped to my knees in stunned silence and prayed for guidance that whatever we did would bring no harm to this man. Climbing partner Andy Politz and I talked about it for several minutes. "We're here to find out the truth, and help give him an even more prestigious name in history," Andy reminded me.

Conrad Anker's discovery of George Leigh Mallory at nearly 27,000 feet on Everest's north face on May 1, 1999, will stand as one of the great events in mountaineering history. Since the discovery, a vocal few have declared that taking photographs of Mallory's body was immoral. In these angry criticisms, it has been said that our team was out there merely for our own 'heroic' image. We've even been likened to uncompassionate climbers who have left fellow climbers high on mountains to die.



# TO ACTIVATE THE HEATED SEATS, PARK IT IN THE SUN FOR THREE HOURS.



INTRODUCING THE NEW NISSAN XTERRA.



DRIVEN.

The Xterra is built with everything you need. Nothing you don't. No fancy-schmancy gimmicks. Instead,

it's got necessities like an interior bike rack for two bikes, a heavy-duty aluminum roof rack, even

an integrated first-aid kit. Of course, if you want wood, feel free to drive it through the forest of your choice.

© 1999 Nissan North America, Inc. Nissan, the Nissan Logo, DRIVEN and Xterra are trademarks owned by or licensed to Nissan. Tread Lightly!® Please.



## NISSAN XTERRA

1-877-XTERRA7

[xterra1.com](http://xterra1.com)





# San Juan Mountain Guides, LLC

## "The Local Experts"

Personalized, professional instruction  
& guiding in the art of climbing.  
Mountaineering, rock, ice & big walls.  
Avalanche and backcountry  
coursework.  
All experience levels.

## Ouray's Ice Climbing Authority

Year round courses & guiding.  
Group rates available.  
Call to book your next  
adventure today!

[www.ourayclimbing.com](http://www.ourayclimbing.com)  
(970) 325-4925 phone & fax  
P.O. Box 895  
Ouray, CO 81427

Photo: Lee Klopfer

## letters

From my standpoint, taking and selling photographs is an issue of principle, not of money. Ours are not photographs of just any dead climber — Mallory is a gargantuan figure in mountaineering history, whose disappearance has given rise to more speculation (much of it incorrect) and theorizing than most of the events in the history of exploration. That alone makes his whereabouts and condition a question of historical significance. To have not taken photographs of the body would have robbed our expedition of its own legitimacy.

And while the public's appetite for this story is hardly justification for allowing the publication of photographs of the site, it must be clear by now that the release of the photos of Mallory has done far more good than harm. People have been turned on to this story of modern-day climbers coming face-to-face with one of the great explorers of our past; children have been inspired by the wonder and mystery of untold dreams; old-timers have remembered the time when Everest remained unclimbed. Now more famous than at any other time in history, Mallory's and Irvine's story has come back to glorious life.

Since the expedition, I have had personal contact with three members of the Mallory family. I am now aware of the personal anguish they experienced upon seeing their relative exposed to the elements on Everest. I regret that I caused this anguish and frequently find myself asking, "Why did I see fit to sell my photographs for publication?" "How would I feel if that were the body of my grandfather?"

I still haven't found those answers, but I do know that, after 75 years, one of the most revered mountaineers of all time has been given a proper burial and consecration. And having spent several hours beside George Leigh Mallory on that cold, clear day, I honestly believe that he would be thankful for our efforts.

Thomas Pollard

High Altitude Cameraman

1999 Mallory & Irvine Research Expedition  
Williamsburg, Massachusetts

### times, they are a changin'

I am glad that you published Joe Simpson's article on the the Mallory issue [Rap Station, R&I #94]. Simpson is right on the money. The expedition that found Mallory's body had only one motive, and it is colored green. I don't think that Americans understand how revered George Lee Mallory is in Britain, especially in England. Given this respect, the proper thing to have done would have been to take no photographs, take no tissue samples and, somehow or another, bury or consign Mallory's body to the mountain. Everest has been desecrated by people who have no more feeling for moun-



**pusher** \ push"er\, n. One who, or that which, pushes.



THERE WAS A DOCUMENTARY ON PBS RECENTLY ABOUT A GUY WHO ATTEMPTED A 350 YEAR OLD MATH PROBLEM THAT EVERYONE CONSIDERED "UNSOLVABLE". HE ESSENTIALLY LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS ATTIC FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS WITH JUST PENCILS AND PAPER AND WORKED ON IT. FINALLY, HE WENT TO A CONFERENCE FULL OF MATH FANATICS. AFTER A LONG LECTURE, HE CALMLY WROTE OUT THE SOLUTION. HE LOOKED AT SOMETHING EVERYONE ELSE CALLED IMPOSSIBLE, TRIED IT ANYWAY AND GOT THE DAMN THING DONE.

CAN YOU RELATE?

FOR INFO ABOUT ALL PUSHER PRODUCTS, VISIT YOUR FAVORITE CLIMBING SHOP OR CONTACT US DIRECTLY.

888.3PUSHER

[WWW.PUSHER.COM](http://WWW.PUSHER.COM)

801.484.1999



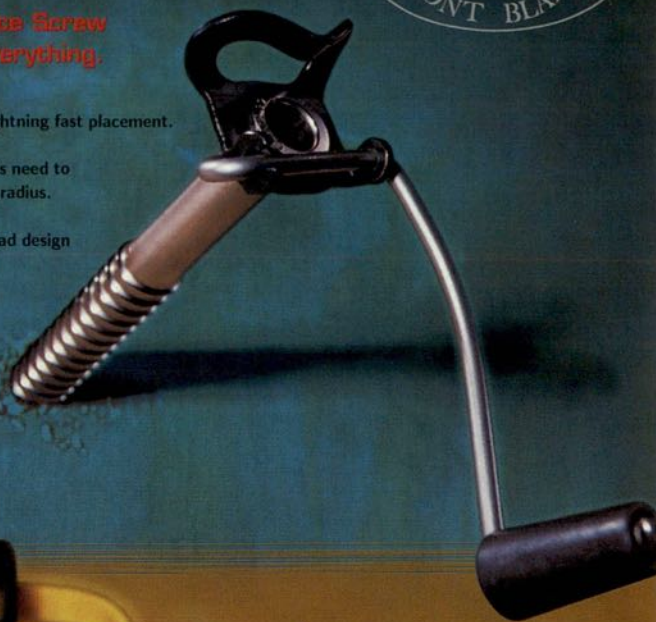
**FORGET WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU  
KNEW ABOUT ICE PROTECTION.**

**The 360° Ice Screw  
changes everything.**

Retractable lever for lightning fast placement.

Floating lever eliminates need to  
clear ice within turning radius.

Revolutionary new thread design  
dramatically increases  
pull out strength.



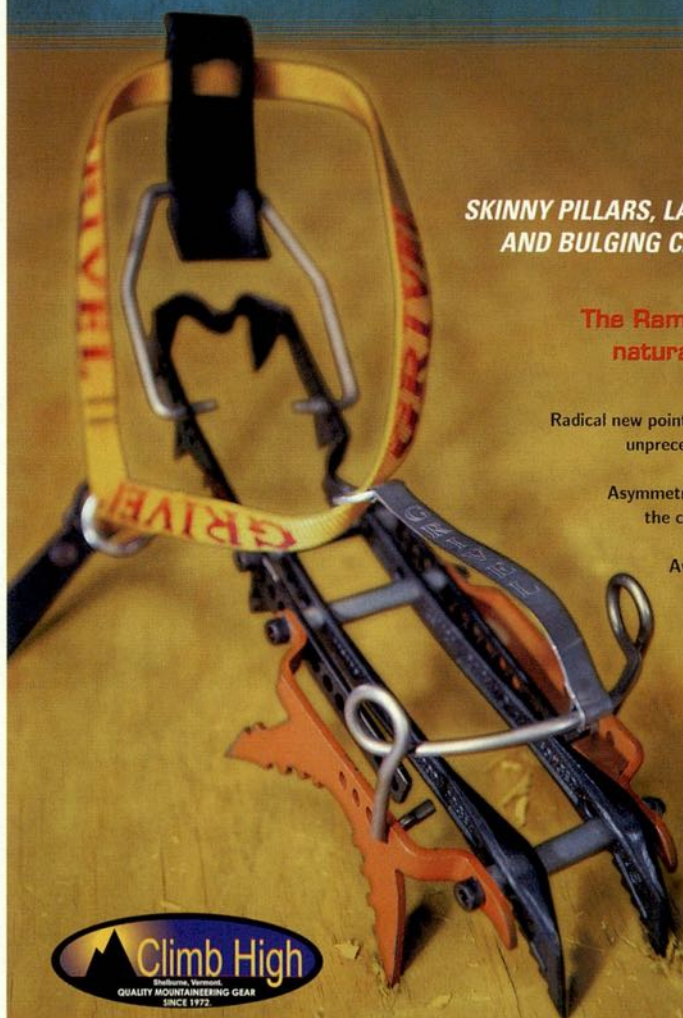
**SKINNY PILLARS, LACY CURTAINS,  
AND BULGING CAULIFLOWERS.**

**The Rambocomp's  
natural habitat.**

Radical new point configuration allows  
unprecedented performance.

Asymmetric curved last follows  
the contours of your boot.

Available in both mono  
and dual point.



For complete tech information or to find a dealer near you  
check us out at [www.climbhigh.com](http://www.climbhigh.com)

tel (802) 985-5056 | fax (802) 985-9141

## letters

tains than they do for human beings. The team that found Mallory's body is an extreme example of this greedy, selfish attitude.

We've heard this team justify its actions by claiming it was done in the name of science and inquiry, to find out once and for all if Mallory summited Everest. I do not know whether or not Mallory climbed the peak, but I do know that he was a skilled alpinist and rock climber who was the best in the business at the time. Because the Second Step, rated today around 5.8, was a struggle for a skilled climber like Conrad Anker, it's assumed that an amateur like Mallory could never have overcome it without the aid of modern-day equipment. Remember, though, there were climbers at the turn of the century who put up technically difficult routes, even by today's standards. For example, in 1908, Harold Raeburn climbed Green Gully on Ben Nevis, a grade IV Scottish ice climb today. It is a huge mistake to apply modern standards to previous eras.

George Lee Mallory climbed because he had to — it was how he defined himself, and he could no more not climb than could Shakespeare not write. We should pay tribute to him for that, and leave the questions, along with his corpse and his dignity, to posterity.

Dr. John McCall  
Ontario, Canada

### **express yourself**

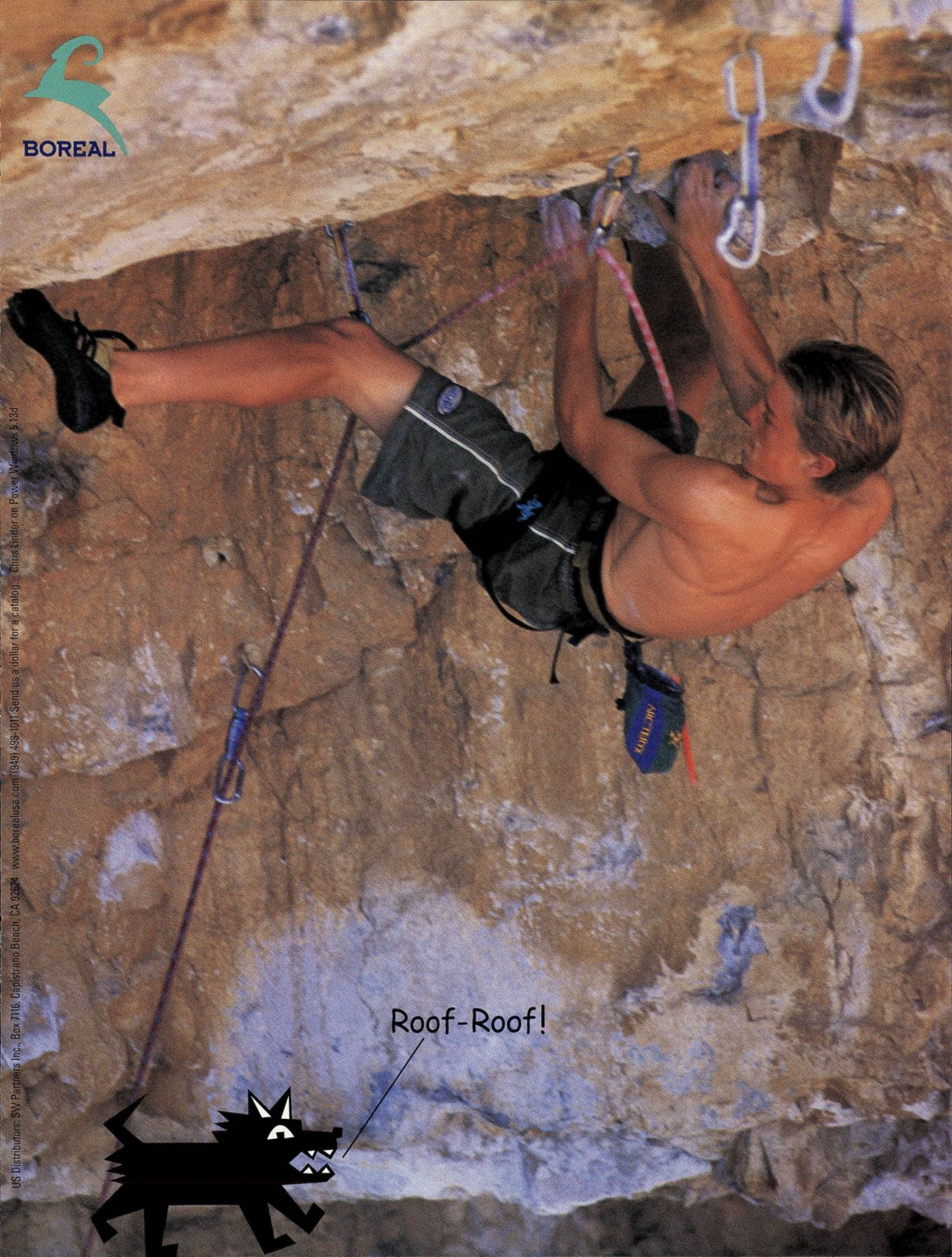
I recently wrote a letter concerning some climbers' behavior at a limestone cliff in our area of northern California [Letters, *R&I* #95]. I was somewhat nervous that my actions would seem antagonistic to the climbers involved. To my pleasant surprise, I was contacted by some of those involved within days of the magazine's publication. Their willingness to talk about the issues reinforced my belief that climbers can self-regulate, if disagreements can be discussed in a logical and inclusive manner.

Paul Humphrey  
Arcata, California

### **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

The route listings for **The Pinnacle, North Face** ["A Fresh Peek at Pikes," *R&I* #95] had some inaccuracies. After hiking up the hill, look for a prominent, old tree, behind which is Not When Wet (5.9). From here moving left, the routes are as follows: El Regalo; Cheyenne (5.11c); Watermelon Crawl (5.2); Chivalry (5.11b) Bring a stick-clip; Decadence (5.12a); Balance (5.9); Tiger Snap (5.10d); Full Monte (5.11a) Two ropes necessary for the rappel; Drag Net (5.11a); The Army Line (5.6); Men Arête (5.9); Corrugation Corner (5.10b).  
• For the record: Not-so-Hollywood Hans Florine is approaching the final anchors on **El Cap** [Cliff Notes, *R&I* #95]. ▲





Roof-Roof!



US Distributors: SV Partners Inc., Box 7116, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624 www.borealusa.com (949) 498-1011 Send us a dollar for a catalog. Chris Under on Power Windows 5.13d



## TRANGO FANDANGO

IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW AFTER MAKING THE FIRST ASCENT OF GREAT TRANGO TOWER'S NORTHWEST FACE WITH JARED OGDEN AND MARK SYNNOTT IN JUNE (*R&I* #95), THE LATE MOUNTAINEER ALEX LOWE REMARKED THAT, AFTER YEARS OF DISREGARD, AT LEAST FOUR OTHER CLIMBING EXPEDITIONS HAD TRAVELED TO THE REGION TO CRACK SOME OF THE REMAINING UNCLIMBED RIDDLES ON GREAT TRANGO TOWER.

IN AUGUST, NORWEGIANS ROBERT CASPERSEN, PER LUDVIG SKJERVEN, GUNNAR KARLSEN AND EINAR WOLD CLIMBED THE TRANGO PULPIT DIRECT TO SUMMIT TRANGO PULPIT (6,050M), PART OF A RIDGE SYSTEM LEADING TO THE TOP OF GREAT TRANGO TOWER. THE QUARTET CLIMBED CAPSULE-STYLE, COMPLETING THE NEW ROUTE IN A 35-DAY PUSH.

EXCEPT FOR A FEW FREE-CLIMBING PITCHES AT THE START, THE 49-PITCH TRANGO PULPIT DIRECT (VII 5.11 A4) WAS MOSTLY HARD AID, CONSISTING OF THIN NAILING UP EXPANDING FLAKES. TWO OF THE PITCHES ON THE UPPER WALL WERE BLANK AND REQUIRED LARGE, CONSECUTIVE SECTIONS OF BAT HOOKING. THE YELLOW-TINGED GRANITE PROVED TO BE "AS GOOD AS ANYTHING ON EL CAPITAN." HAVING RUN OUT OF FOOD NEAR THE SUMMIT, THE TEAM MADE AN EXHAUSTING, THREE-DAY RAPPEL DOWN THE ROUTE. — BRAD BOND

PRAYING AT THE PULPIT.



PER LUDVIG SKJERVEN COLLECTION

## HIGH *on* KRYPTONITE

**I**n mid-October, Necessary Evil (5.14c) may have been ousted as the hardest route in America when Tommy Caldwell red-pointed Kryptonite (5.14d), one of four new lines to sprout up on the Clinetop Mesa near Rifle, Colorado. If the grade is confirmed, Kryptonite would not only be the most difficult route in the US, but also one of the few 5.14s that remains completely free of chipping or gluing.

Located at The Fortress of Solitude, a cave-like wall measuring 800 feet wide and 200 feet tall, Kryptonite is 100 feet long and overhangs 50 feet. Said Caldwell, "It's definitely one of the coolest sport climbs I've ever seen." The route starts with four bolts of 5.12b climbing to a big, upside-down rest. The next 15 feet power through V9 moves (somewhere in the hard 5.13 range) to a bad rest. Two bolts of 5.13c moves are followed by a quasi-rest stance,

then another V9 boulder problem. After a good shake, Kryptonite "eases up" with 5.13a to the top. Caldwell bolted the new climb on lead. "I had to do some tricky aiding," he explained. "Hooks and Tri-Cams. But it's not so bad to use sketchy aid techniques with a bolt right below you!"

Caldwell made about 60 tries over two months to complete the ascent. In the initial stages of working the route, he found the moves so difficult that he couldn't link them bolt to bolt. "I had to climb with a mini stick-clip," Caldwell laughed. The route is too steep to work on top-rope. "It's a lot harder than any other sport climb I've done," said the 21-year-old — and he has done some of the hardest. Last fall, the young Coloradan quickly redpointed Necessary Evil and later, in Spain, easily dispatched 5.14b in a snow-storm. Caldwell also was recently in the headlines for making

**IF CONFIRMED AT 5.14d, KRYPTONITE WILL BECOME THE HARDEST SPORT CLIMB IN THE US.**

the first American repeat of the Salathé Wall (VI 5.13b) in Yosemite (*R&I* #94).

Motivated by a bolting ban in Rifle, Caldwell and Nick Sagar caught site of the southeast-facing Fortress of Solitude after an hour-long reconnaissance hike up a steep slope in the Clinetops. The pair is intent on keeping the crag glue- and chip-free, unlike the neighboring cliffs at Rifle. So far, all six of the existing routes and projects, put up by Caldwell and Sagar, are 100% natural.

Having sated his current appetite for short, hard red-points, Caldwell intends to travel to Yosemite and scout the Muir Wall for free-climbing opportunities. "There's ridiculous potential there," he said.

— Julie Garrison



We have everything you need  
for rock & ice.

Latest Gear • Knowledgeable Staff • Best Prices

YOUR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

# MOUNTAIN GEAR

**mgear.com**

## Telemark Skis

	Reg. Price	Pkg.
BD Arc Demon	\$385.00	\$349.00
Atomic Beta Carve TM 26	\$438.00	\$398.00
Tua Big Easy MX	\$435.00	\$389.00
Tua Blade MX	\$475.00	\$429.00
Tua Diablo MX	\$359.00	\$319.00
Tua Mega Plus MX	\$449.00	\$399.00
K2 Piste Off	\$325.00	\$309.00
K2 Totally Piste	\$419.00	\$399.00
K2 Piste Stinx	\$399.00	\$389.00
K2 World Piste	\$429.00	\$409.00
Karhu Special K	\$349.00	\$309.00

## Telemark Boots

	Reg. Price	Pkg.
Scarpa T-Race	\$569.00	\$519.00
Scarpa Terminator	\$525.00	\$479.00
Scarpa T2	\$469.00	\$429.00
Scarpa T3	\$368.00	\$339.00
Garment Super G	\$549.00	\$495.00
Trak Supercomp	\$399.00	\$359.00

## Telemark Bindings

	Reg. Price	Pkg.
BD Skyhoy STEP IN Binding	\$328.00	\$299.00
BD Chili Binding	\$109.00	\$99.00
BD Riva II Binding	\$95.00	\$89.00
Rainey Superloop Binding	\$125.00	\$109.00
Voile CRB Pin w/ Alpine Brake	\$132.00	\$119.00
Voile CRB Pin w/ Nordic Brake	\$132.00	\$119.00
Voile Tele HD Binding	\$39.95	\$36.00

## Avalanche Protection

OUR PRICE

Black Diamond Avalung	\$198.00
Black Diamond Avalung Pro	\$285.00
Backcountry Access DTS Tracker	\$299.00
Ortovox F1 Beacon	\$249.95
Ortovox M1 Beacon	\$299.00

## Charlet Moser ice Package **Only \$599.00**

The best from  
Charlet Moser!  
Grade 8 cram-  
pons (mono or dual),  
2-Axar ice tools  
(hammer & adze),  
Crampon bag,  
Multi-hook.  
A \$684.95  
value for \$599.00.



THE PACKAGE PRICE: PURCHASE SKIS, BOOTS, AND  
BINDINGS AT THE SAME TIME TO GET THE  
DISCOUNTED PACKAGE PRICE.

## Ice Tools

OUR PRICE

BD Mako Crampons	\$159.50
BD Sabretooth Crampons	\$135.00
BD Carbon Fiber Black Prophet Ice Tool	\$299.50
BD Cobra Ice Tool	\$299.50
BD Express Ice Screws	\$52.50 ea.
BD Tubular Ice Screws	\$39.95 ea.
Grivel Rambo Crampon	\$159.50
Grivel 2F Crampon	\$146.95
Grivel Light Machine Ice Tool	\$209.00
Grivel Rambo Ice Tool	\$219.25
Trango Harpoon Crampons	\$139.95
Trango Captain Hook Ice Tool	\$199.95
Trango The Claw Third Tool	\$139.95
Trango Ice Clip	\$21.95
Charlet Moser Grade 8 Mono Crampon	\$189.95
Charlet Moser Grade 8 Dual Crampon	\$199.95
Charlet Moser Black Ice Crampon	\$149.95
Charlet Moser Quaser Ice Tool	\$249.00
Charlet Moser Pulsar Ice Tool	\$199.00
Charlet Moser Multi Shaft Ice Tool	\$215.00

## Alpine Touring

	Reg. Price	Pkg.
BD Purgatory Ski	\$369.00	\$339.00
Atomic Tourcap Guide Ski	\$495.00	\$449.00
Tua Excalibur Mito MX Ski	\$499.00	\$449.00
Scarpa Denali Boot	\$488.00	\$449.00
Dynafit Tourlite 4S Boot	\$495.00	\$449.00
Diamir Fritschi Titanal II Binding	\$338.50	\$309.00
Silveretta 404 Binding	\$322.00	\$299.00
Sileretta EZ Go	\$375.00	\$339.00
Dynafit Tourlite Tech Binding	\$319.00	\$289.00

Great Values on last year's merchandise.

## SALE Telemark Boots

	Reg. Price	SALE
Scarpa T-Race 98	\$559.00	\$389.00
Scarpa Terminator 98	\$499.00	\$349.00
Scarpa T2 98	\$469.00	\$329.00
Scarpa T3 98	\$368.00	\$259.00
Trak Supercomp 97	\$270.00	\$169.00

## SALE Telemark Skis

Tua Mega MX	\$485.00	\$289.00
Tua Transalp MX (198, 203)	\$325.00	\$139.00

## Moonstone Technical Wear

	Reg. Price	SALE
Advantage Gore-Tex Jkt	\$400.00	\$249.00
Kinetic Zip-T	\$80.00	\$49.95
Activent Windproof Jacket	\$155.00	\$89.95
HP Zip Tee	\$100.00	\$59.95
Chamonix Gore-Tex Jkt	\$355.00	\$219.00
Kinetic Sweater	\$95.00	\$59.95

## Moonstone Sleeping Bags

Liberty Ridge -5° Bag reg/ing	\$360/400	\$249/279
Red Rock 35° Down Bag reg/ing	\$215/225	\$149/159
Muir Trail 20° Bag Nylon reg/ing	\$235/250	\$165/179
Muir Trail 20° Bag Dryloft reg/ing	\$320/340	\$220/240

HERE IS HOW TO ORDER: 1-800-829-2009 • WWW.MGEAR.COM

Questions? Use LIVE HELP on our web site.

Fax Orders: 509-325-3030 • International Orders 509-444-3341

Mail In Orders: 730 N. Hamilton, Spokane, WA 99202



Prices are subject to change.  
Specials limited to stock on hand.

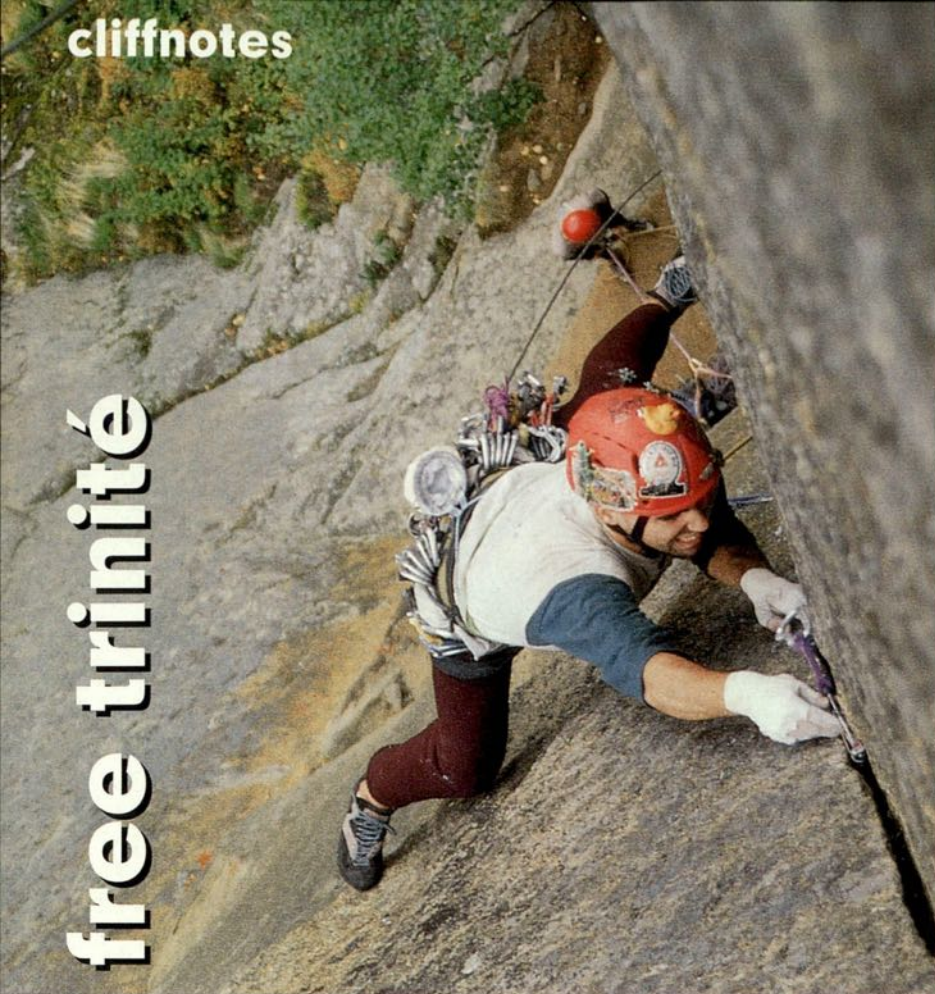
FREE CATALOG

International and Canada  
\$5.00 U.S. funds

Order One Today



## free trinité



STEPHANIE PERRON

**IN** September, two young French Canadians free climbed an old aid route on Québec's premier big wall, creating what is likely to be the hardest long free route in the East. Jeff Beaulieu, 21, and Jean-Pierre Ouellet, 20, rated Les Grands Galets 5.13a R. The crux pitches involve blind protection placements on thin, marginal gear.

Cap Trinité, in Québec's Saguenay Fjord, rises 1,200 feet directly above the dark-blue water of the St. Lawrence River, a two-hour boat ride from the mouth of the Saguenay, or a three-hour drive from the city of Québec. When first established by Léopold Nadeau and Claude Berubé as an aid climb in 1973, Les Grands Galets (V 5.8 A3, or 5.7 C2+) was Québec's hardest big-wall achievement. It has remained the most popular route on Cap Trinité for over three decades, and has been climbed in a 15-hour solo

push. (The route normally demands a two- to three-day effort for a party of two.)

Soon after a local climber challenged that nobody in Québec could free climb Les Grands Galets, Beaulieu and Ouellet started working the route, taking approximately 15 days over several weekends in August and September. The team rehearsed the moves and practiced placing gear on top rope to be better prepared for the redpoint. "I had to memorize every piece of pro because the key placements were blind," said Ouellet of pitch seven (5.12c). He describes the crux as "totally desperate."

Swinging leads, Beaulieu and Ouellet freed Les Grands Galets in nine pitches, with the 5.13 crux falling on the second lead. Most of the pitches require 5.12a climbing; no bolts were added. With the exception of a pendulum on pitch eight, the free line follows the original route in its entirety. To avoid

**JEFF BEAULIEU FREES PITCH 5 (5.11d), A VERY PHYSICAL JAM CRACK AND STEMMING CORNER ON LES GRANDS GALETS (V 5.13a R).**

the swing, Beaulieu traversed up and left from the pendulum point on a spicy 5.11+ finger crack for six meters, rejoining the original route at the belay. This variation will likely become the standard for future ascents, whether aid or free. Ouellet hopes future ascensionists will adhere to the clean standard that has been set on the route and leave their hammers behind.

Other free lines on Cap Trinité include Vire du Curé Dallaire (IV 5.12), notorious for its offwidth sections, and the mostly bolted Les Joyeux Lurons (IV 5.11c/d). Taken by the beauty of the cliff's position and untapped potential for both free and aid routes, Beaulieu and Ouellet plan to return next summer in hopes of freeing Les Gladiateurs (V 5.9 A3), located immediately north of Les Grands Galets. — *Brad Bond*



Teton climbing pioneer Paul Kicsow Petzoldt, the man who started the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), died of prostate cancer on October 6. He was 91.

Petzoldt was a pioneer in ranges around the world, making a name especially in the Tetons, where he has 26 first ascents to his credit. A sturdy figure with trademark bushy eyebrows, Petzoldt made an early ascent (wearing cowboy boots!) of the 13,772-foot-high Grand Teton in 1924 when he was only 16. "I was lucky to get out alive on my first trip in 1924," Petzoldt said at his 90th birthday party, held in the shadow of Wyoming's Grand Teton in 1998. "I learned I was a damn fool, and that if I was going to live around mountains and do these things, I had to get some horse sense."

Petzoldt, the first to guide clients in the Tetons, established protocols that have been adopted by climbers across North America and beyond. Even the signals climbers shout to one another ("On belay?" "Belay's on!") were developed by Petzoldt.

Petzoldt sought to introduce the younger generations to the mountains through NOLS, which he established in 1965. Those who had the opportunity to work closely with the crusty mountaineer will remember him for his forward-looking leadership, and his ability to tap into the hearts of young people.

Grand Teton National Park ranger and Teton guidebook author Renny Jackson said Petzoldt was a vibrant link between early Teton climbing history and the climbers of today. "He was certainly the living legend around this place," said Jackson.

Petzoldt was guiding clients the day he took a young Glenn Exum under his wing in 1931 and directed him to a ridge on the Grand that had not been climbed. Exum made the first ascent (a feat Petzoldt repeated in the afternoon), and the ridge now bears his name. Exum took over the guide service as Petzoldt moved on to other mountaineering arenas, such as the Alps and the Himalaya.

Petzoldt is survived by his wife, Virginia.

— *Angus M. Thuermer, Jr.*

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM JACKSON HOLE NEWS.

**PAUL PETZOLDT WAS A NATURAL WITH YOUNG ADULTS. BELOW, HE WATCHES OVER HIS STUDENTS ATOP THE NORTH RIDGE OF SNOWMASS, 1963. TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: MEL SILVESTER, PETZOLDT, BOB JUSTICE. BOTTOM ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: BOB SHAW, ROBERT STEVENS, GARY NEPTUNE.**



GARY NEPTUNE COLLECTION



GEARED FOR THE VERTICAL WORLD



above  
below  
beyond  
within



*On October 5, Alex Lowe was killed when an avalanche overtook him on Shishapangma in Tibet. Also killed was team member and climber-photographer David Bridges.*

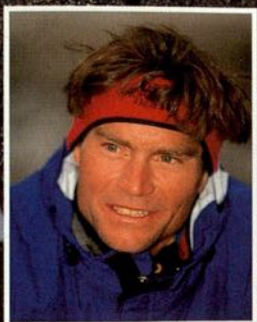
**T**he reverberations of shock ran deep throughout the climbing community upon hearing of Alex's demise. Though his accomplishments may indicate otherwise to those who didn't know him, he was neither reckless nor cavalier about his occupation. His friends and family didn't think he was invulnerable, but we somehow hoped his skill and abundance of good karma would protect him.

Ask anyone who knew him, and they'll tell you Alex's enthusiasm for life was contagious and a source of inspiration. For many of us, this inspiration came more from his personality than from his phenomenal talent — which he modestly downplayed.

Alex gave his friendship freely and wholeheartedly; it's hard to imagine anyone not instantly liking him. Ever humble, he was never beneath chatting with an aspiring 5.6 climber. His love of family was well known and clearly visible. He set an example for all of us.

To many, Alex was a hero. Whenever we stand on virgin summits, Alex will be with us in spirit. Indeed, the spirit of Alex Lowe lives on in anyone who aspires to higher places and a better life.

— Clyde Soles



**ALEX LOWE | 1958-1999**





The new 100% waterproof, breathable Peak Bagger jacket.

Your jacket can't keep you dry if you leave it in the car to save weight. That's the theory behind our new Peak Bagger jacket. Made with the lightest 3-ply material available and a streamlined, high-performance design, the Peak Bagger weighs in at mere ounces. Which makes it incredibly easy to pack, whether you're climbing, hiking, riding or running.

We've also designed a version of this jacket specifically for women called the Alpine Start. For more information or a dealer near you, call 1.800.635.0461.



**Just like the big, heavy waterproof jackets.**  
(Without the big, heavy part.)



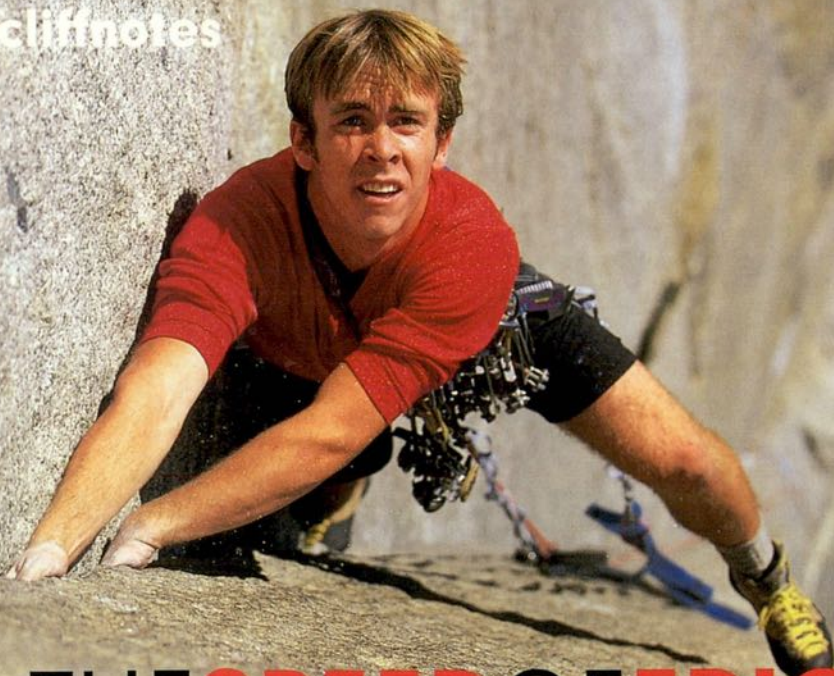
Jacket weights range from 12 to 16 ounces depending on size and gender.



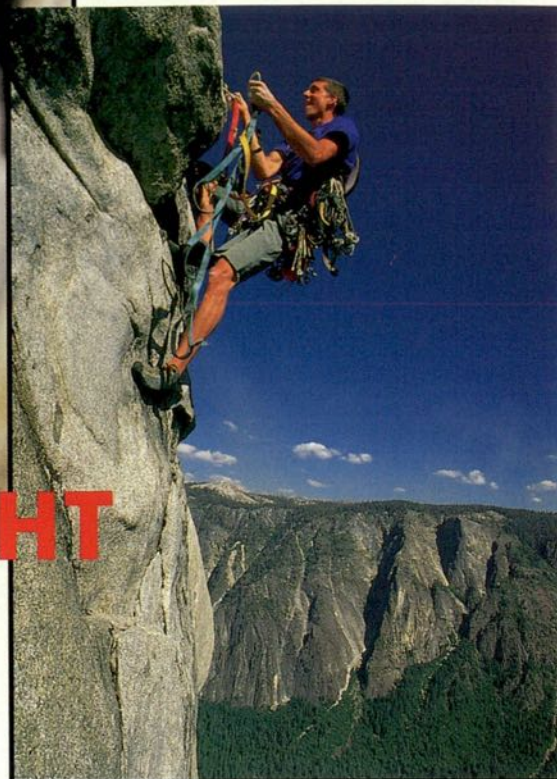
How far will you go to get outside?







DEAN POTTER (BELOW) SKIPS THE HASSLE OF SELF-BELAYING ON EL CAP, AIDING INSTEAD WITH THE SOLE PROTECTION OF WEBBING. MILES SMART, MAKING RECORD TIME ON ZODIAC (LEFT), ARGUES THAT TRADITIONAL AID METHODS NEEDN'T BE SACRIFICED FOR SPEED.



LEFT TO RIGHT: COREY RICH; ERIC PERLMAN.

## THE SPEED OF FRIGHT

**R**ecord solo speed ascents of classic big walls in Yosemite are being broken faster than print media can report. Just when news had settled in that Russ Mitrovich had broken the previous solo record on Zodiac (VI 5.11 A3+) by three hours, climbing it in 12 hours, word spread that 19-year-old Miles Smart from Seattle had broken Mitrovich's record. The differences between the latest records, however, go well beyond their speeds.

Except for 10 feet of pitch seven, Mitrovich aid climbed Zodiac's 16 pitches without a rope, opting instead to ascend El Cap with a light rack and daisy chains. This technique allowed Mitrovich to eliminate self-belaying, fixing, rappelling and jumaring from the solo-aid equation. It also introduced an element of risk that many serious aid climbers wouldn't tolerate. Should a bad rivet or copperhead fail, for instance, a single daisy chain would absorb the force of a fall, easily creating enough force to blow its point of contact. "What I did was relatively safe," argues Mitrovich. "I was always backed up into something good." Mitrovich wanted to see how quickly he could climb and hold it together mentally without a rope. In retrospect, he

says there were only a few times he should've roped up. "The three fixed copperheads in a row on the White Circle pitch were dicey, and the tat I used near the top was bad."

Smart, on the other hand, climbed Zodiac at record speed by doing what some would consider the smart thing: He used standard aid techniques, placing protection and self-belaying on every pitch, fixing a rope, rappelling it to clean gear, and then jumaring back to his highpoint. According to Smart, a backup system while aid climbing gives him confidence to move quickly and efficiently. "Fear and uncertainty slow you down," he says. But the argument is thin in spots, since Smart routinely does what some would consider not so smart: He free solos. Still, the young climber makes a distinction between putting faith in a hand jam while free climbing without a rope, and relying on a piece of protection while aiding ropeless. "When I'm free soloing, I maintain three points of contact at all times," he says. "I know when I have a solid grip. I can feel it; it's part of me."

Mitrovich's ascent of Zodiac may have raised his status in some circles and eyebrows in others, but

Smart's traditional aid ascent has raised something else: awareness. "Climbing doesn't have to be dangerous — relatively speaking, you know — to be fast," he says. Smart proved his point well, beating Mitrovich's record by three hours for a time of 9 hours, 15 minutes.

One imagines that Marco Pedrini, the Swiss mountaineer who first brought ropeless aid into the public eye when he was filmed soloing the Compressor Route on Cerro Torre, would have been impressed by the young climber's recent feat. In Patagonia, where good weather windows are sandwiched between long stretches of horrendous storms, climbing fast and light increases the chances for summit success. In Yosemite, where weeks of bluebird skies are not uncommon, speed ascents are clearly not born of necessity. Unless, of course, you're a weekend warrior. — J.G.

## SMEAR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

While guiding on Longs Peak in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park on the last weekend in September, Eli Helmuth spotted something he had never seen before: an enormous ice smear rising halfway up 13,579-foot-high Chiefs Head Peak. A few days later, he and fellow guides Simon Fryer and Topher Donahue fought their way to the peak's base to make a first ascent of Headdress (IV WIS M5).

West of Birds of Fire (5.11a), the Headdress climbs up the right edge of the Northwest Face before veering back left, protected by a collection of pins, cams, thin wires and ice screws. Headdress's crux — 60 meters of sustained climbing on one- to four-inch-thick water ice — falls on pitch two (out of five). To descend, the trio made two double-rope rappels, making their own anchors, then downclimbed a sloping ramp to the base. Donahue reports that, just two weeks after the first ascent, the formation was gone. — J.G.



PHOTOS: TOPHER DONAHUE



CALL FOR  
FREE CATALOG  
\$6 International

# SHORELINE

Shop Online at  
www.shorelinemtn.com  
Fast and Convenient!

Climbers Helping Climbers Get The Gear They Need.

A Little Light On Gear? Buy Right Here!

## QUICK DRAW SETS

Blue Water Adder	\$14.20ea.	129.00/10
Blue Water Viper	17.50ea.	151.70/10
DMM Eclipse	19.95ea.	179.60/10
Metolius 5" Nylon	12.95ea.	115.60/10
BD Enduro	12.95ea.	117.00/10
Omega 4.0 +Wiregate	13.25ea.	120.80/10

## CARABINERS

BUY 12 & GET 10% OFF!

Black Diamond Hotwire	\$7.95
BD Livewire	13.50
BD Quickwire	6.75
BD Neutrino	8.50
BD Enduro Str/Bent	5.95/6.50
BD Enduro Screwgate	7.50
BD Big Easy Str/Bent	8.95/9.50
BD Oval	4.98
BD Light D	5.49
BD Quicksilver 2 Str/Bent	6.95/7.75
BD Big Easy Bayonet Lock	16.50
BD Big Easy Screwgate Lock	10.95
BD Mini Pearabiner Ano.	11.95
BD Superlock	19.95
BD Big Daddy Screw Lock	14.95
Petzl Attache Screw Lock	15.00
Petzl Spirit Straight/Bent	10.30
Petzl AM'D Ball Lock	16.50
Petzl William Screw Lock	17.00
Blue Water Adder Str/Bent	6.20/6.85
BW Viper Str/Bent	7.50/8.25
BW Viper Screw Lock	12.25
DMM Mamba/Double Mamba	12.95/25.95
DMM Eclipse Str/Bent	8.95
DMM Boa Screw Lock	17.50
Omega Pacific Oval	4.75
Omega Pacific D	4.99
Omega Locking D	6.75
Omega Jake Screw Lock	11.30
Omegalite 4.0 Str/Bent	6.20/6.85
Omegalite 4.0 Screw Lock	8.25

## HARNESSES / SHOES

### Black Diamond

Alpine Bod	\$29.95
Bod	49.95
Dyno AL	59.95
Mentor AL	74.50
Wiz Kid (child's)	42.50
<b>Metolius</b>	
3D Freedom	69.00
3D Contour Wide	85.00
<b>Arc'Teryx</b>	
Targa	64.75
Verro	75.00
<b>Blue Water</b>	
Desperado	59.95
Lynx	39.95
Voyager OSFA	28.35
<b>Petzl</b>	
Jump	79.00
Clyde	84.00
Gourou	89.00

### Boreal

Quantum	\$115.00
Ace	150.00
Stinger	139.50
Laser	133.00
Diablo	99.00
<b>Five Ten</b>	
Diamond	148.00
Newton	148.00
RockSox Lace	139.00
Moccasym	100.00
Spire	99.00
Mt. Master	89.00
<b>La Sportiva</b>	
Mythos	137.50
Cobra	99.95
Junior (kids)	66.00
Boulder	99.95



## Enduro Quickdraws

**Black Diamond**  
Enduro Straight Gate Carabiner with  
Enduro Bent Gate and 5 inch Dog Bone  
10 For ONLY \$117



## PROTECTION

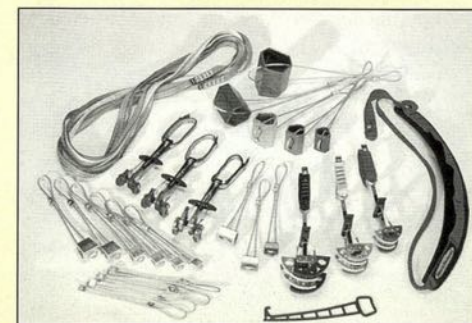
	REG	SET PRICE
BD Camalots .5 & .75	\$119.90	\$110.00
BD Camalots 1.2, 3.3, 5.4	339.40	305.47
BD Camalots .5-5 (9)	664.30	597.89
BD Hexes 1-11 (11)	99.60	89.64
Gemini Cord 24 ft	40.00	36.00
BD Wired Hexes 1-11 (11)	151.25	136.13
BD Stoppers 1-13 (13)	87.65	82.50
Metolius TCUs 0-4 (5)	242.50	218.25
Metolius FCUs 1-10 (10)	554.00	498.60
Met. Fat Cams 2-9 (8)	460.00	414.00
Wild Country Rocks 1-10 (10)	67.30	60.50
WC Technical Friends 0-4 (9)	498.00	448.20
WC Forged Friends 1-4 (7)	311.00	279.90
Aliens 3/8-2.5 (7)	394.75	355.28
Camp Tricams .5-3 (6)	100.20	95.00
Camp Ballnuts 1-5 (5)	230.95	219.95
DMM Walnuts 1-10 (10)	71.05	67.50
DMM Peanuts 1-5 (5)	44.75	42.50
HB Quadcams 00-3.8 (9)	481.72	433.55
HB Micromates 00-1.5 (5)	269.75	242.78
HB Offsets 0-6 (7)	92.65	83.95
RP's 0-5 (6)	71.70	65.25
Trango TCUs 1-4 (4)	151.80	136.60
Trango FCUs 2-8 (7)	304.50	274.00
Trango FCUs 5-10 (6)	265.90	239.31

## AID GEAR

Black Diamond	
Sky Lounge w/fly	\$650.00
Double w/fly	775.00
A5	
Grade VII Haul Bag	225.00
Single Ledge w/std fly	650.00
Double Ledge w/std fly	675.00
Metolius	
The Chief Haul Bag	175.00
Pins, Heads, Hooks and more. Call!	

## ROPES

Blue Water	Standard	Dry
8.0 x 60	—	\$156.50
8.6 x 50	\$109.25	131.00
8.6 x 60	129.60	151.39
9.6 x 60	157.25	177.80
9.9 x 60	155.00	174.50
10.5 x 50	126.75	147.00
10.5 x 60	152.25	176.00
11 x 50	147.00	176.50
11 x 60	—	201.25
<b>PMI</b>		
10.5 x 50	139.00	154.00
10.5 x 60	166.75	184.75
<b>Sterling</b>		
9.5 x 60 Marathon	159.20	188.35
10.2 x 50	132.25	157.20
10.2 x 60	159.20	193.10
10.6 x 60 Marathon	171.25	200.30
11 x 50	146.60	174.75
<b>Edelweiss</b>		
10.5 x 60 Stratos	—	230.00



## New Leader's Rack \$545 Save!

BD Camalots 1,2,3 WC Tech Friends 2, 2.5, 3  
BD Stoppers 4-13 New Wired BD Hexentrics 4-11  
BD Nut Tool New Padded BD Adjustable Gear Sling  
6-24" Dyneema/Spectra Slings

Prices Subject to Change Without Notice

For great advice and the lowest price, call now!

**CALL TO ORDER 1.800.381.2733**

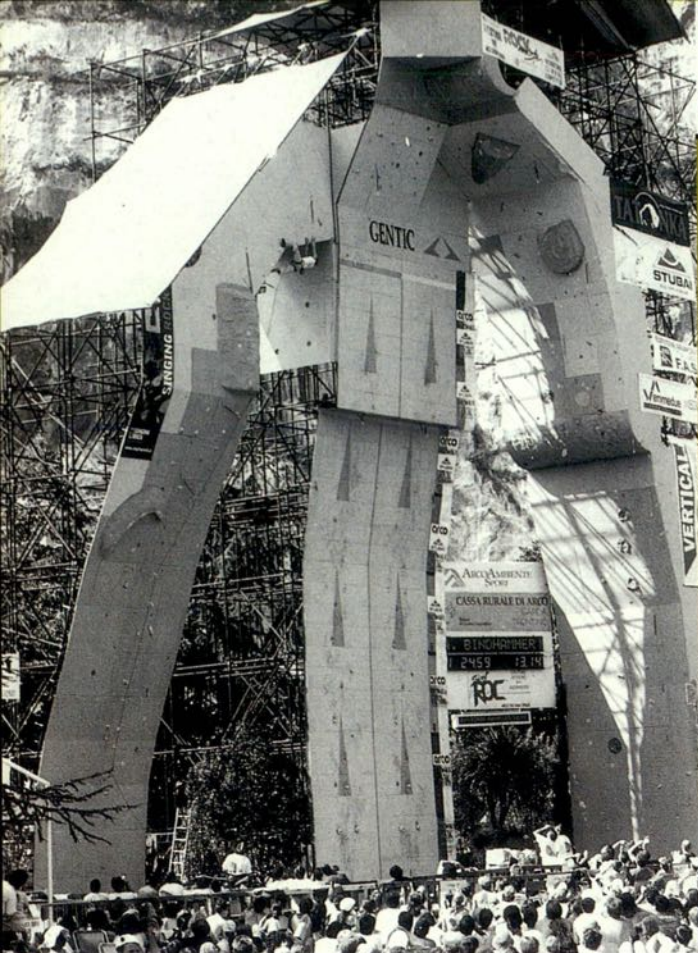
Fax: 415.455.1363

www.shorelinemtn.com

21 Golden Gate Dr #C, San Rafael, CA 94901



COMPETITION NEWS



**ROCK ON Arco, Italy** — The Rockmaster '99 international climbing competition in Arco, Italy, spanned over two days in September. The whole event, however, will be remembered for one dramatic moment: When a judge disqualified Katie Brown's highpoint on her final climb of the competition, she plunged from first to seventh place.

The majority of the competition unfolded as expected. Early on, Russian strongman Evgeni Ovchinnikov set a highpoint that the other men, Chris Sharma included, were unable to match. François Legrand and Yuji Hirayama turned in predictably fine performances, and a three-man race was established going into day two. The first day of the women's division was a bit more exciting. Katie Brown and Liv Sansoz fell from the same hold, while Muriel Sarkany squeaked out one move beyond them to take the lead.

On the second and final day of the event, Legrand climbed with his usual smoothness to jump past Hirayama and into the lead. Ovchinnikov revealed incredible strength and form once again, earning him a highpoint five moves beyond Legrand's.

Day two of the women's competition held the defining moment. The route was difficult right from the start, and all competitors looked as though they could fall at any moment. Sansoz was the first to breach the upper roof section before pumping out. Climbing next, Brown tenaciously eclipsed Sansoz's mark by several moves to take the overall lead. When Sarkany fell from the same spot as Sansoz, an American victory seemed assured. But cheers for Brown fell on deaf ears as judges reviewed video clips that showed Brown's foot inadvertently touching a bolt hanger early in the route. Her ascent from the fifth move on was nullified, placing her seventh overall. — **Mark Postle**

**Arco Rockmaster '99 Results MEN**  
1. EVGENI OVCHINNIKOV, RUS 2. FRANÇOIS LEGRAND, FRA 3. YUJI HIRAYAMA, JPN 8. CHRIS SHARMA, USA. **WOMEN** 1. MURIEL SARKANY, BEL 2. LIV SANSOZ, FRA 3. MARTINA CUFAR, FRA 7. KATIE BROWN, USA.

**TIMMY FAIRFIELD JUGGLES BETWEEN ROUNDS AT THE ARCO BOULDERING COMP. THE US COMPETITOR TOOK THIRD — THE BEST FINISH FOR AN AMERICAN THIS YEAR.**



**A YOUTH WITH A VIEW** Courmayeur, Italy — My face was pressed to the window as the airplane landed with a bump at Malpensa airport. I was traveling with the US Youth Climbing Team to Courmayeur, Italy, where the 1999 Youth World Climbing Championships would be held September 3 through 5. Nearly 260 junior competitors from two dozen countries had gathered to compete for the international trophy.

On Friday morning, the first day of qualifying rounds, the US team headed for isolation — two cramped squash courts serviced by overflowing toilets and mediocre warm-up walls. In the arena itself stood the 55-foot climbing wall: a resin, wood and metal behemoth with a 72-foot-long overhang.

Day one passed in a blur, capped with exciting moments for the Americans. One of the highlights came when Adam Stack, competing in the Boys 14-15 division, flashed his route. The speed qualifiers began after 11 hours of competition. Heather Collins and Pauline Hsieh represented the Womens 18-19 category, and Aaron Shamy the Mens 18-19. Collins, who had warned Hsieh emphatically about the insensitivity of the timer buttons at the top of the qualifying routes, got a big laugh when Hsieh took her advice to heart and punched the button so hard she broke it right off the mounting. All three climbers did well and proceeded to Saturday's finals.

Day two, which dawned cold and drizzly, proved especially good for competitors from western Europe. Only a handful of Americans came close to making the 10-competitor cut in their categories (Womens 18-19: Anchen Texter placed 12th, Mary Nichols 15th; Mens 18-19: John Stack took 15th; Girls 16-17: Seren Ruebens took 15th; Boys 16-17: Robert D'Anastasio placed 14th, David



Abell 15th). Just one member of the US team, Adam Stack of Colorado, qualified for Sunday's finals to compete in the Boys 14-15 division.

**US YOUTH CLIMBING CHAMPS (L TO R) AARON SHAMY, PAULINE HSIEH AND ADAM STACK.**

Saturday's speed finals were once again exciting. While Hsieh had screamed up her first route, she finished several seconds behind on her second try to take second place overall, behind Russian Natalia Koporoulina. Collins finished fourth. When Shamy's turn finally arrived at midnight, the crowd went nuts, yelling "Sha-my! Sha-my!" As the American speedster read the route, his hands moved lightning fast. When the starting whistle sounded, he took off like a bullet, claiming first place for the US team.

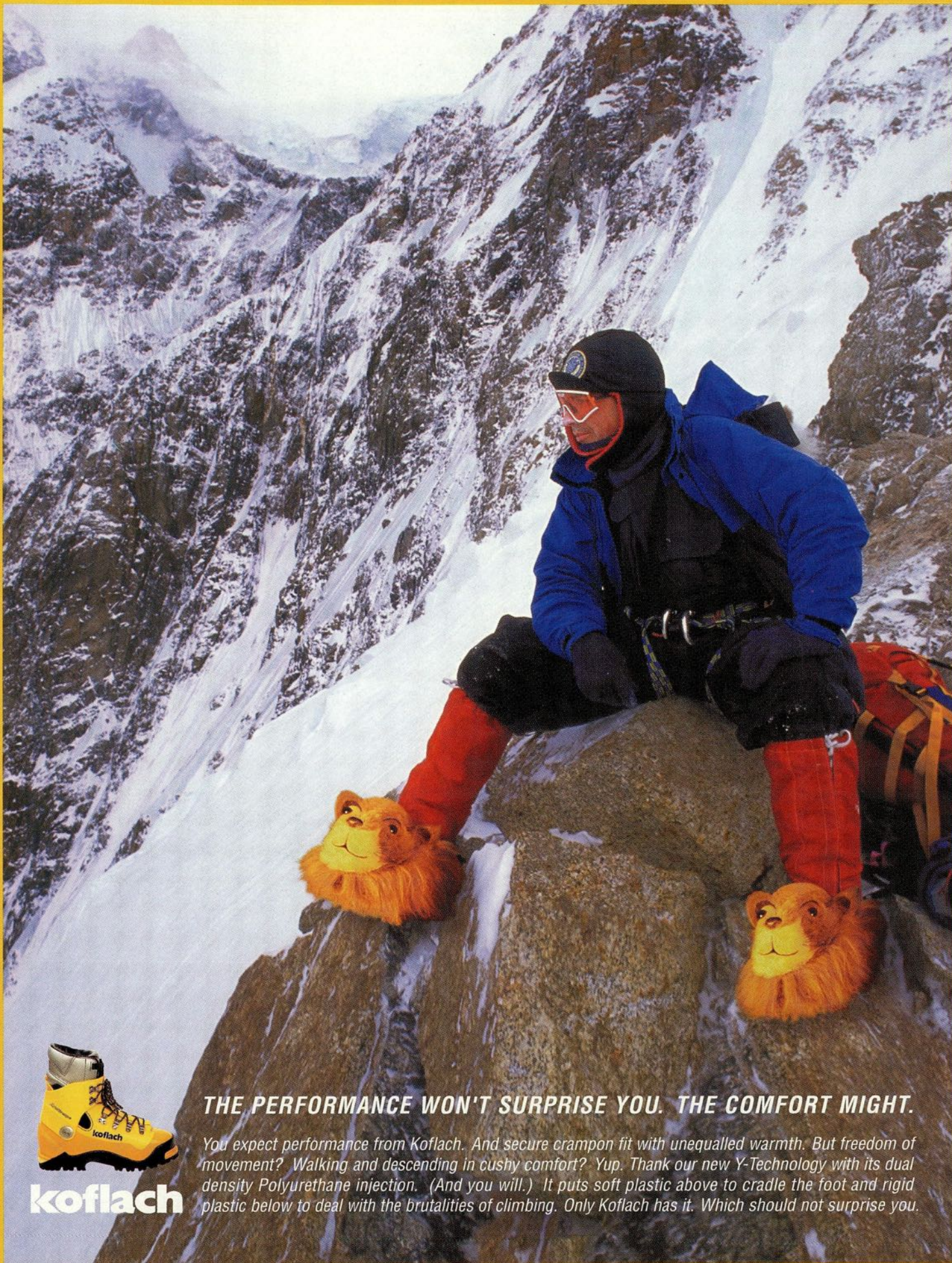
In spite of the late night, the team managed to make it down to the gym Sunday morning, bleary-eyed but ready to cheer on the token American finalist, Stack. The Boys 14-15 category climbed first, with Stack seeded sixth. While his fans went wild, Stack read the route calmly. Without so much as a break in movement, he cruised through cruxes and past highpoints. When his feet cut loose, the crowd gasped, but Stack pulled them back on to crank the last few moves. Someone from the stands yelled, "The US is no longer a third-world climbing country!"

Check out <[www.rockandice.com](http://www.rockandice.com)> for complete results from the 1999 Youth World Climbing Championship. — **Kate Johnson**

**EDITOR'S NOTE: KATE JOHNSON IS 11 YEARS OLD — R&I'S YOUNGEST NEWS CORRESPONDENT EVER.**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MARION BLANCHARD; JEANNE NIEMER; ROBERTO FIORAVANTI.





**THE PERFORMANCE WON'T SURPRISE YOU. THE COMFORT MIGHT.**

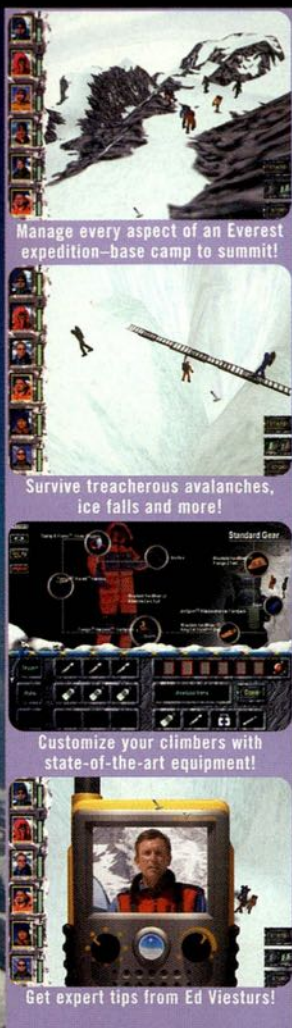
You expect performance from Koflach. And secure crampon fit with unequalled warmth. But freedom of movement? Walking and descending in cushy comfort? Yup. Thank our new Y-Technology with its dual density Polyurethane injection. (And you will.) It puts soft plastic above to cradle the foot and rigid plastic below to deal with the brutalities of climbing. Only Koflach has it. Which should not surprise you.



**koflach**



# ASSAULT THE DEATH ZONE ON YOUR DESKTOP



EVEREST. 29,028 feet of massive crevasses. Ice walls. Avalanches. And life or death challenge. Now, an exciting new PC game brings the adventure of climbing the big one to an easy to use interface. Choose your team, equipment and route from your desktop. With world famous master climber Ed Viesturs as your guide, you'll make your assault on the summit in a detailed, thoroughly researched and realistic game that will run on almost any PC.



Featuring Ed Viesturs

# EVEREST™



THE FIRST EVEREST CLIMBING GAME FOR THE PC



ORDER NOW at 1.800.610.GTIS or [www.gtstore.com](http://www.gtstore.com) ALSO AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL STORE

**TRANGO**  
EXTRAORDINARY CLIMBING GEAR®



**JANSPORT**

MOUNTAIN  
HARD  
WEAR



Everest™ © 1999 GT Interactive Software Corp. All Rights Reserved. Created by Surreal Software, Inc. Distributed by GT Interactive Software Corp. GT is a trademark and the GT Logo is a registered trademark of GT Interactive Software Corp. A.K.A. Studios is a trademark of Surreal Software, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective companies.



# YO!ho!ho!

*The holidays can be a time of unchecked consumption.*

***Buck the trend!***

*Below are some climbing-related non-profit organizations that could benefit from your holiday cheer.*

## **CATHERINE FREER WILDERNESS THERAPY EXPEDITIONS**

PO Box 1064  
Albany, OR 97321  
541-926-7252; <www.cfreer.com>  
*Helps provide adolescents and their families with the tools to effectively deal with substance abuse, depression and other family-related issues.*

## **CENTRAL ASIA INSTITUTE**

617 S. 5th Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
406-585-7841; <www.ikat.org>  
*Promotes projects concerning women's issues, the environment and community-based education in the Karakoram.*

## **CLIMBING FOR LIFE, INC.**

710 10th St., Suite 112  
Golden, CO 80401  
303-278-0455; <www.climbingforlife.org>  
*Provides youths at risk an opportunity to overcome fears and achieve what seems impossible in both rock climbing and daily life.*

## **COLORADO FOURTEENERS INITIATIVE**

710 10th St., Suite 220  
Golden, CO 80401  
303-278-7525; <www.coloradofourteeners.org>  
*Restores damaged areas, builds sustainable trails and educates hikers and climbers about minimizing their impacts on Colorado's fourteeners.*

## **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY**

4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100  
Arlington, VA 22203  
800-628-6860; <www.tnc.org>  
*Works with willing sellers and donors to buy land in order to preserve plants, animals and natural communities.*

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE**

1520 Alamo Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
719-471-7736; <www.rmfi.org>  
*Dedicated to the preservation and restoration of mountains, wildlands and other natural areas. (This group helped build trails at Indian Creek, Castle Valley, Shelf Road, Eldorado Canyon and elsewhere.)*

## **THE ACCESS FUND**

2475 Broadway  
Boulder, CO 80304  
303-545-6772; <www.accessfund.org>  
*Dedicated to protecting the environment and keeping climbing areas open for future generations.*

## **THE AMERICAN HIMALAYAN FOUNDATION**

909 Montgomery St., Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
415-288-7245  
*Devoted to helping the people and ecology of the Himalayan region.*

## **AMERICAN SAFE CLIMBING ASSOCIATION**

1622 Hopkins St.,  
Berkeley, CA 94707  
510-558-6919; <www.safeclimbing.org>  
*Replaces old climbing anchors and educates climbers and landowners on the proper installation of bolts and climbing safety.*

## **AVALANCHE CENTER**

3495 Cambie St., #343  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R3  
877-457-0913; <www.csac.org>  
*Contributes to the enhancement of public education and safety with regard to seasonal snow and avalanches.*

## **BIG CITY MOUNTAINEERS**

210 Beaver Brook Canyon Rd., Suite 200  
Evergreen, CO 80439  
303-670-3202; <www.bigcitymt.org>  
*Places inner-city youths in a wilderness setting, where they learn to overcome physical challenges, support each other and be part of a team.*

# SWINGERS FANTASY.



The Fly is a dream come true for anyone who climbs on ice. It's incredibly light at 660g with uncompromising strength thanks to its unique construction. The curved shaft leads to perfect balance, increasing the efficiency of your swing, saving you energy and preventing your knuckles from hitting the ice in the process. The hot-forged head allows you to interchange an axe or hammer quickly and easily, whilst the high quality leash system lets you place screws faster than you ever thought possible.

The Fly is on sale now and if you decide to treat yourself, one thing is for sure, you won't go swapping again.



