

## Missing Link 10d/A0 310m \*\*

Steve Birch & Andy Genereux May 15, 2008

This rather strait link-up, connects together several sections of good rock in the Grillmair Chimney's Area for a nearly independent route which has steady 5.9 and 5.10 climbing. There is a thin A0 bulge halfway up the second pitch requires pulling on two bolts. This is the only inconsistency in the overall route as to grade and is a bit disappointing. Otherwise the line has generally consistent moderate climbing with steady sections of clean gear, intermixed with bolting. The line was pushed in single day, ground up, with a power drill on lead, no hooks were employed.

Traverse right from the normal start of Grillmair Chimney's on the big sloping scree covered ledge for roughly 20m, locate a left facing corner with a one bolt belay marking the bottom of the pitch. "Standard Rack" of gear to 4", include one set of micro cams. 14 draws several longer are useful to reduce drag when using single rope techniques.

**P1: 5.9, 40m.** Climb the corner for 20m moving right past a bolt to a second shallow corner. Move up past a second bolt to gain a ledge work up left on a short step to a second ledge on the with a ring bolt belay.

**P2: 10d/A0, 55m.** Move past a bulge to enter a groove above the belay. Difficult stemming past three bolts exits the groove on the left side. Make a long committing move to a fourth bolt. Climb up to a small foot stance and pull past two to bolts (A0), above thin climbing leads to a bolt with a left leaning hand crack above. Climb the crack, good, steady, 5.9 climbing at times overhanging to reach a ledge with two ring bolts to belay.

**P3: 10a, 55m.** Climb the easy corner/groove above the belay, crossing Grillmair Chimney's Right Var. after 7m. Continue up in the steepening shallow corner until it ends below a bulge (suspect blocks). Carefully traverse right and climb the bulge directly past a bolt to gain a V-shaped groove. Climb up this groove to a good ledge with a two ring bolts to belay.

**P4: 5.9, 55m.** Directly above the belay climb into a u-shaped slot past a bolt. Move directly to the base of a rock pillar and take the zig zag crack to reach a bolted section. Climb directly up to gain the top of the pillar (fragile

rock near the top). Stepping down off the backside of the pillar into a bay (Grillmair Left & Right Var. meet here) climb the short steep polished wall past two pitons (as for Grillmair Chimney's) to reach a single bolt and piton to belay on the sloping scree ledge above this steep rock step.

**P5: 10a, 50m.** Move up and right on easy ground to a short blocky corner. Climb up, moving right to a bolt. Make a few thin moves on good grey rock past three bolts. Easy 4th class ground (some loose bits) climbs directly to a ledge with a ring bolt belay (hare and the Tortoise traverses in from the left to share this belay).

**P6: 10b, 55m.** Climb superb rock past two bolts directly above the belay to enter a corner (same P6 on Hare & Tortoise Var.). Move up the corner for 5m until the off-width crack gets hard (Hare & Tortoise continues up the crack). Place a cam in a slot on the right wall and make a committing move into the shallow groove. Climb the superb groove past three bolts to the top off the cliff, belaying off cams on the backside.

# GRILLMAIR CHIMNEY'S AREA

