

# **Adamant about the Adamants**

Alpine Rock Climbing in The Adamants and Gothics Range:

July 23<sup>rd</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

A Ritt-Kellogg Memorial Fund Grant Proposal



By: Erik Rieger, Drew Thayer, and Daniel Rothberg

# Table of Contents

- 1. Group Application.....
- 2. Appendix.....
  - a. Gear List.....
  - b. Food and Fuel.....
  - c. Day-by-day Itinerary and Climbing Objectives.....
- 3. Individual Applications.....
  - a. Drew Thayer.....
  - b. Daniel Rothberg.....
  - c. Erik Rieger.....
- 4. Expedition Agreement.....



## I. Expedition Summary

**Expedition name:** Adamant about the Adamants

### **Briefly describe the objective of your expedition below:**

Over the past few years, the three of us have taken our climbing pursuits from roadside crags to technical Grade V routes in the backcountry. We are looking to push ourselves to the next level of alpine climbing by tackling more long, arduous routes in the backcountry where we will not only have to deal with the difficulties of technical rock climbing, but the objective hazards of weather, isolation, and endurance as well. The Adamants and Gothics ranges of the Selkirk Mountains seem like an ideal location for this pursuit due to their high concentration of long technical routes within an inspiring alpine environment. We will attempt to climb a number of committing climbs in this range, focusing on free climbing but able to employ aid techniques when necessary. We hope that this expedition will be a big step forward in taking us to the realm of more difficult alpinism. In addition to our climbing goals, we hope to document this trip extensively in order to share it with the CC community in an inspiring way.

### **Location of expedition:**

The Adamants Range and Gothics Range, Selkirk Mountains, interior British Columbia. The closest major towns are Revelstoke and Golden.

**Firm expedition dates:** July 23<sup>rd</sup> — Aug 12th, 2011

**# days in the backcountry:** 16

### **Describe the wilderness character of your expedition:**

The Adamants and Gothics Range in the Selkirk Mountains is a very remote climbing destination that sees very few visits during the summer months. The only road to provide decent bushwhacking access to the range has been washed out and the range is only accessible via helicopter. This limited access will require us to be extremely self-sufficient because supplies and support are limited. To stay safe and enjoy successful climbs here, we will need to practice wilderness skills such as glacier travel and camping, backcountry cooking, route finding, risk management, and wilderness medicine, all in addition to climbing some challenging backcountry walls.

## II. Participant Qualifications

List expedition members, anticipated date of graduation and Wilderness First Responder or Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician certification expiration in the table below.

<b>Expedition Member</b>	<b>Date of Graduation</b>	<b>WFR Expiration Date</b>
Drew Thayer	May 2011	January 2012
Daniel Rothberg	Dec 2011	January 2012
Erik Rieger	May 2012	January 2012

Are all proposed expedition members experienced and/or trained to meet your expedition objectives? **Yes**

**Describe your team's plan to solidify technical skills prior to the start of the expedition.**

Fitness and Training: Gym climbing, running, biking, weightlifting. Goals will be focused around increasing strength, endurance, and preventing injuries.

Climbing: The South Platte, Pike's Peak, Black Canyon, RMNP, Zion and The Desert. Collectively, we will attempt to push ourselves on longer and more technical terrain throughout the year to gain endurance and speed for the long routes we will attempt on our trip. This means trying to climb grade IV routes and longer, tackling some bad weather climbs, and continuing to push our technical skills.

We will practice fast and light climbing techniques for a party of three (including half-rope technique, and short-fixing). We will also practice rescue techniques for a party of three (including rock and crevasse rescue).

Our objectives primarily go free at our climbing level, but short aid sections will be necessary on some routes. We all have experience with A1 and A2 aiding, but we will practice our techniques at local crags to hone our efficiency so we can be effective on alpine walls.

Safety Courses already taken:

- Dan and Drew: AMGA Rock Rescue in April 2009
- Erik and Drew: Crevasse Rescue Certification (6-day mountaineering course in Cordillera Blanca with Skyline Adventure School)

Besides the mental preparation that a season of climbing will give us, we plan to investigate books like *Accidents in North American Mountaineering* in the hope of learning from other peoples' mistakes and increasing our awareness of objective hazards and human errors which cause tragedies in the backcountry.

### **III. Expedition Logistics, Gear, and Food**

**Attach the Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund Expedition Application – Individual Questionnaire for each expedition member (includes outdoor-skills résumé, references, copies of WFR certification, copies of relevant training certification, and medical release).**

See attached

**Attach the Participant Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks & Release and Indemnity Agreement, read and signed by each applicant and their parent (even if applicant >18 years).**

See attached

**Attach the Expedition Agreement, read and signed by all expedition members.**

See Attached

**Describe how expedition members will travel from home to the trailhead and back again.**

We will travel by car from Colorado Springs to Golden. From the Golden area we will depart from the helicopter location, and be dropped off at either Fairy Meadows or on the Austerity Glacier depending on conditions. We will travel by helicopter back to the Golden area and then by car back to Colorado Springs.

**Attach a detailed, day-by-day itinerary, including maps, elevations, route topos, tide charts, etc., as appropriate.**

See Attached

**Attach a thorough equipment list, including the detailed description of the contents of the First Aid kit.**

See Attached

**Attach a detailed food list and show how it meets the caloric needs of the expedition.**

See Attached.

**Do you have plans to re-ration during the expedition?** No.

**Describe how you will prevent wildlife from getting into your food.**

We will always store food in a way to protect it from animals. While camped on the glacier, boulders may not be available for hanging food, so we will hang our food in crevasses, if they are available, or bury it beneath cut blocks of snow. We will maintain a clean campsite and clean up all food scraps so we minimize attracting animals with food scents.

**Environmental Considerations and Leave No Trace Ethics:**

Are all expedition members familiar with Leave No Trace principles? **Yes**

In accordance with guidelines from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)

**Plan Ahead and Prepare**

We have extensively researched the environment, climate, and objective hazards which we may encounter on this expedition so that we can be completely self-sufficient and make as little impact as possible on the natural environment. As a party of three, with much experience camping together, we can easily make camp, clean camp, contain all our trash, and keep our food safe from animals. We are aware of waste facilities available in Fairy Meadows, and will use these when possible in order to reduce our impact.

**Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**

We will follow established trails where they exist and attempt to walk on hard rock surfaces, rather than fragile vegetation, when doing so will not expose ourselves to falling. We expect some amount of bushwhacking, and will try to be as non-destructive as possible. While camping in Fairy Meadows we will camp at sites that have already been used in order to concentrate our impact, and

we will use established trails. While/if camping on the glacier we will be sure to take appropriate measures to minimize our impact.

#### **Dispose of Waste Properly**

In Fairy Meadows, we will use the toilet facilities whenever possible. When camped elsewhere, we will bury our human waste 6 inches deep at least 200 ft from water, and we will pack out all of the trash we encounter. Protecting water sources is important in such an environment and we plan to do so.

#### **Leave What We Find**

Take only pictures, leave only footprints (and perhaps rappel rings).

#### **Minimize Campfire Impact**

We will be using a Whisperlite stove and will take care to not scorch vegetation with it. This option is more environment friendly than a canister stove, which requires canisters that are non-reusable and must be disposed of.

#### **Respect Wildlife**

We will take precautions to minimize all contact with animals, especially bears and hungry rodents (see Risk Management Plan).

#### **Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

The Adamant Range, despite its remote location, can be a frequented climbing destination, and it is quite possible that we will not be the only party present. We will respect other parties' space and be courteous and helpful in our interactions with others, both on and off the rock. While climbing, we will be especially aware of not endangering any parties with rock and debris fall. We aim to represent the spirit of Colorado College and the Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund to the best of our abilities in all of our interactions on this expedition.

#### **Climbing\***

LNT principles also apply to climbing ethics. We feel it is important to minimize impact on the routes we climb so that they remain in good condition for other parties. We will adhere to alpine style ethics by being "light" in both style and impact. This means respecting the rock, leaving little to no fixed gear, fixed ropes, or any other trash.

