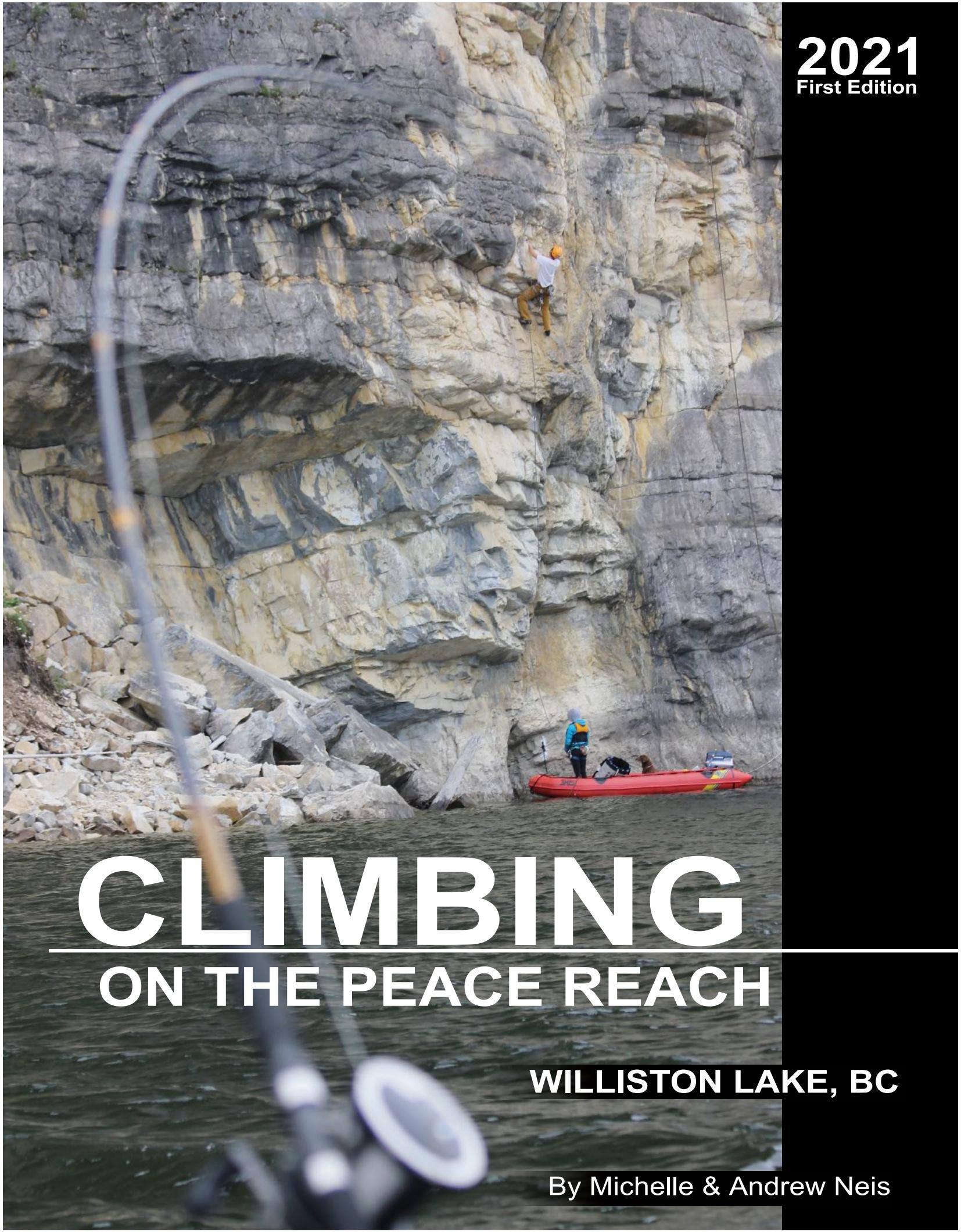


2021
First Edition

A photograph of a rock climbing scene. A climber in a white shirt and orange pants is positioned on a light-colored, layered rock face. Below them, a red inflatable boat with two people is on the water. A rope extends from the climber down towards the boat. The background shows more of the rocky cliff.

CLIMBING

ON THE PEACE REACH

WILLISTON LAKE, BC

By Michelle & Andrew Neis

Disclaimer

Rock climbing is a hazardous activity and carries a significant level of risk for injury or death, and should only be undertaken with the fullest understanding of all the inherent risks. The climbs, terrain, and the environment are all subject to a constant state of change. This book is only a guide to the climbs, some information may not be completely accurate. Use of this guidebook must always be undertaken with the required experience, knowledge, and careful judgement that's needed for full safety well undertaking these activities. Please pay attention and stay safe.

Boating is a hazardous activity. There are inherent risks involved with boating, including but not limited to equipment failure, perils of the water, acts of other participants, and adverse water and weather conditions. Boating and being in its environment is a risky business requiring a high level of self-responsibility and common sense.

Rock Climbing while Boating is combining these two hazardous activities. What is written in this guide is a suggestion only and your judgement of what is right for you at every moment is paramount. At all times, pay attention to your surroundings and actions, and above all, be safe.



Preface

Fart Buckets Denied

Summer of 2020. Travel restrictions had us looking to our own backyards and some of us found the most idyllic hidden gems! But before we get into the place, a brief note on the people. Michelle and Andrew Neis, two amazing humans I have gotten to know on climbing trips around the world. These gems hide themselves away in Northern BC and for reasons unknown, have a hard time getting visitors. With a name like 'Fish N' Clips' how could I resist going to Williston Lake. "Hey Michelle, will you guys be there August 12th to 20th?" ... "Fart buckets, we are coming back from there on the 12th...but if you're serious we will accommodate!" And just like that, fart buckets denied!

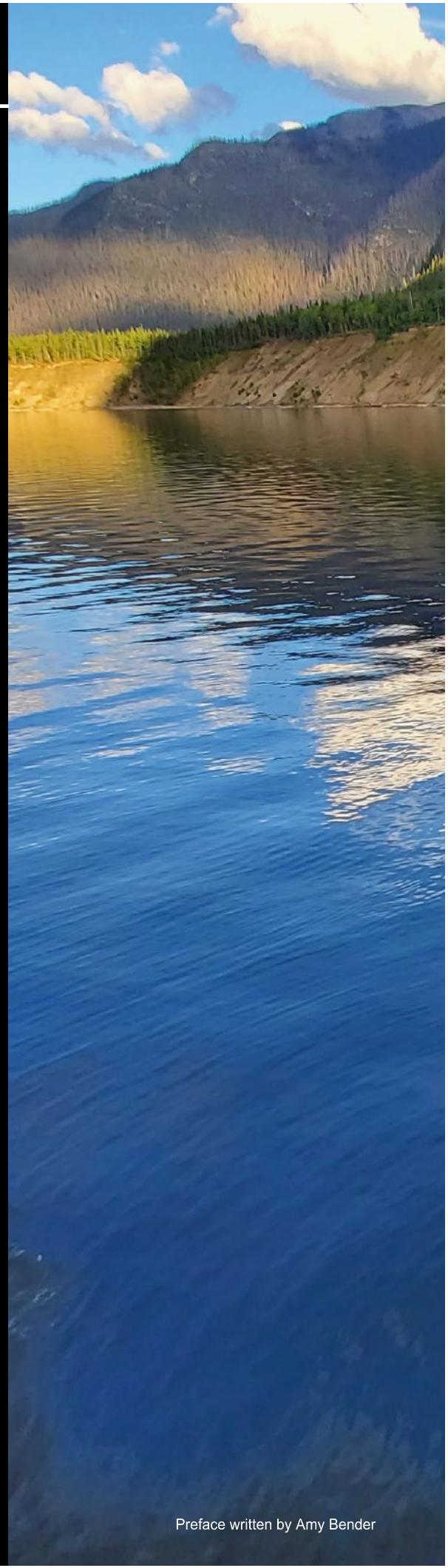
Just a short 10 and a half hour drive from Squamish to Mackenzie, BC. Then a mere 2 hrs across 92km of active logging road and a tetris packed zodiac boat ride later, we arrived at basecamp for the next 2 weeks!

Spectacular. I really can't describe the surroundings adequately. Lake for days in every direction, walls that stretch from water to sky, sky from horizon to horizon and the clean contrasting colours that you can only find in remote backcountry areas.

Okay, but what about the climbing? Well for starters, the zodiac boats come in super handy. You will shoe up, rope up and climb right out of your boat while your belayer perfects their sea legs. Belayer, beware rock shrapnel. The whistle and plops into the water kept the dogs highly entertained and the belayer happy to be wearing a helmet. Nothing big, just the usual from an area that had only seen 10 different climbers to date.

If you need more to entertain yourself, bring a rod and tackle and attempt to catch "the big one". Michelle and I almost got him! He fell off the hook just as we were positioning the net to haul in dinner - I swear!! Even without the fresh fish, we enjoyed dinners together around our beachfront campfires. Watching the embers of the fire as the long summer evenings turned to night and then savouring the depth of the night sky. And after you've been out there long enough, you start to forget about the rest of the world. Maybe the pandemic has wiped out all of civilization and we are the sole survivors...anyone else think those moving lights in the night sky are acting funny? Satellites don't line up like that Aliens! Maybe it's aliens! Ok, they weren't aliens, they were SpaceX's Starlink Satellites but we weren't the only ones thinking UFOs.

I don't really know what else to tell you, except that thinking back on this trip has made me want to hop in the car and head straight back out there. It's a magical spot and not at all your typical send-fest rock trip but that's kinda the whole point!



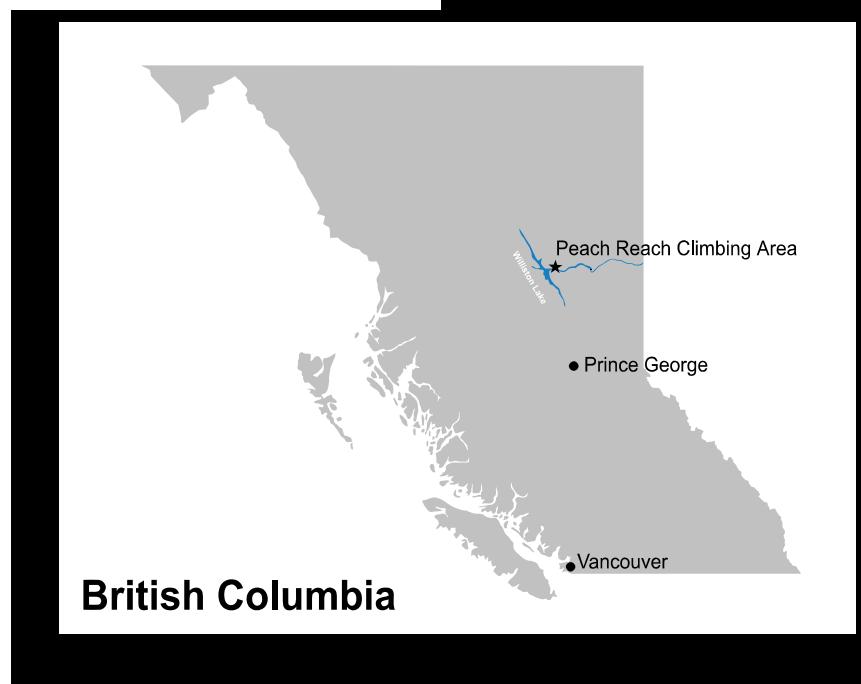


Welcome to Climbing on the Peace Reach

Climbing on the Peace Reach is about having some adventure, and being ok with occasionally getting wet. Located in the middle of the Rocky Mountains, the feeling of remoteness and the wild nature of your surroundings add to the incredible experience. The strong adventure component has as much to do with the thrill of getting here as it does with the climbing itself.

