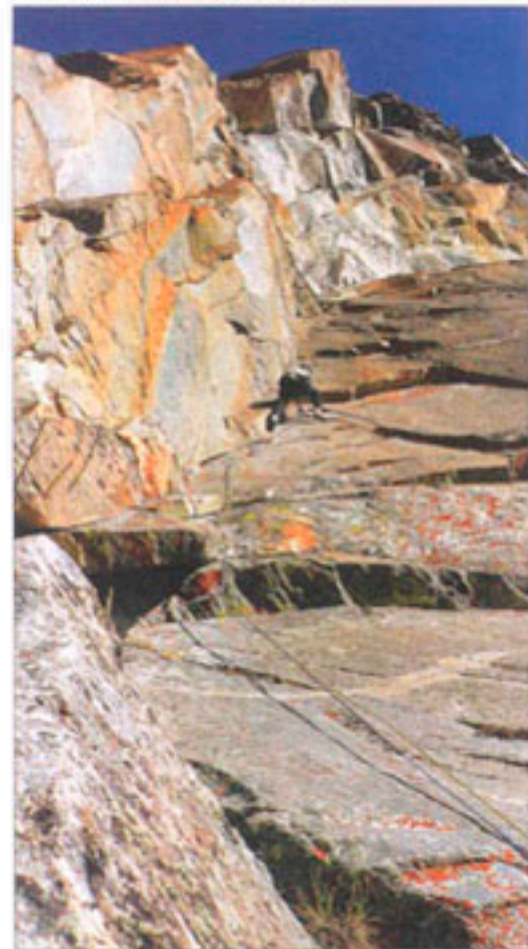


Great Trad!

JACKSON HOLE FIRST ASCENTS

BY KEITH I. COZZENS



TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE of an Indian summer day, on September 29, Hans Johnstone, Greg Collins and Bean Bowers onsighted a new line on 12,605-foot Mount Moran in Grand Teton National Park (GTNP).

The trio's new route, *South Butress Prox* (V 5.12a/b), was spied a week earlier when Johnstone and Collins were attempting another climb on the south side of Moran. Both saw the potential for a new route on the granite walls above them, but were skeptical.

"So often, Teton routes don't go all the way through," says Johnstone, 45. "The

more we got our noses in, the more it kept going. That was the fun part."

Loading their canoe at sunrise on the birthday of their late friend Doug Coombs, the trio approached the climb by paddling across Leigh Lake. After climbing three existing pitches to reach the base of unclimbed terrain, Collins began by pulling a new 5.10 corner in tennis shoes.

"He was too lazy to put on climbing shoes," says Bowers, 33. "After Hans and I climbed it we were like, 'Whoa, that was kind of hard.'"

Bowers led the crux, a 100-foot 5.12a/b splitter crack that ate up gear.

"It was pretty amazing to find a splitter on a Teton climb," says Bowers.

Says Collins, "It's always nice when the question marks are bigger than the moves. There was real clarity out there."

Collins, 43, is one of the most prolific first ascentionists anywhere, especially in this region. Earlier this summer, he and Kent McBride established *White Buffalo* (III 5.12d), a new high-quality line in Wyoming's Wind River Range.

"We think it's the longest continuous finger crack in the Winds," says Collins. "It's a cool new classic that people have been looking at for years."

White Buffalo, on Wolf's Head peak, in the Cirque of the Towers, sports a 300-foot arching finger and hand crack that goes at 5.11a and 5.11b/c. The crux is a dicey 5.12d face that Collins and McBride protected with three bolts and two pitons.

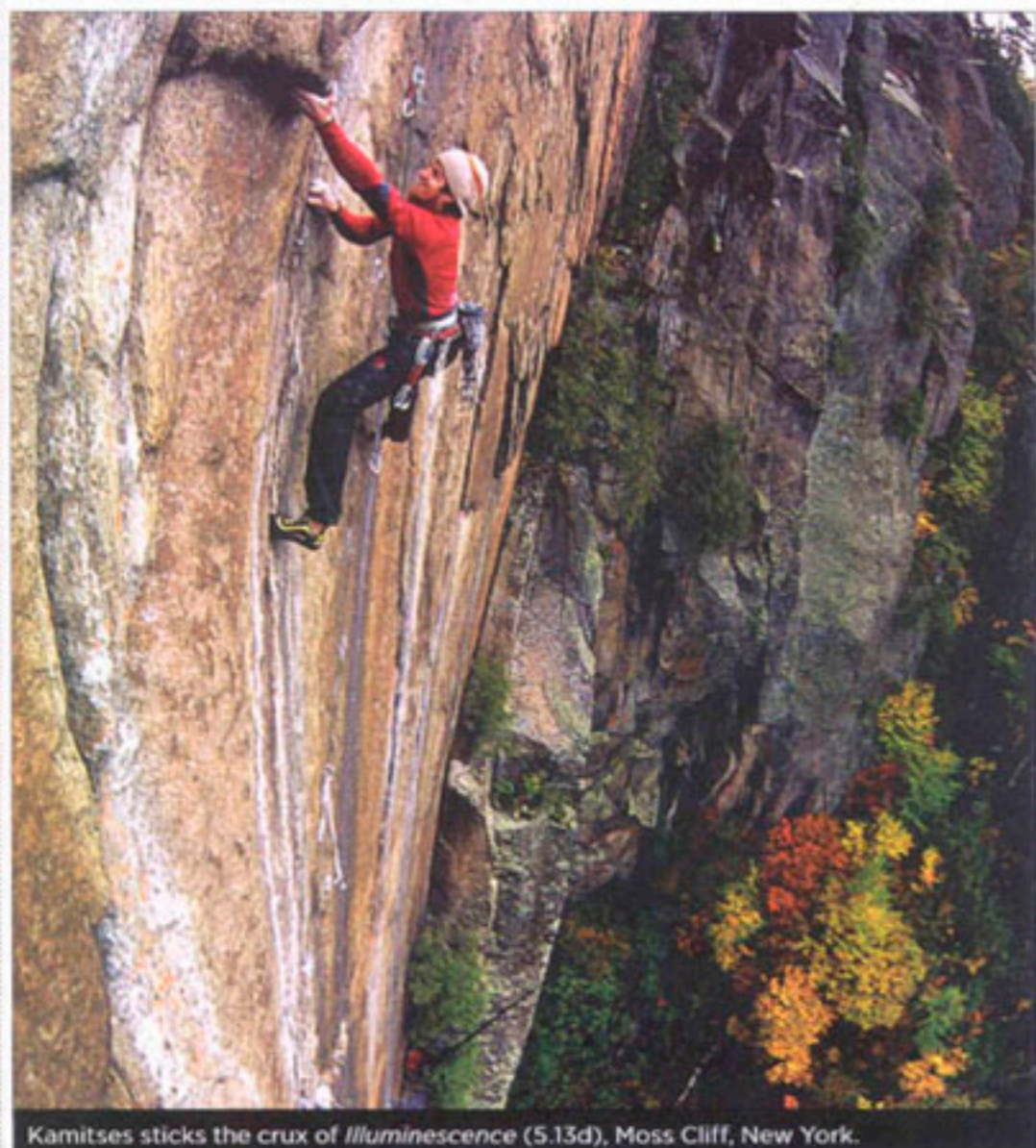
"It was just glorious," says Collins. "We don't want to confuse [the route] with the Ted Nugent song *Great White Buffalo* ... he had nothing to do with it."

