

# RIMWALL

Immediately northwest of West Wind Pass is an unnamed peak of roughly the same elevation as Windtower. The northeast face of this peak, a steep cliff of Palliser limestone about 450 m high, is called Rimwall. Only three climbs have been completed on Rimwall to date, although other possibilities exist. The approach is relatively straightforward and the cliff may be one of the most underdeveloped in the valley. Attempts have been made recently to climb a mixed winter route up a prominent water seepage on the right-hand side of the face and some fixed gear is in place.

## Approach

Traverse across from West Wind Pass (poor trail at present) or use a helicopter from Canmore to land on the open ridge below the prow.

## Descent

Easy scree slopes lead down the back of the mountain to West Wind Pass.

## Pinko 5.8

G. Homer & J. Jones, 1973

Very little is known about this climb. It consists of 10 pitches up a prominent system of corners that leads up and left near the left end of the cliff.



Rimwall from the col.

## The Gambler 575 m, 5.11aR

S. DeMaio, C. Quinn & J. Sevigny, July 1987

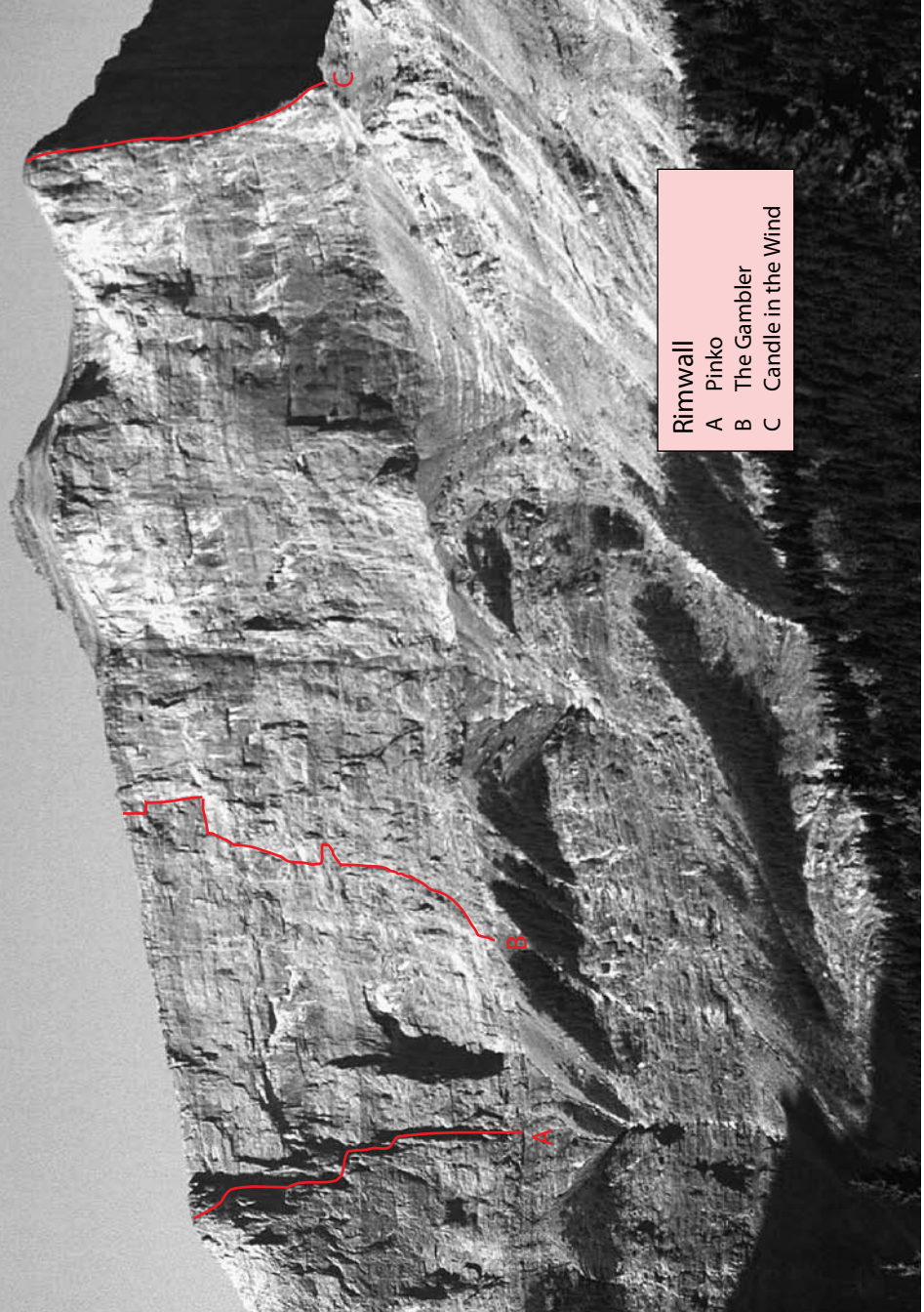
This was the first route to explore the vast walls of compact rock on Rimwall and was completed in a day with the team finishing in a downpour. As a result, the crux eleventh pitch was climbed in a hurry without placing any bolts and is dangerously run-out. The route has probably not been repeated although the climbing is reported to be good.

