



AAC Publications

Mt. Crocker, North Pillar, Crocks 'n Socks

California, Eastern Sierra

On August 8, my wife, Giselle Field, and I established a lovely camp by Crocker Lake and the following morning started up the north pillar of Mt. Crocker (12,457'). This imposing feature sees little to no sunlight, so we were freezing cold the entire time. At the top of the second pitch, just below the hardest climbing, we cleaned an old bail anchor. The pitch above was a difficult finger crack on a steep face (5.11a). From there, continuous 5.10 cracks led to a notch in the pillar, at which point darkness forced us to retreat.

On August 10, we regained our high point and continued up the pillar on 5.9 cracks to the final overhanging prow, split dramatically by a perfect two- to four-inch crack (5.10d). At last, sunshine! We called our route Crocks 'n' Socks (1,200', 11 pitches, IV 5.11a).

From the top of the pillar, we scrambled directly to the summit and descended the west ridge to the west col. Descending the north-facing couloir turned out to be the most dangerous part of the day: The ice was bulletproof and we had only sharp rocks for tools.

– Derek Field, Canada

Images



The north pillar of Mt. Crocker (12,457'), showing the line of Crocks 'n' Socks (1,200', 11 pitches, IV 5.11a). Derek and Giselle Field climbed this new route in August 2019.



Derek Field leading the sixth pitch (5.10c) of Crocks 'n' Socks (1,200', 11 pitches, IV 5.11a) on the north pillar of Mt. Crocker (12,457') in the Eastern Sierra.



Derek Field leads the sustained final pitch (5.10d) of Crocks 'n' Socks (1,200', 11 pitches, IV 5.11a) on the north pillar of Mt. Crocker (12,457') in the Eastern Sierra.



Giselle Field jams to the top of the second pitch (5.10b) of Crocks 'n' Socks (1,200', 11 pitches, IV 5.11a) on the north pillar of Mt. Crocker (12,457').



Giselle Field pulls a small roof to start the long fourth pitch (5.9) during the first ascent of Crocks 'n' Socks (1,200', 11 pitches, IV 5.11a) on the north pillar of Mt. Crocker (12,457').

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