[SMALL WIRES]

LUCKY 13

The first of three Southeastern outdoor competitions that comprise The Triple Crown was held October 6 at Hound Ears, the excellent block garden outside Boone, North Carolina. This is the Triple Crown's 13th year, a number that gave comp organizers Jim Horton and Chad Wykle a moment's pause before deeming it good luck. The "Lucky 13" at Hound Ears began dismally, with showers the night before. However, by mid-day during the comp, it was crisp, with perfect sending conditions. Paul Robinson absolutely destroyed the field, racking up 12,495 points, compared to second place Max Zolotukhin's 8,930 and third place Ben Gerhardstein's 8,417. The talented, humble Kate Reese, last

year's Triple Crown victor, won for the women, racking up 7,817 points to beat Claire Bell in second and Sasha Digiulian in third. The Lucky 13 continues its tour with a comp at Horse Pens-40 on November 4, and Little Rock City on December 2.



Kamitses sticks the crux of *Illuminescence* (5.13d), Moss Cliff, New York.

Fire in the Sky

KAMITSES FREES TWO AID LINES ON MOSS CLIFF, DAKS

BY ANDREW BISHARAT

THE MOSS CLIFF IS a diamond in the rough, a 500-foot granite jewel lodged in the fern-covered knolls of the Adirondack Mountains in northern New York. On this unexpectedly clean vertical face, Peter Kamitses, a soft-spoken climber from Vermont, freed two old multi-pitch aid routes at some very stout grades. The first, *Fire in the Sky*, goes at 5.13c, while *Illuminescence* is 5.13d.

"I named the routes after my sons," explains Kamitses, 30, and a route-setter at Petra Cliffs gym in Burlington. "My sons' names are Bodhi and Sky Rowan—*bodhi*, like the tree, means illuminated, or enlightened. *Rowan* means red in Irish lore; he has red hair, and is an Aries, the fire sign. The last pitch of *Fire in the Sky* has red rock."

In early September, Kamitses freed *Fire in the Sky* with Dave Sharratt in four pitches and at 5.13b. He returned to link the first two pitches—a 5.11 R and a 5.8 X chimney on the former aid line *Children and Alcohol*. Then, by linking the third and fourth pitch, a 5.12 and 5.13b (formerly the last pitch of the aid route *Mossalito*), Kamitses eliminated a hanging belay to make a 140-foot 5.13c. Despite climbing every move on the route free before with Sharratt, it took Kamitses four days

of work to turn *Fire in the Sky* into a two-pitch outing, on September 16. He placed all gear while working the line, taking about six 20-foot whippers onto a black Metolius TCU.

Next to go was *Illuminescence*, a route that climbs the first pitch of the aid line *Pan Am*, heads up the first pitch of *Mossalito*, and then finishes the headwall in a 140-foot rope-stretching pitch. Kamitses says the the crux boulder problem is "techy V9."

Both routes are runout and rely on sketchy A3 pro. *Fire in the Sky* had two pre-existing bolts. On *Illuminescence*, Kamitses replaced one rusted aid bolt. He also tried to protect the first 25 feet with pins, but ultimately decided to add a new bolt.

"The pins would only go in [this seam] an inch before bottoming out," Kamitses said. "I didn't want to add any new bolts, but I also didn't want to trash the seam trying to get a worthless pin."

That first pitch went at 5.12+/13-, and Kamitses says it was "a bit spicy near the top when you have to climb over a #3 RP for 30 feet, pumped."

"I was so psyched to have found a project like this that kept me busy for a bit," says Kamitses. "And I couldn't have imagined a better wall to have had the fortune to free."