**Excalibur Distribution PO Box 1007 Sandy Utah 84091**  
**Tel: 801 942 8471 fax: 801 942 8531**



# The Sir Edmund Hillary Mount Everest Pen



*"My whole training told me that the slope was exceedingly dangerous, but at the same time I was saying to myself: 'Ed, my boy, this is Everest—you've got to push it a bit harder!'"*

Sir Edmund Hillary

Reaching the summit of Mount Everest represents the ultimate physical challenge. The Sir Edmund Hillary Mount Everest Pen honors the first man to ever climb to the top of the world.

Embedded within the sterling silver overlay of each pen is a piece of rock from the summit area of Mount Everest. Also featured are an 18kt.-gold nib, a piston filling system, and sterling silver accents. A specially commissioned, highly detailed Mount Everest sculpture accompanies each pen.

Limited Edition: 1,088 pieces worldwide



1275 Busch Parkway Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089 United States of America  
Phone: 847.215.0011 Fax: 847.215.0013

**Krone**



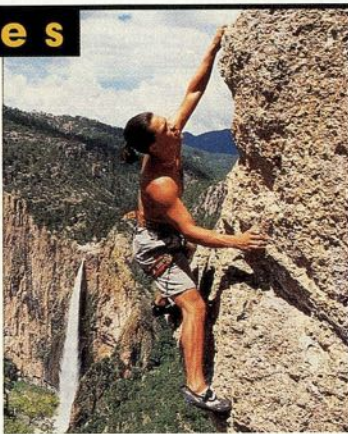
## small wires

■ British mountaineer **Ginette Lesley Harrison** died in an avalanche on October 24. The 41-year-old Harrison was hit on **Dhaulagiri** between Camps 2 and 3. Harrison was the only woman to have reached the summit of Kanchenjunga, and had plans to climb **K2** in 2000. Harrison was on her way to becoming the first woman to climb all 8,000-meter peaks. — *Julie Garrison*

■ Yosemite On Speed: **Shortest Straw** (17:52) by Eric George, Russ Mitrovich, Brett Dodds; **Lost in America** (21:31) by George, Mitrovich, Leo Houlding; **Wyoming Sheep Ranch** (29:31) by George, Mitrovich, Sean "Stanley" Leary; and **Jet Stream** (18:50) by George, Mitrovich, Jared Ogden. — *Brad Bond*

■ **Ethan Pringle**, 13, is the youngest American to send 5.14. **Soul Train** at Mt. Charleston went down after six days. Another youngster, **Martin Mobraathen**, 11, became the youngest Norwegian to climb 8b (5.13d) when he sent **Marathon** at Dammjern, near Oslo. — *J.G.*

■ **Dave Graham**, (pictured below) flashed 23 5.13s this summer, maxing out on 5.13d. In seven tries each, he



The lines, from 5.8 to 5.13c, stretch up to 50 meters. Bolting efforts were supported by the Chihuahua government, which recognized the towering volcanic cliffs as an excellent setting for sport climbing. Mexican climber **Carlos Garcia** and Spanish climber **Celia Buil** played large roles in the area's development. Call Rancho San Lorenzo for camping, climbing details (52-14-146046). — *David Lauer*

■ Guy Edwards and Micah Jessup freed six new pitches on the **South Face of Snowpatch Spire**, Bugaboos. The new line (5.11+R) joins the wall's previously climbed upper section, originally rated 5.11, now reported to be 5.12.

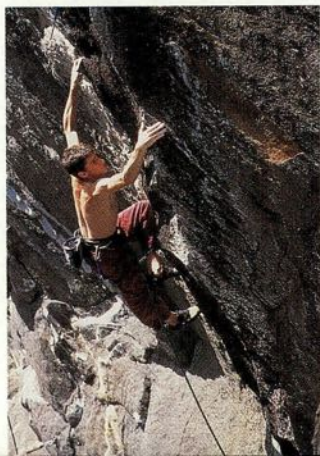
## BROWN FLASHES 5.14A!

By climbing **Hydrophobia** in Mont Sant, Spain, Katie Brown became the first woman to flash 5.14a (8b+). Brown joins ranks with only four men known to have flashed or onsighted routes at that grade: Elie Chevieux, Garth Miller, Chris Sharma and Klem Loskot. There's no record of anyone having flashed anything harder than 5.14a (8b+).

SOURCE: KLAAN-NEWS

ticked **Mt. Charleston's** Legend Of the Overfiend and Facile, both 5.14b, and Hasta La Vista, 5.14c. Graham also fired the first ascent of an open Joe Brooks project, **Infectious Booty** (5.14b). The teenager is busy working a project in Rumney, which may well become the East Coast's first 5.14c. — *B.B.*

■ **Rancho San Lorenzo** in Basaseachic Falls National Park in Chihuahua, Mexico (pictured above), now has 53 bolt-equipped sport routes.

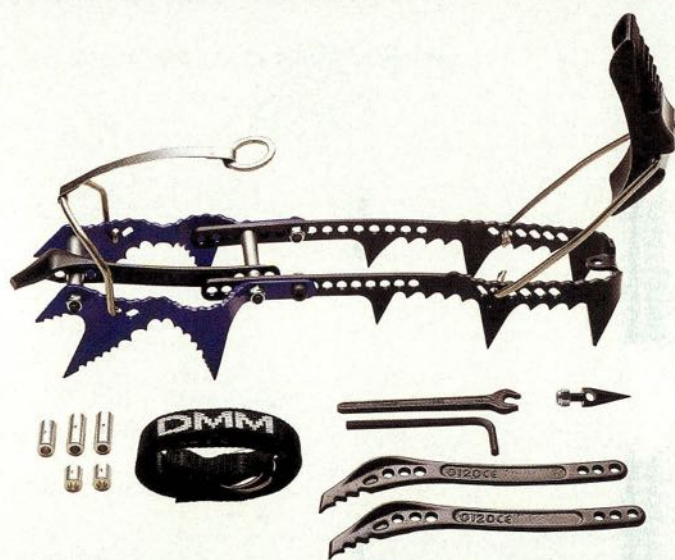


Theirs is the first all-free ascent. In the same season, Mike Pennings and Johnny Copp established **Armageddon** (VI 5.11+ A2) on the West Face of **North Howser Tower**. — *J.G., B.B.*

■ Jon Allen and Doug Byerly made the first alpine ascent of the **West Face of Ketil** (VI 5.11 A2) in Greenland's **Tasermit Fjord**. The team neared the top in 36 hours, but a storm forced them back 50 meters shy of the summit on third-class terrain. Also in the fjord, a large Swiss group established two 400-meter routes on **Pyramiden's South Face**. — *J.G.*

■ This winter, an ice clinic for women will gather strong female guides from all over to act as ice climbing instructors. **Annie Whitehouse** will give a keynote speech. All proceeds will be donated to a local woman's shelter. Dates: Feb. 3-6, Ouray, Colorado. Contact **Chicks With Picks**: 970-626-4437. — *J.G.*

# PLEASE ADJUST YOUR SET.



When you buy a pair of Terminators you get everything you need to create a set of crampons personalised to suit your own shape, style and requirements. There's no need to buy any extras as each pair comes with dual, mono and mixed points which can be either symmetrically or asymmetrically positioned however you feel, along with a removable conical heel spike for heel hooking on steep ice.

As the world's first asymmetrical crampon, the Terminator's incredibly versatile in its fit as well. It's adjustable from size 37 right up to 47 and, as the asymmetric shape mimics the shape of the boot, it guarantees a secure fit.

This snug fit and adaptable approach helps you stay balanced, use less energy and climb harder than ever.

But if you're not convinced, get yourself a pair of Terminators and with a little fine tuning you'll soon get the picture.



Excalibur Distribution PO Box 1007 Sandy Utah 84091  
Tel: 801 942 8471 fax: 801 942 8531



# The American Alpine Club climbing grants program.

**On behalf of the officers and board of directors of The American Alpine Club, AAC President Alison Osius is pleased to announce that the AAC will accept grant proposals for the year 2000. Approximately Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) will be available. Grants to individuals will vary, but grant allocations will be substantial.**

The AAC is seeking to support exploratory, adventurous and innovative climbing projects. All climbing disciplines will be considered.

Please visit our website - [www.americanalpineclub.org](http://www.americanalpineclub.org) - for further information and to download application forms. The application submission deadline is January 15, 2000.

the selection committee includes:

**Mark Richey, Chair**  
**Nancy Feagin**  
**John Middendorf**  
**Mark Hrubant, Advisor.**

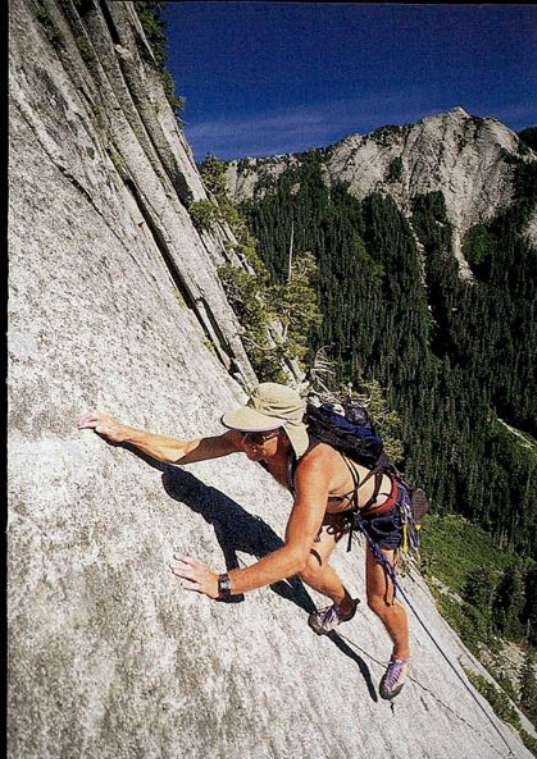
another service to the climbing community  
from The American Alpine Club.

**Alison Osius, President**  
**Bob McConnell, Vice-President**  
**Sam Streibert, Treasurer**  
**Jim Frush, Secretary**  
**James Ansara**  
**Michael Browning**  
**Carlos Buhler**  
**Steve Davis**  
**Ralph Erenzo**

**George Gluck**  
**Mark Hrubant**  
**George Lowe, III**  
**Dougald MacDonald**  
**Charley Mace**  
**Linda McMillan**  
**John Middendorf, IV**  
**Eliza Moran**  
**Mark Richey**

[www.americanalpineclub.org](http://www.americanalpineclub.org)





EASY ACCESS TO DREAMER (5.9) COULD END.

## access threatened

**DARRINGTON, WASHINGTON** Three roads being considered for potential closure by the Forest Service threaten to severely impact access to several of Darrington's most popular cliffs, namely Exfoliation Dome and Green Giant Buttress. The roads' appearance in the mid-60s paved the way for climbing development. According to a statewide not-for-profit climber organization, Washington Mountain Alliance, Fred Beckey himself was unwilling to negotiate the dense Darrington brush and waited until roads were in place before attempting a first ascent of Exfoliation Dome (Witch Doctor Wall, V 5.7 A3).

Kathy Tillman, District Engineer at the Darrington Ranger Station, confirmed that the three roads being considered for tentative closure are: Copper Creek Road (#2065) at the junction with Clear Creek Road (#2060); Eightmile Creek Road; and the road to Exfoliation Dome. Tillman said the Forest Service's notice of tentative closure is simply a way to "put feelers out there" to see who, if anyone, cares about the roads. Land-user response will determine whether the roads should be subject to formal closure proceedings, a public process that takes many months and allows further public comment. "Letters will make a difference," said Tillman, who mentioned that low land-user response to a tentative closure notice four years ago precipitated this recent motion for tentative closure.

Just 90 minutes from Seattle, Darrington is host to some of the state's best long trad lines, including Dreamer (IV 5.9), a 12-pitch Northwestern classic located on the access-threatened Green Giant Buttress. Write to Mr. Terry Skorheim, Darrington Ranger District, 1405 Emmens Street, Darrington, WA 98241. — *Julie Garrison*

## access

### climbing, conservation efforts unite

**BOULDER, COLORADO** In an effort to mend a soured relationship between climbers and Boulder Mountain Parks and Boulder City Open Space, four groups representing climbing and conservation interests have formed the Flatirons Climbing Council (FCC). According to one source, the FCC hopes to heal wounds inflicted in the early '90s when feverish bolting practices drove a wedge between Flatirons land managers and climbers.

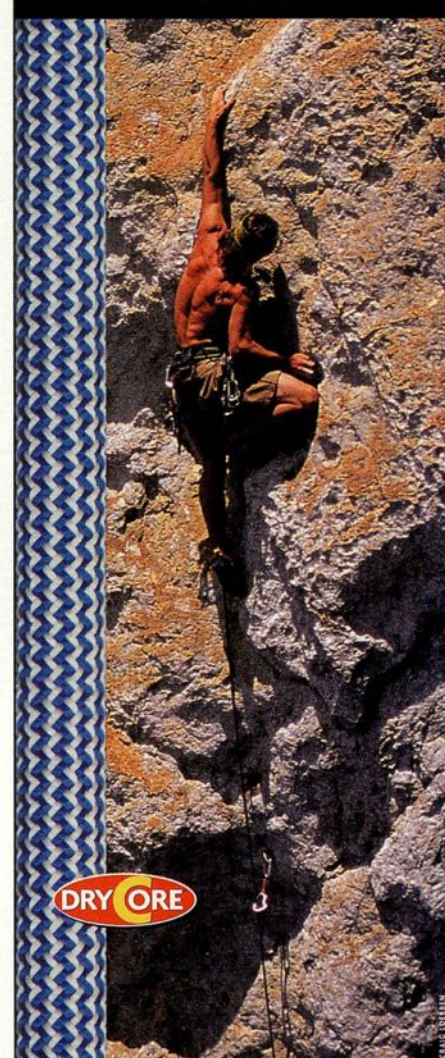
Climbing in the Flatirons dates back to 1906, when Floyd and Earl Millard made the first ascent of the Third Flatiron, the earliest recorded rock climb of its kind in the state. In 1949, expansion bolts appeared for the first time in Colorado, also on the Third, when a trio of local climbers put up Northwest Passage. By reestablishing good relations with the Flatirons land managers, the FCC hopes to have a say in preserving and maintaining the historical significance of climbing in the area. According to Rick Thompson of The Access Fund, the FCC was formed "in a community-based spirit in order to promote conversation of the climbing resources and environment in the Flatirons."

The FCC is represented by The American Alpine Club, The Access Fund, The Colorado Mountain Club and the Action Committee for Eldorado. Jim Crain, Director of Boulder City Open Space, is impressed by the proaction shown by the FCC and looks forward to sitting down with the group. Boulder Mountain Parks' manager, Ann Wichmann, who currently manages 90% of the climbing in the Flatirons, was unavailable for comment.

The FCC encourages community involvement. Call Dave Turner, Regional Coordinator for The Access Fund, for details: 303-554-8535. — *J.G.*

### issues to watch

**Eldorado State Park, Colorado** To find out whether a zoning change was passed enabling commercial ventures to build and operate a quarry adjacent to Eldo climbing, contact Citizens of Eldorado: 303-543-9936; ericj@boulder.net.  
**everywhere, USA** If you're on public National Forest Service land and want to rebuild an eroded trail, consider this: You may be making "unauthorized improvements" to public land and be subject to \$1,000 in fines and 30 days in jail. Ask first. **Red Rocks, Nevada** Climbing rangers Patrick Putnam and Jeb Dotsford have initiated "Coffee with a Ranger" at 13-Mile Campground just outside the Loop Road. Every Saturday at 7:30 a.m., the rangers dispense free go-juice, using the opportunity to interact with climbers whose needs they represent.



DRY CORE

**V-Dry. A Virtually Dry Rope.** 50% of the sheath is dry. All of the core is DryCore™. This makes the rope almost entirely dry. And, it doesn't cost more; it costs less—about 30% less than a dry 10.5mm. The magic is in the sheath.

Colors are limited, but the quality isn't in the color. It's in the rope.

V-Dry, another cool new product from Sterling Rope. Available only in 10.2mm x 60M through February 2000.

**STERLING ROPE**

31 Washington Ave.  
Scarborough  
Maine USA  
04074-9782  
Tel 207.885.0330  
Fax 207.885.0033





CLIMBERS TOIL UP THE WEST BUTTRESS OF MCKINLEY.

CLIFF LEIGHT

## So You Want To Climb Big Mac?

A Training Program for the Prospective Mountaineer *by Stacy Taniguchi*

**C**ontrary to what some people think, climbing the popular West Buttress route on Mt. McKinley is more than just a glorified hiking trip. Mt. McKinley is a serious endeavor, and preparing yourself for it, both mentally and physically, is a must if you hope to have a great experience on the mountain.

*Rock & Ice* asked Stacy Taniguchi, who has a masters degree in exercise physiology and 10 years' guiding experience, what sort of training schedule he recommends for North America's highest peak. Taniguchi crafted the following regimen, which should be implemented six months prior to your climb. The program has already proven effective for many of Taniguchi's

clients who have reached McKinley's summit. By adjusting the intensities and weights accordingly, the training schedule can also be used as a basis for preparing for other, higher peaks.

If you're not in the habit of working out regularly, that's the place to start. Sticking to a daily workout regimen will not only get you in the physical condition necessary for the rigors of a big mountain, but it will also build the tenacity and dedication that will keep you going at 20,000 feet. Combine this program with a healthy diet and plenty of sleep, and you'll be ready to test yourself at high altitude.

*Though wrapped up in a doctoral program at Brigham Young University, Stacy Taniguchi gets his mountain fix by running a guide service in Orem, Utah.*



## MT. MCKINLEY: THE SIX-MONTH TRAINING PROGRAM

### PRIOR TO EXPEDITION

#### SIX MONTHS

- a. aerobic: 4 days/week
- b. strength: 3 days/week
- c. recreation: 1 day/week
- d. rest: 1-2 days/week

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

#### WORKOUT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. aerobic	x	x		x	x		
b. strength	x		x		x		
c. recreation						x	
d. rest							x

### WORKOUT DETAILS AND NOTES

**purpose** Get into a routine of regular exercise.

**exercises a.** Aerobic training can include running (best), biking, swimming, cross-country skiing, etc., for a minimum of 30 minutes per session. **b.** Focus strength training on arms, shoulders, back and abdominals (e.g., sit-ups, pull-ups, chin-ups, push-ups, dips). Each exercise should include three sets with as many reps as necessary to cause muscle failure on the last set. If weights or machines are available, include bent rowing, military presses and especially squats. **c.** Recreational exercise is anything you enjoy, including climbing, hiking, biking, kayaking, etc.

**notes** You will need to drink a lot of liquid on McKinley (a minimum of 4 liters/day). Drink two to three quarts of water daily now so your body habituates.

#### FIVE MONTHS

- a. aerobic: 4 days/week
- i) hill climb: 1 day/week
- b. strength: 3 days/week
- c. recreation: 1 day/week
- d. rest: 1 day/week

#### WORKOUT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. aerobic	x	x	x	x	x		
i) hill climb				x			
b. strength	x		x		x		
c. recreation						x	
d. rest							x

**purpose** Build a strong fitness foundation.

**exercises a.** Increase aerobic workouts to 40 minutes per session minimum. Include hill or stair climbing at least once a week (30 minutes minimum). Carry 20 pounds in a backpack while you climb. **b.** Increase resistance to maintain muscle failure in third set.

#### FOUR MONTHS

- a. aerobic: 5 days/week
- i) hill climb: 2 days/week
- b. strength: 4 days/week
- c. recreation: 1 day/week
- d. rest: 1 day/week

#### WORKOUT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. aerobic	x	x	x	x	x		
i) hill climb			x		x		
b. strength	x		x		x		
c. recreation						x	
d. rest							x

**purpose** Increase full-body strength.

**exercises a.** Increase aerobic workouts to 45 minutes per session minimum; hill or stair climbing to 40 minutes minimum. Add 10 pounds to your pack. **b.** Increase resistance and reps to maintain muscle failure in third set. Add one day. Substitute exercises for variety (e.g., shoulder shrugs, lateral raises and trunk twistlers).

#### THREE MONTHS

- a. aerobic: 5 days/week
- i) hill climb: 2 days/week
- ii) stress: 1 day/week
- b. strength: 4 days/week
- c. recreation: 1 day/week
- d. rest: 1 day/week

#### WORKOUT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. aerobic	x	x	x	x	x		
i) hill climb				x	x		
ii) stress			x				
b. strength	x	x		x	x		
c. recreation						x	
d. rest							x

**purpose** The rigorous workouts are building physical and mental stamina.

**exercises a.** Increase aerobic workouts to 50 minutes per session minimum. Add 10 pounds to your pack for hill- or stair-climbing exercises. Add a "stress" or anaerobic workout session. This should last at least 30 minutes and get your heart rate up to 80 to 90 percent of max (approximately 220 minus age for men, 226 minus age for women) for one- to two-minute intervals. Recuperate from high-intensity bursts within three minutes before going at it again. Once a week, include the "McKinley Edge," an extra uphill, a longer or added loop, or an extra spurt of effort. This gets your mind ready to handle the effort that might be required on the mountain. **b.** Increase resistance and reps to maintain muscle failure in third set. Substitute exercises for variety (e.g., wall sits, leg raises, dips and back extensions). **c.** For recreation, do overnights in the wilderness to test your gear. Incorporate a climb or hike.

**notes** Consider taking a good daily multiple vitamin with the RDA of iron. This will maintain and elevate the hemoglobin level in your red blood cells (which carry oxygen).

#### TWO MONTHS

- a. aerobic: 5 days/week
- i) hill climb: 2 days/week
- ii) stress: 1 day/week
- b. strength: 4 days/week
- c. recreation: 1 day/week
- d. rest: 1 day/week

#### WORKOUT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. aerobic	x	x	x	x	x		
i) hill climb				x	x		
ii) stress			x				
b. strength	x	x		x	x		
c. recreation						x	
d. rest							x

**purpose** Continue building physical and mental endurance.

**exercises a.** Increase aerobic workouts to one hour per session minimum. One session in the week should aim for at least an hour and a half. Continue hill-climbing exercises with at least 40 pounds in your pack. Continue stress workouts, trying to shorten the recuperation periods. **b.** Twice a week, shift strength training to less resistance (decrease by 40%), with as many reps as you can do in a minute. Maintain three sets.

#### ONE MONTH

- a. aerobic: 5 days/week
- i) hill climb: 2 days/week
- ii) stress: 2 days/week
- b. strength: 4 days/week
- c. recreation: 1 day/week
- d. rest: 1 day/week

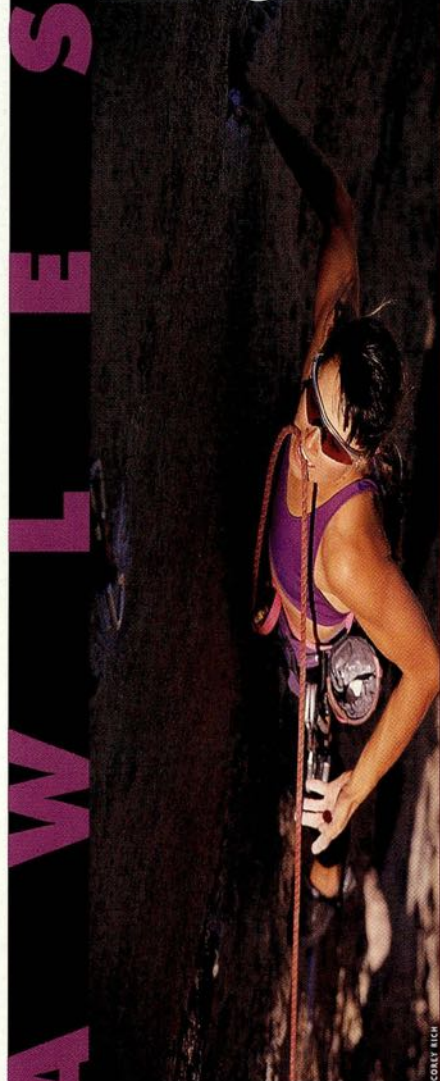
#### WORKOUT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. aerobic	x	x	x	x	x		
i) hill climb			x		x		
ii) stress			x		x		
b. strength	x	x		x	x		
c. recreation						x	
d. rest							x

**purpose** Maximize your training to hone your fitness.

**exercises a.** Continue aerobic workouts with one hour per session minimum, and do two stress sessions per week. Forego both stress sessions the week before departure. Add 10 pounds to your pack for hill-climbing workout. **b.** Shift all strength training to less resistance (decrease by 40%), focusing instead on doing as many reps as you can. Maintain three sets.

# 9.7



Flawless performance. It's what you expect from yourself; it's what you need from your gear. Sterling gives you that promise with every rope, on every climb. No other rope has DryCore™. And our Better Braid Technology makes Sterling ropes last and perform flawlessly. Write for more information.

## STERLING ROPE

31 Washington Ave.  
Scarborough  
Maine USA  
04074-9782  
Tel 207.885.0330  
Fax 207.885.0033



MOUNTAINEERING EQUIPMENT

**Climb Max**

PORTLAND OREGON

PH 503.797.1991

WWW.CLIMBMAX.NET

**FREE WITH PURCHASE**

FREE HELMET WITH PAIR OF AXES

FREE BINER WITH EACH ICE SCREW

FREE ICE SCREW WITH CRAMPONS

**CHARLET MOSER**

- |                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1) "PULSAR" HAMMER/AXE | 199.00 |
| 2) "QUASAR" AXE/HAMMER | 250.00 |
| 3) "GRADE 8" CRAMPON   | 189.00 |

**BLACK DIAMOND**

- |                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 4) "SHRIKE" AXE/HAMMER  | 169.00 |
| 5) "COBRA" AXE/HAMMER   | 299.00 |
| 6) "MAKO" CRAMPON       | 159.00 |
| 7) "SABERTOOTH" CRAMPON | 135.00 |
| 8) "TUBULAR" ICE SCREWS | 39.50  |
| 9) "EXPRESS" ICE SCREWS | 52.50  |

**SIMOND**

- |                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 10) "NAJA" AXE/HAMMER | 199.00 |
| 11) "PITBULL" CRAMPON | 169.00 |

**GRIVEL**

- |                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| 12) "RAMBO" AXE/HAMMER      | 197.00 |
| 13) "MACHINE" AXE/HAMMER    | 275.00 |
| 14) "RAMBO" CRAMPON         | 159.00 |
| 15) "2F" CRAMPON W/ANTIBOT  | 148.00 |
| 16) "EXTRA BITE" ICE SCREWS | 40.00  |

**CASSIN**

- |                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 17) "FORMULA" AXE/HAMMER | 149.00 |
| 18) "MIRAGE" HAMMER/AXE  | 199.00 |
| 19) "X-FILES" HAMMER/AXE | 229.00 |
| 20) "ORION" 3RD TOOL     | 65.00  |
| 21) "ACTION" CRAMPON     | 129.00 |
| 22) "THUNDER" ICE SCREWS | 39.95  |

**DMM**

- |                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 23) "ALIEN" AXE/HAMMER    | 199.00 |
| 24) "PREDATOR" AXE/HAMMER | 235.00 |
| 25) "TERMINATOR" CRAMPON  | 168.00 |

**SMILE**

- |                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 26) ICE SCREWS W/KNOB | 33.00 |
|-----------------------|-------|

**HELMETS**

- |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| 27) KONG "CORNIC" 39.95           |
| 28) KONG "MAGIC" 49.95            |
| 29) "MAGIC" HELMET W/STONE 59.95  |
| 30) C-AXE "DOLOMITE" CARBON 59.95 |
| 31) CAMP "STARTECH" 69.00         |
| 32) PETZL "ECRIN ROC" 72.00       |
| 33) GRIVEL "CAP" 79.00            |
| 34) PETZL "METEOR" 75.00          |

LIMITED TIME OFFER, CALL FOR DETAILS

**WARNING:** FAILURE TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SPECIALTY STORE WILL RESULT IN BAD SERVICE, HIGHER PRICES, POOR SELECTION, CLOSURE OF CLIMBING AREAS, BAD ADVISE AND LESS SUPPORT OF MOUNTAIN RESCUE.

CLIMB MAX ENCOURAGES YOU TO FIND AND SUPPORT A SMALL SPECIALTY STORE IN YOUR AREA. WE HAVE LISTINGS AVAILABLE AND WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU LOCATE ONE.

# Quack or Treat?

Herbal Altitude Panaceas

by Peter Sherrill



PETER CUNIS

**H**erbal Eddie's in your face with a handful of "all-natural proto-power" pills that he's trying to sell as the latest cure-all for altitude sickness. "They're great," he gushes. "They alkalize your biosphere with negative ions; they grab oxygen out of your bloodstream and pump it right to the brain; they have all the micronutrients you need; they'll give you incredible energy, speed acclimatization at altitude and fight mountain sickness. You'll feel so great, you'll be able to *pole-vault* up Cho Oyu!"

Skeptical? I hope so. Like lots of other dietary supplement salespeople, Eddie's not exactly lying to you — but he's not exactly telling the truth either. Given the recent surge in public interest in herbal remedies and dietary supplements, many companies have flooded the market with "natural" medicinal alternatives. Since the FDA doesn't hold dietary supplements to the same standards as pharmaceuticals, it's easy for these companies to make unfounded claims. Climbers have not been exempt from the barrage of herbal meds — several companies have introduced supplements that they claim will improve performance at altitude.

Before you buy however, verify whether the claims have any scientific basis. Here are four revealing questions to ask — if Eddie can't answer them, proceed with caution.

**1. Do the claims make sense?** Is there an explanation of how the product works in the body? What are the mechanisms? Just because you eat it doesn't mean you absorb it or utilize it as claimed. Several suppliers of "oxygen-enhanced water" proclaim that it carries 700% more oxygen than regular water, affording increased performance, health and wellness. But, unless I forget my Science 101, human beings get oxygen through their lungs — the digestive system's oxygen-absorbing ability is laughable.

**2. Even if it works, does the product deliver benefits in meaningful quantities?** Many companies splash their package's labels with the latest fad herbal product — never mind that you'd have to eat a dozen bars a day to get any significant effect.

**3. Are there placebo-controlled, double-blind studies to back up the claims?** When a new drug is in trials, it's always tested against a placebo (the proverbial sugar pill), thereby forcing the manufacturer to prove that the drug does better than "nothing." Sounds easy, but the placebo pills always have some effect. When Viagra was being tested, for example, the placebo group got about 20% better.

Also ask if the study is double-blind: That is, neither the researcher nor the subject knows if the "test substance" is placebo or the real



McCoy. There's lots of good science that shows that if either the researcher or the subject believes they're using the "active drug," regardless of whether or not they are, performance improves.

**4. Are the test results significant, and have they been duplicated by other researchers?** Six subjects do not a reliable study make. It takes both a large experimental pool and statistical analysis for a study to be conclusive. And even if one study is conclusive, the results need to be verified by other researchers. It's astonishing how even the most well-intentioned scientist can "lose" the data that show his work is worthless.

HERE'S THE SKINNY ON A FEW OF THE PRODUCTS EDDIE WANTS YOU TO BUY:

**ANTI-OXIDANTS** This includes megadose vitamins, beta-carotene and silica hydride (Microhydrin).

**Facts:** There is some sketchy evidence suggesting anti-oxidants may slow the aging process. Using 500mg of Vitamin C and 400 IU of Vitamin E daily can't hurt, and might help. Taking more offers no additional benefit.

**Fancy:** There is no proven benefit for athletic performance or altitude acclimatization. Keep in mind, high doses of many vitamins are toxic.

**Who needs 'em:** Everybody. But a diet with plenty of yellow, orange and green leafy vegetables is tastier and cheaper. Vegetable oils and nuts are high in vitamin E.

#### COENZYME Q-10

**Facts:** An important player in oxygen delivery and cellular energy production. Your body ordinarily makes all it needs.

**Fancy:** Several studies claim it will improve performance at altitude. The FDA's conclusion? "No proven benefit."

**Who needs 'em:** Everybody. But you already got 'em.

**ALGAE** Common names include chlorella, spirulina and blue-green manna.

**Fact:** Contains protein, vitamins and minerals. Blue-green algae contains all the essential amino acids. Has been used as food for centuries.

**Fancy:** The claims for improved memory, athletic performance and disease prevention are unfounded. There is no evidence that they're any better than a balanced diet.

**Who needs 'em:** If you follow a "nonstandard" diet (vegan, fruitarian, ramen-and-Ritz-crackers), this might be a (fairly expensive) source of protein, vitamins and minerals.

#### REISHI MUSHROOMS GANODERMA LUCIDUM

**Fact:** Revered by many oriental healers, who use it to treat a wide variety of conditions including migraines, indigestion, cancer and senility.

**Fancy:** There's no convincing evidence reishi help with altitude illness. The few studies I've seen were neither double-blind nor placebo-controlled.

**Who needs 'em:** Not useful for climbers. Leave these to the herbalists who really know what they're doing.

**GINSENG** Marketed as American Ginseng, Korean Ginseng, Siberian Ginseng, Eleuthera and Ciwujia.

**Fact:** Used for centuries as a mild stimulant. Endurance and performance gains are roughly the same as caffeine. Large overdoses also act like too much caffeine.

**Fancy:** Claims for longevity, resistance to infection, virility and so on look pretty good until compared with a placebo.

**Who needs 'em:** Hey, if you like the taste of the stuff, go for it. Coffee is cheaper.

#### BEE POLLEN AND ROYAL JELLY

**Fact:** There are no proven benefits of any sort.

**Fancy:** All other claims.

**Who needs 'em:** Bees.

*Peter Sherrill is a climber and is board-certified in family practice and sports medicine.*

## OKAY, SO WHAT WORKS?

♦ **WATER** Dehydration causes more performance problems than all other deficiencies combined. Two percent dehydration robs you of strength and endurance. "Hard-cores" who climb on a liter a day aren't even making up for the water loss from breath vapor. Sure, it's extra weight. But it's worth it, and the price is right.

♦ **ELECTROLYTE SPORT DRINKS** There are lots of well-done studies showing that, for prolonged aerobic

exercise, these perform better than plain water. Buy the powder and mix right in your water bottle.

♦ **CALORIE** Malnutrition — just plain old not-enough-fuel-to-burn — comes next. High-starch foods like crackers and pasta give a steady fuel supply at a good price. The "carbo-bars" also do well, but cost more. Avoid the ones with loads of sugar: The energy "burst" doesn't last as long.

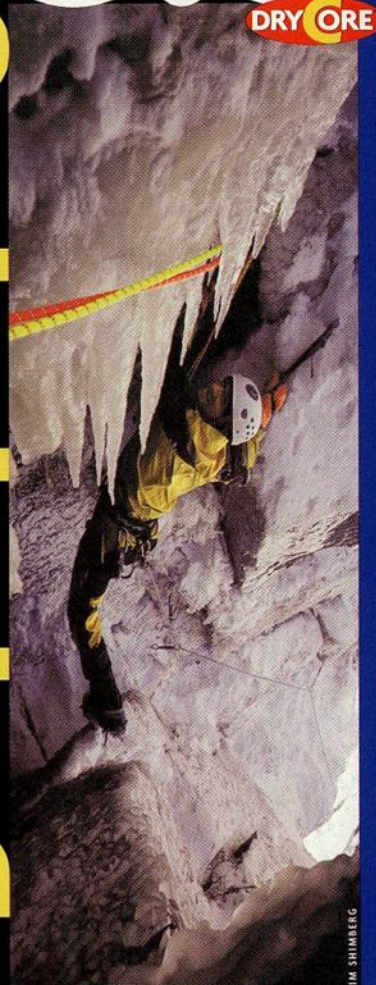
♦ **GINGKO BILOBA** There's some

evidence that ginkgo can prevent altitude illness about as well as Diamox. The British army tested it on soldiers stationed in the Himalayas. It might be worth a try if you are going above 10,000 feet. Average daily dose is 120 mg of dried extract two to three times a day.

♦ **GINGER** Used for centuries to treat indigestion, nausea and vomiting. Ginger tea might help ease the nausea of altitude acclimatization.

8.8

DRY CORE



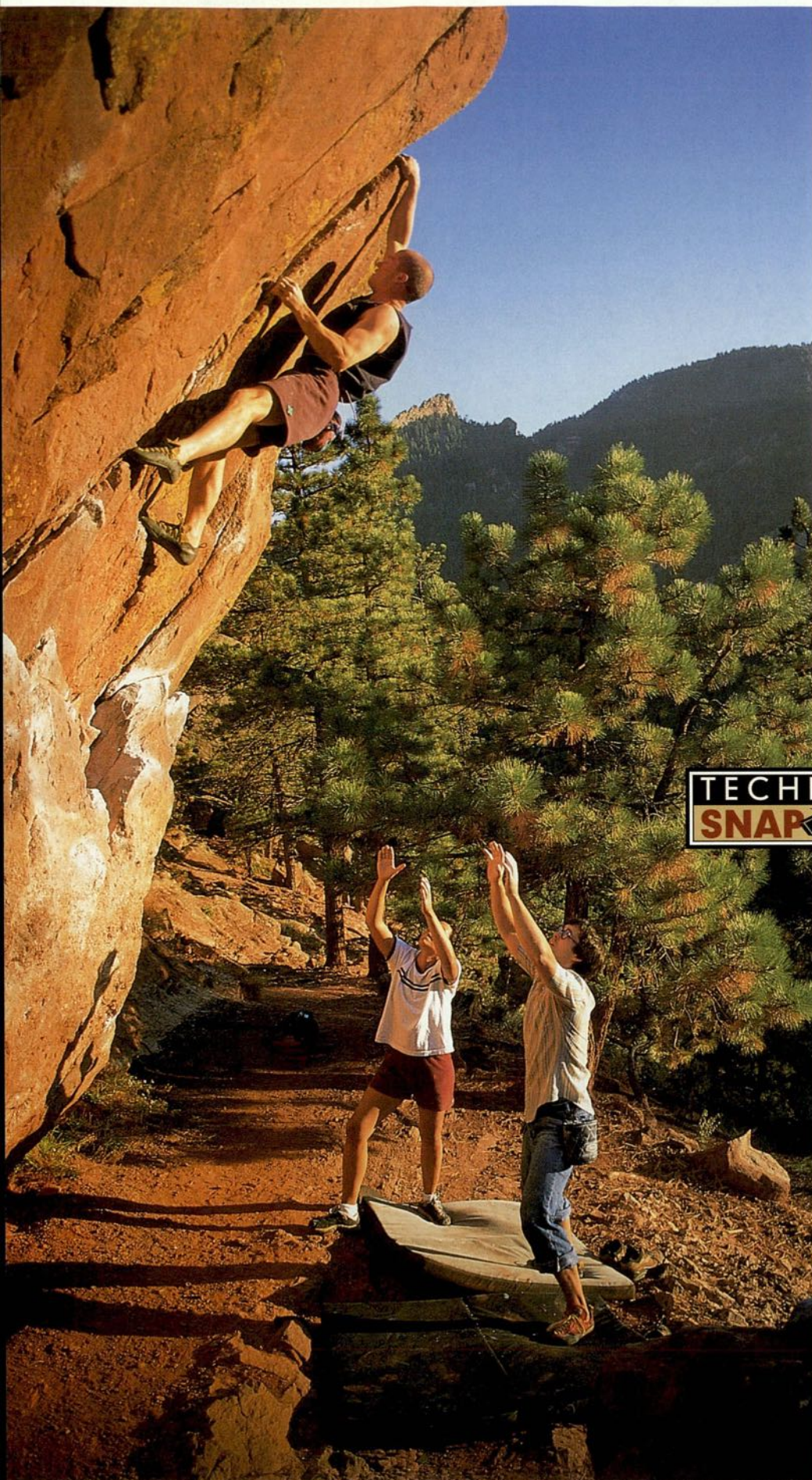
Trad climbing, ice and alpine routes all require versatility in style and equipment. Long wandering routes, sharp edges, scary clips, and marginal pro. For this, Sterling offers its unique 8.8mm Half Ropes. Its 50% thicker sheath and DryCore™ make this a lightweight, yet bomber, versatile rope. DryCore™ keeps over 60% of this rope dry all the time. A dry rope is a supple, strong rope.

Don't compromise tradition. Buy the Sterling 8.8.

**STERLING ROPE**

31 Washington Ave.  
Scarborough  
Maine USA  
04074-9782  
Tel 207.885.0330  
Fax 207.885.0033





# Spotting

Flagstaff Mountain, Colorado

by Chris Wall | photos by Jeff Cloud

**C**ontrary to common practice, spotting is more than saying, "I gotcha bro. Go for it!" Spotting is bouldering's equivalent of belaying and should be approached with the same care and attention. Unlike the roped climber, however, the boulderer will always hit the ground — and whatever rocks, trees, pets, pads and people are in between — which means a spotter's margin for error is almost none.

High above Boulder, Colorado, sits Flagstaff Mountain, one of the most frequented bouldering areas in the country. Scattered across a pine-flecked hillside, these pink Fountain Sandstone boulders have played host to generations of talented boulderers. The likes of Bop Culp, Pat Ament, Bob Williams, Jim Holloway, Skip

Guerin, John Sherman and Christian Griffith all cut their bouldering teeth at Flag — many of the testpieces they established still stump the bouldering elite today; a few are

unrepeated. Almost every day of the year, Flagstaff's slopes resonate with grunts and strains of focused boulderers and cries of encouragement from their friends and spotters.

Last fall, Ian Powell, Keleigh Asbury and I headed up to Flag's famous Monkey Traverse Crag to demonstrate some rules of good spotting. These principles will help to cut down the risks your partners take. However, no rules or techniques will ever outweigh careful observation, good judgment and alertness to the changing situation. When spotting a friend, you should be as focused on what you are doing as you would be if you were up there going for the high-ball topout. Remember: You could make the difference between a clean fall and a broken skull.

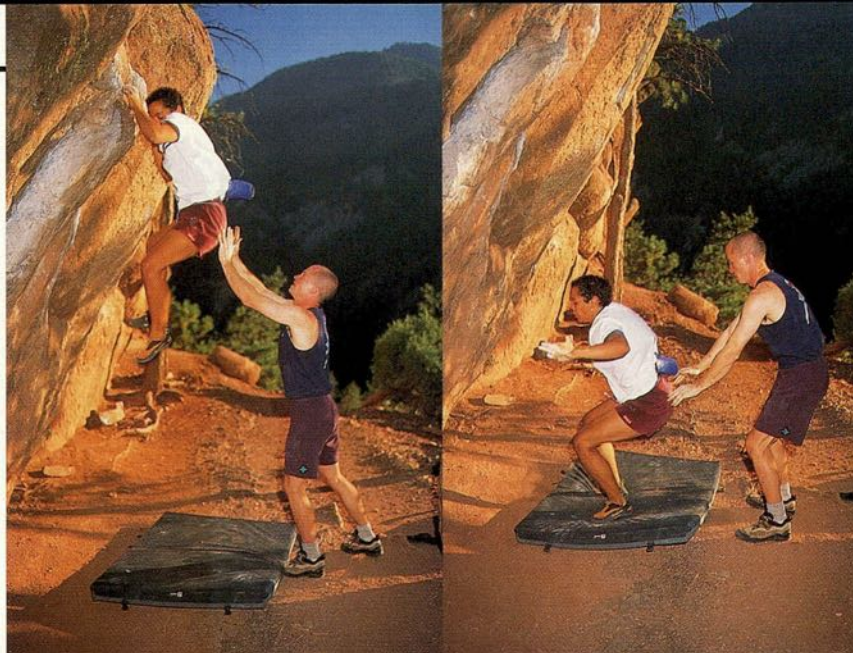
## TECHNIQUE SNAPSHOT

**1** FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS! DON'T EVER LOSE YOUR CONCENTRATION OR ABANDON YOUR PARTNER, NO MATTER HOW HIGH HE GOES, HOW SKETCHED OUT HE IS OR HOW EASY THE TOP LOOKS. KELEIGH AND IAN STAY ALERT EVEN AS I HEAD FOR EASIER GROUND AT THE TOP OF SHALLOW SLOT (V4).

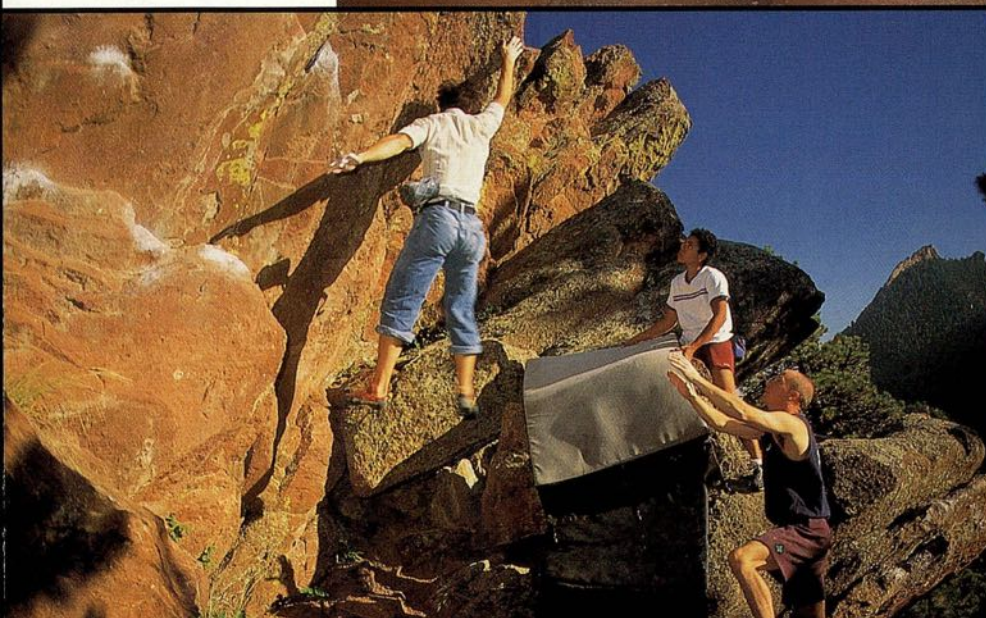
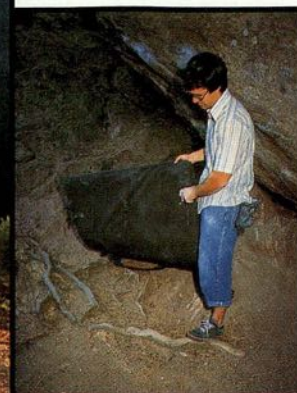


**2** MY JOB IS TO DIRECT KELEIGH'S FALL SO THAT HER FEET HIT THE GROUND FIRST. IT'S BEST TO CONTROL HER BY HER CENTER OF GRAVITY OR HER UPPER TORSO, SO THAT SHE LANDS UPRIGHT AND READY TO CRUMPLE WHERE I WANT HER.

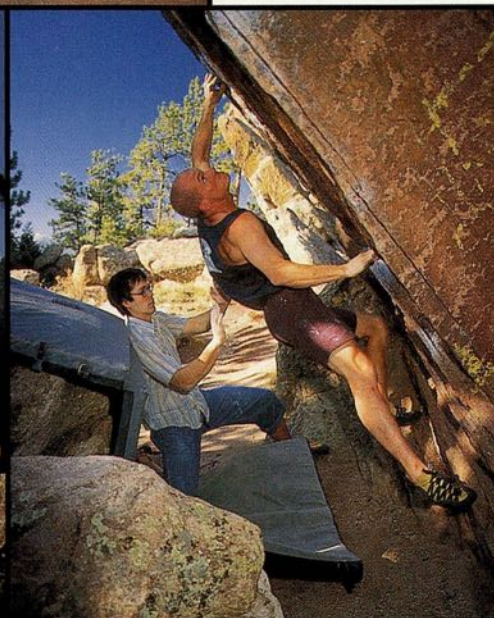
**3** I ALWAYS KEEP MY THUMBS CLOSE TO MY PALMS WHEN I REACH UP TO SPOT SOMEONE. EXTENDED THUMBS CRY OUT TO BE JAMMED.



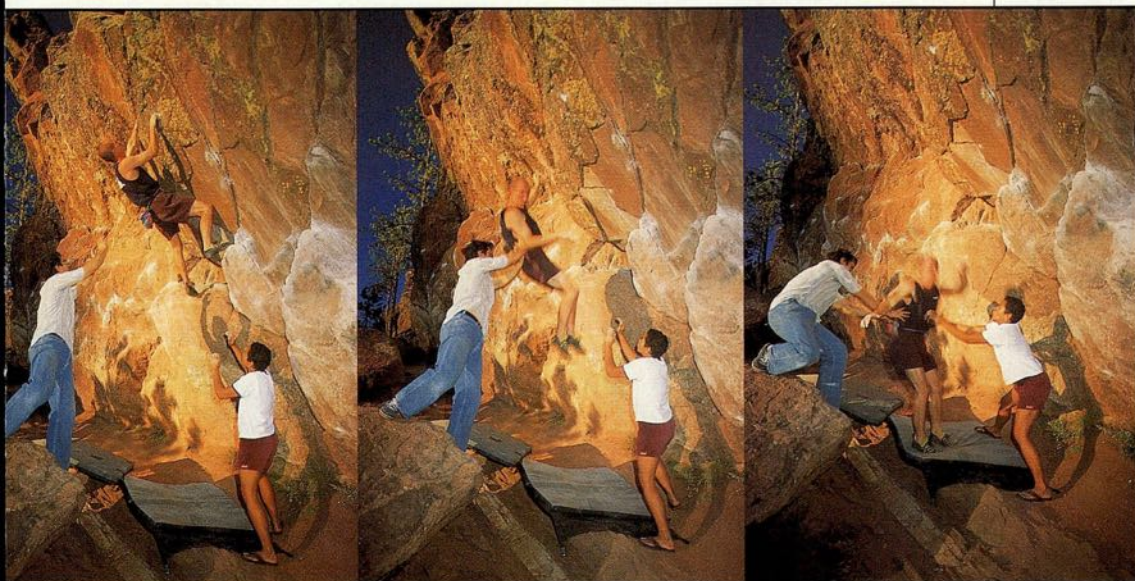
**4** OLD-SCHOOL NOSTALGIA ASIDE, PADS ARE A GOOD IDEA. PLACE THEM WHERE THE CLIMBER IS EXPECTED TO LAND AND COVER UP NATURAL HAZARDS (ROOTS, ROCKS, ETC.).



**5** JUST BECAUSE YOU COVERED SOMETHING UP DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T THERE ANYMORE. YOU CAN STILL ROLL YOUR ANKLE ON A WELL-PADDED ROCK. HERE, KELEIGH AND I USE TWO PADS TO PROTECT IAN FROM THE SHARP BOULDERS AT THE BASE OF TARAS BULBA. MEANWHILE, IAN IS TAPPING IN TO HIS INNER CAT.



**6** GET ON IN THERE. SHORT FALLS CAN CRACK A SKULL TOO. YOU AREN'T ANY HELP IF YOU'RE NOT AROUND. IN THIS CASE, IAN IS MY PAD.



**7** SOME PEOPLE THINK OF THEIR SPOTTER AS A BIG, WARM CATCHER'S MITT. IN THE REAL WORLD OF 170-POUND ADULTS, SPOTTERS ARE THERE TO REDIRECT THE CLIMBER TO THE BEST LANDING AND TO KEEP THEM IN CONTROL ON IMPACT. AS I PEEL OFF MILLION DOLLAR SPIDER (V2), IAN REDIRECTS ME AWAY FROM THE LARGE BOULDER WITH A SHOVE, AND KELEIGH HELPS TO CONTROL MY LANDING ON THE PAD.

**8** REMEMBER, YOUR JOB AS A SPOTTER ISN'T OVER UNTIL THE CLIMBING IS OVER. WOULD YOU TAKE SOMEONE OFF BELAY WHILE HE WAS CLIPPING THE ANCHOR? DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN UNTIL AFTER THE TOPOUT, AND MAYBE NOT EVEN THEN.



## Q&A

THE EDITORS ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

**Q** AS A RELATIVELY NEW CLIMBER AND EMPLOYEE OF AN INDOOR GYM, I HAVE A SERIOUS QUESTION. The gear in my gym has become rather worn and some is even defective. For example: Some biners are rusty and don't lock properly; ropes are stretched and the cores are blown; and many of the belay devices show extensive signs of wear. I have brought this to the attention of the owner, as well as management, and nothing has been done. So, I wonder if there is an association that should be enforcing a safety code in all indoor gyms?

**A** At present, there is no enforcement of safety codes by an outside organization. However, an accreditation process is in the works through the Climbing Gym Association (CGA), a subgroup of the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America (ORCA). In theory, gyms should follow the CGA's Accepted Industry Practices Handbook and be self-policing to prevent lawsuits. In practice, however, it's still up to every climber to safeguard his or her own health and well-being. If you have reservations about the gear, simply refuse to use it and voice your complaints loudly.

**Q** My feet produce enormous amounts of sweat. I've tried some of the best socks available, but they are no match for the amount of perspiration my feet put out. This poses the biggest problem in winter because my feet are constantly cold and wet. I would like to try ice climbing this winter, but I'm concerned about my feet freezing. How do vapor-barrier socks work, and would they help keep my feet warm?

**A** Some people claim to use anti-perspirant on their feet with reasonably good results. Vapor barriers are used to prevent moisture from entering your outer socks and boots. A thin liner sock is worn under the waterproof sock (or plastic

bag) for comfort. However, this will keep the moisture in as well. Your feet will constantly be damp (and stink), but they should remain warm. See *R&I* #71 for more tips.

**Q** It's not too hard to guess at a fall factor, and I know that most gear is bomber even in the most extreme falls. But what about that #4 wire you're about to take a .9 fall-factor whipper on? Is it sufficient? Do I need two? Or three...? It would be nice to have an idea of impact forces at lower fall-factor ratings, if only to impress my friends. Any info available?

**A** Don't weight yourself down with useless trivia. It's really impossible to predict how much force a piece will receive because there are so many variables, including weight of the climber, impact force of that particular rope (increases with age and use), amount of give in the belay, friction of rope against rock and intermediate protection. The most accurate guides for when to back up gear or use a load-limiting quickdraw are experience and pucker factor. When in doubt, place additional gear.

**Q** I've been marking my gear for years with colored tape, but I'm sick of replacing it and frustrated about always finding it on the ground. I was consider-

ing a small amount of nail polish. Will this work?

**A** Nail polish and model-  
ing paint both work well for identifying metal hardware (not nylon webbing or cord) as long as it's in an out-of-the-way place where it won't be chipped off. Good quality tape lasts longer!

**Q** You recently had an article on cordelettes (*R&I* #94) that compared different types of cord. The article discussed 7mm cord, but made no mention of standard 6mm. That said, 6mm cord seems to be the most common material used in cordelettes, likely because it's cheap, lightweight, low bulk, etc. If I set up an equalized, three-point belay anchor with a 6mm cordelette, isn't that safe enough?

**A** Brand-new 6mm cord (which has an average tensile strength of 1,655 lbs.) is acceptable — but just barely. Keep in mind that that's already 500 lbs. weaker than 7mm, and smaller-diameter ropes deteriorate faster. Therefore, you would be cutting the safety margin thin just to save 6 cents per foot, an ounce of weight and a little bulk. ▲

For dozens more questions and answers, go to the Tech Tips section of *Rock & Ice* Online at [www.rockandice.com](http://www.rockandice.com).

*Metolius*  
*Super Chalk*

Chalk specifically formulated for climbing.

METOLIUS

541-382-7585



Immediately after this photo was taken, the leaping woman slipped and cartwheeled 25 feet due to improper footwear. She's basically okay, except for a slight shoulder fracture and a small subdural hematoma. But, had she visited Altrec.com beforehand, she could have purchased the right pair of hiking boots right then and there and she'd be out hiking now instead of lying on her couch watching



**altrec.com**  
Get on. Then get out.

GEAR.  
REVIEWS.  
LIVE ADVICE.  
PASSION.

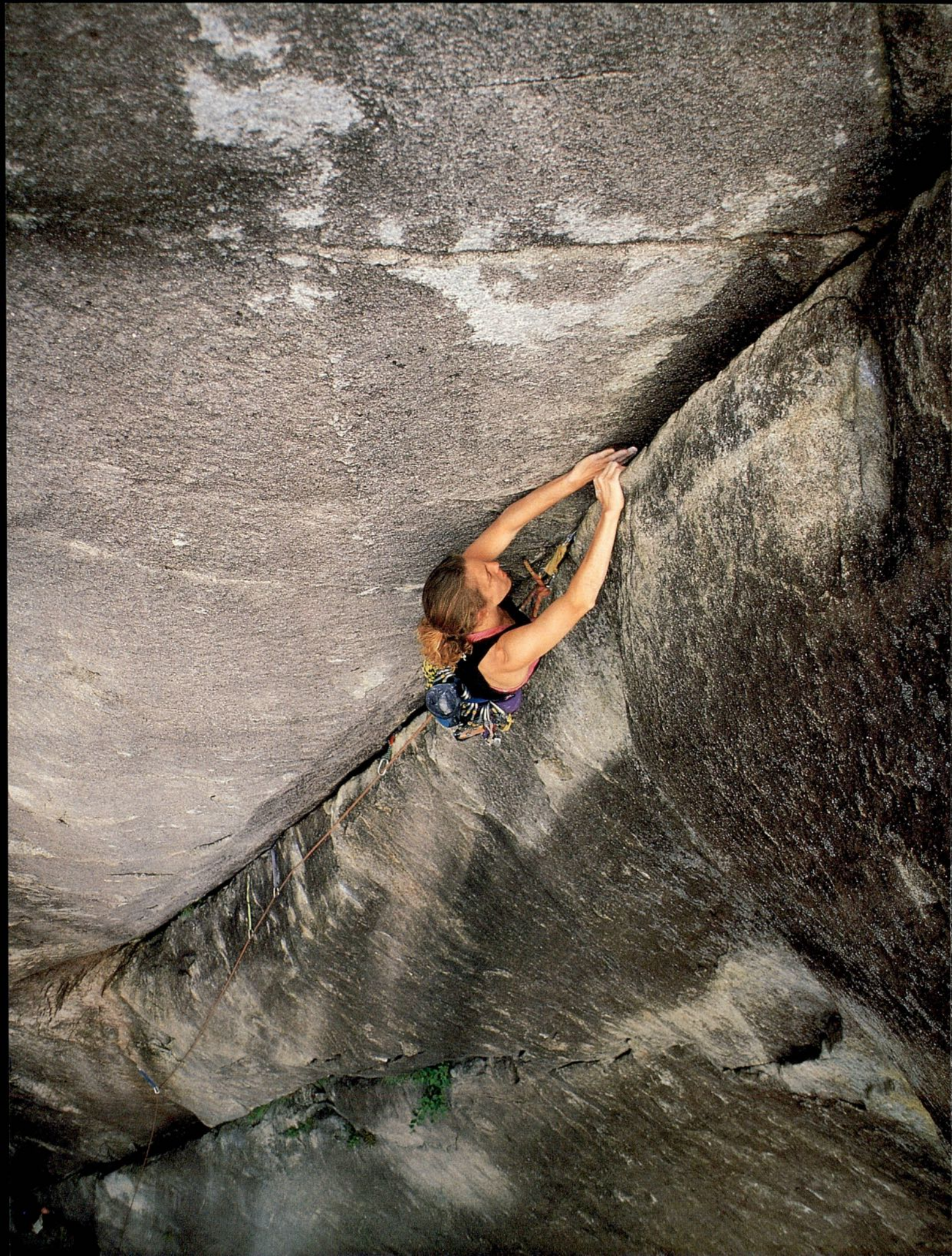
# BAD DAYTIME TV.



PATAGONIA • MOSS • EX OFFICIO • KELTY • HELLY HANSEN • SIERRA DESIGNS • BABY JOGGER • MARMOT • EAGLE CREEK • LEATHERMAN •  
LOWEPRO • MAGLITE • THE NORTH FACE • MOTOROLA • ATLAS SNOWSHOES • GERBER • SWISS ARMY • MOONSTONE MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

©1999 Altrec, Inc.









## Do I Sense a Little

# FRICTION?

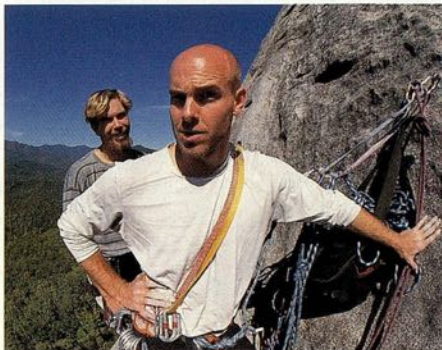
COMING TO GRIPS WITH LOOKING GLASS MODERATES. *by Jeb Tilly*

I got to Mike's at midnight and found him asleep on the couch. Perfect. He'd be fresh to drive. I chucked him the keys and we started the four-hour haul to Looking Glass. We'd experienced the climbing — run-out, scary — on the strange dome set in the wilds of western North Carolina, but the elixir of too little sleep and a lot of anticipation diffused our misgivings. After an hour's restless shut-eye at the trailhead, we were ready to climb.

**the nose (5.8)** First up for Mike and me: The Nose. Known far and wide as the area classic, The Nose, at four pitches, is one of the longest free climbs at Looking Glass. It's also the first route to be established here, put up in 1964 by North Carolina natives Steve Longenecker, Bob Watts and Bob Gillespie. Longenecker and Watts had just returned from the Tetons, where they'd learned rock craft at the Exum School. From pitons to Goldline ropes, they had brought it all back home. (See Goldline, *R&I* #89.)

Of course, the domes of Looking Glass are quite different from the relatively young ranges of Wyoming. Unlike anything in the Tetons, much of the climbing at Looking Glass involves maneuvering over smooth granite scallops that slope maddeningly at the bottom and arch over to form a lip at the top. Some of these "eyebrows" hide prime gear placements in their recesses. Often, however, they taper away to nothing, leaving you with tenuous footholds and no clue as to which of the pockets above might yield pro. When you reach this point, it's important to know that you shouldn't worry. Eyebrow climbing is like learning to drive stick shift: Once you figure it out, you'll wonder why it ever seemed so hard.

**sundial crack (5.8)** After oohing and ahing up The Nose,



JACKSON SMITH

Mike and I decide to try Sundial Crack, just to the right of The Nose and blazing under a mid-morning sun. After two waterless pitches, I felt like a little pink raisin. I led into Sundial's third pitch, the "crack" — really just a water groove about 15 feet long — with visions of Evian dancing in my head. Above it I encountered wild runouts between unforgiving eyebrows. Still, the crux of Sundial wasn't the runouts. It was waiting for the two climbers ahead of us with a video camera to stop stalling at the last belay and climb. Which brings up another point: The area is a popular destination. You might save yourself some trouble by scheduling your climbing during the weekdays.

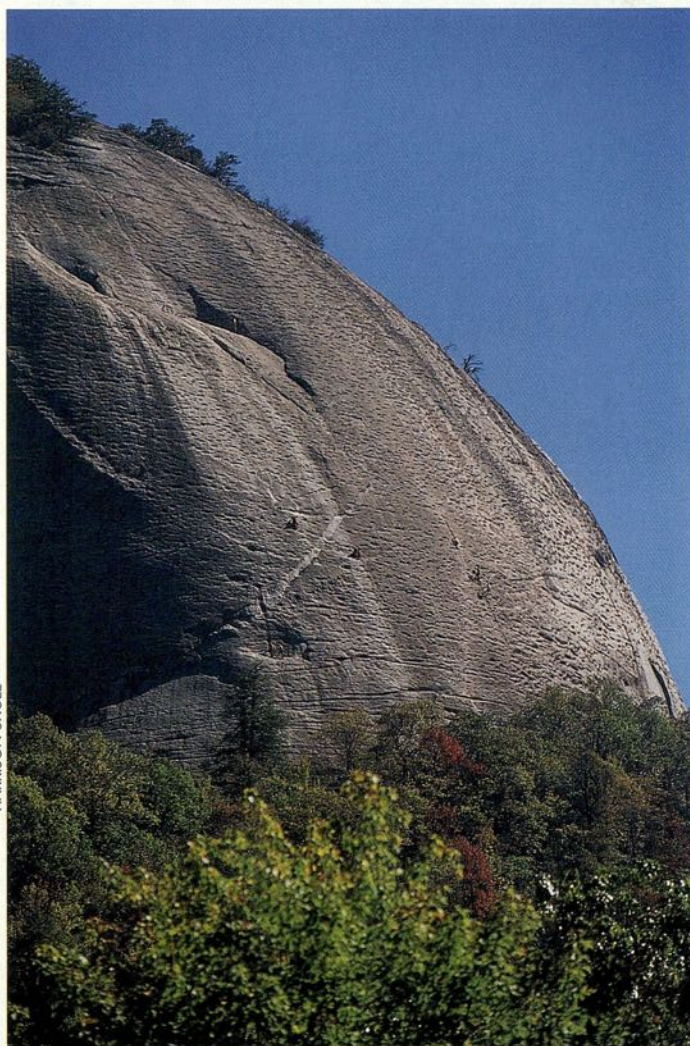
Confident after our success on The Nose, Mike and I headed to the South Face. More than 35 sun-soaked routes, including the largest concentration of 5.7s and 5.8s in the area, make this the moderate cliff of choice. We scampered up third-class cracks to Sentry Box Ledge, where First Return, Gemini and Zodiac start.

**gemini crack (5.8)** The guidebook says to avoid Gemini Crack on crowded days. Good advice,

since the route lies directly below the South Face rappel anchors. (Remember the old paratroopers' motto: Death from Above.) If you get to Sentry Box Ledge early, it's a great climb. Fifty feet of friction in a dihedral lead to a set of dual water-groove cracks that split the crux bulge. The moves are deceptively hard, and I found myself happy to be seconding the

slopy jams on our ascent.

**zodiac (5.8+)** Looking for something a little more challenging, perhaps a spot of thin friction with marginal TCU placements, I hopped on Zodiac. The route leads off the right side of the ledge and follows a thin seam for 20 feet, protected only by a sketchy #0 TCU. The crux is exiting the seam onto the face. Above, low-angle climbing deposited me at the base of a vertical face crossed with juggy pockets. The climbing eased up at the top and ended just right of the anchors.



