

## An Unbelievably Brief History of Climbing

- Historically – climbing was a specialist activity with a purpose
  - Chinese watercolors that depict men climbing rocks.
  - The Anasazis
  - Sheep herders of Mingulay
- Generally became associated with exploration and botany
  - Thomas Johnson in 1639 – 1<sup>st</sup> ascent of Snowdon
  - James Robertson in 1771 – 1<sup>st</sup> ascent of Ben Nevis
- **1786:** The first mountain ascending ascent of Mont Blanc by Jacques Balmat
- **1869:** John Muir makes the first ascent of Cathedral Peak in Tuolumne Meadows
- **1875:** *Half Dome* in Yosemite National Park is first climbed by George Anderson.
- **1886:** W. P. Haskett Smith makes the first ascent of *Napes Needle*
- **1910:** Otto Herzog designs the first steel carabiner, specifically made for climbing
- **1910:** Austrian development of abseiling
- **1910 to 1914:** Hans Dülfer suggests using equipment to ascend otherwise unclimbable rock, devises dulferitz abseiling technique (Dulfer harness/sling)
- **Great War:** Much fighting occurred in the high Alps on the borders of numerous countries – creation of 'Via Ferrata's'
- **1927:** Laurent Grivel designs and sells the first rock drill and expansion bolt.
- **1927:** Fred Pigott's develops of the modern chock
- **1930:** Jack Longland climbs *Javelin Blade* – 1<sup>st</sup> E1
- **1930's:** Mountain Rescue Councils set up country wide by military
- **1932:** Mass Trespass on Kinder
- **1934:** Pierre Allain champions bouldering at Fontainebleau
- **1938:** Cassin ascends the *Walker Spur* of the Grandes Jorasses
- **1938:** North Face of the Eiger ascended by Harrer, Kasperek, Heckmair and Vörg
- **1940s:** World War II leads to the development of inexpensive army surplus pitons, carabiners and the newly-invented nylon rope
- **1947:** 1<sup>st</sup> civilian mountain rescue team established in Kendal
- **1950:** Peak District National Park created
- **1952:** Joe Brown makes the FA of *Cenotaph Corner*(E1) Dinas Cromlech, Wales
- **1953:** 1<sup>st</sup> ascent of Everest by Hilary and Tenzing
- **1954:** 1<sup>st</sup> ascent of K2 by Italians Achille Compagnoni and Lino Lacedelli
- **1955:** John Gill introduces chalk & modern dynamics
- **1958:** Warren Harding and team climb the 3,000 foot *Nose* of El Capitan using siege tactics, taking a total of 45 days over an extended period.
- **1964:** Worlds first purpose built climbing wall built in Leeds designed by Dan Robinson
- **1978:** Ray Jardine invents the first modern SLCD
- **1970's:** Sport Climbing is developed, in France
- **1980:** Boreal introduces the first "sticky rubber" shoe
- **1990:** Ben Moon climbs Hubble, Raven Tor, 1<sup>st</sup> 8c+
- **1991:** The Foundry opens – first purpose built climbing centre
- **1993:** The Lyme Bay disaster leads to creation of AALA
- **1994:** Lynn Hill makes the first free climbing ascent of El Capitan in under 24 hours
- **1995:** Development of DWS
- **2000:** *Big Issue* climbed by John Dunne – 1<sup>st</sup> E10, subsequently downgraded to E9. Neil Bentley's *Equilibrium* (FA 2000) now the first
- **2006:** Worlds first E11 climbed by Dave Macleod – *Rhapsody* on Dumbarton Rock