The amount of developed climbs in the area is just scratching the surface of potential. Do not let the limited number of established routes fool you into thinking there is only a day or two worth of climbing to be had. The established cliffs seem small but only in comparison to the large vast wilderness around it.

For those that do find themselves in a boat venturing out in search for climbing on the Peace Reach, a small in number but large in adventure, area awaits you. On the reach you'll find the fully bolted sport crag of Fish N' Clips and Canada



Day buttress, or the mixed climbs with spectacular views at the Moon Man crag. You might even feel inspired decide to join the very small group of climbers and add to the slowly growing list of established routes and crags.

What ever caught your eye and sparked the interest in treating yourself to a Peach Reach climbing holiday, once you've had a taste for the amazing experience the region has to offer, you will want to come back again and again.

Introduction

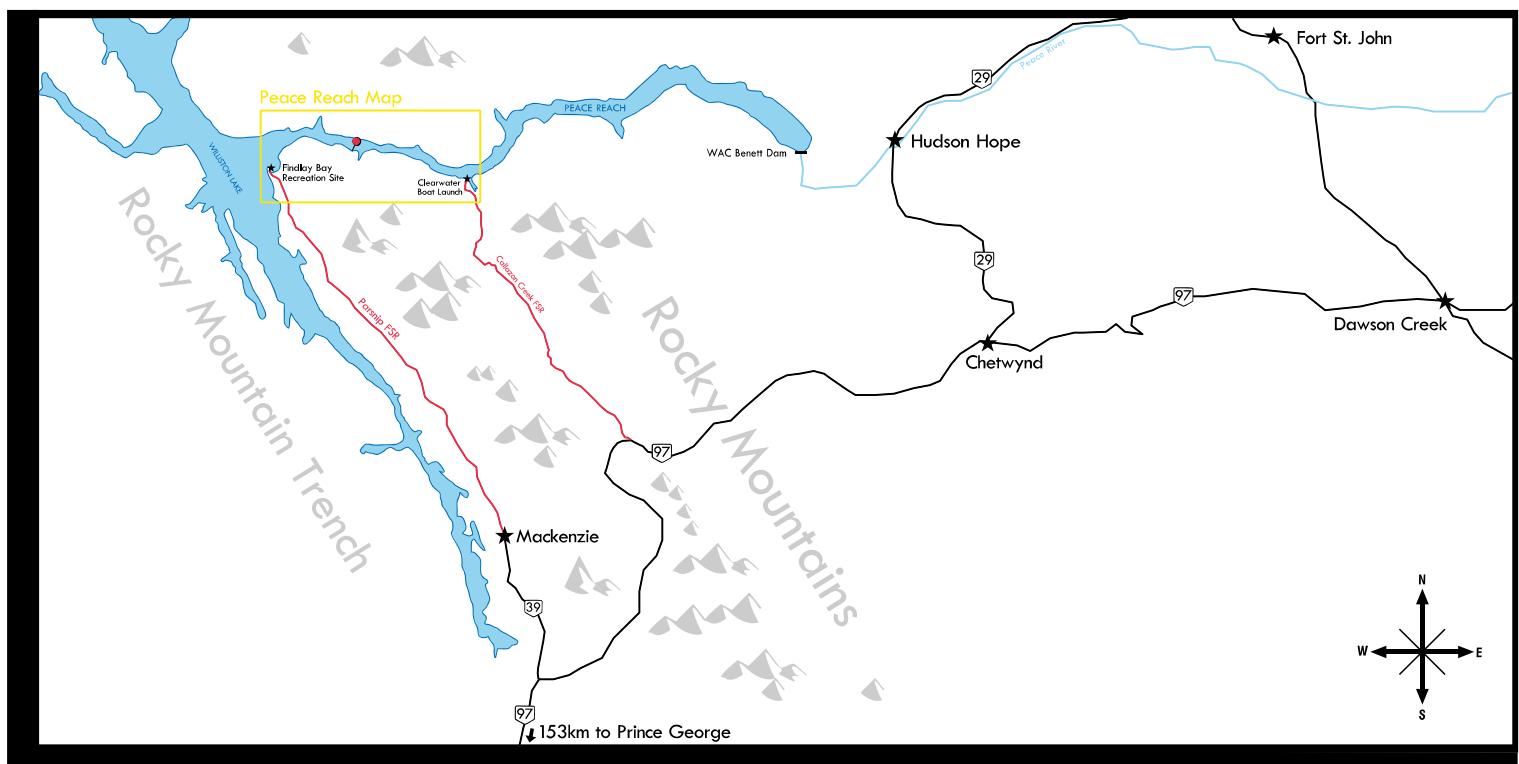
Geography

Williston Lake is a 251-km-long and 155-km-wide reservoir. The lake is the result of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam, constructed on the Peace River in 1968 and is located in the Northeastern part of British Columbia, Canada.

The lake fills the basin of the upper Peace River backing into the Rocky Mountain Trench which is where the Parsnip and Finlay rivers met at Finlay Forks to form the Peace River. The lake includes three reaches, the Peace Reach, Parsnip Reach and Finlay Reach. The lake covers a total area of 1,761 km², making it the largest lake in BC and the seventh largest reservoir by volume in the world.

The reservoir is fed by the Finlay, Omineca, Ingenika, Ospika, Parsnip, Manson, Nation and Nabesche Rivers and by countless creeks, including Clearwater Creek, Carbon Creek, and Selwyn Creek, just to name a few.

The Peach Reach is the east arm of Williston Lake. Beginning at Finlay Bay it bends and curves 120km to the WAC Bennett Dam. The Peace Reach is the only water body that cuts completely through the Rocky Mountains, and spans the Continental Divide. The Peach Reach is in the middle of the Northern Rocky Mountains and is the subdividing line that splits the Rockies into the Muskwa range north of the Peace Arm and the Hart Range on the south.



Introduction

After passing through the Dam, the Peace River carries on for 1,923kms and flows northeast through Alberta. The Peace River joins the Athabasca River in the Peace-Athabasca Delta to form the Slave River, a tributary of the Mackenzie River. The Finlay River which is the main headwater of the Peace River is regarded as the ultimate source of the Mackenzie River. All the water continues until it reaches the Arctic Ocean. The combined Finlay-Peace-Slave-Mackenzie river system is the 2nd longest river system in North America, second only to the Mississippi



Getting There

When it comes to the logistics of climbing on the Peace Reach, the answer to "How do I get there?" is what separates this place from most other climbing areas. On the list of essential gear, a boat is number one on the list. Even though the approach is involved and lengthy, it's also what makes a trip a true adventure and expedition.

The two nearest boat launches from the Fish N' Clips climbing sector are about 25km and 35km away. Both boat launches are reached by long, seldom-graded, gravel forestry service roads; the Parsnip FSR, and Callazon Creek FSR. The Finlay Bay access is more commonly used to access the Peace Reach Arm, and includes a more maintained road, less seclusion in the event of car troubles, and a shorter distance to the town of Mackenzie.

Introduction

The town of Mackenzie, BC: The closest town relative to accessing the Peace Reach via Finlay Bay. Located in the northern tip of the Central Interior at the bottom of the Omineca Mountain Range, just on the west side of the Rocky Mountains. Mackenzie is 185 km north of Prince George, 177km south of Chetwynd and 27 km west of the junction of highway 39 and 97. Mackenzie is a forestry and mining town, equipped with full amenities; grocery store, hotels, (2) gas stations (the Co-op card lock will sell you fuel without a member card) a hospital and emergency services.

Finlay Bay: This sheltered bay at the north end of the Parsnip Reach is the most northern boat launch on the Parsnip FSR and is a popular campground among boaters wishing to access Williston Lake. From Mackenzie, continue to follow hwy 39 north straight through town. About 6km after leaving town, the pavement will turn into a gravel road. Follow this gravel road to an intersection where it joins the Parsnip West FSR at km 12, continue north on this road. You may experience the occasional blip of reception on the first few km's of the FSR but cell service typically is nonexistent passed this point. The speed limit is 80km/h, but expect to travel speeds more like 40-60km/h. Follow KM markers over many bridges passed provincial parks, rec sites, and more. Just passed the final marker, km 92, the road comes to an abrupt end and a less maintained trail to the right will lead into the Finlay Bay Rec Site. This rec site is equipped with drop toilets and several nice campsites.

Accessing the Peace Reach via Finlay Bay has a couple benefits over other access points. First, it being closer proximity to Mackenzie; Supply runs, emergency services, tow truck, ect. Secondly, although the overall distance traveled on gravel road is further than that of the Callazon Creek FSR, the Parsnip FSR is typically in better condition and is more frequented by others, in the event you have vehicle troubles. Good tires with a healthy amount of tread is recommended. The boat launch here is typically usable regardless of the reservoir level.

Clearwater: The Callazon Creek FSR is scenic. This rugged, winding road traverses a remote mountain pass, and offer views far exceeding that of the seemingly boring road to Finlay Bay. If you are looking to maximize adventure, this, maybe the road for you. Keep in mind excessive rains may and periodically cause washouts, possibly stranding you and your vehicle. In 2012, rain washed sections of the road away and repairs weren't completed until 2014. This happened again in 2018, this time, however, repairs were made in a more timely fashion, completed only a few months later due to plans for logging in the area. But do not let that put you off, keep an eye on the weather and consider the duration of your trip as factors regarding whether or not to choose this as your access point. It's also worth noting, it is a further boat trip to access the climbing from the Clearwater than Finlay Bay.

A GPS or Google Map type reconnaissance is helpful to locate the turn off the hwy. This is an easy-to-miss gravel road that begins in the middle of the Pine Pass on hwy 97. From Chetwynd it's about 81km into the Pine Pass. If traveling from Prince George the road is about 65km past the Mackenzie Junction. Once on the Callazon FSR continue for 70km until the road ends at the Clearwater Arm of Williston Lake. Please note the cabin and dock reside on private land.



Introduction

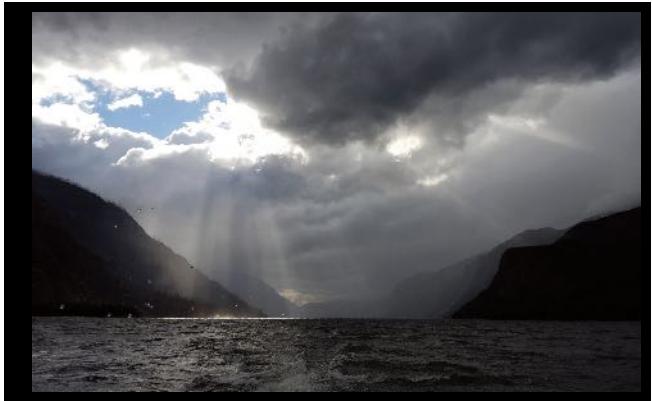
When using either of the forestry service roads, be aware that anytime **fast-moving logging trucks, pick-ups hauling boats and working industrial equipment may be encountered**. These roads are radio-controlled and although a radio isn't mandatory, it is recommended. Make effort to clear the road for loaded logging trucks, they're famous for providing very little room when met, unannounced, on a hill or sharp corner. Be alert, drive with caution, slow down when meeting other vehicles and give working trucks the right of way.

