

## The Quarterly Classic: Three Routes on Hermit Spire

Several climbs have appeared on the west face of Hermit Spire over the past several years. In particular, two short face climbs and one bold crack and face gem that goes over the intimidating arch that is the central feature of the Hermit west face. The first two routes ascend the face in the vicinity of large, thin flakes whose moorings to the underlying cliff are uncertain. The third route climbs along the arete of the great roof, then traverses its lip.

1. "Trickle Down Effect," 5.10b (Mark & Susan Robinson, 1992). Climb face past three bolts (crux) to the base of a thin corner with a crack along the left edge of a huge flake. Move up this to two a bolt anchor. Dirty. Need cams from sm. TCU to 1 1/2 friend. 80'.

2. "Junk Bonds," 5.10a (Mark & Susan Robinson, 1992). Climb up the left edge of large detached flakes at the base of the wall to a left facing corner. From the top of the corner, at a small stance, jump right at a bolt and into a crack. Go past two bolts and very loose flakes to the same anchor as route one (1). Danger to belayer from loose flake. 80'.

3. "Big Rack Attack," 5.10 c/d (Mark and Susan Robinson, 1992). Begin climbing in a crack/groove just left of the gaping corner of the great arch. As the crack thins to nothingness, make a wild stem right to the corner and then around and up to a bolt. Face climb to the steep v-roof where you can use small to medium crack pro to protect the crux lie-back moves on to the face and belay bolts above. Next, go directly right to the lip! Follow bolts just above the lip of the great arch until it is obviously time to move up. The route finishes on the Horseshoe Traverse, 5.7.



photo by Mark Robinson