HARRISON SHULL

**FACING PAGE: WHO NEEDS TAPE? SUSAN ALFORD JAMS THE FIRST PITCH OF SECOND COMING (5.7). TOP: THE EVER-PATIENT AUTHOR, JEB TILLY, WAITS FOR A PARTY AHEAD OF HIM TO CLEAR THE WAY. BEHIND HIM, MIKE JOHNSON. RIGHT: A PROFILE OF THE SOUTHEAST'S MOST LOVABLE PROBOSCIS.**

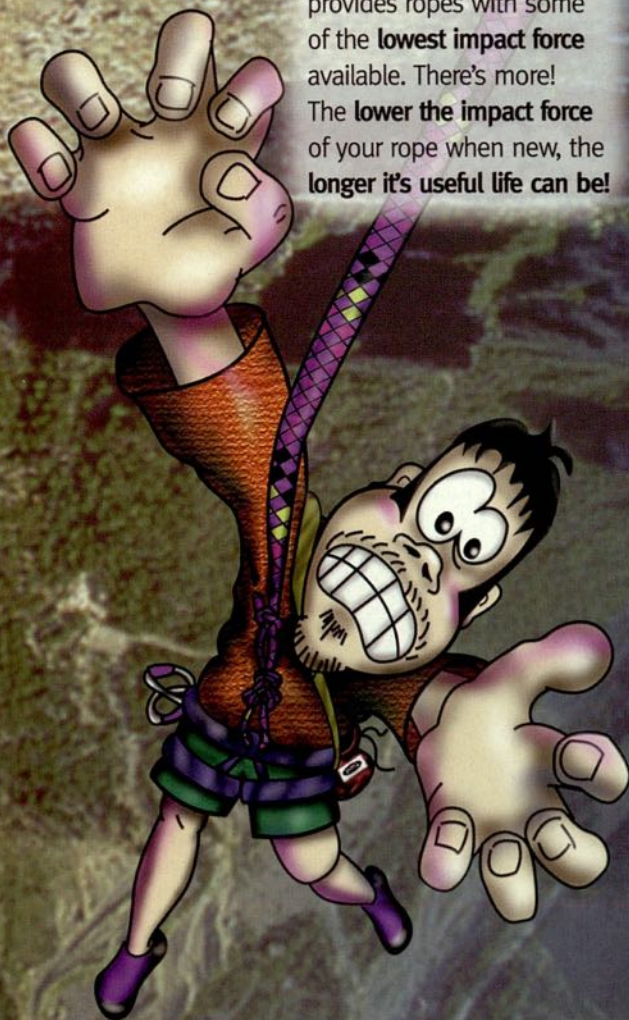


# If You've Gotta TAKE A SPILL,

take it with 

## It's all about IMPACT FORCE

Impact Force is the **force transmitted to the climber** in a fall. A high impact force **can result in a hurt climber** as well as anchor and protection failure. **OUCH!** In order to **take the bite out** of those falls, PMI provides ropes with some of the **lowest impact force** available. There's more! The **lower the impact force** of your rope when new, the **longer its useful life can be!**



**first return (5.8)** On the far left, the start of First Return proved almost as scary as Zodiac. The first 15 feet consisted of — what else? — thin friction moves. The only protection lay in a shallow seam three feet off the ledge. I led up, slow as spring honey, and gained a bomber crack. After planting enough pieces to hang a village of portaledges, I ascended the crack, relishing the familiarity of solid jams, and slithered right into a series of eyebrows. It was a cruise from there to the top.

**rat's ass (5.8)** Back at the bottom, we looked at Rat's Ass, a beautiful two-pitch crack line. I'd done it before and felt the little bubbles of adrenaline popping behind my eyes as I remembered the moves. Delicious finger locks and frictiony footwork led to a belay a full rope-length from the ground. From there, the crack widened and the angle eased off. The second pitch is a glorious stretch of rock offering thought-provoking climbing. It's like coming down from a high when you see the final anchors. Rat's Ass was mighty popular that day, and Mike was itching to lead, so we looked for an open climb instead.

**second coming (5.7)** Thirty feet to the right, Second Coming offered an eye-pleasing dihedral. Mike scrambled the first 40 feet of slab before getting a piece in. With quiet self-assurance, he worked his way up the crack to the crux, a high

step over a bulge. It was that time in the afternoon when people start to tire, or they become absorbed in their own climbing. The cliff was quiet for the first time since we'd arrived. I could hear Mike's triumphant chuckle as he worked the problem and cruised to the belay. The second pitch was just as good, though slightly easier.

**B**olts are scarcer than sushi in western North Carolina. That's just the way it is. Don't forget it, don't try to change it, and you'll be OK. Last January, someone drilled eight bolts into the first two pitches of Sundial. Locals were speechless. What fool retro-bolts a route with good gear that's been climbed clean since its first ascent in the early '70s? According to rumor, the bolts disappeared within four hours and a delegation of "concerned climbers" tracked the guy down and convinced him to "donate" his drill to the Carolina Climbers' Coalition. With the exception of anchors on The Nose, Sundial and Unfinished Concerto, and the occasional fixed pin, all the routes profiled here require solid gear-placing skill. Most require a pretty strong head as well.

**unfinished concerto (5.9)** A prime example is Unfinished Concerto. Standing at its base in a lonely little alcove at the left end of the South Face, I was intimidated. My eyes followed a 40-foot hand crack

## \* details \*

Looking Glass is located in the Pisgah National Forest in far southwestern North Carolina, 45 minutes south of Asheville. The area's proximity to major population centers like Atlanta, Greenville and Asheville makes it a certainty that you'll see other people at the rock on weekends. During the week, however, Looking Glass is pleasantly quiet. Most of the routes are multi-pitch friction fests. Since many placements are old pin scars, the crag eats up TCUs. (Other camming units work too, just not as well.)

The majority of free-climbing routes at Looking Glass are on the south and southeastern side of the rock, making for ideal winter climbing. The north end is the preeminent aid crag for the entire Southeastern aid-climbing population. During the summer, Looking Glass is a reflector oven; afternoon thunderstorms are common. Camping is free in the national forest along the dirt access road.

All the information you need to climb at Looking Glass can be found in Thomas Kelley's excellent book, *The Climbers' Guide to North Carolina* (Earthbound Press, Inc.). Go to it!

HARRISON SHULL





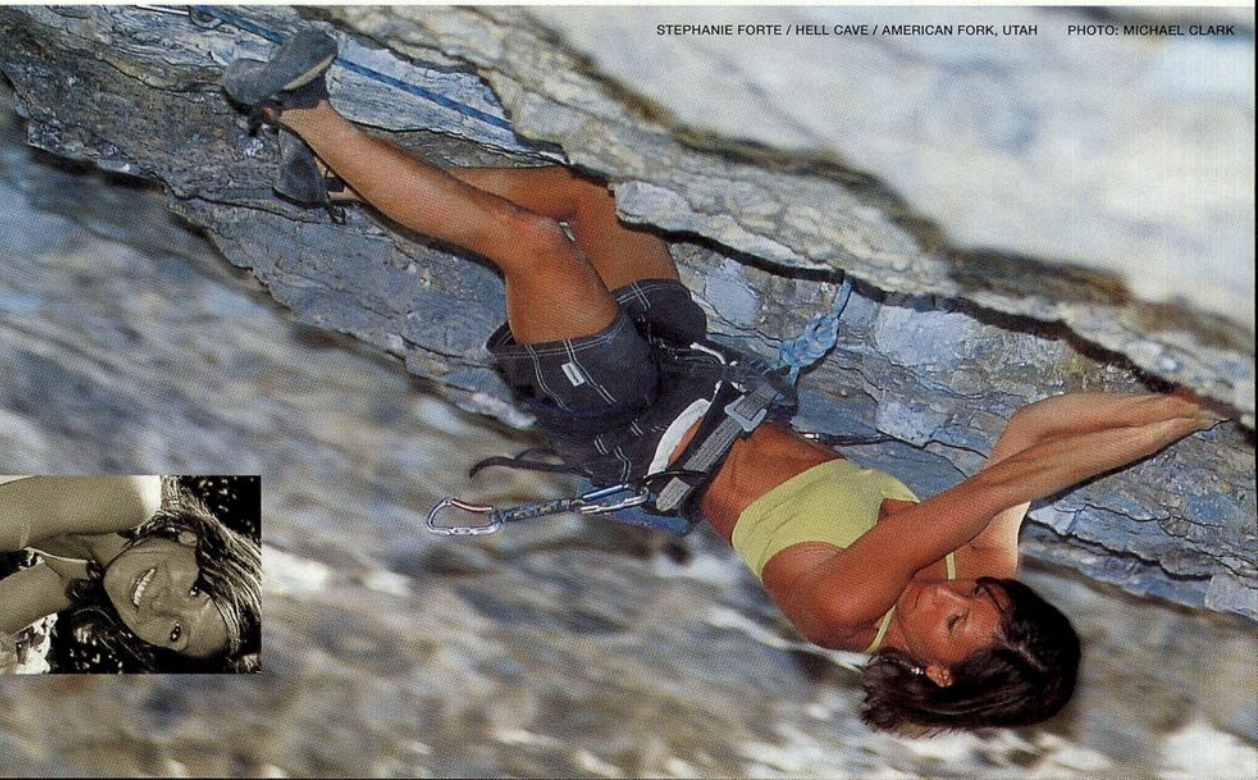
**JOHN MCGEE, RELYING ON A SLOPING HAND JAM, REACHES FOR PURCHASE ON THE SECOND PITCH OF GEMINI CRACK (5.8).**

to a roof. It looked doable — the roof was no scarier than others I'd pulled. It was the corner above that set my biners to rattling. It shot like a granite rainbow into the low-angle slabs above. It was seamless and didn't look like it would give up any pro. Undaunted, I worked up to the roof and got established in a lieback. Then, with one swift move, I backstepped, stood on the lip of the roof — and found myself in serious trouble. The nearest gear was 10 feet below, and the only way to reach the safety of the corner was to mantle onto a slopy block. Mantel? I'd read about the technique in the books. Forearms weakening, I taught myself to mantle. Real fast.

A traverse from the top of Unfinished Concerto got us to the Gemini anchors. The area around the belay looked like a game of Twister: Climbers reached and shuffled to position themselves for the rappel without unclipping. In contrast, the

gray dome of Cedar Rock stood pristine and abandoned across the valley. Other smaller domes dotted the hillside around it. We reclined in the shade of a twisted pine and surveyed the undulating ridges of Pisgah National Forest. I remembered the scenery from *Last of the Mohicans*, part of which was filmed around Looking Glass. An image of Daniel Day-Lewis running through Pisgah in a loincloth flashed before my eyes and I thought suddenly of Eustace Conway, another western North Carolinian who hiked the entire Appalachian Trail in a loincloth. Western North Carolina is a strange place, and Looking Glass is no different. Just like the down-home Appalachian characters inhabiting the land, and the myths that surround them, the rock becomes friendly if you visit often enough.

*leb Tilly grew up in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, but currently works as a freelance writer and editor of Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine in Charlottesville, Virginia. ▲*



STEPHANIE FORTE / HELL GAVE / AMERICAN FORK, UTAH PHOTO: MICHAEL CLARK

**1.888.ROPEGUN**  
now available.  
The new video **INERTIA**.



**ropegun**

www.ropegun.com





# Getting the Shaft

The long-sought  
first ascent of Mt.  
Johnson's north face

by Gregory Crouch

**M**ost climbers consider it awful luck to name a route before its first ascent. But the Elevator Shaft, which cleaves the north face of Mt. Johnson, in Alaska's Ruth Gorge, is so obvious and alluring a line that it was named eight years before it was climbed.

Mt. Johnson stands sentinel over the lower west side of the Ruth Gorge like one of the great pyramids of Egypt. Charlie Sassara and Dave McGivern were the first alpinists who got sucked into action in the prominent vertical culvert on the peak's north side. When Sassara and McGivern set out, Johnson had seen only one ascent, up the western slopes that rise off the Backside Glacier — but not from the Ruth Gorge. They had a crack at the Shaft in 1987, and had an epic.

As the pair trudged up to the mountain, the upper lip of the bergschrund exploded, sending a chunk the size of a garage thundering down onto them. The avalanche swept them 200 feet, and the rope was wrapped three times around Sassara's neck when they stopped. Sassara wasn't breathing; blood wasn't getting to his head. Quick CPR by McGivern got Sassara breathing again, but he spent most of the next six hours unconscious. Their battle to get back to basecamp was won with pure will.

"It was a cold-blooded decision of let's go to work," says Sassara. "I owe my life to Dave, and I'm prouder of that survival than almost anything else I've ever done in my life." After the incident, Sassara described the couloir to the Anchorage Daily News as having the appear-



DOUG CHABOT

ance of "an elevator shaft." The name stuck.

Two years later, Jim Sweeney and Dave Nyman decided to have a go at the Shaft. They got above the bergschrund, but Sweeney took a 90-foot toss off the second pitch and broke his hip. The epic was on. Avalanches pounded by as Nyman drug Sweeney back to the Ruth Glacier. It took days to get help; meanwhile, the Elevator Shaft had cemented its reputation as a death route.

**E**nter Jack Tackle, one of the most dedicated Alaska climbers of the last 25 years. Jack wasn't under any illusions about the Elevator Shaft — he and Jim Donini had been in the Ruth Gorge, the same season that

**JACK TACKLE IN THE MIDDLE OF PITCH 15 OF THE ELEVATOR SHAFT. GIVEN THE COMPELLING APPEARANCE OF THE MASSIVE, RIGHT-LEANING CLEFT, THIS MIGHT BE THE MOST PERFECT ROUTE NAME IN THE ALPINE WORLD. BOTTOM: JACK TACKLE AND DOUG CHABOT SUCK IT UP ON THE PLANE-RIDE IN.**

Sweeney and Nyman had their monster epic, an event that Tackle, in a scholarly tone says, "raised his awareness" about the Shaft. In spite of the route's fearsome reputation, he still wanted a piece of the action.

By 1993, Tackle couldn't fight off temptation any longer. He and Kim Miller flew into the Gorge to give it a try. They made it safely to the base of the route and started up, but there was a problem: There wasn't any good ice. By any



SCOTT DAKSNEY



normal logic, an alpine gash as massive as the Elevator Shaft should be packed full of névé. But in the Shaft, strange feature that it is, normal rules don't seem to apply. Tackle and Miller found the Shaft packed with an alpine aberration that Jack calls China White. On the street, China White is a particularly lethal brand of Asian heroin; in the Alaska Range, it's a steep, compressed form of spindrift that's just as dangerous. The stuff is just solid enough to support the weight of a climber, but it would hold an ice screw about as well as a cheesecake would.

Tackle led the wild pitch of China White that

enlisted fellow Bozemanite Doug Chabot for another campaign.

Chabot, who also sports an impressive resumé of Alaskan ascents, was leery of the Elevator Shaft. He told Tackle that he wouldn't commit to the climb until they had inspected it both from the air and from its base. Tackle had no problem with that — he was obsessed with climbing the Shaft, not dying in it. During their flight into the Gorge, they scouted for the cornice that had thwarted the previous year's effort, but didn't see anything to deter them. The next day, things looked okay from the base as well.

**Tackle and Miller found the Elevator Shaft packed with an alpine aberration that Jack calls China White. The stuff is just solid enough to support the weight of a climber, but it would hold an ice screw about as well as a cheesecake would.**

had so violently rejected Sweeney. At the end of the pitch, he discovered a huge cave, big enough for a tent, behind a snow curtain underneath a chockstone. Tackle then led a pitch of scary aid to pass the bulge — there simply was nothing solid enough for ice climbing. After a long battle, he finally was able to set up an anchor. But just as he started to haul up the heavy pack, it began to snow.

The Elevator Shaft isn't a plumb line — it angles up and right as it slashes its way up Johnson's north face. For every inch that it angles, it collects that much more snow from the face above. When snow falls, spindrift roars down the Shaft like it's being blasted from a jet engine.

With the first flakes, Tackle rapped down and joined Miller in the cave. The two spent the next 18 hours in the cave, hemmed in by the massive volume of spindrift plummeting past the door. "It was like stepping off the sidewalk into the spillway of a dam," Tackle said, describing an aborted effort to get out of the cave. And as fortuitous as the cave was, it wasn't exactly cozy. A wierd backdraft spewed spindrift all over the inside of the cave. After 18 hours of torture, the storm let up, and Tackle and Miller fled to their basecamp.

**T**ackle returned with Bill Belcourt for another go at the Shaft in 1994. But, when they discovered a massive cornice overhanging the chute, they abandoned all thought of the route. So, a year later, Tackle

Tackle led the desperate Sweeney pitch again. This time, Chabot was able to turn the first chockstone pitch using ice tools instead of aid. The protection, however, was horrible — flared cams and bad pitons — and his feet kept punching through the curtain of China White into the cave. After Chabot's dicey lead, the angle kicked back, but there was still no ice good enough to hold a screw. For six more pitches, the gear didn't improve. Rigging solid anchors was a difficult, time-consuming hassle, and, a few times, the team had to simul-climb short stretches in order to reach cracks good enough for anchors.

Finally, at the end of the eighth lead, Tackle sunk a decent screw. Above was the steep section they figured would be the second crux. Chabot had been worried about this stretch since leaving the ground — it would be his lead because Tackle had led the previous crux. If there's one thing that adds spice to alpine first ascents, it's not knowing. The pair had suspected that this crux would hold another chockstone, but they couldn't be sure. When they got close to it, they breathed a sigh of relief. A tunnel burrowed up behind the block, which meant they could avoid a crazy lead over the front of the obstacle.

All four walls of this vertical culvert were blasted and polished from spindrift. Chabot stemmed up the tunnel — his favorite part of the entire route — and was thrilled to twist in a decent screw. However, above the tunnel rose another wall of treacherous China White, and

**CLIMB-IT® HOLDS**



1-800-752-5462

[climb-it@primenet.com](mailto:climb-it@primenet.com)

[www.climb-it.net](http://www.climb-it.net)

FREE CATALOG AVAILABLE

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE GEAR

- BACKPACKING
  - FAMILY CAMPING
  - CLIMBING
  - RUGGED CLOTHING & OUTERWEAR
  - BIKE TOURING
  - WATERSPORTS
- NAME BRANDS AT THE LOWEST PRICES**

**CALL OR WRITE FOR OUR FREE CATALOG**



**CAMP MOR**

Call 1-800-230-2151

PO BOX 700-R19

SADDLE RIVER, N.J. 07458-0700

[www.campmor.com](http://www.campmor.com)



# Touchstone Climbing Inc. and Rock and Ice

Salute the Champions of

## The 1999 Touchstone International Invitational

Presented By  
Black Diamond, Powerbar,  
The American Alpine Club, Ropegun



Tori Allen  
11 & under



Emily Harrington  
12-13



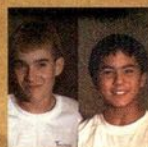
Alice Braginsky  
14-15



Danica Fitts  
16-17



Carlie Happ  
18-19



Ethan Pringle  
Sean Mc Coll  
12-13



Akito Mathushima  
16-17



Clark Allen  
11 & under



Matt Segal  
14-15



Nels Rosaas  
18-19



The Leader in Indoor Climbing

[www.touchstoneclimbing.com](http://www.touchstoneclimbing.com)

Arienna Grody climbing  
in Touchstone's  
newest facility,  
Berkeley Ironworks

Photo: Jerry Dodrill /  
Mountain Light





Chabot soon found himself teetering on an unstable mass of the stuff, desperate for anything solid. With his left tool, he scraped away at the rotten snow and searched for solid purchase. He dug in to his elbow and found nothing. He dug up to his shoulder, worrying all the while about leaning too far into the slope and shearing his heels out beneath, and still found nothing. He dug with the end of his tool and felt it break out into air. Another cave!

Chabot swears that the discovery felt "like winning the lottery." In seconds, he was tucked up inside the cave, no longer sketching on the brink of a bone-crushing fall. He hauled up a bundle of rock protection and fixed a bombproof rig, which gave him the confidence to climb the last 20 feet to moderate ground.

**T**ackle and Chabot simul-climbed most of the remaining ground to the top of the Shaft. They were finally on real ice, and it looked like a cruise to the notch. But progress came to a screeching halt when they came face to face with a monstrous cornice. Tricks of light had made the thing blend in with the surrounding snow during the aerial recon. Luckily, they managed their way up a steep section of sugar snow at the right edge of the cornice, then popped over the feature to a notch. They had been hammering away at the Shaft for 22 straight hours and were jubilant to find a perfect place to pitch their bivy tent. It was 5 a.m., and they collapsed into the Bibler as fast as they could pitch the thing.

After six hours of rest, Tackle took

**MT. JOHNSON IS THE PYRAMID-SHAPED PEAK ON THE LEFT. A GEOLOGICAL MARVEL, THE APTLY NAMED ELEVATOR SHAFT SPLINTERS THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE PEAK IN A RIGHT-LEANING DIRECTISSIMA.**

the lead again. The team had figured the headwall above the notch would prove to be another crux, but were surprised to find a crack that split the steep section. Tackle smashed in angles, burying the pins to their eyes in the crack-erjack rock, and trusted his weight to the wobbly things. After the pitch of aid, the angle kicked back and the two Montanans free climbed a couple of moderate pitches to the upper snowfields.

A cloud enveloped the peak and wrapped the pair in a murky fog as they headed up the final snow slopes. The snowfields didn't feel stable, so instead of wandering around semi-blind in the fog, and perhaps out onto an avalanche slope, they opted to kick up the tent again. The fog had cleared when they awoke the next morning, and the pair slogged the last 45 minutes to the summit.

Jack describes the hour and a half he and Doug spent on top of Johnson as the best summit time of his life. The weather was perfect, the view sublime and, for once, there was no hurry (which officially qualifies as another alpine first). The Elevator Shaft was in the bag and Mt. Johnson had, at last, been climbed from the Gorge. The peak still awaits its third ascent.

*Gregory Crouch thinks that Mt. Johnson is the most beautiful peak in the Ruth Gorge.*

**prana**

*Tiffany Campbell*

athena sport top · malibu short

760.431.8015 [www.prana.net](http://www.prana.net)

theo photo







# IN SEARCH OF COLDER PASTURES

*Life and Climbing in Wyoming's Shoshone Valley*



*Photos and captions by Bobby Model*

**T**he South Fork of the Shoshone River is a beautiful mountain valley in northwest Wyoming with a rich history of big game hunting, ranching and outfitting. Craggy peaks tumble down to wide, flowing plains, and untrammeled wilderness butts up against sleepy farms. The region's largest town, Cody, is a quiet hamlet of 8,000 residents, the majority of whom depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood.

To the ice climbing community, this valley has a separate identity. Hidden in the flanks of Boulder Ridge and Ishawooa Mesa pour dozens of twisting creeks that flow through the terraced mountainsides. Hundreds of waterfalls freeze here every winter to offer possibly the highest-concentration of ice in the Lower 48. The profusion of high quality ice and the isolation of the flows make this a world-class destination by any definition — like a piece of the Canadian Rockies lost in the far reaches of Wyoming. —T.C.

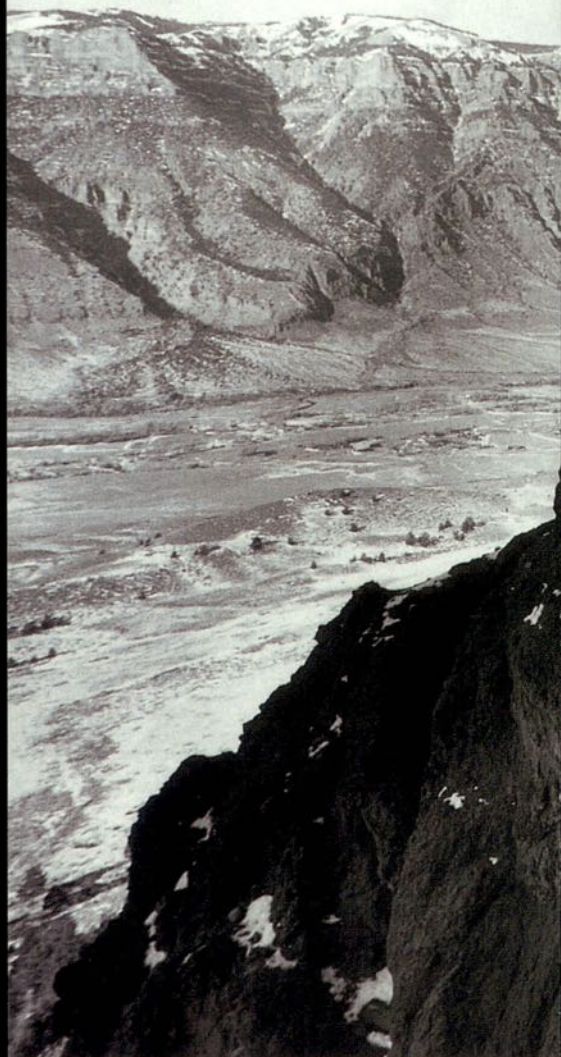
WITH LONG APPROACHES AND STEEP SNOW TRUDGES BETWEEN PITCHES, CLIMBING IN THE UPPER SOUTH FORK OFTEN INVOLVES AS MUCH WALKING AS CLIMBING. HAVING COMPLETED SOME LOWER PITCHES, A CLIMBER SLOGS UP THE TRIPTYCH GULLY (LEFT) TO LONG NECK BOTTLE, ONE OF CODY'S UNREPEATED TESTPIECES. THE DAGGER-LIKE ICICLES OF HORSETAIL FALLS (RIGHT) ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF MUCH OF THE AREA'S CLIMBING: A FANTASTIC CHUNK OF ICE THAT IS A TAD TOO LONG FOR A 60-METER ROPE. AS ROB GOWLER FINDS OUT, THE ROUTE'S STEEP OPENING SECTION CAN BE TORTUROUS ON THE FOREARMS.





THE SOUTH RIM OF THE VALLEY HOSTS SOME OF THE AREA'S BEST MODERATE CLIMBS, INCLUDING MORATORIUM AND JOY AFTER PAIN. PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY (RIGHT) IS ANOTHER MODERATE ALTERNATIVE, THOUGH THE TWO-PITCH CLIMB IS DIFFICULT TO CATCH IN CONDITION FOR CLIMBING. GET AN EARLY START AND MOVE QUICKLY IF YOU'RE HEADED TO THIS SIDE OF THE CANYON AS IT SEES ONLY A FEW HOURS OF SUN EACH DAY. ACROSS THE VALLEY, A CLIMBER TRAILS A ROPE ON AN EASIER PITCH (BELOW) SO AS TO SAVOR THE MORNING SUN ON THE DIFFICULT ROUTES ABOVE.

## COLDER PASTURES



SOME FOLKS CAMP AT DEER CREEK, WHERE BIG HORN SHEEP CAN OFTEN BE SPOTTED FORAGING THE RELATIVELY SNOWLESS VALLEY FLOOR. CHINOOK WINDS KEEP THESE SLOPES DRY, WHICH CAN MAKE APPROACHING THE CLIMBS A BREEZE. BUT MOST CLIMBERS PREFER TO STAY IN CODY, WHERE THEY CAN ENJOY A RESTAURANT MEAL AND DRY THEIR GEAR OVERNIGHT. THE 45-MINUTE DRIVE FROM TOWN IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR SIPPING COFFEE, LICKING DONUT FROSTING FROM YOUR FINGERS AND PREPARING FOR THE DAY'S CLIMBING. BOOTS WARMED UNDER THE FLOOR HEATER MAKE THE APPROACH HIKE MUCH MORE PLEASANT, TOO.









THOUGH THE SOUTH FORK OF THE SHOSHONE RIVER VALLEY IS A FAVORITE DESTINATION AMONG ICE CLIMBERS, IT'S ALSO HOME TO MANY RANCHERS. A HANDFUL OF SMALL RANCHES IN THE VALLEY RAISE MODEST HERDS OF LIVESTOCK. AFTER FEEDING HIS CATTLE, GAVINO GARCIA GETS A LICK FROM HIS COLLIE, PATCH, IN THE BRIEF WINTER SUNSHINE AT HAWKEYE RANCH.



SEVERAL DECADES AGO, WHEN TRAVEL TO CODY WAS A HUGE EFFORT, LOCAL RANCHERS CREATED THE VALLEY SCHOOL. TODAY, STUDENTS ATTEND THROUGH THE EIGHTH GRADE, THEN MAKE THE LONG COMMUTE TO TOWN. KATIE CURTIS, A THIRD GRADER, DOES HOMEWORK WHILE DEB EMMERICK, ONE OF THE SCHOOL'S TWO TEACHERS, READS A LESSON TO THE FIRST GRADERS. ON A MID-DECEMBER AFTERNOON, STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS GATHERED FOR THE ANNUAL RITUAL OF FINDING THE RIGHT CHRISTMAS TREE. AFTER SEARCHING TWO DRAINAGES, A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED, AND THE MIDDLE-SCHOOL BOYS ANXIOUSLY CUT THE SMALL TREE DOWN IN MINUTES.



MARK DEVRIES AND RUSSELL GRAY ON THE SOUTH FORK CLASSIC MOONRISE (WI 4+). A FEW FEET TO THE LEFT IS HIGH ON BOULDER, ANOTHER POPULAR ROUTE. THESE CLIMBS ARE GENERALLY AROUND UNTIL APRIL, BUT LATE-SEASON CLIMBERS SHOULD COME ARMED WITH FISHING WADERS OR PLAN ON A LONG APPROACH. THE WARMER IT GETS, THE LESS LIKELY YOU'LL BE TO CROSS THE FROZEN SHOSHONE RIVER.

# COLDER PASTURES





## Nuts & Bolts

Climbing in the South Fork is unique compared to the ice in neighboring areas. If you've climbed in Montana, approaches may seem short. If you're used to Colorado, approaches will seem long. All of the multi-pitch climbs have sections of hiking between pitches. These hikes are anywhere from 50 to 1,000 feet. The longest climbs gain over 2,000 feet of elevation from the road to the top. Very few climbs are easy to walk around in order to set up a toprope, making this an extremely challenging area for beginners.

The modern mixed game hasn't gained much momentum here, but the potential is phenomenal and frightening. The mixed routes that have been done are typically very serious undertakings because of their lack of good fixed gear, poor rock quality and the typically long and involved routes and approaches.

**when and where** Cody, Wyoming, is located in the northwest corner of the state, approximately 50 miles east of the east entrance to Yellowstone National Park. The upper South Fork valley of the Shoshone River, 35 miles southwest of Cody, is home to the vast majority of the frozen waterfalls. Yellowstone Regional Airport is located in Cody and offers air service from United Express (2 flights daily) and Sky West (3 flights daily). Car rentals are available through Avis, Hertz, Budget and Thrifty. To reach the South Fork valley, drive west through downtown Cody (follow the signs for Yellowstone) to the west of town. Before you leave the city limit, take a left on State Highway 291, South Fork Road. Follow this road for about 35 miles, to the end of the pavement, and start looking for the ice. Two county roads on either side of the valley lead upriver.

The ice season lasts roughly from early November through mid-April. Many of the north-facing climbs are well-formed by Thanksgiving. The south-facing climbs usually take shape by Christmas, but these sunny routes will come and go throughout the winter depending on seasonal warm spells.

**gear and guides** The only guide to the area, *South Fork Water Ice* by Todd Cozzens, has served its purpose, but is outdated and poor by today's standards. A mini-guide to the region's ice ran in *Rock & Ice* #53. Sunlight Sports (307-587-9517; <[www.sunlightsports.com](http://www.sunlightsports.com)>) is a well-equipped outdoor shop with ice reports for the area. Foote's Mountaineering (307-527-9937) is back in business and booking reservations for the bunkhouse at the Double Diamond X Ranch.

*Longtime Cody local Todd Cozzens is currently working on a new guidebook to ice climbing in the South Fork.*





**COLDER PASTURES**





"COME ON! COME ON, GET IN THERE!" SAYS TODD COZZENS AS HE FISHES FOR NYLON CORD. MAKING HOURGLASS THREADS CAN BE FRUSTRATING, BUT PATIENCE AND A BIT OF PRACTICE WILL SEE YOU THROUGH. V-THREADS ARE A MUST FOR RAPPELLING FROM MANY AREA CLIMBS. COZZENS WILL WARM UP QUICKLY ONCE HE GETS THE ANCHOR SET AND GETS MOVING — ON MANY OF THE MULTI-PITCH CLIMBS, DESCENTS ARE LONG AND ENTAIL A COMBINATION OF WALKING AND RAPPELLING. EVEN SHORTER ROUTES, LIKE THE CLASSIC TOO MUCH GOOSE (LEFT), ARE OFTEN A GOOD WAY FROM THE CAR. SKIRTING AROUND PITCHES ON FINE SCREE, WHICH CODY VETERANS REFER TO AS "FROZEN KITTY LITTER," IS A GREAT WAY TO SAVE TIME. NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME YOU SAVE, BETWEEN THE AREA'S LONG PITCHES AND THE COMBINATION OF DIM WINTER LIGHT, INTERMITTENT SNOW AND FREEZING TEMPERATURES, YOU'RE SURE TO GET YOUR FILL OF CLIMBING.



*Photographer Bobby Model was born and grew up on a ranch just outside of Cody, Wyoming. After countless trips around the globe on photography assignments, Model is still happy to call Cody home.*



**I** pack light and move fast, doing more by doing with less — an elegant alpine concept for certain, but only half the story. Getting up and off a hard route requires experience.

It also requires capable partners who can help you foster the discipline it takes to survive ambition. Speed is beautiful, but as Mark Twight says, "Hard alpinism is full-on fucking war."

I'm waging my own on the crux pitch of M-16, our chosen line up the 3,500-foot East Face of Howse Peak in the Canadian Rockies. I've already excavated a half ton of rock and snow to find adequate gear on a 5.5 traverse. Now I'm into the business. The ice is thin and no more than a foot wide. *Good, bring it on, I think, this youth is wanting.* The next 30 feet brings rock, compact and convex. A skin of ice stretched over it is the only passage. I tap gently on the gray membrane until I find a spot thick enough to sink a steel pick up to its first tooth.

The decision has been made, the risks evaluated: I'm going up, climbing toward the wanting. Willing to find exactly what I need in the ice, in the rock and especially in myself. The rock angles past vertical and, for a few feet, the ice disappears. Breathing is my control. Hooooooo. Intuition, awareness, focus; hooooooo. The reaches are long — I stretch, hunting. *The wolf pack captures the calf and feasts.* If I fail to pin my prey, my body will break and my soul could starve.

At last, an anchor. I shiver and watch my sweat grow an icy lace on my faded orange shell. Barry Blanchard is seconding. He jumars to the anchors and eyes the eight tied-off screws keeping us to the slope. "Scott!" he yells down to Scott

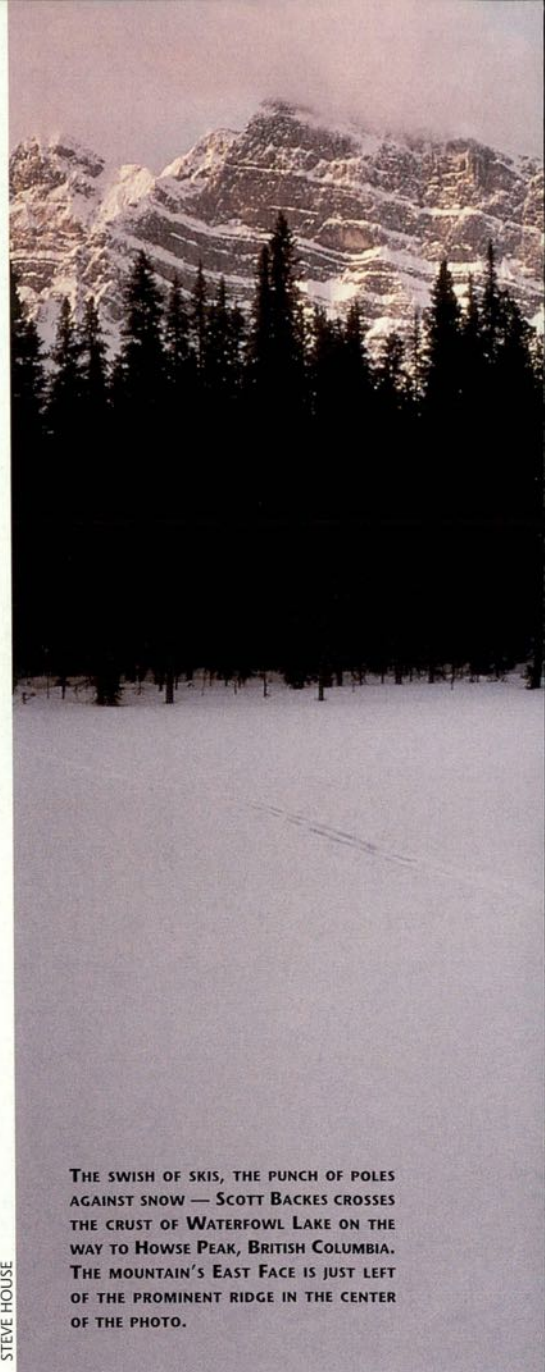
Backes, who brings up the rear. "What d'ya think, eh?" Scott jugs another body length, contemplates the fractured ver-glas and scratched rock edges and looks up. He's grinning.

Barry takes the final pitch of the day, a wave of ice that steepens and turns to snow. He backs off, returns to the rock on his left, then aids up a short section to reach the snow bowl. Bear. Bubba. Blanch. His 40th birthday is in three days and 100 people are expected to help him celebrate in Canmore. He's spent most of those 40 years at the forefront of Canadian climbing and has many friends, many memories. Bubba was my teen idol. I kept a photo of him ice climbing taped to the inside of my locker door.

That night, in a snow cave 2,000 feet above the glacier, I brew tea slowly and precisely, being careful with every second of fuel spent and every ounce of water used. Scott disgorges a six-pound synthetic sleeping bag, crawls in fully dressed and pulls out a pillow. He yawns and waits serenely for his drink. At a youthful 42, he qualifies himself as an over-the-hill alpinist because he hasn't climbed a mountain in four years. "I'm aged and saged," he says, then launches into a deep, charismatic laugh. Scott came out of retirement for Barry, me and

Howse Peak. He said he wanted to pass the alpinist torch to my generation, but he's too relaxed, having too much fun. It occurs to me that the has-been has nothing invested, nothing pending on success or failure. Scott makes a statement just by showing up.

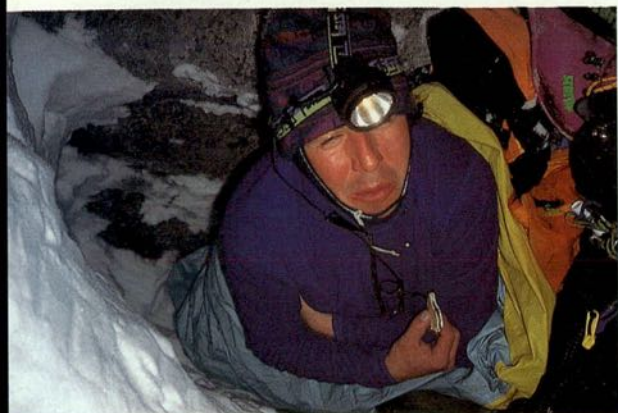
**BARRY "BUBBA" BLANCHARD TRIES TO SWEETEN A PITIABLE BIVY WITH A POP TART.**



THE SWISH OF SKIS, THE PUNCH OF POLES AGAINST SNOW — SCOTT BACKES CROSSES THE CRUST OF WATERFOWL LAKE ON THE WAY TO HOWSE PEAK, BRITISH COLUMBIA. THE MOUNTAIN'S EAST FACE IS JUST LEFT OF THE PROMINENT RIDGE IN THE CENTER OF THE PHOTO.

STEVE HOUSE

# the



STEVE HOUSE





# wanting

A FLEETING TASTE OF SUCCESS ON HOWSE PEAK

by Steve House





STEVE HOUSE

**OVER-THE-HILL ALPINIST STEVE BACKES TAKES PITCH TWO, DAY TWO, OF M-16 (VI A2 WI7+).**

and ego divorce me from the unified, centered person who climbed the crux two days ago.

Scott suggests it. "Why don't we just go up and see how it goes? If we can't deal, we'll go down. Let's not just assume it can't be done." Barry perks up, agreeing, and when they look at me, I stare back in amazement. This wasn't what I'd prepared myself for. I want to go on. I don't have the discipline to make the right decision.

I belay Scott, then Barry. The has-been climbs brilliantly, leading us up a gully to a long traverse over steep, Andean snow flutings. The traverse ends in a couloir that cuts deeply into the summit of Howse Peak. As Barry leads the next pitch, he endures wave after wave of avalanching snow. I hold my breath as I watch. These guys — the old guys! — they want it. Any one of the powder sluffs is reason to retreat, but no one suggests it.

We're closer to the top, but snow continues to drop on our heads. I inch my hood back just enough to

**F**or alpinists, wanting is as much about starting the stove promptly at 4:30 a.m. as it is about climbing hard, and Barry still wants. This morning, I wake to an unhappy Bubba. It snowed last night and the spindrift flowed in through the cave door and drifted over him. His down bag is wet and flat; he is shivering. But the stove is purring and the coffee is hot. While I'm stuffing my bag into my pack, Scott burrows out of the cave. The scene is horrific. We're camped in the center of the snow version of Niagara Falls. Avalanches pour from the steep headwall above us and funnel through the gully below us. Most of the runoff is spindrift, but some of the more clamorous sluffs hide chunks that shake our tiny souls as they fall, unhurried, thousands of feet to the glacier below.

Stalled. We remodel the cave into a comfortable three-bedroom with a central kitchen, deluxe closeable door and integrated rock anchors. With sleeping bags resituated, I'm the only one who can see outside. Every request for good news is denied by a stormy view. Gradually we settle into a long day of conversation. This is my third alpine route with Barry, but I learn more about him on this one afternoon than I have in all our days of climbing together. How typical of men — getting to know each other only after we're forced to.

Last light fades from the cave

door and we count our supplies. Eight ounces of fuel, soup, almonds, four nutrition bars and 18 GU packets. As the night matures, it shows signs of clearing. There's a flash of moon and a patch of stars. We decide to try for an early start and settle in to wait. Sleep comes easily, the agreeable feeling that we'll finish the route in the morning a potent medication.

It is 4:30 a.m. again. Barry has the stove humming before anyone else is up. The moonlight has been shining off and on through my view-hole, and the cave is overflowing with confidence. We are packed before the coffee is brewed. I am the first one out — and the first to have his heart punted downfield. It has started to snow in the recent hours and the avalanches have begun again. We slip back into the cave and make the obvious and smart decision: retreat.

**T**he decision's made, but I'm haunted by the last pitch I led, what we know is the crux of M-16. It was one of my best efforts, my ideal of hard, mixed terrain high in the mountains. I stay quiet as we eat the last of the hot food, afraid I'll encourage the guys to change their minds, to make the wrong decision. *We've failed*, I keep thinking. This is always hard to

digest, and I can't deny how deeply I still want to finish the line — its image floats in my mind, a phantasm of ice challenging my state of mind and sense of strength. *The pitch is wasted, lost*. I try to let go of my disappointment, but in the forceful, irrational way of youth, I want to draw my line on the face so I can stare up at it from below. Vanity

**STEVE HOUSE BALANCES ON A THIN SKIN OF ICE, LAUNCHING INTO THE THIRD PITCH.**



STEVE HOUSE COLLECTION



line rappels down through the gully and out onto the bright openness of the crux wall. The oppression of our little cave and the narrow gully lifts, and the sun warms us slightly. Barry calls the Canadian park wardens on the wet VHF radio. He gets through, but barely.

A rescuer attached to the end of

Blanchard fumbles with a screw, trying to replace the one torn out by the avalanche. His pack is gone — shorn from his back by the force of the snow.

I can tell Barry's hurt; he moves stiffly down the ropes. I cling to the ends, guiding him in. He is white. White from the punch that packed

honest 40 feet from the face, sheltering us from the snowfall. The summit ridge, just a half pitch away, is an impossibility.

Neither defeat nor victory wells up in me, only gathering relief as each rappel brings us closer to the safety of the snow cave. Cornices and snow mushrooms hide in every cloud bank, and I harbor a gut feeling that, like truant teenagers, we're on the verge of getting away with something.

"Off rappel Barrrrryyy!" I yell.

Near the sanctuary of the cave, I catch the muffled clanking of pots as Scott, the first man down, reads some tea. I hear the soft, gathering echo of falling snow. When I turn to look, a huge powder cloud tears down the gully.

"Barrrrrryyy!"

I'm searching above me for a sign, movement. Long seconds pass and I draw several forced breaths. Inside the snow cave, Scott hasn't heard anything.

My lungs pound. "Barrrrrryyy!"

Not yet on rappel, Bubba has swung to the edge of the gully and hangs like a rag doll below a single remaining piton. Movement!

his collar, zippers, gloves, helmet, harness and even his nose with snow. He climbs onto the ledge and I clip him to an anchor and I hug him. I smell the fear — ammonia — and can see it in the recesses of his dark, unfocusing eyes. Scott is beside us now. He and I shuffle Bubba to the cave on his one good leg and dress him in a big synthetic bag.

Scott and I have nothing to eat. Fuel runs out after we make a hot-water bottle and a cup of tea for Barry. I go through the trash, pulling open packages of GU and licking out the insides. Bubba is past the shock now; he and Scott snuggle together in the sleeping bag. We listen to the weather forecast on Barry's two-way VHF. Tomorrow: clear and sunny. I dream of nothing — a luxury.

When we wake, Barry's knee is a swollen, multicolored mockery of his normal knee. He can't bend it, and weighting it hurts. I make fall-

**AN INJURED BLANCHARD IS SHORT-LINE  
HAULED FROM THE EAST FACE OF HOWSE PEAK  
TO SAFETY.**

a short-haul line sails in a little too high. His crampons swing wildly around our heads. Another pass and he smacks into the wall, his points piercing our tie-in knots and harnesses. Barry grabs the rescuer's daisy chain and clips him into the driven pick. A moment later, the two of them soar straight out and away from the face. Scott and I perch on the steep slope, alone in the stillness. Before us looms the reality of descending this huge, dangerous face.



STEVE HOUSE

Everything drops silent when Barry swings his crutches into the room packed with his best friends. Within five minutes, everyone knows the story. Within 25 minutes, there are significant variations. Barry is inundated with bottles of Scotch and pornographic 40th birthday cards. Someone has even brought a traditional cane. Perfect.

Scott and I sit near the buffet, concentrating on food. We barely had time to shower before arriving and had managed to wolf down a deli package of roast beef at the gas station. Now we lovingly savor lasagna, pesto, chicken cacciatore and beer. Thick, heavy, chewy beer. The feeling is one of floating, of being high.

From everywhere, congratulations and backslapping reinforce the high. The room is packed. Scott and I can't move from our seats. Beer and more beer fills my glass, brought on by more backslappers and congratulators. They think my

tired face is the expression of fulfillment; there's a hint of color in it. When I look at Barry, though, I know he understands that the coal darkness reflected in my eyes is the shadow of fear. Scott understands too. It's a deeper shade than physical exhaustion. Darker than pride.

We had wanted to finish the route and post it to the world. I had wanted it enough to climb the hardest pitch of my life. Enough that I couldn't retreat without pity for myself and hollow, meaningless hate for the storm. I hadn't counted on them, the has-been and the 40-year-old, to be swayed by want. Not with their perspective, their years of survival through the wars of alpinism.

Now it's after midnight. I don't know if it's Barry, or me, or the liquor, but Bubba's face is dark and drawn. This could've been a fine party, but it's not. All we're celebrating is the fact that we're all here. There is no pride in that, only shame. Shame and the deepest sense of failure. We are alive and well. We finished the route. None of us are wanting.

Steve "Spring Chicken" House is 29 years old. ▲

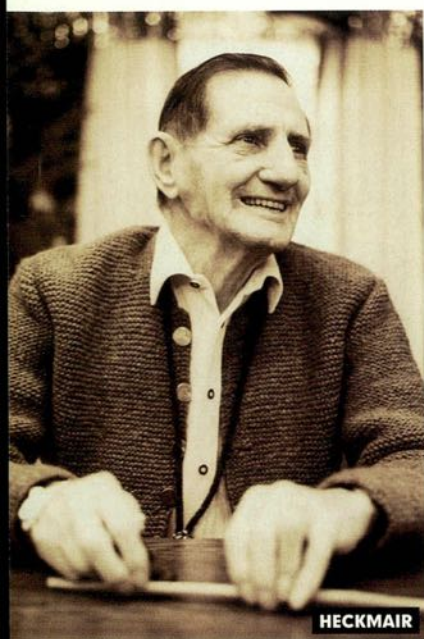


# HEROES

*On the eve of the 21st century, Rock & Ice asked a few favorite writers and photographers for a personal look at their climbing heroes. These are not the greatest climbers of the century.*

*They are simply...*

## WHO MATTERED



CERHARD HEIDORN

### ANDERL HECKMAIR

by John Sherman

With childish rascality, Andarl Heckmair uncorked an earthenware flask and poured me a shot of schnapps. It was 10:30. In the morning. The schnapps smelled vaguely of burnt tires and seared slightly going down my throat. Still, all I could think was, "I'm partying with God."

The god I worshipped was short and thin, with a weather-creased face surrounding a strong nose purple with burst capillaries. At 93 years old, he still sported plenty of hair. He had given up climbing three years earlier due to foot problems.

To me, Heckmair epitomizes a generation of climbers willing to work ridiculously hard and suffer mightily to experience the joys of climbing. When he and three buddies decided to climb

in Morocco's Atlas Mountains, they got on their bicycles in Munich and started pedaling, stopping first, however, "in a beer garden for a last tankard, since we would not be having another for a long time."

Heckmair's toughness was balanced by fits of admitted laziness. He was bothered less by ethical debates than by the way his appetite for food belonging to others sometimes got the better of his conscience. If he could afford it, Heckmair indulged his hedonistic streak. He still rues the jettisoning of a smoked pork shin found indigestible on the Eiger.

Which brings us to Heckmair's crowning climbing achievement: the first ascent of the North Face of the Eiger. Smote by stones, frozen to the wall or crippled by exhaustion, nine climbers had already perished on the 6,000-foot-tall Nordwand before Heckmair and Wiggerl Vörg started up the face. Up there, they joined forces with Heinrich Harrer and Fritz Kasperek. Heckmair assumed the lead, racing up ice faces, climbing through waterfalls, scratching up verglased rocks, and taking several falls on primitive gear. On the upper third of the face, avalanches repeatedly

hammered the party.

Heckmair led relentlessly through the storm, at one point falling onto his belayer Vörg. This skewered Vörg's hand, then flipped Heckmair, who grasped the ropes hanging beneath the stance. Had he not made this quick grab he would have torn the entire team off the mountain. Undaunted, he started back up and led his team to the summit. They then stumbled down the West Flank to Kleine Scheidegg, where a bottle of brandy was immediately thrust into Heckmair's hand. He drained it in one gulp.

### FRED BECKEY

by Jeff Apple Benowitz

As a teenager in Berkeley, California, I saw a dusty bumper sticker that read, "Who are the Grateful Dead and why are they following me?" At the age of 20, I left all that behind and hitchhiked to Alaska. Folks are always asking me, "Why'd you move to Alaska?" They never seem

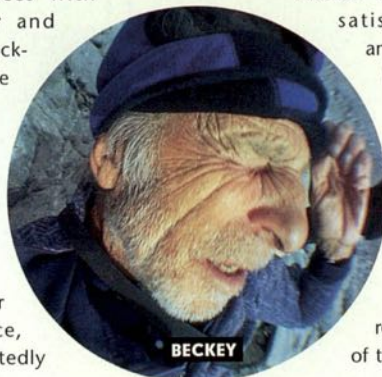
satisfied when I answer, "I moved here to climb."

I didn't just want to climb. I wanted to climb new routes, on untouched peaks, in the remote wilderness of the North. Soon

after arriving in Alaska, I discovered a collection of American Alpine Journals at the University of Alaska library. Whenever the weather is too poor to climb, I read up on areas with new-route potential. This summer, while researching a seemingly untouched valley in the Arrigetch area of the Brooks Range, I kept seeing the same name repeated: Fred Beckey. Reviewing where I had climbed over the last decade and what I read in the AAJ, I found a scary connectiveness: Deborah, Yosemite, Hunter, Edith Cavell, McKinley, the Grand Teton, Kimball, the Kitchatnas, and now the Arrigetch. All the areas I had chosen to explore in the 1990s had been visited a long time ago by Beckey.

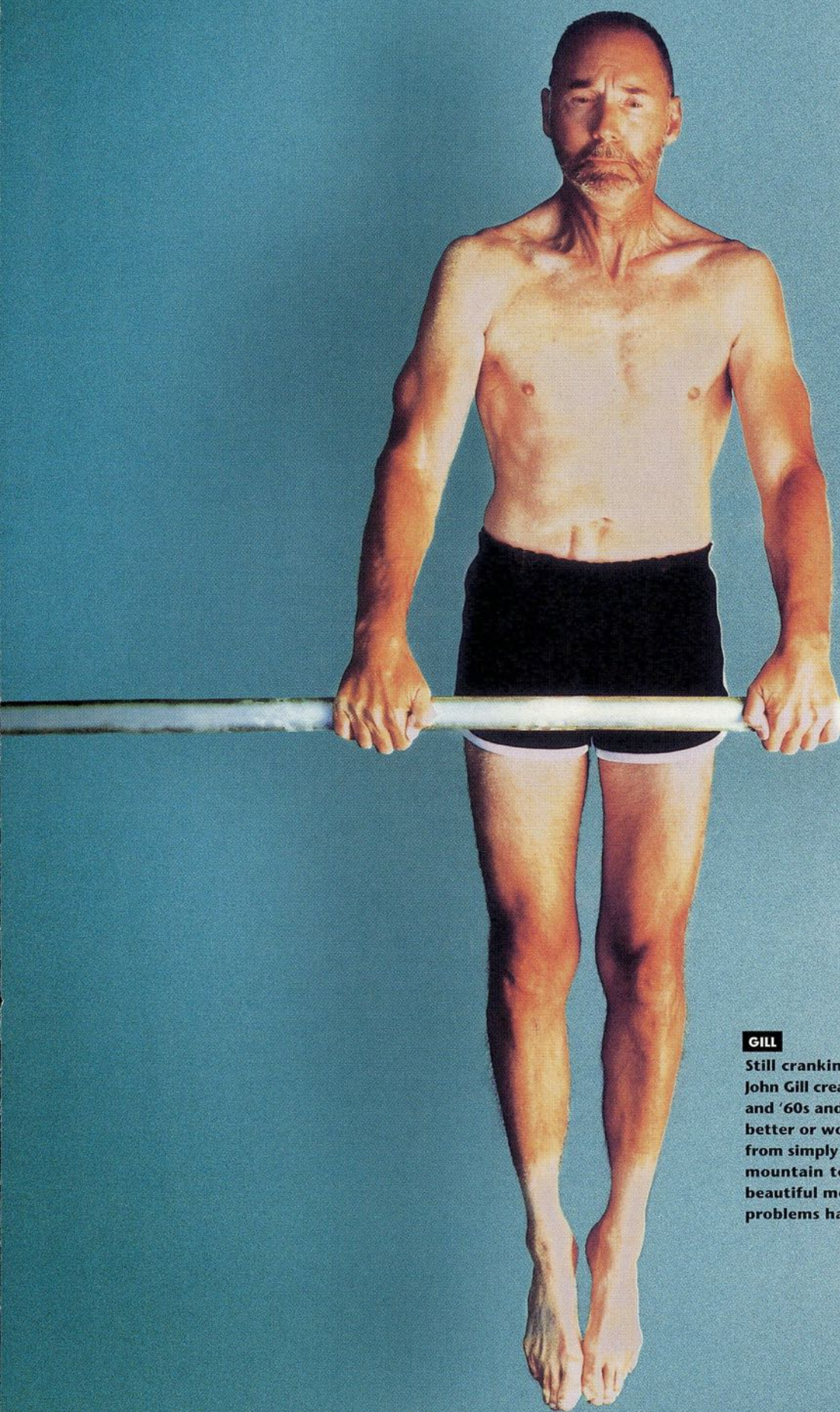
Packing for the Arrigetch, sending off one last-minute postcard to my ex-girlfriend and another to my seldom-seen daughter, I thought of all I had sacrificed for a long list of first ascents. In my yard sits a collection of vehicles that died while transporting me from desert rock to Alaskan ice. Yet, Fred Beckey is in his 70s and still devotes his life to pursuing the ethereal and ephemeral emotion of the first ascent.

From the top of the granite spire that we named Coolage Tower, I looked to the south and saw infinite untouched rock. Then, while slinging a large boulder for the first overhanging rappel, it occurred to me that maybe someone had been to this area of the Arrigetch before. I asked myself, "Who is Fred Beckey and why is he following me?"



LEFT: RICH PROHASKA. RIGHT: JOHN MIRELES.





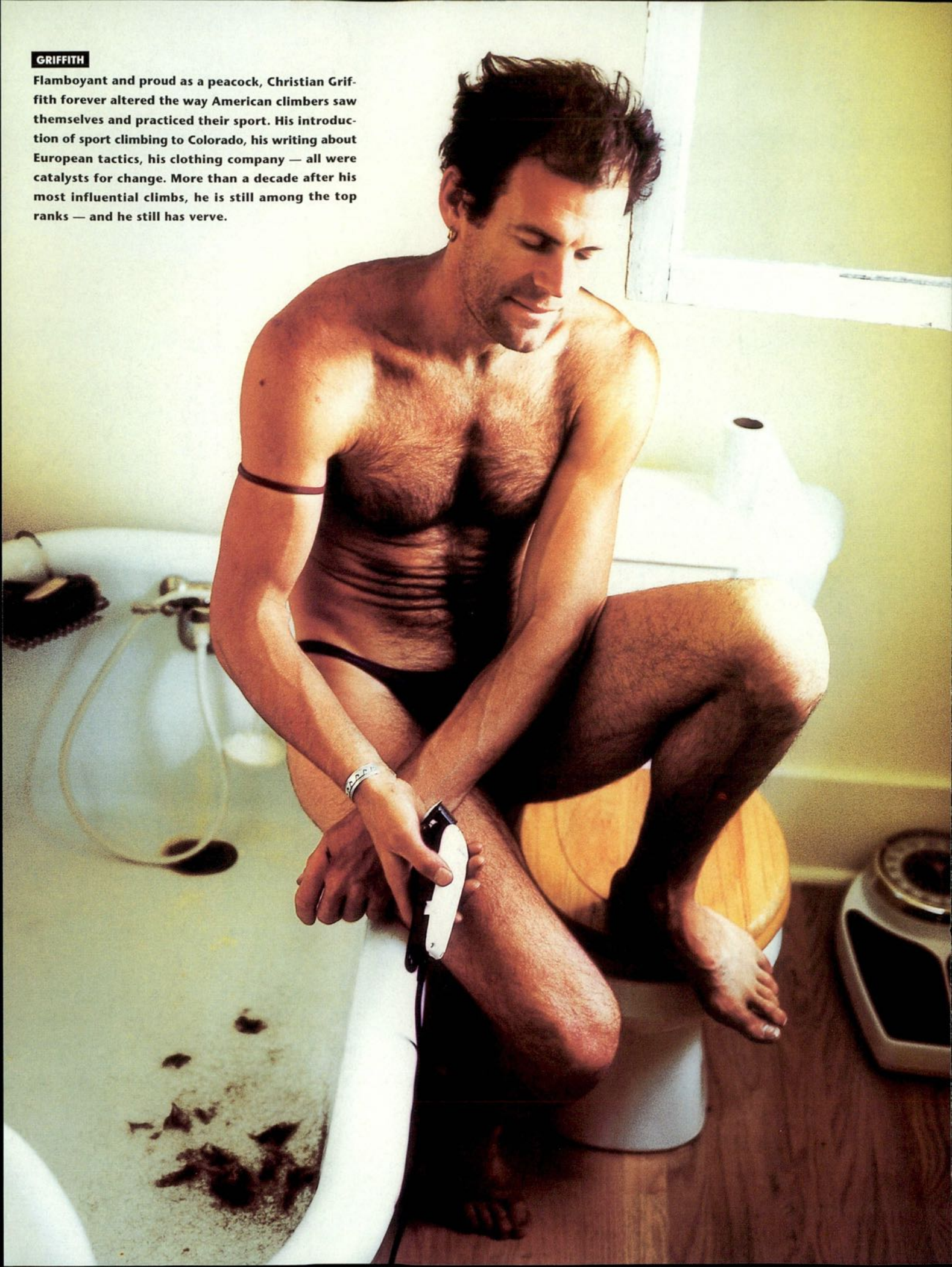
**GILL**

Still cranking front levers after all these years. John Gill created modern bouldering in the 1950s and '60s and popularized chalk for climbing (for better or worse). Gill sped climbing's transition from simply finding a way to the top of a cliff or mountain to the quest for pure difficulty and beautiful movement. Like the man himself, Gill problems have lost little of their edge to time.

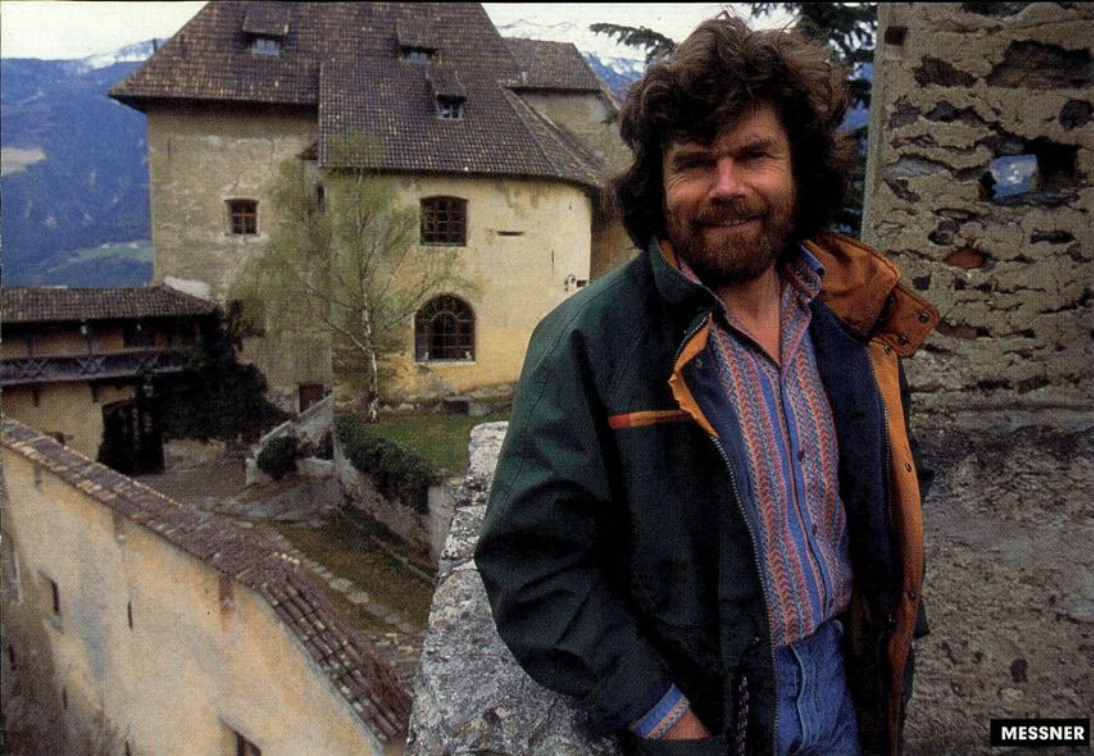


**GRIFFITH**

Flamboyant and proud as a peacock, Christian Griffith forever altered the way American climbers saw themselves and practiced their sport. His introduction of sport climbing to Colorado, his writing about European tactics, his clothing company — all were catalysts for change. More than a decade after his most influential climbs, he is still among the top ranks — and he still has verve.







GERHARD HEIDORN

## REINHOLD MESSNER

by Clyde Soles

As someone who had devoted two-thirds of his life to climbing, I was practically on cloud nine. Even though I'd known Reinhold for years (I'm his US slide-show promoter), this was different. Now I was actually sitting down to dinner with Reinhold Messner and his wife and two children in their 12th-century castle. Perched high on a ridge in the Italian Alps, Schloss Juval is the summer sanctuary of the man many consider to be world's greatest mountaineer.

First to climb Everest without oxygen (with Peter Habeler), first to climb an 8,000-meter peak solo, first to climb Everest solo, first to traverse two 8,000-meter peaks (with Hans Kammerlander), first to climb all fourteen 8,000-meter peaks ... and that's just for starters. Reinhold is a driven man.

The Messners bought Juval 15 years ago and have restored much of the 500-year-old castle, turning it into an amazing museum of Tibetan art and modern oil paintings, open to the public. We ate dinner in the private, main part of the castle, where the Messners live in the summer. Original frescoes decorate the walls of this five-story structure, which commands an incredible view of the valley below.

While Sabine was putting the children to bed, Reinhold brought out four inconspicuous bottles of grappa, a regional liqueur I had not tried before. We tasted the first two grappas, both clear and smooth, while talking about his recent trip to the Karakoram, and about his future plans (another polar

crossing attempt and politics).

By the time we got to the third variety, a delectable red brandy with hints of walnut, our conversation drifted toward his troubled friendships with climbing partners. While sampling the fourth grappa, we discussed recent events on Everest and the commercialization of climbing.

Occasionally re-verifying our opinions on each of the grappas, we talked into the night, getting into deep philosophical discussions on mountaineering. Finally, when I felt sober enough to drive down the narrow, twisty mountain road, I bid Reinhold farewell.

As I sat in the taxi watching my rental car being loaded onto the back of a tow truck, one of the policemen who had stopped me for weaving on the road leaned into the window and asked, "Was it good grappa?" After a moment's reflection on that amazing evening, I replied, "Yes sir, it was very good grappa."

## MIKE FREEMAN

by Marc Russo

The first day I climbed with Mike Freeman, he dragged my partner Dan and I all over the Gunks. At one point, Mike stopped to examine a slab that was blank except for huge patches of green moss. "This is a route called The Scummer." Mike looked at us, then back at the hideous face. "What a pile! I think it's 5.10 X." He continued along the base of the cliff toward our next climb.

Dan looked at me, threw down his pack and dug out the guidebook. It read: The Scummer, 5.10 X. FA: Mike

Freeman and Vadim Marcovallo, July 1987.

Mike was the real deal. He climbed hard, had climbed all over the world in all styles, had done first ascents, and had his photo in the magazines and an NAACP sports calendar. But Mike didn't bother to sit around and bicker about worthy climbing styles, as many climbers did in the early '90s. He climbed because he loved to.

The greatest thing Mike taught me, other than to keep my thumbs in when spotting and how to do this ridiculous drop knee on Blood Raid that made the crux clip easy, was that you should never let your achievements go to your head. He helped all the young punks he climbed with keep their feet firmly planted on the ground, even as they were clipping the chains.

There were a lot of young climbers pulling hard at the New River Gorge the first year that I went there. One of them, who will go by the name of Young Strong John, because I have forgotten his whole name, was doing some really amazing stuff all spring. He also had gained a reputation as one of those climbers who just talks too much. One evening, Mike inquired as to what John had done that day.

Thinking that he needed to impress, John stated, "I did Lactic five times today."

"You did Lactic Acid Bath today? Five times?"

This was an incredible feat. Lactic is not just hard; it's a continuous battle against power-sapping cruxes. John knew this was sure to impress any climber, even one with Mike's experience.

"Yeah."

"You did Lactic, five times?"

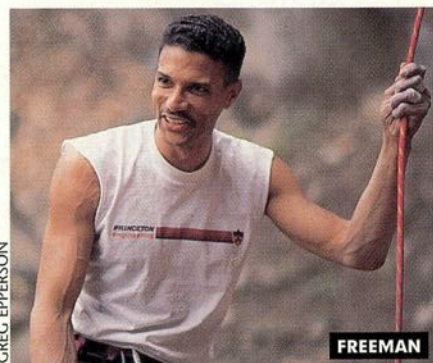
"Yeah," John said, a little hesitantly, as if he knew he had made a mistake but was unsure what it was.

"You did it *without falling*, five times?"

"Well, I had to hang, but I did it five times." John looked as if he were on the verge of tears. It must have seemed as if Mike were attacking him for no reason.

"When you say that you *did* it, that means you did not fall. Don't tell people that you did it if you truly did not." Then Mike eased off, turning his attack into a gentler explanation of the game of climbing as he saw it.

I saw John years later at Hueco Tanks. He was stronger than ever and had systematically ticked many of the park's hardest boulder problems. When he left, hardly anyone knew he had been there.



GREG EPPERSON

## GASTON RÉBUFFAT

by David Roberts

One day in 1959, in a bookstore in Boulder, I held in my hands a small volume called *Starlight and Storm*. At 16, starting to fall under the spell of the Colorado mountains, I had read *Annapurna* and learned of Gaston Rébuffat's key role in that bold and costly ascent. But of the six great north faces in the Alps, described in Rébuffat's new book, I knew nothing. The photos spoke to me of some world of mountain exploit far more daunting than could be found on the talus piles of my beloved Rockies.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, Gaston Rébuffat was one of the half-dozen best mountain climbers in the world. He could count among his peers only such men as Walter



Bonatti, Hermann Buhl, Lionel Terray and Louis Lachenal. At the time, no American or British climber was even in Rébuffat's league.

In 1952, Rébuffat became the first man to climb all six great north walls of the Alps, from the Grandes Jorasses to the Eiger. It is a measure of the man's modesty that nowhere in *Starlight and Storm* does he bother to mention the fact that he was the first.

*Starlight and Storm* is an utterly original book. Ever since mountaineering had been "invented," with the first ascent of Mt. Blanc in 1786, the struggle of men against the heights had been conceived of and narrated in martial terms. A team "laid siege" to a mountain; it "attacked" its objective; reaching the summit was a "conquest."

All this chest-thumping was anathema to Rébuffat. He gained his remarkable proficiency on slab and serac not by battling against the natural world, but by embracing it. The mountain was not an enemy: It was an enchanted realm of peace and harmony, entered into in a spirit of communion, not of war.

In the lyrical hymn to that communion that poured out in the pages of *Starlight and Storm*, Rébuffat single-handedly revolutionized mountain writing. So thoroughly did this new aesthetic win the day, imbuing the next generation of climber-writers, that today's reader can scarcely sense how radical this sort of writing seemed in 1954.

During the last two years, I have conducted research for a book about what really happened on Annapurna in 1950, the first successful ascent of an 8,000-meter peak. On that climb, Rébuffat and Terray gave up their own summit chances to save the lives of Lachenal and Maurice Herzog, after that pair staggered down from the top, exhausted and frostbitten. In my research, I have discovered a new and far more complex Gaston Rébuffat. With the posthumous publishing of his letters to his wife, Françoise, in 1996, the full measure of Rébuffat's disenchantment on Annapurna came to light. Above all, he was disgusted with the fog of French chauvinism that surrounded the expedition.

To read only the Rébuffat of his published works is to imagine a gentle poet of the mountains, a philosopher of harmony and rapture. The other Rébuffat was an unblinking critic of all that was hypocritical, nationalistic and egomaniacal in mountaineering. In light of this, Gaston Rébuffat becomes a very different man

from the lyric climber who enthralled me at 16. Yet he emerges, I think, as a hero of even greater stature than the first man to climb the six great north faces — a hero for the 21st century, not the mid-20th.

*Condensed from Roberts' preface to a new edition of STARLIGHT AND STORM, published by the Modern Library in 1999.*

## RON KAUK

by Jim Thornburg

In 1982, I may well have been the world's worst climber. I recall my maiden voyage to Tuolumne Meadows. I was sitting at the base of a 12-foot, 5.6 slab at the famed Gunks Boulders. I remember feeling parched and queasy from the high-altitude sun. My neck was sunburned and covered with itchy-hot mosquito bites. I had a pounding headache, and I couldn't climb the easiest piece of rock in all of Yosemite.

As I packed my pillowcase to go (I didn't have a backpack), I noticed a man sitting on top of a nearby boulder. He seemed to be meditating, or perhaps just taking in the splendor of the view. He was shirtless and tanned nearly black. He had a red bandanna tied around a mane of long brown hair. He seemed to belong to the environment in the same way that the trees did. The mosquitoes, feeding hungrily on me despite the bottle of DEET I'd poured on myself, seemed

to have no interest in this Tarzan dude.

The man slipped on a pair of EBs and slithered down from his boulder. He said hello and pointed out that it was a beautiful day, and then he floated every boulder problem in sight. His climbing style seemed so effortless that I felt inspired to put my shoes back on for another crack at the slab — and made it. The Tarzan guy seemed genuinely psyched for me and said, "Good job, man!"

I learned later that I had climbed with Ron Kauk, arguably the best rock climber in the world at the time. A few years later, Ron came to my home crag, Mickey's Beach. I was all set for

him to hate it. (Other visiting climbers had seemed put off by the crag's proximity to the ocean and its lack of positive holds.) The first thing Kauk said was, "What an incredible place," and then he flashed all the routes in time to watch the sun set behind the spray kicked up by the booming waves. It was obvious to me that Ron's amazing ability to climb rocks and his love of nature were essentially the same thing.

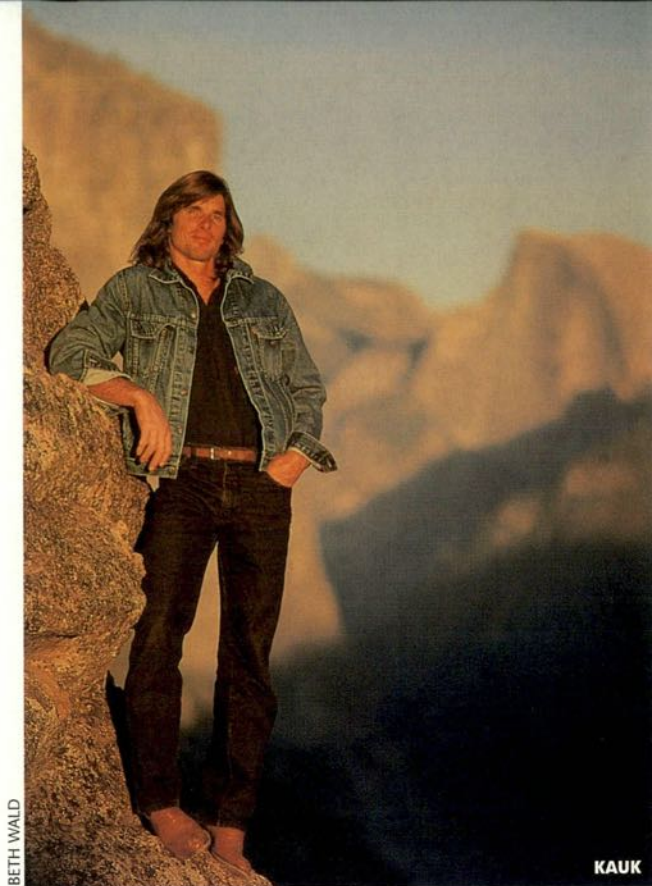
## LAYTON KOR

by Craig Luebben

During the 1960s, Colorado experienced a flurry of climbing energy not seen before or since. Wearing hard-soled boots and a swami belt, with a dreadfully heavy rack of pitons, stiff goldline rope and no sponsors, Layton Kor put up an unbelievable number of classic routes: The Naked Edge, Yellow Spur, Psycho, Yellow Wall, The Diagonal Wall, South Face of Chasm View, Castleton Tower, Standing Rock, Spider Rock, The Titan, Mt. Proboscis... the list goes on and on.

Kor burned through partners like a wildfire — none could match his drive, energy and skill. In 1963, Kor and Royal Robbins, the two greatest American rock climbers of the day, put up Jack of Diamonds on Longs Peak in one long day. Robbins said, "I was at the height of my climbing powers and quite fit. I kept pace with Kor, but only by extending myself to the utmost, and I was keeping pace with him rather than the other way around."

In the late '60s, Kor became a devout Jehovah's Witness. He still climbed occasionally, but never regained his phenomenal drive for rock climbing. It's a good thing, too. Otherwise, there would have been no routes left for the rest of us.



BETH WALD

KAUK



GALEN ROWELL/MOUNTAIN LIGHT

KOR

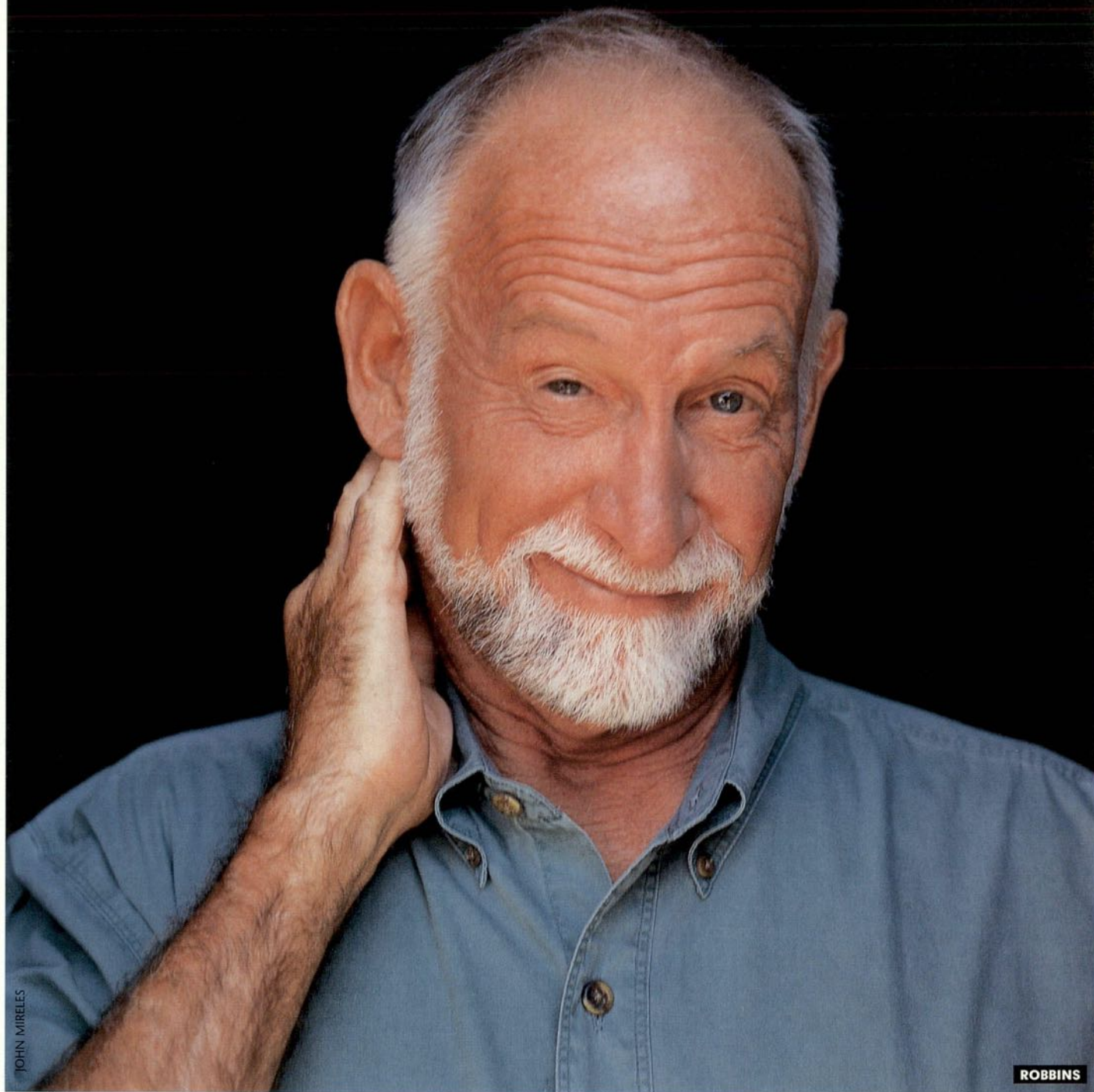




**LONG**

More than any climbing writer before or since, John Long was a creator of myths. His tall tales cast Bridwell, Sorenson and many others into the pantheon of climbing gods. And Largo was not just a chronicler of others' deeds — he himself emerged from these stories larger than life. The Greek poets would be proud.





JOHN MIRELES

## ROYAL ROBBINS

by Pat Ament

Royal Robbins, king of iron logic, was in control during his days on Yosemite's granite walls. His ideas about rock climbing during the 1960s — the master concepts of the day — were severe and pure. Now he has replaced that spearhead spirit, at least its dark side, with a more friendly and relaxed one — a quality almost childlike. There is hardly a vestige of the competitive specter who pioneered the great routes of Half Dome and El Capitan.

In retrospect, I see Royal as having always had a child's zest and sense

of merriment — the hopscotch of those steep, no-hand boulder routes at Stoney Point, the magic-lantern adventures of Sentinel Rock, the jacks of sorting gear, and that follow-the-leader chicanery of the friction slab of the Salathé Wall. With its models and puppet shows, El Capitan was, for Royal, a huge playhouse.

The man of that play is a blend (and I think always was) of an elegant seriousness mixed with skip-rope revel. Call it jocular grimness, what with his punning and gallows humor, his dark comedy and grins. In bouldering, he applied all the trickery in his soul to gain

advantage. After he walked down Half Dome's steep descent route, he wrote in his *Summit* magazine column, "Even one man went down without touching his hands." Humorous and falsely modest. Royal's mercurial, bellicose stare had in it also a certain popgun, roller-skates feel. The master spirit up there on lead, the great climber of our generation, was — behind the dark glasses — Robbins on a tricycle.

Some of the mystery and exhilaration of those prime (primal) years as a rock climber still hover about Royal, while new challenges present themselves. A cancer scare with his wife, Liz,

early in 1999, was more agonizing than the worst predicament of any climb. The prognosis, fortunately, has proven to be good. He continues to play, lecture, climb and kayak. He made his usual summer trip of several days down Idaho's Salmon River, the Middle Fork. I had imagined these kayak adventures to be something along the lines of the movie *Deliverance*. Royal dispelled such notions by describing how other members of the trek boat ahead, so that at the end of each day he arrives at a beach where there are tables with wine, salmon and steaks. People cater to him like a king.



## KEVIN BEIN

by Gregory Crouch

Of all the people I've ever met, Kevin Bein, the Mayor of the Gunks, is the one I have most wanted to be like. When I was really young and just learning to climb, Kevin was like a special ambassador from the Land of Stone, exuding freedom, discipline and fun, and from him I learned that these were pillars around which I could build my own life.

For more than a year before we became friends, Kevin and I had shared the occasional greeting on the Carriage Road below the Trapps as he whizzed past on his mountain bike. To me, he was an awesomely good climber whom I would never dare approach. It took a chance meeting 1,500 miles from the Gunks, in the Sylvan Lake parking lot of the Black Hills, to get us on a rope together. I had already failed on all the Gill problems on the Campground Boulder and was desperate to find a partner to help me unravel the Needles maze. And then Kevin, all hairy and smiles and spraying sweat, ran into the parking lot to end his workout. Miracles happen.

In the grand scheme of 20th century climbing achievements, Kevin doesn't figure. His friends have done that. But whether you were pulling down a ruthless Gunks 5.11, or had just sent your first 5.6, Kevin was genuinely psyched to see you make it happen. He lived his dream, and he wanted you to live yours.

I remember a night in Bacchus, the New Paltz restaurant and bar where Kevin and his longtime lover, Barb

Devine, worked. May 25, 1988. That afternoon I had graduated from the Military Academy, and that night I reveled. Very late, dancing on the tables, I looked up and saw Kevin and Barb, just off work and swaddled in patched, puffy down jackets. They stood in front of the door and watched us go wild. Kevin's smile shone across 50 feet of restaurant. I felt so lucky, so proud, to number myself among Kevin's myriad friends. I was sure we'd climb together for a lifetime.

The next day I embarked on a cross-country climbing trip, and I never saw Kevin Bein alive again. A rappel anchor on the Matterhorn collapsed that summer and swallowed him into the great beautiful void.

Kevin had showed me the *possibility* of my life, the most important gift, but I never could figure out what I added to Kevin's life. I can't imagine that I was much besides an enthusiastic pain in the ass. All that makes even the slightest sense is that perhaps the fledgling Greg helped Kevin, the 20-year veteran, again see climbing with the eyes of a child.

## FRANÇOIS LEGRAND

by Dougald MacDonald

François Legrand, the greatest competition climber in history, is by his own admission among the weaker climbers of the World Cup circuit. When it comes to mental strength, however, he is a giant.

In Europe, Legrand is legendary for his ability to read complex sequences from the ground — often seeing moves no one else imagines — and then exe-

cuting those sequences with cool efficiency to conserve his strength. At least twice, he has confounded World Cup route setters by finding no-hands rests that were never intended, recovering completely and then climbing on to victory. Surely, of all climbers, he best exemplifies the old truism that climbing is like playing chess with your body.

Here's a story that illustrates Legrand's mind at work. Legrand was visiting François Lombard for a few days to check out a new home gym. The night before they climbed, Lombard pointed out the moves of a long boulder problem: The problem went there, and then there, then crossed through to there, then a big deadpoint to a little crimp, and on and on — more than 50 moves in all. Then they went upstairs to eat dinner and drink wine. The next day, after warming up, Legrand said, "Where does that problem you showed me start?" He put his hands on the first holds, began climbing, and did the entire problem from memory.

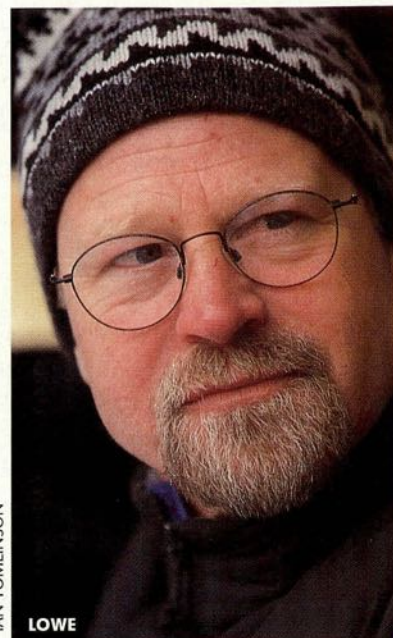
Legrand is gifted, yes, but he works at it too. I watched him once after the semifinals at a world championship. While the other finalists chatted and wandered off to eat, Legrand sat alone in the grandstands, drawing the comp wall's angles and protrusions neatly into a notebook, providing grist for his limitless climbing imagination.

As work and age catch up with my climbing, I find it tremendously satisfying that skill and experience still count for so much in our sport. Inwardly, I rejoice when I burn off younger, stronger climbers with a dose of craft and cunning. I imagine that Big Frank feels the same when he swings into a sneaky rest in a World Cup final and coolly works the pump from his arms while the muscle-bound hotshots below seethe with frustration.

## JEFF LOWE

by Will Gadd

If you've gone climbing in the last 30 years, then in some way you've met Jeff Lowe. Perhaps you wore a yellow Latok sweater in the 80s, or placed a Tri-Cam, climbed Bridalveil Falls, played at the Ouray Ice Festival, swung a Big Bird, competed at Snowbird, watched ice climbing in the X Games, shouldered a Lowe pack or learned to climb from one of his books. Jeff has his critics, but I don't think it's possible to do as much in



IAN TOMLINSON

LOWE

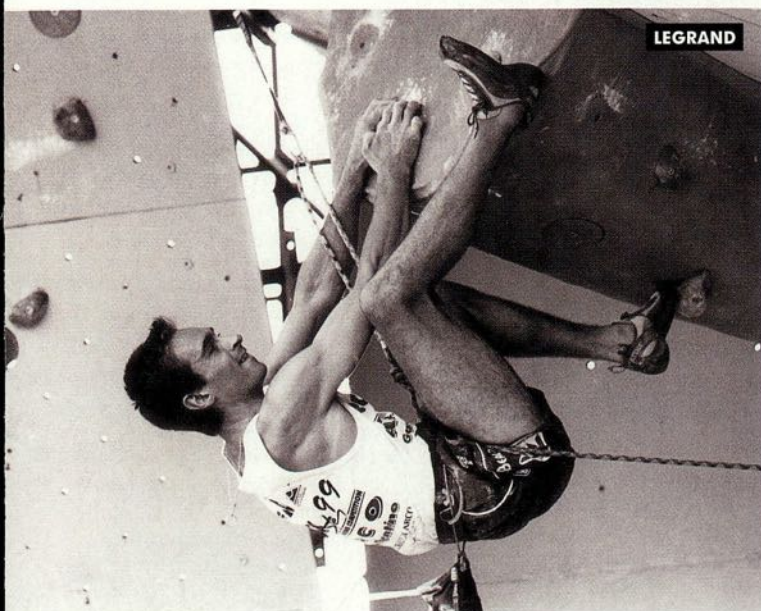
the climbing world as he has done without irritating a few people.

For his part, I've never heard Lowe utter one word of slander about another climber. Rather than look back and whine, Jeff finds so much fantastic opportunity in the future that he can barely restrain himself when talking about it.

I feel lucky to have experienced some of Jeff's enthusiasm on a new route we did together in Glenwood Canyon, Colorado. Climbing with legends can be a dicey business; they often feel pressured to climb in a legendary way. Jeff and I just went climbing. At the conclusion of our first attempt, he gasped at the end of a 30-foot dagger of ice, then went for a 25-footer into the night. Rather than being bummed, he kept enthusing about the quality of the route as we rappelled three pitches in the dark.

The next day, I had a go at the same pitch, which left me twitching like a beached fish when I finally finished it, after almost four hours of battle. The whole time I never heard anything but motivating words, suggestions for gear and calm advice when my head threatened to pop off my shoulders from the stress. I was sending the prime pitch on a route Jeff had scoped for literally 20 years, and he couldn't have been happier.

I suspect Jeff will continue to climb and create new forms of climbing until his body refuses to get out of the Lazy Boy. And then he'll want to drink a glass of wine and talk about fantastic possibilities!



LEGRAND

MARION BLANCHARD





BACHAR

SAM ROBERTS

## JOHN BACHAR

by Daniel Duane

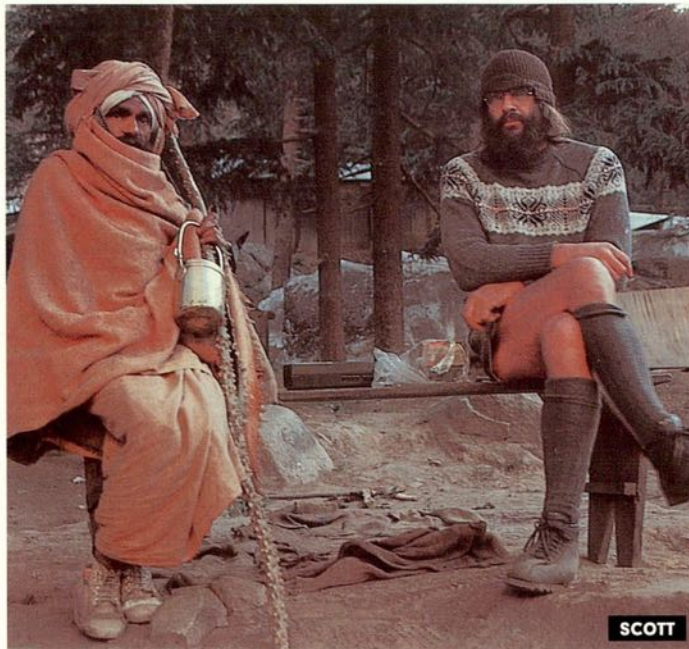
I've never met John Bachar, and I don't know anybody who knows him, so I'm not talking about character — I'm talking about the figure Bachar cut in our little world. On my very first climbing trip, that eureka moment so many of us have, I was standing in line at the Tuolumne Meadows Grill, which seemed exquisitely Western and wild in its canvas-walled impermanence. Earlier that morning, amid the blue sky and white stone of Stately Pleasure Dome, I'd decided unequivocally that I would be a climber for life. And now, right in front of me, buying a burger or coffee, was the man in the powder-blue, track-suit jacket with the name "Bachar" stitched across the shoulders.

My father pointed him out to me, whispered his name, how he climbed without ropes, how he'd recently pinned a note to the store bulletin board offering \$10,000 to anyone who could follow him for a day and do what he did. Just like that, Bachar became the phantom at the fringe for me, the minor deity living largely to remind mortals of their limits.

As others put up endless, endless bolts on Meadows routes that now seem more like acts of vanity than any real public service (so rarely getting done, after all), Bachar's own climbs stood out as a different kind of vanity, a different test to would-be followers. Like performance art, his one-bolt routes argued an antithesis to the sport-climbing conservatism of the moment; they demanded that we be honest with ourselves.

In later pictures, Bachar looks dark,

miserable, angry — one hears of his rages over climbing ethics, his competitive snits — and he seems to have lost his way aesthetically, his blond hair back in the uptight, anally retentive ponytail of the 1980s, the lycra, whatever. But rage comes with greatness, and aesthetics were never Bachar's game. Bachar wasn't a Christian Griffith or a Stefan Glowacz, dazzling as much by his vanity or physical beauty as by his climbing prowess. He was just the guy who did what you could never, ever do — who did what none of the climbers who called themselves "the best" could ever, ever do — and he was the guy who did it more or less quietly.



SCOTT

GREG CHIL

## DOUG SCOTT

by Greg Child

It is, perhaps, ironic that a few days before I depart on my 14th Himalayan trip, to India with Doug Scott, I find myself writing about him. Doug got me into the Himalayan "thing," in 1981, when he invited me on my first expedition, to Shivling, also in India.

I had met him a few months earlier, outside a pub in Nottingham, England. Craggy and broad-shouldered, he wore a mane of shoulder-length hair, a beard, John Lennon-style glasses and blue jeans that he'd worn to an audience with the Queen, after he and Dougal Haston climbed Everest's Southwest Face. We chatted outside

the pub about El Capitan and other big walls, and he invited me to hop in his car right there for a road trip to the Scottish ice.

He was limping then from surgery on two ankles he'd broken while descending The Ogre, in Pakistan. I'd read about his crawl down from the summit of that 7,000-meter peak, a feat the press portrayed as a heroic battle for survival. Doug didn't buy the hero bit; he said he just did what it took to live. His climbing companions who helped him through those harrowing days were the heroes, he said.

Doug's invitation to Shivling came shortly after our Scottish trip. I knew bugger-all about climbing mountains, but he assured me I'd learn fast. Doug had a propensity for diffusing nerve-wracking moments with inscrutable wisdom. One windy day on that peak's endless east pillar — the 11th day, I

## JIM KARN

by Beth Rodden

I remember how nervous I was the first time I visited Smith Rock to stay with the Jim Karn. I had heard stories about him and his climbing accomplishments: first American male to win a World Cup, third overall on the World Cup circuit (the highest overall ranking for an American male to this day), 8c redpoints in France. I had this picture in my mind: serious, strict training, large ego — pretty much how I saw climbing up until that point. So I was pleasantly surprised that Jim was very much the opposite. He was modest, cracked jokes, had fun with climbing and partook in my favorite pastime of eating ice cream.

Jim's concentration and tenacity are amazing when he climbs. Once, while crimping on a crux hold, he wore a hole in his finger so large that most people, including yours truly, would have taken at least a week off. But Jim just waltzed over to his pack and taped up his finger. Ten minutes later, he was back on that crimp and sent the route.

Jim's aggressiveness inspired me when I was working To Bolt Or Not To Be, and he was right there belaying me when I did it. More than just a shaper of holds, Jim is a shaper of our sport.

## GEORGE LOWE

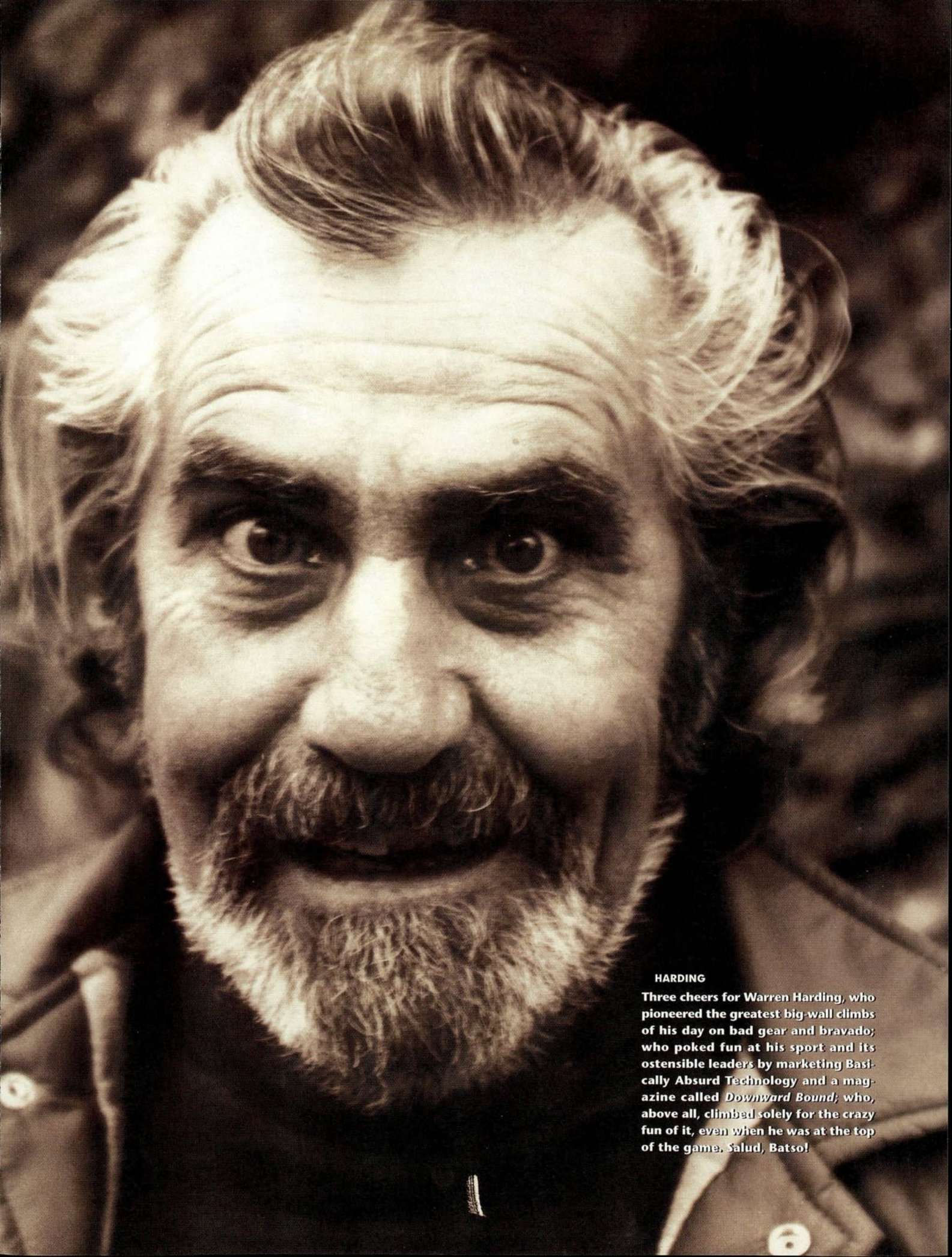
by Barry Blanchard

"George does draw a line — it's just a lot farther out there than the rest of us." That was the late Alex Lowe summarizing the discussions we'd had several times about George Lowe. (George was not a blood relative to Alex, but was definitely a kindred spirit.) Specifically, I have tried to understand George's level of commitment, to be less demeaned by his willingness to push past where I (who consider myself a "hard" man) call for retreat. I've speculated on what pieces of information, or intuition, George draws upon to continue climbing into the teeth of a storm high on a technical alpine wall, as he did on the North Face of Mt. Giekie or the North Face of North Twin, a route unrepeated after 25 years. He seems too far out there, even insane. Or am I just unwilling to suffer that much? Or, and this is probably closer to the truth, is there something that I just don't get?

Because, at a certain point, George will go down. That point is just farther out there.

CRAIG LUEBBEN





**HARDING**

Three cheers for Warren Harding, who pioneered the greatest big-wall climbs of his day on bad gear and bravado; who poked fun at his sport and its ostensible leaders by marketing Basically Absurd Technology and a magazine called *Downward Bound*; who, above all, climbed solely for the crazy fun of it, even when he was at the top of the game. Salud, Batso!



## DON WHILLANS

by Stevie Hasten

A short history of post Second World War British climbing might read thus: Two young working plumbers, Joe Brown and Don Whillans, exceeded the standards of the day on rock in technical terms and boldness, and then did the same in the Alps and the Himalayas, end of story. Everything since then has just been filling in the gaps. Joe is alive but Don has taken up his rightful place in the firmament, so it is he that we treat like a god.

He was called the Don — as in Mafia boss — out of respect not just for his climbing accomplishments but for his physical and mental presence. Short but stout, he could easily dominate any gathering. As an impressionable youth, I would travel just to hear him talk, whether it was about climbing Annapurna's giant south wall or battling huge spiders on Roraima. His jokes, delivered in a slow, deadpan Manchester accent, had the full force of his famous right hook and would likewise leave you spluttering on the floor.

Whillans' gritstone testpieces will give you a taste for his talent and courage — they are collector's items today. Forked Lightning Crack, an awful overhanging nightmare, is a must, as is Sentinel Crack, where the rope was worn purely for the convenience of the second, as there was no protection. They are still rated 5.11.

Everybody has his own Whillans story. This is mine. Once, in a pub, the Don and I were drinking when in came some very large Hells Angels. One of them was slightly smaller than a moose and stood with his back to Don. The wee man handed me his glass and gently picked up the giant and moved him to the side. As the 300-pound monster turned around, I was already sprinting to the bar to refill our glasses. My fear turned to pity as I watched the bigger man's Cyclops mental machinery coming to terms with a smiling hobbit with the lifting power of a crane.

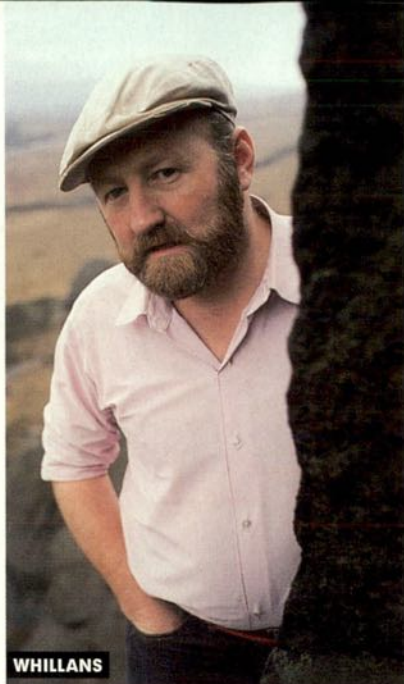
## HARVEY T. CARTER

by Cameron M. Burns

"Hey guys, what about that tower?"

Pointing finger. Examination. Closer inspection.

"Damn, rap slings. What's it say in Desert Rock?"



WHILLANS



CARTER

Flip, flip, flip. "First ascent: Harvey T. Carter."

"Crap. Well, what about that?"

Pointing finger. Examination. Closer inspection.

"Damn, rap slings."

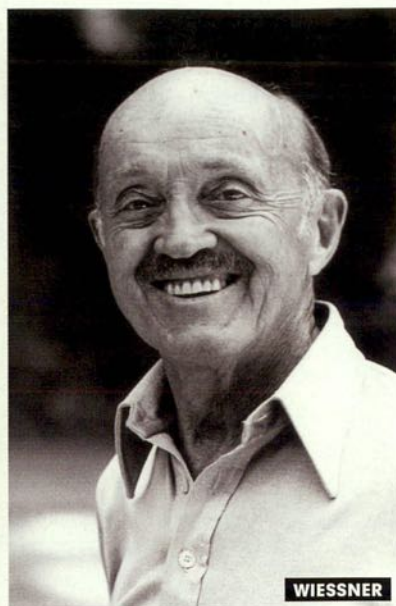
Flip, flip, flip: "Harvey T. Carter."

"How 'bout that?"

Flip, flip, flip: Harvey T. Carter.

Harvey Carter began climbing around 1950, in the Garden of the Gods (where he pioneered the drilled angle as protection in sandstone), and in the decades that followed he put up hundreds of routes across the West, from Rocky Mountain National Park to the desert Southwest to the Wind River Range. His new-route tally may be well in the thousands.

Unfortunately, many of this pioneer's climbs have been lost to the vagaries of history. Even in areas where Harvey's routes were documented, many climbs have been claimed by later generations. Harvey once loaned me a notebook describing all the routes he had climbed on Independence Pass, near Aspen, Colorado. The thick pile of notes and detailed, hand-drawn sketches includes dozens of routes



WIESSNER

that have been "put up" with bolts in the past few years. Classy Cliff alone has seven Carter first ascents on it, most of which the guide lists as 1990s routes.

Harvey's often remembered in a tier somewhere below Colorado's "top" climbers of the '50s, '60s, '70s and beyond. But the scorekeepers have it all wrong. Where it really matters — in seeking out new ground — that's where his star shone brightest.

## FRITZ WIESSNER

by Ed Webster

He was the man who pioneered the first rock climbs at the Shawangunks in New York and landmark rock routes in New Hampshire's White Mountains; who first ascended two of North America's "last great problems," Devils Tower and Mt. Waddington; the man who, in deference to his Sherpa partner's request, turned back only 800 feet shy of the summit of K2 in 1939. Fritz Wiessner was the man who had climbed just about everything and traveled just about everywhere, who'd achieved the stan-

dards in his climbing and in his home life that I aspired to.

I was petrified to meet him, but in 1983 I did, at his home in Stowe, Vermont. I presented Fritz with a copy of my guidebook to the White Mountains. Carefully appraising the book, he soon located entries for several of his 1930s-era first ascents.

"Ya, vell, it looks like a very nice book," he said in his strong, German-accented voice, "But you spelled my last name wrong."

After I shoved myself back upright into a standing position, groveling and apologizing profusely, Fritz waved off my error and invited me to stay for lunch. Thus began my friendship with Fritz Hermann Ernst Wiessner, who was born in 1900 in Dresden,

Germany, emigrated to the US in 1928 and became an American citizen 11 years later. Wiessner was, Reinhold Messner later told me, "the most important mountaineer of the 20th century."

At the height of his climbing powers in the 30s, the German-American wunder-climber was eyed by some "old boy" American climbers with a large degree of suspicion. World War II was on the near horizon, but Fritz proved his patriotism by advising the 10th Mountain Division ski troops and supplying them with his high-performance Wonder Wax. He climbed right up until the age of 86, inspiring generations of younger climbers with his year-in, year-out dedication to the sport. I was privileged to hold his rope.

## WALTER BONATTI

by Joe Simpson

Walter Bonatti and Hermann Buhl — heroes to me in every sense. Buhl, however, is dead, suddenly whipped away from us through the malevolent treachery of a corniced ridge high on Chogolisa. So Bonatti it is — because



**on the cover** First woman to climb 5.14, first free ascents everywhere, champion of the world — yet all of **Lynn Hill's** accomplishments pale before her one-day free ascent of The Nose, an astonishing feat of skill and endurance. Despite attempts by many climbers, only one person has repeated every pitch on the route — and it took him three years of effort. On September 20, 1994, Lynn Hill was the greatest rock climber in the world.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JOHN CLEARE; RUEDI HOMBERGER; CAMERON BURNS.



he is alive. Like Messner, he has come through. That is an achievement in itself.

I came into alpinism buoyed by a wave of enthusiasm for the great European climbers. Comici and Gervasutti, Welzenbach and Merkl, Cassin, Rébuffat, Terray and Lachenal. I had read all their books, searched for their routes in the guidebooks, and followed tentatively in their steps, marveling at their courage and vitality, their audacious style and commitment.

It was Walter Bonatti, though, who stood out head and shoulders above them all. He climbed, it seemed to me, with a lyrical, almost poetic dash, an élan typical of his countrymen and in fitting with the astonishingly bold ascents that he pioneered. In *On the Heights* and *The Great Days*, he recalls his ascents with a passion that comes

burning through the words.

A few years ago, at the Banff Mountain Film Festival, I was walking down the tiered steps of the theater when I saw him sitting there, quiet, white-haired, with his beautiful wife by his side. I stood staring, mute. Doug Scott was beside me and noticed my look and gently said, "Yes, Joe. It is him." Doug introduced Bonatti to a stammering, awestruck, tongue-tied school boy, and he spoke softly to me in Italian.

After the slide show, I followed him surreptitiously to the bar, then crept up nervously to his wife and proffered a menu, asking if perhaps he might sign the back of it for me. She laughed and ushered me forward, and this time translated what he said. He had read the Italian edition of my book, *La Morte Sospesa*, and went on about its passion and power. I just nodded

speechlessly. To know that my greatest climbing hero approved of something of mine was almost more than I could bear. I have that autographed menu glued into the jacket of *The Great Days*.

## JOHN DUNNE

by Julie Garrison

It wasn't the gruesome falling scene that opens *Hard Grit* that caught my attention. It was the scenes of John Dunne. Dumpy but light-footed on the rock, Dunne's videotaped image acted like a pressure-release valve. Here was a moon-faced and shaven-headed rube climbing to the tune of poorly protected 5.13. I could almost hear a hiss as the strain of having to be skinny in order to be a confident and talented climber was expelled.

When Dunne astonished the British climbing scene in the early '80s with desperately hard redpoints at Ilkley and Millstone, he met with resistance. Who was this thickset teenage dropout whose alleged ability was surpassed only by his arrogance? By the time Parthian Shot (E10 7a, or 5.13d R/X) fell to Dunne, he had a reputation — deserved or not — for overgrading and lying about first ascents.

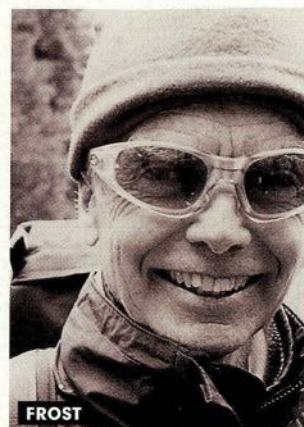
But in *Hard Grit*, as I watched jumbo John float up steep, technical gritstone on the tiniest of edges, I saw for the first time a truly inspiring climber: One whose power was concealed by his body — something I've always felt about myself — and whose self-esteem was independent of others — something I've always wanted for myself.

## TOM FROST

by John Middendorf

The lives of great humans are often segmented by transitions, in which they optimize myriad opportunities. Tom Frost is one person. He has stepped into new worlds and made significant achievements throughout his life.

Tom's first big transition came in 1965, when he left a mainstream engineering job to join Yvon Chouinard's tiny equipment company. After an illustrious climbing career that included the second ascent of the Nose and the first ascent of the North America Wall on El Capitan, Tom began innovating new tools and production methods that changed the nature of climbing. In 1970, after the successful climb of the south face of Annapurna, Tom climbed with his British partners on their home crags, and



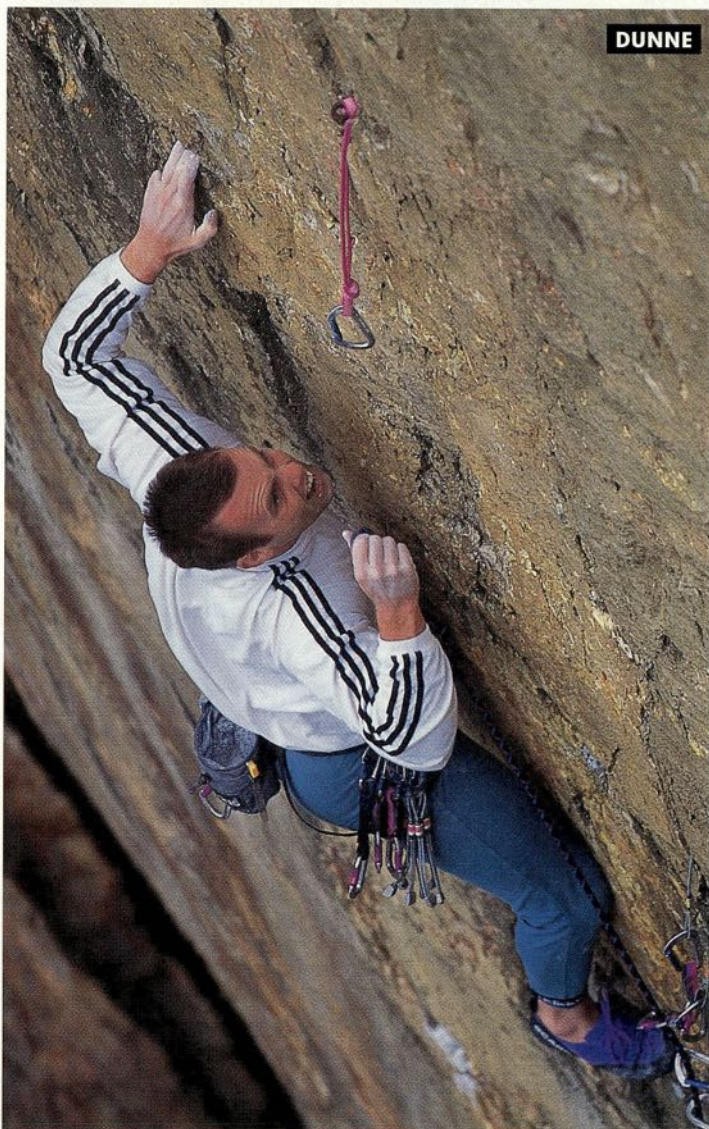
TOM FROST COLLECTION

experimented with Moac and Clog chocks, then only made in limited sizes. Upon his return to California, he designed and engineered full sets of chocks, coined Stoppers and Hex-entrics, the first clean-climbing tools available for a full range of crack sizes.

In 1975, Tom parted ways with Chouinard, who had begun focusing on the clothing business, and eventually he moved to Boulder. In 1980, he incorporated the company Chimera with a partner, and engineered light boxes for photography and the film industry that set new standards for versatility and portability.

During these years, Tom focused on raising a family, though he climbed occasionally with his son, Ryan, who initially had little enthusiasm for the vertical. By the time he was 18, Ryan began to enjoy climbing, and in 1997 the two Frosts set out for Yosemite and embarked on the Nose of El Cap, 36 years after Tom originally climbed it. Their ascent was marked by leaking water bottles, a severe storm near the top and general big-wall suffering, causing them to swear off wall climbing forever. A few weeks later, though, they were back in Yosemite, and they climbed El Cap three more times that season.

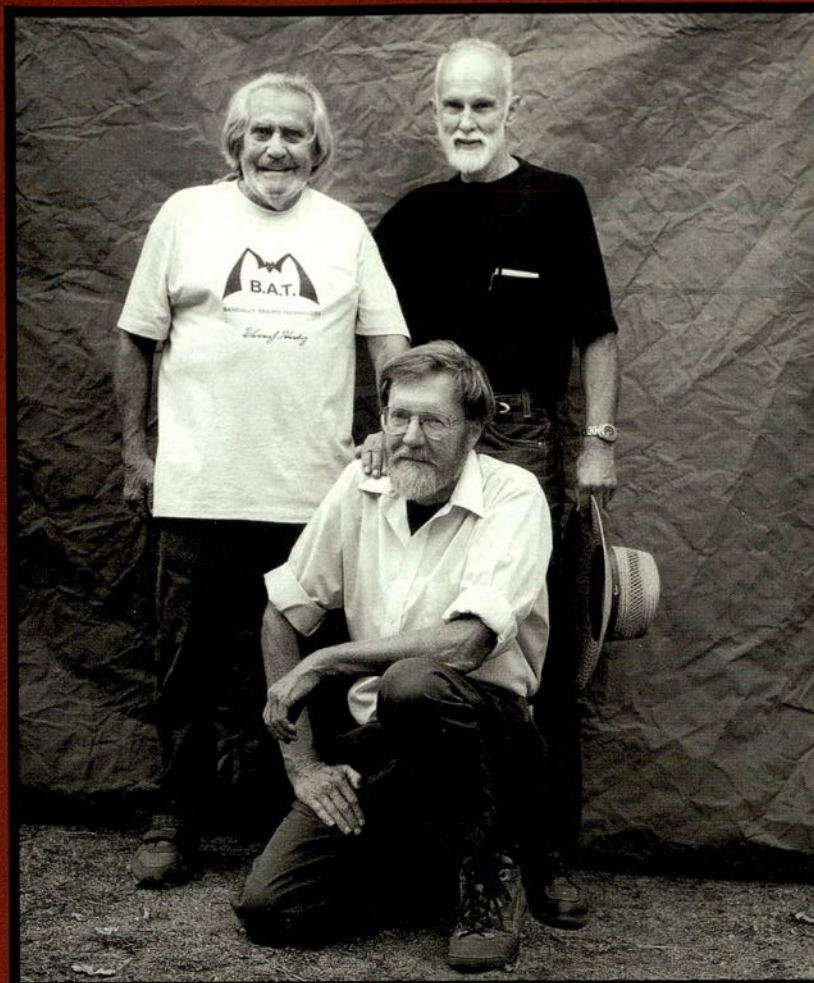
Tom's latest adventure has been preserving Camp 4. He has remarried, to Joyce Ranniger, and lives again in California, close to Yosemite, where he has been an inspiration to a group of activists opposing the latest plans to develop the park. Shunning climbers' habitual antagonism to policymakers, Tom has kept us in an effective position in the planning process by maintaining friendship and respect for the government employees. His ability to adapt in activism — as he did in climbing equipment and in life — is once again a model for us all. ▲



JOHN BEATTY



# HOME COMING



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: WARREN HARDING AND GEORGE WHITMORE (FIRST ASCENT OF THE NOSE); GLEN DENNY (THIRD ASCENT OF THE NOSE).

# On

**September 25, 1999**, more than 625 Yosemite veterans gathered to toast the preservation of Camp 4, the legendary campground where so many of climbing's greatest adventures were staged. Thanks to the efforts of Tom Frost, Dick Duane, the

American Alpine Club and others, this tiny, walk-in campground on the north side of the Valley floor has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and saved from encroaching development. With special permission of the National Park Service, the American Alpine Club invited hundreds of climbers to celebrate at their old stomping ground.

*Rock & Ice* and the American Alpine Club asked photographer John Mireles to capture some of the Camp 4 celebrants on film. His images, and his story of taking them, follow on the next few pages, including the attached pull-out poster.



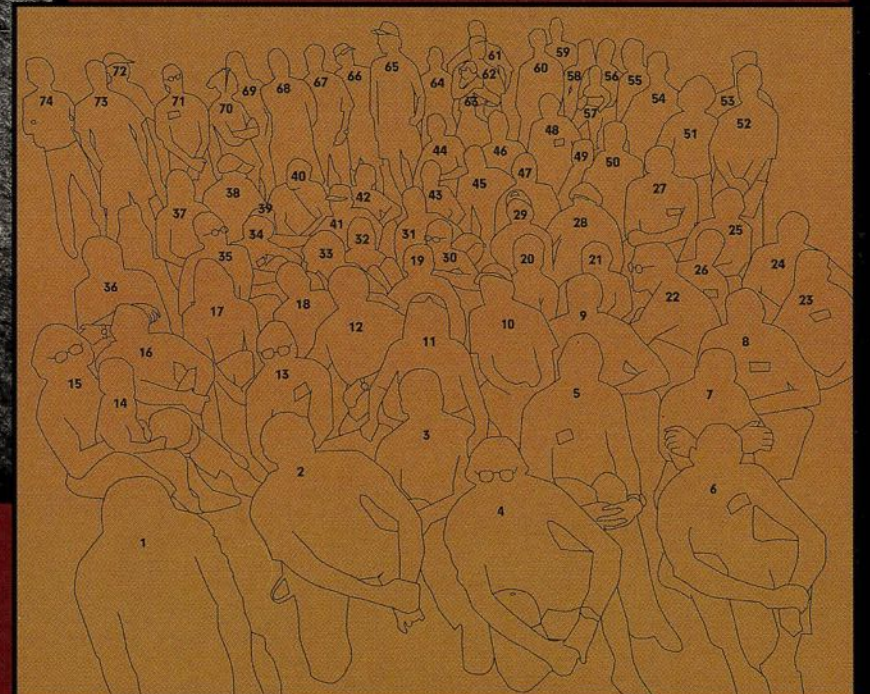


1. Warren Harding
2. Chuck Pratt
3. Tom Frost
4. Eric Beck
5. Jerry Gallwas
6. Royal Robbins
7. TM Herbert
8. John Bachar
9. Craig Carson
10. Ed Cooper
11. Sibylle Hechtel
12. Galen Rowell
13. Steve Roper
14. Mike Allen Steck White
15. Allen Steck
16. Yvon Chouinard
17. Chongo Chuck
18. Randy Leavitt
19. Miles Smart
20. Jim Donini
21. Don Lauria
22. Glen Denny
23. George Whitmore
24. Craig Calonica
25. Rick Cashner
26. Peter Mayfield
27. Jerry Anderson
28. Joe McKeown
29. Mike Corbett
30. Cedar Wright
31. Lloyd Price
32. Alison Osius
33. Tim O'Neill
34. Rick Sylvester
35. Layton Bridwell
36. Kim Schmitz
37. Gene Foley
38. George Meyers
39. Unidentified
40. Doug Robinson
41. Hugh Burton
42. Rick Accomazzo
43. Chris Jones
44. Kevin Worrall
45. Ed Drummond
46. Ken Boche
47. Jeff Foote
48. Mike Warburton
49. Sara Steck
50. Alex Bertulis
51. Scott Burke
52. Nick Ginn
53. Dean Miller
54. Chris McNamara
55. Unidentified
56. Paul Piana
57. James Leo Piana
58. Heidi Badaracco
59. Dean Fidelman
60. Hans Florine
61. Peter Croft
62. Todd Skinner
63. Hannah Skinner
64. Amy Whistler Skinner
65. Mike White
66. Drone Stephens
67. Ed Barry
68. Mark Chapman
69. Ron Kauk
70. Steph Davis
71. José Pereyra
72. Unidentified
73. Russ Mitrovich
74. Unidentified

Yosemite / Camp 4 September 25, 1999

photograph / John Mireles

# YOSEMITE LEGENDS





# Fight over a campsite?

## We did!

When the National Park Service planned to develop the area surrounding Yosemite's Camp 4, the American Alpine Club jumped into the fight. After trying at length to negotiate with the Park Service, we joined as a co-plaintiff in the Friends of Yosemite Valley lawsuit brought by Tom Frost and others. The AAC filed the application that got Camp 4 declared a National Historic Site. We rallied international climbing clubs and the UIAA to join in its defense. We brought national and international media attention to Camp 4's plight. Today we continue to meet with the Park Service to offer ideas and to craft solutions.

Together we made a difference when it counted. We're here to help.

**THE AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB**  
Working on behalf of American climbers since 1902.

710 Tenth Street, Suite 100 Golden, Colorado 80401

303•384•0110

getinfo@americanalpineclub.org

www.americanalpineclub.org

Membership is open to anyone who has climbed for two or more years.



Photos by Ed Webster

# CLYMRZ

Sculpted Climbing Jewelry

Presents



## A Special Everest Commemorative To ALL who have Dared or Dreamed...



"The Summit"

*A Challenge is not an adversary to be engaged,  
an opponent to be conquered.  
It is an opportunity for growth  
placed by an Omniscient Benefactor.  
Some so compelling as to beckon  
more than a mere attempt,  
we apprehend them with a zealot's intent.*

*The exhilaration and insight we  
are blessed with in the process,  
only serves to bring us closer  
to our Mentor unseen.*

*The Wellspring of all  
that is good and perfect.  
And from which, we return,  
Not haughty, but humbled.*

*With a reverent desire to,  
somehow, KISS back  
We have thrust deeper inside  
ourselves to experience that which  
is infinitely greater than ourselves.*

R.H. Burgess



Tenzing Norgay

*As a tribute to that end, a portion of the proceeds from  
CLYMRZ will be donated to the "Children of Nepal" fund  
in memory of Sherpa Tenzing Norgay. For whom, the dream  
of every mountaineer became a reality in 1953, when he and  
Edmund Hillary became the first to climb to the top of the world.*



Actual  
pin size



Bal Mandir Orphanage

## "A blessing was not meant to end with the recipient"

Collect other Sterling Silver  
Pins, Charms and Studs  
from the CLYMRZ line.

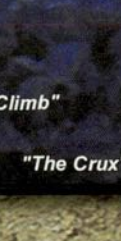
Check your local sporting goods store for availability  
or call Toll Free: 877 462-5785 for order info  
or visit our website at [www.ballisticfotographix.com](http://www.ballisticfotographix.com)



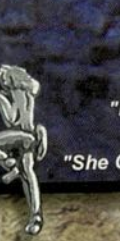
"Classic  
1920's Alpinist"



"Ice Climb"



"The Crux"



"Foot Hook"



"Free Climb"

"She Climbs"



# SHOOTING STARS

by John Mireles

**Y**ou should have seen the look on my face as I walked to the Yosemite Lodge parking lot carrying a Polaroid fresh with the signatures of Yvon Chouinard, Tom Frost, Chuck Pratt and Royal Robbins. I felt giddy after wrapping up a stressful, out-of-control but amazing weekend, and a proud smile radiated from my face.

Still, I was trying to be cool as I showed off my prize to some jaded Valley regulars. Jaded or not, however, everyone who peered at my slightly underexposed, 3-by-3, black-and-white image understood just how I felt.

On my little print were the four first ascensionists of El Cap's North America Wall. This team, giants in the history of American rock climbing, had not been together in nearly 30 years, and nobody knows when they will again. Yet there they were, standing patiently for me, with evidence of Chuck Pratt's storytelling written in smiles on their faces.

A day earlier, while shooting the Camp 4 reunion, there was no time for happy reflection. Total anarchy ruled and I was struggling just to get anyone on film. They say that organizing climbers is like herding cats, and it certainly was true here. At some point, the crowd reached a critical mass and exploded into a frenzy of reuniting old friends, gawking onlookers and swarming paparazzi.

Prior to the shoot, I had hoped for two things to deal with the anticipated scene: a tall ladder and a shoot location other than Camp 4. Unfortunately, I got neither. Even though I had five assistants to help me organize and photograph everybody, I should have brought a phalanx of security guards with yellow jackets and one very loud bullhorn.

It would have been less daunting for me to photograph the Baseball Hall of Fame reunion than the Camp 4 one. Here was a who's who of Yosemite climbing, including many of my earliest climbing heroes. I felt uncomfortable introducing myself to Yvon Chouinard and then telling him to sit in the dirt. Or grabbing Ron Kauk by the hand and pulling him into the fray. Or telling Peter Croft to stop speaking with his ex-wife, Jo Whitford, because we needed him for a photo. Nor was it easy to tell Galen Rowell (an early photography hero of mine) to please stop taking pictures.

In the end, I got the photos I came for. They're not exactly what I saw in my mind as I made the long drive up to Yosemite from San Diego. The images are a little rough, but nothing about Camp 4 life is perfect.

But my signed Polaroid, that was perfect.

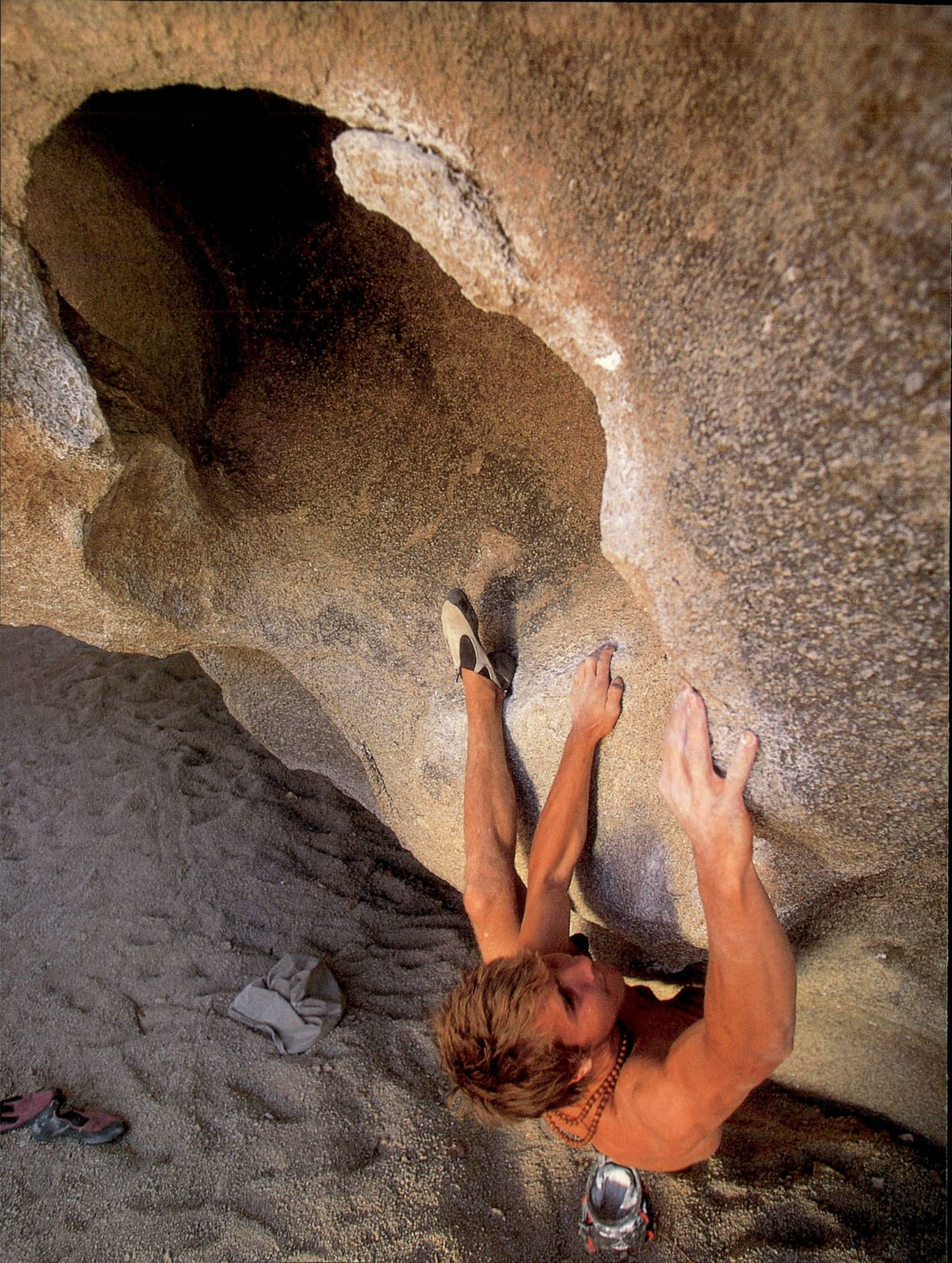


FROM LEFT: ROYAL ROBBINS, YVON CHOUINARD, TOM FROST AND CHUCK PRATT.

**"The way I see it, this is my last opportunity to go to a major climbing event and be one of the young guys!"**

**— 50-something Jim Donini, anticipating the Camp 4 reunion**







# Monkeyin' AROUND

CHRIS SHARMA'S BLISSFUL ROMP THROUGH AMERICAN BOULDERING

by Josh Lowell

I REMEMBER THE DAY I MET CHRIS SHARMA. It was February in Hueco Tanks, and he was 16 years old. Chris, Obe Carrion, Boone Speed and a crew of high-caliber boulderers roamed from one ridiculous problem to another, while I tagged along to film the action.

The day's final stop was The Scream, a sloping monstrosity tucked deep into a chasm on West Mountain. Engrossed in an intense group session, the boys hadn't even noticed that Chris had wandered off when his voice rang out from an adjacent rock chamber. "Hey, you guys!" he cried eagerly, like a child who had just discovered a neat fort to play in. "I found a rad problem! Come check it out!"

Most everyone had bouldered with Chris before and was accustomed to his wide-eyed forays onto unthinkable terrain. They rolled their eyes and shrugged at each other with "what else is new" expressions. Eventually, Boone went over to have a look and returned shaking his head. "It doesn't look like a problem at all," he said. "There's no holds and it's a death fall." The grim description piqued everyone's curiosity.

Chris' envisioned line was grotesque: 20 feet of dark, overhanging cliff led to a narrow chimney, followed by 20 feet of chossy slab to top it out. The landing was a jumble of ledges and angular talus.

Chris was earnestly attempting to convince someone to try it with him, but nobody was taking the bait.

"Chris," Boone asked, older, wiser and concerned. "What are you going to grab?"

"There's a hold!" Chris said, willing it to be true. "Right there! You see it?" He nodded his head, eyebrows raised and voice running high with excitement.