Generally, either of these boat launches are usable at low water levels. However, if you're venturing out during early season, when the water is at its lowest, hazards such as sharp drop-offs, tree stumps and large rocks may be lurking, out of site or just below the surface.

When to Go and Weather

The climbing season on Williston Lake falls into the same category as most Canadian climbing; the summer months. July and August are the most favorable, with June and September being possible but often chilly. In the summer, day time highs average in the mid 20's, nightly lows around 7c to 10c. This mountainous environment should be treated as such. Periodically, the weather can turn quite cold and wet with night-time lows barely above freezing. Even in July, you may occasionally wake up to see fresh snow on the mountain tops, creeping its way down the slopes.

Weather on the Peace Reach can be extreme and fast moving. Afternoon thunderstorms are common during the summer. If you are on or in the water, get to land as quickly as possible at the first sign of a thunderstorm. Small, open boats, or boats without a cabin are especially at risk during a thunderstorm. Sudden strong wind, and waves of fast moving storms, can make it difficult to reach shore safely, you should have a plan to reach safety well before a storm strikes. Once ashore, seek a safe location. Stay away from tall objects, such as lone trees and take shelter in low lying areas. Knowledge is safety, seek out weather forecast for both short term and long range then plan accordingly.



Introduction

Things You Should Know

Boat Safety

All persons intending to operate a boat on Williston Reservoir should always:

- Obey all boater safety laws, which include carrying emergency equipment and wearing lifejackets.
- Carry extra shearpins and a spare propeller.
- Inform others of your destination and when you are to return.
- Observe all warning signs and stay well away from BC Hydro's dams and structures.



Extreme caution and an awareness and appreciation of hazards are essential for safe boating on Williston Reservoir.

Williston Reservoir is a very large and potentially hazardous reservoir for the unwary. Boaters are cautioned that when the reservoir is not at its maximum level, snags and stumps may lie just below the water surface. Floating and submerged debris may be encountered in all areas of the reservoir. Including entire full length trees floating vertically.



Boaters should also be aware of strong winds that occur suddenly, causing high waves (over 2 m) and strong currents. The banks of the reservoir are easily eroded and subject to sloughing from reservoir actions. If wave action is severe and you need to reach shore, it may be difficult to make a safe landing due to cliffs, unstable banks and/or floating or submerged debris along the shoreline.

Generally the reservoir level is lower during winter reaching a low water elevation in May. The reservoir reaches maximum levels in August after runoff from yearly snowmelt. A normal yearly reservoir change could be 18 m.

Communications

The Peace Arm area is remote wilderness with no cell service. In the event of an accident or other serious emergency it may be difficult and time consuming to obtain assistance. The first line of assistance is self-help and all parties traveling in the remote area should be self-sufficient. It's **highly recommended** to bring a satellite communication device.

Williston Lake does attract recreational boaters and anglers during the summer months, but it is not uncommon to go multiple days without seeing another boater on the lake.

Introduction

Climbing Logistics

Climbing at Fish N' Clips brings a couple new challenges that should be considered. While in the traditional sense of approach, Fish N' Clips is a zero-minute walking approach. All routes require a boat to reach the climbs and many need a boat to belay the climbs from. At the base of the Fish N' Clips sector, moor bolts and a fixed line have been added to attach your vessel and help with traversing the crag in a boat. It should be noted that the moor bolts are a couple feet above the water for the average reservoir level in the months of July and August. During early season or a "low reservoir level summer", the moor bolts could be 20' above the water. Extra rope for tying off your boat and a stick clip come in handy. When the reservoir level is low it can result in some climbs being **longer than 35m**. Always tie a knot in the end of your rope when lowering a climber or repelling. It's recommended tying off the stern and bow of your boat with buoy bumpers between your vessel and the rock, to prevent your boat from hitting the rock face. Both sectors of Fish N' Clips are somewhat protected from the most common wave and wind direction, the west to southwest wind. With that being said, on very windy days or if there's an east wind, the belay can be a choppy and rough affair.

A great effort has been put in to clean and remove any and all loose rock on the climbs but as with any new crag, there is always seasonal exfoliation and rock fall hazards. Helmets are highly recommended. Also consider not mooring your boat directly underneath the route you are climbing to prevent falling rocks from hitting your boat.

What to Bring

A 70-meter rope is a must, please keep in mind that climbs can be longer than 35 meters, depending on the reservoir level. A rack of 16 quickdraws will get you up most pitches on the lake crags. If you plan on climbing the mixed routes at Moon Man, it is recommended to bring a single standard rack, a set of TCU's and offset nuts. Loose rock above the crags is always a concern in the Rockies, helmets are always recommended.

Camping

The camping is when your trips really becomes a "choose your own adventure". with a number of established campsite throughout the Peace Reach, where you camp really depends on what kind of water craft you're operating, how close to the climbing you want to be and how much seclusion you desire.

Here is some basic info to help you choose a place to stay:

- The only site with a toilet is Finlay Bay. Camp areas at the Selwyn and the Wicked have had their outhouses destroyed by falling trees and are otherwise in disrepair. This unfortunate circumstance has caused some of these locations have become littered with improper disposed fecal matter during summer.

Introduction

- If your boat is larger in size, ie. power boat, jet boat, ect. you'll be limited to camping in areas that are protected from the waves, such as Finlay Bay, Wicked River, Selwyn Creek, Sandy Point. The waves can come out of different directions and can push parked boats into shore or even fill lower profile boats with water possibly swamping them. With something smaller such as a inflatable boat, you might be able to pull your boat ashore, opening up many more camping locations along the lake shore.
- The closest campsite to the climbing, that's suitable for all boat sizes, is the Selwyn Creek. This is a popular campsite among anglers and other boaters.
- Dwindling beaches: during the early summer or anytime the water level is lower, there are plenty of nice sandy and pebble beaches scattered along the shore. These beaches are quickly covered by the rising water and not seen again until the water drops. Keep this in mind if you decided to set up shop at one of these locations. The water level typically rises a few cm every day, sometimes more depending on the rain, and other weather related factors.

Wherever you choose to camp, please respect the wilderness. Follow Leave No Trace guidelines. "Pack it in, Pack it out" is a familiar mantra to seasoned backcountry visitors. Any user of recreation lands has a responsibility to clean up after themselves. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Packing out all trash and garbage is a integral part of enjoying our wild spaces and being sure they are left intact for the flora and fauna.

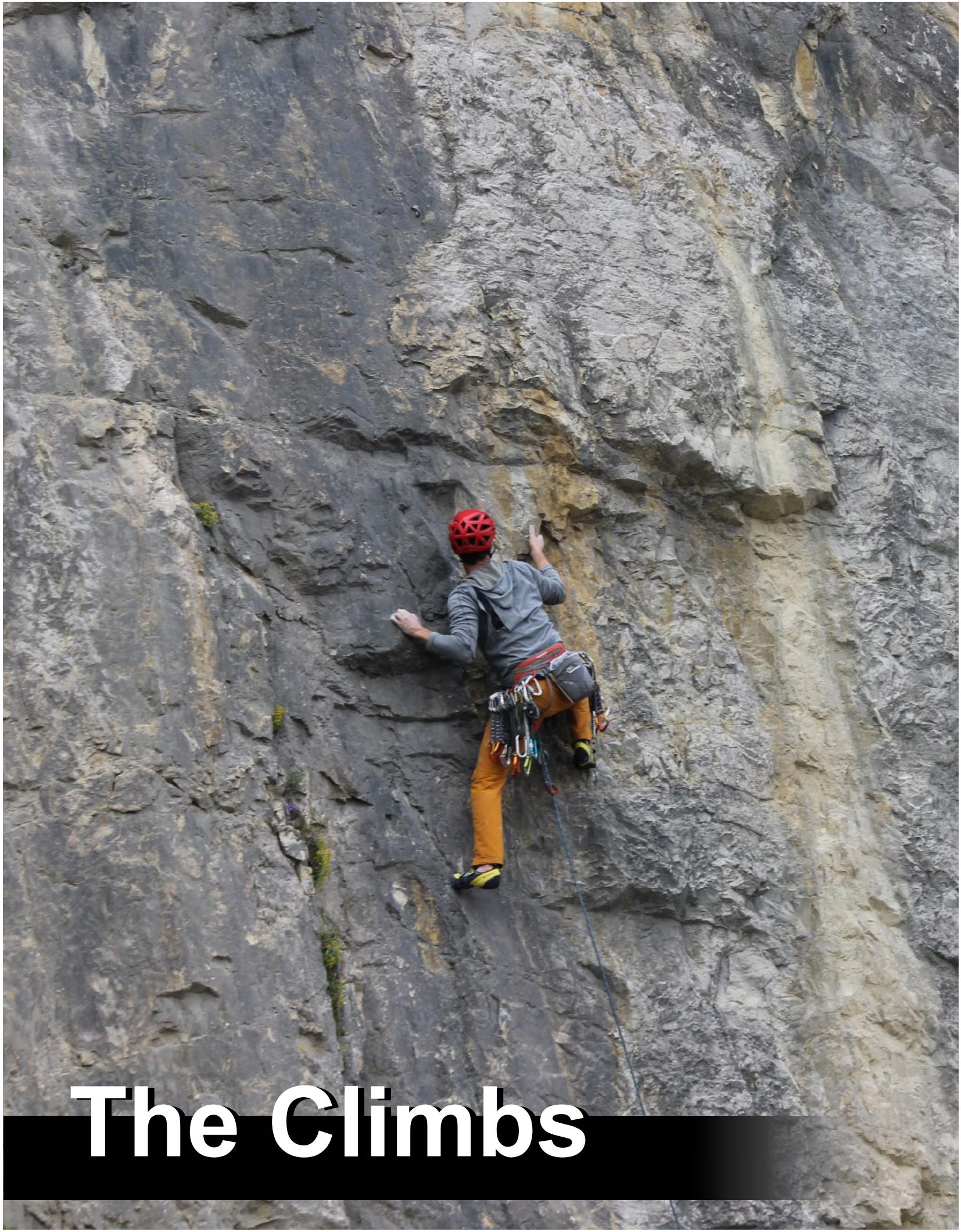
You are in bear country and it is extremely important for your safety as well as the safety of these beautiful animals that your camp is kept clean of attractants. Store anything that can attract a bear, such as food, toiletries, pet food, and garbage in airtight containers and away your sleeping area.

Proper disposal of human waste is very important to avoid pollution of water sources, avoid the negative implications of someone else finding it, minimize the possibility of spreading disease and maximize the rate of decomposition. No one is excited to find a possible camping spot littered with TP piles. Cat holes are the most widely accepted method of waste disposal. Locate cat holes at least 200 feet (about 70 adult paces) from water, trails and camp. Select an inconspicuous site where other people will be unlikely to walk or camp. With a small garden trowel, dig a hole 6-8 inches deep and 4-6 inches in diameter. After the cat hole should be covered and disguised with natural materials when finished. If camping in the area for more than one night, or if camping with a large group, cat hole sites should be widely dispersed or a larger latrine should be dug and used. Plan ahead, please do not be gross.

Please be responsible with your campfires. Always make sure they are fully out before ever leaving camp. It is not uncommon during dry summer months for BC to implement camp fire bans. Failing to adhere to fire bans and restrictions can lead to serious fines and penalties. Find out what prohibitions are in place and how they may affect fire use in your area.

Please enjoy and take care of this special, beautiful place.

Introduction

A photograph of a male rock climber in mid-climb on a large, dark grey rock face. He is wearing a red climbing helmet, a grey long-sleeved shirt, orange pants, and a grey harness with gear attached. He is positioned in the center of the frame, facing away from the camera towards the upper right. His hands are gripping a hold on the rock, and his legs are bent at the knees. A blue rope hangs down from his harness. The rock face has some yellowish-orange streaks and small patches of green vegetation.

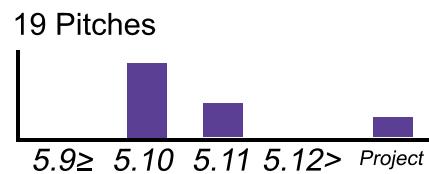
The Climbs

Fish N' Clips

Amy Bender on the opening moves of 'Paddlestar Galactica' 5.11b

Fish N' Clips

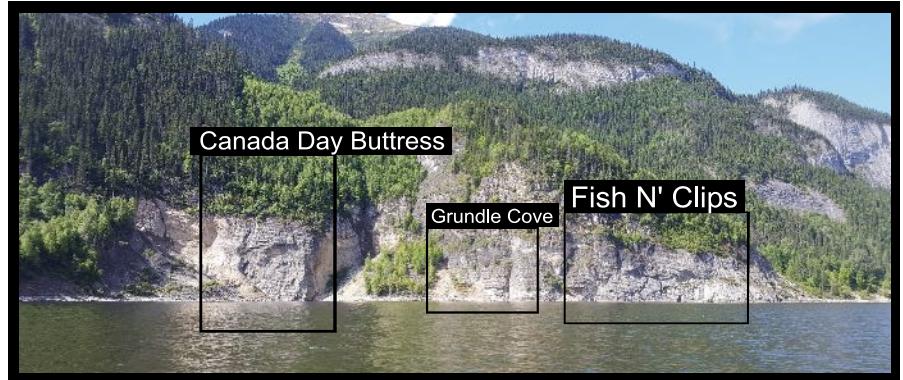
Development on this piece of rock began in 2015 and quickly turned into one of the most outstanding collections of 5.10 and 5.11 climbing you will find anywhere in NorthEast BC. Everything from technical slabs to outrageous overhangs and roof cruxes will be found all over the wall. Much of the climbing can be best described as cryptic with hard to spot holds and puzzling sequences, even the easiest routes will provide an adequate challenge. Most of the climbs are on gray compact water washed limestone, with plenty of friction.



Northeast Facing AM Sun/FM Shade



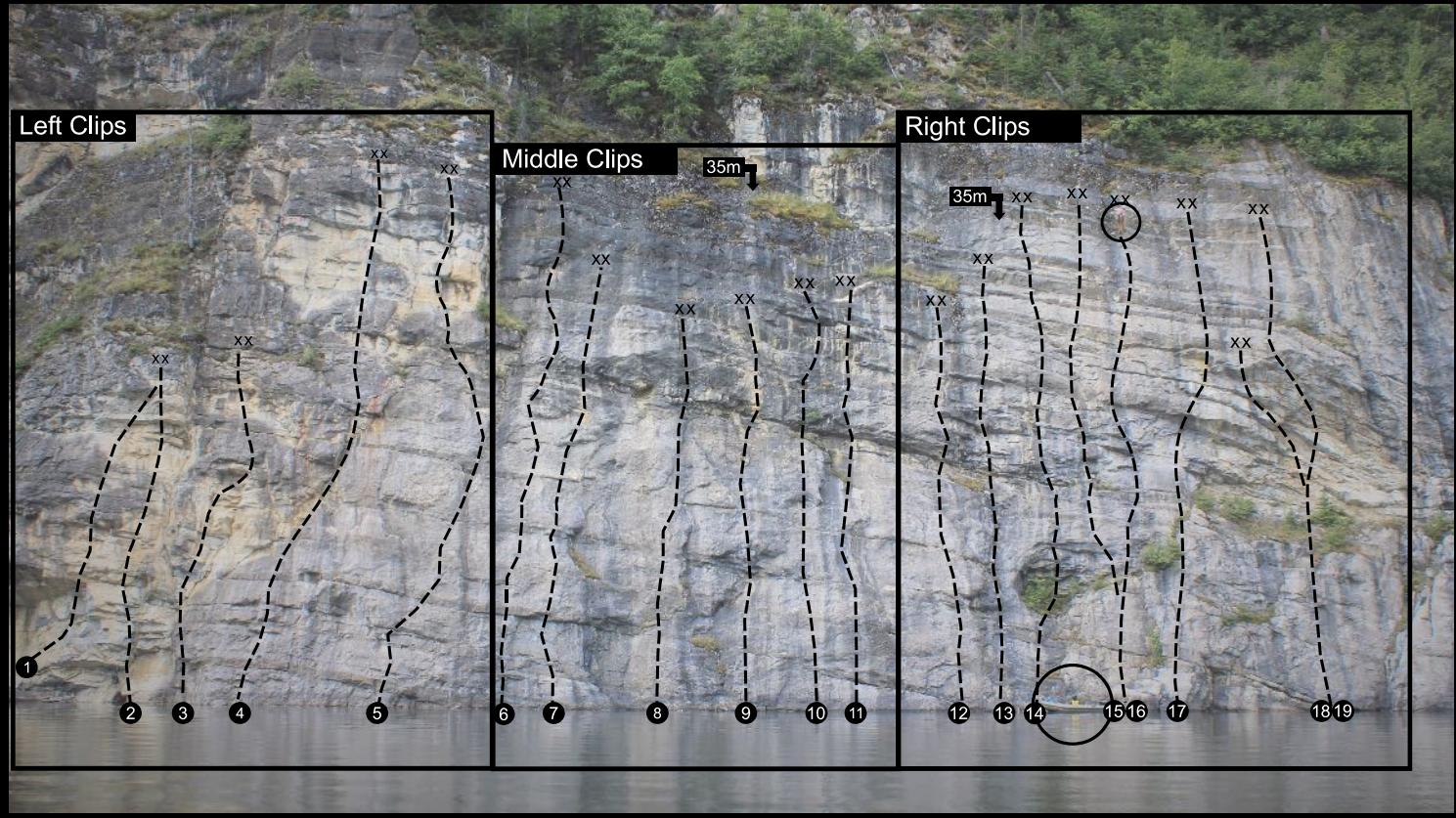
Lat: 56.022727 Long: -123.559748 Elevation: 2250'



Almost all routes at this sector require a boat belay. For more information about a boat belay please read the 'Climbing Logistics' in the introduction of this guide. It's worth noting again that during early season or low reservoir level, the moor bolts could be up to 20' above the water and **routes could be longer than 35m**. P

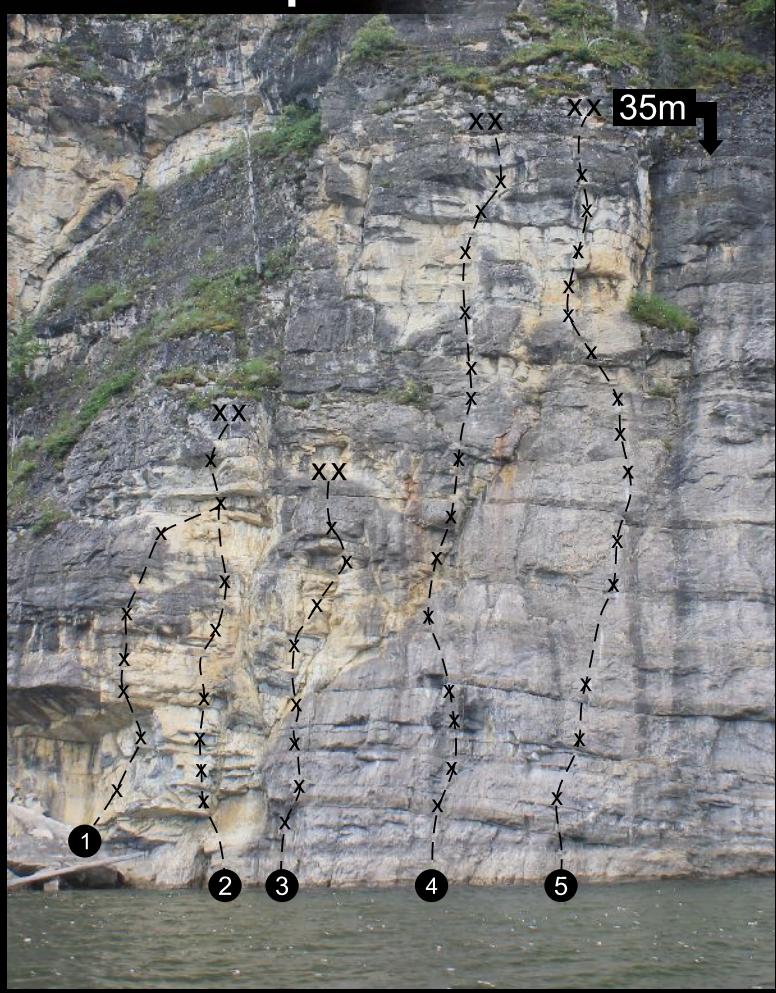
Conditions: The cliff faces northeast and receives morning sun with afternoon shade. Protected by a small apron on the right, it receives adequate protection from the wind and waves. The rock dries very quickly after rain, with only a few areas prone to seepage.

Fish N' Clips Proper Overview



Climber Dylan Stoecker at the anchors of 'Beachcomber.'

Left Clips



④ Inflate then Insert - 5.10c

FA: Andrew Neis 2016 Bolted: 2016

14x bolts - This long pitch of climbing takes you from edging gray rock, up through changing terrain and steepness in the yellow and white rock above.

⑤ Rubber Island - 5.10b

FA: Michelle Neis 2016 Bolted: 2016

14x bolts - Classic Fish N' Clips face climbing before traversing left to steeper yellow rock. Pull a steep finish through a break, to the anchor above located on a great belay ledge.



Left Clips

Steep overhanging yellow rock angles up and right across the Left Clips sector.

① Open Project

Bolted: 2017

8x bolts - One of few land-belay's to be found at this wall. Belay from small rocky patch known as Monkey island. Probably mid 5.11. Shares the anchor with Paddlestar Galactica.

② Paddlestar Galactica - 5.11b

FA: Andrew Neis 2017 Bolted: 2016

8x bolts - A classic steep outing. Big moves to big holds, leads to a beautiful crux before a wildly overhanging finish.

③ Intimidating Sailor Bulge - 5.10d

FA: Andrew Neis 2017 Bolted: 2017

8x bolts - Technical climbing starts on gray rock then leads through a series of bulges in the yellow rock above.