**Are there cultural considerations for the expedition area?** Not particularly. We will carry the proper identification for crossing the Canadian-US border.

## **IV. Risk Management Plan**

### **Glacier Travel**

**Crevasse:** We will always use standard glacier travel protocol when travelling on glaciers: each person attached to a rope with two prussiks pre-assembled on the rope, with extra rope available in a mountaineer's coil, and with an ice axe in hand. We will evaluate crevasse to see where they can be crossed and will avoid them when possible. In areas where crevasse crossing is necessary we will cross them at their safest point. In the event that one of us falls into a crevasse, the others will self arrest and begin crevasse rescue.

**Steep Snow/Ice:** We will evaluate all moderate to steep slopes for avalanche potential and avoid slopes that are dangerous. During the summer months slides are unlikely but it will be important to avoid such conditions if they exist. Steep slopes also create the possibility for a fall. We will avoid slopes like this when possible and use proper crampon and ice axe technique to ascend necessary

slopes. We will use snow/ice protection to create running belays on steep slopes and practice self arrest and team self arrest in the event of a fall.

Rock/Ice Fall: We will avoid inherently dangerous areas such as icefalls, the foot of glaciers, and couloirs.

### **Climbing**

Rock Fall: We will avoid rock fall areas and routes with poor rock quality. Rock fall is inevitable while climbing in the alpine, but we will wear helmets for protection and avoid places with high potential for rock fall whenever possible. In the event the leader or the followers trigger rock fall, we will call out “Rock!” to alert us and other climbers.

Climber Fall/Injury: We will climb routes at grades we are comfortable with to avoid dangerous falls and potential injuries. We will wear helmets at all times and will place protection accordingly to minimize fall distance and maintain a safe fall factor. In the event of an injury, we will assess the seriousness of the case before climbing further and attempt to descend as safely and quickly as possible if help is needed. We will carry a small first aid kit capable of managing massive trauma while travelling in technical terrain.

Anchor/Gear failure: Gear will be checked before climbs to make sure it is safe and in good condition. On route, we will double-check anchors at every belay before climbing to make sure they are safe and “ERNEST”. We will always be climbing with two ropes, either half-ropes or a single rope and a half-rope tagline, to facilitate quick retreat and give us options if one rope is cut or otherwise fails.

### **Weather**

The Selkirks are an alpine mountain range where the weather can change notoriously quickly and foul weather can last for extended periods of time. To avoid bad weather we have chosen to go in late July – mid August. This time period has historically been shown to have the most stable weather. Storms, however, will likely occur, so we will use early alpine starts to avoid afternoon storms that can develop in glaciated terrain. If we encounter bad weather while climbing we will remain calm and assess the severity to determine if it is safe to continue or if we will need to retreat. On all climbs we will carry rain shells and/or belay jackets to protect us from wet/cold weather and also an emergency bivy tarp in case we need to bivy on route. Summer temperatures can exceed 70 degrees during the day and will often not fall more than a few degrees below freezing at night. These temperatures provide a relatively a safe range for climbing and are not cold enough to make an unplanned bivy a life-threatening situation.

### **Camping**

Food/Water Contamination: We will treat water before cooking and drinking with iodine or by boiling it. We will take precautions to keep wildlife out of our food to keep it safe and clean.

Wildlife: We will always store food in a way to protect it from animals. While camped on the glacier, boulders may not be available for hanging food, so we will hang our food in crevasses, if they are available, or bury it beneath cut blocks of snow. We will maintain a clean campsite and clean up all food scraps so we minimize attracting animals with food scents.

### **Bears**

We will be in territory where brown bears live. Encounters are more likely in wooded areas, so we will be extra vigilant while traveling below treeline, and we will always travel together and, when not in a specifically alpine environment where bears are rare (i.e. while on the glacier and climbing), we will each carry bear spray and make regular noises (talking, singing, etc) to alert bears to our presence and minimize the risk of surprising a bear.

### **Self-Evacuation Plan**

In the event of an emergency we will use our SPOT device to alert an emergency response team. We will also carry a satellite phone for communication in the event of an emergency. The Fairy Meadows Hut is located close to our climbing objectives and will be a good location to facilitate evacuation as it is protected and can provide supplies and assistance in the case of an emergency. The only way out of the Selkirks will be via helicopter, and we will use this for transportation back to the Golden area or the nearest hospital. Evacuation should be possible from any point in the Adamants or Gothics range within 24-48 hours.

### **Emergency Contacts and Resources:**

Search and Rescue – 240-344-5102

Alpine Helicopters Ltd. – 250-344-7444

BC Forest Service, Golden – 250-344-7500 (They will have a copy of our itinerary)

Weather – 250-344-5665

Golden & District General Hospital – 250-344-5271 (Closest hospital)

Personal Emergency Contacts – see attached individual questionnaires.

### **List emergency communication devices you will be carrying.**

-Iridium satellite phone

-SPOT GPS locator

\*Daniel and Drew learned last year in the Northwest Territories that the SPOT has difficulty sending transmissions at high latitudes if the southern sky is obstructed by mountains. Thus, we will not set up a contingency plan based upon a 3<sup>rd</sup> party receiving “all good” signals, as we did last year, because we cannot rely on the device to transmit our signals 100% of the time and do not want to trigger an accidental response situation. We still consider the SPOT to be an invaluable resource for sending a distress signal to a global response network, and in the event that we need to send a signal, we will make every effort to send it from a location with an unobstructed view to the south.

### **Describe any measures taken for expedition members with medical histories that warrant special preparedness.**

There are no past or pertinent medical histories for any expedition member that warrants supplemental preparedness beyond our current medical training.



## V. Budget

Driving Fuel Cost: \$542.28 (roundtrip)  
Helicopter Transport: \$2000 (roundtrip)  
Food: \$756  
White Gas for cooking: \$135.97  
Satellite Phone Rental: \$218.40  
Books/Maps: \$85  
Bear spray: \$134.85  
Iodine: \$20.25

**Total:** \$3,892.75

**We are requesting \$3,892.75 from the Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund to make our expedition possible.**

### **Budget Explanation:**

Gasoline Cost: Colorado Springs to Golden, BC is 1331 miles. We are adding 100 miles to this number to account for travel to and from the helicopter pickup point, which is West of Golden in the Swan Creek area and will require further travel on dirt roads. 1431 miles each way at 19 mpg and \$3.60/gal (average price) = \$271.14 each way x 2 = \$542.28 roundtrip gas

Helicopter: Alpine Helicopters Ltd, office in Kelowna, BC. \$1000 each way x 2 = \$2000 roundtrip helicopter

Food: Our past experience shows that creating a robust, high-calorie diet of lightweight food costs \$12 a person/day x 3 people x 21 days = \$756 food for three people

White Gas Calculation: We need to be prepared to procure all of our water via melting snow, which requires a lot of fuel; based on our experience 0.5 L per day for 3 people will suffice. 0.5L per day x 21 days = 10.5L x \$12.95 quart (slightly less than 1L, REI list price) = \$135.97 total stove fuel

Satellite Phone Rental: An important piece of communication for facilitating safety and coordinating helicopter pickup. Iridium phones are the most reliable in North America. \$55 per week x 3 days + \$178/min x 30 min = \$218.40

Books and Maps: *Selkirks North*, by David P. Jones = \$45 for one copy, NTS Topo Maps: *82N12 Mt. Sir Sandford* and *82N13 Sullivan River* = \$40 total for both maps

Bear spray: Counter-Assault 230g \$44.95 (REI list price) x 3 = \$134.85

Iodine: We are prepared to purify liquid water for 6 days: 3 people x 4 L/day x 6 days = 72 L 50-pill bottles treat 25 L, so 3 bottles @ \$6.75 each will treat 75 L. \$20.25

### **Money Saving Techniques:**

- Drive to B.C. instead of flying, and drive together
- Buy as much food in bulk as possible. As CC students, we get a 10% discount at Mountain Mama's store in Colorado Springs and also have access to stores like Costco.
- Camp in free campsites wherever possible
- Camping is free once we are in the Selkirks
- We have contacted a number of helicopter companies to find the cheapest rate
- We will buy gas in the US because it is less expensive than in Canada

