



AAC Publications

Balcony Peak, West Chimney

California, Eastern Sierra

In 1989, Steve Porcella and I scoped out the massive climbing potential on the west side of the Middle Palisade massif, which includes peaks like Norman Clyde, Middle Palisade, and Disappointment. The obvious standout line was a massive chimney system splitting the west face of Balcony Peak (13,845+'). By then, however, Steve and I were committed to a writing project describing routes on the 14,000' peaks, so instead we struck a line directly up Middle Pal's west face.

On September 16, 2018, 29 years later, I returned to the area with Vitaliy Musiyenko and we climbed Balcony's roughly 15-pitch chimney line to the summit. The 5.10- crux came on the second pitch, which was characterized by a dihedral and then an arête. We reached the summit as the sun was setting and scrambled and rappelled down the spooky east face of the massif.

– Cameron M. Burns

Images



The west face of Balcony Peak in the Palisades. Cameron Burns and Vitaliy Musiyenko's route follows the obvious central chimney on the shaded left side of the peak for 15 pitches.

Article Details

Author	Cameron Burns
Publication	AAJ
Volume	62
Issue	94
Page	
Copyright Date	2020
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions