



AAC Publications

Castle Rocks, Templar Tower, Bludgeon Your Eye and Ring the Bell

California, Sequoia National Park

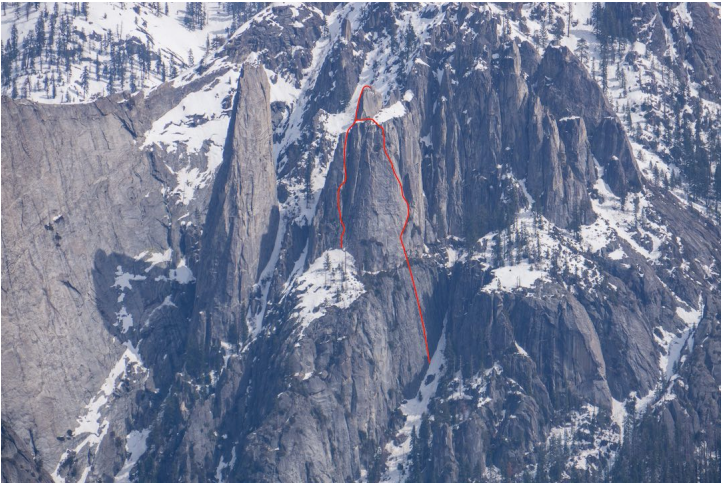
In May, Chaz Langelier and I checked out the largest tower in the group of rocks collectively labeled the Broken Towers in the old Sequoia guidebook. It is immediately west of Castle Rock Spire and plainly visible from many vantages around Moro Rock. We climbed 1.5 new routes.

From the gully below the west face of the tower, three pitches led to a large ledge that splits the face in half. We then walked around to the north face to scope things out and settled on some nice cracks left of an obvious chimney. Two long pitches led to the summit area, and a classic 5.11 thin crack, the only feasible line, split the summit block. No evidence of an anchor on top led us to believe we were the first to summit this formation, which we called Templar Tower. We drilled a single bolt and rapped off, continuing down the west face.

The next day, inspired by cracks we'd seen on the upper west face while descending, we repeated the same initial pitches and continued straight up the previous day's line of descent to the summit. We named the full west face route Bludgeon Your Eye (III 5.11). The upper north face variation is Ring the Bell (III 5.11).

– Brian Prince

Images



New routes on the previously unclimbed Templar Tower in the Castle Rocks area. Chaz Langelier and Brian Prince first climbed the lower wall and traversed left on the halfway ledge to climb the left-hand line. While rappelling, they spied a crack system on the upper west face and returned the next day to climb straight up the full face, creating Bludgeon Your Eye (III 5.11). The left-hand variation is Ring the Bell (III 5.11). Castle Rock Spire is the prominent tower to the left.

Article Details

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