



AAC Publications

Citadel, East Face, Hypa Zypa Couloir

Alaska, Kichatna Mountains

During April 5-7, Jess Roskelley, Kris Szilas, and I established a new line on the east face of the Citadel (8,250') above the Shadows Glacier. We encountered sparse protection, vertical rotten snow, quality ice, and mixed and aid climbing on poor rock.

We began by climbing fantastic, steep ice runnels up the major couloir system left of Supa Dupa Couloir (McAleese-Turner, AAJ 2004). After many pitches, we chopped a bivy ledge in the ice. After resting, more ice and mixed climbing brought us to an intersection with the south ridge, where we switched to full rock mode and used a mix of free and aid, climbing in double boots on poor-quality, run-out rock. We then continued up a moderate snow ridge, rappelled 60m off the west face, and continued up a 200m snow ramp to the summit.

Descending the line was not an option, and so we downclimbed and rappelled the involved north ridge, arriving in camp after a 70-hour round trip. We named the line the Hypa Zypa Couloir (1300m, VI 5.10R AI5+ M6+ A3) in humorous respect to the line next to it.

Ben Erdmann

Images



Ben Erdmann leading a rotten 5.10 R pitch.



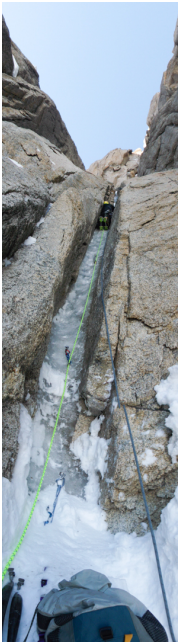
Nearing the summit of the Citadel.



Erdmann and Roskelley on the snow slope leading to the summit of The Citadel with the Kichatna Spire behind.



The crux ice lead.



Jess Roskelley leading up an ice runnel.



East face of the Citadel, showing (1) Hypa Zypa Couloir and (2) Supa Dupa Couloir. The north ridge comprises the right skyline.

Article Details

Author	Ben Erdmann
Publication	AAJ
Volume	56
Issue	88
Page	142
Copyright Date	2014
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions