



THE SOUTH

VOLUME 2

Making Turns

IN COLORADO



A BACKCOUNTRY SKI GUIDEBOOK BY FRITZ SPERRY

ROUTES IN THE SANGRES, ELKS AND SAN JUANS



Making Turns in Colorado, Volume 2: The South by Fritz Sperry due Fall '21.

Fritz follows up on his northern statewide book with this large volume of routes for the southern part of the state. The goal is to double the size of volume 1, with two hundred routes, spread across the San Juans, Sangres and Elk Mountains. As usual he covers winter backcountry options and spring ski mountaineering lines, the goal is to bring more options to the table, reducing user density for all the routes as a whole. There are routes around all the major towns in the southern sector. There are even hot spring ski adventures, a novel benefit of the region's volcanic past. The Traverses section will be expanded and since every route seems to bring ten more lines to the author's attention there will always be the Teasers to tempt the imagination.

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**MAKINGTURNS IN COLORADO VOLUME 2: THE SOUTH****138 Peaks/Zones – 170 Routes - Goal of 200 Routes****ELK MOUNTAINS**

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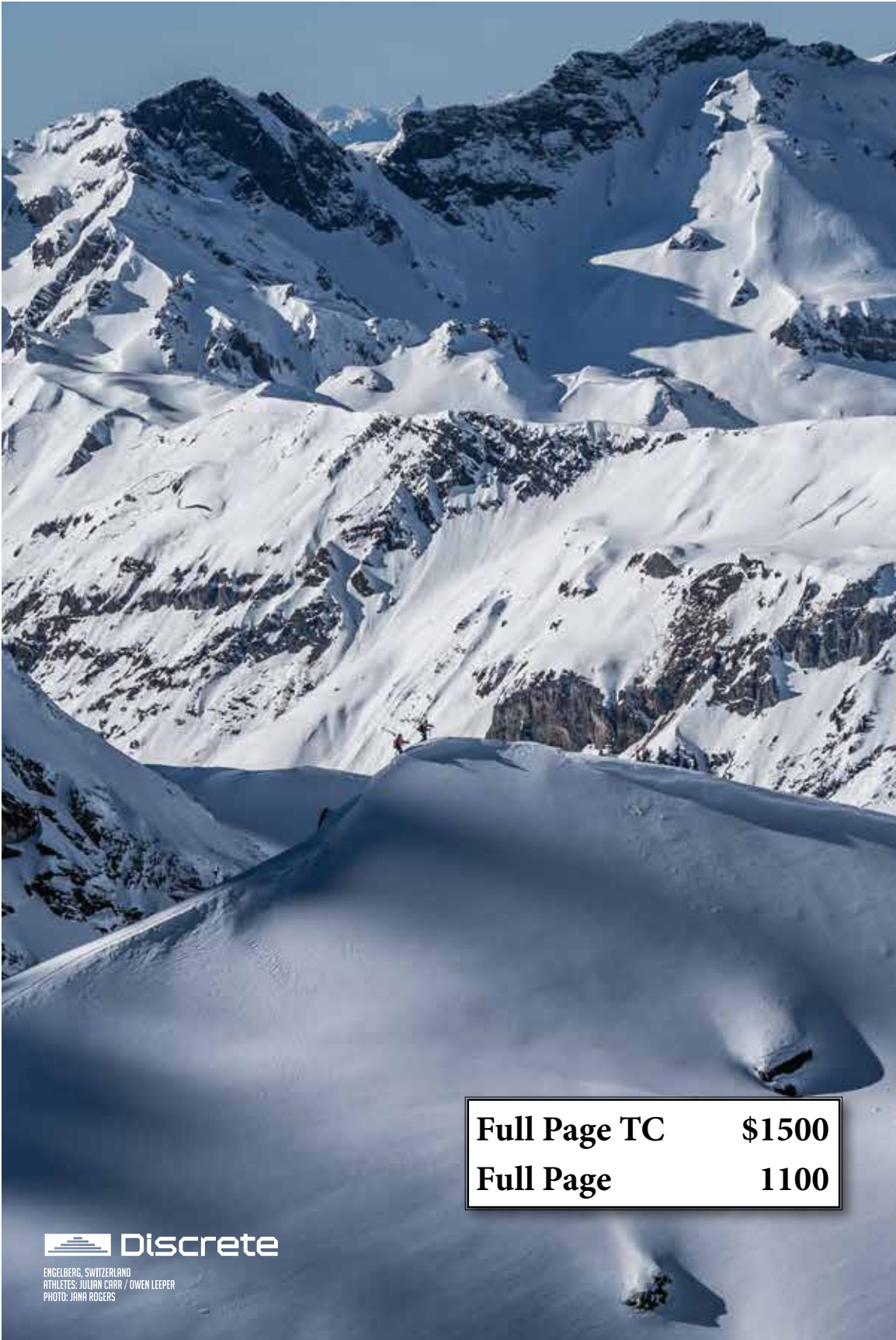
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2 MARBLE MOUNTAIN - 11,314'

This point is named for the town of Marble, which sits at the northern base of the mountain. Marble has a storied place in the history of America, or better yet in the memories of our history. The Marble Quarry produced the stone for the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Lincoln Memorial. This low elevation peak offers some choice winter descents. Respect is due though, these slopes have killed in the past. The routes covered here are owned by Lou Dawson, the Hall of Fame originator of fourteener skiing.

2a. - Marble Mountain	The Fridge to Marble Extreme	
DIFFICULTY: Advanced	DISTANCE: 7.8 Miles Roundtrip	VERTICAL: 3,100'
SUNHIT: Sunrise + 2	ASPECT: North	SEASON: Winter
TRAILHEAD: Marble Mtn	MAP: Page 310	PHOTO: Page 216-217

From the trailhead follow the trail that leads up in to the aspens, just east of Mud Creek. The route snakes it's way through the trees and leads to the north trending ridge of Marble Mountain. This is a steeper ascent and care should be taken to minimize threats from above on the ascent. I only ski this mountain when there are stable conditions. The aspect to skinner's left has taken lives in the past use care here. As the trees thin the route reaches the spine of the North Ridge and a sweet view of Marble Extreme. This is a good chance to look at the route's condition and feasibility. Take the ridge to the summit.

Once on top you'll get a great view of the Fridge zone. Pick your line and make your way over to it along the ridge that extends west from the summit. There is a nice upper section on most





choices, There is also a low angle option, though this choice is under the steeper sections directly off the summit, so this is not a high danger option.



After the Fridge ski down mellow slopes, following the drainage. This is not a place to let them rip too fast, the roll over is the beginning of Marble Extreme. This is a steep 45 degree zone with sparse Christmas Trees, chutes and dramatic surroundings, with chalky looking cliffs to skiers right. You can follow the creek all the way to the road and a very short walk back to your car at the trailhead.



Looking back up at the Marble Extremes.
athlete: Mark Kelly





MAKING TURNS IN COLORADO VOLUME 2: THE SOUTH



Rob Laugner and Anne Branson discussing the route before we commit to the lower section.

99b - Wolf Creek Pass	Lobo Gully	
DIFFICULTY: Intermediate-Advanced	DISTANCE: 7.8 Miles Roundtrip	VERTICAL: 3,100'
SUNHIT: Sunrise + 3	ASPECT: Northeast	SEASON: Winter
TRAILHEAD: Wolf Creek Pass	MAP: Page 310	PHOTO: Page 216-217

This is the most direct route coming off of Lobo Overlook, it is pretty mild in this zone, but there are some serious traps to be aware of and avoid. With how deep the pass gets at times, this route is almost too flat for great skiing.

From the lot follow the trail leading to the saddle east of the Overlook. Turn left here and make your way up the road that leads to the Overlook Summit. Cross the Lobo Gully and leave the road on the other side. Follow the ridge South to the summit.

Drop into the gully and enjoy short, sweet, undulating sections to the road you skinned up. There are short start zones here also. The terrain gets more fun the lower you go, below the skin road, but the lower gully is a serious terrain trap. Use extreme care here, a better option would be to skin back up to Powerline, if your plan is to ski to the road, this is a better ridgeline option with less threat from above. Use extra care in this zone during windy days; there are a lot of dead trees standing, on one trip we saw multiple trees fall.