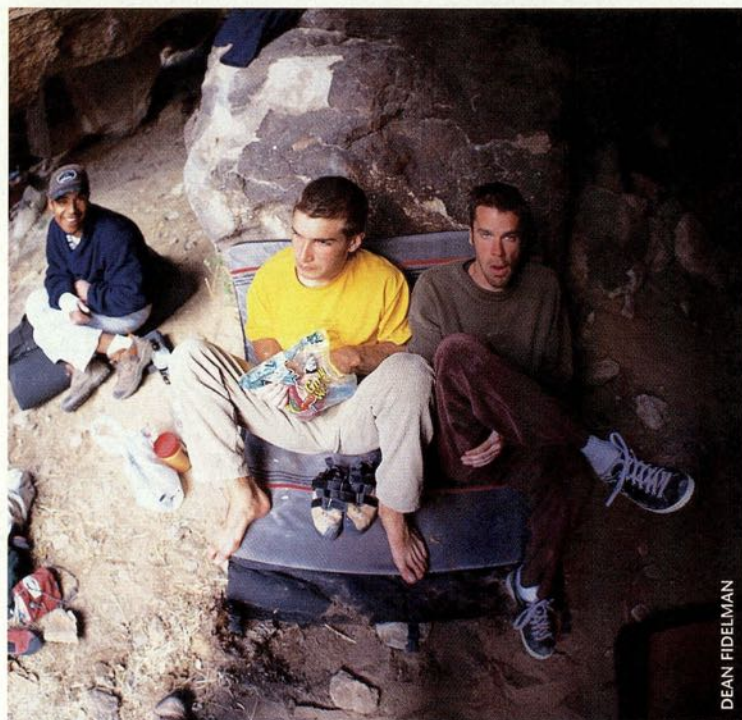
"No," Boone said.

"Right there, that little black thing. I think it's an edge."

"Uuuuhhh, okay..." said Boone. "But where are you gonna go after that?"

Chris cocked his head sideways, studied the wall and declared simply, "To the top!"

An hour and a dozen tries later, Chris rounded the final bulge with a screaming deadpoint. His foot skidded off a delicate smear just short of the safety of the chimney, and this time it was his spotters who screamed — at first with fear, and then with pleading encouragement. If he fell, either he would be very hurt or they would be. Chris pasted



DEAN FIDELMAN

his foot back on, stood up and banged his head on the other side of the chimney, knocking off his hat. "Whoa," he said. Finally, he wedged himself deep inside, shimmied up and emerged onto the slab above. The spotters and spectators below roared with relief. "Jesus!" "Oh my god!" They clapped and hooted while Chris crept cautiously toward the top.

Back on the ground, Chris was nonchalant — he was the only person present who wasn't shocked that the problem had gone. With his characteristic lack of self-importance, Chris named the problem Black Forest, after the brand of gummi bears he'd been eating that trip by the five-pound bag.

**ABOVE: KICKIN' BACK AT THE FOOT OF RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE, IN HUECO TANKS. CHRIS' INTEREST IN BOULDERING IS ALL ABOUT SUCH MOMENTS: TRYING NEW PROBLEMS WITH FRIENDS AND HAVING A GOOD TIME ALONG THE WAY. OPPOSITE: WORKING THE DIRECT START TO GLEAMING THE CUBE IN CALIFORNIA'S BUTTERMILKS.**





JIM THORNBURG

**B**efore I met Chris, I knew little about him beyond the popular stories. This is the kid who's won international competitions without ever training. Who's climbed 5.13 in clogs, and V8s and V9s in flip-flops and sneakers. Who took his sweater off while hanging from a hold during his redpoint of America's then-hardest route (Just Do It, 5.14c). Like everyone who's spent years striving toward climb-

ing excellence, I wondered what it was that made Sharma so damn good.

I climbed and filmed with Chris for two months that winter in Hueco. This past summer, we again spent two months together, traveling around the West in an RV with Obe Carrion and my brother Brett, bouldering and shooting for a new video. I'm still often baffled by the things Chris does on rock. But, I've begun

**NO NAME, NO RATING, NO PROBLEM. CHRIS WANDERS ONTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY ON THE NORTHWEST FACE OF GRANDMA PEABODY, PEABODY BOULDERS, CALIFORNIA.**

to understand what Sharma's climbing is all about.

Chris' greatest asset as a climber is raw enthusiasm. He absolutely loves to climb — and these days, more than anything else, he loves to boulder. Time and again I've

been summoned by an ecstatic, "Hey you guys! Check this out!" and found Chris dreamily eyeing yet another unclimbed boulder that often appears dirty, weird, dangerous or impossible. But by the time he's chalked it up and sent it, the scruffy-looking piece of rock reveals itself as a proud new problem. Chris has the vision, and the vision is born from love.

Following knee surgery just over a year ago, Chris languished through four months of rehab routines before switching to his own program. Pure love of climbing motivated him to ride his bike seven miles each morning to a beachside bouldering area near his house in Santa Cruz, where he climbed, blissfully alone, on the same sandy little wall for 27 days in a row. A couple of weeks later, knee brace and all, he crushed America's top boulderers at a Salt Lake City competition.

Chris' approach to climbing is exceedingly simple. When he sees something he wants to climb, he just gets on it and goes to the top. He doesn't consult a guidebook ("I don't own any of those," he says). He couldn't care less about names or grades and often doesn't bother to change his shoes. He just grabs a hold and goes up. It rarely occurs to him that he might not be able to. This supreme confidence is another key element of his success. Natural and unforced, it comes off more as naivete than cockiness — as if no one ever told him that climbing is hard.

While confidence and enthusiasm are invaluable, there's still a lot to be said for mutant strength. As a young teenager, Chris earned a reputation as one of the strongest climbers anywhere by campusing through competition cruxes and skipping holds on high-end sport routes. Recently, as he's grown into a larger frame and focused his energy on the power-intensive pursuit of bouldering, his strength has exploded.

"He's not just a kid monkeyin' up stuff anymore," Obe warned me before our road trip this summer. "He's strong. You can see him squeezin' juice out of the rocks and stuff. He's makin' juice."



While Obe and Matt, both talented boulderers who have sent problems up to V11, kept slipping off the tiny crystals they were trying to edge on, Chris pasted his bare feet flat against the wall and lunged from hold to hold.

Chris' phenomenal strength is apparent every time he touches rock. But it's the incidental little displays of shocking power that truly impress. Several times this summer, I watched him grab the crux hold of a boulder problem — a terrible, terrible sloper, say — when both his feet would inadvertently cut loose. Rather than put his feet back on, he'd just dangle from that sloper, release the other hand, chalk up and continue on.

Early June found our road-trip crew bouldering at The Tramway, at 8,500 feet on Mt. San Jacinto, near Palm Springs, California. Conditions were perfect, and local boulderers Chris Righter and Matt Hoch provided the tour. We'd been giddy with anticipation, but when we reached the boulders, Chris was uninspired. While Obe climbed in a frenzy, like it was his last day on earth, Chris sat reading his book of teachings by the Dalai Lama and eventually wandered off by himself. By evening we had all but given up on Chris, when he reappeared with that old familiar gleam in his eye, babbling about something he'd seen. We all trudged after him to the base of a stellar-looking arête that had sparked his imagination.

Chris began his climbing day on that arête. No warm-ups, just straight to the business of harsh, unclimbed moves. Before long, he did it, and while we celebrated, he immediately came down to work out the moves for a lower and much harder start.

"Now you're smoking crack," Brett said when he saw the holds Chris intended to start from.

"What?" asked Chris blearily. He was sitting under 10 feet of blank horizontal arête, so deeply entranced by his vision of the problem that he seemed aware of nothing beyond the pawings and scrapings of his

big hands across the surface of the boulder, searching for some purchase to hoist himself up from the ground.

"I said you're on crack."

"What?"

"Crack!"

"There's a crack?" Chris replied hopefully. "Where?"

The sun was down, the wind picked up, my fingers on the camera controls were numb with cold and the image in the viewfinder had grown dark and grainy. But Chris was in his zone.

Four desperate slaps and some wishful-thinking heel-scums brought him to the sloping start dish of the standup version, where he was clearly sapped. He panted and growled, wrestling to get set up, then launched himself around the corner to a hold, something like the bottom corner of a cube, and latched it. His feet ripped violently off, and he threw his head straight back, screaming with the effort of dangling in an iron cross between two awful holds with his legs piked up in front. The scream went on while he dug for his final reserves of power. And still he dangled there. After what seemed an eternity, his breath ran out. He found his strength, popped his heel up to replace his hand, reached for the tiny, sharp crimp on the face above his head, sucked in a chestful of air and heaved himself backward with a wild dyno. His hand flew up toward the final jug... and missed it.

To everyone present, the formality of actually completing the problem was irrelevant. The intensity of Chris' effort, the certainty that he had tried as hard as a person can possibly try, was enough to blow all of our minds.

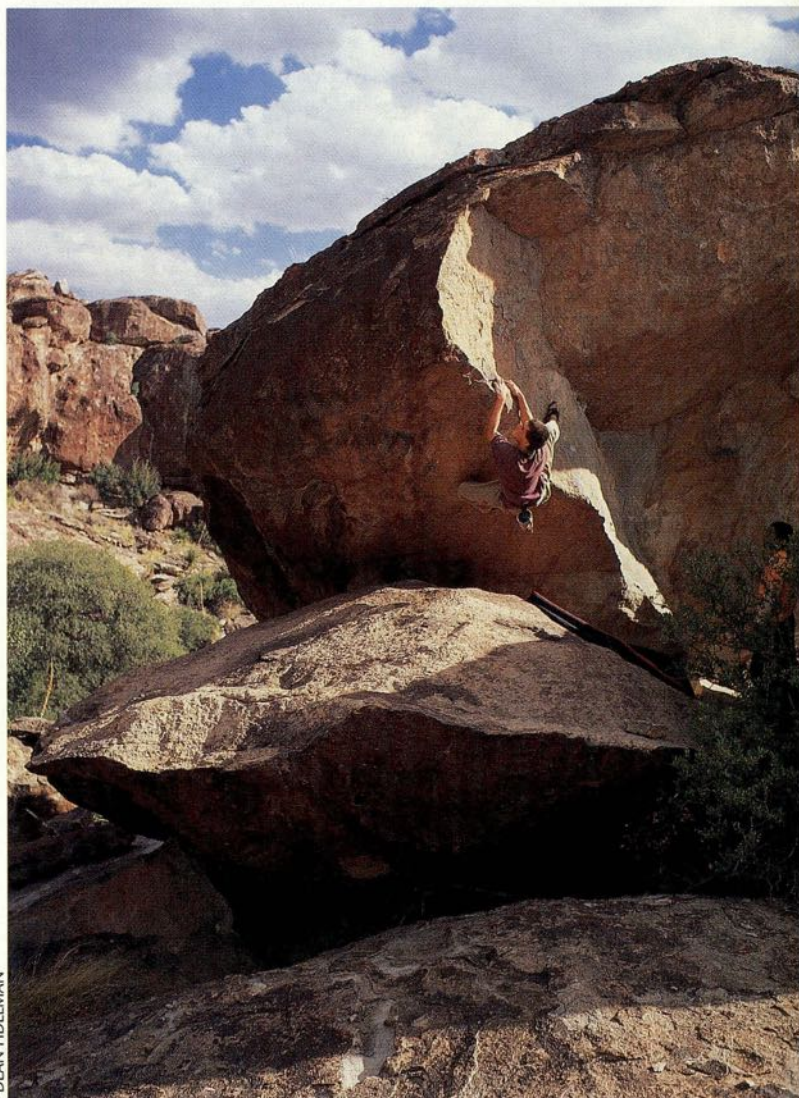
"I think I can honestly say," Matt commented while Chris stumbled about, dizzy, trembling and happy, "that was the most insane thing I've ever seen in my life."

After coming so close on the arête, Chris returned a few days later, intent on finishing it. At the base of the problem, Chris realized he had left his climbing shoes sitting on the side of the road back at the campsite. Undeterred, he wrapped his feet in tape from heel to toe.

"Maybe I lost my shoes for a reason," he said optimistically. "Maybe I'm gonna discover something rad today. That it's actually better to climb barefoot."

Chris' casual attitude, his lack of concern for rest, diet, training and traditional technique, have led to the perception that he doesn't really try. Imagine what he could do, people speculate, if he'd only take climbing more seriously. If he remembered to tie his shoes, or remove his wallet and keys from his pockets. At a recent bouldering competition, his friends watched in horror as he clung to a sloper halfway up, groping in vain for his chalkbag, which he had tied on backward. Thirty seconds later he found it, dipped, climbed higher and repeated the strength-draining fiasco with the other hand. After topping out, he

**PULLING THE FIRST ASCENT OF S-CURVE, IN HUECO TANKS.**



DEAN FIDELMAN



moved to the next problem without bothering to fix the bag.

These scenes are maddening to perfectionists like myself, who develop routines and strategies to make climbing efficient and scientific. But Chris' approach is the opposite. He climbs purely for fun, and what makes climbing fun is that it's hard. Unexpected obstacles (forgetting your shoes, for instance) enhance the difficulty, and thus the interest. They give him something to overcome. The worse the situation, the greater his inspiration.

While Chris' prediction about barefoot climbing didn't hold true on the arête, he came surprisingly close without the benefit of rubber. And the lack of shoes seemed to rekindle his excitement for the rest

lowing day, his picture — dangling from the finishing jug of the final problem, smiling and waving to the crowd — filled the front page of *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

To Chris, who is still ambivalent about his growing fame, the X Games experience was unsettling. "It was all so weird," he told me afterward, while we waited in line at the bank to deposit the winning check. "All those people screaming 'Sharma!' Everyone's telling you how great you are, saying, 'You're the best!' and 'You're so amazing!' If you did that all the time you might start believing it, like 'Yeah, I am the greatest.' I don't think that would be very healthy."

A week later we found the perfect X Games antidote a few hours north

"Did you find anything good?" I said.

Chris lit up. "Yeah! Check out this whale bone I found!" and he held it out for me to inspect, then remembered it was his only covering and brought it back down.

"I mean boulders," I said. "Are there any good boulders up there?"

This time he lost control. "It's sooo raaaaaad!" he cried, dropping the vertebra and waving both arms in the air to describe the boulders. I took a step back, thinking he might try to hug me in celebration.

"We found it! Woohoooo!" he was shouting, happier than I had ever seen him.

For the past two hours he'd been climbing big, clean, overhanging boulders with edges and slopers

**CHRIS SEEMS TO RARELY LEAVE A CLIMBING AREA WITHOUT PUTTING UP A HANDFUL OF NEW TESTPIECES. HERE, HE WORKS ANOTHER NEW BOULDER PROBLEM OUTSIDE OF SQUAMISH, B.C.**

"It's a hobby," he says. "Climbing's climbing. It's supposed to be fun. If it's not fun, why do it?"

Chris' low-key words bely the intensity of his actions. Though he calls it "just playing," he's spent the past two years redefining the possible at bouldering areas throughout the West. Since April 1998, when he quickly repeated Frédéric Nicole's Hueco Tanks masterpiece Slashface (at V14, the world's hardest boulder problem at the time), Chris has established hundreds of incredibly hard new problems. It seems he rarely leaves a place without putting up a handful of new testpieces.

Uninterested in the hoopla that surrounds him, Chris seldom names his problems ("I can't think of that many"), never reports or records his ascents and has abandoned the concept of ratings, a habit that drives locals crazy.

"Come on, Chris," I've heard a guidebook author practically beg after witnessing some astounding new line. "It would be inspiring for us if you'd give that problem a grade."

"Gosh, I don't know," Chris replied. "I don't think you can really reduce a boulder problem to a number because everyone climbs so differently."

"Yeah, but you can guess. Come on. How hard was it for Chris Sharma?"

Chris looked at the problem again and considered for a moment, scratching his head. "Well," he began, sounding like he might, for once, cave in and drop a number. "I'd have to say that problem was... pretty diesel. I was trying pretty hard. Yeah, that's the grade. 'Pretty Deez.'"

*Josh Lowell has produced two bouldering videos featuring Chris Sharma: Free Hueco! (1998) and Rampage (1999).*

## Many people, particularly older climbers, react with disappointment and bewilderment when they learn that Chris now spends all his time bouldering. "Bouldering?" they ask. "Why doesn't he do something important?"

of the bouldering area. The end of the day found Chris, Obe and Matt trading spots on another new project: a thin, gently overhanging face with a high, balancy topout. While Obe and Matt, both talented boulderers who have sent problems up to V11, kept slipping off the tiny crystals they were trying to edge on, Chris pasted his taped-up feet flat against the wall and lunged from hold to hold. During the topout, his voice went falsetto, whimpering, "Spot me you guyuyus..." and paddycaking around on crusty, lichen-covered slopers. His face held an expression of terror and exaltation, as if he was thinking, "This is what it's all about."

Halfway through our road trip, we stopped for the bouldering competition at the X Games in San Francisco, where Chris crushed the world's best boulderers in front of thousands of screaming fans and a battalion of television cameras. His resounding victory, hometown hero status, good looks and charmingly modest demeanor made him a star. The fol-

lowing day, his picture — dangling from the finishing jug of the final problem, smiling and waving to the crowd — filled the front page of *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

We spent most of a day climbing on some small, partly submerged boulders, unaware that we were just south of Lost Rocks, Humboldt's bouldering prize. Halfway through the day Chris disappeared. Soon I also went in search of bigger, drier boulders. I hiked north to where the crescent-shaped beach came to an end at a jumble of collapsed sea cliff, and threaded my way across this barrier toward the next beach. I leapt through a curtain of sea spray into a small, sandy alcove, where I bumped into Chris, leaping in from the opposite side. For a moment we were silent, each startled by the sudden realization that he wasn't the only person on earth.

Then I noticed that Chris was naked. In his hand he held a huge whale vertebra, bleached from years of salt water and sun. He covered himself with the vertebra and smiled sheepishly.

and soft, sandy landings. He said he'd had a zen experience bouldering alone among the giant rocks, the cry of gulls, the roar of crashing waves.

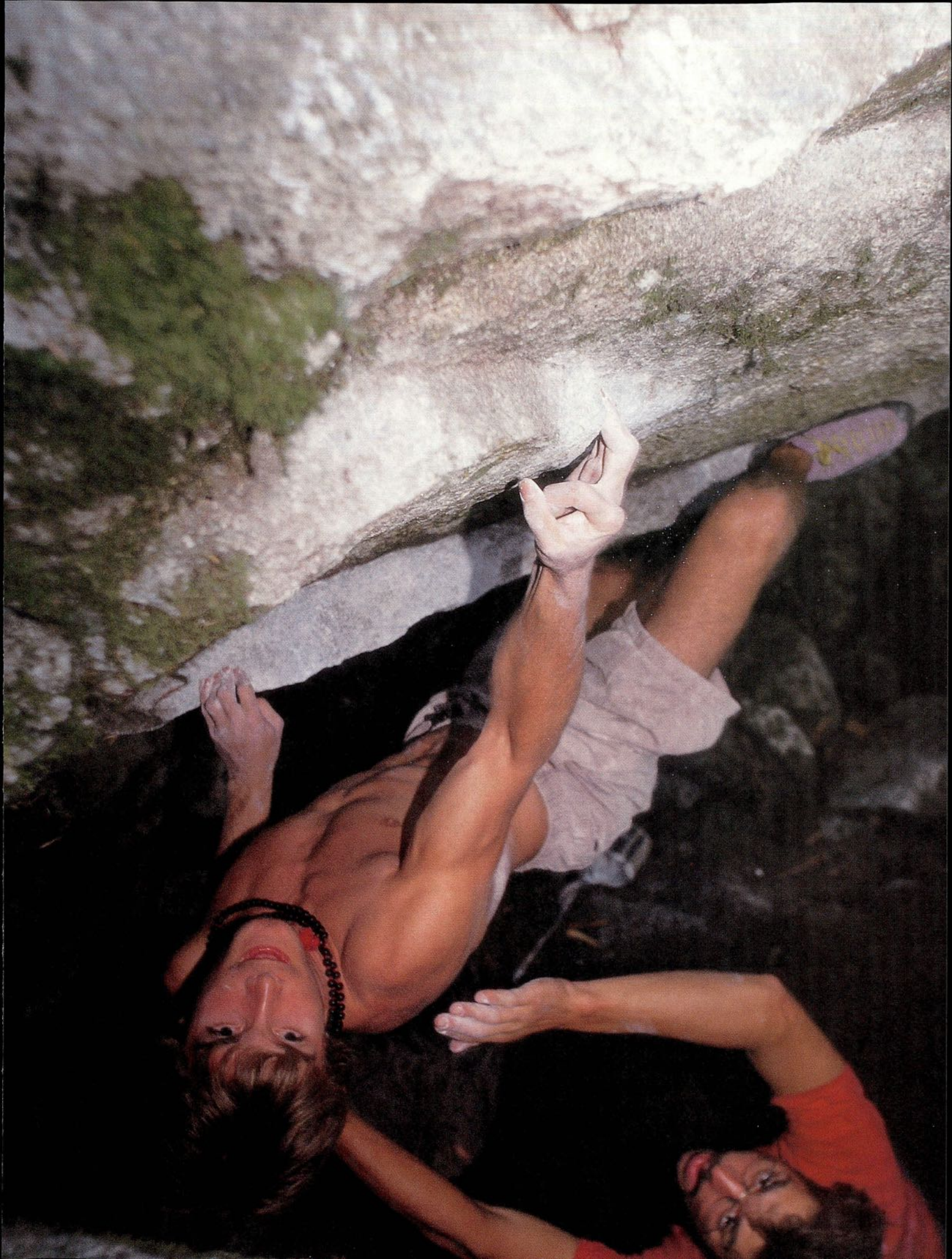
"And naked," I reminded him.

"Oh yeah," he said. "Naked."

Chris has long been considered a climbing prodigy, prompting speculation about his potential to take climbing to the next level. Will he be the first to climb 5.15, free the last of Yosemite's big walls or dominate the competition circuit? Many people, particularly older climbers, react with disappointment and bewilderment when they learn that Chris now spends all his time bouldering. "Bouldering?" they ask. "Why doesn't he do something important?"

The idea of climbing something "important," something to impress the world, means nothing to Chris. In that regard, those who feel he doesn't take climbing seriously are correct. When he reflects on climbing in the context of the universe, he sees it as ultimately insignificant.







# exposed

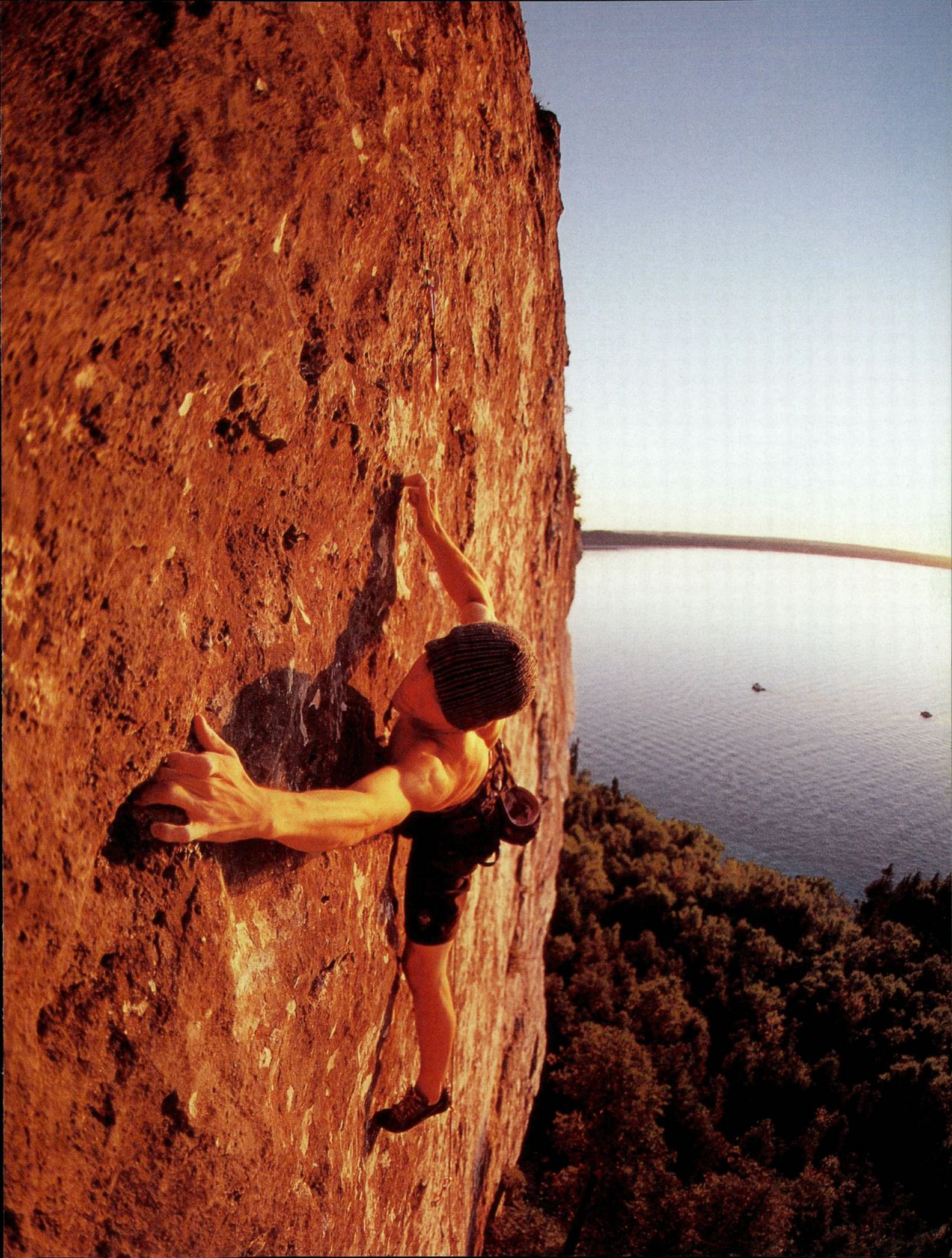


LOCATION: **Midi-Plan traverse, Massif du Mt. Blanc, France**

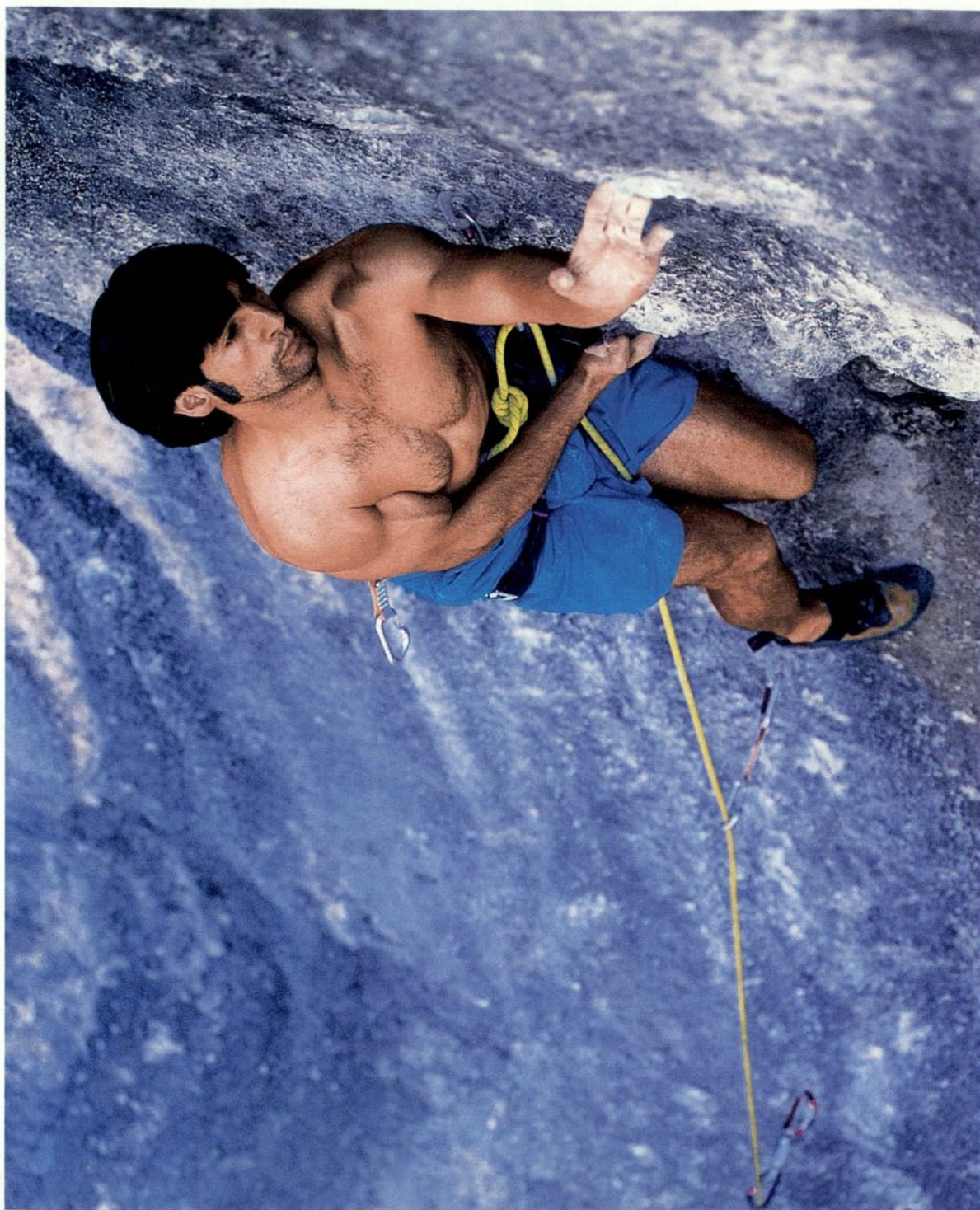
SHOOTER: **Pascal Tournaire** PHOTO BETA: **Nikon FM2, 85mm, Fuji Velvia**

LOCATION: **Big Kahuna (5.13d), Lion's Head, Ontario** CLIMBER: **Matt Zavitz**  
SHOOTER: **Mike Landkroon** PHOTO BETA: **Nikon F4, 16mm, Kodak E100VS**









LOCATION: **El Picaro Marinero (8a +), Oñate, Spain** CLIMBER: **Patxi Arocena**

SHOOTER: **Stef. Candé** PHOTO BETA: **Nikon F5, 35mm, Fuji RMS 100/1600**

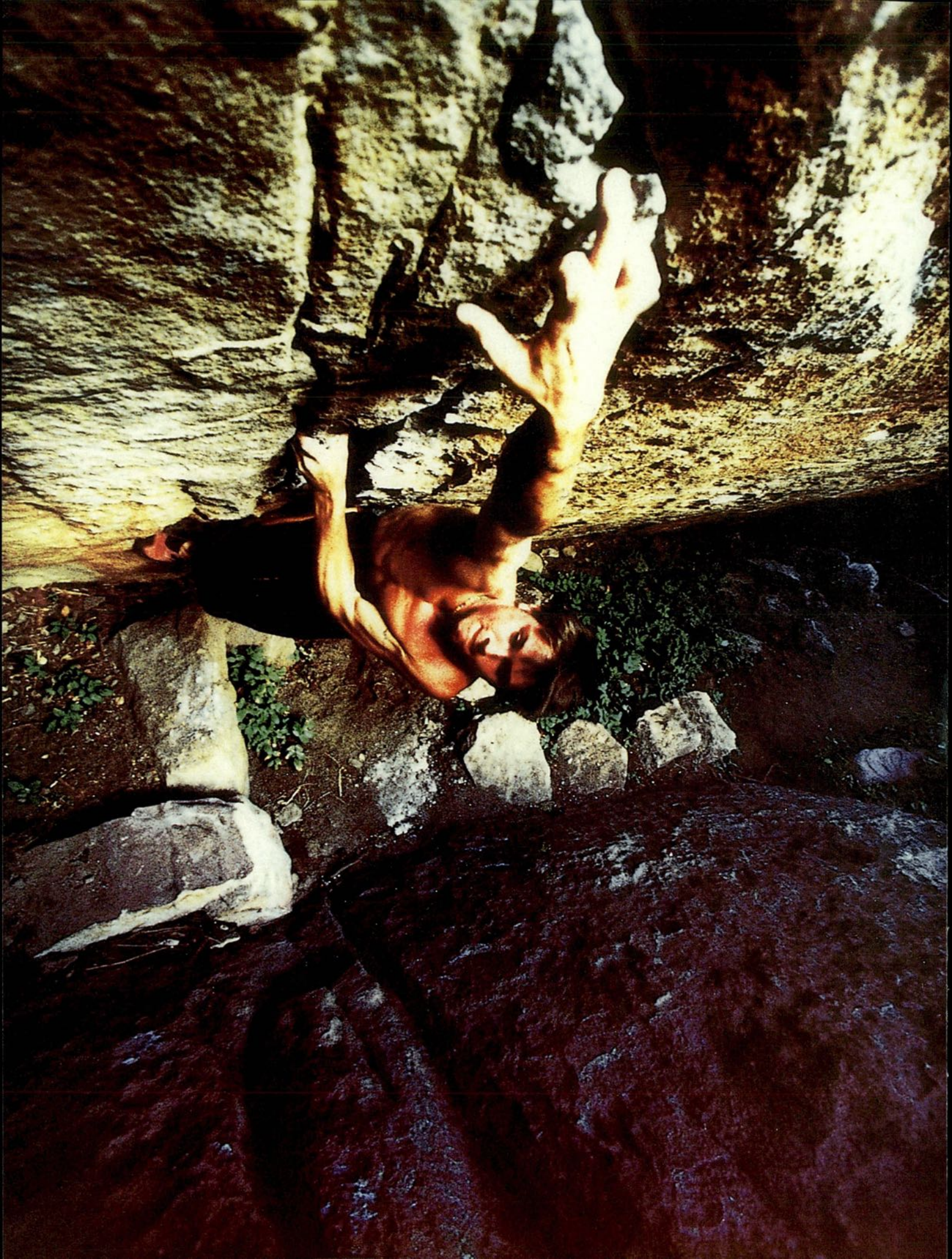
LOCATION: **Amsterdam, Netherlands** CLIMBER: **Mirian Verbeek**

SHOOTER: **Wilfried Zwaans** PHOTO BETA: **Canon F1N, 35mm, Kodak Tri-X**













LOCATION: **Aiguille Verte, Chamonix, France** CLIMBER: **François Bamilano**  
SHOOTER: **Pascal Tournaire** PHOTO BETA: **Nikon FM2 Titan, 15mm, Fuji Velvia**

LOCATION: **The Ghetto, Boulder, Colorado** CLIMBER: **Mike Gasch**  
SHOOTER: **Michael R. Lorenti** PHOTO BETA: **Canon EOS1, 14mm, Kodak Lumiere (cross-processed)**



## Endless Summer

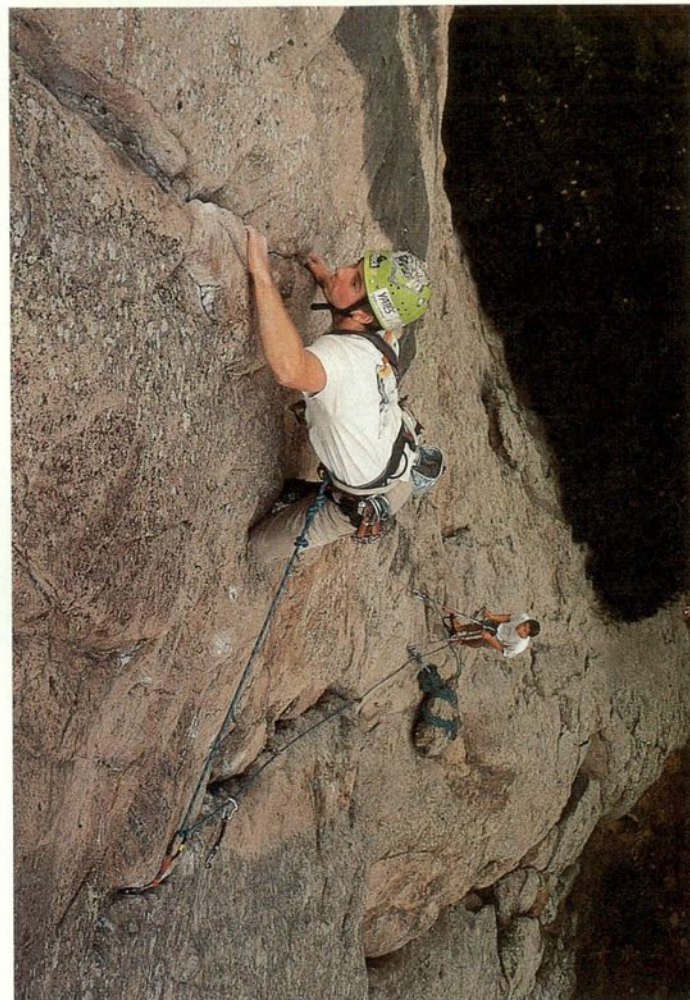
Hip and happenin' central-coast cragging in the Golden State. *Text and topos by Tom Slater*

**In** the late afternoon light, Donna and I shuffle along the base of Shadow Rock at Bishop Peak. It's wintertime, but the laurel trees have just peppered the ground with autumn colors of orange, yellow and red. We drop our ropes and scan some of the wall's most classic lines, including Inner Sanctum (5.10a), put up in the mid-'70s by a young Tobin Sorenson. (Sorenson, a Southern California legend, is as well known for his crazy streak as his climbing talent. He once climbed a route "belayed" by a noose around his neck.)

Curving upward, the slabby face of Shadow Rock looks like a sheet of pitted steel propped up against the hillside. It's much too late, I tell Donna, to fool with Inner Sanctum and its 80-foot runout. She makes no argument as I quietly slip up The Thin Man, Inner Sanctum's mellower cousin. Rated a number grade less than Sorenson's bold line, it has twice the amount of bolts — a total of four in 160 feet.

Clipping and moving past the third bolt on Thin Man, I feel like a boat moving out of safe harbor. Doubt and fear rain down as I ease across the sea of freckled rock. At the fourth and final bolt, a gray ocean of 45 feet lies between me and the anchors. Below, shadows slide across the green valley and up the distant hillsides. Thank goodness it's only Friday, I think. The entire weekend is ahead.

Saturday morning, my partner Brandon and I decide to treat ourselves to a little piece of paradise and head for Cerro Romualdo, a sport crag on state land leased by the US National Guard. We drive past helicopters and men in cam-



TOM SLATER

ouflage. The dirt parking lot at the southwest end of the base is empty, and the magical place is all ours. Newly developed, Cerro Romualdo's routes provide friendlier pathways up the vertical than the intimidating routes on Bishop Peak. However, the lines aren't necessarily easier.

Brandon climbs up The Tube Shuffle (5.11a), a classic overhanging route full of jugs on the lower section of Surfers' Wall. He moves effortlessly, having memorized each sequence of the route to avoid the

**MATT POLLARD POISES BETWEEN SEAMS ON P-CRACK (5.8+), BISHOP PEAK. A FORMER HAUNT OF LEGENDARY SO-CAL CLIMBER TOBIN SORENSON, BISHOP PEAK IS NOTORIOUS FOR ITS MENTALLY TAXING "MODERATE" SLAB CLIMBS. NEARBY CLIP-UPS AT CERRO ROMUALDO CREATE A NICE BALANCE.**

pump that usually peels off onsighters. He turns the arête and moves up into thin, vertical climbing. He edges higher to a crimp hold, nails the crux side pull, then fires up to the anchors.

Later, while belaying Brandon high on Rainbow Wall, I see soldiers

running across the distant fields with machine guns and smoke bombs. The National Guard's war games have started. Above me, Brandon is fighting his own war on the second pitch of Rainbow Ballet (5.7R), a "moderate" from which he spilled 25 feet several years ago when a rock popped loose in the chimney just a move from the top. We've come back to defeat the enemy, and today, the battle is won.

Sunday afternoon, my friend Paul and I walk through the long afternoon shadows of Bishop Peak. I seek out the large P-Wall, the fading "P" painted by Navy boys from California Polytechnic (or "Poly," for short) after their return from WWII, and later "removed" by local climbers in the '80s. The P-Wall is the biggest crag around, and the location of two of my favorite lines: Rusty's Cave (5.8) and P-Crack (5.8+). Both are traditional routes ascending cracks, though plenty of Tuolumne-type runouts will thrill skilled trad leaders as well. Sport climbers or those seeking less committing trad climbs might fare better at the Cracked Wall — but even then, climbers will be called upon to place nuts or pull a trigger or two.

As the afternoon shadows begin to grow, Paul and I decide to follow the sun to the top of the peak. We jog up the exceptional short crack, Flakes to Fresno (5.8), just as an ebbing tide of sunlight turns orange on the horizon. The rock fades to rust. Paul and I reach the top just in time to see the sun sink into the sea.

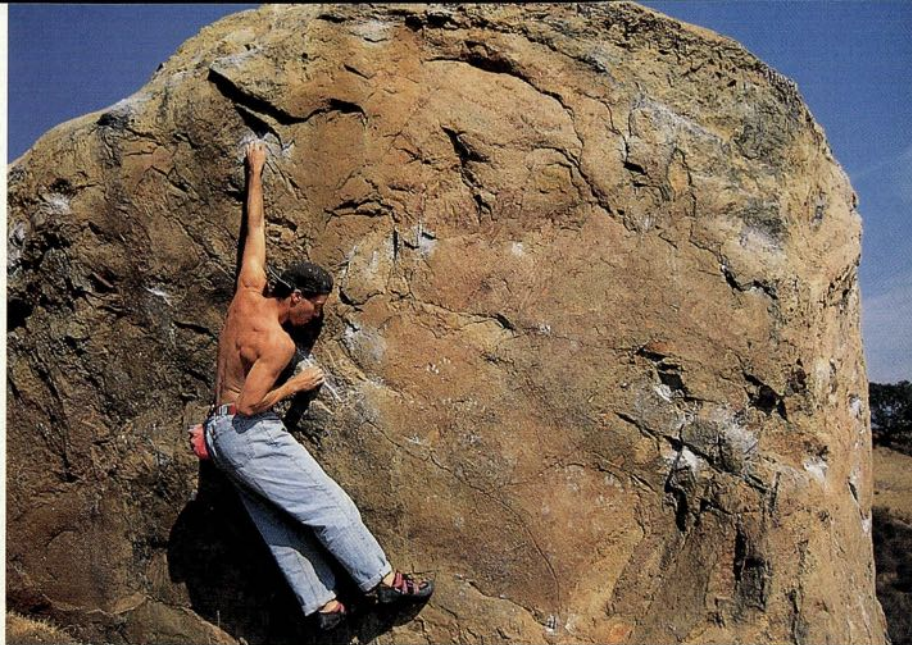
**where** A hip little coastal community halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo has that unique distinction



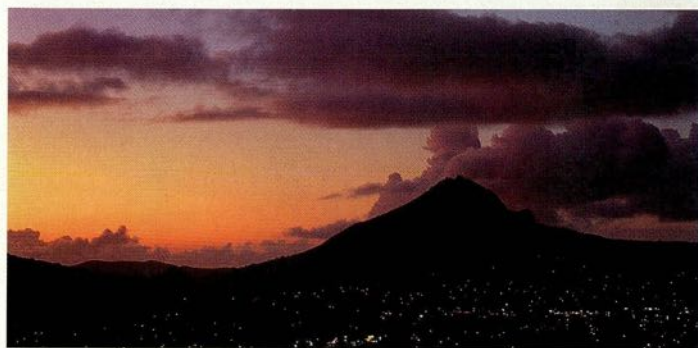
shared by a handful of California towns: You can surf in the morning, climb in the afternoon and water-ski at dusk. When you're tired of playing at sea-level, there's snow skiing just a four hours' drive away.

Area climbers or those simply passing through will be interested in Bishop Peak and Cerro Romualdo, extinct volcanoes offering excellent climbing on dacite, a type of granite. A variety of features (cracks, slabs, overhangs and chimneys) lend themselves to a wide range of climbing styles, from bold trad to fun

Military personnel will tell you whether or not the range is clear for climbing. While you can call ahead to the base (805-594-6510) to see if the range is clear, the show-up policy works best. It helps climbers keep a low profile — an important consideration given the unique access situation. Besides, if you call beforehand and get an "all clear" from military per-



**BEN LAVERTY "WARMES UP" ON MUSHIES (V6) AT CLORISSA BOULDER, ONE OF TWO MAJOR BOULDERS EN ROUTE TO BISHOP PEAK'S CRAGS. LEFT, BISHOP PEAK AT SUNSET. THE LIGHTS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO TWINKLE IN THE FOREGROUND.**



PHOTOS: WENDY CAMPBELL

clip-ups to aid. Visible from Highway 101 and Highway 1, the crags are easily accessed. For the most part, expect a 15-minute walk from parking areas.

Developed in a traditional, ground-up style during the '70s, Bishop Peak routes are bold, gear-reliant lines. Some bolting saves certain classics from being death routes. Excellent bouldering problems are found on the approach to Bishop Peak at the Pete and Clorissa Boulders. Sport climbers will like Cerro Romualdo. Here, find plenty of safe clip-ups with a few mixed bolt-and-gear lines thrown in. (Toproping is not recommended.)

**getting there** Bishop Peak's pointy summit is visible from town. From Highway 1, follow Highland Drive up the mountain until it dead ends at a trailhead just below the peak. Follow a well-marked trail to the cliff of your choice.

Cerro Romualdo is on state land, but is leased by the National Guard. Climbing is allowed when the firing range is clear.

From Highway 1, follow the huge sign into Camp San Luis and check the range's status in Building 738.

sonnel, there's no guarantee the range will be open when you get there. Park at the southwest end of camp, near the back by the peak, in a parking lot. Find and follow the dirt road that goes southeast across the mountain's base. Turn right up the grassy hillside just below the peak and angle uphill to rocks. Once you enter into some trees, you are almost to the cliffs.

**when** There are two seasons in San Luis Obispo, consisting of beautiful and not-quite beautiful, allowing for year-round climbing. Temperatures stay in the 60F to 80F range. East-facing crags (all but Bishop Peak's Quarry Wall) become shady in the afternoon. Plan according to the day's forecast.

**hazards** Poison oak abounds. Cover up on approaches. Beware of ticks.

**gear and guides** A sufficient rack for Bishop Peak consists of a set of nuts, a small rack of cams and 10 to 12 draws. Romualdo climbers will be able to climb most

routes with 10 draws, but one set of camming units and a set of nuts will give you 100% protection.

*California Central Coast Climbing* by Tom Slater is the local guide. While it doesn't reflect the latest developments in the SLO area, it provides bouldering info plus topos to Silly Rock in Santa Maria, Cabrillo Peaks in Morro Bay and the sea stack in Big Sur. *Climbing! Tri-County Guide* by Tucker and Steele has limited Bishop Peak information; it's primarily a guide for the Santa Barbara and Ventura area.

Climbing paraphernalia can be purchased in San Luis Obispo at Granite Stairway (805-541-1533) and Mt. Air Sports (805-543-1676).

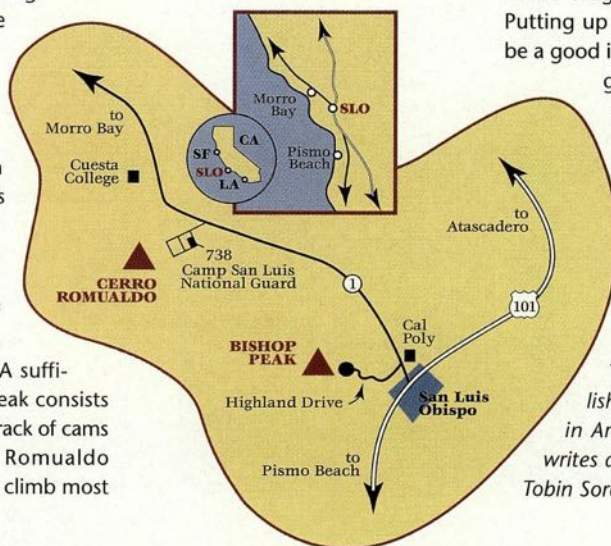
In Arroyo Grande, visit Wilderness Outfitters (805-489-9417).

**eats, treats and sheets** Inexpensive camping at El Chorro Regional Campground is located off of Highway 1, directly across from Cerro Romualdo and Cuesta College. There's beach-side camping in Morro Bay, 12 miles east of San Luis Obispo (showers, RV hookups, tents). You can find various motels and hotels in San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay.

San Luis Obispo is a university town that echoes Boulder, Colorado, and Santa Cruz, California, in atmosphere. Explore the charged night life and yummy restaurants. **HOT TIP:** Thursday is Farmer's Market in downtown San Luis Obispo and is the social event of the county. It's a great place to buy good grub, meet people, hear street bands, buy a puppy and take in the charm of the central coast.

**access and ethics** If anything, these crags are overdeveloped. Putting up any new lines may not be a good idea. Locals stand by the ground-up tradition — even at sport climbing areas. Pack out all trash and carry out any you might find. These crags are pristine and well maintained. Let's keep it that way.

Tom Slater teaches English at Mesa Middle School in Arroyo Grande. He surfs, writes and still climbs in awe of Tobin Sorenson.





# YATES

"Designed for Speed"  
 North American Wall: 9hrs. 36min.  
 Lurking Fear: 5hrs. 17min.  
 (Miles Smart & Tim O'Neill)  
 Zodiac: Solo (Miles Smart 9:15)

"ASTROMAN HARNESS"



Photo: Cory Rich (Zodiac)

YATES GEAR Inc. Ph/Fax: 800-YATES-16  
 Online product guide: [www.yatesgear.com](http://www.yatesgear.com)

john  
**Glossa**  
 studios



"peak moon"

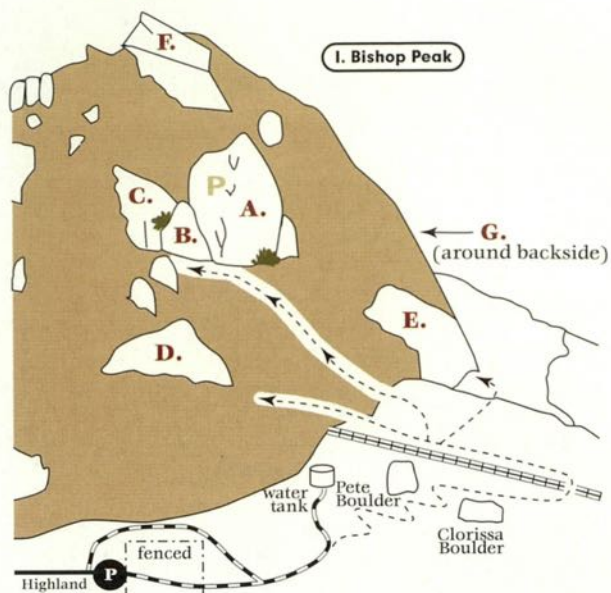
Shown Actual Size • 1/10 Carat Diamond • 14 Karat Gold - \$550.00  
 Silver • Gold • Platinum

## Fine Jewelry & Art Design

free brochure

[www.glossastudios.com](http://www.glossastudios.com) • email: [glossa@sopris.net](mailto:glossa@sopris.net)  
 po box 544, glenwood springs, co 81602  
 1-888-826-1555

## miniguide



NOTE: ALL WALLS HAVE BOLTED ANCHORS UNLESS NOTED. ONE 50 METER ROPE IS USUALLY ENOUGH FOR RAPPEL DESCENTS, BUT MULTIPLE RAPPELS MAY BE NECESSARY.

### I. BISHOP PEAK

**A. P-Wall** At 180 feet high, this is the tallest wall at Bishop Peak. The infamous fading outline of the "P" is still on it. Bring gear for every route except #24.

1. *Knee Surgery* (5.9). 2. *Stage Fright* (5.9+) Recommended. 3. *Indecent Exposure* (5.7). 4. *Out of Hangers* (5.10) Recommended. 5. *Impacted Stool Crack* (5.9R) Runout, but nevertheless recommended. 6. *P-Crack* (5.8+) Recommended. 7. *Letterman* (5.6). 8. *Black Streak* (5.9R). 9. *Jump For Joy* (5.9R/X) See #11 for descent. 10. *Hanging Teeth* (5.8R) See #11 for descent. 11. *Route Canal* (5.10) Recommended. No fixed anchors. Leader places gear at belay. Second climbs up, then left, to #7 anchors. Second then belays leader to #7 anchors. Rappel from there to #6 anchors, then down to ground. 12. *P-Wall Direct* (5.8). 13. *Slime and Dine* (5.10dR). 14. *Flinging Moss at the Molson Belay* (5.10) Toprope. 15. *Rusty's Cave* (5.8) Recommended. 16. *Cave to P* (5.6). 17. *Biemer's Trough* (5.7). 18. *Energy Crisis* (5.9). 19. *Spring Route* (5.8). 20. *Dyno Dogs* (5.10). 21. *Leaping Lizards* (5.8). 22. *Free For All* (5.11c) 12 bolts adorn this old aid route. 23. *Motor Mouth* (5.7). 24. *Original Gangster* (5.11) Recommended clip-up.

**B. Garden Wall** [No topo] A good beginner's area with anchors atop the 60-foot wall. 25.-27. Find two 5.6 bolted lines up the face, plus *Garden*

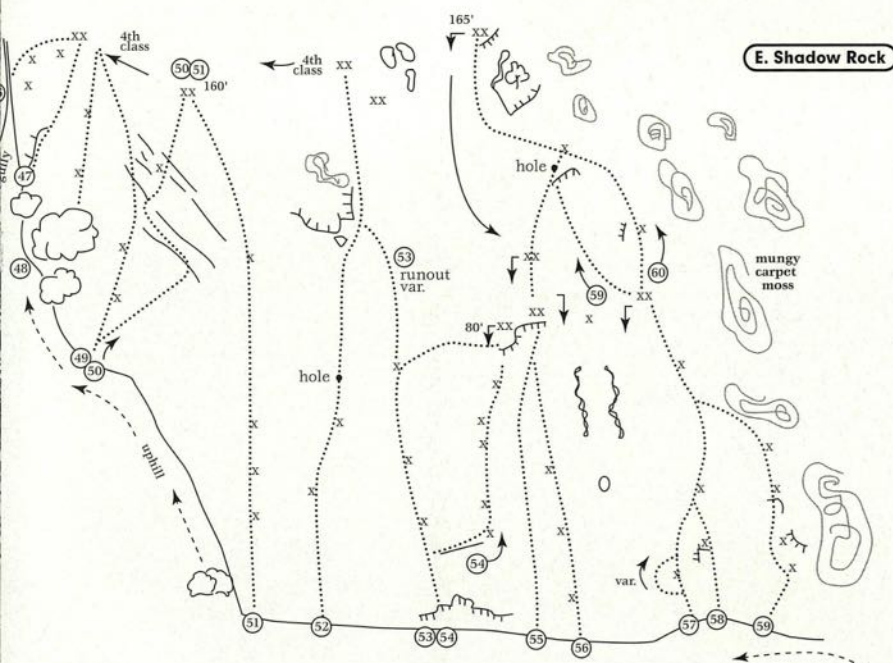
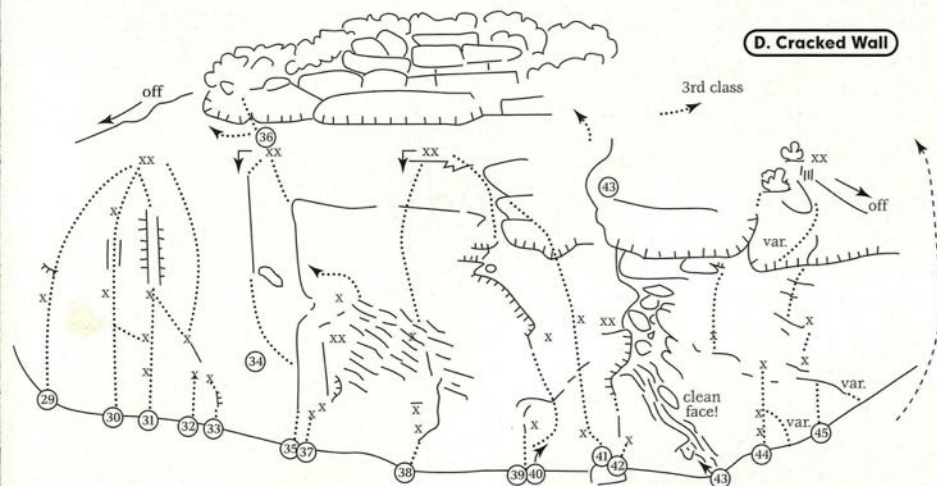
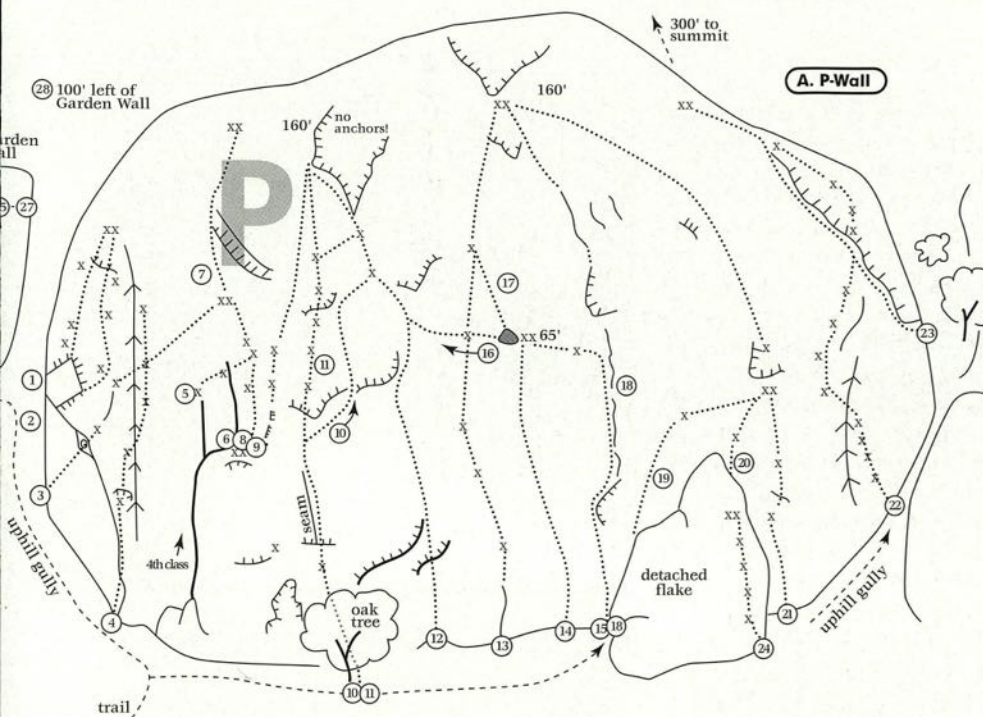
*O' Weed* (5.6), which follows the right-facing corner.

**C. Jam Crack Wall** [No topo] 28. Left of Garden Wall is the obvious *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Hand Jam* (5.10b), a recommended line first soloed by Tobin Sorenson.

**D. Cracked Wall** Popular, steep and shady, though a bit shorter than P-Wall. The closest thing to sport climbing at Bishop Peak. Bring gear for every route. 29. *Lost Luggage* (5.10). 30. *Humps* (5.11). 31. *Camel* (5.10) Recommended. 32. *Slippery Slit* (5.10) Traverse back to the third bolt of #31. 33. *No Permit Required* (5.10) Recommended. 34. *60 Minutes* (5.8). 35. *60 Seconds* (5.6) Recommended; a fun long crack. 36. *Farewell To Arms* (5.9) Don't bother! 37. *Western Airlines* (5.11b) Recommended; get ready to fly. 38. *Curley Shuffle* (5.12) Recommended. 39. *Only Way To Fly* (5.10) Recommended. 40. *Jetstream* (5.12) Toprope. 41. *Love In An Elevator* (5.10R). 42. *Civilized Evil* (5.10). 43. *Dirty Rat's Crack* (5.4) A two-pitch moderate, highly recommended. 44. *Crank You Thank You* (5.11) Very thin friction. 45. *Lama* (5.10) Thin friction. Try it!

**E. Shadow Rock** 160 feet high. A bolted, quality friction slab. Gets easier up at the top. 46. *THC* (5.10) Stay left of the bolts. 47. *Swallow* (5.7) Corners, cracks and bolts, but bring gear. Another three pitches lead to uppermost reaches of Shadow Rock. Mostly easy fifth-class climbing with very short 5.7 sections on most pitches. 48. *First Offense* (5.9). 49. *Three*





## NORTH AMERICA'S #1 Rated Climbing Specialty Shops

Experienced people, quality equipment,  
sound advice, fair prices, extensive  
selection & a serious commitment to the  
climbing community.

★  
**Sunrise Mountaineering**  
Livermore, CA Ph#925-447-8330

★  
**Wilsons Eastside Sports**  
Bishop, CA Ph#760-873-7520  
www.eastidesports.com store@eastidesports.com

★  
**Backcountry Experience**  
Durango, CO Ph#970-247-5830  
www.bcexp.com fungear@bcexp.com

★  
**Neptune Mountaineering**  
Boulder, CO Ph#303-499-8866

★  
**Bugaboo Mtn. Sports**  
Santa Cruz, CA Ph#831-429-6300

★  
**International Mtn. Equip.**  
North Conway, NH Ph#603-356-6316  
www.ime-usa.com climbers@ime-usa.com

★  
**Mountain Works**  
Provo, UT Ph#801-371-0223

★  
**International Mtn. Equip.**  
SLC, UT Ph#801-484-8073

★  
**Climb Max**  
Portland, OR Ph#503-797-9119  
www.climbmax.net staff@climbmax.net

★  
**The Alpine Experience**  
Olympia, WA Ph#360-956-1699  
www.alpinex.com info@alpinex.com

★  
**Mountain Chalet**  
Colorado Springs, CO Ph#719-633-0732

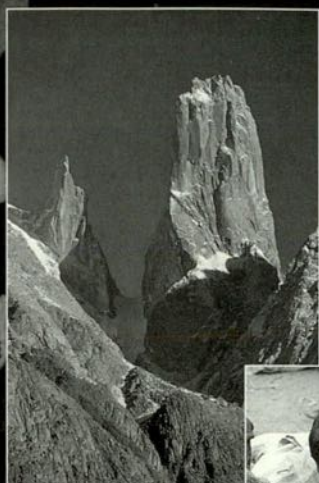
★  
**Wild Mountain Outfitters**  
Santa Fe, NM Ph#505-986-1152

★  
**Sunrise Mountain Sports**  
Walnut Creek, CA Ph#925-932-8779

★  
**Pro Mountain Sports**  
Seattle, Wa Ph#206-522-1627  
www.mountainzone.com/promountainports



# CENTRAL ASIA INSTITUTE



*Is  
this  
your  
goal?*

*Here's  
ours.*



*With your help we  
can reach the summit  
together!*

- \$2 Tall Skinny Latte or  
*Teacher's Daily Salary*
- \$10 30 Feet of Webbing or  
*Student's Annual Supplies*
- \$20 Pizza and Pitcher or  
*Student's Desk and Chair*
- \$50 Camming Device or  
*School's Winter Supply of Heating Fuel*
- \$70 Sport Climbing Harness or  
*Sight Restoring Surgery*
- \$200 Ice Climbing Tool or  
*Village Water Pump*

*Sharing is easy...  
send your gift today to*

CENTRAL ASIA INSTITUTE

A non-profit organization.  
Contributions tax deductible.  
617 South Fifth Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
406-585-7841  
cai@gomontana.com  
www.ikat.org

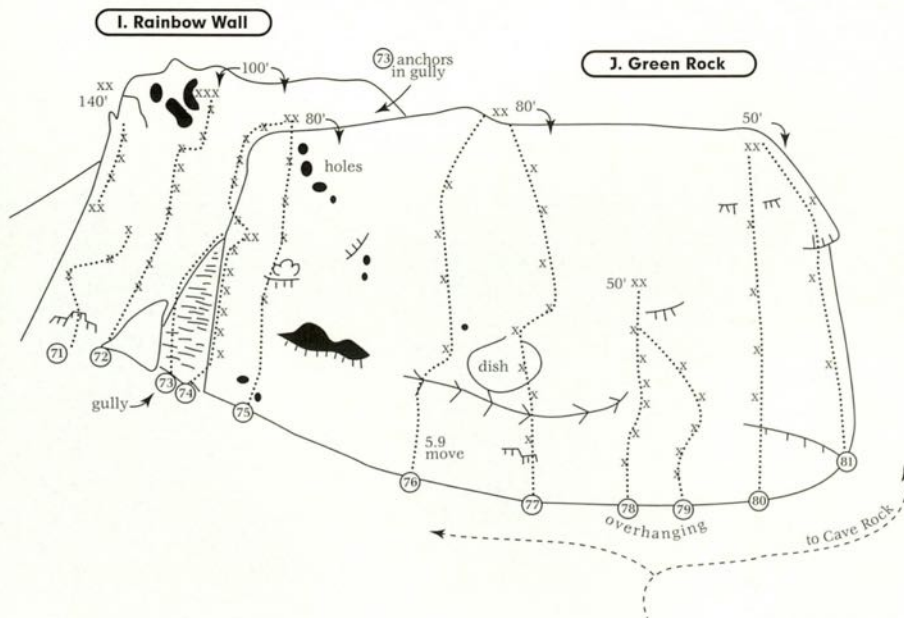
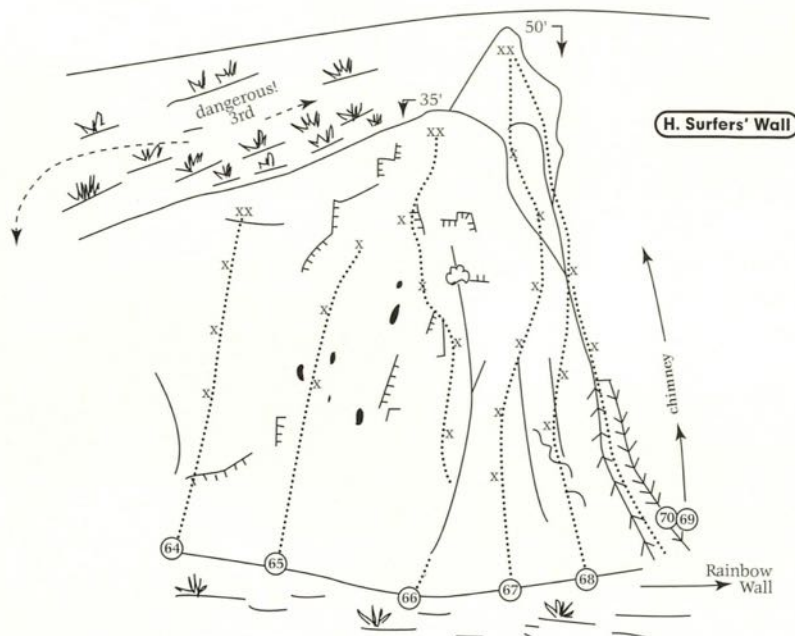
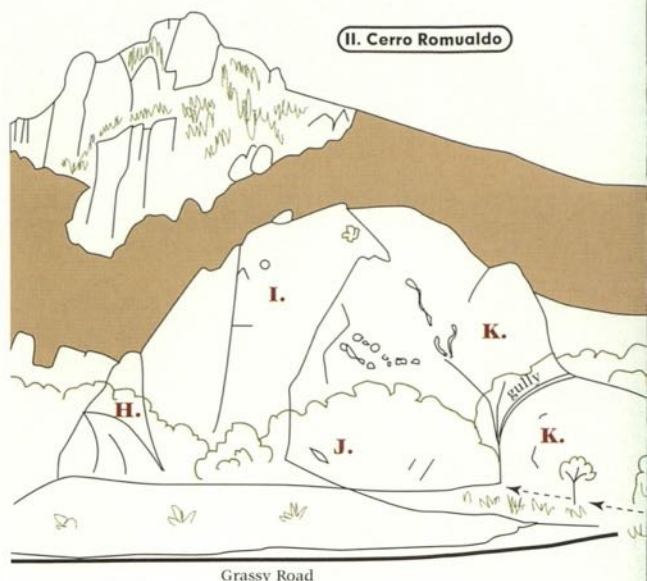


Promoting community-based education,  
environmental and women's projects  
throughout the Karakorum.

