

The South Face of The Beehive. a) western col [access to the North Face & descent from summit], b) All Things in Moderation, c) Standard Route, d) Malleus Maleficarum, e) Five Magics, f) The Land of Rape and Honey, g) eastern col (alternate descent). Photo © Joe Josephson, Mar 2004.



The Beehive

FOR THE ENTHUSIAST, EARLY AND LATE SEASON MIXED CLIMBING ON AND AROUND THE

Beehive is hard to beat. The most attractive peak in the immediate Big Sky region, and most commonly known for a few multi-pitch rock climbs, it offers an alpine experience on a small scale. Relatively easy access and low commitment make these routes an excellent choice for those looking to take their crag skills a step further and cut their teeth for Alaskan-style mixed climbing. Traditionally the mixed climbing has taken place on the main southeast face, however, the continued dedication of Pete Tapley has found nice alternatives on various aspects of the peak.

Checking Conditions



The good news is that the southeast face is easily visible from the road and, with binoculars, conditions can be checked rather easily. The bad news is the “right” conditions require a bit of patience, understanding of the prevailing weather patterns, and a healthy dose of good timing. The routes on the southeast face are fairly reliable spring objectives and allow an excellent last-hoorah for the season. These lines have been climbed as early as mid-April and as late as mid-June (of course, mid-June offers leaner conditions and commonly a pure-rock pitch to reach any ice). Seasonal specifics will be discussed with each route.

Approach



Follow the Big Sky Road past The Meadow, past the Big Sky Resort to the Crown King Road on the right. This road is 7.2 miles from the Ousel Falls Road and just before the Moonlight Basin Ski Resort. Follow Crown King Road up over the ridge, past the most incredible (or obscene depending on your politics) homes, and down a steep hill to the Beehive Basin parking lot. Ski up the valley towards the obvious peak in the back. Prone to the usual winter mountaineering hazards, skis, backcountry travel, and avalanche savy are required. Despite the nearby homes and ski resorts, all climbs here lie in a wilderness area.

Descent



From the summit of The Beehive, a 4th class descent can be made by way of a series of three gullies. The top of the first gully is found about fifty feet northwest of the summit register. This is followed to an open fan and the top of the second gully, which drops west for a few hundred feet. This second gully deposits one just below the western col. Move up and through the col to the top of the third gully (which borders the west margin of the south face). Descend this gully to the base of the south face.

The Beehive

△ The Frigid Regurgitator

220 m, 5.8, WI 3

FA: Unknown.

Jack Childress and Pete Tapley made the first known attempt on this route but bailed from two pitches in terrible weather after Jack lost a glove. It was climbed to the top a week later by a team of two. | **Location:** It is located on “The Prow” just down and right from the main Beehive face. It is easily visible from the hill before the parking lot. The route takes the obvious feature on the east face. It doesn’t always form and plenty of rock gear is required. | **Route:** Pitch one follows a narrow, low angle and often, hollow runnel to its top and a rock belay. Pitch two and three climb blocky, loose choss, and offer ample opportunity to brain the belay. | **Descent:** Descend the wind-scoured gully to the left of the route.



Jack Childress getting frigid on the first attempt of The Prow. Photo © Pete Tapley, Dec 1996.