



## AAC Publications

---

### **Jezebel (East Summit), East Face, Fun or Fear**

Alaska, Alaska Range, Revelation Mountains

**Uisdean Hawthorn and I flew into the Revelations on March 23. We landed on the Fish Creek Glacier, almost directly below the east face of Jezebel (9,620').** Our main objective was the unclimbed north face, an impressively steep, 1,200m wall, but we were unable to land below it due to the boulder-strewn nature of the glacier. In preparation, we stashed all our climbing kit at the peak's northeast col while waiting to make an attempt.

After a couple of days of mixed weather, during which time we built a ski jump above base camp and made use of the excellent skiing conditions, we received a good forecast. We skied back to the northeast col and descended to the north face. We had scoped the face and concluded there was only one safe line—the entire rest of the face is threatened by enormous seracs. Though we were slightly concerned about cornices above our line, they didn't look too big.

On March 31, we climbed eight pitches and 350m up our intended line, onsight and all free. Two attempts in 2017 on a nearby line had reported vertical, unprotectable sugar snow, but luckily we found steep névé. Protection was sparse, however, and pitches often involved moving together until a belay was reached. Pitch two was 60m with no gear, and pitch three was 75m until a poor belay.

After our eighth pitch we reached the main feature of the line—a large chimney likely several pitches long—but heavy waves of spindrift now washed down the cliff and chimney. The first section was black diorite rock, bizarrely compact yet chossy, and with overhanging steps. After this we could see 60m of overhanging sugar snow. The spindrift avalanches flew right over the lip of the sugar snow into space. There appeared to be no way to bypass this pitch and no way to tunnel up through the sugary snow. Furthermore, a large snow mushroom sat right at the top of the chimney. We had known about this mushroom from the outset but were now *very* aware of it.

Due to the conditions, we chose to descend from atop our eighth pitch, so we can't be absolutely certain the pitch is "unclimbable." To us, though, it looked unclimbable by fair, safe, or rational means and we were bitterly disappointed. We had hoped for a Dru Couloir Direct-style pitch, or at least some cracks on which to aid around. We rapped back to the glacier, leaving wires as anchors.

After a few days of rest we decided to focus our attention on the east face of Jezebel's east summit, as we didn't think the conditions would improve on our intended north face line. After one false start due to unexpected snowfall on April 5, we launched the next day. We decided to try a line to the left of Hoar of Babylon (Graham-Silvestre, 2015, see AAJ 2016).

On April 6 we started with six steep névé and mixed pitches, which maintained interest and just about avoided the sunshine as it came round onto the east face. We climbed in blocks of three leads, following the obvious couloir feature.

We then climbed about another six pitches of steep ice and mixed, before following a couloir for 200m to reach the east ridge. We followed this until nightfall, and then flattened out a bivy beneath the large final tower. From the bivy site, we did more ridge traversing to a moderate mixed pitch. We unroped here and climbed 150m to the peak's eastern summit, arriving at 12:30 p.m. This ascent was very satisfying and involved some technical climbing, thankfully mostly at the start of the route.

We descended our route up the east ridge to a col, then made three rappels on rock gear, leaving wires, and downclimbed and walked down easy terrain in the broad, open couloir on the south face. The problem was how to get back to the east face and the Fish Creek Glacier. From the couloir we had to climb four 60m pitches up the left side of the col between the east and south faces, and then made three rappels, one 60m downclimb on snow, and then a final rap to reach the Fish Creek Glacier and walk to our skis. We named our route Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°).

After a rest day we got an updated weather forecast. With 10 days left before our international flight and no major weather window in sight, we called in TAT, who picked us up the next day.

– Tom Livingstone, U.K.

## Images



Tom Livingstone approaching the east face of Jezebel in Alaska's Revelation Mountains. The lower portion of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°) follows the obvious ice couloir.



The unclimbed north face of Jezebel (9,620') in the Revelation Mountains, showing the attempt made by Tom Livingstone and Uisdean Hawthorn in spring 2018. Much of this impressive face is threatened by massive hanging seracs above.



The lower east face of Jezebel (9,620') in the Revelation Mountains. The lower portion of Uisdean Hawthorn and Tom Livingstone's new route, Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°), is shown.



Uisdean Hawthorn leading on the upper section of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°) during the first ascent in April 2018. Portions of the upper route and the team's bivy site are shown.



The col just east of the south face couloir on Jezebel (9,620') in the Revelation Mountains. After descending the couloir, Tom Livingstone and Uisdean Hawthorn climbed four pitches up this ridge and descended the other side to return to their skis on the Fish Glacier below the east face.



Tom Livingstone holds the remaining rack after bailing from an attempt on the unclimbed north face of Jezebel (9,620') in Alaska's Revelation Mountains.