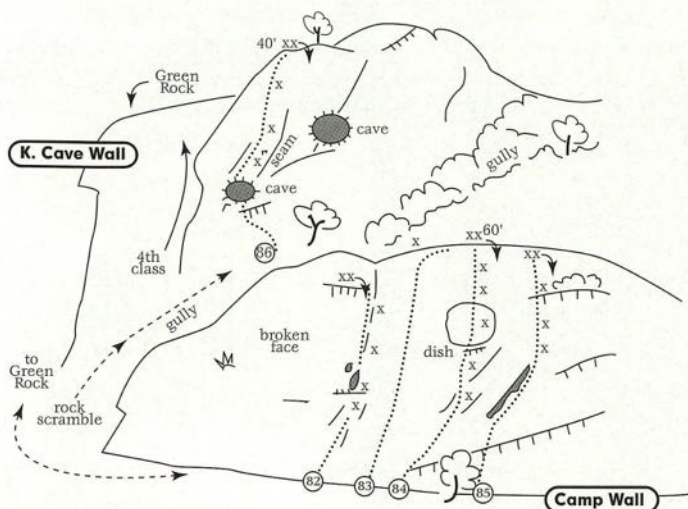
## miniguide

*To Get Ready* (5.9) Supplement bolts with gear. 50. *Easy Street* (5.6R) Gear. 51. *Thin Man* (5.9R) Four bolts. It's thin, man. Recommended. 52. *Inner Sanctum* (5.10R/X) Thanks, Tobin, for the bolts. Recommended. 53. *Pressure Drop* (5.9). 54. *Shadow* (5.7) Recommended. 55. *I Love A Mystery* (5.9+) Toprope. 56. *Lycra* (5.10). 57. *Battle Of The Bulge* (5.11). 58. *Diamond* (5.9) Recommended. 59. *Desperado* (5.9) Easier variations at the start. Recommended. 60. *Fields of Fire* (5.8) A harder finish to #59.

**F. Summit Block** [No topo] The false summit on Bishop Peak gives great panoramic views. It's worth the hour







hike to get there. **61. Flakes to Fresno** (5.8). The best climb on the summit. Take the crack up the middle of the west-facing wall. Fingers to off-width. Gear anchor at top only. No bolts!

**G. Quarry** [No topo] A 90-foot wall on the backside of Bishop Peak that's sunny in the afternoon. Traverse the bottom of the peak until you're below the big Quarry wall. 60-meter ropes are necessary. **62.-63.** Two classic routes are *Opiate* (5.12), just to the left of the big roof, and *Omegaman* (5.10), which is the only bolted route on the dimpled wall to the right of the big roof.

## II. CERRO ROMUALDO

Two peaks north of Bishop Peak yield a number of quality sport-climbing routes.

**H. Surfers' Wall** Overhanging wave-shaped wall with routes from 25 to 50 feet high.

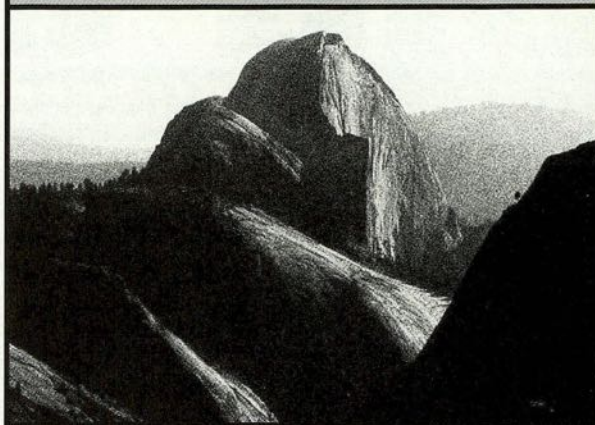
**64. Hang Ten** (5.11). Short, thin, sharp, fun — and recommended. **65. Project** (5.13+?). **66. Tsunami** (5.12). **67. Throwing The Tube** (5.12). **68. The Tube Shuffle** (5.11a) This classic route traverses out onto a thin face. **69. The Wedge** (5.8) Chimney. **70. Endless Summer** (5.11) Start liebacking corner then continue up slab. An alternative start to #68 that avoids the overhanging start.

**I. Rainbow Wall** The tall pointed wall left of Green Rock. A full set of cams and a set of nuts will help augment the bolts on #71 and #72. **71. Rainbow Ballet** (5.7R) A classic, best climbed in two pitches. From a ledge under a brown streak, move up the center of the wall.

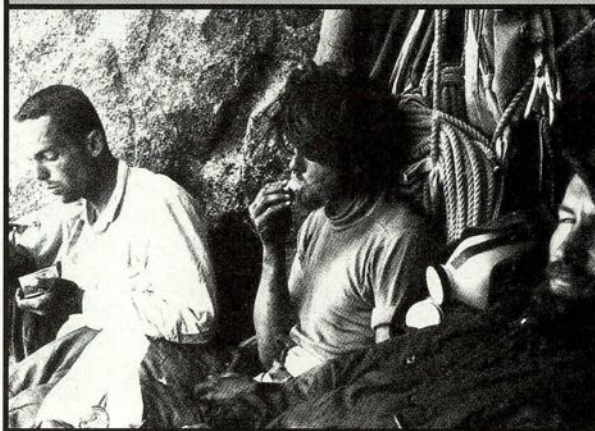
The leader should be prepared: This is probably the only runoff climb at Cerro Romualdo. Two raps are necessary; the walk-off is too dangerous! **72. Rainbow Pools** (5.9) Climb just left of a rounded buttress. Belay from the top of this long pitch in the cave at the top. It's beautiful and clean on the upper portion of this route. **73. Mountaineers' Route** (5.3) Ascend a right sweeping gully to anchors. From this route, rap to #74 first-pitch anchors, then down.

**J. Green Rock** This is the large slab with the steep and overhanging bottom sections. Eases at the top. **74. Red Arête** (5.8) Follow an arête to bolt six, then climb to anchors. Variation: Clip bolt seven, climb down and left around the corner to a blind clip (crux), then ascend the steep face to anchors. (Most just do the first pitch. If you climb on the right side of the arête where the route isn't as steep, the climb will be 5.3.) **75. Frosted Flakes** (5.8) Nice route. **76. Gang Green** (5.9) A steep start leads to easier, fun climbing. **77. Amputation** (5.10) A mantel down low is the crux. **78. La Conchita** (5.12?) A key hold is now gone. **79. The Phoenix** (5.12) Great and overhanging. **80. Sheer Pleasure** (5.9) Thin, steep, fun. **81. The Nose** (5.3).

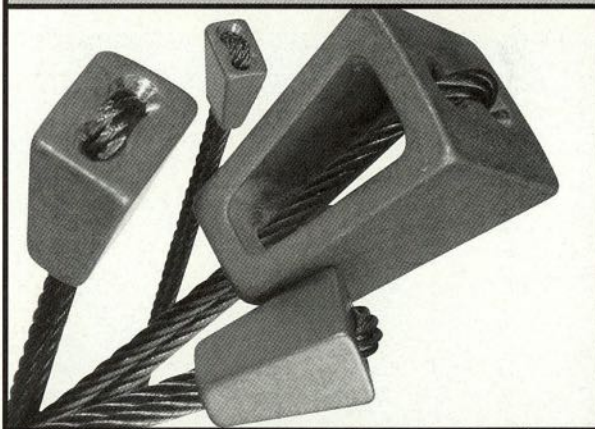
**K. Camp Wall & Cave Wall** Cave Wall is the steep, knobby wall up the gully above Camp Wall. Camp Wall gets taller the farther you move right; steep and technical. **82. Officer's Club** (5.9). **83. Major Tom** (5.11) Toprope. As steep and thin as it gets around here. **84. Full Metal Jacket** (5.10) Thin and tricky crux. **85. Black Talon** (5.11R) A great climb, but have your act together. **86. Between the Seams** (5.7) Knobby fun! ▲



M E S O Z O I C E R A



G O L D E N E R A



N E W M I L L E N N I U M

FROST

FROST equipment company  
187 west line street #140  
bishop, california 93514  
tel 760.873.8787 fax 760.873.4004





# BIG STONE

The XXL Freeclimbing Video

## FEATURING

**Tommy Caldwell**  
Salathé Wall

**Lynn Hill**  
Free Nose in a day

**Jason Campbell**  
Moonlight Buttress



Tommy Caldwell on his free ascent of the Salathé Wall, 5.13b Photo: Chris Noble

SPONSORED BY



**STERLING**  
**WILD THINGS**  
EQUIPMENT FOR CLIMBERS

A BOMB-PROOF PRODUCTION  
[www.bomb-proof.com](http://www.bomb-proof.com)

PRESENTED BY

**WILD COUNTRY**



ORDER TODAY! \$29.95 (plus \$3 shipping)

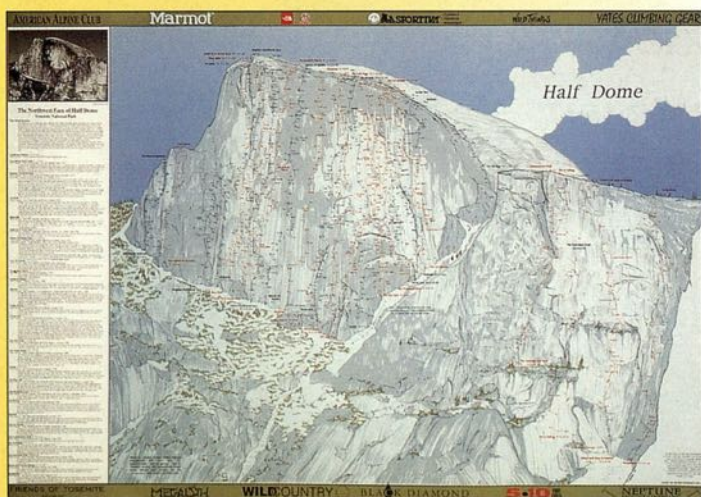
Call toll-free 1-877-ROCKICE

Visa/Mastercard Accepted • Dealer Inquiries Welcome!

**ROCK&ICE**

303-499-8410 outside the U.S. • Fax orders to 303-499-4131  
Send checks to Rock & Ice, 603 S. Broadway, Ste. A., Boulder, CO 80303

## EL CAP IN FULL DETAIL



Half Dome as never seen before. This artistic rendering of Half Dome's 2,000-foot NW face shows the hidden Bushido Gully and 11 previously unpublished grade V & VI routes.

26" x 37", SEVEN COLORS: \$15.95

## OTHER DIAMOND PRODUCTIONS® POSTERS AVAILABLE:



The Longs Peak Poster (22" x 30") \$12.95

Half Dome Poster (26" x 37") \$15.95

Diamond Topo Guide (16" x 22") \$7.95

Shipton Spire Poster (15" x 22") \$4.95

Diamond Puzzle (500 PIECES) \$14.95

Half Dome Puzzle (600 PIECES) \$19.95

El Cap Puzzle (1100 PIECES) \$19.95

Longs Peak Serigraph (36" x 42") \$65.00  
(20 available)



PLEASE INCLUDE \$4.50 FOR SHIPPING AND HANDLING  
POSTER RETAILERS: CALL 970-728-0583

Call toll-free to order: 1-877-ROCKICE

303-499-8410 outside the U.S. • Fax orders to 303-499-4131 • Visa/Mastercard accepted  
Send checks to Rock & Ice, 603 S. Broadway, Ste. A., Boulder, CO 80303



# Austin

by Rebecca Gonzales

**4:30 p.m.** The ridiculously long, dull meeting is finally over. Back to my desk, at last.

**4:45 p.m.** Watching the clock. The minutes drag.

**4:55 p.m.** Close enough. I'm out the door, rushing headlong to my car.

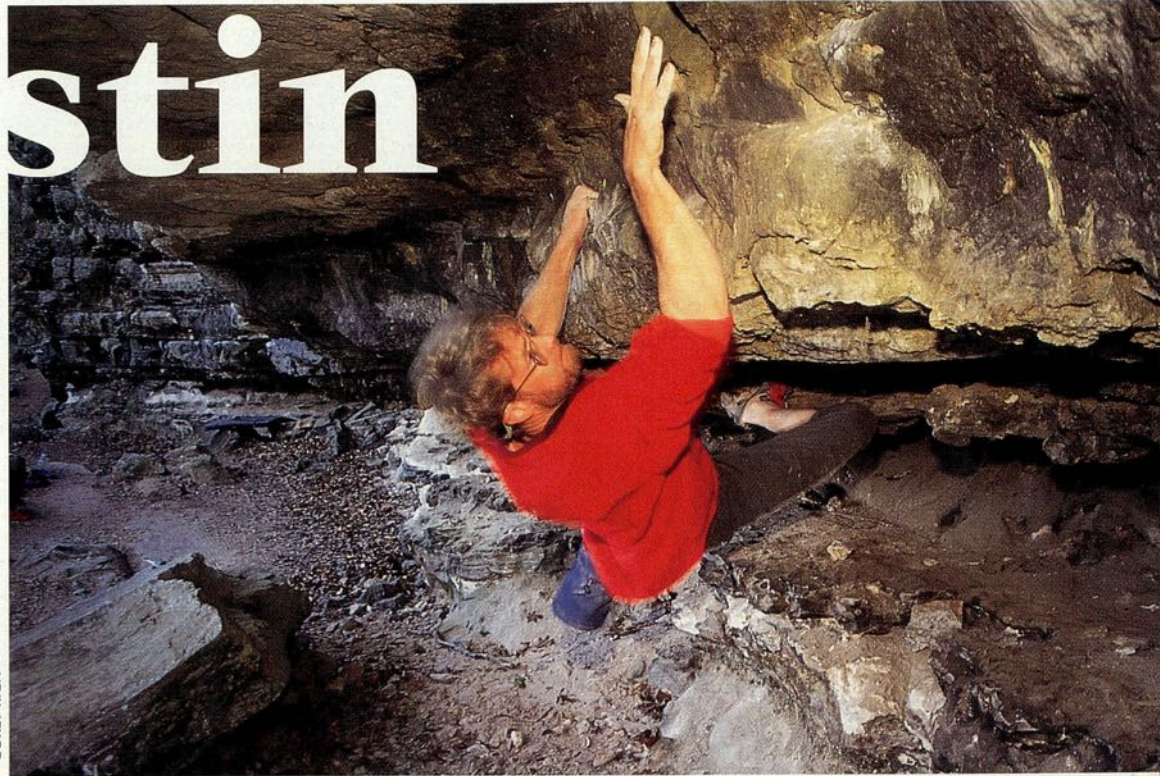
**5:05 p.m.** Shit — heavy traffic near downtown. May as well make use of the time. Twisting and contorting between seat and steering wheel, I manage to trade stiff office wear for climbing clothes.

**5:15 p.m.** Finally! I'm at the Greenbelt, a collection of about 200 routes just minutes from downtown Austin. Nick is waiting with my dog, Jack.

**5:25 p.m.** After a speedy hike down the trail, dodging mountain bikers, we finally make it to the New Wall. This is where Nick and I had our first date. We met at Hueco Tanks around a fire at Pete's over Thanksgiving. He called me not long afterward, and we've been seeing one another and climbing together ever since.

I love coming to the Greenbelt. Maybe it's not the best climbing in the world. But there aren't many cities where I could make a decent living, boulder during lunch at one crag, and rope up for routes at another after work.

**6 p.m.** The crags are busy, and we decide to jump on Tunnel Vision (5.12). On our way, we run into my good friend John, who is kind enough to hang the draws for us. That's climbing in Austin for you — it's a small enough community that you know just about everyone at the crags and often bump into friends. It's not a competitive scene, either. Before I met Nick, I went out to the crags alone and always found a friendly rope to share. It's the type of place where experienced climbers don't mind pointing out new routes to newcomers or helping beginners clean difficult climbs. Just last month,



COREY RICH

I finished off a route for a group so they wouldn't have to bail and leave their gear. And why not? It's good karma.

**8:30 p.m.** The sun is setting. We head toward the cars. With the exception of Jack picking a couple of fights with some passing yip-yap dogs, it was a pretty good evening.

**9 p.m.** Nick and I are starving, so we head straight to the Crown and Anchor for beers and burgers. Other climbers begin trickling in. John wanders up. Then comes Dave. Super Dave. I have fond memories of weekend trips to Mexico with Dave. Border Patrol permitting, we can be in El Potrero Chico in about 7 hours. If you have yet to climb in Mexico, all I can say is "Go!"

**9:15 p.m.** Dave has a wild hair to go to hip-hop night at Nasty's, and he's trying to persuade the group. Everyone is piking out because it's a Monday. Dave resorts to begging, then bribery. Nick is tired and wants to go home. I'm a bit tired, too. I start to feel old but agree to go along anyway.

Austin is a young town with a thriving scene. The university is partly to blame, but so is the burgeoning high-tech industry. These companies are hiring from all over the country, and the incoming yuppies seem to be breeding like rab-

**ONLY FIVE MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN AUSTIN, RICK WATSON TRIES TO GET SOME JACK (V7) AT BARTON CREEK GREENBELT.**

bits. At parties, four out of every five people are from somewhere else. People are always out: out running, out biking, out rowing, out swimming, out walking dogs. There's good live music any night of the week, coffee shops on every corner and artisans all around.

**11 p.m.** The group finally manages to rally to Nasty's. And, my God, the name is fitting. It's a biker bar, with no lights, young sweaty bodies and throbbing music. I'm told they only do this one night a week — the other nights it's a hang-out for rugby players.

**2 a.m.** We shut the place down, rouse Jack, who crashed in my SUV earlier in the evening, and head for home. Less than an hour later, I'm showered and getting into bed. I don't feel so old after all.

**7 a.m.** Ugh. Time for work again. Maybe I'll go bouldering at Bull Creek during lunch today. Or perhaps just a quick sesh at the gym.

Another day in Austin.

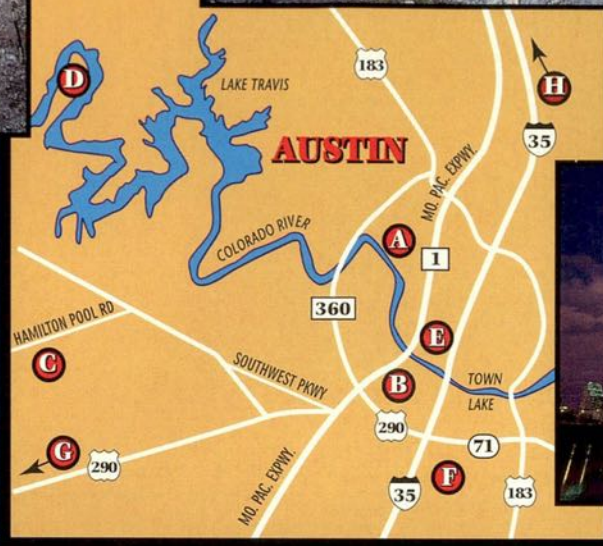
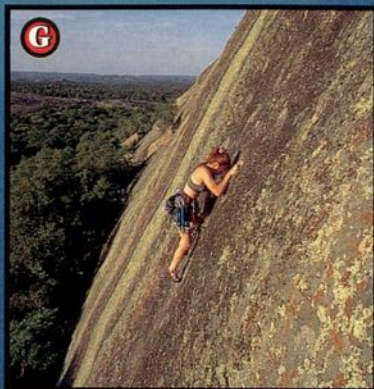
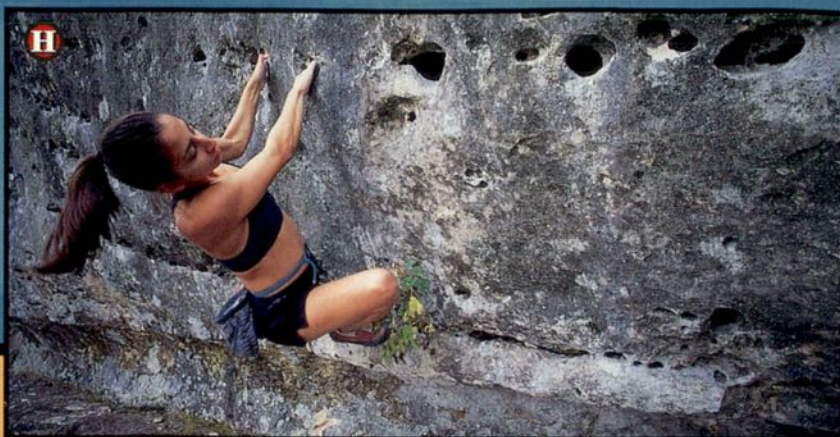
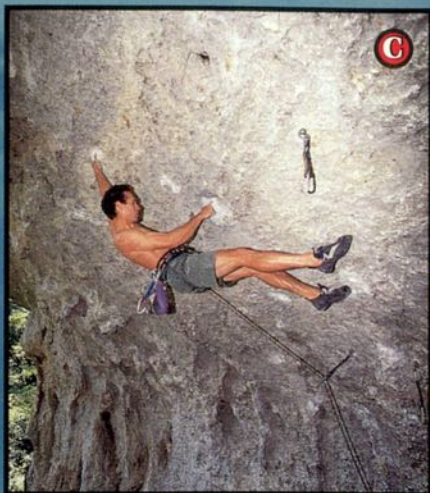
*Rebecca Gonzales, a native Texan, has been an avid sport climber for seven years and writes monthly performance articles for Mountain Zone.com.*

## 10 best

1. Take a dip at Barton Springs and lie out in the sun on the hill.
2. The Alamo Theater on Mondays: \$1 movies, \$1 beers, \$1 popcorn.
3. Drop by Eeyore's Birthday Party, held every April in Pease Park. Who knows why, but the Winnie-the-Pooh character's birthday bash is the best celebration in the city.
4. Go for a jog along Town Lake, Shoal Creek or Barton Creek.
5. Nude sunbathing at Hippie Hollow. Don't forget margs at the Oasis afterward.
6. Free Shakespeare at Zilker Outdoor Theater every summer.
7. The SXSW Music and Media Festival, every March, attracts hundreds of bands from around the world.
8. The Spider House has some of the best coffee and is a great spot for private moments.
9. Sixth Street: Love it or hate it, it's home to more bars per capita than any other city in the US.
10. Free sample days at Central Market, for those who are truly hard-up.

[Continues]





## where to climb

### A. Bull Creek Park

Bull Creek is infamous for its drilled routes. They are mostly hard — 80% are over 5.12 — and often height-dependent. The wall is along a scenic trail just 10 minutes north of downtown off Hwy. 2222, west of Mo. Pac. After exiting Mo. Pac., go right on Lakewood to the park. There are also about 30 boulder problems with pea-gravel landings.

### B. Barton Creek Greenbelt

Only five minutes from downtown, the Greenbelt is home to almost 200 routes. There are miles of cliffs, therefore access depends on which wall you're visiting. Don't miss the New Wall and Great Wall at the end of Barton Skyway, off Mo. Pac., south of the river.

### C. Reimer's Fishing Ranch

There is fishing here, but the climbing's so good you'd be stupid to bother. Reimer's is just 45 minutes west of town off of Hwy 71, down Hamilton Pool Road. The great Sex Cave is the highlight, with about 10 fun, super-steep routes. And the river can be rather refreshing after a hard day of climbing.

### D. Pace Bend Park

At Pace Bend Park, cool, inviting water waits for you to skid off the steep boulder problems. Bring a floatie for resting between runs. Head for one of two coves: Thurman or Maugham. From Austin, take Hwy. 71 west to FM 2322, and follow the road to Pace Bend Park.

### E. Pseudo-Rock

Conveniently located downtown at the corner of 2nd and Trinity, this is Austin's first climbing gym, with lots of great bouldering. 200 Trinity St. 512-474-4376

### F. Austin Rock Gym

Fairly new to Austin, this gym has a few amenities that Pseudo-Rock lacks, such as air conditioning, showers and lots of lead routes. It's about 20 minutes south of downtown off of Ben White Blvd., east of I-35. 4401 Freidrich Ln., Ste. 300 512-416-9299

### G. Enchanted Rock

Austin's trad playground, known to locals as E-Rock, is 95 miles west of the city. The triple granite domes may not look like much, but they offer plenty of excellent crack and face climbing. Texas climbing had its fledgling beginnings here.

### H. Roger's Park

Regardless of your tastes, this garden of delectable bouldering will leave you salivating heavier than a Rottweiler in a Texas heat-wave. From V0 to V9, this place is for everyone. Take I-35 north from Austin to Belton. Exit 293A, and turn left at the light. Make a right turn on 317, then a left on FM 439. Pass over Belton Dam, and continue to Roger's Park Road. Make a right, then park at the boat dock. Walk along the shore and up the hill. Look for a trail off the road on your right, then hike a mile to the rock treasure tucked away behind the trees.

## where to eat

### Chuy's

Yummy Tex-Mex, killer margaritas and a wild atmosphere. Ask for creamy jalapeño dressing...on everything! An Austin standard. (3 locations) 1728 Barton Springs Rd. 512-474-4452

### Z-Tejas Grill

A little pricier, but the fish tacos are out of this world. (2 locations) 1110 W. 6th St 512-478-5355

### Amy's Ice Cream

Flavors even Einstein wouldn't have considered! Kooky decor and a staff to match. (4 locations) 1012 W. 6th St 512-480-0673

### Chuy's Hula Hut

Chile rubbed salmon tacos — mmmmm! The Tubular Taco is bigger than my waist! 3825 Lake Austin Blvd. 512-476-4852

### Waterloo Brewing Co.

Great beer, good food. What more could you ask for? 401 Guadalupe St. 512-477-1836

### Magnolia Cafe

Twenty-four-hour grub with pizzazz. 2304 Lake Austin Blvd. 512-478-8645

## where to go

### Central Market

A shopping experience you won't forget. (2 locations) 4001 N. Lamar Blvd. 512-206-1000

### Waterloo Records and Video

This is the Austin attitude. 600 N. Lamar Blvd., Ste. A 512-474-2500

### Oilcan Harry's

For those who butter their bread on the other side. 211 W. 4th St. 512-320-8823

### Austin Museum of Art

Nuff said. 823 Congress Ave. 512-495-9224

### Book People

A local version of B&N but better... because it's local. 603 N. Lamar Blvd. 512-472-5050

### Broken Spoke

Ol' fashioned country music the way Gawd intended it. Worth a peek. 3201 S. Lamar Blvd. 512-442-6189



PUSHER

presents

A Josh Lowell Film

Chris Sharma  
**Rampage**



photo: chris rollett



To Order:

Call Toll-Free: 877-ROCKICE (303-499-8410 outside the US)

Online at: [www.rockandice.com](http://www.rockandice.com)

Rock & Ice 603 South Broadway Street, Suite A Boulder, CO 80303

For video previews, visit: [www.bigUPproductions.com](http://www.bigUPproductions.com)



**ROCK  
& ICE**



## Bargains On Ice

Getting started for under \$500 *by Jack Roberts*

**W**hen it comes to drooling over equipment innovations, whether real or imagined, there is no greater fool than the male ice climber. Guys obsess over the latest in carbon fiber and unobtainium ice technology. If a gorgeous woman shows up with a hot new axe, a crowd of men is sure to gather... around the ice tool.

The newest technology certainly has its place. The most expensive ice axes are usually lighter, constructed from materials that absorb shock better and seem to just, well, *feel* better when you swing them into ice. But, especially for newcomers to ice climbing, are they really worth more than \$200 extra per set? Will high-priced tools and more expensive crampons make you a better climber? Maybe. Maybe not.

Most of the less expensive tools on the market today would have been the best available ten years ago. High-tech materials aside, the features that really count in a good axe are basically the same for both the economical models and top-of-the-line tools.

Nowadays, you can start climbing ice, or upgrade your antique gear, for just \$500 and get very good tools and crampons. (Good boots, winter clothes and other gear will add more, of course.) For this review, I limited the field to water-ice tools that cost less than \$180 each and crampons that are under \$140.

**DO YOU NEED THE MOST EXPENSIVE ICE TOOLS FOR CHALLENGING ROUTES LIKE SHIVA'S LINGAM IN CHAMONIX? NOT NECESSARILY.**





## ICE TOOLS

When you shop for ice tools, you will be met with four shaft designs: straight, bent at the bottom, bent at the top and bent in both places (bowed).

Straight shafts work the best in alpine situations, since they plunge into snow well for secure climbing and belays.

A bend in the lower shaft helps relax your wrist and protect your knuckles, and it doesn't really make plunging the axe into snow that difficult — these also work best for mixed climbs.

An upper bend gives greater head clearance for cauliflower ice and bulges, making them ideal for waterfalls but still adequate on alpine routes.

Tools with bends at both ends will give knuckle protection and good head clearance. These are the most specialized designs for very technical waterfall ice.

Every time a pick hits the ice, vibration is sent down the shaft to your hand. The more "damp" a tool feels, the less likely it is to shatter thin ice and the easier it will be to grip for a long pitch. Some tools vibrate more than others, and this is one of the factors that separates good tools from not-so-good. This is difficult to feel in the store, however, so try to test a tool on ice before buying it.

Rubber grips add comfort and provide insulation from cold aluminum shafts. However, if they are too thick or bulbous on the bottom, the shaft will be difficult to plunge into the snow and harder to holster. A thinner shaft is easier to hold, especially for those with small hands. Thinner shafts also require less effort to swing accurately and hold onto when you're pumped.

Your choice of axe length is pretty much limited to 50 centimeters. Some companies offer other shaft lengths, but shorter tools often don't offer enough reach and longer tools tend to get in the way on technical terrain.

**heads up** If an ice tool is too heavy, you'll get pumped quickly — too light, and your pick will bounce off the ice. Distribution of the weight is more important than overall weight. You want the mass centered near the head for effective strikes. Some tools accept removable head weights that can be useful when switching between waterfalls and alpine climbs.

Modular heads are now the norm because they offer the greatest versatility. Should your pick break (and they still do), you can replace the pick and not the entire axe. Even if the picks don't break, they wear down with filing and require replacing every so often.

The modular head should have a steel hammering surface on top so you can pound the shaft into snow for belays. Aluminum heads deform easily when hammered upon. Make sure it is easy to switch out parts. Any tongue-and-groove parts should slip together and apart easily, and bolt heads should be deep so they'll resist stripping. The simpler the system the better. Nothing's worse than dropping an essential part in powder snow below your climb.

**pick of the picks** As your point of contact with the ice or rock, the tool's pick is of utmost importance. The angle of the pick and the arrangement of the teeth greatly affect a tool's performance. Reverse-curve picks are the most effective in all varieties of ice, from névé to chandelier. Thinner picks (3mm) fracture ice less than thicker picks (5mm) but are often more likely to snap.

I have rarely seen an ice pick that did not require modification to improve its performance, though this has changed for the better with the newer picks on the market. You still may want to modify the picks for improved performance (see R&I #83 for details), but it now takes a few minutes instead of an hour.

If you have any money left after buying your tools, also consider

## No Competition.

Turn-key Custom Wall Systems

Cost-Effective Steel Space Frames

Hydraulic & Free-standing Portables

Display Space & Fixtures

**COMP WALL** CLIMBING SYSTEMS

Compwall Inc. • 415.551.1455 • info@compwall.com • www.compwall.com

## VACATION PLANNING?

YOU'LL WANT HELP FROM **SHARP END PUBLISHING.**  
QUALITY CLIMBING GUIDEBOOKS.

THE FIRST PUBLISHER TO BRING YOU CLASSIC SERIES SELECT GUIDES, STATE-WIDE BOULDERING GUIDES, ELECTRONIC GUIDES, AND TOPROPE GUIDES.

— New Title —

**ROCK CLIMBS OF SOUTHWEST UTAH AND THE ARIZONA STRIP**

by Todd Goss

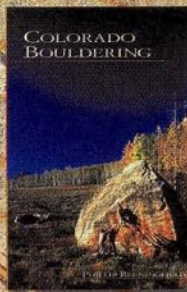
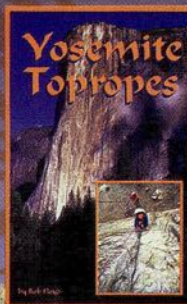
(COVERING CANYON, UTAH HILLS, THE VRG, SNOW CANYON, AND OVER 40 OTHER CRAGS ON SEVEN ROCK TYPES. EVERYTHING FROM OVERHANGING LIMESTONE, TECHNICAL BASALT, STEEP COBBLES, WINGATE CRACKS, AND MUCH MORE IN THE CLIMBER'S MECCA AROUND ST. GEORGE, UTAH.)

### Other titles:

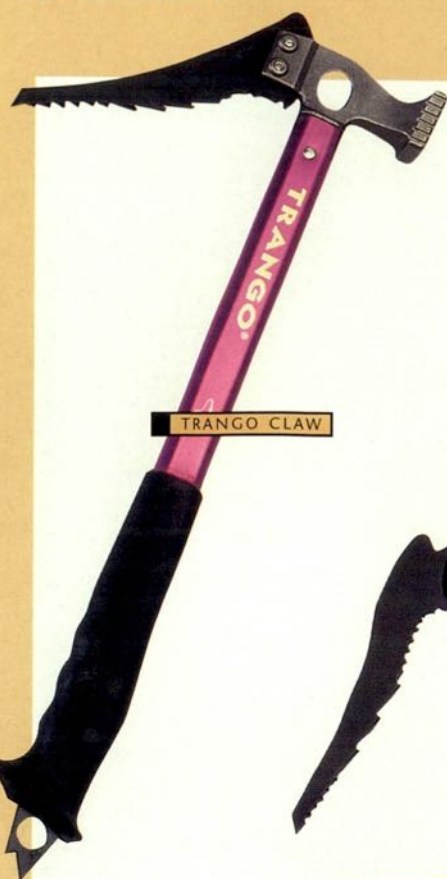
**Classic Boulder Climbs** \$9.95  
**Classic Desert Climbs** \$12.95  
**Colorado Boulder** \$28.00  
**Front Range Topropes** \$18.00  
**Indian Creek Climbs** \$9.95  
**Rifle Climbers Guide...** \$7.95  
**Shelf Road Rock** \$12.95  
**South Platte Rock** \$12.95  
**The Park: RMNP guide** \$9.95  
**Winter Trails of the Front Range** \$7.95  
**Yosemite Topropes** \$8.95  
and more....

Available at fine mountain shops

PO Box 1613 ~ Boulder, CO 80306  
303.444.2698 ~ info@rock@aol.com  
Call, write or check us out on the web at rockbyte.com







TRANGO CLAW



TRANGO HARPOON



HB HURRICANE



DMM FLY

BLACK DIAMOND SABRETOOTH



GRIVEL G12



SMILEY'S VENOM



CAMP WOODPECKER MONTAGNE

CAMP ICE RUNNER SEMI-RIGID



METOLIOUS 007



BLACK DIAMOND SHRIKE



purchasing extra picks. A spare in the field is always good to have, and pick designs sometimes change or are discontinued, leaving your favorite unavailable.

An overlooked but important component of axe design is the spike. The best spikes rake forward to help stabilize the shaft and eliminate wiggling when on thin or tenuous ice. Sharpened teeth on the front of a spike give additional bite into the ice and allow for a quick-fix hold when necessary. However, spikes should also be low profile to make your life easier when holstering and plunging the shaft into the snow.

**Leashes** When you're leading in nasty conditions and soiling your Gore-Tex because everything in your "system" is not working, you may wish you'd spend some extra dollars on better leashes for your tools. Most tools in this review come with a leash, but some of them should be replaced before you go climbing steep terrain.

Most climbers prefer a lock-down leash that secures the wrist but also releases easily under icy duress. The fewer movements it takes to operate the leash, the lower your panic level. Avoid Velcro leashes, which tend to freeze up. A couple of companies offer a detachable leash system for easier screw placements. These systems have promise, but they still have enough bugs that my recommendation is to hold off for now.

**BLACK DIAMOND SHRIKE  
(BENT SHAFT \$170,  
STRAIGHT SHAFT \$160)**

These replacements for BD's popular X-15 offer major improvements for less money. The aluminum shaft now has a smaller circumference that makes for an easier grip and a tool that is four ounces lighter. The adze has been redesigned in a diamond shape, giving greater usefulness in mixed climbing. The new hammer head matches that of the Black Prophet, for secure camming in cracks.

The Shrike comes with a Cobra pick, which has few equals. The single bolt attachment is the best of all the tools reviewed, since it only requires the pick of another tool to be slotted into a groove and turned to change the pick. This is a high-performance tool at a good price, but you do have to buy a leash separately. Bent shaft: 50cm. Straight shaft: 50, 55 and 60cm.

**CAMP WOODPECKER  
MONTAGNE (\$175)**

This cousin to the funky Camp Woodpecker has a single bend at the top of the shaft that allows for excellent clearance and makes it a better all-around tool. It also has a thinner grip than the old Woodpecker and comes with a comfortable leash. The alloy head requires only one bolt to change the pick and the adze/hammer, but it is a clumsy design that is difficult to assemble in the field. 50cm.

**CAMP HYPER  
COULOIR (\$175)**

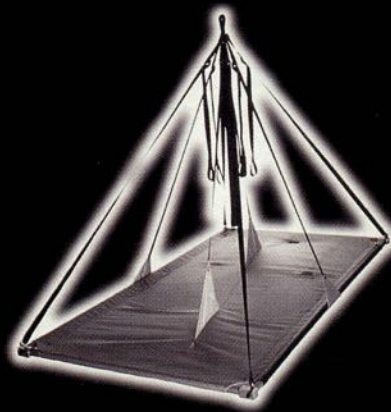
The heavy, lower-bend Hyper Couloir is adequate for both alpine and waterfall climbing situations. However, its design has not changed for many years and there are now much better options for a technical tool. The complicated head assembly makes field changes a nightmare. But at least you get a decent leash. 50cm.

**DMM FLY (\$166)**

With features borrowed from the Predator and the Alien, this new tool is lighter, simpler and easier on the pocketbook. However, the balance of the Fly is not quite as good as with the Alien, and the thicker pick fractures hard ice more readily than the newest Alien pick. If you break or wear out a Fly pick, you will need to replace the entire head (\$33 with adze, \$40 with hammer). Clearance for waterfall ice is great and the pronounced spike gives additional security. Comes with a basic leash. 50cm.

# SANTA'S SLEIGH?

Portaledges: Singles, doubles, reindeer not included.



the  
art  
of  
climbing

888/325-6560  
www.stoneage-gear.com

Call for our catalog of handholds, wall panels, and other climbing products.



### **DMM RAPTOR TECHNICAL (\$139)**

This is a modular alpine axe that has crossover potential for water-ice climbing — a good choice as a starter tool for the aspirant alpinist who wishes to dabble in water-fall climbing. Available only with a straight shaft, the Raptor has a beautiful swing and its reverse curve pick works well on all terrain. Comes with a basic leash. 50cm and 55cm.

### **HUGH BANNER HURRICANE (\$175)**

The Hurricane has a nice swing and is competitively priced. Well-designed brass or aluminum head weights (\$27 each) allow you to customize your tool's balance. The Jamming Kit (\$50) includes both the brass weights and aluminum tapers for slotting the head into appropriately sized cracks. This idea seems fine in theory but does not work well in the field — save

your money. The shaft is comfortable for small hands. A good basic axe with an upper bend and a decent leash that works for all conditions. 45cm and 50cm.

### **METOLIUS 007 (BENT SHAFT \$179, STRAIGHT SHAFT \$169)**

Made by LuckY, the 007 is very similar to Charlet Moser's Pulsar, but it's not as nice as the original and the leash is primitive. Suitable for either alpine or waterfall ice climbing, this tool has a good feel but a fat grip and an inferior pick. Better options are available for the money. 50cm.

### **SMILEY'S VENOM (\$115)**

Redesigned for this season, the new Venom is a bit lighter, more durable and has a superior pick — a great buy at this price. The shaft bends forward slightly from the upper half of the shaft to improve the head clearance

and reach of the pick. The swing and balance of the Venom are very good, and the rubber grip with the indented finger contour provides a comfortable feel. The hammer head has been changed from last year's small circle to an inverted pyramid, giving a better pounding surface and a secure jamming shape. Comes with a nice leash, too. 45cm and 50cm.

### **TRANGO CLAW (\$140)**

Most "third tools" fall into the hope-you-don't-need-it category, but the Claw is a notable exception — some climbers may not need anything else. The investment-cast, stainless-steel hammer head gives good heft to your swing, and the interchangeable pick is about as good as they get. The straight shaft has a comfortable molded rubber grip with a platform base and it comes with a decent leash. An excellent value. 45cm.

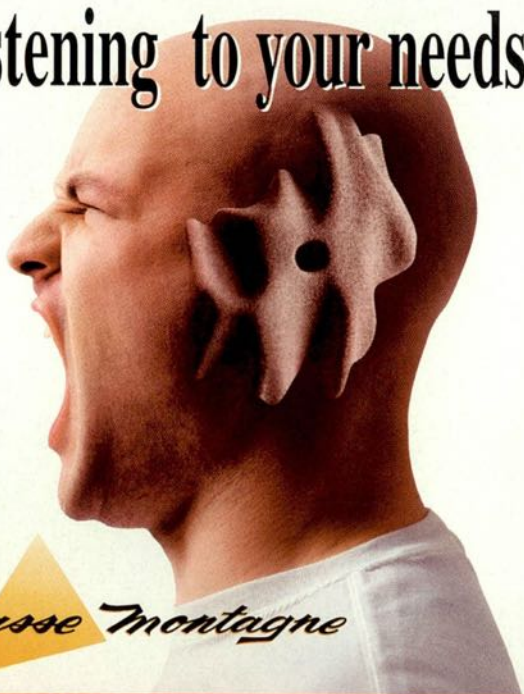
**BOTTOM LINE** For pure value and surprising performance, the Smiley's Venom is unbeatable. However, the Black Diamond Shrike would be my choice for high performance at a reasonable price.

## **CRAMPONS**

You start realizing the importance of good crampons when your calves are screaming with pain in the middle of a long, steep pitch. Just as good tools stick with a single swing, the better crampons provide security with minimal effort.

Vertically oriented frontpoints rule for steep ice because they slice cleanly and with minimal fracturing. They also allow more accurate footwork and point placement when used on thin ice or mixed ground. Horizontal frontpoints provide more surface area, so they work better for steep snow and lower-angled ice, where they won't sheer out. However, they still

# Listening to your needs



*Passe Montagne*

1760, Montée 2<sup>e</sup> rang, Val-David (Québec) Canada J0T 2N0  
Tel.: (819) 322-2123, 1-800-465-2123. Fax: (819) 322-2948  
climbing@passemontagne.com • <http://www.passemontagne.com>

## **FIRST LEGAL\*** **JAMMERS**

### **PHANTOM Jammer w/Detector**



**\$319.99**

### **PHAZER Radar & Laser Jammer**



**\$199.99**

\* Except California, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Virginia & Washington DC

**Jams All 3 Radar Frequencies & Both Laser Guns,  
Undetectable, 30 Day Money Back, 36 Month Factory  
Warranty, & 1 Year Ticket Rebate**

**2 Day  
Shipping  
included**

**RMR Distributing**

**PO Box 50258**

**Colorado Springs, CO 80949**

**800-231-1511**

**719-593-9841 FAX**

**8-5 M-F MST**

**radarjammers.com**

**MC/Visa  
Discover  
AmEx**



work okay for steep, hard ice.

Monopoints are preferred for almost all mixed and hard water-ice climbing because the single frontpoint lets you take advantage of small divots in the ice and holds on mixed ground. Toeing into holes left by your picks saves energy and keeps fracturing to a minimum. Monos also make climbing ice more fun, because your movements can be more akin to those in rock climbing.

However, although some of the low-price crampons reviewed here have optional conversion kits for monopoints, most of them come with dual points. Dualies offer more support than monos and thus are less fatiguing on the calf muscles. They also are slightly more resistant to shearing through soft ice. Since changing points is a hassle, most people just set up their crampons according to their first preference and make do the rest of the time.

Directly behind the frontpoints

are the secondary points, the location and shape of which is vital. These take strain off the frontpoints and calf muscles by giving support on vertical terrain. Secondary points with a lot of forward rake work best on steep ice, while moderate rake is better for mixed climbing.

Rigid crampons reduce vibration, hence they shatter less ice and eliminate the flex of mountaineering boots. (Some plastic and most leather boots are not truly rigid.) Semi-rigid crampons have a minimal hinge under the arch that allows some flex (unless the boot is indeed rigid), which reduces metal fatigue and helps pop off snow clumps. Semi-rigid crampons also are more compact in your pack, so they are often the choice for alpine climbs.

Most crampons come with clip-on toe and heel bails. Another option is a hybrid system with a strap for the toe and a heel clip for the back. These can be used with overboots

and lighter-weight boots that may not have a pronounced toe welt. Most boots used for alpine and ice climbing can and should use the full clip-on system, as it is more rigid and secure on steep ice.

Anti-balling plates should be standard on all crampons but are usually offered only as an option. These rubber sheets fit on the bottom of the crampon to prevent heavy and dangerous clumps of snow from sticking. Since anti-balling plates tend to be specific to certain models, avoid buying any crampon that does not have them available.

#### BLACK DIAMOND SABRETOOTH (\$135)

The Sabretooth crampon is an excellent all-around performer with horizontal frontpoints, equally adept on steep ice and snow slopes. The latest improvement to this semi-rigid crampon is a plastic heel lever with a vertical adjustment screw; the new

lever fits more securely than the old aluminum lever and won't cut into leather boots. Dual secondary points offer maximum security on a variety of icy ground and help minimize calf fatigue. Anti-balling plates available (\$40).

#### CAMP ICE RUNNER (\$125)

The Ice Runner is a rigid design for steep waterfalls and/or alpine ice. It has a step-in binding system, but it may not work with all boots due to a lack of rocker. A mono-point kit is sold separately for \$18. This crampon is a solid performer and, with its aggressive vertical front teeth, functions well on steep ice. Balling up is still a problem despite its metal front plate, and no anti-balling plates are available.

#### CAMP ICE RUNNER SEMI-RIGID (\$106)

Lighter and less expensive than the Ice Runner, this design combines dual, vertical frontpoints

## Your personal best.

# ADVIZOR

## knows it by heart.

- Heart Rate Monitor using Polar® Technology
- Digital Compass • Altimeter • Barometer
- Dual Time, Date, Stopwatch

The Suunto Advizor Wristop Computer is your ultimate personal Trainer. Advizor simultaneously shows your heart rate, altitude and vertical ascent/descent data. Advizor's memory stores your total training time...your maximum/minimum and average heart rate during training, and your time spent in/above/below your pre-set target heart rate. Plus, with an electroluminescent backlight, user replaceable battery and 3 daily alarms, you're ready for anything. In a heartbeat.

Suggested Retail \$299

**VECTOR**  
Suggested Retail: \$199

**X-LANDER**  
Suggested Retail: \$299

**ALTIMAX**  
Suggested Retail: \$179

Transmitter Belt Included

# SUUNTO

For information visit us at [www.suuntousa.com](http://www.suuntousa.com)  
For a dealer near you call Suunto at (800) 543-9124

\* Polar® is a registered trademark of Polar Electro Oy



# GLOBE

DO NOT FIGHT THE ATTRACTION ANYMORE

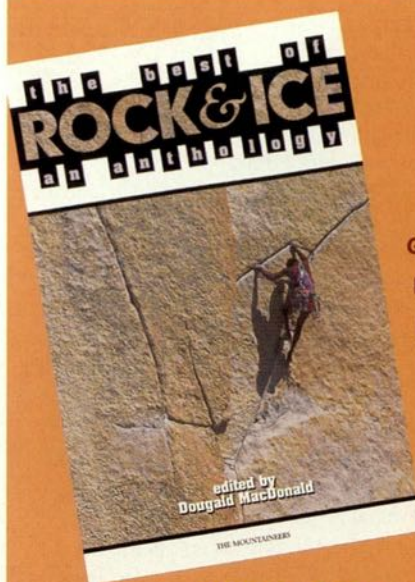


PRICE LIST

XS	\$2.20
SM	\$2.90
MEDIUM	\$4.40
LARGE	\$6.60
XLARGE	
MEGA	



CALL FOR OUR CATALOG  
514 817 7473



## 25 Unforgettable Stories

GREG CHILD ... on Alaskan misadventures  
MARK TWIGHT ... on extreme alpinism  
JAY ANDERSON ... on the ultimate offwidth  
PAT AMENT ... on a life in climbing  
JOHN LONG ... on the follies of guiding  
JIM BRIDWELL ... on John Long

**THE BEST OF ROCK & ICE**  
15 years of The World's Climbing Magazine  
in one powerful volume.

Order today: \$17.95 plus \$2 shipping in U.S., \$3 foreign

**Call toll-free 1-877-ROCKICE**

Order by fax 303-499-4131, or send a check to Rock & Ice,  
603 South Broadway, Suite A, Boulder, CO 80303

# THE SUPPORTERS PROJECT

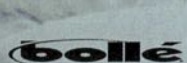
PORTERSPROJECT@AOL.COM PO Box 1177 RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877

IMAGINE A JOB WHERE YOU CARRY  
65 POUNDS FOR 8 HOURS  
ON HEINOUS TERRAIN, FOR 6 BUCKS A DAY.

NOW IMAGINE YOUR PACK FRAME  
IS MADE OF WOOD, YOUR SHOES ARE  
FALLING APART, AND YOU'RE SNOWBLIND.

YOU'RE A BALTI PORTER IN THE KARAKORUM.

HELP THANK OUR 1999 SUPPORTERS PROJECT PARTNERS,  
WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR  
EXPEDITIONS TO BE RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYERS.





with an alpine-style frame. This is a good choice for the climber who wants a crampon that is mainly designed for alpine climbing but also will frontpoint on water ice relatively well (monopoint kit available). Available with a hybrid binding system. No anti-balling plates.

**CHARLET MOSER SUPER 12 RAPIDFIX (\$138)**

This is a horizontal, dual-point crampon that is ideal for alpine terrain and occasional water ice. The binding features a heel lever (with a lip that is prone to snagging ropes, twigs, etc.) and your choice of toe bails or front straps to keep it securely attached to your boots. Anti-balling plates available (\$37).

**GRIVEL G12 (\$128)**

This general-purpose crampon works well on all but the steepest terrain. It is a semi-rigid design, with horizontal frontpoints, that is easy to adjust and is available in four different binding styles. A solid performer. Anti-balling plates available (\$30).

**STUBAI TIROL (\$140)**

These are good, basic general mountaineering crampons featuring horizontal frontpoints and a semi-rigid frame. Choose from three binding styles. Anti-balling plates available (\$42).

**TRANGO HARPOON (\$140)**

The Harpoon comes with both mono and dual vertical frontpoints, which makes it a tremendous value. The offset monopoint arrangement puts the point directly under the big toe, for precise, secure placements. A great performer for mixed climbing and for technical ice, as well as all-around terrain. However, its cookie-cutter frame balls up easily with snow — an anti-balling plate is in the works.

**BOTTOM LINE** If you mostly climb alpine routes, the Grivel G12 is a proven crampon and the best value. For technical water ice, the Trango Harpoon is the real deal.

*Jack Roberts is a professional guide in Boulder and the author of Colorado Ice. ▲*

## SOURCES

**Black Diamond**

801-278-5533 | [www.blackdiamondequipment.com](http://www.blackdiamondequipment.com)

**Camp (Adventure 16)**

800-854-2672 | [www.camp.it](http://www.camp.it)

**Charlet Moser (Wild Country USA)**

603-356-5590 | [www.charlet-moser.com](http://www.charlet-moser.com)

**DMM (Excalibur)**

801-942-8471 | [www.dmm.wales.com](http://www.dmm.wales.com)

**Grivel (Climb High)**

802-985-5056 | [www.climbhigh.com](http://www.climbhigh.com)

**Metolius**

541-382-7585 | [www.metoliusclimbing.com](http://www.metoliusclimbing.com)

**Smiley's**

877-423-8665 | [www.smileysclimbing.com](http://www.smileysclimbing.com)

**Stubai (Advanced Base Camp)**

888-902-5462 | [www.stubai.com](http://www.stubai.com)

**Trango**

303-443-8438 | [www.trango.com](http://www.trango.com)

## KAJITAX

From JAPAN • Available in the US



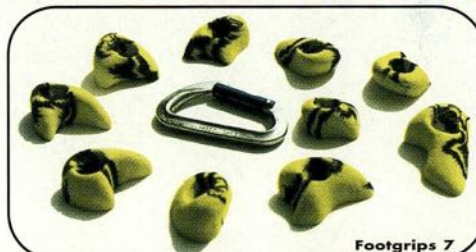
**Windy Corner**

FINE OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

ALASKA: (907) 278-3100 \* FAX (907) 373-6116  
NEW JERSEY: (201) 386-0557 \* FAX (201) 386-0556  
EMAIL: [CLIMB@WINDYCORNER.COM](mailto:CLIMB@WINDYCORNER.COM)  
WEB SITE: [WWW.WINDYCORNER.COM](http://WWW.WINDYCORNER.COM)

## Holiday Special

Get a **FREE** set of **FOOTGRIPS**



When you buy any set of **JUMBOS**



Or get a **FREE** set of **Minis**  
When you buy any set of **KEYSTONES**

[www.groperz.com](http://www.groperz.com)  
**800-476-7366**

**GROPERZ**

Offer expires: 01/05/00



# Eastern Bouldering Series

brought to you by

ROCK&ICE



no judges  
low entrance fees  
lots of problems

comps were meant  
to be fun

y2k

jan5@gainesville.fl.407.332.1430

jan8@climbnorth.pa.412.487.2145

jan14@diamonrock.nj.973.560.0413

jan16@planetrock.mi.248.334.3904

jan17@sportrock.va.703.212.7625

jan22@hiddenpeak.il.312.563.9400

jan22@therock.ky.606.282.6116

jan29@coralcliffs.fl.954.321.9898

jan29@climbtime.in.317.596.3330

jan29@niagara.ny.716.695.1248

feb5@kendallcliffs.oh.330.655.5489

feb5@govvertical.ct.203.358.8767

feb5@rocksport.ky.502.266.5833

feb12@miamiuniversity.oh.513.529.1991

feb12@peakperformers.fl.904.398.9808

feb19@x-treme.fl.305.233.6623

feb19@innerpeaks.nc.704.844.6677

feb19@urbankrag.oh.937.224.5724

feb26@verticalescape.in.812.479.6887

mar3@petracliffs.vt.802.657.3872

regionals

dec29@climbtime.oh.513.891.4850

feb27@peakexperience.va.804.897.6800

mar4@aiguille.fl.407.332.1430

mar11@bouldermortys.nh.603.886.6789

final

mar25@climbtime.oh.513.891.4850

dates subject to change

www.easternbs.com  
888.944.4244

## reviews

### Field Tests

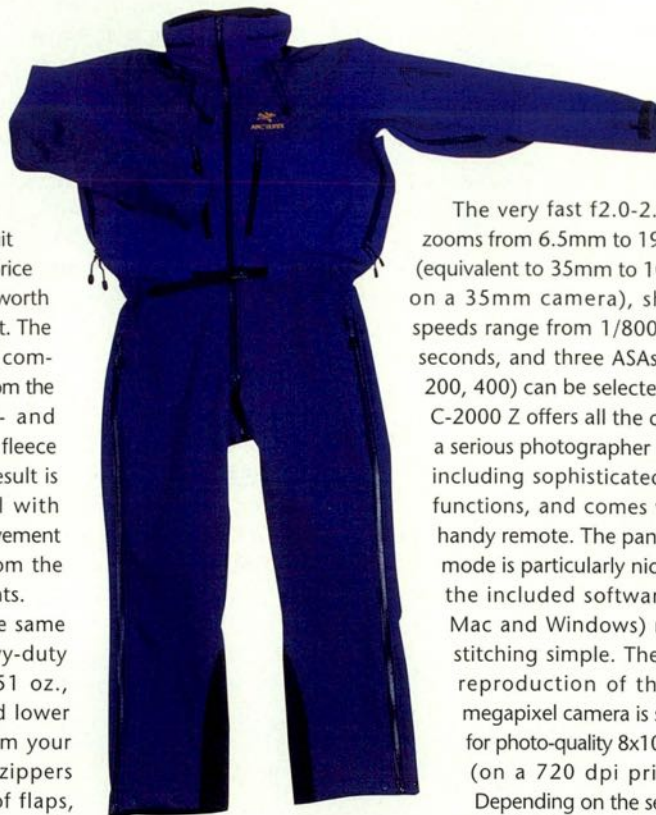
A Holiday Wish-List for the Climber with Everything

#### Arc'teryx Alpha

**SV Suit** — Try on this incredible one-piece suit before you look at the price tag — it just might be worth that mortgage payment. The Alpha SV Suit (\$850) combines a Gore-Tex shell from the waist up with wind- and water-resistant stretch fleece on the bottom. The result is a trim, rugged shell with superb freedom of movement and full protection from the nastiest winter elements.

While it's about the same weight as other heavy-duty suits (men's large: 51 oz., 1450g), the insulated lower eliminates a layer from your system. Waterproof zippers avoid the nuisance of flaps, long pit- and side-zips offer excellent ventilation, and a through-the-crotch zipper allows calls of nature while wearing a harness.

Detailing throughout is superb, with the exception of the zip-away hood (serviceable, but could be better). The Alpha SV is currently the only one-piece mountaineering suit available in women's sizing. It's sure to be on the wish list of any serious alpinist, ice climber or ski mountaineer. Arc'teryx: 800-985-6681; <www.arcteryx.com>.



#### Olympus C-2000 Z Digital

**Camera** — A camera is only as good as its lens — by this criterion alone, the C-2000 Z is the best prosumer (high-end consumer) digital camera on the market. That it's smaller, lighter (15.4 oz., 438g, w/batteries) and handles better with gloves than comparable digital cameras makes it the best choice for the climber who wants to go filmless.



The very fast f2.0-2.8 lens zooms from 6.5mm to 19.5mm (equivalent to 35mm to 105mm on a 35mm camera), shutter speeds range from 1/800 to 16 seconds, and three ASAs (100, 200, 400) can be selected. The C-2000 Z offers all the control a serious photographer needs, including sophisticated flash functions, and comes with a handy remote. The panorama mode is particularly nice, and the included software (for Mac and Windows) makes stitching simple. The color reproduction of this 2.1 megapixel camera is superb for photo-quality 8x10 prints (on a 720 dpi printer). Depending on the selected resolution, from one to 122 images fit on an 8MB SmartMedia card (up to 32MB available).

While film will rule for many years to come, going digital now makes sense for a heck of a lot of people. The Olympus C-2000 Z (about \$900 with NiMH batteries and charger) leads the way into the future. Olympus: 800-622-6372; <www.olympus.com>.

**Leatherman Crunch** — From the company that made the first multi-tool comes the aptly named Crunch (\$98), a compact, folding tool with locking pliers that grip to over one inch. Once you get the hang of it, assembly takes seconds. The locking mechanisms on the knife, file and other tools prevent mishaps. For longer trips in remote areas, a Crunch in your repair kit could save the day. (6.6 oz., 187g). Leatherman: 800-847-8665; <www.leatherman.com>.



### Cobra microTALK FRS-310 WX Radio

— Every electronics company has jumped on the family-radio bandwagon, so there are plenty to choose from. These

gadgets are great for communicating with your belayer on windy days and keeping groups together at ski areas.

What makes the FRS-310 WX (\$150 each)

notable is that it also receives 10 NOAA weather channels, so you'll know well in advance when to head for shelter.

The water-resistant radio is palm size, lightweight (6 oz., 169g, w/batteries) and has a good ergonomic design. Among the many features are a backlit screen, vibrating pager and optional speaker microphone (\$26). The FRS-310 WX is compatible with all other FRS radios and offers 532 addresses. Cobra: 773-889-8870; <www.cobraelec.com>.

**Kestrel 3000 Envirometer** — Kestrel keeps adding features to this nifty little (3 oz., 81g) portable weather station.

In addition to wind speed, the Kestrel 3000 (\$159) measures temperature and humidity and displays the wind-chill factor and heat index.

Now all it needs is an altimeter for wind force and weather prediction. Kestrel:

610-447-1555; <www.kestrel-instruments.com>.

**Juno Valkyrie Jacket & Pants** — A no-compromise, no-fluff, medium-weight shell especially for women? At first the idea sounded silly. But having tried Juno's Valkyrie jacket (\$369, 30 oz., 850g) and pants (\$289, 27 oz., 765g), I may never go back to unisex again.

Made from 3-layer Dermizax, a new waterproof/breathable laminate, the body of the jacket's outer is rugged ripstop, while the outer layer of the sleeves and the pants are stretch Dermizax for unrestricted movement when climbing and skiing. The set offers the usual features, including a storm skirt on the jacket and a nice hood with a sweet little brim to keep rain off your face. Unique pit zips contour to the front of the arm for better ventilation on the approach, and lots of pockets on the jacket, including an expanding one for a water bladder,

## telluridegear.com



**Web Catalog  
10% Off Gear  
Free Shipping!**

Membership Incentives  
5% donated to  
The Access Fund  
& American Alpine Club



**TollFree**

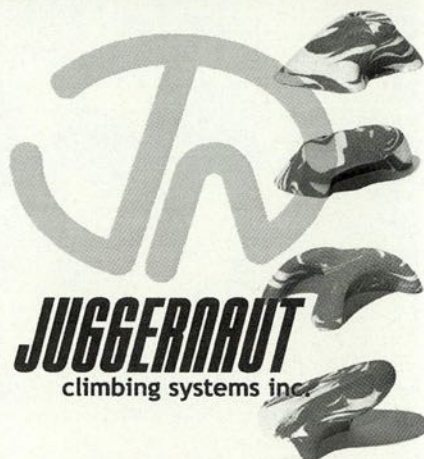


**1.877.411.6600**

**www.telluridegear.com**

Locally owned & operated out of Telluride, Colorado

## GOT JUGS?



a comprehensive line of climbing holds  
"jigger rocks" training blocks  
visit our website, or call / write for more info.

ph/fax: 403.282.7311

mail: 3203 7th street NW http://www.juggernaut.com  
calgary AB canada T2K 1E4 email: info@juggernaut.com

## 2000 YZK GRINGO



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN  
THE WORLD COMES TO AN END?

## @ RANCHO CERRO GORDO

**WWW.POTREROCHICO.COM**

JOIN US IN MEXICO  
FOR A 2 DAY CLIMBING FESTIVAL  
**DECEMBER 30-31, 1999**

CHARITY GEAR RAFFLE, CLINICS, TRAIL PROJECTS  
TRASH CLEAN-UP, NIGHTLY SLIDE SHOWS BY:  
KURT SMITH, BOBBIE BENSMAN, ACE KVALE  
COREY RICH, AND JOHN BURCHAM

AND A NEW YEAR RAVE  
FEATURING DJ MAK

Sponsored by: Rock & Ice  
Whole Earth Provision Co.  
and Black Diamond



**TRAVELLIGHT**

Peru • Bugaboos • Thailand • New Zealand • Kenya/Tanzania • France

**ROCK&ICE SuperGuide**

The New Peru • Best of Thailand • Rock in Four-Flows

**4 Great French Craggs**  
YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

**The Bugs**  
CERAMIC'S ON FIRE  
PLECTRUM

**BONUS Alps**  
Pull-Out Map

**The 1999 SuperGuide:  
It's all you need.**

**On sale now.**

AT FINE CLIMBING SHOPS AND BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE.

RESERVE YOUR 2000 SUPERGUIDE. SUBSCRIBE TO ROCK & ICE TODAY,  
AND GET IT DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR!

**couch surfing • travel gadgets • jet lag • grants**

**everest millennium**

six-time Everest summiter  
**Pete Athans**  
presents an intimate evening of slides and video about his experiences climbing one of the world's icons of adventure and the people and culture of the Khumbu.

**Thursday, Dec. 16, 1999  
7:30 P.M.**  
**The Paramount Theatre  
Denver, Colorado**  
**Tickets \$7.50-\$10.00**

Ticketmaster  
(303) 830-8497  
or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)  
The Paramount Box Office  
(303) 534-8336  
further information: (303) 279-3080  
a benefit for the Colorado Mountain Club

## reviews



**JUNO VALKYRIE JACKET**

rugged and fast-drying Cordura fabric with seat and knees of a stretch Schoeller fabric.

This dual construction lets the pants stretch like tights, allowing me complete freedom of movement, while protecting my legs from the

elements. The elastic-waist pants fit snugly under my harness, and the fleece-lined pockets treat my cold hands well without adding bulk. What's more, the uniquely positioned calf-zippers never interfere with climbing.

The best thing about these pants is their durability. I've worn them on a dozen desert chimneys over several months, and they haven't suffered a single hole or tear. There are barely signs of abrasion! These pants look and feel great long past day one and are a great value. Jagged Edge: 800-926-0159; <[www.jagged-edge.com](http://www.jagged-edge.com)>. — **Julie Garrison** ▲

make for great storage. The pants have a front-to-back zipper, full-length side zippers and internal snow gaiters. And the hand-warmer pockets on both jacket and pants are even accessible while wearing a pack or harness.

The real breakthrough, however, is the fit. Both the Valkyrie jacket and pants are made only for women, so the sleeves are just right, there's no bagginess in the chest area, the hips aren't too tight and the overall look is flattering. Which makes the Juno Valkyrie a woman's dream come true! Juno: 802-862-3351; <[www.JunoRising.com](http://www.JunoRising.com)>. — **Julie Garrison**

**Smiley's Knob** — Cool things come in small packages. For only \$5, you get three Knobs that retrofit Smiley's ice screws (as well as a few other brands), so they have a coffee-grinder handle for much faster placement and removal. Smiley's: 877-423-8667; <[www.smileysclimbing.com](http://www.smileysclimbing.com)>.

