



VITALIY MUSIYENKO

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A well-rounded mountain climber, photographer, speaker and a writer. Begun his journey in the vertical realm in 2010. While working full time as an ER nurse, he authored a three-volume guidebook, the “*High Sierra Climbing: Technical Rock and Ice*.” In addition, had many of his articles, photos and reports published in the Climbing Magazine, Rock & Ice, the Alpinist, Men’s Magazine, featured on the cover of the Climbing Magazine (issue 381), multiple feature articles in the American Alpine Journal. Known for completing more first ascents than anyone in the High Sierra, completing the biggest ridge traverse in the Northern Hemisphere (Goliath) solo and unsupported, as well as first free solo of the Yosemite Valley’s iconic Widow’s Tears (VI WI5) - the longest ice climb in the lower 48 States which is notorious for its questionable ice quality.

He plans to continue improving as an athlete, photographer and a writer, and to spend more time in the greater ranges.

Climbing Accomplishments

- 150+ Grade III-VI First Ascents with difficulties to 5.12c/M7+/WI6+ in mountain ranges around the world
- Received the Cutting Edge Award as well as Mugs Stump Award from the American Alpine Club.

Alpinism:

- White Sapphire (6,040 M) - *First Ascent* of Brilliant Blue (VI M7+, AI4) (2023)
- Denali (6,190 M) via Denali Diamond (AK VI M7+ WI5+) *2nd free ascent*
- Mount Hunter – North Buttress (AK VI M7 WI5) to third ice band.
- Fitz Roy x2 – Supercanaleta (in a day) and California Route
- Cerro Torre – Ragni Route (West Face)
- Summited every peak on Fitz Roy skyline
- Chacaraju (6,001M) – Jaeger Route ED+ (Cordillera Blanca, Peru)
- Xanadu – *First Ascent* of Arctic Knight IV 5.11c R X (Brooks Range, AK) onsight
- Alpamayo (5,947 M) – French Route D (Cordillera Blanca, Peru)
- Ama Dablam (6,812 M) – SW Ridge alpine style/unguided
- Mount Whitney – Hairline 5.10d A3 – *First Winter Ascent*
- Chopicalqui 20,817 feet – solo
- Huascaran Sur 22,205 feet

Long Free Climbs:

- Moonlight Buttress (free) V 5.12c, Zion NP – flash
- Mermoz – Red Pillar V 5.12, Patagonia - onsight
- Astroman V 5.11c, Yosemite NP, CA - redpoint
- Rainbow Wall V 5.12a, Red Rock, NV – redpoint
- Moro Rock – *First Free Ascent of Modern Guilt* IV 5.12 – redpoint

Important *First Ascents/First Free Ascents:*

- Goliath Traverse (VII 5.9) – *First Ascent*, solo, alpine style traverse of approx. 60 mountains above 13,000 ft. First grade VII mountain climb in the lower 48.
- Bubbs Creek Wall – *First Ascent/First Free Ascent of* Emperor V 5.12a, Kings Canyon NP – redpoint. FA/FFA
- The Watchtower – *First Ascent/First Free Ascent of* Big Time IV 5.12a, Sequoia NP, CA – redpoint. FA/FFA
- Moro Rock – *First Ascent/First Free Ascent of* Meteora IV 5.12b/c - Sequoia NP, CA – RP. FA/FFA
- Half Dome – *First Ascent of* Xue Way V 5.12 A0 Yosemite NP, CA. FA
- Mount Watkins - Cavity Dweller (VI C4 5.11a)
- Mount Whitney – *First Ascent/First Free Ascent* Uncertainty Principle V 5.11d, High Sierra – onsight. FA/FFA
- Angel Wings - *First Ascent of* Killing in the Name of (V 5.11+ C2)
- North Dome - *First Ascent of* Great White North (V 5.11+)
- Watsi Wall - *First Ascent of* Infinity Pool (VI 5.11 R A3)
- Mount Xanadu – *First Ascent of* Arctic Knight IV 5.11c R X, Brooks Range, AK
- Charlotte Dome – *First Ascent of* Against the Grain IV 5.11c, Sequoia NP, CA – RP. FA/FFA
- Mount Morrison - *First Ascent of* Troll Wall (V M6) as well as the East Face in Winter. OS. High Sierra, CA

