



AAC Publications

Pigeon Feathers: Friday the 13th, Nightrain

Canada, British Columbia, Purcell Mountains, Bugaboo Provincial Park

I VISITED the East Creek Basin on two separate occasions in 2018. On the first trip, I guided a nice fellow I call a darn good friend, Marley Hodgson, on the Beckey-Chouinard and we did some new routing on the Pigeon Feathers. Mainly, we climbed the west face of Lost Friends Pinnacle, which is looker's right of Fingerberry Tower. We climbed five pitches up to 5.10- and called the route Friday the 13th. We ended the trip by establishing the first pitch of what would eventually become Nightrain on East Pigeon Feather. It had been on my mind ever since.

Industrial Remote Avalanche Control Systems installation can really wear a brother down. Fourteen days on and 14-hour shifts on the hill. The latest Gazex install project is in Kemano, B.C. Power tools combined with thunder, lighting and hailstorms. Tripping around on rubble and boulders while trying to keep the cuts square. One can only look at it as comical. The rebar cage jail you build around yourself before the concrete pour is a test of perseverance. Over the course of three days, you do exactly that. Not sure what is better: feeling like a prisoner in the rebar jail or a dog in a kennel.

Anyways, my time off found me flying into Vancouver. After searching for a partner with no luck, I kind of wrote off going into the Bugs. I hit Squamish thinking I would spend the week there and decided to pay my good friend Jimbo Scar a visit. Yes, the real Jimmy Scar. And yes, the vigilante stories of Jimmy taking the law into his own hands are very true. He is a true legend of the late 1990s and early 2000s. Whether it was Jimmy Scar and his lead pipe on a vengeance against those rotten Squamish bike thieves, or Jimmy Scar and his Scar-bar chopping the unethical bolts of the Smoke Bluffs. Back when loggers ruled the town and crack heads would rob any vehicle left in the Apron parking lot, Jimbo was our batman.

Jimbo has a special spot in my big old heart. So, I paid him a visit around 1 a.m., fresh off a flight and exhausted from days and days of work. Looking to say hello and get a good night's sleep wasn't in the cards. Paul Bride and Justin Sweeney were also there, putting back a few pops. It might have been dawn when we finally shut it down, but I rose early thanks to an industrial sleeping schedule.

It was the start of the long weekend and the traffic congestion on the Sea to Sky was starting to pile up. I got a call around 2 p.m. from Crosby Johnston, who was guiding out in the Rockies, my neck of the woods. He was looking for a Bugaboos partner. We briefly chatted about hooking into our friend Josh Lavine's flight the following day, and in no time I was on the road toward my place in Golden to make the flight at first light.

It took all night to get to Golden. I was home by 3 a.m. and packed by 3:30. Leaving by 5 a.m. didn't leave much room for sleep. We hit the road and loaded the machine. Crosby decided to walk in because he thought it would be a good idea to surprise Josh with his arrival. Seat taken by another young, keen disciple.

Crosby's hike would take two to three hours, so I got a chance for a nap before climbing. After he arrived, we hiked to the base of the southwest face of East Pigeon Feather Peak and began on the right side of an obvious buttress below the face. Tying in, I linked the first two pitches as one. I had previously done this block with Marley a few weeks before. My initial intention was to create some new moderate climbs in East Creek, as there are many hard routes in the area. My focus was to put up something one can just go climbing.

Given my lack of sleep, we planned to do a few pitches, come down, and start early the next day. However, as an alpinist knows, "when the weather holds, we climb!" So we climbed. All pitches were done as rope stretchers and onsight except for pitch two, which we cleaned, buffed, and freed on the second day. We topped out the route in the fading light after climbing 350m of rock up to 5.11. Crosby dubbed me "Jonny Drops It" from my fumbling state of sleep deprivation. I dropped many articles that day, including gloves, a wire brush, water bottle, chalk bag, and a carabiner. Oops.

We named the route Nightrain (350m, 5.11) for two reasons. Reason one is the double all-nighter I pulled to make this trip happen. Reason two comes from one of my favorite childhood bands, Guns N' Roses. The song Nightrain (yes the song is spelled Nightrain) is from the all-time album *Appetite for Destruction*. Nightrain is a tribute to an infamous brand of cheap Californian fortified wine (Night Train Express), which was extremely popular with the band because of its low price and high alcohol content.

– Jonny Simms, Canada

Images



The line of Friday the 13th on Lost Friends Pinnacle.

Friday the 13th, Finger berry minor. (feather to the right with no name)
Marley Hodgson, Jonny Simms
Friday July 13th, 2018
5.10-, 5 pitches 175

An low commitment option in the East Creek Basin. This route was done as a guided first ascent.