### **Appendix:**

#### **Gear List**

##### **Personal Clothing:**

- Waterproof shell jacket
- Waterproof shell pants
- Soft shell jacket
- Soft shell pants
- Synthetic puffy insulated jacket
- Fleece jacket
- Gloves
- Warm hat
- Pair gore-tex gaiters
- Long underwear top
- Long underwear bottom
- Wool socks (3)
- Thin socks for wearing in climbing shoes (1)
- Synthetic t-shirt (2)
- Synthetic underwear (3)
- Waterproof mountain boots

##### **Personal Equipment:**

- Sunglasses
- Sleeping bag, 0-20 degrees
- Full-length sleeping pad
- Compression stuff sacks for sleeping bag/clothing
- 60L backpack
- LED headlamp with 2 sets extra batteries
- Waterproof watch with alarm
- Eating utensils
- Nalgene 1 liter (2)
- Tube of lip balm
- 12 oz tube of sunscreen
- Digital camera w/ extra batteries
- Personal toiletries

##### **Group Climbing Gear:**

- 60m x 9.8 mm dynamic single rope
- 60m x 8.5-9 mm dynamic half rope (2)
- Double set of BD Camalots #0.4 - 4, single #5
- Double set of TCU's (or C3's) #00-2
- Full sets of stoppers, set of RP's, and offsets
- Knifeblade pitons, bolt hangers
- Alpine draws (15 Shoulder length runners, 4 Double length runners)
- 20ft Cordelletes (3)
- Wire gate biners for draws and gear
- Locking biners (9)
- Aiders (2), fifi hook (2)
- Ascenders (4) and Mini-Traxion (1)
- Rap rings (5) and 5mm accessory cord for making rappels
- Small ice screw (3)
- Emergency Bivy Tarp

##### **Personal Climbing Gear:**

- Climbing shoes and approach shoes
- Harness
- Daisy chain
- Belay device and locking HMS carabiner
- Helmet
- Prussik cord
- Lightweight mountaineering axe
- Strap-on crampons
- Chalkbag and tape
- Nut tool
- 10L to 40L climbing pack
- small knife
- small knife

- Notebook and pencil
- Reading book
- Emergency contact card
- 230 g Counter Assault bear spray

**Camp:**

- 3 person tent
- Gear/cooking tarp tent
- MSR Whisperlite stoves (2)
- MSR fuel bottles (3)
- 10.5 L white gas
- Knife
- Leatherman multi-tool
- Trash bags (2)
- Stuff sacks for storing food
- Duct tape, small sewing kit, seam-grip
- 6L Dromodary bag
- iodine (7 x 50 tablets)

**Route Finding:**

- Small Compass
- 1:50,000 topo maps of the area
- Selkirks North* climbing guide with photocopies of pertinent route descriptions

**Communication:**

- SPOT satellite messaging device
- Iridium satellite phone

**Food and Fuel**

**Food:** We are using a food-rationing plan that has worked well for us in the past. This plan provides us with a good balance of proteins, carbohydrates, and fats, with an average of 2147 cal/day and a maximum of 2637 cal/day. It includes meals that are quick to prepare and eat for climbing days and also has meals that are longer to prepare, which are nice for tent bound days. We will purchase as much food as we can in bulk, to minimize expenses and packaging.

**Fuel and stoves:** We will carry two MSR Whisperlite stoves because they are reliable and are easily serviced in the field. We are rationing .5 liters of fuel per day fuel, for a total of 10L of fuel.

**Wilderness First Aid Kit:**

- Surgical shears
- Tweezers
- SAM splint
- Safety pins
- Irrigating syringe
- Analog thermometer
- Rubber gloves (1)
- Rectangular bandaids (4), Finger bandaids (4)
- Rolls athletic tape (4)
- 3x3 gauze pads (4)
- Rolls stretch gauze (2)
- Sanitary napkins (4)
- 1 oz tube anti-bacterial ointment
- Alcohol pads (4)
- Tube tincture of Benzoin
- Steri Strips
- CPR mask
- Emergency bivy blanket
- Ibuprofen: x50 tablets
- Immodium: 8 tablets

<b>Food Budget</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>\$756.00</b>			<b>Total Weight (lb):</b>	<b>76 lbs</b>	
<b>Breakfast</b>	Unit price	Amount	Qty	Weight (lb)	Cost	Servings	Cal/Serv
Oatmeal	\$4.00	33 oz	1	2.1	\$4.00	24	150

Rieger, Rothberg, Thayer  
The Adamants/Gothics Range, Selkirk Mountains

granola	\$5.00	28 oz	1	2	\$5.00	24	74
pancake mix	\$3.00	12 oz	1	0.75	\$3.00	8	230
dehydrated hash browns	\$3.00	500 g	1	1.1	\$3.00	10	175
summer sausage	\$4.00	8 oz	2	1	\$8.00	10	150
cheddar cheese	\$4.50	10 oz	2	0.6	\$9.00	10	100
		16					
green tea	\$3.50	packets	2	0.1	\$7.00		0
brown sugar	\$1.00	8 oz	1	0.5	\$1.00	10	102
honey	\$3.00	1.2 cups	1	1	\$3.00	10	128
ground almonds	\$6.00	8 oz	1	0.5	\$6.00	24	58

Total: 9.65lbs

<b>Lunch</b>	Unit price	Amount	Qty	Weight (lb)	Cost	Servings	Cal/Serv
peanut butter	\$3.50	16 oz jar	4	4	\$14.00	46	210
nutella	\$4.30	16 oz jar	1	1	\$4.30	12	160
jam	\$4.00	8 oz jar	1	0.5	\$4.00	12	50
tortillas	\$3.50	10	2	1.3	\$7.00	10	120
pitas	\$3.50	10	2	1.3	\$7.00	8	100
summer sausage	\$4.00	8 oz	4	2.3	\$16.00	24	150

gorp		12 cups				24	276
raisins	\$3.00	16 oz	1	1	\$3.00		61
almonds	\$6.00	8 oz	1	0.5	\$6.00		68
chocolate chips	\$2.00	16 oz	1	0.5	\$2.00		100
dried cranberries	\$3.00	8 oz	1	1	\$3.00		47
banana chips		16 oz	1	1		16	147
cliff bars	\$12.00	12	1	2	\$12.00	15	260
beef jerky	\$10.00	8 oz	3	3	\$30.00	24	230
cheese	\$4.00	1 lb	1	3	\$4.00	24	200

Total: 22.4lbs

<b>Dinner</b>	Unit price	Amount	Qty	Weight (lb)	Cost	Servings	Cal/Serv
brown rice	\$2.00	1 lb	1.6	1.6	\$3.20	8	340
dehydrated beans	\$4.00	1 lb	1.6	1.6	\$6.40	8	330
couscous	\$3.00	1 lb	1.4	1.4	\$4.20	8	240
quinoa	\$3.50	1 lb	3	3.1	\$10.50	16	340
barley	\$3.50	1 lb	0.9	0.9	\$3.15	6	325
dehydrated yams	\$1.00	800 g	1	1.75	\$1.00	8	120
dehydrated corn	\$1.00	800 g	1	1.6	\$1.00	8	90
dehydrated peas	\$1.00	800 g	1	1.6	\$1.00	8	70
dehydrated onions	\$1.00	800 g	1	1.6	\$1.00	6	60
beef jerky		24 oz		1.5		24	115
olive oil	\$12.00	12 oz	1	1.2	\$12.00	40	125
dried tortellini	\$3.00	480 g	1	1	\$3.00	8	230
alfredo sauce packets	\$0.70	1 packet	4	0.05	\$2.80		

Rieger, Rothberg, Thayer  
The Adamants/Gothics Range, Selkirk Mountains

cheddar cheese	\$4.00	16 oz	2	2.1	\$8.00	34	228
grated parmesan	\$4.00	2 cups	1	0.25	\$4.00	8	107
bran muffin mix	\$3.00	8 oz	1	0.5	\$3.00	8	120
chocolate bar	\$2.00	3 oz	5	1.2	\$10.00	10	230
Snickers bar	\$2.00	4 oz	4	1	\$8.00	8	275
			Total:	23.95lbs			