Start about 200 m right of Pinko, below a system of corners running most of the way up the face. Scramble up to the right of the first corner for about 80 m until below a second corner.

- 1) 50 m, 5.7 Climb the corner and traverse left to belay.
- 2) 45 m, 5.9 Go up into a steep, parallel-sided groove and climb the left wall to a good ledge.
- 3) 40 m, 5.9 Move left and climb a right-facing corner. Continue up a second corner for 5 m and then traverse right onto a large ledge.
- 4) 45 m, 5.9 Move right along the ledge system to a left-facing corner. Climb the corner for 4 m and traverse left on good footholds across the wall to a ledge. Traverse left along the ledge and climb a short off-width. Continue left and then back right to the base of a loose, left-facing corner.
- 5) 40 m, 5.9 From the belay, traverse back down and left and then go up into a left-facing corner. Climb the corner and continue up a second one (large ledge on right, blind left-facing corner on left) until it is possible to traverse right along a break for 10 m to a belay.
- 6) 50 m, 5.10c Climb the corner to a bolt, move up and then traverse left to good holds. Continue up and left along a ramp system into a large left-facing corner. Climb the corner to a good stance.
- 7) 50 m, 5.10 Continue up the corner past a ledge to a second ledge below a left-facing corner.
- 8) 50 m, 5.10 Climb the corner for about 35 m and then traverse right along a break and continue up a second corner to a large ledge. Belay on the right.
- 9-10) 80 m, 5.4 Traverse right along the ledge until below a short, steep crack leading to a ramp.
- 11) 50 m, 5.11a R Climb the crack with difficulty to gain the ramp. Go up the ramp for about 10 m to good nut placements on the right below a steep wall. Make a few moves down and right and then climb the steep wall for 10 m to a resting place. Continue up and right and climb a jam-crack to a ledge.
- 12) 45 m, 5.9 Go up and left to a loose crack. Continue up a ramp system trending left at the top to a ledge.
- 13) 30 m Pull up onto a higher ledge and climb a slab to an overlap. Traverse left along the overlap until it is possible to move up over it and continue to the top.

## Candle in the Wind 450m, 5.10c

A. Derbyshire & J. Visser, August 1992



**Rimwall**

- A Pinko
- B The Gambler
- C Candle in the Wind

Considering the obvious nature of this line it is surprising it took until 1992 to be climbed. The route is simple—climb the striking prow between the northwest and northeast faces of Rimwall. The rock is reasonably solid and the climbing is sustained when the upper wall is reached.

The most obvious approach is from West Wind Pass and descent is also made in this direction. However, the climb could be accessed via Stewart Creek from the Trans-Canada Highway or possibly using the Boulder Pass approach (see The Orphan).

- 1) 45 m, 5.6 Climb the ridge and pass an overhang on the right. Belay back on the crest.
- 2) 45 m, 5.6 Follow a little corner just right of the ridge and belay on easy ground.
- 3) 45 m Scramble up the remainder of the ridge to a slabby area below the steep upper wall.
- 4) 45 m, 5.4 Climb directly up the slab and belay at the base of the upper wall.
- 5) 45 m, 5.9 Move only slightly left and climb up to an overhang. Surmount the overhang and continue up a crack that includes a short section of off-width near the top. Belay in the corner.
- 6) 35 m, 5.10c Climb up the corner for a few more metres and traverse right into another corner (to avoid some loose blocks). Continue up to a small ledge, then climb a steep wall past two bolts and a fixed piton toward the left of a large prominent overhang. Belay in a corner on a sloping ledge (piton) above the level of the overhang.
- 7) 35 m, 5.10a Continue up the corner over a small overhang to a good ledge on the right.
- 8) 40 m, 5.9 Angle right to a shallow corner and a bolt (after 10 m). Traverse directly right on small footholds to slightly easier ground and then go up trending left to belay ledges.
- 9) 50 m, 5.10a Move right and climb a rather loose, meandering crack stepping right at the top to scree-covered ledges and piton belay.
- 10) 50 m, 5.10a Climb a water groove followed by a mossy crack to ledges.
- 11) 15 m Scramble to the top.