Tom Livingstone in a moderate couloir on the east face of Jezebel (9,620') during a reconnaissance. This line is somewhere between Hoar of Babylon (Graham-Silvestre, 2015) and the team's new route, Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°).



The east face of Jezebel (9,620') in Alaska's Revelation Mountains, showing the two routes completed on the face: Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°), Hawthorn-Livingstone, 2018) and Hoar of Babylon (1,200m, WI6 M6 A0, Graham-Silvestre, 2015).



Uisdean Hawthorn leading pitch two of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°) on the east face of Jezebel (9,620') in Alaska's Revelation Mountains. Hawthorn and Tom Livingston climbed this new route over two days in early April 2018 after an attempt on the unclimbed north face of the peak.



Uisdean Hawthorn exiting the narrow mixed couloir that defines the lower portion of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°) on the east face of Jezebel in the Revelation Mountains. From the top of this

broad gully, Hawthorn and Tom Livingstone headed up the narrow cleft on the left.



Uisdean Hawthorn leading “The Gift” ice pitch during the first ascent of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°) on the east face of Jezebel in the Revelation Mountains. From afar, he and Tom Livingstone thought this pitch was going to be horrendous, but it turned out to be pleasant and enjoyable ice climbing.



Uisdean Hawthorn following along the aesthetic south ridge of Jezebel’s east summit (9,450’) during the first ascent of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°).



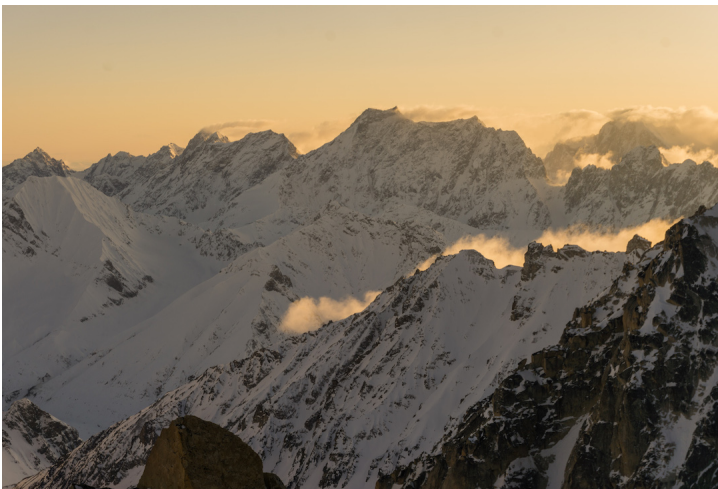
Uisdean Hawthorn soaking up the morning sun during the first ascent of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°) on the east face of Jezebel in the Revelation Mountains.



Tom Livingstone (left) and Uisdean Hawthorn on the east summit of Jezebel (9,450') in the Revelation Mountains after making the first ascent of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°) on the mountain's east face.



Uisdean Hawthorn on the first of four pitches the team climbed to return to the Fish Glacier from the south couloir of Jezebel (9,620') after making the first ascent of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°) on the east face of the mountain's east summit.



Sunset view from the bivy during the first ascent of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°) on the east face of Jezebel (9,620') in the Revelation Mountains.





Tom Livingstone coming up the summit ridge of Jezebel's east summit (9,450') after making the first ascent of Fun or Fear (1,200m, M6+ AI6 R 90°) on the east face.



Tom Livingstone skiing beneath the east face of Jezebel (9,620') during a recon of the face.



Uisdean Hawthorn climbing steep névé on his and Tom Livingstone's attempt on the north face of Jezebel (9,620'). The two climbed eight pitches up the face before descending below an imposing

overhanging chimney devoid of climbable features.



Looking up from Uisdean Hawthorn and Tom Livingstone's high point on the unclimbed north face of Jezebel (9,620'). This large slot chimney was pouring with spindrift, looked devoid of cracks and reliable protection, and featured strange compact yet chossy rock.



Tom Livingstone climbing steep, difficult-to-protect névé during his and Uisdean Hawthorn's attempt on the unclimbed north face of Jezebel (9,620') in the Revelation Mountains.



Tom Livingstone leading up steep, difficult-to-protect névé during his and Uisdean Hawthorn's attempt on the unclimbed north face of Jezebel (9,620') in the Revelation Mountains.



Tom Livingstone leading the first pitch during his and Uisdean Hawthorn's attempt on the unclimbed north face of Jezebel (9,620') in the Revelation Mountains.

## Article Details

Author	Tom Livingstone
Publication	AAJ
Volume	61
Issue	93
Page	0
Copyright Date	2019
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions