

{1st Place}

Punching out the final steps of the *Cosmiques Arete* (II AD 4a) Aiguille du Midi, Mont Blanc, Chamonix, France.

Photo By Brian Irwin

Canon EOS-lv, 1/500 sec, F/4.3, ISO 100, manual exposure, 18-55mm lens

Climbers like to fantasize about a great climb. "Sell the dream," we always tell photographers. This photo is not only dreamy, but it's easy to put yourself there, romping across the ridge in full alpine splendor. The bird's-eye perspective lends an added element of drama and scale. The image is also properly exposed, not an easy task in snow, which fools the camera's light meter. Equally impressive, this image was taken on Kodak Elite Chrome 100 slide film. Now, who said film was dead?

This winning shot scored Brian a Mammut Blaze jacket, a technical softshell with GoreTex Paclite and GoreTex ProShell.



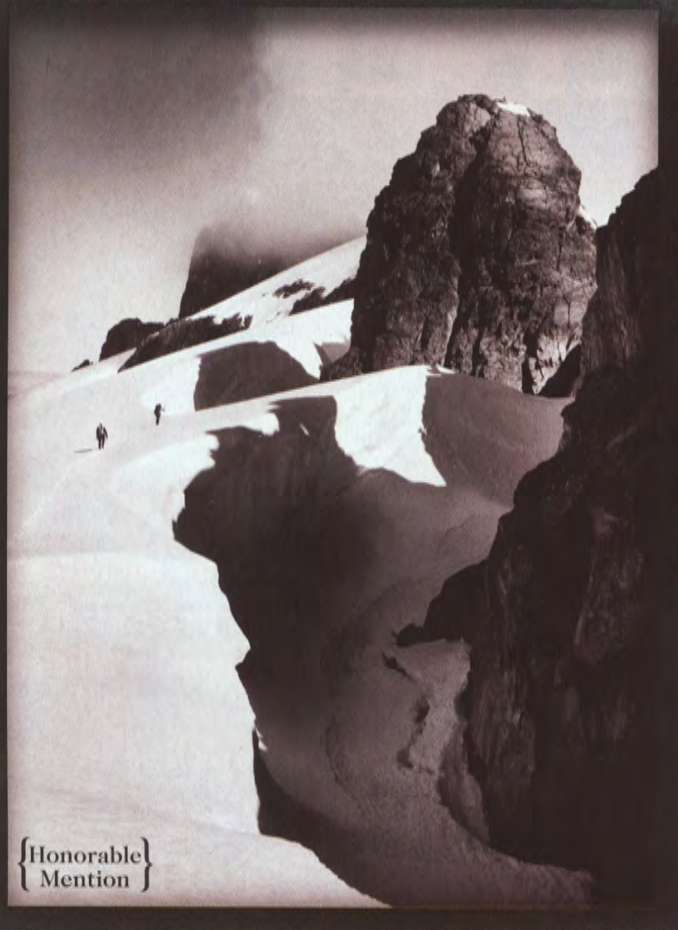
ICE/SNOW

Chris Ousten and David Perry approach the Southeast face of Mount Dione, Tantalus Range, British Columbia, Canada.

Photo By Michael J.P. Hall

Nikon D80, 1/250 sec, F/14 ISO 160, manual exposure, 18-70mm lens set at 18mm.

Photographers are always trying to get us to publish their black-and-white shots—and we rarely do. B/W photography seems simple, but is more difficult than color—you can't just convert color to black and white. In this photo, the natural lines of the shadows and snowslope lead your eye to the climbers. Hall did a great job post-processing this color image to black and white, preserving the shadow and highlight details and adding drama to the sky.



{Honorable Mention}



{Honorable Mention}

Dan Dalton leads the backside of *The Fang* (WI 5), Vail Amphitheater, Colorado.

Photo By Scott Borger

CANON EOS 5D, 1/640 sec, f/13, ISO 500, manual exposure, 15mm lens.

Very effective use of a fisheye lens. The contrasting yellow jacket against the blue ice adds pop, and the swinging ice tool lends action, as do the clouds. If you are serious about shooting, get a wide-angle fisheye ... just don't overdo it. A wide shot such as this works to break up otherwise boring compositions, but feels gimmicky if you see it more than once in a presentation.