<b>Example Menu's</b>		Total Calories	Dinner 2	Total	845
Breakfast 1	Total	384	quinoa	340	
oatmeal	150		yam	120	
honey/brwn sugar	102		onion	60	
granola	74		jerky	200	
ground almonds	58		olive oil	125	
Breakfast 2	Total	358	Dinner 3	Total	839
pancake	230		couscous	240	
honey	128		corn	90	
Breakfast 3	Total	439	peas	70	
hash browns	175		jerky	200	
sausage	150		olive oil	125	
cheese	114		cheese	114	
Lunch 1	Total	867	Dinner 4	Total	810
pb	210		barley	325	
nutella	160		corn	90	
tort	120		peas	70	
jerky	230		jerky	200	
banana chp	147		olive oil	125	
Dinner 1	Total	898	Dinner 5	Total	810
beans	330		tortellini	230	
rice	340		parm cheese	107	
cheese	228		cheddar cheese	228	
			olive oil	125	
			muffin	120	

Average Day = 2147 Calories (per person)

Add Cliff Bar = 260 Cal, Add 1.5 oz Chocolate Bar = 230 Cal

Max Day = 2637 Calories (per person)

We will also be carrying 12, 4 oz Snickers Bars, 555 Cal each, as extra food for big climbing days

## **Itinerary**

July 23rd, 2011 - August 12th, 2011

### **Climbing Objectives:**

Adamants Routes:

- South Buttress of Adamant, D+ 5.8, Integral North Ridge of Adamant, D+ 5.7
- West Buttress of The Horn, TD+ 5.11-
- Gibson Rohn on Ironman, TD 5.10+,
- SW Face of The Sickle, ED1 5.11b
- NW Face of Blackfriar, ED1 5.10+ A1

Gothics Routes:

- South Buttress of Gibraltar, TD+ 5.10+ A2
- SW Face of Montezuma's Finger, TD+ 5.10c A2
- SE Corner of East Peak, ED1 5.11a, South Face of East Peak, TD 5.10 A1

We will attempt to climb five of the routes listed above. We feel this goal will be reasonable given our fitness and the allotted time for the trip.

### **The Day-to-Day:**

Day 1, July 23: Meet in Colorado Springs, load car, buy remaining food. Start driving towards Golden, BC (see driving route below). Pull off at a campground and sleep.

Day 2, July 24: Continue driving, arrive in Golden, BC. Contact helicopter company and confirm next day's flight. Free camping at Blaeberry Campground.

Day 3, July 25: Fly into Fairy Meadows/Austerity Glacier, set up a basecamp.

Day 4, July 26- Day 19, August 10th: During this period of time we will attempt our major climbing objectives according to route and weather conditions. We will first warm up on the South Buttress of Adamant (D+ 5.8) or a climb of similar difficulty to become acquainted with the area and conditions. Following our warm-up climb we will attempt a more difficult, but still relatively moderate route, the Gibson-Rohn (TD 5.10+). After this we will likely attempt The West Buttress of the Horn (TD+ 5.11-) and the SW Face of the Sickle (ED1 5.11b), which are more difficult and committing routes. If weather and time allows we will climb as many routes in this range of difficulty as possible. Rest days will be taken accordingly between long climbs, and time to move camp to facilitate short approaches to long climbs. Smaller, less committing objectives will be attempted if the weather does not allow for the long climbs we have prioritized. There are plenty of routes in the Selkirks that fit the description of being in the PD-D grade range and from 4<sup>th</sup> class to 5.8 in difficulty, which offer us with many other options for climbing.

Day 20, August 11: Break camp and fly back to Golden, BC via helicopter. Begin driving back to Colorado Springs.

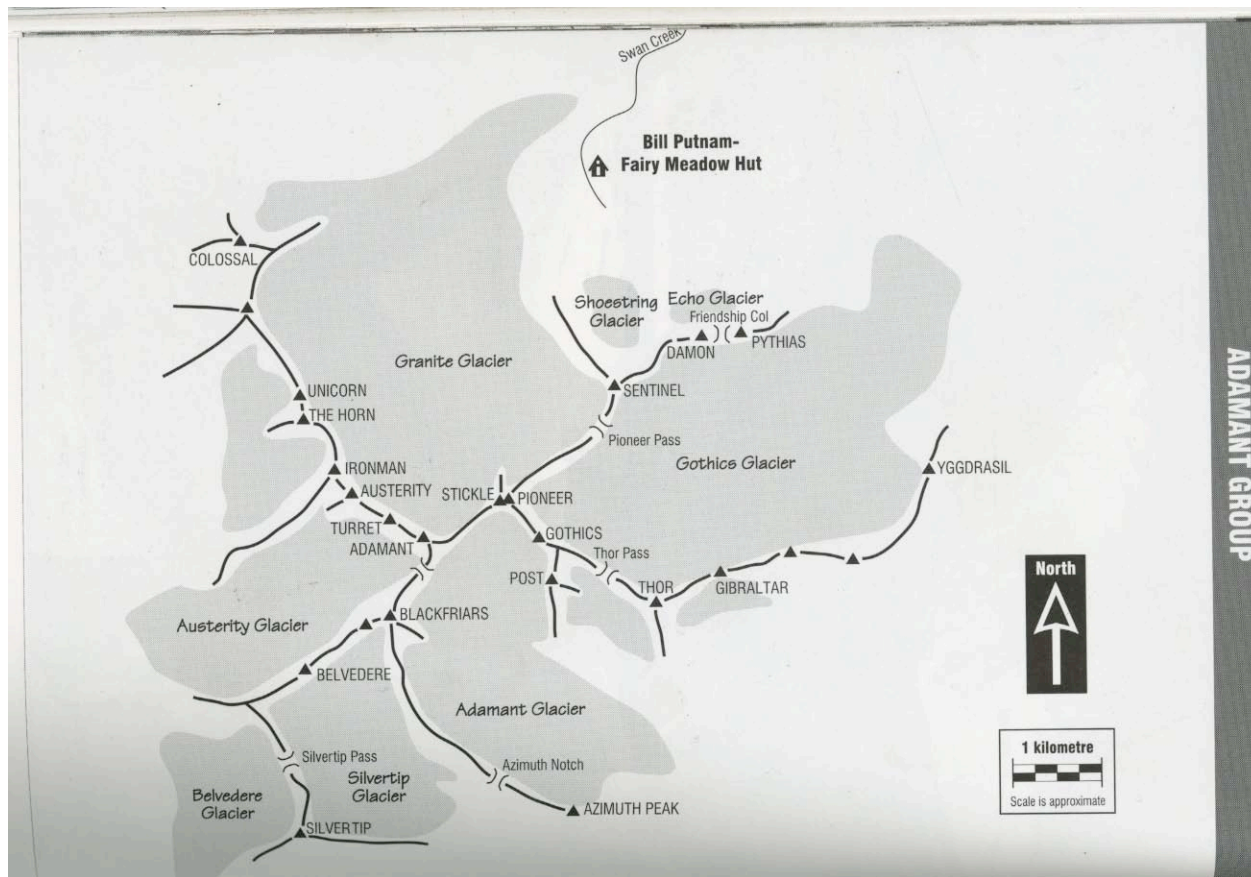
Day 21, August 12: Continue driving back towards Colorado Springs.

**Driving Route:**

Colorado Springs to Golden, British Columbia: 1331 miles each way (via I-25N to I-90W and into BC). Drive from Golden to helicopter pickup and drop off point, +100 miles.

**Note on Itinerary:** We have gathered an itinerary with a selection of routes we deem achievable given our ability and enthusiasm. As proven by our respective Ritt Trips last year, keeping a strict alpine climbing itinerary with specific routes designated for specific days is nearly impossible due to weather and route conditions. We have attached the pages in the *Selkirks North* guidebook that provide descriptions and pictures of these climbs.

**Topos, General Maps, and Route Descriptions:**



According to *Selkirks North*, most climbs in the Adamant Group can be made from camps at Fairy Meadows, although some parties camp on the Austerity or Adamant glaciers to climb objectives on the South side of the Adamant Group or the Blackfriars. There is also a camp south of Gibraltar peak that gives good access to the eastern aspects of the Adamants group.

**Adamant Group Routes:**

**296 ADAMANT GROUP**

**421 West Ridge AD 5.0**  
George I. Bell, Moses Goddard, Graham Matthews, Mary Ann Matthews, David Michael, William L. Putnam, L. Robbins Wallace August 2, 1966  
AAJ 15(41):373; APP 36:299; CAJ 50:61  
From Fairy Meadow, traverse the upper Granite Glacier to the base of Turret Glacier between Adamant and Austerity. The route ascends Turret Glacier on the west side, beneath the flanks of Austerity's northeast ridge, to gain the Adamant-Turret col. This is a fine glacier route, which can be very difficult, so times can vary considerably.  
From the col, 30 minutes of steep broken rock leads up the west ridge to the summit. The party continued the traverse by descending the east ridge, following the route of a party, which had ascended the east ridge a few days earlier. Ascent: 6 to 10 hours from Fairy Meadow.  
The first winter ascent of Adamant via route #421 was made by Lorene Archdekin, Anne Brearley and Steve Langley on January 1, 1963.

**422 Integral North Ridge D+ 5.7**  
Gary Collier, Robert Cutbert, Chris Jones, Graham Thompson August 27, 1970  
AAJ 17(45):388; CAJ 54:75  
G. Bell and D. Michael climbed the lower rock buttress in 1963. They abandoned the remainder of the route due to lack of time. The North ridge (route #417) goes up Turret Glacier, then follows the upper portion of the north ridge. The complete ridge is long and formidable.  
From Fairy Meadow, ascend the upper Granite Glacier. A difficult bergschrund defends the lower rock buttress, which terminates the long north ridge. Cross the bergschrund and approach the buttress at its lowest point. After some 120m, go to the right of the true ridge and continue to the top of the buttress, to reach the first snowfield or ice slope, depending on conditions. This lower buttress contains the principal difficulties of the route. Four hours from the bergschrund to the top of the buttress.  
Continue on snow-ice until a gangway and two pitches in a crack system, lead to a notch joining the north ridge (route #417). Climb the easier upper section of the ridge to the summit. The 1970 party descended the north ridge, rappelling to the west at the top of the buttress onto the Turret Glacier. Ascent: 7 to 9 hours from the bergschrund. Total time return to the Bill Putnam-Fairy Meadow Hut: 22 hours.

**423 Northeast Ridge of East Summit AD 5.4**  
Mark Field, Glen Gerke July 28, 1973  
AAJ 19(48):165; CAJ 57:77  
This route ascends the snow ridge to the right (west) of the Adamant-Stickle col (3050m) as viewed from Fairy Meadow. A difficult bergschrund often blocks easy snow access to the lower crest of this ridge, in which case the rock at the base of the ridge may be climbed. Follow the crest up and eventually join the east ridge (route #419). Ascent: 10 to 12 hours from Fairy Meadow.

**ADAMANT GROUP 297**

**424 South Buttress D+ 5.7 to 5.8**  
Ted Davis, Glen Gerke July 31, 1973  
[p.c.]; AAJ 19(48):165; CAJ 57:77  
An outstanding route on solid rock, with quartz monzonite chickenheads. Better than the East Face Ridge Route, South Howser Tower, similar to the Southeast Corner Route on Snowpatch Spire but the descent is more difficult. Highly recommended.  
The original party gained the Adamant-Blackfriar col (2850m) directly from a camp on the Austerity Glacier. Otherwise, approach from Great Cairn-Ben Ferris Hut via Azimuth Notch (2480m) and Adamant Glacier to the Adamant-Blackfriar col. The bergschrund on either side of the col may be difficult to negotiate after late July.  
From the col, the easiest (4th class) route follows exposed ledges and ramps on the left (west) side of the ridge for approximately 300m to a broken ledge and ramp system at the base of a prominent steep slab. Decreasing the exposure by climbing right of the ridge crest requires low 5th class climbing on lichen covered boulders and short, steep steps.  
The technical rock climbing begins at the top of the ramp on the right side of the slab (some parties appear to have climbed various cracks on the slab to the left). Climb an awkward corner to a belay on a small ledge. Continue climbing just left of the crest for another similar pitch. Three or four pitches of 5.7 to 5.8 climbing in corners and over small overhangs leads back to the ridge crest alongside a large gully. This is a subsidiary gully that is separated from the south couloir (route #416), by one buttress. This point is reached in six 50 to 60m pitches with the remainder of the route to the summit being 4th class.  
Continue up alongside the gully on the right for several more pitches. The main buttress begins to overhang and it is necessary to climb on east facing terrain just left of the gully. The climbing for the next several pitches consists of rightward traverses on broken terrain interspersed with steep walls and overhangs leading upwards.  
After about 10 pitches, the angle begins to ease off and the buttress merges with 45° slabs and snowfields that extend across the upper south face of the mountain. A long series of ascending traverses to the left across the slope leads toward the summit. This section is about 10 pitches to a point about 100m below the ridge crest. An easy snowfield or ledge system leads to a col from which the summit is 100m to the west, up easy snow.  
Many parties may choose to continue from Adamant over Turret and Austerity to Ironman. Descend the northwest ridge of Ironman until able to make several rappels on the north edge of the west face whence 3rd and 4th class ledges lead easily to Austerity Glacier.  
Ascent: 8 to 10 hours from the Adamant-Blackfriar col, 13 to 15 hours for the complete traverse. Gear: moderate sized rack of nuts and cams to #3. Pitrans are not necessary although they may be helpful in mixed conditions on the upper pitches. If descending the route, there is a series of bolted (2-3/8" stainless steel bolts) rappel stations approximately 25-30m apart to facilitate descent of the 5th class section.

**282 ADAMANT GROUP**

**388 Southeast Face AD 5.7**  
Brian Barry, Tim Starvick August 22, 1974  
[p.c.]; APP 30:56; FMHR  
There are two interesting crack systems on the southeast face, both of which offer entertaining climbing. The system closest to the east ridge provides 40m of excellent climbing, as does the longer system to the west (left-hand); both on equally solid rock. Gear: small selection of rocks and cams to 2 1/2".

**389 West Buttress of the Horn TD+ 5.10+ A1**  
Rodger DeBayer, Tim McAllister July 30-31, 2003  
[p.c.]  
The west buttress of The Horn is the most dominant feature of the Adamants when viewed from the west. The buttress provides outstanding climbing with individual pitches reported to be five-star. Highly recommended.  
From a camp on Austerity Glacier below Ironman Buttress, descend the glacier adjacent to the southwest ridge of Ironman until able to turn north and descend steep snow beside the icefall of Austerity's tongue. Traverse open slopes northward toward the base of The Horn's west buttress.  
From the snow at the base of the buttress, climb the left side of a gash on discontinuous cracks to a piton belay on the left at the true toe of the buttress. Scramble up and left to the next ledge system below a 10m mossy V-groove. Climb the groove and trend up and left over a bulge into a left-facing crack leading to a belay. Climb over a steep bulge into a right-facing crack which trends right and belay on a giant block on the ridge prow. Ascend discontinuous face cracks leading to a steep overhang. Climb out the left side (5.10) and continue up face and off-width cracks to a belay on the left side of the ridge. Climb a stellar face crack leading out right for 15m, then face climb 3m right to a second crack, which is ascended for 15m. When the crack becomes off-width at a large chockstone, move into the slot and ascend 7m to a belay. Scramble up 12m to a large blocky ledge and the base of a right-facing corner.  
Ascend the corner crack for 20m, break out left and belay on a large chockstone. Climb out right on an outstanding hand crack for 25m to a fixed pin. This face moves lead in 5m to a bolt, then continue left 3m to a ledge. Follow the wide ledge system around the north side for 6m, climb an overhanging crack to a second ledge system and follow this down and around the corner onto the north face. Belay on a sloping ledge. Climb left on the ledge to a bolt and belay flop on the next ledge until able to trend up and right past a fixed pin to a giant mossy ledge (an excellent bivouac site).  
Two easy 60m pitches lead to the base of the steep headwall. Climb steep cracks for two pitches below an overhanging hand crack, which is climbed (5.10) to the ridge crest. Continue for two pitches up face cracks on the ridge crest. Stay on the ridge crest for a third pitch and belay below a series of blocks. Climb the steep, knife-edged ridge a cheval to a large block, down climb 3m left and belay below a block in the notch. From the notch, continue along the knife-edged ridge a cheval until able to gain a crack on the right-hand slabs. Belay on the slabs below a large roof. Climb out right over the overhang on good cracks to a large ledge system. Continue

**ADAMANT GROUP 283**

over blocks and up a hand crack to the final summit ridge of The Horn.  
Ascent: The route provides approximately 19 pitches of climbing and required 19 hours (one bivouac). Gear: full rack to 3 inch cam with extra's of large wired rocks, TCU's and double #0.5 and #1 Camalots. The first ascent party removed several precariously perched and potentially lethal boulders; minor additional gardening would improve this outstanding route.

**Ironman 3233m**

Ironman is a minor subsummit on the ridge west of Austerity Mountain. It is mislocated (to the north) on the topographical map, map coordinates 368-319. The toe of the north and northeast trending ridge of Ironman plunges steeply into the upper Granite Glacier, creating significant crevasses that today restrict or severely limit travel to the foot of the northeast ridge.

**390 Northeast Face, East Ridge PD 4th**  
Alex C. Fabergé, Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard July 30, 1948  
AAJ 7(23):264  
From Fairy Meadow ascend moraine, cross Granite Glacier above the icefall, and ascend to the glacial bowl between the northeast ridge of Austerity and Ironman. Ascend the bowl, cross the bergschrund and traverse steep snow or ice to gain the rock of the northeast flanks. Follow an ascending traverse along the rock/ice interface until able to gain several cracks and chimneys, which lead up the face near the east ridge to the summit. Ascent: 4 to 5 hours from Fairy Meadow.  
Glacial retreat has dramatically lowered the snow and ice level in the Austerity-Ironman bowl and it is very probable that it is not as easy today to gain easy crack and chimneys on the northeast face directly from the snow. Several parties have attempted various cracks and chimneys on the northeast face and have found them much harder than 4th class, in part perhaps because they have not traversed high enough towards the east ridge.  
Note that many parties have experienced difficulty recovering their ropes after rappelling the north and northeast flanks of Ironman.

**391 East Ridge PD 4th**  
Discovered by the 1948 party. July 30, 1948  
AAJ 7(23):264  
From Fairy Meadow ascend moraine, cross Granite Glacier above the icefall and climb through crevasses to the upper Granite Glacier and the bowl between Ironman and Austerity. Ascend the snow-ice slopes directly from the upper Granite Glacier to the Austerity-Ironman col, negotiating a bergschrund where the bowl noticeably steepens. Alternately from the Ironman-Unicorn col, ascend the snow slopes on the north flanks of the northeast buttress directly to the ridge crest and then traverse into the cirque below the Austerity-Ironman col (one short rappel may be required). From the Austerity-Ironman col an ascent of the east ridge to the summit of Ironman can be made in less than 15 minutes. Ascent: 4 to 5 hours from Fairy Meadow.



**284 ADAMANT GROUP**

**392 Northwest Couloir** AD 5.6  
Bill Casselman, Robson Kirby, Richard Miller July 15, 1973 CAJ 57:76, 79  
From the ridge north of Ironman, traverse around to the large notch on the northwest face. Climb a dirty, icy crack leading up the face, four pitches with one pitch of 5.6.  
Many parties camped on Austerity Glacier or Unicorn Meadows will wish to descend the southwest flanks to return to camp. From a small saddle on the north ridge of Ironman down climb two pitches of 3rd class rock leading to the upper northeast reaches of Austerity Glacier. Descending the snow slopes of Austerity Glacier is usually very straightforward although care may be required for ice and crevasses late in the season.

**393 West Face (Don's Saturday Shuffle)** PD+ 5.8 ○  
David P. Jones, Tim McAllister, Conor Reynolds, Joie Seagram July 23, 2003  
Although the lower west slopes of Ironman above Austerity Glacier are broken and blocky, the upper west face provides several pitches of outstanding and enjoyable climbing on cracks and chickenheads. A fun route for a short day.  
From a camp at the foot of Ironman Buttress, ascend snow and glacier to the base of the west face. The first pitch above the snow left (north) of the prominent gully has considerable loose rock. Above, the rock quality rapidly improves with scrambling over large, firm blocks for two pitches. Climb the right side of a pillar on the north end of the west face and belay at the base of thin cracks with an off-width crack to the left. Climb cracks, chickenheads and varnish for two pitches on excellent rock to the summit ridge, which is followed easily to the summit. Gear: small selection of rocks and cams to 3 inches. Rappel the route taking care to avoid hanging the rope.

**Ironman South Summit** 3200m

A subsummit forms the top of the southwest buttress of Ironman. A large gendarme bars easy access from the South Summit to Ironman. The southwest buttress leading to the South Summit provides some of the best technical rock climbing in the area. Route #395 and #396 are variants of the original route (#394), any one of which provides outstanding climbing. All are highly recommended.

**Note.** Parties have started the route with at least four variations combined with alternate pitches at mid-height on the lower buttress. Judicious route finding can provide excellent climbing ranging from 5.7 to hard 5.10. Enjoy!

**394 Southwest Buttress** D+ 5.7 A2  
Ray Hiborn, Robert Taylor, William Thompson July 16-17, 1973 [p.c.], AAJ 13(48):164, CAJ 57:75  
This superb buttress provides nearly 450m of very sustained, mixed free and aid climbing on exceptionally solid rock. Scramble up easy ledges about 60m above the glacier to three parallel crack systems at the right-hand end of the

**ADAMANT GROUP 285**

highest ledge. Start the climb on the middle crack until able to work over to the crack furthest right. Continue up the crack until able to climb a left trending groove to a large ledge and belay (55m, 5.9). Walk left on the ledge and climb a series of cracks and flakes to the top of the obvious pinnacle and broken ledge (25m, 5.7). From the belay ledge, climb thin, discontinuous cracks to a large block or detached flake (45m, 5.10). A very awkward overhanging flared chimney to a belay above the white band (5.7) is followed by one lead of moderate 5th class rock, which leads to a ledge 6m wide and 100m long. One more pitch reaches a ledge with an overhanging boulder (possible bivouac).  
A vague crack system then leads over a small bulge. A bit of overhanging aid reaches a belay, followed by a moderate 5th class pitch leading to a lower angled section. A 4th class pitch goes to a flat area below a headwall. This wall is split by a single thin crack. Easy nailing for 20m leads to a broken area at the top of the south face. Easy climbing then leads to a slightly overhanging section, which is surmounted on aid. Easier climbing then reaches the base of a huge gendarme. The gendarme blocks access to Ironman proper. The 1973 party descended from this point. Four singularly nasty rappels down a snow-ice gully, avoid the gendarme and lead to the glacier.

**395 Variation: Gibson-Rohn** TD 5.10+  
Thomas Gibson, Robert Rohn August 1981 [p.c.], CAJ 65:62  
This climb was the first free ascent of an outstanding line that merits more frequent ascent. Although shorter, this route is very comparable to the Beckey-Chouinard route on the South Howser Tower in the Bugaboos.  
Begin by following beautiful face cracks around the corner to the right of the original line, which avoids the first two pitches involving dirty-looking flakes and corners. The route requires eight long pitches and some scrambling, with the crux on the seventh pitch; a thin crack and face climbing on the steep headwall. Ascent: 8 to 10 hours.  
This party also climbed the obvious right-facing corner just left of the original route, to gain the large, prominent ledge at mid-height; before rappelling to the base. There is some tricky face climbing just below the ledge, reported to be 5.10+.

**396 Variation: Southwest Buttress-Left Dihedral** TD 5.10+ A0  
Gustavo Brillenbourg, Peter Cole August 1983 [p.c.], AAJ 26(58):192, CMBC 98  
This route combines Southwest Buttress (#394) and the Gibson-Rohn variation (#395), to form a very elegant line. Above the first two pitches of the original route, move left into a steep dihedral with a very thin crack in the corner. An overhang tops this dihedral. Pendulum left into the excellent 5.10 finger crack and follow it for two pitches, then traverse back into the original route. The best approach is probably to climb this entire crack from the very foot of the buttress, starting about 10m left of the original route.



**West Blackfriar, NW Face:**

**304**

**441 Northwest Face** ED1 5.10+ A1 to A2  
Craig Ellis, Blanton Thomas July 17-20, 1998 [p.c.]  
This outstanding line follows a series of cracks and face features, mostly to the right of the prominent dihedral that splits the northwest face of West Blackfriar. The party cleaned a significant portion of the route, and placed 3/8" bolts to create belay and rappel stations.  
The bottom of the route is relatively low angle with mossy cracks. As the face steepens, the rock becomes very clean and solid, except for a large blocky ledge just below the summit.  
Ascend a series of dihedrals, corners and cracks interspersed with face climbing. The first bivouac was made on a ledge at the top of the 7th pitch. Continue up a crack to an alcove with loose rock. Climb a chimney, and then traverse right to a dihedral and a belay. A 15m traverse right leads to an 8m long crack requiring a tension traverse back left at the top, to reach a left-facing corner and a hanging bivouac.  
From the hanging bivouac at the top of the 11th pitch work up and right to a small ledge, then continue up a damp chimney to a ledge beside the hanging 'elephant trunk'. Excellent climbing up the left-facing corner leads to another chimney and a talus ledge. Above the ledge is a dish-shaped feature with no protection. Climb up and traverse right to a small ledge below a shark-fin-shaped feature. Climb around the fin using some easy aid and climb a crack to the summit.  
From the summit the party rappelled the route in 4 hours, following the fall line. The first three rappels are from siling blocks. Subsequent rappels are mostly from 2-3/8" bolt stations. Gear: good assortment of rocks, nuts and cams to #3. No pitons were used on the ascent. Take spare hangers for the bolt stations. A fast party should be able to make this climb in one long day.

**442 West Ridge** D- 5.8+  
Clair Swanson, David P. Jones, Kelly Robertson August 12, 2002  
From a camp below Silvertip Glacier, ascend the western slopes below Azimuth Notch and traverse Silvertip Glacier to the snow slopes leading to the Belvedere-Blackfriar col. Climb the glacier until able to traverse east onto an easy, wide ramp crossing the lower rock face. Follow the ramp to its upper end, then climb the snow slopes to the Belvedere-Blackfriar col (this route avoids the bergschrund). Once on the col, follow the ridge crest and then easy snow slopes to the base of the west ridge.  
Climb easy rock to the prominent ledge crossing the south face. Traverse the ledge a short distance to a series of cracks and corners that lead to the ridge crest. Climb a steep corner for 8m, then work right onto a pedestal, which leads easily right to a prominent corner. Climb the hand crack to a ledge, step left and belay (this is the top of the very distinct off-width crack on the west facing step on the ridge). Climb up a series of small steps on the west ridge or partially on the north face to a large ledge. One more long pitch leads to the summit flats.  
Ascent: 7 hours from camp, descent via rappel down the south face/



**305**

gully (27m rappel, 60m rappel, some minor down climbing followed by a third 30m rappel leads to easy rock and snow slopes). Gear: general selection of rocks and cams with doubles for 0.75 to #2. Route has good solid rock throughout.

**Belvedere Peak** 2978m

Belvedere, located at the head of Silvertip Glacier and northeast of Silvertip Pass [2550m], provides an excellent viewpoint of the Adamant Group.

**443 South Face** F 4th ○  
Frederic K. Butters, Edward W. D. Holway, Howard Palmer June 20, 1911 APP 30:56, MES 237  
From Great Cairn - Ben Ferris Hut, cross the creek and make an ascending traverse along the east side of the valley over rocky ledges and snow, to reach the upper Silvertip Nève. Follow a rising traverse across the névé, until able to ascend snow on the southern flanks of Belvedere. Climb snow and large granite blocks to the southwest ridge a short distance from the summit. This route is frequently skied in winter from Great Cairn-Ben Ferris Hut. An easy, fun descent route. Ascent: 4 hours.

**444 Southwest Ridge** F 4th  
Alex C. Fabergé, Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, Alvin E. Petersen, Chris Scoredas, Arnold Westler July 25, 1949 AAJ 7(23):263  
Scramble north along the curving southwest ridge, which is followed easily to the summit. One short rappel may be required from a minor summit about mid-way along the ridge. Ascent from Great Cairn: 4 to 5 hours.  
Some parties have crossed Silvertip Pass and descended Belvedere Glacier to gain a notch in the long west-trending ridge (used in the traverse to Austerity Glacier). In the 70s and earlier, easy snow slopes lead to the notch. Glacial recession now requires an ascent of a steep loose gully on the left (west). From the notch, follow the ridge in its entirety to the summit.

**445 Northeast Ridge** F 4th  
Graham Matthews, James McCarthy, David Michael August 4, 1953 APP 30:56, CAJ 37:48  
The corniced northeast ridge was descended on a traverse to West Blackfriar. It is possible to reach the easy northeast ridge from the head of Silvertip Glacier over steep (40°) snow slopes (sometimes a bergschrund at the foot of the slope and corniced at the top). This approach is usually used only to access the regular route on West Blackfriar. Hard 4th class on ascent. Ascent: 4 to 5 hours from Great Cairn - Ben Ferris Hut.



**Gibraltar, S Buttress:**



**352 GOTHICS GROUP**

**536 South Buttress** TD+ 5.10+ A2  
*Greg Fowlerker, Tim McAllister August 4, 2000 [p.c.]*  
Reach the Gibraltar-Fria col [2770m] by any convenient route. Descend the couloir on the south side to a large ledge system below the upper south face of Gibraltar. From the ledge, climb straight up a crack system for 30m to a ledge (5.9). Climb the face crack to the right of the southeast facing corner system and belay on a small stance (45m, 5.10d, A2, may go free with more cleaning). Continue up a short hand crack, traverse left 2m on a crack, then continue up a flush hand crack to ledges (30m, 5.10a). Climb a hand crack trending right, and finish up on a short 5-inch crack ending at a belay. Climb over solid blocks and up another crack system, to a nice ledge on the right. A straight-in hand crack leads to a short off-width crack finishing on a small ledge. Continue up the off-width crack, traverse right to a hand crack, and follow this until it is possible to step right into a chimney. Climb easy cracks in the chimney to gain the summit. Gear: full set of rocks, TCU's and cams to #4. The party placed two knifeblades and two lost arrow pitons on pitch two, which could probably be avoided with some cleaning. Descend by rappelling the north face, route #537.

**537 North Face** D+ 5.9 U  
*Torben Johannsen, David P. Jones, Joie Seagram August 10, 2000*  
From a camp below Thor Pass, gain Gothics Glacier and traverse to the north face of Gibraltar and the base of the prominent hand crack. The route starts with the obvious clean hand crack that begins on the fall line, to the right of the summit block. Cross the bergschrund and climb the hand crack to a good belay ledge (35m, 5.9). Work up and left (east) on broken ground and climb the obvious corner and flake system to a belay ledge (45m). Descend a short ramp to the right, and climb the obvious corner and flakes to a large belay ledge (20m). Climb first left, then directly up a corner with twin cracks to a vertical step in the corner. Stem and mantel the corner to gain a flaring crack, which leads to the knife-edged ridge crest of the regular route. Belay at the top of the flared crack, or move a short distance along the ridge crest (piton) to a good belay below the summit block (55m, 5.9). Climb the obvious crack to the summit. Gear: small selection of rocks and TCU's, double set of #0.5, 0.75 and 1 cams with singles of #2, 3, 3.5 and 4. Although the mid-section ascends through some loose rock, the climb generally follows very firm, clean granite. (Most loose rock was removed on ascent and rappel descent). A shovel may be useful in working the lip of the bergschrund to ease access to the rock.  
This route provides direct descent to the glacier, with minimal rock fall hazard. From the belay below the summit block, a tricky 25m diagonal rappel leads to a small stance below a corner. A second 25m rappel leads to a large ledge. A 45m rappel leads to a good stance at the top of the first pitch, while the last 35m rappel reaches the glacier. Keep the first rappels short to avoid hanging ropes. Ascent: 11 hours return to camp.

**GOTHICS GROUP 353**

**Mount Fria** 2915m

Mount Fria is located on the south retaining wall of Gothics Glacier between Gibraltar to the west and Mount Wotan to the east.

**538 East Ridge** F 4th  
*John M. McLeod, Dmitri Nabokov, William L. Putnam July 27, 1963*  
*APP 30:52, CAJ 37:45*  
From Gothics Glacier, climb the prominent east snow ridge. Near the summit bear south to avoid the cornice and follow easy rocks to the summit. Ascent: 3 to 5 hours from Fairy Meadow.

**539 Southwest Slopes** F 4th  
*John M. McLeod, Dmitri Nabokov, William L. Putnam July 27, 1963* *APP 30:52, CAJ 37:45*  
The original descent route via a snow couloir on the southwest side of Fria. Climb up the couloir to a small glacier on Fria's south flank. Continue over snow and easy, loose boulders to the summit. Ascent: 3 hours from Friendship Col.

**540 North Face** PD 4th  
*Roy A. Jones, Graham Matthews Jr., Kim Matthews, David Michael August 8, 1976 [p.c.]*  
*FTHR*  
Ascend a break in the slabs just west of the centre of the north face. Broken rock leads to a chimney-gully in the steeper upper cliffs. The 1976 party was stormt off 10m from the ridge crest (incomplete ascent).

**541 West Ridge (Electric Ladyland)** AD+ 5.7  
*Ian Rowe, Sue Rowe, Joie Seagram July 25, 2002 [p.c.]*  
This party experienced an intense electrical display immediately below the summit, forcing a retreat.  
From a camp below Friendship Col, gain the col and cross Gothics Glacier to the Fria-Gibraltar col. Climb snow on the left and gain the ridge at a notch above 'Easter Island pinnacle'. Take a ramp and squeeze chimney on the right side of a steep wall and finish to the ridge crest via very loose flakes. Continue easily up the west ridge to the summit. Descend direct to the notch via a 55m rappel from the ridge or preferably traverse the summit and descend the east ridge. Gear: small selection of cams to #2 and long slings.

**Mount Wotan** 2974m

Formerly called Mount Sir Benjamin, this peak is a jagged, double summit east of Mount Fria whose west summit is slightly (3m) higher.

**East Peak, SE Corner and S Face:**



**344 GOTHICS GROUP**

**512 Variation: The Mummy Face** AD 5.4  
*Steven Horvath, Pat Post August 1, 1978* *CMBC 141*  
At the prominent rock step, traverse the snow slope to the crack on the east face as in the original ascent. Instead of climbing the crack, climb the face approximately 1m to the right of the crack. A long pleasant pitch leads to the ridgcrest.

**513 Variation: Second Step Direct** AD+ 5.8  
*Brian Berry, David Shaw August 1977 [p.c.]*  
Rather than traversing out onto the west face at the second step, climb the crack and small overhang on the north ridge directly. Nice sustained climbing for one short pitch, before laying back into class 4 moves leading to the summit.

**514 Southeast Rib** AD+ 5.4 A1  
*George I. Bell, David Michael, William L. Putnam August 13, 1963*  
*AAJ 14(38): 201; APP 34:687*  
From Fairy Meadow ascend via the west branch of Pioneer Pass [2870m] to the southeast corner of the Gargoyles. Cross the bergschrund, and follow an ascending traverse across steep snow slopes to the Gargoyles-East Gothic col. Climb up the southeast rib, which is the left (south) edge of a prominent gully that is discontinuously connected to the summit snow. From the col, 5-30m pitches lead to the crest of the south ridge. Expect wet rock in places. The original party placed numerous pitons, with one direct aid step at the beginning of the second pitch above the col.  
Once on the crest, follow straightforward snow to the summit. Descend via rappel on route #510. Round trip to Fairy Meadow 11 to 14 hours.

**515 South Face** TD 5.10 A1  
*Gustavo Brillembourg, Peter Cole August 1983 [p.c.]; AAJ 26(58): 192; CMBC: 142*  
A demanding technical route, that ascends just left of the large dihedral that dominates the centre of the south face.  
From Adamant Glacier, ascend the snow gully leading to the Gothics-Gargoyles col until able to angle up and left on moderate rock for three pitches, to avoid the lower, overhanging section of the south face. Pitch four ascends a steep 50m left-facing corner to a ledge (A1). Move right past a right-facing corner and climb up just right of the corner past a ledge, to the base of a prominent right-facing dihedral (50m, 5.9). Climb 90m up the prominent dihedral (5.7) to a conspicuous band of feldspar. This band is also prominently visible on the Gargoyles. Climb the feldspar band and continue up the face to the bottom of an off-width crack that rises to the summit, 25m; 5.7. Climb the off-width crack for 35m to the summit (5.10).

**GOTHICS GROUP 345**

**516 Southwest Face** TD+ 5.9 A2  
*Fred Beckey, Eric Bjornstad, Jan Schwartzburg July 24-26, 1984*  
*AAJ 27(59): 217; CAJ 88:57; CMBC: 142*  
From Adamant Meadows, ascend Adamant Glacier to the base of this impressive, 450m face. The southwest face is convex, and when viewed from the glacier below, appears almost like a ridge. The route follows the skyline view from the south, ascending a rib on the face.  
The first third of the route includes awkward grooves, slab problems, and a long, wet, off-width chimney, which required some aid. Poorly secured snow gullies and unprotected slabs must sometimes be negotiated. The first bivouac was located two pitches above the glacier snow gully while the second was on the dike near the top.  
Above the dike, a chimney leads to a very difficult wide-open stemming maneuver. On the final head wall, the route follows a steep crack system; first in an awkward groove (poorly protected), then in a slanting, off-width crack (wired nuts; strenuous) and finally up broken cracks and a headwall pull-up. The true summit is about 200m west. Ascent: 2½ days.

**517 Southeast Corner** ED1 5.11a  
*Andre Iles, Jon Walsh August 12, 2001 [p.c.]*  
This route follows a series of large corners on the right (east) side of the south face, on superb firm rock.  
From Adamant Glacier, ascend the snow couloir leading to the Gothics-Gargoyles col for approximately 80m, to the base of three quartz veins in a grey rock band. Climb delicately up and left over the grey rock band to a steep corner (40m). Follow the left-trending ramp to a belay above a short chimney. Climb a wide crack (off-width to hands) and belay after 30m. Move the belay by stepping left around an exposed arête to avoid a chimney, then climb face cracks to easier terrain and belay at the base of a large corner. Climb the right-facing corner (off-width crack) followed by some face climbing to a belay. Continue up the corner to the base of the quartz-feldspar band, which is traversed left (4th class; friable rock) to the arête. Step left and stem the groove to the summit ridge. Ascent: 9 hours. Gear: double set of TCU's and cams up to a #5, set of nuts and a few knifeblade and lost arrow pitons.  
Descent: The party rappelled (four raps) the southeast rib (#514) to the East Peak-Gargoyles col, then descended the couloir (one rappel required at the top) to Adamant Glacier in 2½ hours. It would be much safer and not much longer, to descend the regular route to the upper Gothics Glacier and traverse to Thor Pass thence to Adamant Glacier.