Lobo Overlook





WOLF CREEK PASS 99



Note the instability in the snow around the small trees, be aware of threats from above.
athlete: Rob Laugner





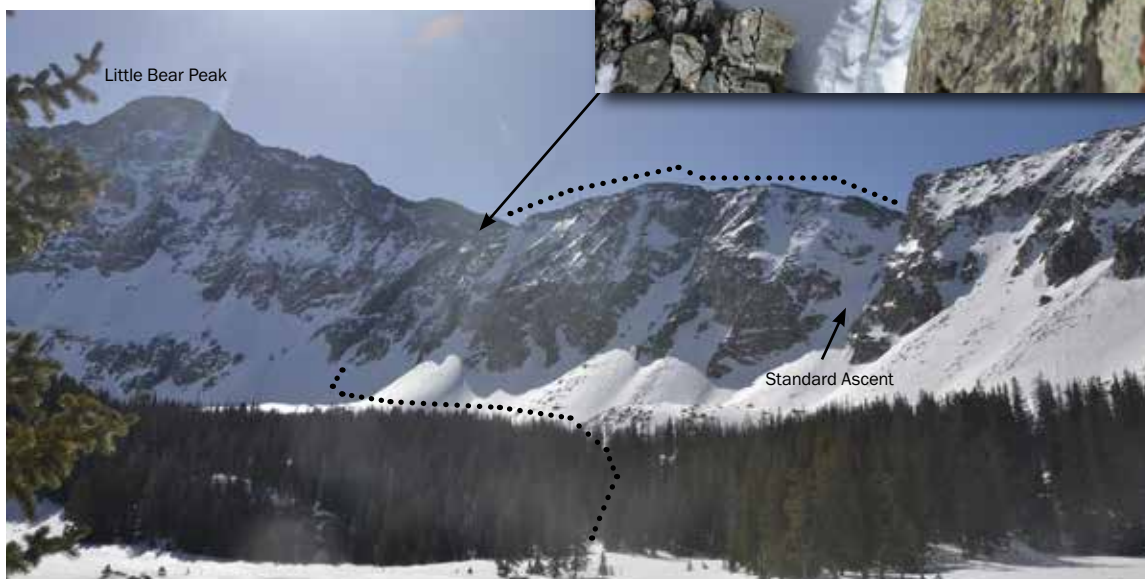
MAKING TURNS IN COLORADO VOLUME 2: THE SOUTH

127b - Little Bear Peak	Baby Thunder	
DIFFICULTY: Expert	DISTANCE: 7.8 Miles Roundtrip	VERTICAL: 3,100'
SUNHIT: Sunrise + 3	ASPECT: North	SEASON: Spring
TRAILHEAD: Lake Como Road	MAP: Page 310	PHOTO: Page 216-217

It's always good to have a Plan B; I wish all the Plan Bs could be as fun as this one. Heading up to Lake Como, one usually has the big lines as the main objectives, this line is awesome on it's own should conditions dictate cooler slopes or you want to add a little extra spice after skiing the Hourglass.

Skin to the south side of Lake Como and head up the main gully above, this leads to the ridge that provides access to the Hourglass. Follow this ridge about .5 miles to a deeply clefted chute. This is Baby Thunder. Contouring beyond this you have a short rampy section and then the snowfield leading to the Hourglass and the summit of Little Bear. This snowfield can get hot early and should be considered carefully as it is over cliffs.

One can rap or ski an exposed entrance to get into Baby Thunder. The ski entrance isn't in every year;; this entrance is one hundred feet west along the ridge. bring a 60 meter rope if planning on rappeling. The line itself is in the mid 40s on average and sports a couple of short 50 degree chokes.





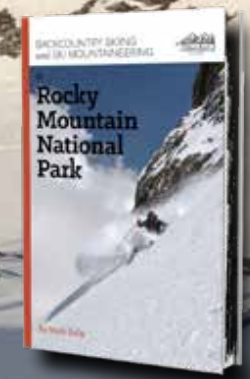
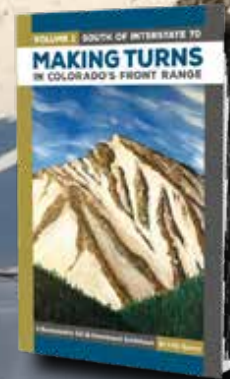
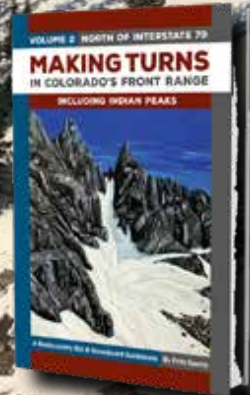
LITTLE BEAR PEAK 127

A look back at the line.
photo: Pat Gephart



Above the upper choke.
athlete: Pat Gephart





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