



AAC Publications

Mt. Hitchcock and Arctic Lake Wall: New Routes

California, Sierra, Sequoia National Park

In late July, Adam Ferro and I hiked over the Whitney-Russell col and set up camp by a small tarn 500' below Arctic Lake. From there we approached the long northeast face of Mt. Hitchcock, which consists of many subpeaks and attractive buttresses, few of which have seen any attention. We completed two great crack climbs here.

Starlight Dihedral (1,600', IV/V 5.11) follows a good line with multiple dihedrals in the lower part of the wall, linked to a prominent corner system by a very run-out but moderate slab. Welcome to Krackizstan (1,600', IV/V 5.11a) climbs a much less obvious wall that appeared clean and continuous when seen from our descent of Starlight Dihedral. The route follows awesome cracks from bottom to the top. Both routes are in a stunning setting with quality climbing and deserve traffic. One has already been repeated by a motivated Bay Area couple—in a single weekend!

Adam and I also climbed the second prominent corner and crack system from the eastern edge of the main Arctic Lake Wall. Too Much Fun (550', III 5.10) follows high-quality moderate cracks to the ridge, which we scrambled to the summit.

Brian Prince and I returned to the Arctic Lake Wall about a month later to tackle a direct line pulling several of the giant roofs closer to the middle of the formation. After getting stormed off on the first attempt, we completed Arctic Beast (700', III 5.11c).

– Vitaliy Musiyenko

Images



Brian Prince leads through one of the overhangs on Arctic Beast (5.11c).



Adam Ferro on the new route Too Much Fun (5.10) on Arctic Lake Wall.



New lines on the western summit of the Arctic Lake Wall (from left to right): (1) Arctic Beast (5.11c),

(2) Too Much Fun (5.10), and (3) Chillin' the Most (5.10-). It's believed there are several more routes on this face, but their exact position is not known.



Photo-topo for the route Arctic Beast on the Arctic Lake Wall.



Arctic Lake Wall, Sierra

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