**Jagged Edge In-Spire Sport Pant** — I made do for two climbing seasons in Rocky Mountain National Park wearing polypro long-underwear bottoms as my outer layer. The hefty price for better-suited pants seemed unjustifiable. Then I met the In-Spire Sport Pant (\$124, 12 oz., 335g), made of comfortable,



**JAGGED EDGE IN-SPIRE**

PHOTOS: JIM SINCOCK



# Show Stoppers

The "highlight" of this summer's Outdoor Retailer trade show undoubtedly was the tornado in Salt Lake City. In the aftermath, however, exhibitors managed to show off some surprising new products that will appear in stores soon.

Two companies displayed radical new crampons that are curved asymmetrically to the shape of your boot. The **DMM Terminator**, the company's first crampon offering, will come with dual points, a stubby mixed-climbing point and a monopoint that you can position centered or offset. The **Grivel Rambocomp** (mono or dual) is a new version of the popular Rambo with even more aggressive teeth.

The new **Grivel 360°** ice screw two-ups the superb Black Diamond Express with a new tooth design that greatly improves pull-out strength and a trick hanger that allows fast placement in tight corners. Grivel's **Violino** plastic snowshoe may be the best available for climbers, because it easily accepts most crampons, has a heel elevator and adjusts in size.

Black Diamond has released its long-awaited **Micro Camalots**, and the old Camalot Jrs. have finally gone to a single-stem design — these little guys rock! Meanwhile, the new, nicely finished **DMM 3CU** and **4CU** dual-stem cams feature weight — or, rather, the lack thereof — these weigh about a third less than other cams in their size range. A new company, **Long Climbing Gear**, offers a conventional 4-Cam and a unique Bi-Cam (for

aid and shallow placements), both of which feature durable, cast chromium-alloy heads that are supposed to bite the rock better than aluminum.

After reinventing the hex last year, Metolius has gone on to build a better nut. The new **Curve Nuts** have vertical, instead of horizontal, curves across their face that should fit flares and make it easier to spot-check placements.

Two companies (Edelweiss and Roca) already offer cut-resistant ropes using monofilament cores for added protection. The new **Mammut Supersafe** ropes (10mm and 11mm) take a different approach, with a rubber tube inside to spread the load while offering superior handling.

Long without peer on big walls, the Wall Hauler will have new competition from the **Petzl Mini Traxion** and the **Ushba Hogwauler** — both are easier to rig and kinder to ropes. The **Trango Russian Aid Package** brings an old aid-climbing idea to this continent for a light, efficient alternative to the standard four-aiders rig.

Certainly the funkiest looking new climbing device is the **Kong Frog**, a unique quickdraw for easily clipping bolts. The mechanism allows a bit more reach and appears strong and reliable.

It took years of pestering from climbers to get the **MSR Superfly Ascent** hanging stove, but it was worth the wait. The stove uses any self-sealing butane cartridge, and has a built-in lighter and titanium support arms.

— Clyde Soles ▲



KONG FROG



GRIVEL VIOLINO

## GET \$10 OFF YOUR FIRST PURCHASE.

Go to [www.planetoutdoors.com/dec/rock](http://www.planetoutdoors.com/dec/rock) and use coupon code ROCK1299 to enjoy ten dollars off of your first purchase of \$50 or more. We'll even throw in free shipping.\*

• Bell • Switch • TurtleFur • Horny Toad • SmartWool • Blackburn • Ultimate Direction • Life-Link • Eagle Creek • Marmot • Royal Robbins • Atlas • The North Face • Petzl • LEKI • Smith • Zolc • Trango • Hi-Tec • Völle • Merrell • MountainSmith • Nalgene



The North Face® Aircore Fleece jacket



Gregory® Escape Reality backpack



Boreal Asan Mountaineering boot



Suunto Altimax Wristop computer

• Gregory • Sierra Designs • Moonstone • Bellwether • YubaShoes • Primus • Gramicci • Vans



PlanetOutdoors.com<sup>sm</sup>  
Get on. Gear up. Get out.<sup>sm</sup>

\*ground UPS, expires 1/1/2000 ©1999 PlanetOutdoors.com, Inc. Trademarks are a property of their respective owners

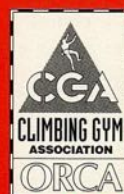
## Alone You're A Gym.

## Together We're An Industry.

Climbing gym owners — discover how you can:

- save on insurance
- increase your customer base
- guide the future of the industry
- get your gym accredited

Join the Climbing Gym Association. Get important answers. Save with group liability insurance and valuable member discounts. Why go it alone? Become a member today. **(303) 444-3353 ex.112**



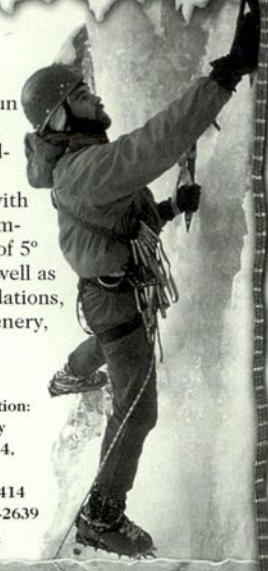
[www.orca.org/subgroup/cga](http://www.orca.org/subgroup/cga)



**In Cody we enjoy whitewater year-round.**

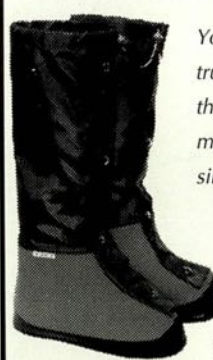
In Cody, Wyoming, we serve fun on ice. We have world-class ice climbing with average temperatures of 5° to 25°, as well as accommodations, dining, scenery, and a wild west flair.

Free information:  
Cody Country  
P.O. Box 2454,  
Dept. R199  
Cody, WY 82414  
Call 800-393-2639  
www.pcte.org



**SCYWEST**  
A Delta Connection  
**Buffalo Bill's**  
**YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY**

**NOTICE:**  
**Ice Issue!**  
VERY COLD . . .  
NEED WARM FEET . . .



You need the most trusted overboots in the world! Used on major expeditions since 1973.

**FORTY BELOW® Overboots**

4 overboot models to fit step-in & strap-on crampons. Insulated bottle covers, zone vapor barrier vest and more!

**CALL FOR YOUR FREE CATALOG!**  
Forty Below, Ltd.  
253-846-2081 [www.40below.com](http://www.40below.com)  
Climbing Equipment for the Extremes™

## mixed media

### **A Life on the Edge, Memoirs of Everest and Beyond** by Jim Whittaker

*The Mountaineers, Seattle, WA; 800-553-4453; 1999. Hardcover; 271 pages; color and black-and-white photos; \$26.95.*

Although it's been said that Jim Whittaker, the first American to summit Everest, wouldn't have published his autobiography without the present popularity of the world's highest mountain, don't be quick to judge it as a work without independent merit. *A Life on the Edge* is a first-rate yarn. Whittaker's inspiring accounts of his role as expedition leader (on the first successful American K2 ascent and the 1990 Everest Peace Climb, for instance) are nicely balanced by a plainspoken candidness and a restrained, '50s-era sense of humor.

Compare this latest effort with Whittaker's previous titles and you'll marvel at the stylistic diversions. Lovely quotations from Shakespeare? Philosophical appraisals of his many well-known climbing partners? They're here, alongside anecdotes of Robert Kennedy, John Glenn and John Roskelley from a Whittaker with whom readers will be more familiar.

While "Big Jim" appreciates his successes, he also examines his failures with equal scrutiny, creating a remarkably honest self-appraisal of his life. And if the book seems to swell and ebb and rise again, it's because Whittaker wrote most of it aboard his boat, *Impossible*, over the past two years, on a round-the-world voyage with his family. Sail on, Jim Whittaker! — *by Ed Webster*

### **Stone Nudes 2000**

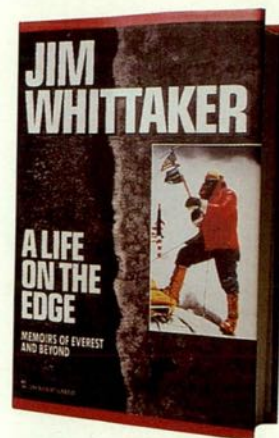
*photographed by Dean Fidelman*

*Big Up Productions, Stamford, CT; 212-774-7418; 1999. Wall calendar; black-and-white photos; \$16.95.*

### **Women of Climbing Calendar 2000**

*Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Wall calendar; color photos; \$14.95.*

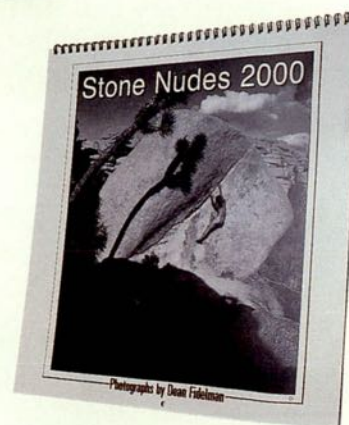
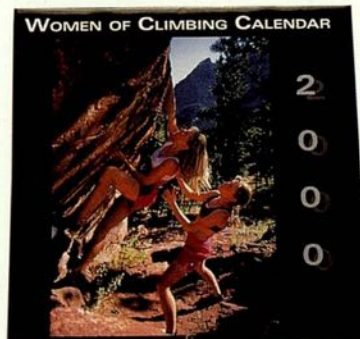
In a new wall calendar, *Stone Nudes 2000*, photographer Dean Fidelman borrows from the age-old tradition of "the nude" to present 13 black-and-white images of women bouldering without any clothes on. All but one of the models wears climbing shoes, which begs the ques-



tion: If the women don't mind scraping tender parts of their bodies on the notoriously sharp rock of Joshua Tree, why are they concerned with stubbing a toe?

It might be easy to fault Sharp End Publishing's latest *Women of Climbing Calendar 2000* for an unsophisticated T&A treatment of its female models (consider the close-up of Miss November's ample cleavage hemmed in by a leopard-print bikini in *The Groove Tube*). However, it's not so easy to discredit Fidelman's effort. His photographs show real artistic merit, particularly in the attention he pays to *chiaroscuro*, the subtle tension between light and shade. But don't be fooled: The fact that Fidelman uses a socially accepted artistic tradition, the nude, doesn't make his calendar any less voyeuristic. It's simply more subtle. Both *Stone Nudes* and the current *Women of Climbing* market the objectification of female climbers, and that is deeply troubling.

It's not the climbing we're asked to appreciate in *Stone Nudes*. Pretty girls making pretty pictures is the only reason the fake-looking dyno thrown by Miss February and the pointless hang demonstrated by Miss June made the cut. I'm tired of the conditioning that teaches men and women to look





at women as something worthy of spectating.

Celebration of female climbing? Celebration of the female form? Personally, I'm waiting for the unveiling of *Stoned Dudes 2001*. Now *that* promises to be a wall calendar for the new millennium! — *Julie Garrison*

### **Sherman Exposed: Slightly Censored Climbing Stories** by John Sherman

*The Mountaineers, Seattle, WA; 800-553-4453; 1999. Hardcover; 238 pages; \$24.95.*

*Sherman Exposed* is a collection of climbing and bouldering articles originally published in *Climbing*, plus several notable, previously unpublished pieces. (One article, "The Thimble," recently appeared in *R&I* #95.) The book is presented not in chronological order of events, but in chronological order of publication. Consequently, its tone starts out choppy, as we are subjected to a young Verm using the hackneyed conceit of sarcasm to shame the climbing world into something "respectable." Sherman's craft matures, however, and by the end of the book

he's exploring himself, his friends and his epics with emotional openness, exceptional wit and little reliance on name-calling.

It must be said that the Vermin's most successful articles are those that appear for the first time with the release of this book. Whether this is a comment upon *Climbing's* editorial

process, or upon Sherman's growth as a writer, is unclear. But it does seem that, when not faced with helpful criticism, Sherman's work has great intensity. You may, or may not, get offended; either way, you're left flat on your back by the power of this talented writer to describe the climbing experience and the role climbing plays in the world at large.

Grab a six-pack and sit down with *Sherman Exposed*. (Non-drinkers might have a hard time relating to some of the altered states Sherman describes.) — *James Moss*

### **Evolution/Revolution** a film by Udo Neumann with music by Robert Merdzo

*n.a.q.o.b. (Not A Question Of Balance), Germany; jekstadt@t-online.de; 1999. Video; 60 minutes; DM\$49 (approx. US\$28).*

Udo Neumann, German filmmaker and co-author of *Performance Rock Climbing*, takes viewers on an eclectic tour with his latest release, *Evolution/Revolution*. We travel with Neumann to South Africa, where Klem Loskot cranks numerous Fb 8b+'s (V14s), then fly back to continen-

## WHO ARE THOSE CRATER HOLDS ANYWAY?

GYM OWNERS WHO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE  
OF GOOD HOLDS  
FOUNDERS OF THE MIDWEST BOULDERING TOUR AND  
THE EASTERN BOULDERING SERIES  
INNOVATORS OF SCREW-ON FEATURES

BUT MOST OF ALL, THEY'RE CLIMBERS LIKE YOU  
WHO JUST WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR WOODIE

(888) 944-4244  
[www.craterholds.com](http://www.craterholds.com)



Go Direct...& Save

# backcountre.com™

Factory Direct @ Wholesale



## Backcountre™

Builders of Quality Technical Outerwear

## FEATHERED FRIENDS

[www.featheredfriends.com](http://www.featheredfriends.com)

The finest down sleeping  
bags & garments for  
over 25 years.

Check us out on the web  
for a complete online  
catalog, product updates  
specials, & sale items.

Made in USA



## Long Range Plans

## Remote Locations

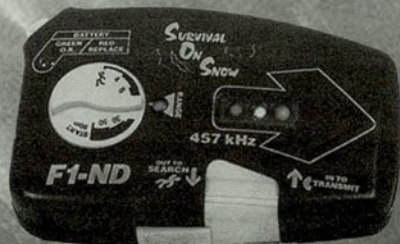
## Reliable Gear

> Built-In Saws

> 3 Scoop Weights

> 4 Models

### The SOS F1-ND



> Directional Searching

> Reduce Range Indicator

> Reliable Analog Technology

**SURVIVAL**  
**ON**  
**SNOW** Inc.

Tel: 780 973 5412  
www.sos-find.com

Avananche Safety Equipment Specialist



**literature** *Extreme Alpinism: Climbing Light, Fast and High*, by Mark Twight and James Martin. The Mountaineers, Seattle, WA; 800-

553-4453; 1999. Softcover; 238 pages; color photos; \$27.95.

• *Himalaya: Life on the Edge of the World*, by David Zurick & P.P. Karan. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD; 410-516-6939; 1999. Hardcover; 366 pages; color and black-and-white photos; \$34.95. • *Last Climb: The Legendary Everest Expeditions of George Mallory*, by David Breashears and Audrey Salkeld. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.; 212-725-7707; 1999. Hardcover; 239 pages; color and black-and-white photos; \$35. • *The Lost Explorer*, by Conrad Anker and David Roberts. Simon & Schuster, New York, NY; 212-698-7537; 1999. Hardcover; 192 pages; \$22. • *Lost on Everest: The Search for Mallory*, by Peter Firstbrook. BBC/NTC Contemporary Pub Group, Lincolnwood, IL; 800-621-1918; 1999. Hardcover; 224 pages; \$24.95. **anthologies** *The Best of Rock & Ice: An Anthology* edited by Dougald MacDonald. The Mountaineers, Seattle, WA; 800-553-4453; 1999. Softcover; 204 pages; black-and-white photos; \$17.95. **reference** *Accidents in North American Mountaineering 1999*. The American Alpine Club, Golden, CO; 303-384-0110; 1998. Softcover; 92 pages; \$10. • *The American Alpine Journal, Volume 41, Issue 73*. The American Alpine Club, Golden, CO; 303-384-0110; 1999. Softcover; 499 pages; color and black-and-white photos; \$30. **multimedia** *Epic: Stories of Survival From The World's Highest Peaks*, edited by Clint Willis. Listen & Live Audio, Roseland, NJ; 800-653-9400; 1999. Audiobook; 4 cassettes; 6 hours; \$24.95. • *Rampage*, a film by Josh Lowell. Big Up Productions, Stanford, CT; 212-774-7418; 1999. Video; one hour; \$29.95. **guidebooks** *Guide to Southwest Utah and the Arizona Strip*, by Todd Goss. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 192 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Red Rocks Select, 3rd edition*, by Todd Swain. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 258 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$25. • *Rock Climbing Arizona*, by Stewart Green. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 520 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$23.95. • *Rock Climbing Colorado's San Luis Valley*, by Bob D'Antonio. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 150 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$15. • *Rock Climbing the Flatirons*, by Richard Rossiter. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 259 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Sport Climbs in Clear Creek Canyon*, by Mark Rolofson. Boulder, CO; 303-939-0019; 1999. Softcover; 70 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$12.50. • *Yosemite Topropes*, by Rob Floyd. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 32 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$8.95.

• *Himalaya: Life on the Edge of the World*, by David Zurick & P.P. Karan. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD; 410-516-6939; 1999. Hardcover; 366 pages; color and black-and-white photos; \$34.95. • *Last Climb: The Legendary Everest Expeditions of George Mallory*, by David Breashears and Audrey Salkeld. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.; 212-725-7707; 1999. Hardcover; 239 pages; color and black-and-white photos; \$35. • *The Lost Explorer*, by Conrad Anker and David Roberts. Simon & Schuster, New York, NY; 212-698-7537; 1999. Hardcover; 192 pages; \$22. • *Lost on Everest: The Search for Mallory*, by Peter Firstbrook. BBC/NTC Contemporary Pub Group, Lincolnwood, IL; 800-621-1918; 1999. Hardcover; 224 pages; \$24.95. **anthologies** *The Best of Rock & Ice: An Anthology* edited by Dougald MacDonald. The Mountaineers, Seattle, WA; 800-553-4453; 1999. Softcover; 204 pages; black-and-white photos; \$17.95. **reference** *Accidents in North American Mountaineering 1999*. The American Alpine Club, Golden, CO; 303-384-0110; 1998. Softcover; 92 pages; \$10. • *The American Alpine Journal, Volume 41, Issue 73*. The American Alpine Club, Golden, CO; 303-384-0110; 1999. Softcover; 499 pages; color and black-and-white photos; \$30. **multimedia** *Epic: Stories of Survival From The World's Highest Peaks*, edited by Clint Willis. Listen & Live Audio, Roseland, NJ; 800-653-9400; 1999. Audiobook; 4 cassettes; 6 hours; \$24.95. • *Rampage*, a film by Josh Lowell. Big Up Productions, Stanford, CT; 212-774-7418; 1999. Video; one hour; \$29.95. **guidebooks** *Guide to Southwest Utah and the Arizona Strip*, by Todd Goss. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 192

pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Red Rocks Select, 3rd edition*, by Todd Swain. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 258 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$25. • *Rock Climbing Arizona*, by Stewart Green. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 520 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$23.95. • *Rock Climbing Colorado's San Luis Valley*, by Bob D'Antonio. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 150 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$15. • *Rock Climbing the Flatirons*, by Richard Rossiter. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 259 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Sport Climbs in Clear Creek Canyon*, by Mark Rolofson. Boulder, CO; 303-939-0019; 1999. Softcover; 70 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$12.50. • *Yosemite Topropes*, by Rob Floyd. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 32 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$8.95.

pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Red Rocks Select, 3rd edition*, by Todd Swain. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 258 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$25. • *Rock Climbing Arizona*, by Stewart Green. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 520 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$23.95. • *Rock Climbing Colorado's San Luis Valley*, by Bob D'Antonio. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 150 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$15. • *Rock Climbing the Flatirons*, by Richard Rossiter. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 259 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Sport Climbs in Clear Creek Canyon*, by Mark Rolofson. Boulder, CO; 303-939-0019; 1999. Softcover; 70 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$12.50. • *Yosemite Topropes*, by Rob Floyd. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 32 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$8.95.

pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Red Rocks Select, 3rd edition*, by Todd Swain. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 258 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$25. • *Rock Climbing Arizona*, by Stewart Green. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 520 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$23.95. • *Rock Climbing Colorado's San Luis Valley*, by Bob D'Antonio. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 150 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$15. • *Rock Climbing the Flatirons*, by Richard Rossiter. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 259 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Sport Climbs in Clear Creek Canyon*, by Mark Rolofson. Boulder, CO; 303-939-0019; 1999. Softcover; 70 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$12.50. • *Yosemite Topropes*, by Rob Floyd. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 32 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$8.95.

pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Red Rocks Select, 3rd edition*, by Todd Swain. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 258 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$25. • *Rock Climbing Arizona*, by Stewart Green. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 520 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$23.95. • *Rock Climbing Colorado's San Luis Valley*, by Bob D'Antonio. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 150 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$15. • *Rock Climbing the Flatirons*, by Richard Rossiter. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 259 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Sport Climbs in Clear Creek Canyon*, by Mark Rolofson. Boulder, CO; 303-939-0019; 1999. Softcover; 70 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$12.50. • *Yosemite Topropes*, by Rob Floyd. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 32 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$8.95.

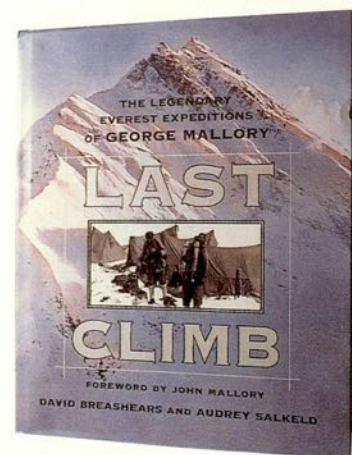
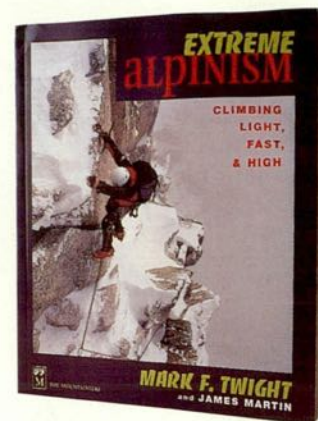
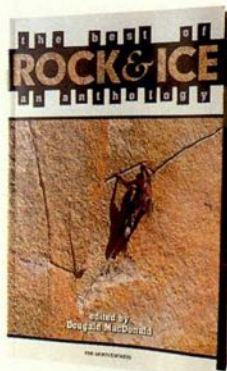
pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Red Rocks Select, 3rd edition*, by Todd Swain. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 258 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$25. • *Rock Climbing Arizona*, by Stewart Green. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 520 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$23.95. • *Rock Climbing Colorado's San Luis Valley*, by Bob D'Antonio. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 150 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$15. • *Rock Climbing the Flatirons*, by Richard Rossiter. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 259 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Sport Climbs in Clear Creek Canyon*, by Mark Rolofson. Boulder, CO; 303-939-0019; 1999. Softcover; 70 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$12.50. • *Yosemite Topropes*, by Rob Floyd. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 32 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$8.95.

pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Red Rocks Select, 3rd edition*, by Todd Swain. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 258 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$25. • *Rock Climbing Arizona*, by Stewart Green. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 520 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$23.95. • *Rock Climbing Colorado's San Luis Valley*, by Bob D'Antonio. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 150 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$15. • *Rock Climbing the Flatirons*, by Richard Rossiter. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 259 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Sport Climbs in Clear Creek Canyon*, by Mark Rolofson. Boulder, CO; 303-939-0019; 1999. Softcover; 70 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$12.50. • *Yosemite Topropes*, by Rob Floyd. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 32 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$8.95.

pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Red Rocks Select, 3rd edition*, by Todd Swain. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 258 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$25. • *Rock Climbing Arizona*, by Stewart Green. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 520 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$23.95. • *Rock Climbing Colorado's San Luis Valley*, by Bob D'Antonio. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 150 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$15. • *Rock Climbing the Flatirons*, by Richard Rossiter. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 259 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Sport Climbs in Clear Creek Canyon*, by Mark Rolofson. Boulder, CO; 303-939-0019; 1999. Softcover; 70 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$12.50. • *Yosemite Topropes*, by Rob Floyd. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 32 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$8.95.

pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Red Rocks Select, 3rd edition*, by Todd Swain. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 258 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$25. • *Rock Climbing Arizona*, by Stewart Green. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 520 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$23.95. • *Rock Climbing Colorado's San Luis Valley*, by Bob D'Antonio. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 150 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$15. • *Rock Climbing the Flatirons*, by Richard Rossiter. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 259 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Sport Climbs in Clear Creek Canyon*, by Mark Rolofson. Boulder, CO; 303-939-0019; 1999. Softcover; 70 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$12.50. • *Yosemite Topropes*, by Rob Floyd. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 32 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$8.95.

pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Red Rocks Select, 3rd edition*, by Todd Swain. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 258 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$25. • *Rock Climbing Arizona*, by Stewart Green. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 520 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$23.95. • *Rock Climbing Colorado's San Luis Valley*, by Bob D'Antonio. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 150 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$15. • *Rock Climbing the Flatirons*, by Richard Rossiter. Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT; 800-582-2665; 1999. Softcover; 259 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$20. • *Sport Climbs in Clear Creek Canyon*, by Mark Rolofson. Boulder, CO; 303-939-0019; 1999. Softcover; 70 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$12.50. • *Yosemite Topropes*, by Rob Floyd. Sharp End Publishing, Boulder, CO; 888-594-6398; 1999. Softcover; 32 pages; black-and-white photos; topographic; \$8.95.







tal Europe, stopping in cities such as Plomberg, Austria, to watch Loskot climb some of the hardest ascents (5.14d) ever caught on film. An extraordinary side trip to Little Cottonwood Canyon, Utah, rounds out the experience, as Neumann

treats us to footage of American climber Kim Ciszmaia making the first female ascent of the offwidth horror Trench Warfare (5.12d). Now that's variety!

Most climbing videos make hard routes look easy — not so in *Evolution/Revolution*. Neumann captures, in sound and image, great climbers having a hard time on their respective routes. If you don't know what hard pulling is about, you will after watching *Evolution/Revolution*. Also starring Markus Bock, Toni Lamprecht, Werner Thon and Jean-Baptiste Tribout. — *Bjorn Pohl*

**Ghosts of Everest: The Search for Mallory and Irvine** by Jochen Hemmleb, Larry A. Johnson and Eric R. Simonson as told to William E. Nothdurft

*The Mountaineers, Seattle, WA; 800-553-4453; 1999. Hardcover; 208 pages; color and black-and-white photos; \$29.95*

In this "official" account of the discovery of Everest pioneer George Leigh Mallory's body, we get to hear, in numerous quoted passages, what it was really like to discover Mallory's corpse. These accounts, taken straight from members of the 1999 Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition, will certainly slake the reader's thirst for the gritty details. Photos of the artifacts found in Mallory's pockets will also intrigue curious Everest historians, as will the summary chapter, "Notes on an Envelope," in which a Sherlock Holmesian Jochen Hemmleb attempts to deduce "what might have happened by eliminating what could not have happened" on that fateful summit attempt in 1924.

Thanks to our culture's media-driven urgency, however, the book suffers from real shortcomings. Rushed to print (just in time for the holidays, no doubt!), *Ghosts* suffers from ghostwriter syndrome, where three authors' ideas are boiled down into a single homogenous voice, giving the book the feel of a long newspaper account. Dull contractual squabbling between expedition leader Eric Simonson and the BBC, WGBH and NOVA are also given plenty of ink. Flagrantly missing, however, is a frank discussion of the controversial worldwide sale and publication of the gruesome pictures of Mallory's body, and which Himalayan charity, if any, will profit from the proceeds. — *Ed Webster*

"GEE...I'M REALLY TOO SCARED TO DO A WALL...BUT, ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT ARE THOSE CHICKS...HMM...I'D BETTER BUY TONS OF FISH STUFF."

Portaledges  
Haul Bags  
Atom Smashers  
Bouldering Maxipads  
Duffels

Come see all the 1999 goodies on our www site

WWW.FISHPRODUCTS.COM 760.387.2120 PH

**FREE ICE**

**Ouray Victorian Inn**  
is located at the  
**OURAY ICE PARK**

Major Climber & Skier  
Discounts Available

**FREE BREAKFAST**

Guide Service Available

**Ouray Victorian Inn**  
Ouray Resort Accommodations

(Owned & operated by climbers)  
**1-800-84.OURAY**  
www.ouraylodging.com

**Foin, Wichard, Maillon Rapide.**

We carry some of the best hot forged and bent metal products for sports, rescue and industry.

Write or call for free catalogs.

**wichard**

47 Highpoint Ave • Portsmouth RI 02871  
800-852-7082

**A massive advance in snow safety technology**

**TRACKER**  
DTS™

**The World's First Digital Avalanche Beacon**

- Simple distance and direction displays
- High-precision dual antenna
- No "grid" or "tangent" searching
- No volume/sensitivity controls
- Reduces search times
- Easy to learn/easy to use
- Made in the USA

**Ask your retailer or call (800)670-8735**

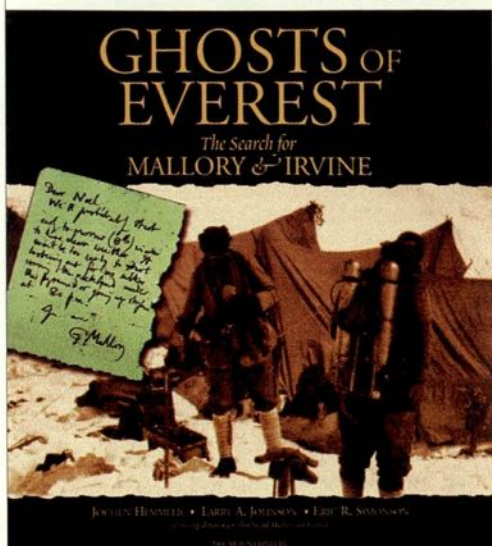
Photo: Ace Kvalle. Location: Ophir, CO



# who REALLY climbed EVEREST first?

Last May, a research expedition located George Mallory's body—75 years after his disappearance—high on Mount Everest. This is the inside story of the search, direct from the expedition team. Intriguing historical and contemporary photos document the gripping story of both

the original Mallory-Irvine summit bid and the 1999 investigation into their fate on the mountain. Years of in-depth research by co-author and expedition team leader Jochen Hemmleb, plus an astonishing array of new evidence, shed light on mountaineering's ultimate mystery: *Were Mallory and Irvine the first to reach Mount Everest's summit?*



## GHOSTS of EVEREST The Search for Mallory and Irvine

Contact us to place your order or to request a free catalog.



**THE MOUNTAINEERS BOOKS**  
*Outdoor Books by the Experts*

1001 SW Klickitat Way, Suite 201 • Seattle, WA 98134 USA  
phone: 206.223.6303 • fax: 206.223.6303  
email: mbooks@mountaineers.org • www.mountaineersbooks.org

ONE-PIECE SUITS  
PACKS • SHELLS  
HARNESSES  
EXPEDITION LUGGAGE  
SEWN WEBBING

# WILD THINGS

EQUIPMENT FOR CLIMBERS

[www.wildthingsgear.com](http://www.wildthingsgear.com)

## reviews

**Ascent: The Climbing Experience in Word and Image** edited by Allen Steck, Steve Roper and David Harris

The American Alpine Club, Golden, CO; 303-384-0110; 1999. Softcover; 314 pages; color and black-and-white photos; \$24.95.

*Ascent* 1999, the 14th volume in a series that was first issued in 1967, is a handsome collection of 37 pieces of prose, poetry, photography and art about climbing. In short, nice graphics, accounts of hard-core climbs, thoughtful essays and big-name contributors. At first glance, *Ascent* has something for everyone.

On third and fourth glance, however, doubts surface as to whether this volume lives up to its predecessors. *Ascent* 1999 reads too much like a big fat climbing magazine without advertisements. Previous volumes, on the other hand, introduced countless classics of climbing literature, from Lito Tejada-Flores' "Games Climbers Play" to Warren Harding's "Reflections of a Broken-Down Climber" to Royal Robbins' tale of his struggles with Don Peterson in "Tis-sa-ack."

The lead piece, Steven Venables' polished account of the 1991 first ascent of a spur on Kusum Kanguru, feels dated. Even less timely is Alex Bertulis' write-up of an attempt of Shiprock in 1965. Andy Selters, who tells of a 1986 alpine attempt on Thalay Sagar with Kitty Calhoun, does nothing more than give a well-written trip report. Each of these accounts leaves me asking, "Why now?" When *Ascent* ventures into more recent history, readers won't find anything new, either. Steph Davis' story on climbing in the Ak-Su Valley looks a lot like her article in *Rock & Ice* (#83). And the photo montage of Shipton Spire, while lavish, adds little to what we've already seen in the climbing magazines.

"Natural Order," Amy Irvine's meditation on Amy Wroe Bechtel, is one of the book's saving graces, an example of classic climbing literature sure to endure the test of time. Irvine weaves together the story of one woman's disappearance with issues of women's pursuits in the outdoors in general. Tense, moving and all the more remarkable because her piece barely features climbing. The other standout is John Middendorf's brief history of climbing tools. While Dougald MacDonald's "Sandstone 101" about bridging the generation gap in Zion is predictable, it's also well-crafted. Very impressive too is the "Climber As Artist, Artist as Climber" portfolio, a raw, refreshing departure from the perfect photo representations of beautiful climbers we're used to.

Should you buy *Ascent*? Ask Santa for it, convince your partner to get it, but accept no substitutes for "the climbing experience."

— Bill Maher ▲



# R&I Stocking Stuffers

The best climbing videos, posters and books — for you or the climber in your life.

## HOT VIDEOS!

### Rampage **New!**

**\$29.95**

Chris Sharma's two-month bouldering tour of the West. First ascents, no-foot repeats, the X Games and more.

### Big Stone **New!**

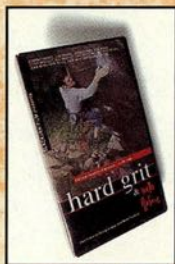
**\$29.95**

Free climbing on America's great walls: Tommy Caldwell on the Salathé, Nancy Feagin in the Black Canyon, Eric Tecaria on Moonlight Buttress. A must-see!

### Hard Grit

**\$29.95**

The rumors are true: Hard Grit is the most exhilarating climbing video in years! England's dangerous gritstone testpieces are captured in unforgettable footage.



### Free Hueco!

**\$29.95**

64 minutes of great bouldering and stupid human tricks at Hueco Tanks.

"The bouldering footage rocks!"  
— Climbing magazine

## JEFF LOWE ICE SERIES

Great inspiration and instruction from the master of ice.

### 1999 Ouray Ice Festival

**\$19.95**

Lowe's commentary highlights the techniques of Will Gadd, Pete Takeda, Kim Csizmazia and other great ice climbers in the Ouray Ice Craft Invitational.

### Waterfall Ice

**\$19.95**

Incredible value! Three hours of ice-climbing instruction.

### Alpine Ice

**\$14.95**

Moving on ice in the high mountains — two and a half hours of instruction.

## EXPOSE YOURSELF!

### R&I Exposed Shirt **\$16.00**

Topping out in the Verdon Gorge — a classic image on 100% organic cotton.

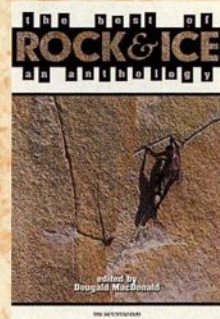
S-M-L-XL (shirts run large)



## READ ALL ABOUT IT!

### The Best of Rock & Ice **New!** **\$17.95**

25 unforgettable stories from The Climber's Magazine. John Long, Pat Ament, Greg Child, Josh Lowell and many more! Paperback, 208 pages.



## HANG IT UP!

### El Cap, Half Dome, Diamond Posters

Unique, large-scale topo posters with intricately drawn, detailed route guides to America's greatest walls!

#### El Cap

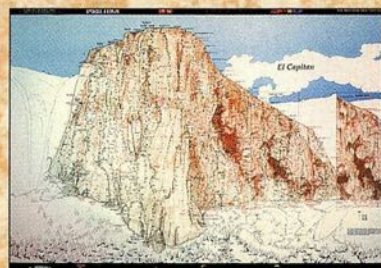
**\$15.95**

#### Half Dome

**\$15.95**

#### The Diamond

**\$12.95**



### Diamond Puzzle

**\$14.95**

A 500-piece jigsaw puzzle of Diamond Productions' topo poster of Longs Peak.



### John Sherman on

#### Lord of the Rings **\$7.50**

The classic image of Verm downing a cold one during a 5.13 crux.

### El Niño Poster

**\$7.50**

Thomas Huber hangs it out high on El Cap during the first free ascent of El Niño!

**Add \$3 shipping for one item,  
\$1.50 for each additional item.**

**Call toll-free to order: 1-877-ROCKICE**

Visa/Mastercard accepted

303-499-8410 outside the U.S. • Fax orders to 303-499-4131

Dealer Inquiries Invited

**Send checks to:**

**Rock & Ice**

**603 South Broadway St., Suite A  
Boulder, CO 80303**

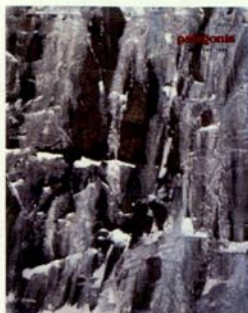


# ROCK&ICE Gift Guide



The Ascent is the ultimate vertical mileage shoe, yet it's technical enough to trust on desperate run-outs or tricky boulder problems. An integral EVA cushion under the heel softens those hard landings while bouldering and the treaded Stealth Rubber® outsole on the heel provides traction for descents. These shoes are perfect for long routes in the Valley, the Wind Rivers, on the Diamond and anywhere else you want comfort and precision.

**Five.Ten 909-798-4222**



The more you know the less you need. Patagonia offers a complete outdoor clothing line: layering sys-

tems that will take you from sofa surfing to the world's great walls, and everything in between. Check out our new Polartec® Regulator™ insulation - lightweight, packable fleece that won't weigh you down, melt you down or blow the zippers off your pack. For a free catalog: 1-800-336-9090 or visit <www.patagonia.com>.

**Patagonia 800-336-9090**



Save your head and put it in the super lightweight Petzl Meteor. Either on rock or ice, this 9 oz innovative helmet sets the standard in comfort and style with its assorted colors, adjustable chin-strap, and functional head-set screws.

**Petzl <www.petzl.com>**



Gregory produces a full line of packs from expedition size load monsters to technical

day packs. The 2,500 in<sup>3</sup> top/front access Fury is one of the newest additions to the line. As always, it features Gregory's legendary fit, bombproof quality, and innovative features.

**Gregory <www.gregorypacks.com>**

## VIDEO SOURCE

**NEW-YANK ON HITS - \$25**

**NEW-RAMPAGE - \$30**

**HARD GRIT - \$30**

**FREE HUECO - \$30**

**BIG-UP - \$20**

**ONE SUMMER - \$25**

**www.pusher.com**

**1 . 8 8 8 . 3 P U S H E R**  
VISA / MASTERCARD

**Pusher 888-3PUSHER**



Just like the big, heavy waterproof jackets—without the big, heavy part. Sierra Designs men's Peak Bagger & women's Alpine Start—under one pound. Our tents and bags make nice gifts too.

**Sierra Designs 800-635-0461**



**GORE-TEX® PACLITE™ garments**

Give the outdoor enthusiast on your list new GORE-TEX® PACLITE™ garments, the lightest, most packable GORE-TEX® garments available. Now, even the serious stuff can be handled lightly. <gore-tex.com/paclite>

**Gore 800-431-GORE**



**REVIVEX® Water and Stain Repellent**

REVIVEX® Water and Stain Repellent, the perfect stocking stuffer, totally restores outerwear water repellency. It's easy. Machine wash, spray and tumble dry. From the inventor of GORE-TEX® fabric. <gore-tex.com>

**Gore 800-431-GORE**



Mountain Hardwear's FTX Ventigaiter features innovative zippered vents which

provide ventilation without having to roll down the gaiter tops. A contoured fit prevents snow from being pushed up the instep. They are constructed of 3-ply FTX Ultra Gore-Tex upper with a super tough Duraguard lower and inner leg. Bomber field-replaceable straps ensure long lasting wear.

<www.mountainhardwear.com>.  
**Mountain Hardwear 800.953.8375**





Metolius Mountain Products' Web-o-lette. Compact, light, and

super-strong, the Web-o-lette equalizes multiple anchor points. Reinforced end loops provide additional full-strength clip-in points. \$25. Call for a free catalog 541-382-7585 or check our Web site out at <metoliusclimbing.com>.

**Metolius 541-382-7585**



Stone Age has an extensive line of handholds and climbing products for all applications. Our 1999 Catalog and New Products insert present over 600 shapes, wall panels, hangboards, and apparel. The highest quality at reasonable prices, Stone Age products are the perfect holiday gift for the climber on your list. Call for a catalog or check out our website. Stone Age, 170 Glenn Way #8, San Carlos, CA 94070. <www.stoneage-gear.com>.

**Stone Age 888-325-6560**

**A FAVORITE GIFT**



Moonstone HP Zip-T. Warm, soft, and fuzzy. BiPolar 200 fleece. Powerstretch panels provide easy movement. Thick collar, long back, pocket, deep front zip. ONLY \$59.95. S-M-L-XL ; colors: Indigo, Cobalt, Red, Gold, Dk Khaki. <www.mgear.com>

**Mountain Gear 800-829-2009**



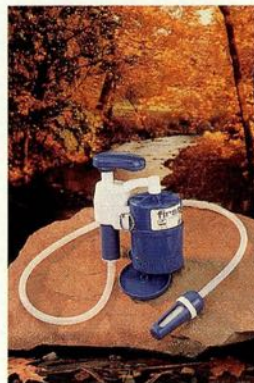
At a meager 12 ounces, the Pharaoh is among the lightest harnesses available. Perfect for desperate redpoints, it's plush enough for long trad routes. Tebox foam construction, 4 racking loops and a belay loop for \$49.95. <www.climbhigh.com>

**Climb High 802-985-5056**



Atwater Carey, the premier name in backcountry first aid, has something for every adventurer. Check out our complete line of outdoor health and safety products, including first aid kits and accessories, at <www.destinationoutdoors.com> or call for a free catalog.

**WPC Brands, Inc. 800-558-6614**



**FIRST NEED® DELUXE**  
Chemical free water purifier. Great taste - no iodine! Certified to E . P . A .

"purification" standard - removes virus, bacteria, Cryptosporidia, Giardia, chemicals and aesthetic contaminants. Lightweight, quick, easy.

<www.generalecology.com>

E-mail: info@generalecology.com

**General Ecology 800-441-8166**



**Jagged Edge Mountain Gear™**

Introducing the Crux Vest. At Jagged Edge we believe that with Every Crisis, Comes an Opportunity: Wei-Ji. Designed for the movement climbers demand. Constructed w/heavyweight Dyersberg Fleece. Price \$70.00. Order on-line @ <www.jagged-edge.com> or phone for our catalog.

**Jagged Edge Mountain Gear**

**800-926-0159**



**Marmot**

Marmot Traverse Pack

The Traverse is designed for fast, light,

Alpine climbs and ski mountaineering. It is versatile for light overnights and hut tours with its extendable, top-loading design with external attachment features for pads, skis, snowboards, and climbing gear.

**Marmot**

<www.marmot.com>



**The Osprey**

The hottest new jacket this millennium! Paclite, the latest in Gore-Tex technology uses raised dots to protect the inner barrier, reduce bulk and weight, and increase breathability. Call for clothing and equipment.

<www.marmotmountain.com>

**Marmot Mountain Works**

**800-MARMOT9**



# ROCK&ICE Gift Guide



"This artist's passion for the great outdoors has a visible influence on his designs. These unique designs are hand engraved works of jewelry-art. Each highly detailed piece is cast in precious metal and hand-finished. These collector's pieces have the option of adding a diamond or your favorite precious gemstone." P.O. Box 544, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602

**John Glossa Studios 888-826-1555**



Climbing 101 series CD-ROMS-Mac/Win compatible, featuring digital video, animations, photos and text. Rock Climbing 101 and Big Wall Climbing 101 currently available and only \$29.95 each. Order from our distributor, Jaspire Productions, LLC, PO Box 98 (208 Trail Court), Genoa, NV 89411. Ph/Fax 775-783-9495. Order online at <www.jaspire.com>.

**Jaspire Productions 775-783-9495**



MAIL ORDER OUTLET STORE - SAVE 35-70%. Name Brand Outdoor Clothing and Equipment Featuring names like The North Face, Lowe Alpine, Pearl Izumi, Salomon, Vasque, Nike, Kelty and Ex Officio. Free Full-color Catalog. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED! 5025 Campstool Rd. Dept. R11199 • Cheyenne, WY • 82007 <www.SierraTradingPost.com>  
**Sierra Trading Post 800-713-4534**



Protect yourself with the PÜR Voyageur Water Purifier. Fast, lightweight and easy to use, the Voyageur offers the highest level of protection at a great price. Eliminates Giardia, bacteria and viruses from water. Free home water filter pitcher with purchase through 12/31/99. Call for a free catalog. <www.purwater.com>.

**PÜR 800-787-1066**



**CORDUROY CRUISER from PRANA**  
A versatile cool weather top made from beefy hi/lo cotton corduroy, this boxy cut shirt-jacket is as comfortable as it looks. Available in rich brown and olive colors. \$65 Check your local climbing shop or call prAna at 760-431-8015.  
**prAna <www.prana.net>**



Jacket, Pullover, or Vest. Made with a ripstop shell, insulated with two layers of 1.8 oz. Primaloft 1. These garments are warm enough to wear alone or as a layer under a shell. Weight 16oz. (jacket) 10oz.(vest)  
<www.wildthingsgear.com>

**Wild Things 603-356-6907**

## ADVENTURE GEAR

Complete line of gear for all climbers of rock, ice or anything else you want to climb. Check out our website at <www.ewalker.com>

**Adventure Gear 888-241-1864**



Northern Lites are the ultralight weight snowshoes praised in outdoor magazine field tests from coast to coast. Now we are introducing a sleek new design, new lower prices on all Extreme Series models with a lifetime warranty, plus 30-day money-back guarantee on orders placed over the internet! <www.northernlites.com>

**Northern Lites 800-360-LITE**



From harnesses to boots, find the best selection of outdoor gear and gifts for women. Don't miss our advice, guide information, bulletin boards and more.  
**www.MountainWoman.com 800-474-9163**

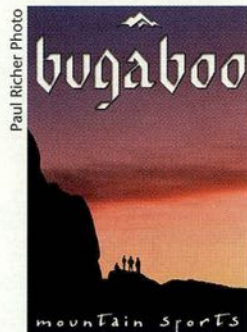




Silent Partner

Solo climbers have long wished for a speed sensitive device that would automatically feed out rope while the climber was advancing but would quickly lock in any kind of fall. The Silent Partner accomplishes this. At long last, the myth is a reality. wren@bewellnet.com.

**Wren Industries 303-838-4496**



Get Your Gear Here!

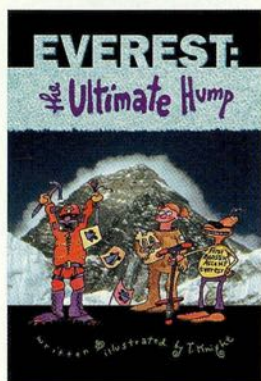
Climbing • Hiking & camping • Snow sports • Trail running • Adventure travel • Free shipping • Competitive prices • Professional customer service. Check out our unique gifts for the holidays! 1-888-322-GEAR.

**Bugaboo Mountain Sports**  
<BugabooSports.com>



Don't Just Do Something...Sit There! Crazy Creek Chairs make the perfect holiday gift! Just ask Santa - they've been to the North & South Poles, and everywhere in between. Crazy Creek is the world's best in portable seating comfort - wherever you are, whatever your adventure! FREE Catalog.

<www.crazycreek.com>  
**Crazy Creek 800-331-0304**

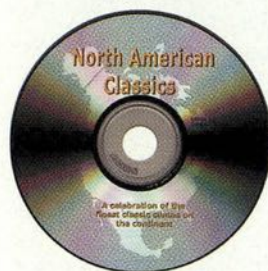


Tami Knight offers up her twisted cartoons as the antidote to Everest mania.

"Sick, singular brilliance" -Jon Krakauer  
"So enlightening and captures the essence of Everest bullshit perfectly" -Alex Lowe

Available at outdoor retail stores, book stores, or by calling (800) 247-9437.

**Menasha Ridge Press 800-247-9437**



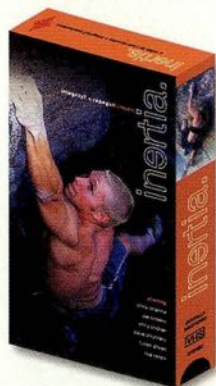
The perfect gift for climbers. This CD-ROM (Windows/Mac) is a celebration in text and photos of the finest classic climbs on the continent. Includes 44 of the Roper & Steck "50 Classic Climbs of North America" and 22 new routes of the same stature. View and order online at our web site:

**North American Classics**  
<www.sunrisemtsports.com/naclassics>



Northern Lights Fliptop lanterns are the worldwide standard in high quality, compact candle and oil lanterns for climbing, backpacking and emergency use. Contact us via E-mail at northernlight@telis.org

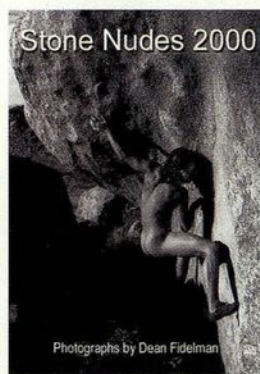
**Northern Lights**  
<www.candlelanterns.com>



Inertia. Buy this video, get psyched, and go crank! Witness Chris Sharma, Joe Brooks, Dave Struthers, Chris Lindner, Tyson Atwell, Lisa Rands, and more

send sick problems to a sexy soundtrack. This year, give the gift that keeps on giving. 888-ROPEGUN.

**Integrity7 <www.hatfishvideo.com>**



**Stone Nudes 2000**  
Calendar

Stunning nude bouldering photos exploring the union between the human form and the natural landscape. Beauty, balance, power, angles and shadows combine for a year of unforgettable images.

<www.bigUPproductions.com>  
**Big UP Productions 212-774-7418**

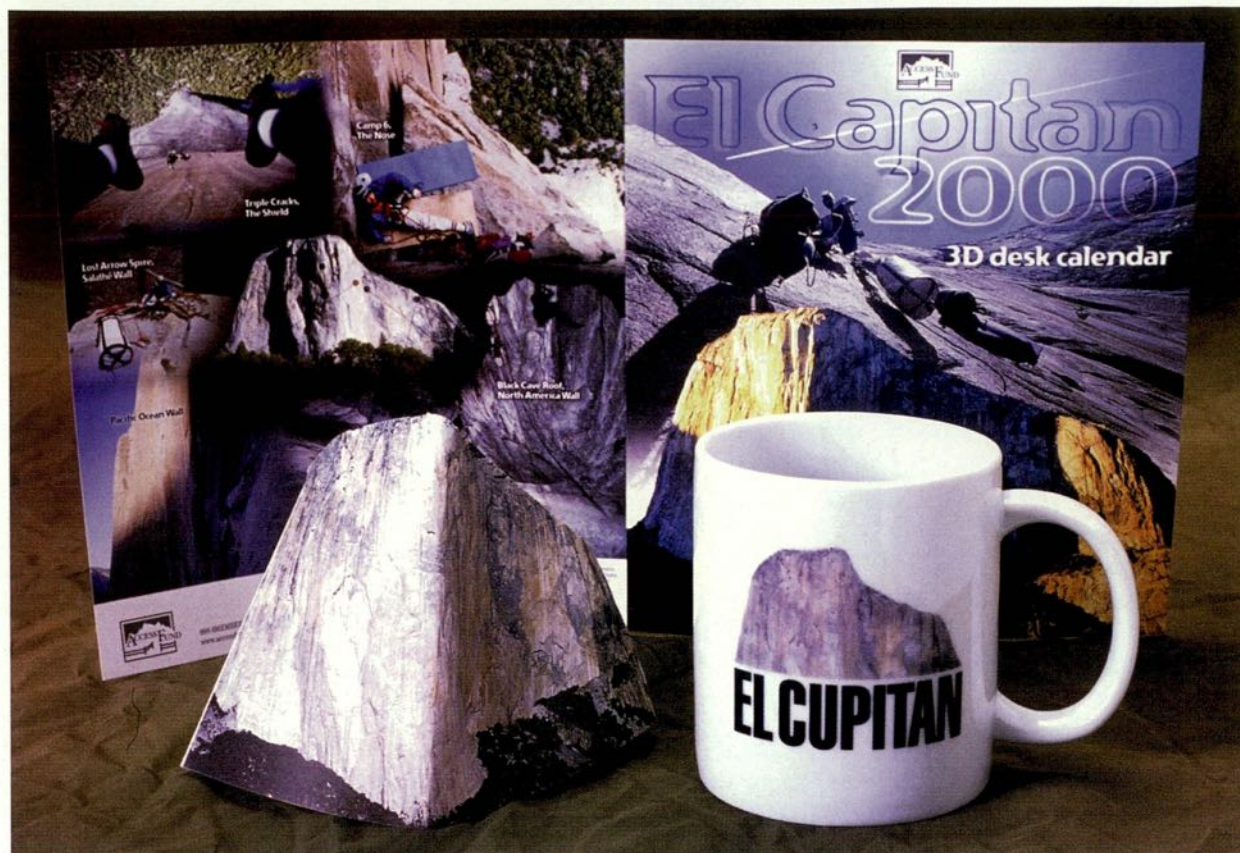


Climbing Pendant

18k gold, \$450.00 + s/h  
©Artistic Synergy  
P.O. Box 1618  
Maple Grove, MN 55311  
(M-F) 612-551-0014 or 800-399-4699  
**Artistic Synergy 800-399-4699**



# GET STONED!



## ***The Big Stone. The Cap'n. El Capitan.***

Whatever you wanna call it, El Cap has inspired the dreams of generations of climbers, from Warren Harding's two-year, five-partner, all night drillathon first ascent in 1957 to today's radical enchainments and speed ascents.



Need inspiration? Get stoned with Access Fund El Cap swag. Put our 3D, popup, Y2K-compatible Big Stone calendar on your desk at work and plot out your next big wall.

Or get motivated by swilling your morning joe from our cavernous (20-ounce) El Cupitan mug. As always, your purchase will help us keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment, such as the work we've done to preserve Yosemite's Camp 4.



To order, call toll-free:  
**(888)-8MEMBER**



## BOOKS

**CHESSLER BOOKS:** The world's leading Mountaineering bookshop. Call for a FREE Catalog. (800)654-8502, (303)670-0093, <www.chesslerbooks.com>.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Successful, well-established rock climbing center for sale (50% or 100%); located in Portland, Maine. Send letters of inquiry to PO Box 8697, Portland, ME 04104.

## CATALOG/ONLINE SERVICES

**ADVENTURE SPORTS ONLINE:** Your inside resource for outside adventure! Easy navigation to find gear, outfitters, shops and events for your favorite adventure sport. Find links to great outdoor resources, "how to" and equipment information and much, much more! <www.adventuresports.com>.

**ALPINEWORLD.COM.** One stop shopping! Mountain artwork, illustrations, cartoons on the web. Boulder, Colo. Mountain guides for local and international expeditions, treks, tours and instruction. Call (303) 247-0668. alpineworld@earthlink.net. <www.alpineworld.com>. (ALSO) the best mountain gear from <www.awgear.com>. (800)284-0365.



The best deals on expedition quality climbing and camping gear

Greatly Expanded Product Selection  
Email, call or fax for information!

Free US Domestic Shipping

**www.arcticdesert.com**

Tel. 480.830.3339 • Fax 480.832.2704  
email: info@arcticdesert.com

**www.bouldering.com**

"This site rocks!!"  
- Satisfied Surfer  
**the bouldering domain**  
guides news links

**FREEZING?**  
**www.ewarm.com**

**ROCK BOTTOM PRICES**  
1-800-964-7814

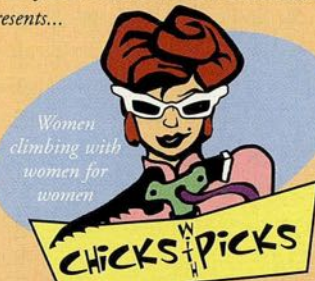
Free GEAR  
catalog!

1304 W. Washington  
Bloomington, IL 61701 www.upperlimits.com



## CLINICS

SAN JUAN MOUNTAIN GUIDES, LLC  
presents...



## WOMEN'S ICE CLIMBING CLINIC

**OURAY, CO • FEB 3-6, 2000**

INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO ICE CLIMB OR  
POLISHING UP THOSE ICE SKILLS?  
TIRED OF BEING A BELAY SLAVE?

JOIN US FOR 3 DAYS OF FUN AND LEARNING  
FROM ACCOMPLISHED WOMEN CLIMBERS  
FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY.

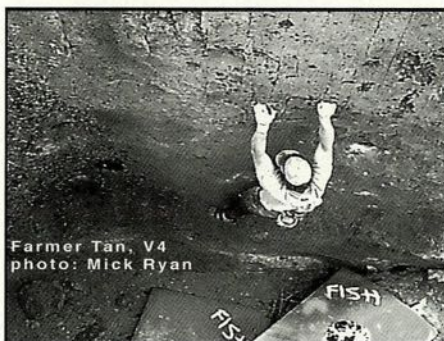
**INSPIRING KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Annie Whitehouse**

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO WOMEN'S SHELTER.

**Call: 970-626-4437 or 626-3355**

**www.bewellweb.com/w40125b**

## EQUIPMENT



Farmer Tan, V4  
photo: Mick Ryan

## FISH MaxiPad

A full size bouldering pad logging in at 4ft x 5ft. Layered foam padding, wiper spot, overkill construction. To order, call us at 760.387.2120. **\$119.00 + shipping. Visa/MC** See our www site for more details. **www.FishProducts.com**

## EMPLOYMENT

**Brother / sister camps in western NC** seek traditional climbers and experienced backpackers; 21+ preferred; minimum through first year of college. Other needs included paddling, sailing, riding, biking. Mondamin and Green Cove, PO Box 8, Tuxedo, NC 28784; 800-688-5789; <www.mondamin.com> or <www.greencove.com>.

**Climb and Work in Boulder, Colorado!** Heating company seeking apprentice and experienced installers. Good pay, benefits package, established company, casual atmosphere. Send resume to Save Home Heat Company, 2907 55th St. Unit 2, Boulder, CO 80301. Fax 303-443-9504.

**Nicros and Vertical Endeavors - MN** continue to grow and have great opportunities to work in the climbing industry. Office, sales, marketing, construction-coordination, shop, etc. positions available. Call Pam (651) 774-9327.

**PEAK EXPERIENCES**, the largest gym on the East Coast, is seeking a Manager. Applicants must have 2 years management experience, excellent communication and customer service skills, and prior employment in a climbing gym. Competitive pay. For information call Scott Powell (804) 897-6800.

**WANTED: EXPERIENCED MOUNTAINEERS.** The Colorado Outward Bound School is seeking experienced mountaineers to work our summer programs. Must have experience in teaching backcountry skills and possess a keen interest in their student's personal development. Must be at least 21 years old and currently certified in Emergency Response or above and CPR for the Professional Rescuer. Call 303-831-6957 or email phil@cobs.edu for an application.

## REAL ESTATE

**CLIMBERS HAVEN.** Unique 28 Acre Property **FOR SALE**, just 10 minutes from The Gunks in NYS. Totally private, with room for up to 90 adults. Olympic size pool and beautiful central meadow. Perfect for a climbing school, estate or family compound. Shkespeare@aol.com or phone/fax (212) 744-3857.

## RESOLERS/OVERBOOTS

## WHIP YOURSELF

**WE'VE MOVED!**

The cobblers from Wilson's Eastside Sports Now fulfilling your needs in

**the Rubber Room**

**175B North Main St  
Bishop  
CA 93514**

Nan and Tony Puppò

Rock Shoe Resolers For 18 years

**www.eastidesports.com**

**1-888-395-ROCK**

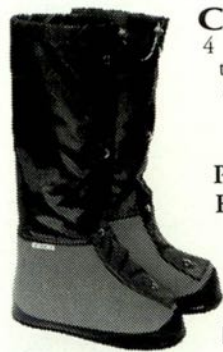
**INTO THE NEXT MILLENNIUM WITH SOLE**

**You ready??**  
...and your shoes?  
Let us customize them for you. It makes a difference.

**REDROCKRESOLE**  
4528 W. Diablo Dr. #C-104  
Las Vegas, NV 89118  
Toll-free 1(877)RESOLES  
1(877-737-6537)

You can order the Uirosta guide online: [www.redrockresole.com](http://www.redrockresole.com)





## COLD FEET?

4 Models of Overboots to fit your step-in & strap-on crampons.

Call for your free catalog & ordering

Ph: 253-846-2081

Fx: 253-846-7853

www.40below.com



Forty Below, Ltd.  
Graham, WA USA

## WALLS/TRAINING AIDS

## The Nation's Best Climbing Walls

At Eldo, we create exceptional climbing walls. With over 50 projects nationwide, we have the experience and know how to make your wall a success.

We offer full staff training, design, and operation consulting, and we also have the nation's number one selling portable.

Call us today for a free brochure.



2829 MAPLETON AVE., BOULDER, CO 80301  
303-447-0512 • www.boulderrock.com



Photo: John Remberton

Over 50 New Shapes  
This Month!!!

Check Us out online at:  
[www.grholds.com](http://www.grholds.com)

**GR**  
CLIMBING HOLDS

PH: (519)977-9261  
FAX: (519)977-7062

**GRIP HEAD**  
ALL-NATURAL  
WALL ROCK

THE ORIGINAL CERAMIC GRIP

NEW POLARTEC <http://www.griphead.com>

BODY WEAR

FREE CATALOG AND COOL STICKER  
5251 RTE.212, MT. TREMPER, N.Y. 12457  
(914)688-7157 FAX #7424  
CREDIT CARD ORDERS

## MISC.

STOP PACKING TAMPONS/PADS! "Keeper" Menstrual Cap-worn internally. Safe, reliable, easy to use, lasts 10 yrs. Free info 800-663-0427 <www.keeper.com>.

## ARIZONA

Tempe. **PHOENIX ROCK GYM**. 2810 S. Roosevelt #101, Tempe, AZ 85282. 480-921-8322.

## CALIFORNIA

Berkeley/Oakland. **BERKELEY IRONWORKS**. 14,000 sq.ft. of climbable terrain; extensive weights & aerobic equipment; pro-shop. 800 Potter St. (off Ashby Exit/80), Berkeley, CA 94710. 510-981-9900; <www.berkeleyironworks.com>.

Costa Mesa. **ROCKREATION**. Over 180 leads, TRs and boulder problems on 10,000 sq.ft. of sculpted terrain. Orange County's finest. 1300 Logan Avenue; 714-556-ROCK.

Davis. **ROCKNASIUM**. 720 West Olive Drive, Suite Z, Davis, CA 95616. 530-757-2902

Huntington Beach. **CLIMBX INDOOR** Rock Climbing Facility offers 4500 square feet of climbing terrain. Including top rope, lead climbing, bouldering and traversing. 18411 Gothard St., Unit 1, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; 714-843-9919. <www.climbxbh.com>.

Livermore. **SUNRISE ROCK GYM**. Radwall's "Jewel Box." Bouldering cave 30' high. TR/lead walls and two of the best indoor cracks on the planet! 2455 Railroad Avenue, 925-447-8003.

Long Beach. **THE ROCK GYM**. The most action in the South-land! 70% leadable; 75' bouldering traverse; 45-degree wall; campus board. 600 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802; 562-983-5500.

Los Angeles. **LOS ANGELES ROCK GYM**. In the South Bay, 40ft. leads, top ropes, and bouldering. 100+ routes. Just minutes south of LAX. 4926 West Rosecrans Ave., 310-973-3388.

Los Angeles. **ROCKREATION**. Over 180 leads, TRs and boulder problems on 10,000 square feet of sculpted terrain. LA's biggest and best. 11866 La Grange Ave., 310-207-7199.

Monterey Peninsula. **SANCTUARY ROCK GYM**. 1855A East Ave., Sand City, CA 93955. 408-899-2595. <www.rockgym.com>.

Mtn. View. **TWISTERS ROCK GYM/ NORTH CAL PENINSULA**. 2639 Terminal Blvd., Mtn. View, CA (off Hwy 101). 650-969-1636.

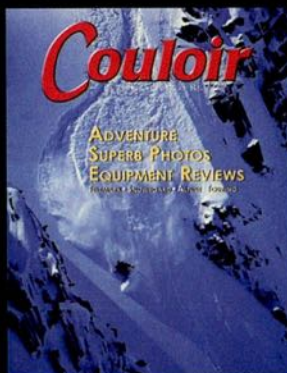
San Diego. **VERTICAL HOLD SPORT CLIMBING CENTER, INC.** 9580 Distribution Ave., San Diego, CA 92121. 619-586-7572. <www.verticalhold.com>.

San Francisco. **MISSION CLIFFS**. 14,000 sq.ft. of climbable terrain. Fully stocked pro-shop. 2295 Harrison St., @ 19th St., San Francisco, 94110; 415-550-0515; <www.mission-cliffs.com>.

San Jose/Santa Clara. **PLANET GRANITE**. 14,000 sq.ft. of fully sculpted climbing. Full Pro Shop. 2901 Mead Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051. 408-727-2777; <www.planetgranite.com>.

San Rafael (Marin County). **CLASS 5**. 6,000 sq.ft. of climbable terrain; extensive weights & aerobic equipment. 25B Dodie St., San Rafael, 94901; 415-485-6931. <www.class5.com>.

## Your Backcountry Resource



**SUBSCRIBE** for only \$15<sup>00</sup> and get 5 issues per season AND...

- A chance to WIN a trip for 2 to the Selkirk Mts.
- Save 37% over newsstand prices

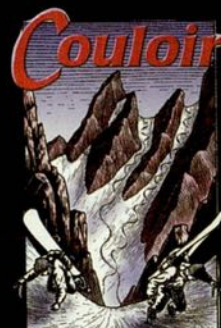
530-582-1884

[www.couloirmag.com](http://www.couloirmag.com)

NEW T's

Long Sleeved \$20.<sup>00</sup>

Short Sleeved \$15.<sup>00</sup>



Available in M, L, XL



Santa Cruz. **PACIFIC EDGE**. Still one of the largest climbing gyms in the world—huge lead cave, extensive bouldering, 50 feet tall! Weights, saunas, pro-shop, cafe, climbing school. One block from the BEACH! 104 Bronson St., Santa Cruz, CA 95062; 831-454-9254. Get the beta at <www.pacificedgeclimbinggym.com>.

Santa Rosa. **VERTEX CLIMBING CENTER**. 35' top ropes, leading, bouldering, weights, 200' gym traverse! Wine country fifty miles north of S.F. 707-573-1608; email: Vertex@Sonic.net.

## COLORADO

# STRENGTH



**Boulder Rock Club**

2829 Mapleton Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80301  
1-800-836-4008 • www.boulderrock.com

Boulder. **THE BOULDER ROCK CLUB**. Still the one and only, baby. 10,000 square feet accented by great design and the best route setting anywhere! Come check out our new padded floor and take a class with our AMGA accredited school, inside OR outside. Also the home of Eldorado Wall Company, the leader in cutting edge wall construction. This is THE NEW WHITE HOUSE OF THE CLIMBING NATION!! 2829 Mapleton Ave., Boulder, CO 80301, 303-447-2804; <www.boulderrock.com>.

Colorado Springs. **SPORT CLIMBING CENTER**. The Rockies' premier indoor climbing facility with 12,000 sq. ft. Spacious. Guiding available. 4650 Northpark Dr., 80918; 719-260-1050. <www.SportClimbCS.com>.

Denver. **PARADISE ROCK GYM**, the best!! 6260 N. Washington Street, Unit 5, Denver, CO 80216; 303-286-8168.

Fort Collins. **INNER STRENGTH ROCK GYM**. Indoor & Outdoor instruction. 3713 South Mason, Fort Collins, CO 970-282-8118. <www.innerstrengthrock.com>.

Fort Collins. **THE GYM BY MIRAMONT**. New climbing facility by Eldorado Wall Company. 4,500 sq. ft. of textured terrain. 38ft. roof, 3 cracks, sculpted arêtes. Located in a multi-sport/fitness complex. 1800 Heath Pkwy, Ft. Collins, CO 970-221-5000.

## CONNECTICUT

Stamford. **GO VERTICAL** is the largest and most extensive climbing gym in the metropolitan NY area. We have eight climbing cracks, each 38ft long, aretes, radically steep walls, overhangs, friction climbing and a huge bouldering cave. Pro-shop, rentals and instruction for beginners to experts are all available. Climb the best in the East. 203-358-8767; <www.govertical.com>.

Wallingford. **PRIME CLIMB ROCK GYM**. Connecticut's oldest and best choice for indoor climbing, outdoor guiding and full service climbing shop. 340 Silversmith Park, #28; 203-265-7880; <www.primeclimb.com>.

## FLORIDA

Miami. **X-TREME: THE ROCK CLIMBING CENTER OF MIAMI**. 11,000+ sq. ft. of fully textured arches, arêtes, slabs & overhangs. 2,000 sq. ft. of bouldering. 40% lead climbing. 13972 SW 139 Court, 33186; 305-233-6623.


Orlando. **AIGUILLE ROCK CLIMBING CENTER**. Orlando's best and Central Florida's only climbing gym. 40ft. vertical, 6000+ sq. ft. of climbing and bouldering. 999 Charles St., Longwood, FL 32750; <www.aiguille.com>, 407-332-1430.

## GEORGIA

Atlanta. **ATLANTA ROCKS INDOOR CLIMBING GYM** offers challenging climbing on 6,600 sq. ft. of seamless, textured-climbing surface with roofs, arêtes, corners, cracks and arches; lead routes up to 46 linear feet, 40 top ropes, separate bouldering cave. Group rates, daily instruction, equipment sales and rental, conveniently located at 4411-A Bankers Circle, Doraville, GA 30360; 770-242-ROCK (7625); <www.atlantarocks.com>.

## ILLINOIS

Bloomington. **UPPER LIMITS**. Over 20,000 sq. ft. The largest in the country! Routes up to 110' tall. Massive overhang area. Bi-level bouldering cave. Complete pro-shop. 1304 W. Washington, 61701. <www.upperlimits.com>; 309-829-TALL (8255).



To advertise your gym for \$1.65 per word or less, contact Jen Judge at 303-494-4013 or [jen@rockandice.com](mailto:jen@rockandice.com).

Chicago. **FITPLEX**. 1,000 sq. ft. of climbing on a new, state-of-the-art wall built by Eldorado. Leading and top roping. Slab to severely overhanging. Roofs, dihedral, arête, and natural features. Excellent instruction. Group rentals available. 1235 N. LaSalle, Chicago, IL; 312-640-1235.

Crystal Lake. **NORTH WALL**. 824 S. Main, Crystal Lake, IL 60014; 815-356-6855. Chicagoland's finest gym. If you are serious about climbing, you must climb North Wall...Thank us later! 250+ continuous feet of bouldering. 50 routes. 18-20 top ropes. 8 lead climbs including 50-foot arch. 1500+ square-foot multi-level bouldering cave. Accessible from Metra's Northwestern Line train. <http://user.mc.net/~ookmuk>.

Homewood. **CLIMB ON**. 20 min. south of Chicago. We have 4800 sq. ft. of climbing surface, 31ft. tall, all leadable, 28 top ropes, bouldering, pro-shop. Routes by Jason Campbell. 18120 Harwood Ave, Homewood IL 80430. 708-798-9994.

Naperville. **INDOOR SUMMITS CLIMBING GYM**. 1707 Quincy Ave., Ste. 137&159, Naperville, IL 60540. 630-357-3633.

Rockford. **G.A.R. INDOOR CLIMBING CENTER**. 9,000 sq. ft. custom sculpted climbing terrain, bouldering, leading, instruction, rental. High Ropes Challenge Course. 6630 Spring Brook Rd., 61114; 815-654-6447.

## INDIANA

Evansville. **VERTICAL EXCAPE**. 8,000 sq. ft. of climbing surface. 16' to 32' high. Beginners to advanced. Complete wilderness outfitting and guide service. 1315 N. Royal Avenue, Evansville, IN 47715. 812-479-6887; <www.verticalexcape.com>.

## MARYLAND

Columbia. **EARTH TREKS' CLIMBING CENTER**. 15,000 sq. ft. of climbing. 25 minutes to Baltimore and Washington, DC; 800-CLIMB-UP; <www.earthtreksclimbing.com>.

Rockville. **SPORTROCK CLIMBING CENTER** offers excellent indoor bouldering, top rope and lead routes in a 6,500 sq. ft. climate-controlled gym. A 30-minute drive from Washington, DC. 301-ROCK111 or <www.sportrock.com>.

## MASSACHUSETTES

### NEW ENGLAND'S FIRST ROCK GYM

established 1989 • CGA Accredited  
BEGINNER TO EXPERT — ALL AGES  
Leading and Bouldering  
FULLY STOCKED RETAIL SHOP  
Group and Individual Instruction



Slabs, arêtes, cracks, roofs, overhangs and the bouldering bat cave.

The Boston Rock Gym  
78G Olympia Avenue  
Woburn, MA 01801

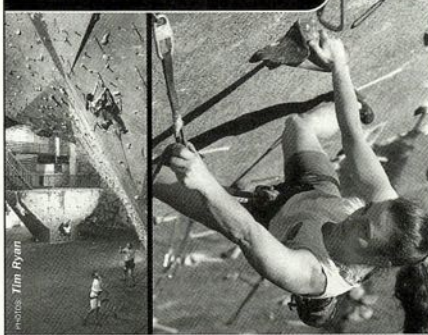
FOR THE BEST INDOOR CLIMBING FUN IN NEW ENGLAND CALL  
781-935-PEAK (7325) [www.bostonrockgym.com](http://www.bostonrockgym.com)

## MICHIGAN

Farmington. **BENCHMARK OUTDOOR OUTFITTERS**. 32715 Grand River Ave., Farmington, MI 48336. 248-477-8116.

Grand Rapids. **HIGHER GROUND ROCK CLIMBING CENTRE, LTD.** 851 Bond NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. 616-774-3100.

## 303-Climb-99



**ROCK'n & JAM'n**  
COLORADO'S  
PREMIERE ROCK  
CLIMBING GYM  
(LOCATED IN NORTH DENVER)

WALLS DESIGNED BY Leading Edge

9499 N. Washington St., Thornton, Colorado 80229



## Michigan's Complete Climbing Facility

*Inside Moves*

- walls 24 to 31 feet high
- instruction
- rentals
- equipment sales
- team building

website: [www.insidemoves.com](http://www.insidemoves.com)  
e-mail: [jclinton@insidemoves.com](mailto:jclinton@insidemoves.com)  
639 1/2 76th St. S.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49509 • (616) 281-7088



34 Rapid Street • Pontiac, MI • (248) 334-3904

82 April Drive • Ann Arbor, MI

Visit the Planet Rock Satellite Climbing Shop located at the Bivouac in Ann Arbor, MI. For more information call (734) 665-3308.

## MINNESOTA

Rochester. **PRAIRIE WALLS**. 27 vertical feet. 7,000 square feet of seamless, textured wall; lead, top-rope and bouldering. Lessons & rentals. Complete pro-shop. 507-292-0511.

St. Paul. **VERTICAL ENDEAVORS**. Midwest's premier climbing gym. CGA accredited facility offering 10,000 sq.ft. 50+ ropes, lead route 90ft. long, auto belay, lessons, guiding, groups and experiential programs. (651)776-1430. Call for employment opportunities.

## MISSOURI

Columbia. **COLUMBIA'S ROCK CLIMBING GYM**. Steep bouldering cave design! New Climber's Guide to Missouri: \$24.95. Call 888-4-A-BELAY; 573-474-4997; fax 573-474-7964; [metaforms@computerland.net](mailto:metaforms@computerland.net).

## MONTANA

Butte. **PIPESTONE MOUNTAINEERING**. 829 S. Montana St., Butte, MT 59701. 406-782-4994.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dover. **DOVER INDOOR CLIMBING GYM**. 9,000 sq.ft. of climbing. Lead routes, pro-shop and outdoor guide service. 47 Broadway, Dover, NH; 603-742-7848.

Plymouth. **ROCK BARN**. 4500 sq.ft., 13 ropes, 4 lead roofs, pro shop. Rhino Mtn. Guides. Exit 26 off I-93. Tenney Mountain Highway, Plymouth, NH. 603-536-2717.

## NEW JERSEY

East Brunswick. **UP THE WALL**. Over 3,200 sq.ft! 21' x 23' vertical. Most creative climbing routes in the area. 33 McGuire St., East Brunswick, NJ 08816; 732-249-2865.

East Hanover. **DIAMOND ROCK**. 3,000 sq.ft., seamless texture, 37' peak. 973-560-0413.

Edison. **WALL STREET ROCK GYM, NJ ROCK EXCHANGE**. 216 Tingley Ln., Edison, NJ 08820. 908-412-1255.

Fairfield. **NEW JERSEY ROCK GYM**. 373D Rt. 46W, Fairfield, NJ. Over 10,000 sq.ft.; 40ft. high walls; giant bouldering area; pro-shop. 973-439-9860; fax: 973-439-9862.

## NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte. **INNER PEAKS CLIMBING CENTER**. State-of-the-art indoor rock climbing: 8,000 sq.ft. of Radwall includes top ropes, lead climbing and boulders. Instruction is available. 9535 Monroe Rd., Suite 170, Charlotte, NC 28270; 704-844-6677; <[www.innerpeaks.com](http://www.innerpeaks.com)>.

## OHIO

Cincinnati. **CLIMB TIME OF CINCINNATI**. 6,000 sq.ft. of climbing, featuring one of the largest bouldering facilities in the nation. Full pro-shop. Under new ownership. 10898 Kenwood Rd.; 513-891-4850.

Dayton. **URBAN KRAG INDOOR CLIMBING CENTER**. Featuring 8,000 sq.ft. of sculpted textured climbing walls with a 56' vertical, 30' overhanging lead wall. Cracks, aretes, dihedral, and bouldering cave. Weight room, Pro-shop & classes. 125 Clay Street; 937-224-KRAG(5724); <[www.urbankrag.com](http://www.urbankrag.com)>.

Euclid. **CLEVELAND ROCK GYM, INC.** 21200 St. Clair, Euclid, OH 44117. 216-692-3300. <[www.clevelandrockgym.com](http://www.clevelandrockgym.com)>.

## OREGON

Portland. **PORTLAND ROCK GYM**. 2034 SE 6th Ave., Portland, OR 97214. 503-232-8310.

## PENNSYLVANIA

Oaks. **PHILADELPHIA ROCK GYM**. 422 Business Center, PO Box 511, Oaks, PA 19456. 610-666-ROPE.

Philadelphia. **GO VERTICAL** is coming to Delaware Avenue, in downtown Philadelphia in February. Lead routes to 80 feet in length, walls to 45 feet high, more than 60 ropes and 150 routes: 12,000 square feet of the best textured surface in the universe; Go Vertical in Stamford, CT is among the very best climbing gyms in the country. Visit our web site for pre-opening membership specials. Call (215) 928-1800, or fax (215) 928-1850, or check our website <[www.govertical.com](http://www.govertical.com)> for more info.

## Attention Philadelphia Climbers

### BoulderTown Climbing Center Coming Soon

#### Featuring:

- 13,000+Sq. Ft. of climbing/bouldering.
- Philadelphia's First Indoor Autobelayer devices for those times you can't find a partner.
- Textured Walls, cracks, overhangs, arêtes.
- Toproping, Lead climbing, Bouldering, Traversing.
- Extensive Climbing Pro shop- We can meet all your climbing needs.
- Corporate Outings
- Full Guiding and Instructional Services.
- Full Locker facilities.

We are currently designing our wall and would like to hear your suggestions to help us create the best climbing facility on the east coast. Let us know what you want your wall to be like.

Contact us at:  
[www.Bouldertown.com](http://www.Bouldertown.com)  
or call us at 1-888-779-2775

Pittsburgh. **CLIMB NORTH**. "Best in Pittsburgh." Unique 3,500 sq.ft. bouldering cave area. Climbing daily. 412-487-2145.

Pittsburgh. **THE CLIMBING WALL**. 7501 Penn Avenue, 15208; 412-247-7334.

Wind Gap. **NORTH SUMMIT CLIMBING GYM**. Large, all extremes, professional walls and routes. Easy access from Eastern PA, NY and NJ. 610-863-4444.

## TEXAS

Carrollton. **EXPOSURE ROCK CLIMBING**. Over 7,000 sq.ft. of climbing, excellent bouldering and gear shop. <[www.exposurerockclimbing.com](http://www.exposurerockclimbing.com)>.

Carrollton. **STONE WORKS CLIMBING GYM**. 1003 Fourth Ave., Carrollton, TX 75006. 972-323-1047.

## UTAH

Salt Lake City. **ROCKREATION**. Over 100 leads, TRs and boulder problems on 7,000 sq.ft. of sculpted terrain. 40 foot lead tower, weights, showers. 2074 East 3900 South; 801-278-7473.

## VIRGINIA

Alexandria. **SPORTROCK CLIMBING CENTER** offers excellent indoor bouldering, top rope and lead routes in an 11,000 sq.ft. climate-controlled gym. A 20-minute drive from Washington, DC. 703-212-ROCK or <[www.sportrock.com](http://www.sportrock.com)>.

Virginia Beach. **VIRGINIA BEACH ROCK GYM**. 6,000 sq.ft., 33 ft. textured wall w/roofs, arêtes, slabs, cracks and bulges. Top rope & lead, boulder, weights, pro-shop. Open everyday. 5049 Southern Boulevard, VA Beach, VA 23462; 757-499-8347.

## WASHINGTON

Seattle. **STONE GARDENS**. Genuinely friendly. 14,000 ft./40 ft. walls/65 ft. lead roof. Best bouldering in NW. 206-781-9828. <[www.stonegardens.com](http://www.stonegardens.com)>.

Seattle/Redmond. **VERTICAL WORLD**. America's first indoor climbing gym. Fun routes, friendly service and professional instruction since 1987. Two gyms for the price of one! 2123 W. Elmore Street, Seattle 98199; 206-283-4497. 15036 NE 95th St., Redmond, 98052; 425-881-8826; <[www.verticalworld.com](http://www.verticalworld.com)>.

## WISCONSIN

Appleton. **VERTICAL STRONGHOLD** Indoor/Outdoor Climbing Center and Gear Shop. 8,000' of climbing fun. Rock, ice and mountaineering courses. 920-734-0321. Appleton, WI. Email: [vertical@athenet.net](mailto:vertical@athenet.net), or <[www.athenet.net/~vertical](http://www.athenet.net/~vertical)>.

Milwaukee. **SOLID ROCK SPORTS, INC.** 1034 N. 4th St. (Inside Turner Hall Gym), 414-272-ROCK. Over 20 new top ropes. 20ft. lead roof. <[www.solidrocksports.com](http://www.solidrocksports.com)>.

MILWAUKEE'S FAVORITE CLIMBING GYM!

## CANADA

Edmonton, Alberta. **VERTICALLY INCLINED ROCK GYM**. 8523 Argyle Road, Edmonton, Alberta, T6C 4B2, Canada. 403-496-9390.

Toronto, Ontario. **JOE ROCKHEAD'S CLIMBING GYM**. The Cadillac of Climbing Gyms. 29 Fraser Ave., Toronto, Ontario M6K 1Y7. 416-538-7670; fax: 416-538-2615; & 3500 Steeles Ave., Markham, 905-940-3849.

Toronto, Ontario. **THE ROCK OASIS**. 27 Bathurst Street, Toronto, M5V 2P1. 12,500 sq.ft. 60ft. high, colorful and friendly. 416-703-3434.



## ADVENTURE TRAVEL

**3 TOWERS IN 3 DAYS**, Colorado-Utah; Castleton, Independence, etc. Instruction beginner to lead. Desert Crags & Cracks, PO Box 9031, Grand Junction, CO 81501; 970-245-8513; crags@wic.net; <www.desertcrags.com>.

Access fund and ADventure CoNsulting LLC teams up to offer a **FREE** Nepal Trek. <www.adcn.com>.

Advance in Rock, Ice, & Alpine climbing; Anchoring; Rescue, WFR; The ICE PIT and Basic courses. Dairyland Expeditions LLC: 920-734-0321; vertical@athenet.net or <www.athenet.net/~vertical>.

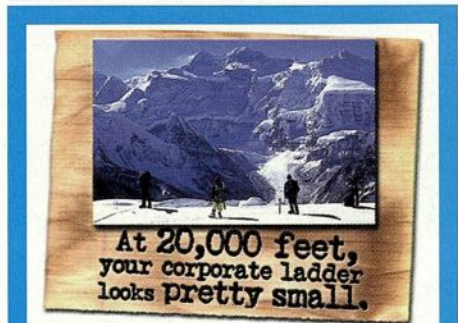
adventureconsulting.com delivers custom trips the world over. <www.adcn.com>.

**AFRICA:** Kilimanjaro summit hike. Mt. Kenya summit rock climb. (406)363-7747, <www.cybernet2.com/africa\_explore>.

**ALASKA MOUNTAIN GUIDES & CLIMBING SCHOOL Inc.** Climbing in Alaska's Wildest Ranges! Expedition & altitude preparation courses. Rock, ice & mountaineering instruction. St. Elias Range expeditions. Air support/hut skiing. Mountain rescue courses. Nepal, Africa, Aconcagua, Patagonia & more! Small groups. 10 years experience. All skill levels. 800-766-3396 or 907-766-3366 ams@kcd.com, <www.kcd.com/ams>. **Preparing you for the mountains of the world!**

**ALL TRIPS LIMITED TO 6!** High-altitude specialists! 19-years experience! 10 Aconcagua departures 99-00, Patagonia Towers, Ecuador, Greenland, Alaska, Nepal, Africa, Ama Dablam, Cho Oyu, Everest. Adventures International, Scott Woolums and Sean Gaffney, 800-247-1263; Info@AdventuresIntl.com. <www.AdventuresIntl.com>.

**ALPS,** Dolomites-classic peak ascents, rock climbs and hut-to-hut treks. Ski touring and climbing in the Rockies. OnTop, UIAGM certified guides, PO Box 1025, Boulder, CO 80306, 303-530-3544, <www.ontopmountaineering.com>.



Nothing like a high-altitude expedition to put things in perspective. At Camp 5 we climb the tallest peaks on earth. And the way we do it puts other expeditions in their place as well.

### Himalayas

- Ama Dablam
- Cho Oyu
- Everest
- Lhotse
- 6,000-meter Himalayan Peaks

### South America

- Aconcagua
- Huascaran
- Alpamayo
- Ecuador Volcanoes
- Illimani & Huayna Potosi

For detailed itineraries, call 800.914.3834 or visit us on line at [www.camp5.com](http://www.camp5.com)



Camp 5 Expeditions  
9 Exchange Place, Suite 900  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
FAX (801) 534-0515  
E-Mail: info@camp5.com

**ARIZONA.** Rock climbing-novice to advanced instruction and guiding. Local crags and wilderness peaks. Canyoneering in the "slots"-rated number one technical canyoneering guides in the U.S. Voted "Best of Phoenix" AMGA Accredited. Wilderness Adventures, 602-438-1800; <www.wildernessadventures.com>.

**THE BOULDER ROCK SCHOOL:** AMGA accredited. Come climb the best Boulder, CO has to offer, including Eldorado Canyon, Boulder Canyon and the Flatirons. All levels of classes offered. Groups welcome and custom programs available. Located in the Boulder Rock Club, home of world class indoor climbing. Call now to make reservations or receive information. BOULDER ROCK SCHOOL, 2829 Mapleton Ave., Boulder, CO 80301. 303-447-2804; 800-836-4008; <www.boulderrock.com>.

Expeditions to Aconcagua, Alpamayo & Huascaran, Pisco, Bolivia, Russia, Kilimanjaro, Diran, Stok Kangri and many Nepalese peaks with British and American guides. OTT Expeditions Tel + 44 114 258 8508 Fax +44 114 255 1603 Email: andy@ottexpd.demon.co.uk. <www.ottexpeditions.co.uk>.

**Classic Canadian Expeditions**  
Rogers Pass Mountaineering - Aug. 16 - 28/00

**Monashee Ski Traverse**  
May 1-7, 2000

- Ski Mountaineering
- Instructional Courses
- Guiding
- Team Building
- Alpine Mountaineering
- ACMG guides

1-888-837-5417

Box 3315  
Revelstoke, B.C.  
Canada V0E 2S0

RAA  
REVELSTOKE  
ALPINE ADVENTURE  
COMPANY

[www.raamountainguides.com](http://www.raamountainguides.com)  
email: guides@raamountainguides.com

**HIGH PEAKS MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES**  
GUIDE SERVICE

- ICE & ROCK CLIMBING
- INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING GYM FOR YEAR ROUND INSTRUCTION
- WINTER MOUNTAINEERING
- BACKCOUNTRY & TELE SKIING
- TREKKING & BACKPACKING
- PRIVATE GUIDING & INSTRUCTION

Advanced Booking Not Required

STAY AT THE HIGH PEAKS HOSTEL \$16.00/NIGHT

16 Years Adirondacks Year-Round

518-523-3764  
331 MAIN ST., LAKE PLACID, NY 12946

Explore with Big Foot the experience of wilderness, hiking, climbing, mountaineering and sea kayaking in Patagonia. Professional Guides NOLS and UIAGM certified. Adventure at National Park Torres Del Paine, Fitz-Roy, Tierra Del Fuego, Aconcagua, Ojos Del Salado, Peru. Custom trips.

Check out our Web site at [www.bigfootpatagonia.com](http://www.bigfootpatagonia.com) or E-mail us at [explore@bigfootpatagonia.com](mailto:explore@bigfootpatagonia.com)

**BIG FOOT**  
adventure patagonia

**Patagonia Mountain Agency** EXPEDITIONS & GUIDES

Tel/Fax (907) 586-3623  
P.O. Box 210516 Aniak Bay, Alaska 99821

**2000/2001 EXPEDITIONS:**

Aconcagua	Jan 30 to Feb 20 2000	\$2,600
Makalu	April 1 to May 26 2000	\$8,000
K-2 (Abruzzi Ridge)	June 3 to July 30 2000	\$9,000
Cho Oyu or Xixapangma	Sept 3 to Oct 20 2000	\$7,000
Ama Dablam	Oct 23 to Nov 18 2000	\$4,500
K-2 (Baltoro, K-2 BC) Trek	June 3 to June 30 2000	\$3,000
Everest (Lukla, Everest BC) Trek	Oct 23 to Nov 13 2000	\$1,500
Mt. Everest via the South Col	March 15 to May 25 2001	\$40,000

[www.alaska.net/~ptgmtng](http://www.alaska.net/~ptgmtng) E-mail: [ptgmtng@alaska.net](mailto:ptgmtng@alaska.net)

**JAGGED GLOBE**

**HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS EXPEDITIONS**

The UK's leading mountaineering specialists

Year 2000 programme now available -  
Spring: Everest, Cho Oyu, Baruntse...  
Summer: Broad Peak, Gasherbrum II, Spantik and more!

Call now for our colour brochure, or check out:  
**[www.jagged-globe.co.uk](http://www.jagged-globe.co.uk)**

Jagged Globe  
45 Mowbray Street, Sheffield S3 8EN, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)114 276 3322  
Fax: +44 (0)114 276 3344  
email: [expeditions@jagged-globe.co.uk](mailto:expeditions@jagged-globe.co.uk)

**EXPLORE**

**Himalaya Summits:**  
Climb 6000, 7000, 8000 meter peaks. Novice to Expert.  
[www.cybernet1.com/himalaya](http://www.cybernet1.com/himalaya)

**Africa**  
Kilimanjaro summit hike.  
Mt. Kenya summit rock climb.  
[www.cybernet2.com/africa\\_explore](http://www.cybernet2.com/africa_explore)

For information call  
**406-363-7747**

**Mountain Madness**

**ALPINE CLIMBING SCHOOL**  
4 thru 13 day courses in the Cascades, Ecuador, and Bolivia

**1999/2000 EXPEDITIONS:**

- Island & Mera Peak
- Aconcagua
- Carstensz Pyramid
- Huascaran
- Ama Dablam
- Cho Oyu 2000
- Kilimanjaro
- Mt. Elbrus
- Everest 2000

Call now for our 1999 brochure  
Seattle • 800.328.5925  
[www.mountainmadness.com](http://www.mountainmadness.com)

West Face Couloir, Mt. Huascarán • Dale Remick



**SOUTHWEST ADVENTURES**  
In The SAN JUAN  
AND BEYOND...

TREK & CLIMB IN NEPAL & PERU,  
ECUADOR & MEXICO VOLCANOES,  
BOLEVA HIGH PEAKS, EXPEDITIONS TO  
Aconcagua, ALPAMAYO, WITH TRAINING  
ASCENTS IN ALASKA/COLORADO  
PREMIER GUIDING  
IN THE SAN JUAN

P.O. Box 3242  
Durango, CO 81302  
E-MAIL: CLIMB@MTNGUIDE.NET  
WWW.MTNGUIDE.NET

(800) 642-5389

## Natural Progression Rock Guides Serving Western Colorado – Year Round

Director – Jose Carlos Iglesias  
UIAGM Certified Guide & Instructor



- Guided Tower Climbs
- Climbing instruction for all ability levels
- Technical Rescue Training

289 32.5 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503  
toll free (877)434-8213  
www.naturalprogression.com



**Climb at JOSHUA TREE**

▼ 4-Day Rockcraft Seminars \$295  
▼ 4-Day Leader's Seminar \$295  
▼ Guided Climbs, Private Instruction

**VERTICAL ADVENTURES**  
CLIMBING SCHOOL AND GUIDE SERVICE  
BOB GAINES, DIRECTOR  
P.O. BOX 7548  
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92658  
**1.800.514.8785**  
E-mail: BGvertical@aol.com  
www.vertical-adventures.com



**ARUN**  
Trek & Expeditions 2000

Arun International Everest Expedition	8848m	Spring	\$29,500.00
Cho Oyu - Tibet	8153m	Spring, Autumn	\$7,950.00
Shishapangma - Tibet	8013m	Spring, Autumn	\$7,750.00
Ama Dablam	6851m	Autumn	\$6,000.00
Aconcagua (NEW for 2000!)	6959m	February	\$2,700.00
Makalu to Everest via 3 Cois	6110m-6135m-5780m	Spring, Autumn	\$3,800.00
Everest Base Camp		Spring	\$1,780.00

Extreme Trekking  
Support Treks

Arun Treks & Expedition (USA), Inc.  
Arun Treks & Expedition (PVT), Ltd.  
301 E. 33rd Street, Ste. 3  
Austin, TX 78705 USA  
888-495-8735 or 512-495-9037  
Email: aruntrek@onr.com

www.team-arun.com

**Climbing in Frankenjura, Italy, France.** You tell us where you want to go. We organize your perfect 2 or 3 week long climbing-trip. <www.climb-europe.com>.

DEVILS TOWER \* BLACKHILLS NEEDLES, SD \* ROCK CLIMBING GUIDES/INSTRUCTION \* AMGA certified \* POB24R, Devils Tower, WY 82714, 888-345-9061, InfoR@TowerGuides.com, <www.OURAY-COLORADO.com/ice-rock>.

EXPEDITION in NEPAL & TIBET organized by Ang Rita Sherpa (10 times Everest Summiteer). Locally based & offer reasonable price for TREKKING, PEAK CLIMBING & EXPEDITION. Ang Rita Trek & Expedition (P) Ltd. PO Box: 8544, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: 438163, Fax: 977-1-248667. email: art@art.wlink.com.np, <www.overmire.com/arte/newarte.htm>.

EXPEDITION TO EVEREST (Nepal side), Classic Route in Spring 2000. Cost: A. Guided Service \$37,500. B. Non-Guided Service \$33,000. C. Alpine style \$23,000. Support trek to Everest 21 days \$2000 ex-kathmandu. Contact: FAX +977-1-252069.

**Climb McKinley & Alaska Range with Talkeetna Air Taxi**

• Air Support for Bush & Trailline Glaciers • Rescue Phone and Bets  
• Comfortable Climbing Baskets • Ski & Snowmobile Rental

800-533-2219 http://www.gorp.com/flytat  
phone: 907-733-2218 fax: 907-733-1434  
PO Box 73 • Talkeetna, AK 99676

**Expeditions**

Canada  
Mt. Robson 3954 m/12970 ft  
Monashee Ski Traverse  
General Mountaineering - Rocky Mountains

Alaska - Yukon  
Mt. Logan 5959 m/19550 ft  
Mt. Bona 5010m/16421 ft

European Alps  
Haute Route  
4000m Ski-Peaks  
Mount Blanc

Ruedi Beglinger Mountaineering, S.M.E.  
PO Box 2998, Revelstoke B.C., V0E 2S0 Canada  
Tel: 250-837-2381 • E-mail: selkirk@junction.net

**South America**  
Aconcagua/Polish Glacier Feb 1st/30 days \$3,000

**Himalaya**  
Cho Oyu: Postmonsoon 2000 \$6,500  
Mera Peak: May 4/2000 \$2,900

FREE BROCHURE  
Tom Proctor  
(812) 234-6383  
trproctor@abcs.com

**ProNc Expeditions**

GOING...GOING...get amazing deals on your next adventure before they're GONE! AdventureBid.com is the one-stop outlet for awesome bargains on oodles of adventure trips and equipment. Find incredible deals in our vast outfitter directories. Register NOW for monthly trips & prizes! <www.adventurebid.com>.

Guided rock climbing in So. California Needles-Dome Rock-Kern River Area. Novice to Advanced \*AMGA trained. \*Sierra High Adventures\* <www.sierrahigh.com>. (760) 376-1060.

**HIMALAYA SUMMITS:** Climb 6000, 7000 and 8000 meter peaks. Novice to Expert. 406-363-7747. <www.cybernet1.com/himalaya>.

**International Mountain Guides.** "Climbing the World's Great Mountains" since 1976. Join George Dunn, Phil Ershler, Eric Simonson. <www.mountainguides.net>.

**JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN GUIDES & CLIMBING SCHOOL.** Guided ascents & instruction for all abilities. Rock, snow & ice. All routes & peaks, Grand Tetons, Wind Rivers, Devils Tower, Red Rocks, Sierra Nevada and more. Year-round programs including skiing & ice climbing. Join us for a lifetime of great climbing. Box 7477, Jackson, WY 83002. (800) 239-7642. <www.jhmg.com>.

**THE ANDES & PATAGONIA**  
— Our Specialty —  
22 Years of Experience

**AVENTURAS PATAGONICAS**  
MOUNTAIN GUIDES

- **ACONCAGUA EXPEDITIONS:** Tech. & Non-tech. Routes NEW Guanacos Valley Route, The Polish Glacier, Our Summit Climb & Traverse. Highest success rate / quality in the field / most experience
- **NEW ACONCAGUA MILLENNIUM CLIMB**
- **FRENCH & SWISS ALPS:** The Eiger, Matterhorn, & Mont Blanc
- **CLIMBING EXPEDITIONS:** Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Antarctica (Vinson), Alaska - Valdez Ice Climbing.

**Rodrigo Mujica, Director – AMGA Certified**  
**AVENTURAS PATAGONICAS**  
PO Box 11389 Jackson, WY 83002  
Toll Free: 888-203-9354 • Phone: 307-734-5201  
Fax: 307-732-0281 • E-mail: climb@patagonicas.com  
Website: www.patagonicas.com

Certified Alpine & Rock Guide

**MOUNTAIN TRIP**

Join us in the mountains of Alaska. Climb Denali via three routes. Mountaineering Seminars and Skiing Adventures in the Alaska Range.

P.O. Box 111809  
Anchorage, AK 99511  
907-345-6499  
E-mail: mttrip@aol.com

For details go to [www.mountaintrip.com](http://www.mountaintrip.com)



**K2 Expedition**, Summer 2000, Abruzzi Ridge, \$11,500; also Lhotse Expedition, spring 2001, West Face \$7250. **Gary Pfisterer 413-267-5138, ginx.gary@samnet.net.**

**MOUNTAIN MADNESS EXPEDITIONS. Wanted: Expedition Members.** Glacier travel experience necessary. **RUSSIA**—Mt. Elbrus; Aug 5-17 or Aug 14-26, \$2900. **INDONESIA**—Carstensz Pyramid; Sep 13-Oct 3, \$8500. **NEPAL**—Ama Dablam; Oct 23-Nov 28, \$5800. **MEXICO**—Orizaba & Ixta; Nov 20-28 or Dec 26-Jan 3, \$1400. **ECUADOR**—Cayambe, Cotopoxi, Chimborazo; Nov 14-28 or Dec 22-Jan 4 or Jan 8-21, \$2400. **Call Mountain Madness 800-328-5925 <www.mountainmadness.com>.**

**OURAY ICE CLIMBING GUIDES/INSTRUCTION;** \* Moab/Canyonlands Utah, Unaweep, Colorado National Monument **ROCK** \* AMGA Certified \* POB1073R, Ouray, CO 81427, 888-345-9061, InfoR@TowerGuides.com, <www.DEVILS-TOWER.com/ice-rock>.

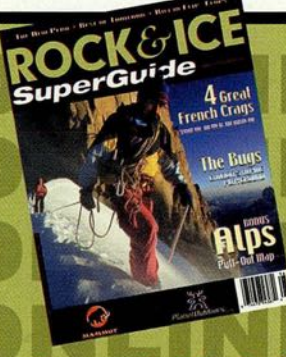
Planning, strategy and guidance are our specialties, success is what you give yourself! Join Guy Cotter and our internationally qualified guides on expeditions to the world's highest and most remote peaks—from Private Instruction Courses to the summit of Mt. Everest and the South Pole. contact us today: **ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS**, Box 97, Wanaka, New Zealand. ph +643 4438711 fax +6434438733 <www.adventure.co.nz info@adventure.co.nz>.

**SKY'S THE LIMIT:** Mt. Whitney, Palisades, Mt. Charleston & Red Rocks, minutes from Las Vegas! Nevada's premiere AMGA accredited/certified company of guides. climb@skysthelimit.com, <www.skysthelimit.com>, 800-733-7597.

**Summit International.** 7 Summit climbs, treks and expeditions. Alaska, Elbrus (July, Aug., Sept. \$3000), Kilimanjaro (\$3000), Aconcagua (Jan., Feb. \$3000), Mt. Everest (South Col \$35,000, North Col \$15,000, trekkers welcome \$2000), etc. Call 407-260-1917.

**Winter Mountaineering Instruction** in the Mount Washington Valley of NH. Directed by the only Internationally Certified Mountain Guide in the East. 20+ years experience. Programs include Ice Climbing, Winter Ascents of Mount Washington, Mountaineering Courses, Avalanches Courses, Alpine Skiing camps on and Ski Descents of Mount Washington. Contact Chauvin Guides International (603) 356-8919 or <www.chauvinguides.com>.

**Yosemite Mountaineering School** and guide service. All levels of instruction and guided climbing in Yosemite National Park since 1969. Climb the walls of Yosemite Valley with the Big Wall Experts. Climb the domes of Tuolumne Meadows and the peaks of the High Sierra with our expert guides. Yosemite, CA 95389; (209) 372-8344; <www.yosemitepark.com>.



**ROCK & ICE SuperGuide**  
4 Great French Crags  
The Bugs  
Alps  
Pull-Out Map

**The SuperGuide Online**

- Up-to-the-minute climbing info
- Guide services
- Travel tips
- Gear

**www.rockandice.com**  
coming in November

**OUR 15<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS!**  
**ALPINE ADVENTURES, INC.**

**Rock Climbing ▲ Ice Climbing  
Mountaineering ▲ Backcountry Skiing**

- ▲ Most Comprehensive Instruction In The East
- ▲ Lowest Student-To-Instructor Ratios
- ▲ Beginning Through Advanced Levels
- ▲ Guided Climbing & Skiing On Classic Routes

R.L. & Karen Stolz, Directors

Contact us for a FREE catalog:  
Dept. 201, P.O. Box 179, Keene, New York 12942  
(518) 576-9881 Fax (518) 576-9574  
mail@alpineadvent.com  
or visit us on the web at: www.alpineadvent.com

**MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES  
GUIDE SERVICE**

**ICE CLIMBING MOUNTAINEERING**  
NEW YORK, CATSKILLS, ADIRONDACKS  
CANADIAN ROCKIES  
**NEPAL  
ECUADOR**

GUIDING ICE CLIMBING AND MOUNTAINEERING  
LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY FOR 15yrs.

**REACH YOUR DREAMS**

OUR LICENSED GUIDES  
WILL HAVE YOU REACHING  
YOUR DREAMS, AND  
HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS  
SAFELY AND SWIFTLY

PLEASE CONTACT US AT  
PO 539  
MARGARETVILLE, NY  
12455  
EMAIL MTNMAN@CATSKILL.NET  
OR  
WWW.MOUNTAINADVENTURES.NET

TELE.  
914-586-3910


**American Alpine Institute**

Rock, Ice, & Alpine Courses  
Guides Ascents  
Expeditions  
Leadership

6 states  
12 countries

"North America's best all around climbing school and guide service."  
*Outside Magazine*


**360-671-1505**  
**www.aai.cc**  
1515 -12th St. T-82  
Bellingham, WA 98225




**FLY K2 AVIATION**

- More flights to Mt. McKinley and the Alaska Range
- Expedition flight support
- Complete climber packages
- Free Internet access to stay in touch with family and friends
- Comfortable Climber Hostel
- Complimentary K2 hat for each expedition member

**MORE CLIMBING, LESS WAITING**



**K2aviation**  
907-733-2291 • 1-800-764-2291  
P.O. Box 545 • Talkeetna, Alaska 99676 USA  
Fax: 907-733-1221 • www.flyk2.com  
**TALKEETNA • ALASKA**



**Carstensz  
Denali  
Kilimanjaro  
Aconcagua  
Huascaran  
Greenland  
Vinson  
Damavand  
Cho-Oyu  
Rainier  
Everest**

**Climbs  
Treks  
Expeditions  
School**

**ALPINE ASCENTS INTERNATIONAL**  
206-378-1927  
aai.climb@accessone.com  
www.alpineascents.com



## ALABAMA

**Alabama Outdoors**  
3054 Independence Dr.  
Birmingham, AL 35209  
800-870-0011  
F 205-870-5505

## ARIZONA

**Link Up Gear and Guided Adventure**  
1431A S. Milton  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
520-214-0861  
www.linkupgear.com

**Summit Hut**  
5045 E. Speedway Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85712  
520-325-1554  
1-800-499-8696  
www.summithut.com

## CALIFORNIA

**Berkeley Ironworks**  
800 Potter St.  
Off Ashby Exit/80  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
510-981-9900  
www.berkeleyironworks.com

**Class 5**  
25-B Dodie St.  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415-485-6931  
www.class5.com

**Granite Arch**  
11335 Folsom Blvd. Bldg. G  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95742  
916-638-4605  
F 916-638-4706

**Marmot Mountain Works**  
901 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.  
Kentfield, CA 94904  
415-454-8543  
F 415-454-7523

**Mission Cliffs**  
2295 Harrison @ 19th St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-550-0515  
www.mission-cliffs.com

**Nomad Ventures**  
54415 N. Circle Dr.  
Idyllwild, CA 92549  
909-659-485

**Nomad Ventures**  
2835 Roosevelt St.  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
760-434-2445

**Nomad Ventures**  
61795 Ste. A, 29 Palms Hwy.  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252  
760-366-4684

**Nomad Ventures**  
405 W. Grand Ave.  
Escondido, CA 92025  
760-747-8223

**Sunrise Mountaineering**  
2455 Railroad Ave.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-447-8330

**The North Face**  
180 Post St.  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
415-433-3223  
F 800-362-4963

**The North Face**  
217 Alma St.  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
650-327-1563

**The North Face**  
1870-A Harbor Blvd.  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
949-646-0909

**Valley Sporting Goods**  
McHenry Village Shop Ctr.,  
1700 McHenry Ave. #D50  
Modesto, CA 95350  
209-523-5681  
F 209-523-0624  
www.valleysg.com

**Western Mountaineering**  
2344 El Camino Real  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
408-984-7611  
F 408-984-8415

## COLORADO

**Backcountry Experience**  
1205 Camino del Rio  
Durango, CO 81301  
970-247-8013  
800-648-8519

**Jagged Edge Mountain Gear**  
129 W. Colorado Ave.  
P.O. Box 2514  
Telluride, CO 81435  
970-720-3060  
800-926-0159  
www.jagged-edge.com

**Mountain Chalet**  
226 N. Tejon  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
719-633-0732

**Mountain Outfitters**  
P.O. Box 440, 112 S. Ridge St.  
Breckenridge, CO 80424  
970-453-2201  
F 970-453-7891

**Mountain Sports**  
821 Pearl St.  
Boulder, CO 80302  
303-443-6770

**Neptune Mountaineering**  
633 S. Broadway, Unit A  
Boulder, CO 80303  
303-499-8866

**The Bent Gate**  
1300 Washington Ave.  
Golden, CO 80401  
1-877-BENTGATE  
www.bentgate.com

**The Boulder Mountaineer**  
2835 Pearl St.  
Boulder, CO 80302  
303-442-8355

**The Mountain Shop**  
632 S. Mason  
Ft. Collins, CO 80524  
970 493-5720  
800-403-5720  
www.themountainshop.com

**The North Face**  
2490 S. Colorado Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80222  
303-758-6366

**The North Face**  
629-K S. Broadway  
Boulder, CO 80303  
303-499-1731

**The Trailhead**  
707 Highway 24 North  
Buena Vista, CO 81211  
719-395-8001  
www.trailheadco.com

## CONNECTICUT

**American Terrain Rock Shop**  
@ Go Vertical Climbing Gym  
727 Canal St.  
Stamford, CT 06902  
203-978-0499  
ATerrain@AOL.com

**Country Sports**  
65-A Albany Turnpike  
Canton, CT 06019  
860-693-CAMP  
F 860-693-0459

**Outdoor Traders**  
#2 Greenwich Ave.  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
800-717-CAMP  
www.outdoortraders.com

## GEORGIA

**Mountain Ventures**  
3040 N. Decatur Rd.  
Scottsdale Atlanta, GA 30079  
404-299-5254

## ILLINOIS

**Shawnee Trails**  
222 W. Freeman  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
618-529-2313

**Starved Rock Outfitters, Ltd.**  
723 South Clark St.  
Utica, IL 61373  
1-888-580-5510  
www.gearexpress.com

**The North Face**  
Woodfield Shopping Ctr.,  
Bldg. J #304  
Schaumburg, IL 60173  
847-240-1725

**The North Face**  
416 Oakbrook Ctr.  
Oakbrook, IL 60521  
630-990-0303

**The North Face**  
John Hancock Ctr., 875 N.  
Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-337-7200  
F 312-867-2500

**Upper Limits**  
1304 W. Washington  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
800-964-7814  
www.upperlimits.com

## MAINE

**Alpenglow Adventure Sports/**  
**Acadia Mountain Guides**  
Climbing School  
36A Main St.  
Orono, ME 04473  
207-866-7562

**Cadillac Mountain Sports**  
26 Cottage St.  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609  
207-288-4532

## MASSACHUSETTES

**Arcadian Shop**  
91 Pittsfield Rd.  
P.O. Box 1637  
Lenox, MA 01240  
413-637-3010  
F 413-637-4112

**Boston Rock Gym**  
78 G Olympia Ave.  
Woburn, MA 01801  
781-935-PEAK

## MINNESOTA

**Midwest Mountaineering**  
309 Cedar Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55454  
612-339-3433

## MONTANA

**Pipestone Mountaineering, Inc.**  
829 S. Montana St.  
Butte, MT 59701  
406-782-4994

## NEVADA

**Desert Rock Sports**  
8201 W. Charleston Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89117  
702-254-1143

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**International Mountain**  
**Equipment Inc.**  
Main St., P.O. Box 494  
North Conway, NH 03860  
603-356-6316  
F 603-356-6492  
www.ime-usa.com

**Ragged Mountain Equipment**  
Route 16-302, P.O. Box 130  
Intervale, NH 03845  
603-356-3042

## NEW JERSEY

**Blue Ridge Mountain Sports**  
23 Main St.  
Madison, NJ 07940  
973-377-3301  
prn@brms.com

**Ramsey Outdoor Store**  
226 Route 17 N.  
Paramus, NJ 07652  
201-261-5000

**Ramsey Outdoor Store**  
1039 Route 46 W.  
Ledgewood, NJ 07852  
973-584-7799

**The Nickel**  
(Blue Ridge Mtn. Sports)  
Princeton Shopping Ctr.  
N. Harrison St.  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
609-921-6078  
mad@brms.com

## NEW MEXICO

**D.O.M.E. Dynamic Outdoor**  
**Mountain Experience**  
3801-A Arkansas Ave.  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
505-661-3663  
DOME@trail.com

**Taos Mountain Outfitters**  
114 South Plaza  
Taos, NM 87571  
505-758-9292

## NEW YORK

**American Terrain Outfitters**  
175 E. Post Rd.  
White Plains, NY 10601  
914-682-3971  
www.ATerrain@AOL.com

**Tents & Trails**  
21 Park Pl.  
New York, NY 10007  
800-237-1760

**The Mountaineer**  
Box 66, Route 73  
Keene Valley, NY 12943  
518-576-2281  
F 518-576-4352

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Black Dome Mountain Sports**  
140 Tunnel Rd.  
Asheville, NC 28805  
800-678-2367  
F 704-251-2001

**Looking Glass Outfitters**  
33 New Hendersonville Hwy.  
Pisgah Forest, NC 28768  
(At the entrance to Pisgah  
Nat'l Forest)  
828-884-5854

## OHIO

**Sun & Ski Sports**  
7565 Kenwood Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45236  
513-745-0099  
F 513-745-0167  
www.sunandski.com

**Urban Krag Indoor Center**  
125 Clay St.  
Dayton, OH 45402  
937-224-5724  
www.urbankrag.com

## OKLAHOMA

**Sun & Ski Sports**  
10109 N. May  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
405-755-7400  
F 405-751-9672  
www.sunandski.com

**Sun & Ski Sports EXPO**  
6808 S. Memorial Dr.  
Tulsa, OK 74133  
918-254-0673  
F 918-254-6210  
www.sunandski.com

## OREGON

**Climb Max**  
3341 South East Hawthorne  
Portland, OR 97214  
503-797-1991  
www.climbmax.net

**Oregon Mountain Community**  
60 N.W. Davis  
Portland, OR 97209  
503-227-1038

**Redpoint Climbers' Supply**  
975 Smith Rock Wy.  
Terrebonne, OR 97760  
541-923-6207

**Rockhard**  
Smith Rock State Park  
9297 NE Crooked River Dr.  
Terrebonne, OR 97760  
541-548-4786

**The Mountain Shop of Portland**  
628 NE Broadway  
Portland, OR 97232  
503-288-6768  
F 503-280-1687  
www.mountainshop.net

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Appalachian Ski & Outdoors**  
324 W. College Avenue  
State College, PA 16801  
800-690-5220  
outdoors@theadventure-  
source.com  
www.theadventuresource.com

**Exkursion**  
4037 William Penn Hwy.  
Monroeville, PA 14156  
412-372-7030

**Mountain Dreams**  
**International**  
1121 Bower Hill Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
412-276-8660  
F 412-276-8682

**The Mountaineer**  
**Supply Co. Inc.**  
HC-63 Box 7D  
Donegal, PA 15628  
724-593-6060  
F 724-593-6061  
www.mountaineergear.com

## PUERTO RICO

**Adventuras Tierra Adentro**  
268-A Ave. Pinero Univ.  
Gardens  
Rio Piedras, PR 00927  
787-766-0470

## TENNESSEE

**Rock/Creek Outfitters**  
100 Tremont St.  
Chattanooga, TN 37405  
423-265-5969

## TEXAS

**Sun & Ski Sports EXPO**  
5503 FM 1960 W.  
Houston, TX 77069  
713-537-0928  
F 713-893-1806  
www.sunandski.com



Use this exclusive resource to quickly  
locate the ad you're looking for.

Sun & Ski Sports EXPO  
13411 San Pedro Ave.  
San Antonio, TX 78216  
210-494-0429  
F 210-494-1922  
www.sunandski.com

Sun & Ski Sports EXPO  
Baybrook Shopping Center,  
1355 West Bay Area Blvd.  
Webster, TX 77598  
281-316-1365  
F 281-332-6092  
www.sunandski.com

Sun & Ski Sports EXPO  
2438 W. Anderson Ln. #B1A  
Austin, TX 78757  
512-467-2782  
F 512-467-2822  
www.sunandski.com

Sun & Ski Sports EXPO  
6100 Westheimer  
Houston, TX 77057  
713-783-8180  
F 713-783-9199  
www.sunandski.com

Sun & Ski Sports EXPO  
900 Gessner  
Memorial City Mall  
Houston, TX 77024  
713-464-6363  
F 713-461-4319  
www.sunandski.com

Whole Earth Provision Co.  
1014 N. Lamar  
Austin, TX 78703  
512-476-1414

Whole Earth Provision Co.  
255 E. Basse  
San Antonio, TX 78209  
210-829-8888

Whole Earth Provision Co.  
6560 Woodway Dr.  
Houston, TX 77057  
713-467-0234

Whole Earth Provision Co.  
5400 E. Mockingbird Ln.  
Dallas, TX 75206  
214-824-7444

Whole Earth Provision Co.  
2410 San Antonio St.  
Austin, TX 78705  
512-478-1577

Whole Earth Provision Co.  
2934 S. Shepherd  
Houston, TX 77098  
713-526-5226

**UTAH**  
Hurst Stores, Inc.  
160 North 500 West  
St. George, UT 84770  
435-673-6141  
F 435-628-3380

MOUNTAINWORKS  
22 S. Freedom Blvd.  
Provo, UT 84601  
801-371-0223  
F 801-371-0223

**VIRGINIA**  
Mountain Trails  
212 E. Cork St.  
Winchester, VA 22601  
540-667-0030  
F 540-667-2618  
mntntrail@shentel.net

**WASHINGTON**  
Feathered Friends  
119 Yale Ave. N.  
Seattle, WA 98109-5428  
206-292-2210  
www.featheredfriends.com

The North Face  
1023 First Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98104  
206-622-4111

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Adventure's Edge  
131 Pleasant St.  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
304-296-9007

The Gendarme  
Box 53  
Seneca Rocks, WV 26884  
304-567-2600

**WISCONSIN**  
Life Tools Adventure Outfitters  
930 Waube Ln.  
Green Bay, WI 54304  
920-339-8484  
www.lifetools.com

Vertical Stronghold Indoor  
Climbing Center  
719 West Frances Street  
Appleton, WI 54914-2365  
920-734-0321  
vertical@athenet.net

Wheeler's Campground  
E. 11329 Hwy. 159  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
608-356-4877

**WYOMING**  
All Terrain Sports  
412 Grand  
Laramie, WY 82070  
307-721-8036

Teton Mountaineering  
170 N. Cache  
Jackson, WY 83001  
307-733-3595

Wild Iris  
333 Main St.  
Lander, WY 82520  
307-332-4541  
1-888-284-5968

**CANADA**  
La Cordee Plein-Air  
2159 Sainte-Catherine East  
Montreal, QB, H2K 2H9  
1-800-567-1106  
F 514-524-5081

Onsight Mountaineering  
135 Ave B. South  
Saskatoon, SK, S7M 1M2  
306-978-4327  
www.onsightmntn.com

Access Fund .....	130	Feathered Friends.....	121	Patagonia Mountain Agency.....	135
<b>Advanced Base Camp .....</b>	<b>C2</b>	FISH .....	123, 131	<b>Petzl America .....</b>	<b>27, 126</b>
Adventure Gear.....	128	<b>Five.Ten .....</b>	<b>126</b>	Pika Mountaineering.....	111
Alpine Adventures.....	137	Forty Below .....	120, 132	Planet Rock.....	134
Alpine Ascents International.....	137	General Ecology .....	127	<b>PlanetOutdoors.com.....</b>	<b>8, 119</b>
Altrec.com .....	47	Globe Holds .....	114	PMI .....	50
American Alpine Club .....	38, 83	<b>Gore .....</b>	<b>11, 126</b>	prAna .....	55, 128
American Alpine Institute .....	137	GR Climbing Holds .....	132	ProNic Expeditions .....	136
Arctic Desert .....	131	Gregory.....	1, 126	PUR Water Systems .....	128
Artistic Synergy .....	129	Griphead Wall Rox.....	132	<b>Pusher Holds .....</b>	<b>21, 126</b>
Arun Treks & Expeditions .....	136	Groperz .....	115	R & I Products .....	125
Atwater Carey .....	127	GT Interactive .....	34	Rampage .....	107
Aventuras Patonicas .....	136	High Peaks Mountain		Red Rock Resole.....	131
Backcountré'.....	121	Adventure Center .....	135	Revelstoke Alpine Adventure	
Backcountry Access .....	123	Himalaya Expeditions .....	135	Company.....	135
Best of Rock & Ice.....	114	Inside Moves.....	134	RMR Distributing.....	112
Big Foot.....	135	Integrity 7 Productions.....	129	Rock'n & Jam'n.....	133
Big Stone.....	104	Jagged Edge Mountain Gear .....	127	Ropegun .....	51
<b>Boreal.....</b>	<b>23</b>	Jagged Globe.....	135	Rubber Room.....	131
Boston Rock Gym.....	133	Jaspire Productions .....	128	Ruedi Beglinger	
Boulder Rock Club .....	119, 133	John Glossa Studios .....	100, 128	Mountaineering.....	136
Bouldering Domain .....	131	Juggernaut.....	117	San Juan Mountain Guides.....	20
BoulderTown Climbing		K2 Aviation.....	137	Sharp End Publishing.....	109
Center .....	134	Koflach.....	33	Shoreline Mountain Products.....	31
Bugaboo.....	129	Krone Pen.....	36	Sierra Designs .....	29, 126
Camp 5 Expeditions.....	135	<b>La Sportiva.....</b>	<b>13</b>	Sierra Trading Post.....	128
Campmor.....	53	<b>Marmot.....</b>	<b>127, C4</b>	Southwest Adventures .....	136
Central Asia Institute.....	102	Marmot Mountain Works .....	127	<b>Sterling Ropes .....</b>	<b>39, 41, 43</b>
<b>Charlet Moser .....</b>	<b>6</b>	Maxim Climbing Ropes .....	18	Stone Age.....	111, 127
Chicks with Picks.....	131	Menasha Ridge Press.....	129	Stone Nudes.....	129
<b>Climb Axe Ltd.....</b>	<b>42, 101</b>	Metolius .....	4, 46, 127	R&I SuperGuide .....	118
<b>Climb High.....</b>	<b>22, 127</b>	<b>Misty Mountain .....</b>	<b>C3</b>	SupPorters Project.....	114
Climb It!.....	53	Mountain Adventures .....	137	Survival On Snow .....	122
Clymrz .....	84	<b>Mountain Gear.....</b>	<b>25, 127</b>	Suunto .....	113
Cody Country .....	120	Mountain Hardwear.....	14, 15, 126	Talkeetna Air Taxi .....	136
Colorado Mountain Club .....	118	Mountain Madness .....	135	Telluride Alpine Rock .....	117
Compwall .....	109	Mountain Trip.....	136	The Mountaineers Books .....	124
<b>Cordless.....</b>	<b>12</b>	MountainWoman.com .....	128	<b>The North Face .....</b>	<b>17</b>
Coulair .....	132	Natural Progression Rock		Touchstone Climbing.....	54
Crater Holds .....	121	Guides.....	136	Trango .....	16
Crazy Creek .....	129	<b>Nissan.....</b>	<b>19</b>	Upper Limits.....	131
Diamond Posters .....	104	North American Classics .....	129	Vertical Adventures .....	136
DMM.....	35, 37	Northern Lights.....	129	Wichard.....	123
Eastern Bouldering Series .....	116	Northern Lites Snowshoes.....	128	Wild Things.....	124, 128
Eldorado Wall Company .....	132	Ouray Victorian Inn.....	123	Windy Corner .....	115
Ewarm.com .....	131	Passe Montagne.....	112	Wren Industries .....	129
F.R.O.S.T.....	103	<b>Patagonia .....</b>	<b>2, 126</b>	Y2K Gringo Disco.....	117
				Yates Climbing Equipment.....	100



See our ad on  
page 17.



See our ads on  
pages 2 & 126.



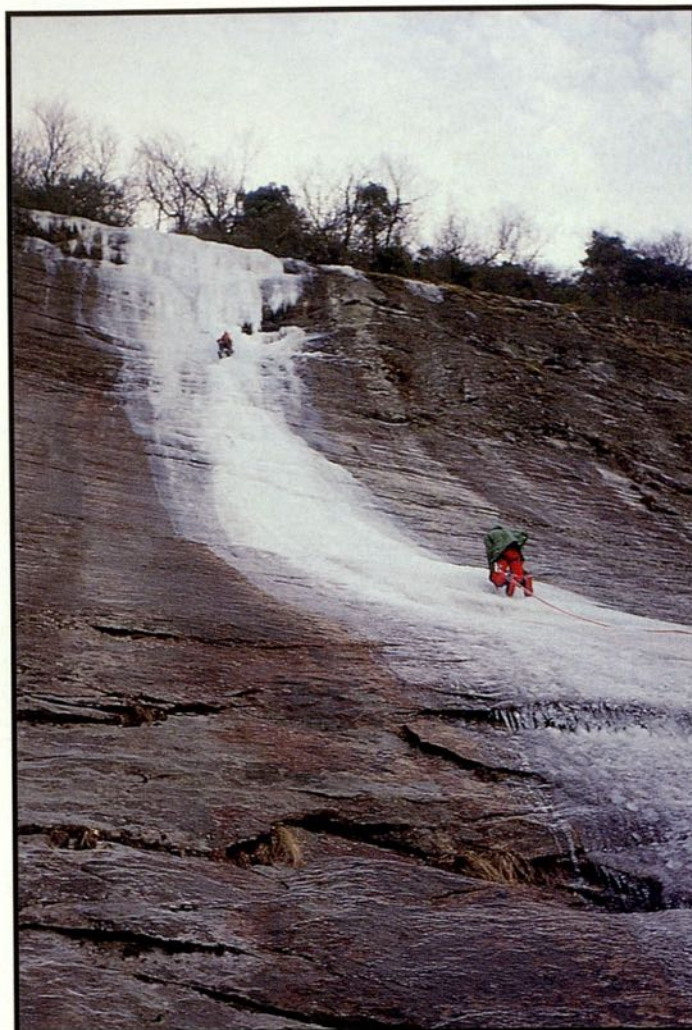
# Starshine, WI3 +

Devil's Courthouse, North Carolina *by Shannon Stegg*

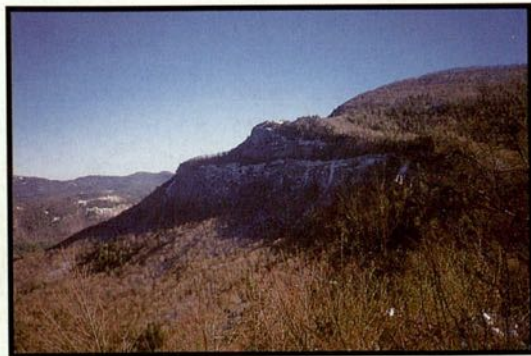
**T**he deep Southeast isn't known for its waterfall ice. When temperatures begin to tumble, most southern climbers head for the local gyms. But while the winter season may be short and spotty and the quality flows few and far between, with a little luck (and a good dose of that old virtue patience), ice climbing enthusiasts can find the occasional flow on which to sharpen their skills, sometimes of surprisingly high quality. While many road-cut ice flows routinely form up throughout North Carolina, the classics are found on the more prominent mountains of the Blue Ridge, in the western corner of the state. Though these tend to be quite rare, several natural lines have been established since the late '70s that remain challenging to this day.

Located on the northern flanks of Whiteside Mountain, Starshine is one such climb. This route would receive three stars in any guidebook, even if it were located in New England, Colorado or Valdez. Established in February of 1978, Starshine is, to this day, the most well-known and sought-after ice route in the Deep South. On his second attempt, Richard Gottlieb made the route's first ascent and named it Sympathy for the Devil. Just one week later, David Buck, Turit Stubbs and Jeff Bates made the flow's second ascent, then returned the next day to photograph the route. While maneuvering unroped around the climb's icy base in search of a good camera angle, Bates lost his balance and tragically fell to his death. During their ascent the previous day, the trio had noticed the reflection of the stars in the beautiful 300-foot flow and had dubbed it Starshine. When Gottlieb heard of the accident, he agreed to the new name in memory of the fallen Bates. Starshine it remains.

*Having lived, climbed and established new routes in the southeast for over 25 years, Shannon Stegg says the Deep South's potential for new climbs is still enormous.*



PHOTOS: SHANNON STEGG



**TOP:** GIVEN THE FLEETING NATURE OF THE ICE, WHEN STARSHINE IS IN SHAPE, IT SEES HEAVY TRAFFIC. JEFF CORT LEADS THE FIRST PITCH, WHILE A PARTY FINISHES THE SECOND. **BOTTOM:** A VIEW OF STARSHINE FROM HWY. 64. MOTHER RUSSIA, WHICH FORMS EVEN LESS FREQUENTLY THAN STARSHINE, IS THE FLOW ON THE LEFT.

**the route** The climb actually begins 100 or so feet up the flow, which tumbles gradually away through dense deciduous forest. Be careful here — this is where Jeff Bates took his deadly fall. The first rope-length is the easier of the two, but it's usually thin, and the long, 60-degree slope can be a calf-burner. Pitch two is the crux — it sometimes leans beyond vertical. Near the top, a short but exhilarating section of chandeliered ice leads to a stair-stepped finish at a large ledge. To descend, follow the steep terrain to the top of the ridge where it intersects the main trail.

**when and where** Located at the state's western tip, in the Nantahala National Forest, the Devil's Courthouse is on the northern flank of Whiteside Mountain. From the small tourist town of Highlands, drive six miles east on US Highway 64 to a pullout at a sharp turn in the road. This is a good vantage point for checking whether the flow is in shape. If conditions are good, turn around and take the first left (Whiteside Mountain Road), then drive a mile or so to the Whiteside Mountain trailhead, on the left. Hike up the old, dirt road to an observation point on top of the mountain. From here, a trail leads downward and left to the Devil's Courthouse. Follow the switchbacks to a junction, then take the lefthand trail and descend to the mountain. A short, but strenuous bushwhack leads back right to the start of the climb.

Starshine is the most consistent ice flow in the Deep South, forming at least once every year. It has been in condition as early as Halloween and as late as the end of April, but thanks to extremely fickle weather, there's no predicting how long it will last.

**gear and guides** North Carolina climbers are quite secretive, and Starshine is not covered in any guidebook. That said, Starshine is on Nantahala National Forest land, so there is nothing private nor illegal about climbing it. Bring a good selection of ice screws, including some shorties for the first pitch.





Superior design, quality and construction.



**SONIC  
HARNESS**

15 years of design. All new ICS technology.  
More comfortable. Lighter weight.  
Take a closer look.

828.963.6688  
[www.mistymountain.com](http://www.mistymountain.com)



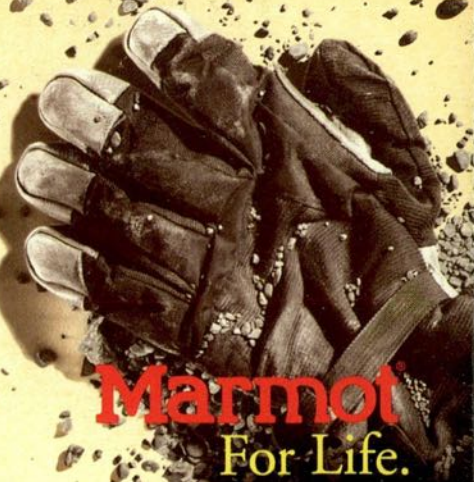
A SECRET OF THE UNIVERSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY CALEN ROWELL.



TO DISCOVER OTHER SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE, CALL  
1.707.544.4590 OR VISIT US AT [WWW.MARMOT.COM](http://WWW.MARMOT.COM)

GORE-TEX IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK  
OF W. L. GORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
©1999 MARMOT MOUNTAIN LTD.

COULD THIS BE THE TOUGHEST LIVING THING  
YOU'LL EVER SEE? THE TINY ALPINE DRABA  
GROWS IN NORTHEAST GREENLAND NATIONAL PARK,  
THE NORTHERN-MOST TIP OF LAND ON EARTH.  
IF YOU GO THERE, PREPARE FOR TEMPERATURES  
DOWN TO -87°F. BUT DON'T FORGET TO STOP  
AND SMELL THE FLOWERS.



**Marmot**  
For Life.