



AAC Publications

Mt. Hooker, Hooters

Wyoming, Wind River Range

In mid-July, Jen Olson (Canada) and I embarked on the long, soggy, and yet stunningly beautiful walk into the Wind River Range with the idea of repeating the line Hook, Line, and Sinker (1,800', V 5.12) on Mt. Hooker (12,504'). This route was freed by Whit Magro and Josh Wharton (see [AAJ 2015](#)), and our late good friend Hayden Kennedy had recommended it.

We arrived at the base after a fairly rough start the day before, involving a storm, some marmot thievery, and bug nets. We worked out where the route apparently started, yet it looked very improbable. After a sketchy quest into no man's land, we realized the starting pitch had fallen down.

Without any topos for alternative routes, we discussed the idea of putting up a new line. The most obvious and easy grab with the single day we had left was a line on Hooker's northwest face that we eventually named Hooters (500m, III 5.9). This natural line is attractive in some ways yet also a little loose, mossy, and generally sloppy around the edges. Our favorite pitch, the crux, was a chossy, wet, intimidating 5.9 flare—the kind of pitch that is much better in retrospect.

The route is certainly not as clean or majestic as its brothers and sisters on the finer northeast face, but it is a nice addition to the peak since it allows access to the summit at a much lower free grade. All in all, a fine outing with a great partner.

– Hazel Findlay, U.K.

Images



Hazel Findlay on the snowy descent from Mt. Hooker after making the first ascent of Hooters (500m, III 5.9) on the northwest face. The two climbed the new line ground-up in just six hours after being shut down on their primary objective due to the first pitch having fallen off.



A portion of the northwest face of Mt. Hooker in the Wind River Range of Wyoming, showing the line of Hooters (500m, III 5.9). Hazel Findlay and Jen Olson climbed this new moderate route in just six hours after a they discovered the first pitch of their primary objective had fallen off.



Hazel Findlay on the long and buggy approach into Mt. Hooker in Wyoming's Wind River Range.



Hazel Findlay on the first roped pitch of Hooters (500m, III 5.9), a new route that she and Jen Olson climbed in July 2017. The route was climbed ground-up in just six hours after being shut down on their primary objective, and provides a moderate alternative to the hard routes on the northeast face.



Hazel Findlay and Jen Olson on the summit of Mt. Hooker in Wyoming's Wind River Range, after making the first ascent of Hooters (500m, III 5.9). The two climbed the route ground-up in six hours.



Jen Olson follows the featured, slabby corner of pitch three during the first ascent of Hooters (500m, III 5.9) on Mt. Hooker, in Wyoming's Wind River Range.



Hazel Findlay climbing clean, moderate cracks during the first ascent of Hooters (500m, III 5.9) on Mt. Hooker, in Wyoming's Wind River Range.

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