



AAC Publications

Grand Teton, North Buttress Direct

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park

COVID canceled our foreign expedition plans in 2020, so Justin Bowen lassoed me into one of his dream projects: a new route on the north face of the Grand Teton. A Jackson Hole local, Bowen had been researching the Grand for a number of years and had identified a 2,000' unclimbed line left of Simpleton's Pillar but right of Grand North Couloir.

On the morning of August 16, after a bivy on the Teton Glacier, we surmounted the bergschrund at the base of the Northeast Couloir. We swapped our approach shoes and crampons for rock shoes, then scrambled about five pitches of fourth- and easy fifth-class rock, diagonalizing right to reach the beginning of the North Buttress. We roped up here. The best pitches were in the beginning of the technical climbing: fingers and fists in clean rock, finishing with a protectionless, balls-shrinking crux through a blank section that Justin led with equanimity. These fun pitches were followed by a dozen rope lengths of 5.7 to 5.9 to reach the East Ridge, then some cramponing up sun-cupped snow to the summit.

We topped out at 6:30 p.m., 14 hours after leaving our camp, completing the North Buttress Direct (ca 2,000', 5.10+ R). It was a gorgeous line with a good friend—doesn't get any better than that. (Minus the interminably long stumble in the dark back to the car.)

— Mark Jenkins

Images



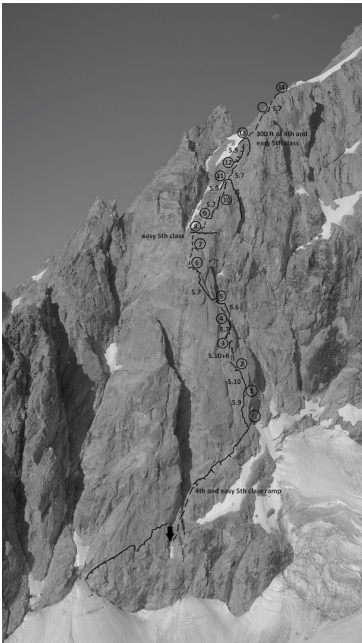
The north face of the Grand Teton, showing the line of North Buttress Direct (ca 2,000', 14 pitches, 5.10+ R). Justin Bowen and Mark Jenkins climbed this new line on August 16.



Justin Bowen on the clean rock of pitch one of North Buttress Direct (ca 2,000', 14 pitches, 5.10+ R) on the north face of the Grand Teton. The Teton Glacier is below.



Justin Bowen belaying atop pitch five of the North Buttress Direct (ca 2,000', 14 pitches, 5.10+ R). The north face of the Grand Teton is visible to the far right.



A close-up topo of the North Buttress Direct (ca 2,000', 14 pitches, 5.10+ R) on the north face of the Grand Teton. Justin Bowen and Mark Jenkins climbed this independent new line on August 16.

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