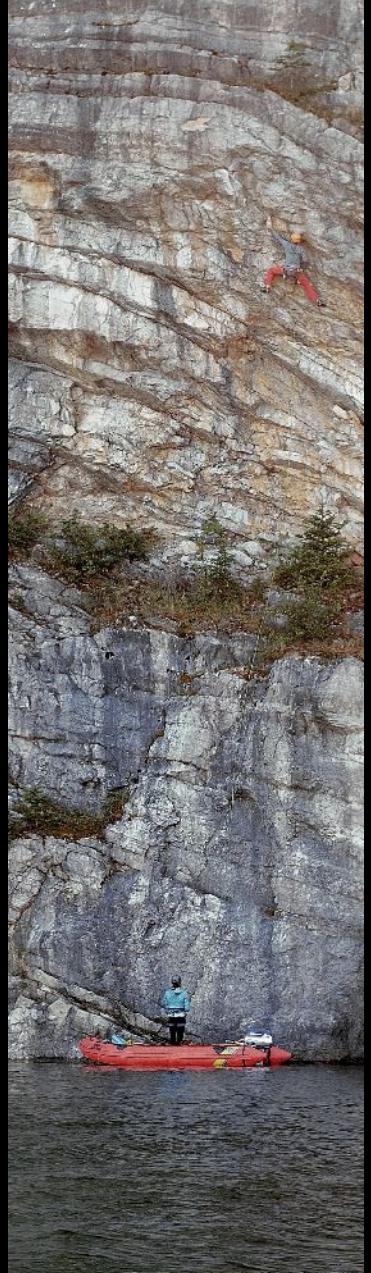
Michelle Neis bolting and cleaning at Fish N' Clips



Stephane Makarewicz on Beachcombers 5.10a

Fish N' Clips

Middle Clips



Middle Clips

Compact gray rock in the middle of the wall. All six routes in this sector require boat belays.

6 Willie Goat - 5.10d

FA: Michelle Neis 2020 *Bolted: 2020*

14x bolts - Newest addition to the wall. This excellent long pitch is characterized by sustained face climbing, with a tricky steep crux.

7 Mr. MeeSeeks - 5.11a

FA: Michelle Neis 2017 *Bolted: 2017*

12x bolts - Sparse holds, make the low bulge more difficult than expected. Balancing moves up the face lies ahead. Climb the higher roof on the left side, then enjoyable face climbing to the anchor.

8 Gravy Boat - 5.10c

FA: Michelle Neis 2017 *Bolted: 2017*

9x bolts - Interesting climbing straight up the wall leads to an awesome overhanging finish on amazing holds. Fun!

Fish N' Clips

- 9 Hash Brown Crash Down - 5.10a** FA: Michelle Neis 2015 *Bolted: 2015*
10x bolts - Start by pulling over the small roof on good holds. Dance up till you reach a mid height fixed draw, then tackle the tricky right edge of the roof.
- 10 Five Tenuous - 5.10b** FA: Michelle Neis 2017 *Bolted: 2017*
11x bolts - Tenuous climbing on edges and crimps, broken up by a grassy ledge with a tree then a tricky pull over a final small roof.
- 11 Open Project** *Bolted: 2018*
8x bolts - Starts just right of 'Five Tenuous.'

Right Clips

Tall wall of beautiful rock, with a large cave feature on the right side. Has some of the best climbs in the area.

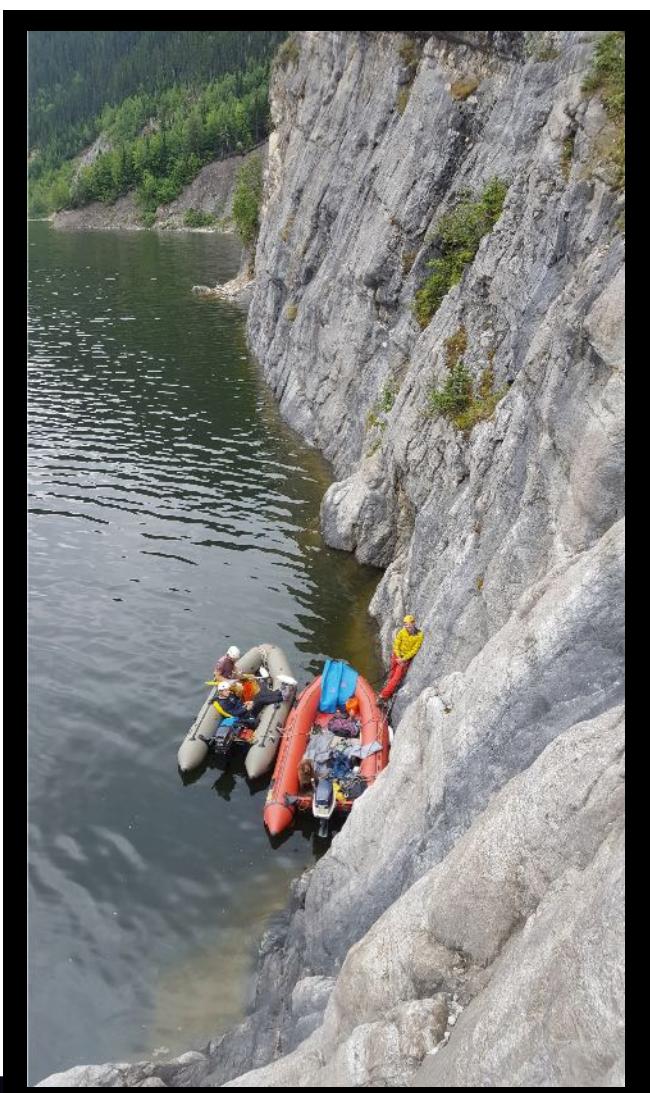
- 12 Started at the Bottom - 5.11b** FA: Dylan Stoecker 2017 *Bolted: 2017*
9x bolts - Start on the face just left of the "Mooch Pooch' corner. Work through some steep terrain, followed by technical sections.
- 13 Mooch Pooch - 5.10c** FA: Andrew Neis 2015 *Bolted: 2015*
10x bolts - A classic must do. This pitch has some amazing holds. Start by climbing the left-facing corner for four bolts, from here the angle, difficulty and fun increases.
Variation - Mooch Pirate - 5.10c - 12x bolts: Climb the beginning of 'Mooch Pooch,' at the eighth bolt climb right and finish on 'Pirate Beta' for four more bolts.
- 14 Pirate Beta - 5.11c** FA: Andrew Neis 2020 *Bolted: 2020*
12x bolts - A stellar climb. Easily climb up to the small bushy cave. Venture straight out the middle of the cave to a series of steep and memorable cruxes, each different than the last.
It is possible to belay from a small ledge located at the base of this route. During low water level routes when routes may be longer than 35m, lower and belay from this ledge.
- 15 The High Road - 5.11a** FA: Michelle Neis 2021 *Bolted: 2018*
14x bolts - Start same as for 'Beachcombers.' After 3 bolts, head left to the right side of the bushy cave. Interesting climbing on cool holds go a long way up the wall then come to a sudden stop a few bolts before the anchor.

- 16 Beachcombers - 5.10a** FA: Dylan Stoecker 2017 *Bolted: 2017*

12x bolts - This climb shares the first three bolts with 'The High Road' then follows the right set of bolts. Climb through a couple small roof features and finish with nice vertical face climbing.

- 17 Bottom Feeder - 5.11d** FA: Patrick Humphries 2020 *Bolted: 2018*
14x bolts - A much harder version of its left neighbor, might be more difficult for shorter folks.
- 18 I'll be Dammed - 5.11c** FA: Patrick Humphries 2020 *Bolted: 2018*
7x bolts - Climb the easy beginning to the base of the cave. Take the left trending bolts and holds, over the roof and onto the face above.

- 19 Bigger Fish to Fry - Project** *Bolted: 2017*
12x bolts - A short, steep and sustained climb through the steepest part of the upper cave roof. Powerful moves to get past the lip.



Right Clips



Fish N' Clips

Grundle Cove



Grundle Cove

This new wall has just been added to the Fish N' Clips sector, starting 2021. Located in between Canada Day Buttress and Fish N' clips in a small sun catching cove. The wall receives sun till the early afternoon and offers more protection from wind and waves coming from the west.

Currently, there is only one route, fully developed future plans to further develop are in the works. The right wall has a pleasant, lower angle with generous amounts of positive holds and looks like it'll host a few great moderate climbs when all said and done.

1 Ogodogo - 5.8

FA: Andrew Neis 2021 *Bolted: 2021*

10x bolts - A great, well-protected climb. Start up following the big holds and jugs. Climb up and over the left side of the small roof, then finish up on vertical rock to the anchor.

1 Pitch

5.9≥ 5.10 5.11 5.12> Project

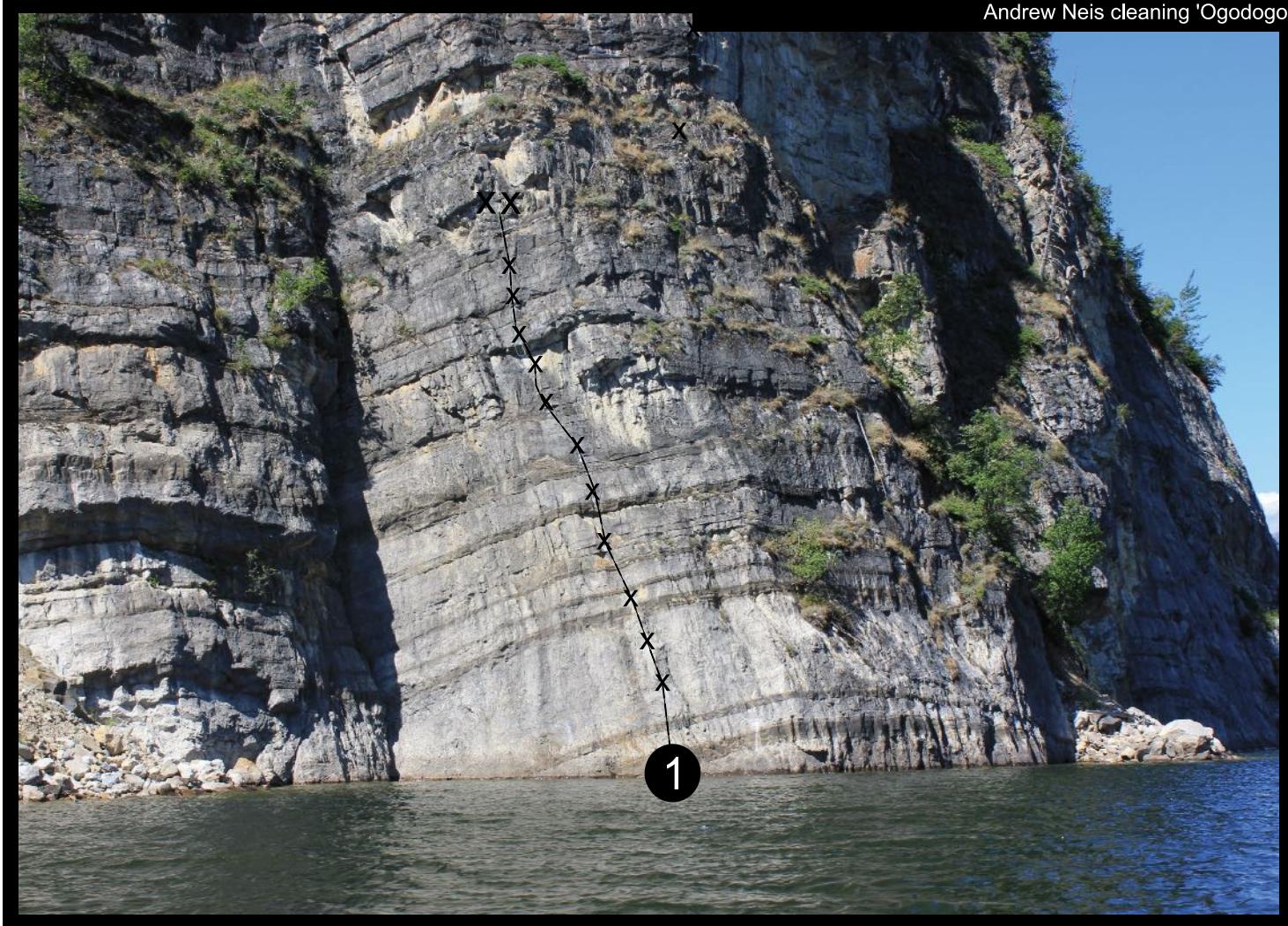
East Facing
AM and Early FM Sun



Lat: 56.02126 Long: -123.55850 Elevation: 2250'



