



AAC Publications

East Rosebud Canyon, Lower Doublet, Line of Constant Sorrow

Montana, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness

There are many impressive walls in East Rosebud Canyon, but few are as proud and spectacular looking as the Doublets. The Upper Doublet is a monster at approximately 2,000', perched high on the west side of the canyon; the Lower Doublet, at 1,500', rises just to the left and is just as impressive.

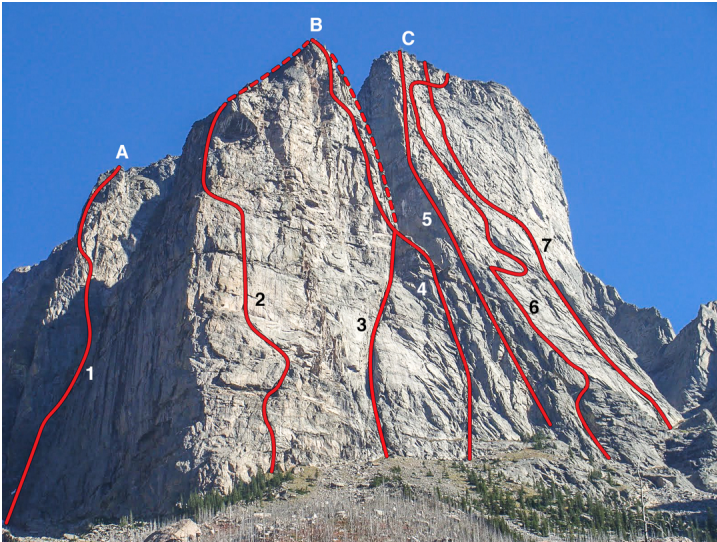
The Doublets host a few imposing lines, both free and aid, but the history is vague and somewhat hidden, like most Beartooths climbing. The Lower Doublet has seen a lot of attempts but very few successes. While shorter than the Upper Doublet, it's steeper and slightly cleaner, but with seemingly few options for routes. Large parts of the southwest side—the side you see from Snow Creek Trail—have rather poor rock. The west face has better rock but is steeper and more compact.

My first attempt at this wall, with Max Bechdel, left us at the top of pitch one, exhausted, humbled, and craving a second chance. After many nights poring over photos, we found a weakness in the center of the west face—a single crack system that ran practically straight up the center-left side.

After many attempts, often cut short by storms, Artley Goodhart joined Max Bechdel and I to see our project through. Max and I amassed six attempts spread out over three years, vying for a first ascent. With Artley, we finally succeeded on our seventh trip, reaching the top of the Lower Doublet on June 15 after a two-day push employing a portaledge, and thus put an end to the Line of Constant Sorrow (1,500', 12 pitches, V 5.12 C1). We freed all but the fifth pitch (proposed 5.12d). We rappelled the route, drilling bolted rappel anchors on our way down to encourage repeat ascents.

[Editor's Note: Thanks to additional contributor Max Bechdel and for route line assistance from Pat Callis, Jack Tackle, Frank Annighofer, and Ron Brunckhorst.]

Images



From left to right: (A) Ice Box Tower. (B) Lower Doublet. (C) Upper Doublet. (1) The line climbed by Jack Tackle and Doug Randal in 1979 (1,200', IV 5.10). Tackle and Gary Skaar did the second ascent of the same line in 1982. Another line exists right of their route: Fear Factor Five (V 5.9 A2), climbed by Lou Wendt and Rick Anderson in 1975; it's likely the route did not reach the summit. (2) Line of Constant Sorrow (V 5.12 C1, Bechdel-Cavanaugh-Goodhart, 2013). (3) Southwest face (IV 5.10, Burson-Willis), which starts on the west face but finishes out of view on the southwest face. (4) The first ascent of the formation by Jack Tackle and Rick Hoven in 1981 (V 5.10+ A1). Tackle notes that the 12- to 14-pitch route went all free except for a few short sections of aid (perhaps 30' total). Additionally, it's rumored that Pat Callis and Meg Hall attempted a line just left of Constant Sorrow on the prominent arête, but it was never finished. It's also possible that Mike Abbey and Kevin Hutchson completed a route on the Lower Doublet, but the exact line is unknown. (5) The approximate location of the Northwest Buttress of Upper Doublet (13 pitches, 5.11, Abbey-Schock, 1999). (6) The first ascent of the wall by Hank Abrams, Pat Callis, Brian Leo, and Gray Thompson, in 1972, which they called Time Trip (VI 5.8 A4/5). In 1999, Meg Hall freed Time Trip at 5.11 by a slight variation; Callis, Mike Carey, and Rand Swanson joined her for the climb. Additionally, Frank Annighofer and Bill Davey completed a direct start to Time Trip, farther right, in 2010. (7) The second ascent of the wall by Jim Emmerson and Craig Zaspel in 1975, E-Z Route (20 pitches, VI 5.9 A3). The line was repeated by Tackle and Zaspel in 1980.



Artley Goodhart gets things going on the first pitch.



Artley Goodhart leading the first pitch.



Ian Cavanaugh leading pitch 5 (C1, proposed 5.12d).



Ian Cavanaugh falling on pitch 5 (C1, proposed 5.12d).

Line of Constant Sorrow
V 5.12- A0.11 pitches
FA- Ian Cavanaugh, Max Bechdel, Artley Goodhart
June 14-16, 2013



Photo topo, showing the Line of Constant Sorrow.



Max Bechdel leading high on the Line of Constant Sorrow, a new, nearly free route on Lower Doublet.



Max Bechdel leading pitch 7.



Packed for bear on the approach to the Lower Doublet.



On the summit of the Lower Doublet.



Resting in the portaledges partway up the climb.

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