



## AAC Publications

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### **Third Recess Peak, Direct Northeast Buttress**

California, Eastern Sierra

**The day after a climb on the Ruby Wall in September, Maxim Belyakov and I decided to check out Third Recess Peak (12,520').** We didn't do much logistical research and were surprised by the approach—about eight miles (including a 12,000' pass) from our campsite by Ruby Lake. As we got closer, the aesthetic northeast buttress (IV 5.10, Strassman-Wilkinson, 1994, see AAJ 2000) came into the view. We must have taken a hundred photos of it reflecting in the lake below before continuing our hump to the base. As we got closer, we realized the Strassman-Wilkinson route starts several hundred feet to the left of the toe of the buttress and does not hit the crest until the upper, **lower-angle terrain.** [Three other routes have been climbed on Third Recess to the left of the northeast buttress: Serving Detention (IV 5.10, AAJ 2003), Strange Dreams in the Spirit of Barnes (IV 5.10), and Sprim Jockey (IV 5.10c, AAJ 2018).] **"But we came to climb the buttress!"** I thought and proposed the idea of a direct start to Max.

I found a nice splitter in a shallow corner on the first pitch and climbed another, easier pitch to the base of a steep prow with multiple flaring cracks and occasional roofs. Two pitches of 5.10d climbing on the prow took us to a few easier pitches that were 5.9ish. A thin finger splitter with an overhang seemed like it might require aid, yet I found a 10d/11a sequence over the overhang that was a lot of fun. Somewhere on the next pitch, we joined the original northeast buttress route and simul-climbed to the top. The Direct Northeast Buttress (1,500', IV 5.10d) features approximately 1,000' of new terrain with fairly good climbing, and I'd recommend it to others searching for a long, varied backcountry adventure.

– Vitaliy Musiyenko

## Images



Maxim Belyakov following a pitch high on the Direct North Buttress of Third Recess Peak (1,500' IV 5.10d).



The northeast aspect of Third Recess Peak (ca 12,520'), in the Eastern Sierra west of Bishop, showing the line of the Direct Northeast Buttress (1,500', IV 5.10d). Maxim Belyakov and Vitaliy Musiyenko climbed this new route in September 2018.

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