Andrew Neis cleaning 'Ogodogo"



Canada Day Buttress



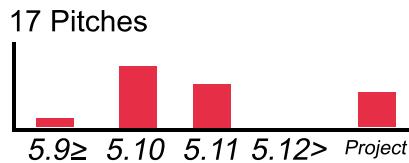
Dylan Stoecker on 'Boshe Routin' 5.10c

Canada Day Buttress

Canada Day Buttress is part of the Fish N' Clips sector, located 200 meters to the left of the main face of Fish N' Clips proper. This rock face can be deceiving when it comes to the height. There are multiple two pitch climbs on this wall, including two routes that go over the large imposing roof and into the beautiful contrasting striped rock above. Covered in edges and some ledges, routes here are characterized as mostly vertical to off-vertical technical climbing with steep sections. This is a great place to climb if you want to get out of the boat and belay on land. This is helpful on windy days when the waves are making the boat belay choppy.

Conditions: The cliff faces Northeast and receives morning sun with afternoon shade. Tucked into a bit of an alcove it receives some protection from the common west wind. The rock is very quick to dry after rain, with only a couple seeps under the steep roofs.

The base of the crag has been consistently changing every year. A small seasonal creek runs down the large gully to the left and has been slowly washing away the dirt banks into the lake. This has made landing spots and trails limited and temporary. Each season, new flat areas and a trail is carved out of the sloughing sand mound at the base. At this time, accessing 'The Ramp' is challenging and depending on the conditions of the sand hill, not possible. We are optimistic, though, over the next few years this issue will resolve itself and in doing so, possibly create an entire new sector of climbing.

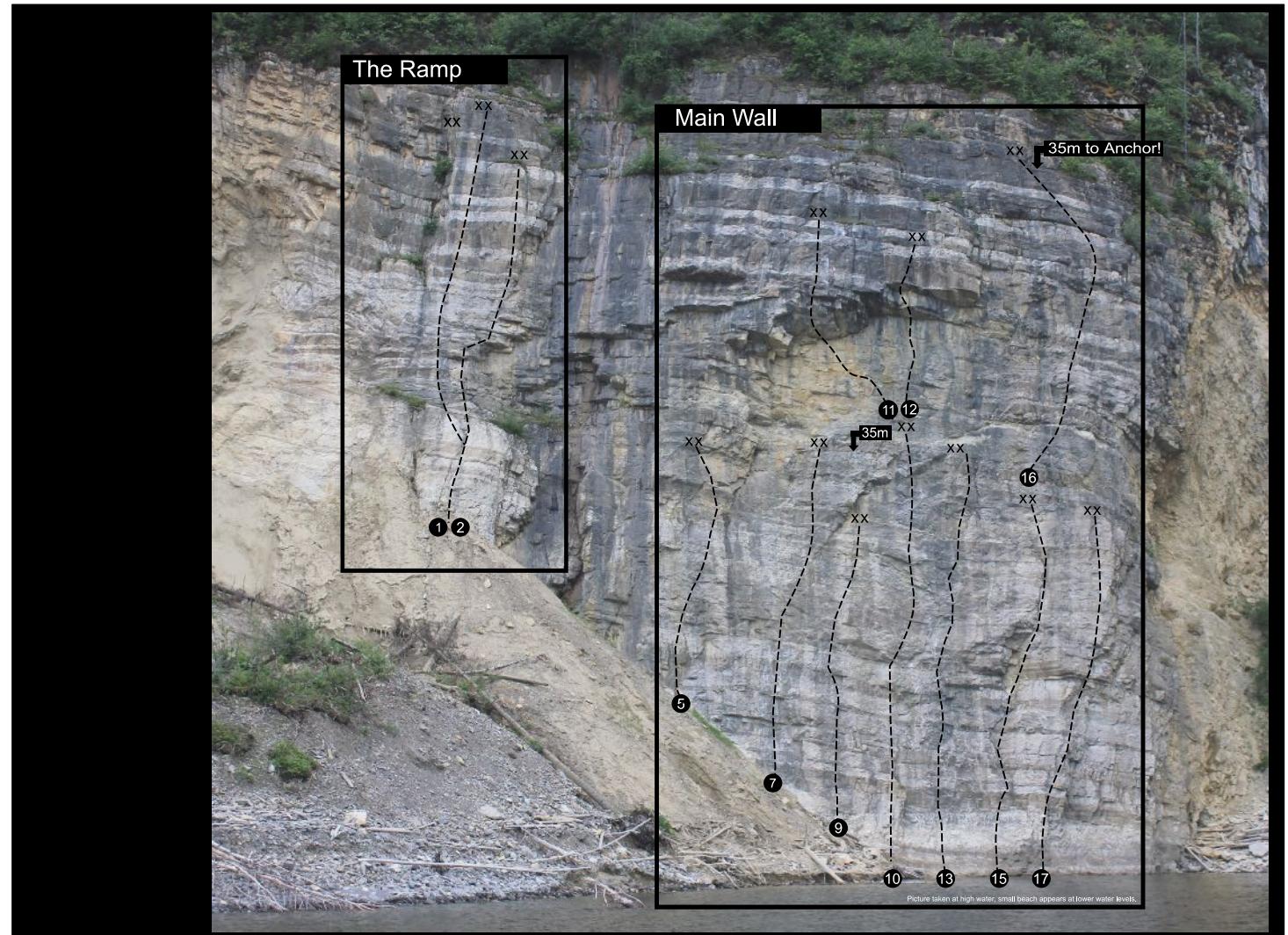


Northeast Facing
AM Sun/FM Shade

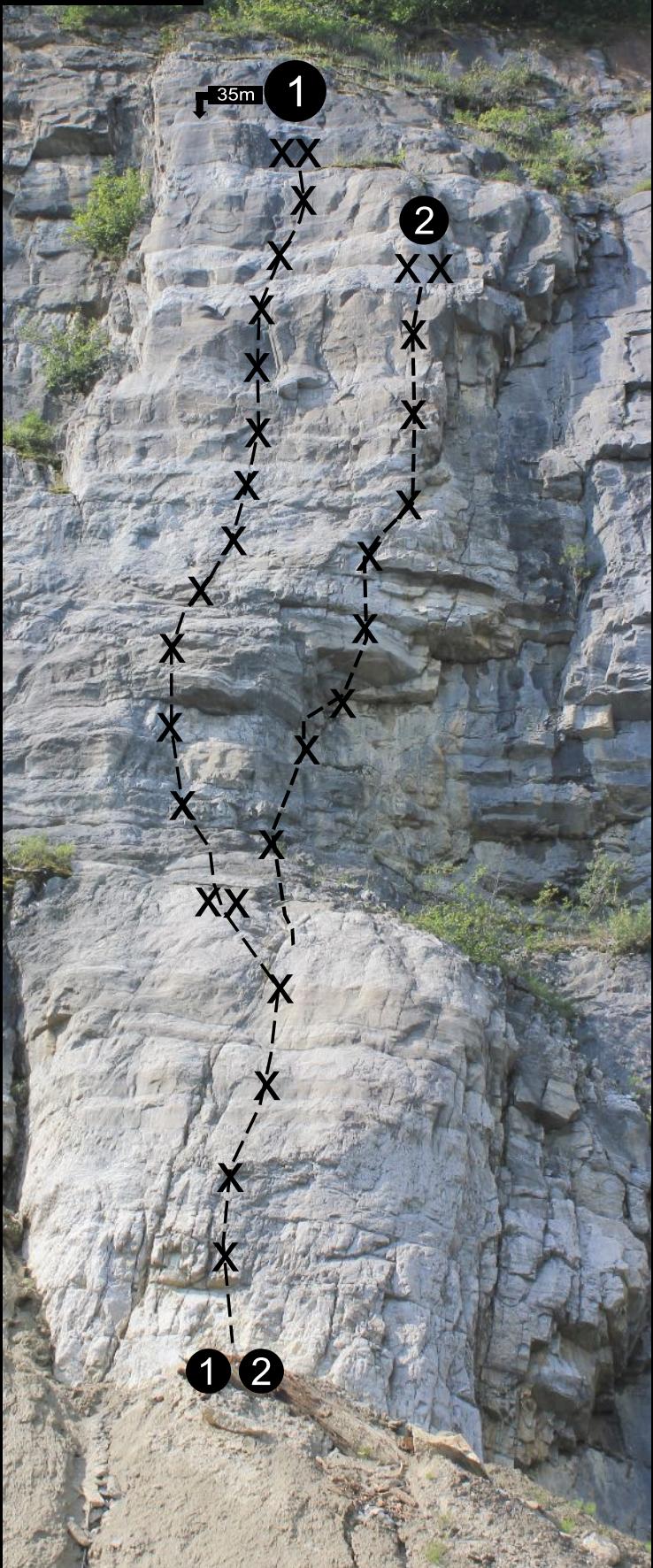


Lat: 56.020550 Long: -123.557653 Elevation: 2250'

Lat: 56.020550 Long: -123.557653 Elevation: 2250'



The Ramp



The Ramp

Approach by walking up the steep gully in front of the Main Wall. Belay on top of a slowly eroding sand mound. Every year, these routes get longer as the sand hill slowly moves down and away.

1 Ghost of the Navigator - 5.11d

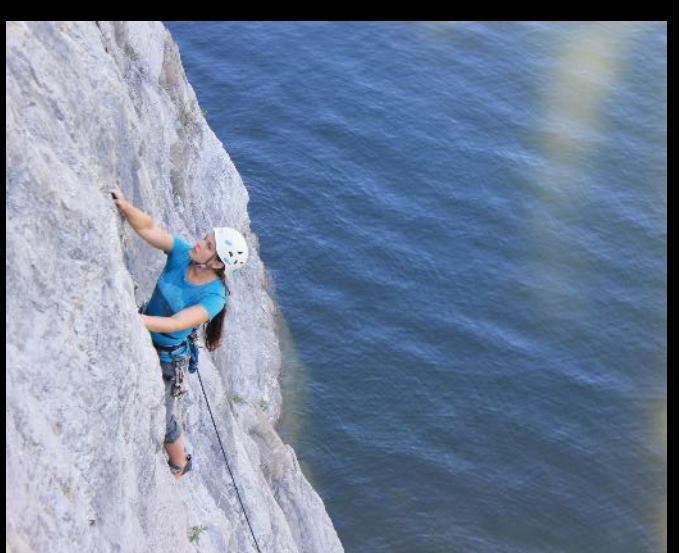
FA: Andrew Neis 2020 Bolted: 2018

15x bolts - This outstanding climb shares the first four bolts with *Stalwart Shield*. Follow the left line of bolts after the shared start. Climb clean bullet hard smooth rock with in-your-face steep technical slab climbing and edging all the way to the anchor.