List of former and current Fastest Known Times:

[Vitaliy Musiyenko | Fastest Known Time](#)

Ice/mixed:

- Nutcracker M9 WI5+ (Hyalite, MT) onsight
- Winter Dance M8 WI7 (Hyalite, MT) onsight
- 21 Stitches M9 WI6 (Hyalite, MT) onsight
- Man Yoga IV M8 WI5 RP (Canadian Rockies) RP
- Widows Tears V WI5, Yosemite NP – onsight free solo
- Cryophobia M8-9 WI5+ (Canadian Rockies) RP
- Rusty Cage M7 R 800 ft (Ouray, Colorado) onsight
- Bottomless Topless M8 WI5+ (Maple Canyon, UT) onsight
- Circus in Town M9 (Provo Canyon, Utah) RP
- Han Solo M9 (Lee Vining, CA) RP
- Silence of Beta Spew Pillar WI6/6+ (Maple Canyon, UT) *First Ascent*
- Shrink to Fit Wranglers M7+ WI5 (Maple Canyon, UT) onsight
- Rainbow Serpent WI6 (Canadian Rockies)
- Fearful Symmetry WI6 (Canadian Rockies)
- Golden Showers WI6 (Maple Canyon, UT)
- Frankenchrist WI6 (Maple Canyon, UT)
- Maple Syrup WI5-6 (Maple Canyon, UT)

Big Walls:

- El Capitan – Shortest Straw VI A4 (solo)
- El Capitan – Lunar Eclipse VI A4-
- El Capitan – Zodiac VI A3 – in a day
- El Capitan – Nose – in a day (multiple times)
- El Capitan (about 15 ascents by 8 different routes)
- Mount Watkins – Cavity Dweller (First Ascent) VI 5.11a C4
- Watsi Wall – Infinity Pool (VI 5.11 R A3)
- Ribbon Falls - Sawanobori (V 5.7 A3) (First Ascent)

Ridge Traverses & Link Ups:

- Goliath Traverse (VII 5.9) – *First Ascent*, solo, alpine style traverse of approx. 60 mountains above 13,000 ft. First grade VII mountain climb in the lower 48.
- Grand Traverse (Grand Teton NP, WY) car to car onsight in 19:30 hours
- Cirque of the Towers Traverse (Wind River Range WY) car to car, solo, onsight 14:45
- Evolution Traverse (VI 5.9) onsight car to car (former FKT)
- Full Palisade Traverse (VI 5.9) solo, 2.5 days
- Wasatch Ultimate Ridge Link Up (WURL) – c2c in a day (current unsupported FKT)
- Regular Palisade Traverse (IV 5.9) solo in about 3 hours
- Full Evolution Crest Traverse (IV 5.9) solo, 2.5 days, S to N & N to S. (current FKT both ways)
- Minarets Traverse (IV 5.9) in a day
- Saber Ridge Traverse (2,000 5.7-8) solo, car to car (current FKT)
- North Couloir (AI3) of North Peak, North Ridge of Conness (5.7), West Ridge (5.7) of Conness, downclimb North Ridge (5.7) of Conness, climb back up North Peak, downclimb NW ridge (5.5) of North Peak, solo, car to car. Current FKT of the link up.
- Tenaya Triple car to car in 5 hours 2 mins. Former FKT. (NW Buttress of Tenaya Peak (5.5), full Matthes Crest Traverse (5.8), SE Buttress (5.7) of Cathedral Peak)

Standout Endurance Performances:

- 2nd overall at Running Up For Air (RUFA) Grandeur Peak 12 Hour Race. (2024)
- Wonderland Trail (93 miles 24,000 feet of elevation gain) - under 23 hours (2023)
- San Joaquin 100K (15,000 feet of elevation gain): 11:52 - placed 5th (2021)
- Improved marathon time from 3:36 to 3:08 in 2 months of training (2021)