P1 5.6, 35m

From the top of the snow. Climb easy broken terrain until the wall steepens. Walk left along the ledge and slab until in view of the obvious corner system. Belay here

P2 5.7, 40m

Start up the mediocre corner for a short time. Stay on the low angle arete on the right side. Follow good holds and spars gear. Head left before the wall steepens. A few nice slab moves left brings you to a belay.

P3 5.9 +, 40m

Climb a nice obvious corner for 15-20m. Head right below the steep choss. A few slab moves right brings you to a steeper left facing corner. Pull initial steep moves then follow left option up a short steep finger crack. Finish up and left on awkward slab moves to an alcove belay.

P4 5.10 -, 30m

Head right along slab to the main left facing corner. Some moss at the base of this corner exists but doesn't affect the climbing. Continue up a flake on the right side of the corner. Climb the steep flake on good gear to an airy arete with jugs to a good ledge. Continue up nice right facing corner to a good belay ledge.

P5 5.9, 30m

Head left to steep, intimidating roof. Excellent jams, jugs and big feet through the roof. Block buster! Continue up main system to the ridge crest. Head left and belay in alcove below summit block.

Descent - Rap general ascent line or walk of the back.

Route description for Friday the 13th on Lost Friends Pinnacle.

Night Train, East Peak SW Face
Crosby Johnson, Jonny Simms
Aug 4th, 5th 2018
5.11, 7 pitches, 350m

This route is mainly 5.10 with only a short section of 5.11 crack climbing.

Pitch 1, 5.10, 55m

Start on the right side of the obvious buttress below the face. A left leaning, left facing corner gets you going. Stern, spacious jamming and holds start you off for 20m. Once the corner eases slightly, move left about 2 meters out of the main corner on flakes. Pull the small roof on a few finger jams and thin gear. Stepping back right into the main corner. Finger, hand and fist jam for another 10m. Follow a horizontal break left before the main corner becomes off width size. Head left along a finger jam traverse to a hidden two bolt anchor located around the corner.

Pitch 2, 5.11 50m

Climb up a perfect hand crack corner for 10m to a good stance. Next, pull a small overlap left. Short layback section left to over come the roof. Continue up to the base of the left leaning face crack. Hand and fist jams up the steep crack for 15m. Crack tapers (crux) to tight hands and a short powerful layback to better holds. Pull up to ledge then step right into then lower angle corner for a short time. Pull a few thin moves then continue up easier terrain to a two bolt anchor.

Pitch 3, 5.10, 55m

From the anchor start on the left side and gain a short finger crack on the slab. Climb the crack then slab climb a few moves right into the obvious dish. Which is the access to the ridge crest for 15m. Easy run out climbing on the ridge crest. (a bit dirty - Sorry didn't clean this pitch. Bring a brush). Stay on the right side of the crest when the terrain steepens. Find a thin hand jam corner on the right side of the crest. Climb the corner to a loose ledge. Two bolt anchor another 2-3m climbers left on a rock slab.

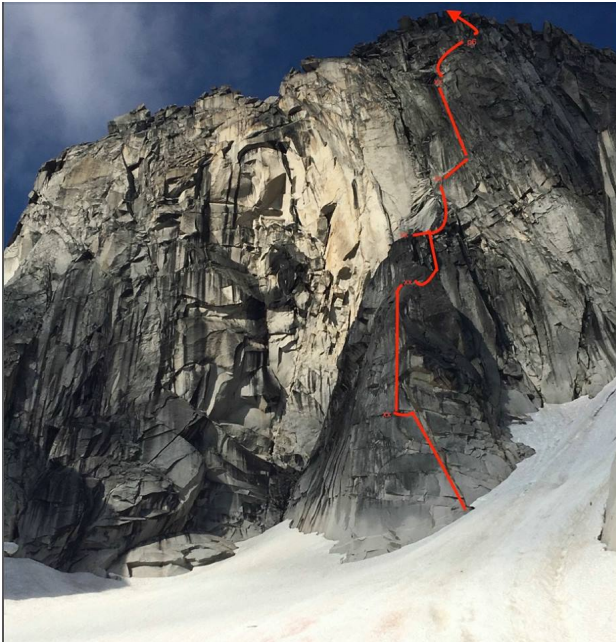
Pitch 4, 5.9, 50m

Move the belay to the base of the continued buttress. On the white wall past some boulders. Start up cracks on the buttress that lead to easy obvious left facing corner. Climb the corner to easier ground up and slightly right. 2 bolt belay on a terraced ledge. Obvious ledge system here.

Pitch 5, 5.10+, 59m

Move the belay up and right past some terraced boulders. The pitch you are looking for is the farthest right crack system of the four to choose from. It is slightly hidden. An

Route description for Nightrain on East Pigeon Feather Peak.



The line of Nightrain on East Pigeon Feather Peak.

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