2 Stalwart Shield - 5.11a

FA: Andrew Neis 2018 Bolted: 2018

12x bolts - Same start as the previous climb, but take the right line of bolts up through the roof above. Interesting and varied climbing keeps you working to the top.



Angela Forseille climbing up 'Beach Bear' 5.10a



Arlene Stoecker on Knocked up' 5.10b

Canada Day Buttress

Canada Day Buttress - Main Wall

The following pitches are all climbed and belayed from dry ground.

③ Kweeg's Adventure - Open Project

Bolted: 2019

7x bolts - The left most route up the belay gully. This climb starts just right of the black water streak. Seeps after rain.

④ Kweeg's Full-blown Adventure - Open Project

Bolted: 2019

7x bolts - Second pitch of Kweeg's. Takes you to the top of the crag after surmounting a couple small roofs

⑤ Lovers Quarrel - 5.10d

FA: Andrew Neis 2017 Bolted: 2017

10x bolts - This route follows small edges and crimps up past six bolts. Then finishes on steeper rock with good holds.

⑥ Beach Bear - 5.10a

FA: Michelle Neis 2019 Bolted: 2019

6x bolts - Great climb, one of the few routes with a lower 5.10 grade in the area. Still includes a few moves that might cause you to think.

⑦ Spider Convention - 5.11b/c

FA: Michelle Neis 2019 Bolted: 2019

9x bolts - Fun moves leads to a baffling crux that will test your problem solving skills. Continue up easier and interesting rock to the anchors.

⑧ Knocked Up - 5.10b

FA: Dylan Stoecker 2017 Bolted: 2017

11x bolts - A great long route that seems to climb on forever. Follow the positive holds and edges to the anchors just below the yellow rock.

⑨ MasterBeta - 5.11a

FA: Michelle Neis 2017 Bolted: 2017

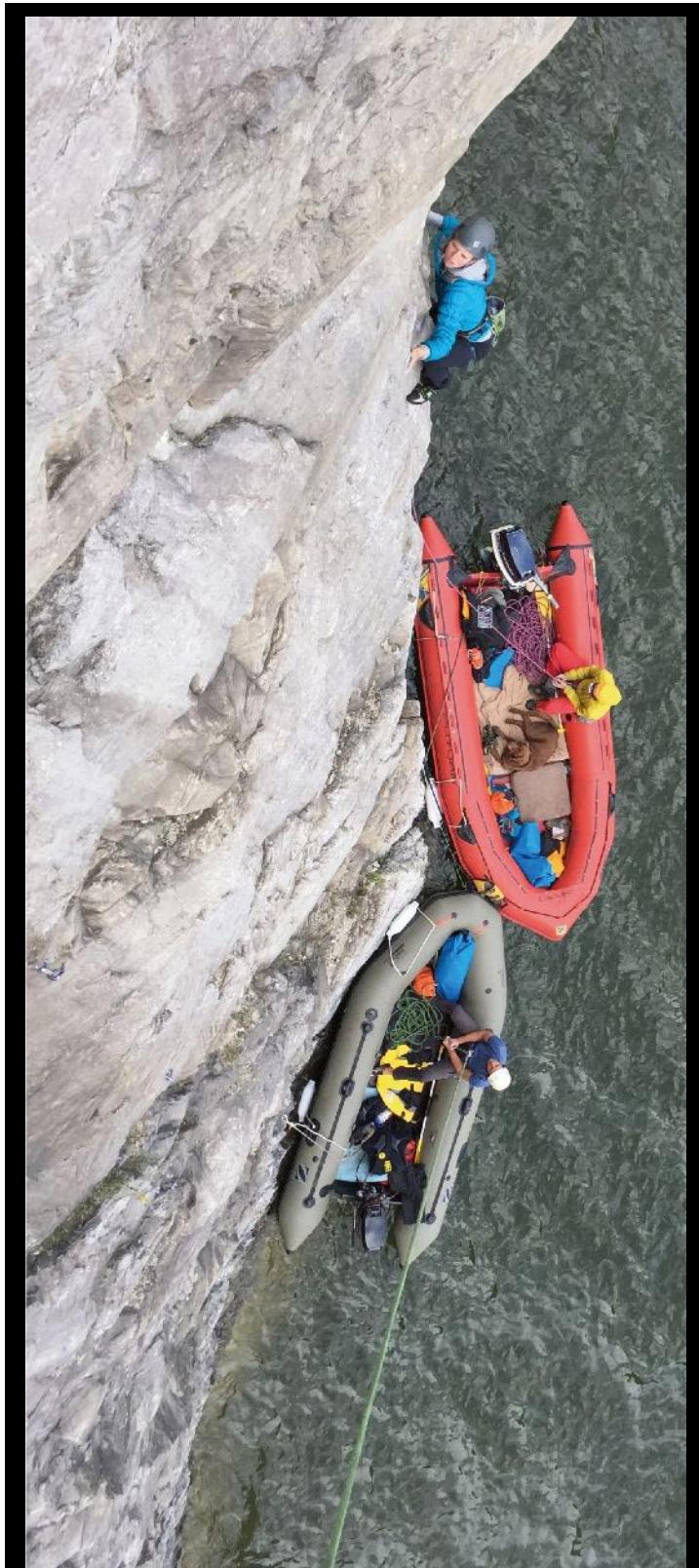
10x bolts - Lots of tricky thin climbing leads to a even thinner crux just before the anchor.

The next routes are accessed from boat belays depending on reservoir level. During lower water levels a small gravel beach appears at the base of the follow 3 routes.

⑩ Just the Tips - 5.11a

FA: Andrew Neis 2017 Bolted: 2014

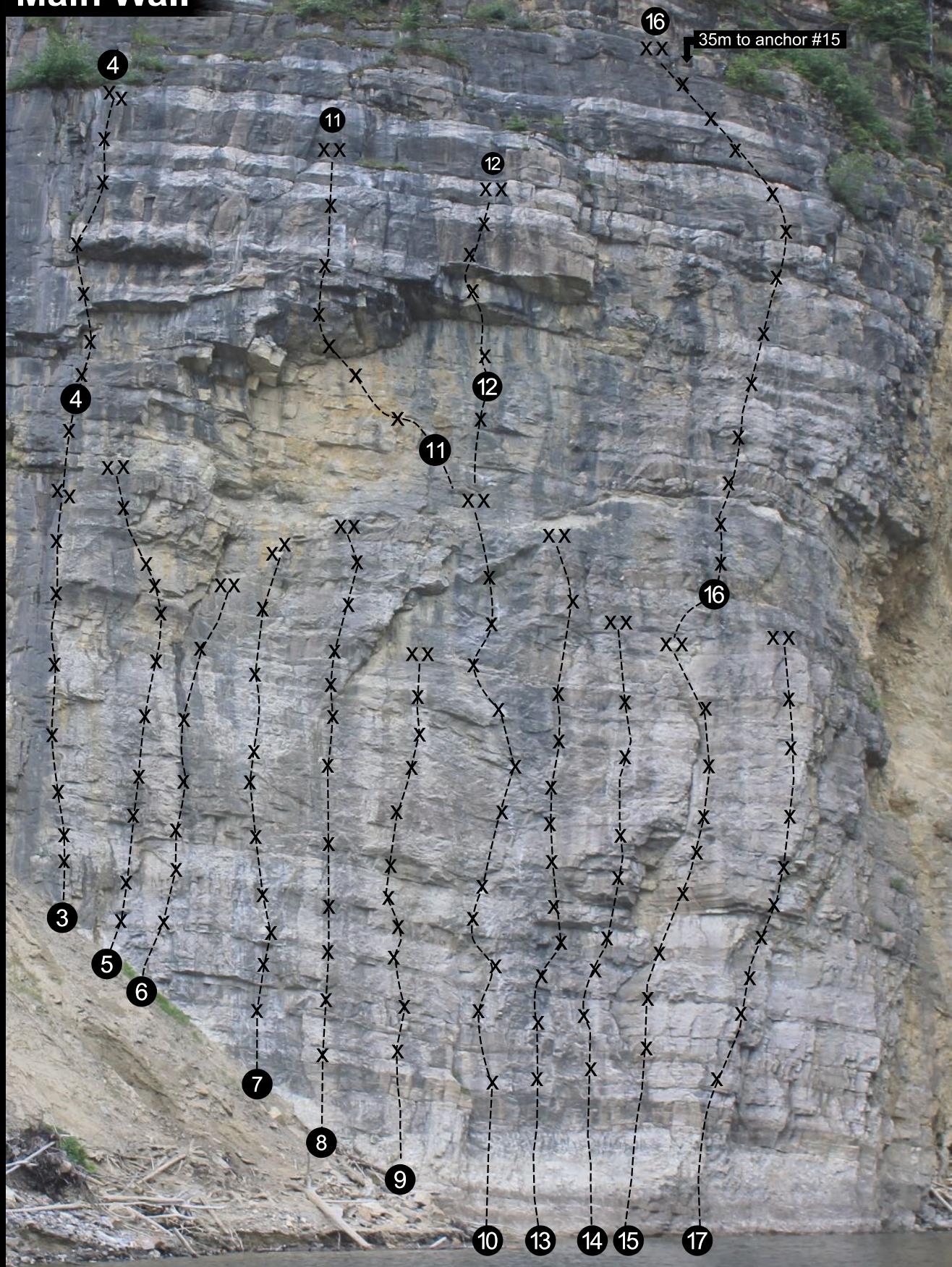
13x bolts - Slab to gently overhanging rock offers fun, pumpy climbing on edges and crimps. Climb this route to access the routes *Roof Left*, and *Roof Right*.



Michelle Neis on 'Beaver Rub' (5.10b) Photo By Arlene Stoecker

Canada Day Buttress

Main Wall



Canada Day Buttress

Canada Day Buttress - Main Wall

The following two routes are accessed from climbing 'Just the tips.' It's recommended to belay from the anchors of 'Just the tips' to reduce rope drag. The roof pitches can be climbed in a single long pitch with two lower offs.

11 Roof Left - Open Project

Bolted: 2014



5x bolts - Route trends left and pulls over the large roof. Delicate face follows.

12 Roof Right - Open Project

Bolted: 2017



6x bolts - Right line bolts over the large roof.

13 Boshe Routin' - 5.10c

FA: Andrew Neis 2018 Bolted: 2018



10x bolts - Big holds and ledges start to give way to edgy and technical territory above. Finish with climbing the left facing corner pillar to the anchor.

14 The Rudy Fishdix Duo - 5.10d

FA: Michelle Neis 2018 Bolted: 2018



8x bolts - This route has it all. Easy ledges lead

to increasing steep rock, pull hard through the steep rock and finish on delicate edges.

