



AAC Publications

Lone Peak Cirque, Summit Wall, The Wonderette

Utah, Wasatch Range

Over a handful of weekends from June to August 2012, I tricked three unsuspecting victims into making the 5,000' vertical trek up to Lone Peak Cirque to establish a new route we called the Wonderette (500', 5.12). The idea for the route was hatched in 2011 when my friend Louis Arevalo and I supported SLC superstar "Sick" Nik Berry while he worked out the moves on the Wonderwall, which he eventually freed at 5.13c R. I couldn't touch Wonderwall's crux moves on top rope, and it blows my mind that Nik committed to them way above Peckers, small knifeblades, and micro-cams. While on belay duty, Louis and I noticed a way to sneak around this crux pitch. Above, we saw an exit pitch avoiding the original route's 5.8 finish, a lichen-shellacked chimney featuring all sizes of wedged block missiles aimed right at the belay ledge.

The next summer, with promises of summit glory, I solicited some help from Louis, Rob Duncan, and Brad Barlage. With so much arête climbing, we knew we were going to have to place some bolts—so we did. I was not taught to climb using what I call "suss and fuss" tactics, but for a number of reasons (time, safety, route quality, etc.) we quickly decided that rap-bolting would be the best way to put up the route. Rob and I ended up hand-drilling a total of nine protection bolts (and no anchor bolts) in about 270' of climbing. The four-pitch Wonderette follows the first one and a half pitches of the Undone Book (old-school 5.9R), traverses right into the opening dihedral of the Wonderwall proper (5.11+), then busts left to an arête via a boulder problem (5.12), and finally follows another arête up to the summit blocks (5.11-). Much of the climbing is exposed and airy face and thin-crack climbing in the 5.10+/5.11- range. Often, you've got one hand slapped around the edge with hundreds of feet of exposure below.

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Images



The Wonderette, a major new variation on the Summit Wall in Lone Peak Cirque. The route sports a healthy amount of airy arête climbing.



Menitove pulling down on the crux of The Wonderette.



Menitove ascending the somewhat runout arête.



An overview of the Lone Peak Cirque. The Wonderette ascends the prominent butte in the center-left.

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