15 Original Recipe - 5.9

FA: Andrew Neis 2013 Bolted: 2013



11x bolts - A great climb. Go up on good edges following under the blocky corner then onto a right facing flake. This was the first route climbed on Canada Day Buttress and was bolted on lead.

16 Original Recipe 2nd Serving - 5.10a

FA: Andrew Neis 2013 Bolted: 2013



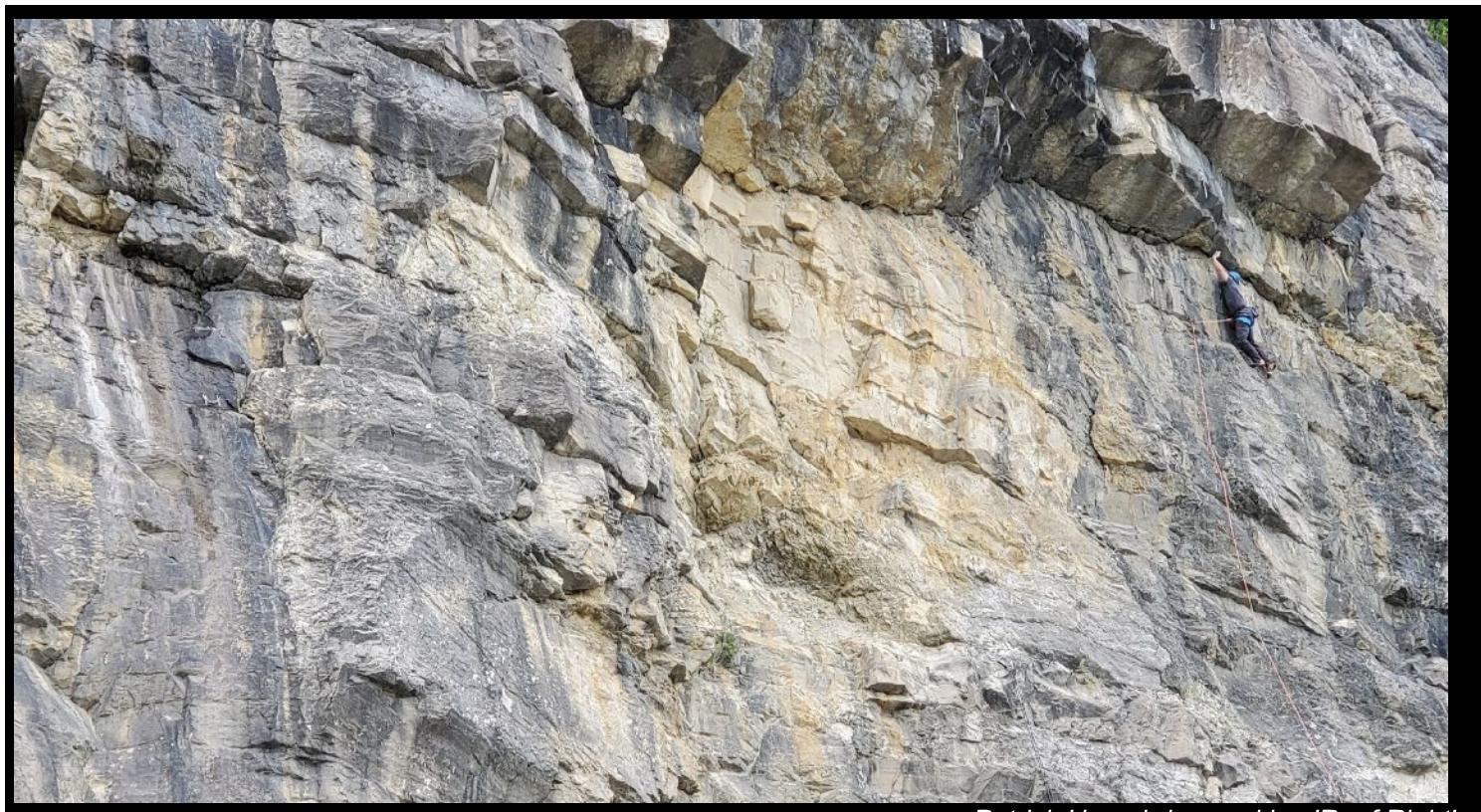
12x bolts - This 2nd pitch will take you to the top of the wall. 35m to the *Original Recipe* anchor, rappel route in two rappels.

17 Beaver Rub - 5.10b

FA: Dylan Stoecker 2017 Bolted: 2017



9x bolts - The furthest right line on the wall. A fun pumpy line on steep rock with mostly positive holds.



Patrick Humphries working 'Roof Right'

Canada Day Buttress

Andrew and Michelle Neis at the top of 'Hero's Journey'



Moon Man

Moon Man

This new crag has just begun being developed in 2020. Currently, this area only has two established lines, but the potential for new routes is impressive. Located on the north side of the reach and over 1000' above the water. A burly approach is rewarded with breathtaking views, and two fantastic pitches of climbing. The crag is a large free standing pillar high on the west edge of a massive vertical wall. At the base of Moon Man crag the left side falls away hundreds of feet straight below perching you on the edge of the mountain.

The rock is different from the smooth, water-washed lake crags. More like traditional rocky mountain limestone, with sharp edges and cracks, making these a spot where you can find a few gear placements.

Trail Head - Lat: 56.034814 Long: -123.510634

Approach: Take the ruff goat trail that weaves up the steep hill. Alternating between crossing scree and talus slopes with some vegetation.

Moon Man Crag

1 Sword of the Crescent moon - 5.11a

FA: Andrew Neis 2020 Bolted: 2020

SR, TCU's, 4x bolts - This route takes a striking line just to the right of the arete. Climb up over a small roof before the rock below you cuts away leaving you with some awesome exposure. Follow cracks to the anchor at the top of the pillar. Small to medium TCUs are essential for protecting this climb.

2 Hero's Journey - 5.10c

FA: Andrew Neis 2020 Bolted: 2020

SR to 3", TCU's, 3x bolts - With gear placements sparse at times this route feels bold but seldom dangerous. It may be possible to protect the horizontal cracks with small Tri-Cams. A full set of TCUs are essential and offset nuts are recommended.

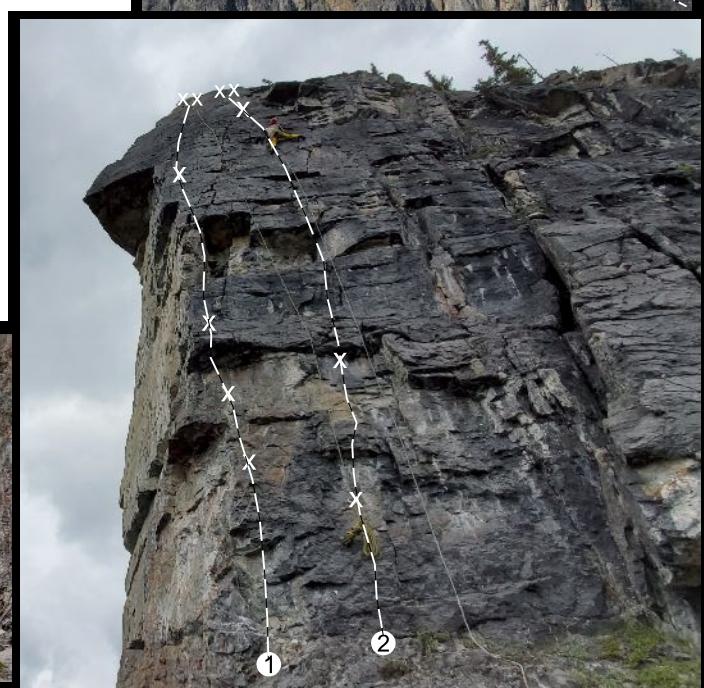


2 Pitches

5.9≥ 5.10 5.11 5.12> Project

Lat: 56.038158 Long: -123.509631 Elevation: 3356'

East Facing
AM Sun / PM Shade



"I think we should buy more bolts ."

"We just ordered some hangers, and we have a bunch of bolts still in the closet"

"We'll need more....."

This is the conversation that happens between Andrew and I multiple times every year for the last 8 years. Summed up to Andrew claiming we need more bolts and hangers, and me trying to "ration his passion," as Andrew likes to phrase it, by trying to keep a bit of a budget on the stainless hardware we inevitably will end up buying anyway.

In 2012, we ventured out with my family to go fishing for the Canada Day long weekend on Williston. I was excited to show Andrew this quiet giant lake only a few hours away from our home.

I spent many summer trips on this lake with my family. Even as far back in a list of firsts written in my baby book, 'Michelle's first camping trip - Williston Lake.' My family are recreational anglers and love fishing on Williston Lake. I myself was never big into fishing. I remember my father saying once to a 10-year-old me, "You catch it, you clean it." I thought to myself, "Sweet, I never have to clean a fish again." Even with my nonexistent interest in fishing, I still loved those trips on Williston Lake and remember the memories fondly.

Fast forward to 2012, and my parents boat had just finished being loaded with supplies. Shortly after starting the long journey west up the Peace Reach arm, Andrew turned to me.

"I could see myself spending a lot of time out here,"

"Wait until we get to the Selwyn area, it is right in the middle of the mountains." I replied.

It'd been a lot of years since I had been on the lake, but that stretch of water that flows between those mountains is hard to forget. As soon as Andrew spotted the first steep cliffs on the sides of the water, his mind immediately went to climbing development. My younger self had never looked up at the rock faces with climbers eyes before and now Andrew had me also looking around with curiosity. We aren't strangers to the pursue of new rock climbs, but living so close to the Rocky Mountains, we were also not strangers to Rocky Mountain choss. Andrew had once told me "for every ten crags you find nine will be choss, so we just need to get those first nine out of the way." Here on Williston Lake, we'd definitely found more than nine crags.

The 2021 trip this summer will be the tenth consecutive year Andrew and I have ventures out onto Williston Lake. In the earlier years our trip were characterized as shorter, and relying entirely on my parents boat to commute us around. Then in November 2014, in a short messenger conversation, Andrew wrote, "Do you think we should buy a boat?" That following summer, with our 1989 14' Zodiac and 1979 25hp Evinrude outboard we named 'Rudy,' we were ready to explore with our new sense of freedom. We spent five weeks on the lake that summer and searched the endless shorelines for new climbing potential.

Since then, we've established over 40x pitches of climbing since placing that first bolt in 2013 and it's been exciting to see what our passion project has grown into. We've brought out a handful of friends over the years, enticing them with first accents and boat taxi service. They've told us they loved it and would come back in a heartbeat. There's still a handful of open projects that need a first accent, over a wide range of difficulties, if anyone reading this is interested.



Andrew and I hope this guide is a great first step towards making Williston Lake less of an elusive climbing area. While we understand boat access is a huge limiting factor that will unfortunately inhibit many from being able to climb here one day. For the few fortunate climbers that are thinking about planning a trip, please do, it's worth it! We hope this guide helps you with any questions you might have. If your experience in this wonderful place is anything like ours, it will leave you with memories lasting a lifetime.

We tried to cover a lot of information about the logistics of the area, but if there is more information you are looking for please feel free to reach out to Andrew and myself.

We look forward to seeing you out there one day.

Michelle Neis

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Andrew Neis - andrewneis.aoe85@yahoo.ca

Notes

FISH N' CLIPS



56° 01' 20.00" N 123° 33' 36.00" W